

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER

AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE RURAL LIFE EXCELSIOR LITERATURE SCIENCE ARTS NEWS

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,
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RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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

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AGRICULTURAL.

JUST RIGHT FOR FARMERS.

Coolness and self-possession under unmerited reproaches and injuries are characteristic of the man of sense and the true gentleman. He who becomes excited and ungovernable, under real or imagined insults, exhibits a conscious weakness and loses the respect in the same ratio as he excites the pity or contempt of the beholder. SOLOMON says, "he who rules his own spirit is greater than he who takes a city." According to this rule of the wise man, farmers, as a general rule, must be very great men, for they seem to have entire control of their feelings and bear insults with a coolness that is perfectly refreshing. They even go further than this, and cast reproach upon themselves and their profession. Almost every time we attend a meeting of farmers for the discussion of Agricultural questions, or of fruit-growers, to decide upon the best fruits for the orchard and the market, and the most profitable modes of culture, we feel indignant at the contempt evinced of the ability and enterprise of farmers, and sometimes take occasion to give expression to our feelings in a few earnest words. If a system of culture is recommended requiring care and thought, and a little skill, some one, and perhaps a dozen are on their feet, ready to declare that such a plan may be well enough for the amateur, the fancy farmer, the man who makes farming a pleasure instead of a business, but no practical farmer will give the matter the necessary attention. He must pursue the old safe and sure way, and not trouble his head with a matter in which he would be most likely to fail. It was so with draining and deep plowing, and with every other valuable agricultural improvement. It is only after years have passed, and these things worked themselves slowly into favor, and farmers can copy mechanically what others have done, without the least exercise of brains, that it is admitted generally that they are competent to the work. This is certainly excessive modesty.

We once heard a practical farmer urge upon his brethren, at a farmer's club, the importance of keeping farm accounts—an account with every crop, cost of seed, labor, &c., in producing it, so as to ascertain the comparative profit of different crops; and the same with the dairy, fattening animals, and every department of the farm,—when several gentlemen expressed the opinion that not one farmer in a thousand was able to keep such accounts, and that nineteen out of every twenty who attempted it would fail and abandon the undertaking in a month. Is there another profession in the world whose members would sit quietly under such an imputation?

An hour ago we left a very interesting meeting of the Fruit-Growers of Western New York, and here the same feeling of contempt of farmers of which we complain was evinced. If a tree is as hardy as an oak, and as tenacious of life as a Canada thistle, although the fruit is inferior, it is just right for farmers, who it is assumed are careless and negligent, and will not give their trees decent care. Another variety is far superior, excellent in quality, productive and very profitable, if the trees are properly cultivated, just the kind for the amateur or the intelligent fruit-grower, but will not do for the farmer.

To all this, to everything that assumes the farmers of the country to be deficient in intelligence or enterprise, or blind to their own best interests, we enter our earnest protest. Some there may be too ignorant or indolent to cultivate anything but the commonest and hardest trees and plants, but these should not give character to the farmers of the land. The farmer, like others, labors for pay, and the object to be sought is not to get along with as little labor and care as possible, but to make all labor productive and profitable. If labor to the value of \$100 is expended on an acre of land and it is made to produce \$200, it is far better than to put the same amount of labor on three acres, with a product of only \$150. And yet one would judge, from a good deal of our agricultural writing and talking, that the object and aim, the alpha and omega of all

effort, is to devise ways to get along with as little labor as possible.

The growing of strawberries for market is quite a business with many farmers in Western New York, especially near our large cities and villages. Some years ago, in a public meeting of those interested in the subject, we recommended a method of culture which involved a good deal of labor, yet we thought the quantity and quality of the fruit would make it profitable. The plan was objected to very strongly by several as unsuited to field culture, though well enough for the garden. Farmers, it was urged, could not be expected to give their plantations the necessary time and care, and where land was plenty it was unnecessary. The plan, however, which was thought to be troublesome for farmers with an acre or two, has been adopted by the great fruit-grower—the Rev. J. KNOX, of Pittsburg—who has fifty acres in strawberries, and his fruit is so fine that it is eagerly sought, and sells at very high prices in Cincinnati, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, and other leading cities of the Union. He is not able to supply one-half the demand—dealers in New York City offering to take his whole crop; and while he expends annually \$200 in the culture of each acre, the profit, if we cypher correctly from figures given us by Mr. K., is often \$1,000 per acre. So much for a judicious investment of labor and capital. The best method of culture is always the right one, and it will be found good economy to give as much labor to every acre as can be done with profit. Farmers often lose the entire labor bestowed on a crop, when an extra day's work or so would have saved the whole. The planting is labor lost unless it is followed by good culture. We have often seen a crop of corn about ruined in a dry spell; when a few days with the cultivator would have kept all right until the desired showers watered the parched earth. How often we fall because we come only a little short of doing our whole duty. It is always best to be on the safe side, and do a little more rather than a little less than necessary.

PRESENT DUTIES.

ALTHOUGH winter is a season of leisure to farmers, it possesses its own particular duties and labors. To keep up with the demands upon time and attention which Spring inevitably brings the farmer, he can be no laggard,—must take up and press to completeness each task in its appropriate time. Just now there is the usual amount of toil peculiar to the season, and if we do not desire a clog upon all efforts during the year we must finish up as the months pass away. It is our purpose to present a few matters requiring immediate attention, which will at least serve as "jogs to memory" for those who may be classed among the unthinking.

Look to the Stock.—We all know that "spring plow" has passed into a proverb denoting the utmost leanness. How many there are who seem to think that when the period arrives for bringing horses, horned cattle, sheep, etc., to the barn for winter quarters, it also inaugurates the season of "short allowances." The fact that such farmers are invariably behind in their work, and behind in their cash receipts,—that they fret, and fume, and fuss, because the results of their efforts as well as their credit, rate "below par,"—should induce the thoughtful to extra exertion. Fattened horses and oxen are not the material with which to plow, or harrow, or cultivate, or do a good day's work of any description. Nor will the dairyman witness flowing pails of lacteal treasure if the cow must recuperate from prison fare and confinement. And the wool-grower is not more exempt than others. There will be light fleeces reported of the sheep, totally dispersing all visions of reward when brought to market, if they are exposed to snow, and rain, and cold, with only sufficient provender to keep life, while the "bill of mortality" arrayed against the lambs will be fearful to behold. False notions of economy will never answer for the stock department of your farm, good reader,—if not so swift in completing ruin as carelessness, there is none the less certainty. Good shelter—fence corners are not the places for stock to thrive—good food, not dealt out with miserly hands, are the necessities to good condition.

The **fool house** is an excellent point at which spare hours now-a-days may be put to good uses. Broken plow-handles, fractured harrows, defective hoes, and toothless rakes, are not the weapons with which to wage a successful battle in hurrying seasons and amid accumulating labors. He who is ready when called to the field of active labor, enjoys a state of mind which is fit subject for envy (provided such a passion may ever be indulged), by his brother, whose leading quality is perpetual tardiness.

It is never too late to begin doing right, and if the manure heap has not received such attention from your hands as it requires, just see that such folly no longer exists within the confines of your farm. This is the basis of our agriculture,—a yearly succession of failures at the spot whence should be derived the *pabulum* for growing crops, and the entire farm will tell its story of poverty to the most transient observer. Do all in your power to preserve the fertilizing material from deterioration, and add to it from any source you can possibly make available. If there is a low, swampy place upon the farm where muck can be obtained, it will pay to draw therefrom during the present cold weather,

when the ground is frozen sufficiently to bear the weight of a team. It is not considered advisable to use fresh muck upon land, but exposure to frost, and the treatment which can be given when you have a supply in the barn-yard to work with, fits it for application, and for giving satisfaction in its use.

"CAN YOUNG FARMERS SUCCEED."

As appropriate to the subject, "can young farmers succeed," I offer to the RURAL a brief sketch of three farmers who from very small beginnings have achieved independence and competence, under my own immediate observation. One of them has been called away by the pale messenger, but two of them are yet "in the full tide of successful experiment;" yet as it has been customary of late to write the biographies of living men, I think that they will not demur to anything I may say of them.

With one of them I became acquainted in 1825, immediately after my arrival and location in this State. He was about twenty years of age. Occasionally, for a holiday, he hunted deer and wild turkeys together, and later I stood by his side when he joined hands with a noble and energetic maiden for his bride. His start in life was a few acres of what in those days was considered poor thin land—since better appreciated—a team, a few farming tools, and "last, though not least," indomitable energy and perseverance. He was one of those described by the old saw "as not having a lazy bone in his skin." Economy in those days meant what the word in its full meaning imports. That economy he practised. He sold his rifle, that it might not divert him from his purpose to get ahead. He sold his watch also, that its price might be used for capital. One dollar's worth of sugar his wife made suffice for the first twelve months; yet their meals, I can testify, were savory and nutritious. Now he has a beautiful farm of two hundred acres, a stately brick mansion, large barns, extensive out-buildings with great ingenuity of contrivance and arrangement and an establishment which in all its parts attracts the attention of every passer by, and proclaims that a master spirit controls all its details. The second case was a young man, without capital, who hired out to a neighboring farmer by the year. He was a stout, rugged, energetic and faithful young man whose services became so essential to his employer that he retained them several years, and then gave him a share in the earnings of the farm. The young man resolved that of his wages he would annually save and loan on interest \$100. He has since informed me that he never succeeded in saving of his wages quite that sum, but over \$90 he annually invested. When he married, with his earnings he purchased a piece of land, and as opportunity offered, by subsequent purchases added to it. He too has now a beautiful farm, whose buildings, fences, stock and culture indicate and reflect the character of its owner.

In neither of these cases has the rigid economy practiced at the outset degenerated into miserly hoarding. Economy still rules, but it is an economy which leads to generous expenditure for worthy objects.

The third case was a farmer and mill owner resident in Vermont. Sudden freshet swept away his mills and overwhelmed him in ruin. He fled from the beope of this disaster, and in 1836, aged 40 years, arrived in Northern Ohio. So destitute was he of capital that he borrowed \$5 of a relative to pay the expenses of the last stage of his journey. After leasing land for a while, he bought on credit a fertile farm of 149 acres at \$30 per acre. He continued also to lease land, and one year raised two hundred acres of wheat. At one time, a rainy season, with characteristic energy he had three threshing machines operating on his premises at the same time. In time the farm was paid for. He then purchased another farm of 88 acres, which in all probability would have been paid for the past season had not death called him away from our midst. There were no buildings except a log house on the farm he first bought, and most of it uncleared; his Vermont debts absorbed a large sum, yet the property left by him is worth between nine and ten thousand dollars. This is the only case within my knowledge of a man without capital paying for a valuable farm unaided. In all other cases the interest has absorbed the earnings of the farm to such an extent as to leave the principal debt intact.

Other sketches I could draw, and, per contra, I might give a long list of young men who spent their earnings in revelry and folly, or who by mismanagement have failed, but the task is not a pleasant one, and I have already passed the limits of an essay.

WESTERN EDITORIAL NOTES.

A PARTING LEGACY.

Your readers have already learned that the Illinois State Horticultural Society met in this city on Tuesday, Dec. 3d, and continued in session four days. During this time much was said and done that it will be profitable to publish. It is not the purpose of the writer, however, to burden your columns with the details of the discussions. The more important results of the meeting will be given, and topics suggested by it will be discussed briefly. A few days before the meeting, the writer received a note from Dr. JOHN A. KENNICOTT, the President

of the Society, in which, speaking of his Annual Address, he wrote:—"I make it a *valdelectio*—a parting legacy to the Horticulturists and Agriculturists of the West."

This was a startling announcement; and yet, when thoughtfully regarded, perhaps not a premature one. Notice was given in the daily papers, and on the first day of the session, there were a goodly number of old friends and the fraternity gathered, to listen to the last official words of an general, popular, and accomplished horticulturist, as ever presided over the deliberations of this or any other horticultural society.

These words were spoken after the transaction of brief preliminary business.—Omitting the lengthy review of his official acts the past year, I send you only the close of the address—the parting legacy. I trust you will find room for it entire. It will be found exceedingly appropriate and interesting, reading as follows:

"And now, for my parting advice to you, and the whole brotherhood of rural and mechanical labor. Since the first politician beguiled the first 'gardener,' the cunning tongues of his progeny, and the strong wills of despots, have been ever too powerful for the sons of honest labor—the bone and sinew; as we are conventionally termed just before every election. For when the lion's skin has proved too short, it has always been cased out with the fox's hide. And we who saw the cheat have still submitted, for the sake of peace and quiet, and because we knew that of every twenty farmers nineteen would be humped, say what we might.

"It has been said that 'the pen is mightier than the sword.' I question not the adage, but mightier than every other instrument is the tongue, in this free country. Words, deftly spoken, whether true or false, are the engines that move the masses. We are but animated puppets—our votes are bought and sold in the political market—with advantage to both seller and buyer—but we get only words in payment.

"I advise, then, that you imitate, not my practice, but heed what I now tell you. Let your children be taught words as well as things; and above all, teach them self-reliance; and let them see that political principle, political 'honesty,' the 'patriotism' of politicians, are all 'bosh'—all lies; or if anything of the kind ever existed in the 'stock,' it has been 'root-grafted' for the peddlers' market. And there is no way of treating either the peddlers of trees or the peddlers in our votes, but to enter the market with them, side by side, and let genuine truth and real honesty hiss down, and talk down, both of them.

"TRUTH is mighty and will prevail; but it can't go alone. Like the gardener, it stays about home, while a lie and a tree peddler have rapid feet, and gather force as they go. But the great Father of Nature and all Good has ordained that every good thing shall have its chance for life, with that which appears to us all evil. Every State has its opportunity for revolution and regeneration. Our opportunity is now! And yet we, as Producers—as 'four-fifths of the population,'—have nearly let our best States chance slip by in the hands of our foxy politicians. Our Constitutional Convention should have been, and may even yet be, our great State opportunity. We should have elected three-fourths of the members of that Convention. Have we elected one-fourth? Have we even ten members from the ranks of agriculture? If we have half that number, I will wager my life that five of them are more of politicians than either FARMERS or MECHANICS! And without having seen a single announcement outside of Cook county, I will venture another more positive assertion: three-fourths of them are lawyers!

"Still, even lawyers may be made to see something beyond 'precedent.' Many of them have heads—nearly as long as their tongues. I know a few such; and to these we must look for justice, not law—for law and justice are not always the same.

"As to the rural element in the State Convention, I know nothing, and hope nothing from it—one hybrid case excepted—and a 'hard case,' at that! One of those physiological 'exceptions' said to prove all general rules—especially one of our professional rules—viz., that a 'high head' is not a safe head, and that a powerful and efficient brain is rarely found with its base six feet above the sole of the human foot. And yet I have more faith in this one 'tall' politician, and some time 'farmer,' than all the agricultural element besides, as likely to aid our views in the Constitutional Convention.

"—LONG JOHN, of whom we wrote recently, and who has been elected a member of the Constitutional Convention of Illinois, soon to meet.

"Now, what shall we demand? We must ask, and not be denied, a full and explicit recognition of AGRICULTURE in all its relative interests. The State Agricultural Society has done wonders, but its mission is not ended. We need, and we must have, and our children will have, at least three high schools 'of practical education, (including modern languages,) in the three great natural divisions of the State, and all supported by the State. I don't mean 'manual labor schools,' or 'model farms,' or even model manufactories—all of which are, to my mind, unmitigated humbugs, or ineane illusions.

"The Normal University is a good beginning for the Central school. Beautiful 'Egypt,' glorious and patriotic Egypt, has spots enough for another; and the pupil of Francis Wayland, and his geological aid here in Chicago, have taken the

initiatory step for the third". Let us have them secured to us in the organic law of the State.

"We have neglected to send our own men to this convention, and yet it is just as easy for you to secure all this as to turn our hand. Have you forgotten the late lesson you taught the bank politicians? If you have, they have not. Demand this and you will get it, if you previously determine; and let your determination be known to veto the work of this 'Constitutional Convention,' if our rights are not recognized. We have the politicians at disadvantage here, and believe me, we shall have the 'third estate'—the Press—with us, in this battle. Let it come. Sooner or later, we shall prevail, and LABOR receive its just dues from the State.

"But there is another question, which, like slavery in the Union, is at the bottom of all our troubles, and which we must curb, and may be compelled to unroot, ere we can enjoy peace, or anything like freedom, or the right of self-government, through our boasted rights of election,—the caucus and convention system, which virtually deprives nine-tenths of the voters of all the rights of the ballot, and every expression of the will of the 'majority,' save only a choice between two men, or two measures, forced upon us by trickery! Let the new constitution abolish this most damnable of all political evils, or let us veto it as we did the last wild-cat bank law! For ourselves, as Horticulturists, as a Society, let us ask 'Egypt,' our next rendezvous, to join us in demanding the pittance we may need from our State Legislature, and we shall get it. The times are too 'scary,' and we have too many sons in that great armed Convention along our rebel borders, (who may yet imitate our puritan forefathers, and make THE ARMY 'the State,') for politicians to deny, seriously, what we demand earnestly.

"In the meantime, let our peaceful pursuits go on. The beautiful which we create, will be 'a joy forever,' whether we live long to enjoy it, or soon leave the growing legacy to our children, and generations to follow them. Our natural mission is one of unmixed beneficence. By the help of the law of Nature, and the rules of rural taste, we are painting living landscapes, and dotting the bald prairies with perennial verdure—strewing here and there, as we go, such timely supplies of the cooling and luscious products of modern pomology as the earlier worshippers of the fruit goddess never dreamed of out of Eden! And soon—very soon—we may hope to present the thin blooded invalid and slow pulsed patriarch with such a 'cup' as might have raised Bacchus above Jupiter, and will do more for permanence and jollity than all the sermons on the sin of drunkenness, and all the impossible provisions of human law ever uttered or enacted this side of time.

"And now, let's all to the practical work before us. My last 'inaugural' and anticipated 'valdelectio' are ended together."

DR. KENNICOTT'S EARLY LIFE.

One pleasant August afternoon—no matter when—we two—the "Old Doctor" and the writer—were enjoying our after-dinner Havana cigars, (which a fair friend, since gone to rest in a foreign land, had brought him from Cuba,) he reclining on a lounge and the writer in an easy chair beside him in one of the airy parlors at "The Grove" home. With notebook and pencil convenient I asked for his remem-

"Dr. K. refers here to the establishment of an Agricultural School in connection with the Chicago University, founded by STRONG A. DOUGLASS. This school is to be an independent department of the University. A farm has been purchased, which is to be the experimental farm for the use of the school. The lectures in this department commenced the second day of January. I shall have occasion to speak further of the work inaugurated here.

(Since this sketch was made, the place of next meeting has been changed from Egypt to Chicago.)



DR. JOHN A. KENNICOTT.

branches of his early life. He had talked—I writing—a half hour, when we were interrupted by the entrance of visitors. The writer must frankly own that he was not a little impatient under the intrusion; and it may be that the quick perception of the Doctor detected it; for he kindly offered to write his remembrances and send them to me. He subsequently did so; and inasmuch as I have often been asked for what I might know of his early history, by his friends, west and east, it may not be deemed presumptuous or inappropriate if I record here, with his "last words," his "parting legacy," a brief abstract of the autobiography in my possession. The whole of this manuscript would greatly interest those who know him; but this is not the time, even if there were space, to publish it.

Dr. KENNICOTT was born in Montgomery Co., N. Y., near the borders of Saratoga Co., sometime between 1800 and 1802, (the family records disagree.) He is not so very old, although called the "Old Doctor." He is thus called, because he is the eldest of the family of thirteen living children, in which are embraced several Dr. KENNICOTTs. Dr. K.'s parents were both born in Rhode Island. The father was a descendent (in line) of an old Devonshire family, (not unknown to letters,) and the mother of a more widely known Scotch Jacobite family. The father was a pioneer all his life, "with his face ever to the west." He first removed from Rhode Island to Rensselaer Co., N. Y.; thence to Montgomery; thence to Onondaga; next to Ontario Co., Caltaraugus Co., and finally, in 1835, to Cook Co., Ill.

Dr. K. worked on the farm, and had charge of Merino sheep before the war of 1812; also of the orchard, garden, and a small nursery. He also asserts that he occasionally "tended carding machine," his father owning the first one he ever heard of—about 1810.

In 1817 or 1818, when the family removed to Western New York, he says, "I was considered the best ax-man and general wood-ranger of any boy of my age and size; but I was miserably ignorant of all matters taught in schools." There being no schools in that region at that early day, he had to educate himself as best he could. And he asserts that after thirty days' attendance at a common district school in Chautauque county, he commenced teaching others and helping to educate the youngest members of his own family.

About 1823 he went to Buffalo, where he studied medicine, taught district school, served as clerk in a drug store, &c., &c., meantime passing his winters at the Medical College at Fairfield, Herkimer county, New York.

After graduating, he lectured, and wrote for the press in Buffalo. In summer he practiced medicine in Canada, on the Welland Canal. About 1828 he visited Detroit, Sandusky, Columbus, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Natchez, spending a little time at each place, botanizing, &c. He lectured and practiced medicine one summer near Jackson, Miss., and then went to New Orleans, where he remained, teaching and writing, (occasionally lecturing,) until March, 1836, when he removed to Illinois.

While in New Orleans, he was about six years Principal of the Upper Primary School, Old Faubourg, St. Mary, N. O. Here he also started the first Literary, Scientific, and Religious paper ever printed in New Orleans. It was called the "Louisiana Recorder." The Rev. THEODORE CLAPP, and two other eminent divines, were, with his brother JAMES, (now dead,) and himself, associated as a "Committee of Supervision" in the publication of this paper. Dr. K. was, however, sole editor, and his brother JAMES principal literary contributor. The Rev. TIMOTHY FLINT was an occasional contributor. The paper stopped when Dr. K. left it to take charge of the Male Orphan Asylum, about a year before removing hither. He says he does not remember when he began to write for the press; but not very young. "And," he says, "I am not ashamed to confess that I manufactured heaps of rhymes, which the Buffalo Journals, Albany Masonic Record, Philadelphia Ariel, Natchez papers, &c., &c., were soft enough to print. I thought it poetry then; but know better—without being much wiser—now."

It is proper to say here, that while a resident of Buffalo, Dr. K. became intimate with DAVID THOMAS, to whom he said he owes most of his botanical and horticultural taste and knowledge, although he received much encouragement from TORREY and others. I have been told that before the "Old Doctor" was twenty-one years of age, and while attending school at Fairfield, he delivered a course of Botanical Lectures in Buffalo, which were quite successful. There are several residents of this city, (Chicago,) who attended those lectures.

I make this statement not to compliment Dr. K., but simply to impress the lesson which is taught, of the value and result of persistent effort in the acquirement of knowledge. It may be true that Dr. K. was stimulated in his botanical researches and horticultural efforts by DAVID THOMAS, and that the encouragement thus given, shaped, to a degree, the tastes and life of the man; but back of it all is another fact which the writer deems equally important in determining the causes which resulted in giving the West this friend and contributor to Rural Science. It is this:—His father was an orchardist;—no matter where located, his first work was to rear an orchard; and this was usually done from his own nursery stock. And it is averred that Dr. K. was first and best known in New York as a horticulturist—so well known, that soon after his removal to Illinois he was proffered an interest in a Buffalo nursery with the design of establishing a branch at "The Grove," where he now lives, and has lived since his arrival in the State.

The first work after his arrival in this State was the planting fruit trees and flowers about his home; the establishment of a private nursery from which to supply his own wants and those of his neighbors. The country was flooded with all sorts of Hoosier trees, brought hither by peddlers. These trees were all seedlings, and as uncertain in the character of their fruit and hardiness, as any very uncertain thing. To supply settlers with something of real value and benefit to the country, he increased his nursery stock until he had become the source of all things beautiful and desirable in horticulture in this part of the West. Meantime he practiced as a physician, riding a circuit of 40 miles or more square, night and day, summer and winter, across bleak prairies, fording sloughs and streams, and accomplishing things impossible to all but pioneers. But my work is done. I have written briefly of what has not before been written. Of his work here in the West I need not write. It is recorded in the various Western journals for which he has written, and not less in the embellishments of our Western homes. There are few men—the writer knows none—who have written more for public journals and private eyes—said more or done more to promote the real progress of scientific and practical

agriculture and horticulture in the West, than Dr. JOHN A. KENNICOTT. And I in no wise detract from the praise due other good men who have been his compeers and co-laborers here. Of his personal character, social habits, home-life, and of the place he holds in the affections of his friends, I write not now, though much might be written. I trust he has long to live; and I have only been tempted to write what is here written, because of the solicitations of friends, and because the delivery of the foregoing valedictory and parting legacy rendered it apparently appropriate.

The Bee-keeper.

Objections to Bee Culture.

The last Patent Office Report contains a very interesting article under the above head, by WILLIAM BRUCKISH, now of Texas, but an emigrant from Prussia, and fully conversant with the subject, both in this and his native country:

"Numerous prejudices exist injurious to bee-raising, some of which require particular refutation, as most frequent, and having apparently so much weight with many persons. First: It is alleged that bees yield no profit, or at least so little that they will not pay for keeping; and, as to the increase of national wealth, that their yield is hardly of any importance. Secondly: It is said that, in view of their propensity to sting, it is always a risk, and even danger, to keep bees. Thirdly: It is affirmed that it is too difficult, and requires too much time, to give the bees such a management as is most conducive and natural to them.

"As to the first objection, it is true that no revenue can be expected from an irrational and unnatural treatment of bees. But wherever this industrious little creature has been properly cared for, during a tolerably fair season, in countries which are not wholly deficient in honey plants, they have always yielded their keeper a corresponding return, not only compensating him for his time, but also blessing many a bee-raiser with prosperity. The question, however, is a more serious one, whether individuals or whole families can derive their principal support from bee culture.

"The yield of honey annually produced by one hive in the north of Germany will, on an average, hardly exceed ten pounds, unless the summer is unusually favorable; but in the United States, at least at the South, and this in dry localities, as in Western Texas, there are but few years when a stock, on an average, yields less than twenty pounds a year. It is true, there are colonies which have lost their queens, or which have become weakened from some other cause, and have not saved anything for the coming year, except their lives and their health. But such are brought into the average, by the prominent hives yielding one hundred pounds of honey; and over; for, a vigorous colony in a suitable hive, and enjoying a favorable season, will here sometimes yield as much as two hundred pounds a year. Estimating the price of honey at only fifteen cents a pound, the yield of the average amount of twenty pounds, is three dollars, or seventy-five per cent. of the purchase money, at four dollars per hive. From this, the cost of management and other incidental expenses must be deducted. This amount, however, is inconsiderable, and diminishes in proportion as this branch of industry is extended.

"The most natural and profitable way of keeping bees, is for every farmer to put up as many hives as he may want for producing his own honey and wax. With sufficient assistance, the intelligent and thorough bee-master can keep a thousand hives, and even more. Many a person may be deterred from such an increase, by the cost of the hives; but he should consider that the increase is only gradual, so that the bee-keeper will be prepared for it when the expenditure becomes necessary. Even an expensive bee-house may be doubly paid for from the profit of the honey obtained the first year."

The Mink as a Miller Catcher.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Having introduced through your columns the mink as a miller catcher, I think it needs an explanation, as I am receiving letters of inquiry from some of your many readers, as to how I keep my minks, and likewise how bark hives are made. Two years ago last May I caught seven young minks. I made a pen of boards near my bees, twelve feet square, and put them in it, when about the first of July grasshoppers would occasionally sail in, and they would jump and catch them very quick. It soon became sport for boys to catch grasshoppers and throw them on the side of the pen, to see the minks jump and catch them. Hearing the same jumping at night, I went out to see what was going on, and I found they were catching millers. The millers were so thick about my bees that I could catch from thirty to forty a night in a pan of butter milk, and now I have no millers about my bees. My minks cannot climb a rough board fence four feet high. They have young once a year,—from five to eleven,—and before I take off their pelts, I keep them in the dark for about one month, to make them darker than the wild ones.

The way I make the bark hives is this: I saw around the tree the height I want my hive, peel off the bark, set in a head the same as you would in a half bushel measure. Let the edges lap a little when you fetch it around the head, and run your saw through the lap. This makes a good joint. But, I must be short on this, for fear I might wake up another Michigan Bee Hunter. Great Valley, N. Y., 1862. A. MUDGETT.

Interesting Facts.

ONE square inch of worker comb contains about 25 cells on one side, on both, 50. Hence, a piece of comb 4 inches by 5 will contain 1,000 workers.

One square inch of drone comb contains about 16 cells, and on both sides, 32.

The cells of workers are 7-16 of an inch in depth, and drones are 9-16.

It takes about 1/4 lb. of comb to hold 15 lbs. of honey.

One gallon of honey weighs 12 lbs.

The least possible space for a loaded worker is 5-32 of an inch.

One pound of honey contains about 20 cubic inches.

Bees gorged with honey never volunteer an attack.

Bees may always be made peaceable by inducing them to accept of liquid sweets.

Bees, when frightened by smoke, or by drumming, fill themselves with honey and lose all disposition to sting, unless they are hurt.

Bees dislike any quick movements about their hives, especially any motion which jars their combs.

Bees dislike the offensive odor of sweaty animals, and will not endure impure air from human lungs. The bee-keeper will ordinarily derive all his profits from stocks strong and healthy in early spring.

Queenless colonies, unless supplied with a queen, will inevitably dwindle away, or be destroyed by the bee-moth or robber-bees.

The formation of new colonies should ordinarily be confined to the season when bees are accumulating honey; and if this, or any other operation must be performed when forage is scarce, the greatest precaution should be used to prevent robbing.

Wintering Bees in the Cellar.

YOUR subscriber S. A. P., of Sheridan, inquired about wintering bees in the cellar. He wishes to know of a way to prevent their crawling out on warm days. Last winter I had quite a number lost in the same way. I concluded it was caused by being disturbed by some members of the family going into the cellar with a lighted candle. This winter I have made a partition in one corner of the cellar, of boards, so as to have it dark. Several old aparians have pronounced it a good plan. I think it cannot be beaten. There are shelves to place hives on, as high as possible from the ground, to prevent the comb from molding. I think there should be an upward current of air for ventilation. Bees did very well in Jefferson county this last season, and nearly every stock swarmed, that is, so far as I am acquainted. One gentleman I know of, from ten last spring, had thirteen healthy new swarms and over two hundred weight of box honey. Evans Mills, N. Y., 1861. F. Z.

To Drive and Keep Ants away from Hives.

MR. BALDRIDGE says tobacco smoke will drive ants away from a bee hive, and a little turpentine will keep them away.

The Mink.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I would inquire of ABRAM MUDGETT what kind of mink he has tamed that destroys the bee moth? There are two varieties—the black and the brown.—F. Z., December, 1861.

Rural Spirit of the Press.

Composition to Stop Leakage.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Lynn (Mass.) News, gives a recipe for a cheap composition, with which leaks in roofs may be effectually stopped. Having a leaky "L," he says, "I made a composition of four pounds of resin, one pint of linseed oil, and one ounce of red lead; applied it hot with a brush to the part where the 'L' was joined to the main house. It has never leaked since. I then recommended the composition to my neighbor, who had a dormer window which leaked badly. He applied it, and the leak stopped. I made my water-cask tight by this composition, and have recommended it for chimneys, windows, etc., and it has always proved a cure for a leak.

Cotton Culture in Illinois.

THE Chicago Tribune of December 23d contains an array of facts which prove that cotton can be raised in Southern Illinois with as much facility and as profitably as in the cotton regions of the Southern States. The names and addresses are given of a large number of persons who have been raising it in that region for many years, and who have, under their careless mode of cultivating, succeeded in obtaining from 300 to 500 pounds per acre. At ten cents per pound, this gives from \$30 to \$50 to the acre; and, reckoning eight acres to the field hand, which is the calculation made of the slave production in an official report to Congress in 1852, we have then \$240 to \$400 as the year's product of one hand and eight acres. An agent appointed by the Illinois Central Railroad Company to travel and investigate the subject, reports that there are in Illinois from eight to ten millions of acres of land which are adapted to the cotton culture. These lands will also produce flax, castor beans, sorghum, and other semi-tropical products. There is an immense field for profitable enterprise for the production of cotton next season in Illinois.

A Tile Draining Experiment.

G. R. HURD writes thus to the Michigan Farmer:—"I have a small field of 3 acres and 8-100 that I commenced my tiling upon. In 1860 it was planted to corn in the usual manner, and I got about fifty bushels to the acre of good and poor—about one-quarter was poor. Last spring I thought I would tile it, for parts of it were very wet—so wet that corn would not grow well. It was not wet with what would be called a swale, but with water oozing out of the commonly called sand knolls, of which there were two. I put 45 rods of the two and three-inch tile in it, and on the high ground I put a coating of manure. The depth of the tile was from 2 to 3 1/2 feet; the tile was run around under these hills, with a main drain for an outlet. The result was that I got off the piece this year 327 bushels of ears of corn, (with very little poor corn,) or about 107 bushels to the acre; so that I feel pretty well paid for my trouble and the expense of the first crop.

Now, better farmers that have not tried tiling, don't be afraid to begin; don't let the trouble and expense scare you; put it in and you will be paid in a ten fold ratio. Make a beginning; you will never regret it. The kind of corn was the large, yellow Indiana Dent."

Refined Sorghum Sirup.

THE cultivation of Sorghum has not been fairly tried in this State, but in the Western States it has become an important, almost a staple product. At the late session of the Illinois Horticultural Society, held in Chicago, a committee was appointed to inquire into the subject of refining the sirup. Their inquiries and the answers thereto are important, as indicating the fact that an abundance of excellent sirup may be produced in the Northern States at a price reasonably low. The committee directed their attention to the following points:

QUERIES.

- 1st. What foreign substances are used in refining? Would their use be likely to render the refined product unhealthful?
2d. What is the loss in quantity by refining?
3d. What is the expense of refining?
4th. How does the refined article rank in grade with other refined sirups?
5th. How can the farmers get their sirup refined?
6th. Is there any sale for the crude sirup?

ANSWERS.

1st. A small quantity of lime water is introduced at the commencement of the boiling. Next the sirup is strained through canvass sacks. Afterwards it passes into immense filters, containing

"bone charcoal." By these three processes a great amount of extraneous vegetable matter is extracted. It is then subjected to a rapid boiling at 160 degrees heat, in what is called a "vacuum pan," which finishes the process. So far as we could judge, there was nothing used to impair, but rather to improve the healthfulness of the refined product. This cannot be said of some of the refined sirup offered in the market.

2d. One hundred gallons of fair crude sirup yield about ninety gallons of the refined product.

3d. The cost of refining is not over six cents per gallon in large quantities.

4th. It ranks with the best refined "Golden Sirup." The Eastern refined sirups are not uniform in quality, except in the higher grades. It has none of the "boneset" taste of the unrefined sirup, nor the smoky flavor which often occurs in other refined sirups.

5th. The company offer to receive sirup at any of the railroad depots in this city, (Chicago,) in quantities of five barrels or over, and to refine it at ten cents per gallon, returning to the depot, for each man, an equal amount of sirup, less its actual loss in refining; or to return seventy-five gallons for every hundred gallons received. These figures include drayage, cooerage, and re-painting the heads. The company will sell the refined Sorghum under the name of (now used for the first time,) Western Plantation Sirup. Small packages of ten gallons each may be obtained of them at fifty-five cents per gallon.

6th. The company will purchase for further experiment 200 or 300 barrels of the crude article at thirty-five cents per gallon, delivered, before establishing any regular price at which they are to buy it. A sirup refinery may be started at a cost of about \$12,000. The cost of machinery alone in the works above was \$5,000. It has a capacity of refining one hundred barrels per day in addition to its regular business. We learn further, from a number of wholesale grocers of this city, (Chicago,) that the sirup trade has greatly fallen off since the introduction of the Chinese cane. In numerous localities country merchants do not keep any but Sorghum sirup for sale. The cultivation of the sugar cane in the Northwest is no longer a matter of doubt. As high as 300 gallons of sirup have been produced per acre. 150 gallons is a small yield. Whether sugar can be profitably produced from it is not yet determined. We shall soon have a home supply and a surplus to export to the Eastern States.

Doings of Agricultural Societies.

Annual Meetings of National, State, and Local Societies.

U. S. AG. SOCIETY.—At the annual meeting of this Society, held in Washington on the 9th inst., Mr. HUBBARD, of Ohio, was re-elected President, Mr. POOR, Secretary, and Mr. FRENCH, Treasurer. The Executive Committee was re-organized, and consists of Marshal P. Wilder, of Mass.; Fred. S. Smythe, of N. H.; Isaac Newton, of Philadelphia; Charles B. Calvert, of Md.; L. Grand Byington, of Iowa; J. H. Sullivan, of Ohio; and M. Myers, of Cal. President LINCOLN's recommendation of the establishment of Agricultural and Statistical Departments was warmly commended, and he was elected an Honorary member. The suggestions of the President's address were debated and indorsed, and a large edition was ordered printed. The establishment of an Agricultural Department was discussed and recommended. There was a decided expression of opinion against National Exhibitions, unless they can be held at Washington. The Society adopted a series of resolutions advising to agricultural education, and prepared a premium list for a series of experiments in the cultivation of cotton in the Middle and Northern States. Also for hemp and flax, the awards to be made by the Central Agricultural Societies of the States in which the competitors reside. Arrangements are also perfected for a national exhibition of native wines, to be held in Washington in January next.

CONNECTICUT STATE AG. SOCIETY.—The annual meeting was held at Hartford, Jan. 8th. The financial report exhibits \$618 on hand, with property worth \$1,000, and less than \$100 of indebtedness. The Society resolved to hold a Fair next fall. The following officers were elected for ensuing year: President—E. H. HYNS, 2d, of Stafford. Vice Presidents—Robbins Battell, of Norfolk; D. F. Gulliver, of Norwich. Cor. Secretary—Henry A. Dyer, of Brooklyne. Rec. Secretary—T. S. Gold, of Cornwall. Treasurer—F. A. Brown, of Hartford. Directors—Chas. M. Pond, Hartford county; Randolph Lindale, New Haven; James A. Bill, New London; E. Hough, Fairfield; Levi Cowles, Middlesex; Lemuel Hurlbut, Litchfield; Benj. Sumner, Windham; R. B. Chamberlain, Tolland. Directors (appointed by County Societies)—J. A. Hemingway, Hartford county; N. A. Bacon, New Haven; Henry Bill, New London; G. W. Seymour, Litchfield; Ezra Dean, Windham; Stephen Hoyt, Fairfield; J. S. Yeomans, Tolland. Chemist—Prof. Johnson, of Yale College.

MONROE COUNTY SOCIETY.—Annual meeting at Rochester, Jan. 8th. Officers elected: President—B. M. BAKER, Rochester. Vice Presidents—Martin Roberts, Henrietta; Hiram Smith, Rochester; E. B. Holmes, Sweden. Secretary—J. M. Booth. Treasurer—M. C. Mordoff. Directors—Hon. Benj. Smith, of Mendon, and M. F. Reynolds, of Rochester, were chosen Directors for the ensuing three years. The Directors who hold over are: V. F. Brown, Wheatland; W. C. Tracy, Penfield, for one year. Wm. Rankin, Greece; L. D. Mitchell, Pittsford, for two years.

LIVINGSTON CO. SOCIETY.—At the recent annual meeting of this Society, the following board of officers was elected for 1862: President—JASPER BARBER, AVON. Vice President—Frederick A. Gray, York. Secretary—George J. Davis, Geneseo. Treasurer—Hezekiah Allen, Geneseo. Geologist and Librarian—John V. Lauderdale, Geneseo. Directors—Geo. W. Root and Charles Cole, whose terms of office as Directors had expired, were re-elected.

ERIC CO. SOCIETY.—At the annual meeting, held in Buffalo last week, officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President—Z. BONNEY, Buffalo. Vice Presidents—D. D. Stiles, Aurora; G. W. Pain, Tonawanda. Secretary—Warren Granger, Buffalo. Treasurer—Geo. W. Scott, Buffalo. Directors—Benj. Baker, East Hamburg; Paul B. Lathrop, Elmas; Nathaniel Tucker, Brant; Elias Webster, Buffalo; George A. Moore, Buffalo; W. D. Green, Lancaster. Finance Committee—Amos Freeman and R. F. Chilcott, East Hamburg; Orlando Allen, Buffalo.

DELAWARE CO. SOCIETY.—Officers for 1862: President—C. BECKER, Stamford. Vice Presidents—J. B. Yendes, Delhi; Jas. White, Jr., Kortright; G. S. Tuttle, Happersfield; M. S. Kellogg, Franklin; P. R. Ferguson, Meredith; S. Wakeman, Walton; Duncan Ballantine, Andes; G. B. Lyon, Stamford; Alfred Redfield, Davonport; M. L. Bostwick, Hamden; Alex. Storey, Bovina; A. J. Keator, Roxbury. Rec. Secretary—P. G. Northrup, Franklin. Cor. Secretary—Porter Frisbee, Delhi. Treasurer—Cyrena Gibbs, Stamford.

BROOKPORT UNION SOCIETY.—Officers for 1862: President—E. B. HOLMES. Vice President—C. H. Mason. Secretary—H. N. Beach. Treasurer—Thomas Cornes. Directors—A. E. Sweet, Hiram Mordoff, John Boughton, L. Babcock, E. J. Cook, A. E. Wilcox.

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY SOCIETY.—Officers elected: President—SALMON G. CONE. Vice Presidents—W. H. Emory, G. E. Fellows, Unadilla; Ralph Dewey, G. S. Bidwell, Sidney. Secretary—R. W. Courtney. Treasurer—C. I. Hayes. Directors—Henry C. Gregory, David Lee, Unadilla; Abner Johnston, Sidney. Directors holding over—Samuel R. Chaffin, Unadilla; W. J. Hughton, Wm. T. Hodge, Sidney.

OFFICERS of AG'S SOCIETIES are reminded that we are glad to receive brief synopses of proceedings of annual meetings, &c., for publication in the RURAL. We are always pleased to learn, also, of the organization and doings of Farmers' Clubs, and will give in print, whatever seems noteworthy.

Rural Notes and Items.

TO CORRESPONDENTS, INQUIRERS, &c.—We are constrained to again state that we do not wish to increase our list of paid contributors to the RURAL, (and especially to its Literary and Miscellaneous departments,) nor have we time, at this season of the year, to respond by letter to the numerous applications received. Wish we could say aye, in many cases, but our present engagements and expenditures forbid further investments at present.

—Of late we have received numerous inquiries on various subjects—including many requests for our best advertising terms—solicited written answers. It is impossible for us to respond, except in important matters, for want of time. We would fain treat all courteously, but must first give attention to what cannot be deferred. With hundreds of business letters daily, we are just now unable to devote much time to letter-writing. Those who have written us recently, (and several have twice or thrice,) relative to advertising, are referred to our terms, published in every number, for particulars; and such as wish us to advertise at the rates charged by papers having from five to twenty thousand subscribers only, must wait awhile, as we are not doing that kind of business. The simple fact that we have received and entered upon our books an average of over Fifteen Hundred Subscribers per day for nearly three weeks past, is one reason why we "charge more than other papers do" for advertising.

PATENT OFFICE AFFAIRS.—The business of the Patent Office is said to be reviving again. There has been a marked increase for the past month, the number of applicants for patents filed during December exceeding those of November by more than one hundred. Many of the inventions lately patented are more warlike than peaceful—such machines and instruments as are thought to be required in the great struggle to maintain and perpetuate the Union.

—A recent telegram from Washington says the Commissioner of Patents is to be called upon by Congress to state whether Mr. BROWN, formerly Agricultural Chief Clerk, is employed by him to purchase seeds; and that "there is much fault found with B.'s official conduct while here, and it has been sent abroad it will make some disturbance." We innocently supposed that Mr. B. had long ago been removed from a position for which he was unqualified.

GOV. MORGAN ON OUR AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.—Though unable to give our readers Gov. MORGAN's recent Annual Message entire, we make room for all that portion of the long document which relates to the Agricultural Interests of the State. What is said on this important subject may not prove exceedingly gratifying; but the Governor deserves credit for limbing such a prosaic topic with the "sout of wit," and thus saving the time and patience of readers. He says:—"Agricultural interests have been more than usually prosperous. The products have been abundant throughout the State, and the remunerative rates have given increased business to the various modes of transportation in the direction of markets; at the same time the articles of human food have been so reasonable that plenty has been within the reach of the humblest laborer. Public policy alone would counsel us to foster this great source of happiness and national wealth."

NOVELTIES FROM JAPAN AND CALIFORNIA.—The Hon. T. HART HYATT, late U. S. Consul at Amoy, China—whence he recently returned via Japan and California, to his former residence in this city—has favored us with several products and curiosities of countries visited during his sojourn abroad. Among them, a fine head of Millet, grown at Kanegawa, Japan, and specimens of Japanese "cash"—copper and iron coin; the latter about as large as the new American cent, (though five thousand are valued at only one dollar), with a hole one-fourth of an inch square in the center. Also, a California apple, of good size and appearance—not yet tested—and a specimen of cinnamon bark from the same State. Mr. H. has quite a collection of novelties and curiosities, mainly the handiwork of Chinese and Japanese artists and mechanics.

SEA ISLAND COTTON.—We are indebted to Mr. HUBBARD, (of the enterprising dry goods firm of HUBBARD & NORTON, Rochester,) for a sample of the Sea Island Cotton, recently brought from Port Royal, S. C., by the Government and sold in New York, at auction, for 63 cents per pound! It is a superior article, such as the English use in manufacturing fine muslins. The same quality formerly sold at 20 to 25 cents per lb., (when ordinary cotton brought 12 to 15 cents)—indicating an advance in price which must ere long affect the pockets of all consumers of cotton goods. Let farmers "hurry up" extra quantities of wool and flax, and inventors and manufacturers bring along flax cotton, or some other cheap substitute for the "king."

GRAND IMPORTATION OF SHEEP AND EGGS INTO BRITAIN.—According to the Mark Lane Express, the sheep imported into London from foreign countries are now about 10,000 per week, and Hull, Liverpool, and Glasgow; also receive supplies. The total number imported in 1858 was 184,482, and in 1860, 320,219. In the year 1861, it doubtless approached to, or exceeded, 500,000. The eggs brought into England in 1858 were 134,885,000. In 1860, they were 167,956,200. In the year 1861, they must have nearly reached the number of 200,000,000. These two items are merely specimens of a whole class. The oxen, the bacon, the butter, cheese, &c., are all pouring in, in rapidly increasing quantities.

THE RURAL'S HISTORY OF THE REBELLION.—A subscriber of Clinton county, Iowa, writes:—"The RURAL is especially valuable at this time for its complete condensed History of the Rebellion. I intend binding the volume, and in future years it will read with interest by those who have the good fortune to possess it." Within the past month we have been favored with many letters commending the same feature of the RURAL, quite a number of them affirming its summary of War News to be more interesting and reliable than that given in the daily papers which publish so many idle rumors.

DOGS vs. SHEEP.—A Sporting Item.—A Cleveland paper gives some figures which must attract the attention of Ohio wool growers, in this style:—"It may be of interest to some to know what it costs the State of Ohio to supply her dogs with a first-class sport for one year. There were killed by dogs in Ohio during the year 1861, 42,781 sheep, valued at \$64,216.85. During the same period there were injured 10,000, valued at \$32,679.70; total, 61,781 sheep, at \$96,796.55!"

WESTERN RURAL ITEMS.—It is asserted that Mr. J. H. SMITH, of Quincy, Ill., has made, the past season, from one acre of African Sugar Cane, 1,500 pounds of sugar, besides 155 gallons of good sirup, at a cost of 4 cents per pound of sugar, and 20 cents per gallon of sirup. He has on hand a ton of sugar. We are not informed whether the ton of sugar is Sorghum sugar or not.—Illinois Plows are going to London to compete with the world for the prizes offered at the Exhibition of 1862. DREER, of Moline, is preparing four for the Exhibition.—King Cotton is attacking the Illinoisans, with a fair prospect that he will get a permanent foothold in the State.—The Chicago Gardeners' Society has elected the following officers for 1862: President—JOHN C. USE; First Vice-President—D. WORTHINGTON; Second Vice-President—Geo. WITBOLD; Corresponding Secretary—DR. J. ASA KENNICOTT; Recording Secretary—CHAS. D. BRADTON; Treasurer—A. T. WILLIAMS; Librarian—H. LOMBARD.—Cotton Land in Illinois.—It is believed there are from eight to ten millions of acres of land in Illinois adapted to the culture of cotton.—The Ohio State Fair is to be held at Cleveland this year.—"Important Action of the National Agricultural Board."—Such was the "style" of a telegram sent to the Associated Press of the West on the 10th inst., announcing the perfection of arrangements for a "big drink" next January! They are going to seduce wine manufacturers to send them "a few bottles." What a useful, indispensable institution that is! It is greatly appreciated "Out West!"—C. D. B.

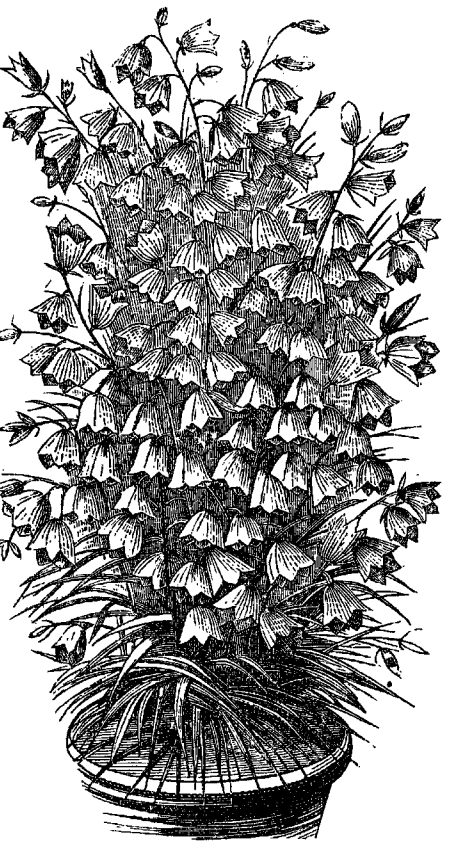
THE SUGAR GROWERS' CONVENTION, held at Columbus, Ohio, last week, is said to have been attended by gentlemen from most all quarters of the State, and proved quite a spirited affair. Similar conventions are talked of in Michigan, Indiana, &c.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the N. Y. State Ag. Society will be held at the Agricultural Rooms, in Albany, on Wednesday, the 12th day of February ensuing.

HORTICULTURAL.

A NEW CAMPANULA.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London Gardener's Chronicle gives an interesting description of a seedling Campanula exhibited by Mr. CHITTY at a show of the Royal Botanic Society.



days of general neglect of old-fashioned herbaceous favorites. I measured one of them, and its dimensions were as follows:—height, two feet six inches; circumference, three feet six inches.

FRUIT GROWERS' SOCIETY OF WESTERN N. Y.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Fruit Growers' Society of Western New York held its Annual Meeting at the Court-house in the city of Rochester on the 8th inst.

The Committee on Subjects proposed the following questions, which were discussed, and several, on the culture and pruning of the pear, were passed over for want of time.

APPLES.

I.—Dwarf Apple Trees.—What is the best stock for Dwarfing the Apple, and what are the comparative merits of Dwarf and Standard Apples?

II.—Select lists for family use.—Which are the best 24 varieties? Which of the 24 are the 4 best summer varieties, 2 for the table, 1 for baking, and 1 for cooking?

III.—Which of the 24 are the best 4 fall varieties, as above.

IV.—Which of the 24 are the best 16 winter, to embrace 2 for stock feeding, 2 for baking, 2 for cooking, and 10 for the table?

V.—What is the best form of an Apple tree, and what is the time for pruning?

GRAPES.

VI.—What are the best 6 varieties of Grapes for family use, and which are the best 2 for vineyard purposes?

The Committee on Officers made the following report, and the gentlemen named were elected unanimously.

President—H. T. Brooks, of Wyoming. Vice Presidents—J. J. Thomas, of Union Springs; John B. Eaton, of Buffalo, N. S. Holmes, of Syracuse.

DISCUSSIONS.

Dwarf Apples.

I.—Dwarf Apple Trees.—What is the best stock for Dwarfing the Apple, and what are the comparative merits of Dwarf and Standard Apples?

Mr. BARRY, being called upon, said he could not say anything new. The subject seemed to be pretty well understood. Two stocks are used for dwarfing the apple—the Paradise and the Doucain.

as healthy as ever, and likely to live a score of years longer. On this stock trees do not bear much earlier than on their own roots—some five or six years after planting.

SECOND SESSION.

II.—Select lists for family use.—Which are the best 24 varieties? The 6 best summer varieties, 2 for the table, 1 for baking, and 1 for cooking?

Mr. BARRY said the Early Harvest is the most popular summer apple in America. It is cultivated in every State in the Union as far south as the apple is cultivated.

W. P. TOWNSEND, of Lockport, spoke favorably of the Primate, Early Joe, Early Harvest, and Red Astachan, and the Sweet Bough for baking.

Mr. BEADLE, of St. Catharines, C. W., said in Canada the Sweet Bough is the most popular sweet apple, and the Red Astrachan excellent for cooking and eating.

H. E. HOOKER recommended the Sweet Bough for baking, and the Early Harvest, Early Joe, Primate, and Red Astrachan for eating and cooking.

Mr. ELLWANGER said the Summer Rose is one of the best summer apples. The Early Joe is a delicious eating apple, but is very apt to be imperfect and spotted. The Early Harvest is good for the table, as all know, the Sweet Bough for baking, and the Red Astrachan for cooking.

Mr. SMITH, of Syracuse, recommended the Early Harvest, Red Astrachan, and Sweet Bough for cooking, and the Primate and Summer Rose for the table.

Mr. BARRY considered all the summer apples that had been named excellent, and well worthy of general culture, except, perhaps, the Early Joe, which is often very spotted, and the tree a poor grower.

The Early Strawberry is a beautiful, excellent apple, of a peculiar and fine aroma, and the tree a good grower. An excellent market apple. Would name it as one of our best summer apples.

It remains longer in perfection than almost any other summer apple, ripening gradually and remaining on the tree longer than most apples. Tree an erect grower, with slender branches.

Mr. HOOKER, of Lyons, thought very highly of the Early Strawberry. The tree is a handsome and erect grower. Fruit ripens gradually for five weeks.

For family use this peculiarity is valuable, but objectionable for market, as it is less trouble to pick all the fruit of a variety at once. Would place it among the four best. Mr. S. would want the Early Harvest for all purposes, Sweet Bough for baking, Red Astrachan for cooking, and Early Strawberry, Summer Rose, and Primate for the table.

E. MOODY, of Lockport, thought the Primate the best early apple. Ripe nearly as early as the Early Harvest, and does not spot, while the Early Harvest is subject to it, and Mr. M. thought it should be discarded, for the difficulty is increasing, and varieties subject to it should be rejected.

The Primate is entirely free, and also the Red Astrachan. The Sweet Bough is a good apple, and bears shipping well. Would like to retain the Early Joe, although it does spot. Some gentlemen present thought the Primate tree rather tender, and Mr. M. said, in reply to inquiries, that it is as hardy as a Greening, and very much like it in growth.

The question, as originally reported by the committee, was for the four best summer apples for the dessert, and at this stage of the discussion, as many considered the number too small to give a good supply for family use during the season, at the suggestion of L. B. LANGWORTHY and H. E. HOOKER, it was increased to six.

Mr. BARRY thought the Golden Sweet a very desirable summer sweet apple, though perhaps rather late to be called a summer apple. It is very productive, the tree a rapid grower, and bears early; an excellent market apple.

Mr. MOODY agreed with the last speaker in his opinion of the Golden Sweet. It is an excellent baking apple, but not as good for the table as the Sweet Bough, and will not bear carriage as well. Most of the Sweet Boughs of Niagara county are purchased for the home market.

Mr. FISH inquired if there were not two varieties known as Golden Sweet.

H. N. LANGWORTHY knew of two, one a greenish apple and worthless; but the true Golden Sweet is an excellent apple, and next to the Baldwin in productiveness.

Mr. BARRY said a line had been handed him, requesting his opinion of the Jeffries apple—a beautiful, striped, very superior dessert apple from Pennsylvania. It is an excellent summer apple, and the gentleman who called his attention to it should favor the meeting with his opinion.

Mr. VICK said he was much occupied in reporting the proceedings to take part in the discussions, but he was anxious this fine apple should be brought to the notice of the meeting. It is excellent and beautiful.

Mr. HOOKER had the Jeffries in bearing the last three years. It is an excellent table apple, and the finest acquisition we have had in many years.

Mr. HOAG, of Lockport, had received scions from Pennsylvania, which had fruited, and he considered the Jeffries a very superior dessert apple.

The President, H. T. BROOKS, Esq., thought the growing of apples for seedling pigs an important matter to farmers. Pork is cheap, and it is necessary that cheap food should be used in making it.

Mr. BEADLE said a neighbor fed sweet apples to pigs in great quantities, first using the Golden Sweet and later the Tolman Sweet.

L. B. LANGWORTHY considered good marketable apples too valuable to feed to pigs. Let the pigs have the run of the orchard and pick up all the worms, fallen fruit; but apples that are fit to sell are worth more than they would be made into pork.

H. N. LANGWORTHY said he would sum up his opinion of the Golden Sweet in a few words—It is a fine apple, but very often small and spotted. Spoke well of feeding pigs to eat, good to bake, and good to sell before half ripe. Dealers will buy it, and it is considered pretty good before it hardly begins to ripen.

Autumn Apples.

III.—Which are the best 6 fall varieties?

Mr. HOOKER considered the Munson Sweet a superb sweet apple, productive, and good either for baking or for the table.

Mr. ELLWANGER said Munson Sweet is the finest autumn sweet apple we have, with a bright red cheek, which makes it attractive. Excellent for baking.

Mr. SMITH found the Munson Sweet a very profitable apple. Tree hardy and productive, and the fruit excellent. The Fall Jenneting good, and the Colvert a handsome apple and an enormous bearer, always fair, and an excellent cooking apple.

The Rambo and St. Lawrence are fine for late fall. Mr. BARRY—Jersey Sweet ranks among the best sweet apples of its season.

Mr. SYLVESTER had cultivated Munson Sweet a few years and liked it. The Pound Sweet is the best autumn sweet apple. It is more juicy than any other sweet apple. For feeding there is nothing like it.

Mr. SMITH inquired if Jersey Sweet is generally fair. It is an excellent apple where it can be grown, but for the last few years it had grown spotted and gnarly with him.

Mr. BEADLE said Jersey Sweet is an excellent apple in Canada, the fruit fair, and the tree productive. Ripe in October. Succeeds in almost all soils.

Mr. FISH thought Jersey Sweet one of the very best of fall apples. Very tender and rich.

Mr. MOODY said Jersey Sweet as known by him is unworthy of cultivation, knotty and worthless. If they happened to get a fair one it was very good.

bles the Colvert, yellowish-white ground, striped with red.

Mr. HOOKER said the Pomme Royal is of poor appearance, greenish-white, often speckled. Twenty Ounce is one of the best market apples, excellent for cooking, hangs well on the tree, and is a good bearer.

Mr. MOODY believed the Duchesse of Oldenburg to be one of the best autumn apples, and a very early bearer, often bearing in the nursery,—one of the tenderest table apples. Fall Pippin, after the Gravstein, is the next best cooking apple.

Mr. FISH said it is generally admitted that the Fall Pippin is of good quality, but he could never get many of them.

Mr. HOLMES, of Syracuse, had not heard the Hawley mentioned, and would like to get the opinion of members as to its quality.

Dr. SYLVESTER said that Hawley is one of the best fall apples, but is not considered very productive.

Mr. BEADLE had the Hawley in cultivation some years, but of late it is not only water-soaked, but water-soaked, and about worthless. It stands in a rather low place in the orchard, and this may be the cause of the trouble.

Mr. HOAG found it the same at Lockport. Mr. HERRINGTON had the same difficulty with it in Macedon on high ground.

Mr. HOOKER could not get along without the Porter for family use.

Mr. ELLWANGER said as it seems to be understood that the list is to be increased to six autumn varieties, he wished to add the St. Lawrence. He also spoke well of the Porter.

Mr. COREY, of Penfield, considered Maiden's Blush a very fine apple.

Mr. ANTHONY said Maiden's Blush is always fair, productive, and excellent.

Mr. BARRY said it is remarkable to notice the changes in the character of apples. Only twelve years ago the Hawley was extremely popular, and it was an excellent apple. Now it is subject to the defect noticed by several gentlemen, and is about discarded.

Mr. HOOKER found the St. Lawrence a very perishable, unreliable fruit. The crop generally is poor and wormy.

Mr. BEADLE thought the St. Lawrence had got too far south. In Canada, the further north it is grown, the higher colored, the finer, and the more perfect the fruit. It is always large, fine, and the tree productive.

Mr. LAY, of Greece, found it to ripen unevenly. Mr. SMITH said this is the case in Syracuse.

Best Twelve Winter Apples.

IV.—The best 12 winter, to embrace 2 for stock, 2 for baking, 2 for cooking, and 6 for the table?

Mr. ELLWANGER thought the Fameuse the best early winter apple for the table.

Mr. HOOKER recommended for baking the Tolman Sweet and Ladies' Sweet—a very valuable fall sweet apple.

Mr. BARRY said for market he was prepared to recommend the Rhode Island Greening and Baldwin. Mr. FISH recommended for late keepers the Roxbury Russet and Golden Russet.

Mr. BEADLE recommended the Pomme Grise as a fine late keeper, and asked information respecting the Pomme d'Or, a good apple, somewhat resembling the Pomme Grise.

Mr. FISH said the Pomme d'Or is a small, excellent russet apple. It sold last year at \$10 per barrel in Canada.

H. N. LANGWORTHY said he first saw this apple on the ridge-road, near this city, in the orchard of Mr. SMITH. Its fine flavor and aroma is delightful. It is the prince of Russets. It is more oblong than the Pomme Grise—sometimes quite oblong. The tree is upright in its growth, and a good bearer.

For a long time could not ascertain its name, but by searching the French pomological works became satisfied that it was the Pomme d'Or of the French, and it had been called by that name.

Mr. BEADLE said Norton's Melon is exceedingly valuable in Canada.

Mr. SMITH called attention to Peck's Pleasant, as it had not been mentioned. It is a very valuable early winter apple, and a pretty good bearer. Had none this winter. All the winter apples they have in Syracuse this season are the Golden Russet and Northern Spy. These two are the hardest trees we have.

Mr. BARRY said the Golden Russet, as understood here, is the one with small specks on the bark. The American Golden Russet, so much grown in New Jersey and southward, will not do here. Our Golden Russet is not described in the books.

Mr. WRIGHT inquired of the value of Cooper's Market.

Mr. HOOKER said it is grown by some of his neighbors, and is a good bearer and keeps until April. It is a showy fruit, but not of first quality. The Yellow Bellflower is good, but sometimes spotted.

Mr. SHARP, of Lockport, inquired why some one did not speak of the Swaar.

Mr. BEADLE found it tender in Canada. It winter-kills badly.

Mr. SMITH said it has the same defect as the Fall Pippin—never bares a crop.

Mr. LAY said the Swaar had borne well with him. Mr. SYLVESTER recommended Newtown Pippin, wherever it can be grown without specks.

Mr. ELLWANGER said the Jonathan is an excellent dessert apple, and high colored. The Canada Russet is good.

Mr. BARRY considered the Bailey Sweet equal to any sweet apple we have through January and February.

Mr. HOAG said the Bailey Sweet is a good apple, but it will not keep.

The President said the Bailey Sweet, on the warm, sandy land about Moscow, is a late fall apple, but on heavy land, and in colder situations, it is a winter fruit.

Mr. BEADLE noticed the Yellow Bellflower was recommended by some one. With him it is a shy bearer, and has a very large core. He thought little of the variety.

W. P. TOWNSEND, of Lockport, said the Yellow Bellflower needs severer pruning, and if the tree is in good condition, the fruit is good.

fine growth, and at the request of Mr. BARRY Mr. M. made some remarks on his mode of culture. He had grown 400,000 the past season as fine as the specimens exhibited, one-half being of extra size and the others might well be called first class. Gave a large quantity of ashes, about 150 bushels to the acre, applied at three times during the season.

Best Form for an Apple Tree.

V.—What is the best form of an Apple tree, and which is the time for pruning?

Mr. SHARP thought he might not agree with others in his views of pruning. Would head all fruit trees low. Branches pruned near the ground are more vigorous and stocky than those formed further up the main stem. They show a disposition to ascend instead of running out horizontally, make a good spreading top, and can bear more weight without injury. Trees trained in this way are also less exposed to the winds. This is particularly the case with pears.

J. J. THOMAS was opposed to pruning the heads of trees high. In many orchards trees might be seen some three stories in height from successive grafting.

Mr. FISH agreed with Mr. SHARP. Branches pruned near the root are stronger than those formed six or seven feet from the ground.

Mr. HOOKER considered the question a difficult one. Trees grow naturally of all forms. The Northern Spy has an upright growth, Greening crooked and drooping, while the Baldwin makes a round-headed tree. Cut out the young wood from a Tompkins County King, as is desirable for a Northern Spy, and soon there would be no bearing wood left. This variety requires shortening in, while the Northern Spy requires thinning out. It is well to study the habits of trees, for do the best we can, they will have their peculiar shape.

Mr. BARRY said there is a difference of opinion about the height heads should be formed in orchard trees. He believed in having the heads low. Many advantages result from this course. The sap has not to travel so far; branches near roots are stronger and not subjected to so many accidents, are less exposed to the weather, and protect the trunks from effects of sun and freezing. All our orchard trees are found leaning to the east, the effect of our strong west winds. The higher the head is formed from the ground, of course, the more they are exposed. Low-headed trees are more easily pruned and the fruit is gathered with much less difficulty and danger. The advantages are numerous and obvious to every grower of fruit.

Some think the head should be formed so high that a horse with plow could work under the branches. This is not necessary. The principal feeding roots, are at the extremities, and as far out as the ends of the limbs or further. Manure and culture are not needed under branches. Plowing injures the roots by tearing and breaking them. The best fruits are produced from trees where the ground under the branches is always shaded. A slight forking under the tree is all that is required.

Mr. BARRY said to come to some system of culture that would suit farmers. Farmers would not use the fork. Had found no evil from plowing. Commence plowing when the trees are young, and the roots will not come near the surface. Would form heads four or five feet from the ground. Some tender trees have the bark injured by the sun in winter. This is prevented by growing branches low.

Mr. BEADLE said the climate in which trees are grown may have a good deal to do in determining the form of the tree. Mr. MOODY spoke of the sun burning the trunks of trees. Had seen the same in Canada, the bark injured for seven or eight feet from the trunk in every direction. The effect of the sun followed by hard frosts. By keeping the head low the trunk is protected. Never saw any ill effects from heading trees low. In Canada they have severe south-west winds. Every tree leans. The main crop is blown off high trees. Mr. B. would not use a plow under or near the trees in an orchard. The roots like to come near the surface for light, air, and dew.

Mr. HOOKER said the advocates of low heads seemed determined to drive those in favor of higher heads into a false position. Although he did not believe in heading trees as low as some, he was equally opposed to having heads as high as some have described, and as is often seen. But the heads should be formed so high as to admit of horse work under the trees. Farmers cannot use forks and spades in cultivating their orchards—they must depend upon horses.

J. J. THOMAS had made a good deal of observation in the length of roots. The radius of the roots is equal to the height of the tree. If the tree is twenty feet in height the roots will extend twenty feet from the trunk in every direction.

Mr. BARRY inquired if any one had ever known injury to result from plowing an orchard? The tearing of the roots a little, he thought, not so injurious as neglecting to stir the soil. Apple roots, many of them, go down low, but peach roots lie near the surface.

Dr. SYLVESTER said it is necessary to shade the trunks of trees, and it is also necessary to keep the tree growing to obtain good fruit. To effect this it is necessary to keep the ground well cultivated, and it is hard to do this if the head is formed very low.

Mr. SHARP is determined to head his trees low, and he has a small mule for working under them, and when the trees are too low for these, will try a pair of asses.

At the close of the discussion on this subject members were requested to prepare and leave with the Secretary a list of the best six summer, the best six autumn, and the best twelve winter varieties. The following is the aggregate vote:

Best Six Summer—Two Sweet.

Table with 2 columns: Variety and Votes. Includes Red Astrachan, Primate, Early Harvest, Early Strawberry, Sweet Bough, Summer Rose.

Best Six Autumn—Two Sweet.

Table with 2 columns: Variety and Votes. Includes Colvert, Duquesne, Gravenstein, Duchess of Oldenburg, Porter, Jeffries, Fall Pippin, Tomme Grise, Beauty of Kent.

Best Twelve Winter—Two Sweet.

Table with 2 columns: Variety and Votes. Includes Rhode Island Greening, Northern Spy, Baldwin, Spitzbergen, Golden Russet, Roxbury Russet, Peck's Pleasant, Yellow Bellflower, Pomme Grise, Canada Red, Swaar, Red Cheek Pippin, Wagener, Belmont, Hill Sweet, Rambo, Vandevere, Minister.

Mr. BARRY announced that among the distinguished fruit growers present, he was happy to observe the Rev. J. KNOX, the celebrated Fruit Farmer of Pittsburg, who has two hundred acres in fruit, and fifty acres in strawberries. The President requested Mr. K. to favor the meeting with an address.

Mr. KNOX stated that as he had more experience with strawberries than any other fruit, and without pretending to make an address, he would give the members the benefit of his experience in strawberry culture, treating of soil, preparation of soil, cultivation and varieties. He considered a rather light clay soil preferable to a sandy soil, for strawberries. The first work in its preparation is through drainage, next breaking up or pulverizing from twenty to twenty-four inches in depth. This is effected by the plow alone. First use an ordinary plow, with two horses, followed by Mape's litter, a kind of sub-soil plow, with two yokes of oxen. Give the ground several plowings in different directions, until it is well broken up and pulverized. Could produce two or three very good crops on land plowed to the ordinary way, eight or ten inches, but on the two feet deep plow, ten or twelve crops in succession. Strawberries do not require much manure. Any good wheat or corn land is

good enough for strawberries. Plants in rows thirty inches apart, and the plants ten inches apart in the rows, making twenty thousand plants to the acre. When he commenced strawberry culture, Mr. K. plowed between the rows, but lately has discarded all implements in his strawberry plantations, except the hoe. Weeds are taken up by hand. The less soil is disturbed after planting the better, as the whole ground is covered with a net-work of small, fibrous roots. Never allows the vines to bear the first year planted, but picks off all the fruit-stems and runners, and removes the runners every year that the plant is fruited. Prefers setting out early in the spring. Protects the plants in the winter by wheat or rye straw, thrashed with the flail. Oat straw is not heavy enough, and blows off. Plants bear much better by this protection. The straw is removed in the spring, and placed around the plants as a mulch, and helps a little towards furnishing manure. One half the straw is wasted each year, and needs to be supplied every autumn. Two tons to the acre is about the right quantity of straw to commence with, but after that, one ton of new straw each season will answer.

Varities that succeed in some soils and situations, fail in others. The Hovey is good in Boston, and Mr. K. had seen it good in Cleveland, but with him it never succeeded. Some varieties seem to run out after culture a number of years. Pistillate varieties do better when impregnated with some staminate sorts, than with others. On this subject he is trying experiments. The strawberries ought to be lengthened. It is usually about three weeks, but with proper selection of sorts, can be extended to five weeks. The sorts Mr. K. liked best were the following:

- Early—Baltimore Scarlet, Jenny Lind, Burr's New Pine. Late—Trollope's Victoria, Kitely's Goliath, Nimrod, Bunt's Prize.

Medium—Brighton Pine, Boston Pine, McAvoy's Superior, Scott's Seeding, Moxamensing, Downer's Profit, Fillmore, Golden Seeded, British Queen, Vicomtesse Hericard de Thury, Wilson's Albany, Triomphe de Gand.

For a general crop, Wilson's Albany and Triomphe de Gand are the most profitable. The latter is the strawberry of all strawberries, and possesses all the excellencies that can be desired—productive, beautiful, large, of fine quality, berries shipping well, and the plants are hardy. It is not as productive as the Wilson, but an acre will bring more money. Sent them to Cleveland, Chicago, Philadelphia and New York. Received orders from New York for more than his whole crop. If confined to one strawberry, he would plant the Triomphe de Gand. Although not quite as productive as the Wilson, he could say with safety, that it produces more than three hundred bushels to the acre. For canning, the Wilson is preferred. The only manure used is well rotted stable manure. The same plant, if the runners are kept off, will bear ten years. A good many crowns will start and cluster around the original plant, each bearing a fruit stem, and all producing a very large amount of fruit.

Mr. K. said he observed several fruit growers from Canada present, and expressed the wish that all the troubles of nations could be left with the lovers of fruits, and flowers for adjustment; then our spears would soon be turned into pruning-hooks, and our swords into plowshares.

Mr. VICK expressed pleasure at the remarks of Mr. KNOX. They show that the very best culture is successful on a large scale. We are too apt to think that good culture must be confined to amateurs or garden culture exclusively, and is unsuited to the orchard and market garden. This is an error. That system which is most profitable in the garden, will be generally found so in the orchard.

The remainder of the discussion, list of fruits exhibited, &c., will be given next week.

Domestic Economy.

A BATCH OF CAKES.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER.—As I have a few excellent recipes, and feel a deep interest in the Domestic Column of your valuable paper, with your permission I will give them to your numerous readers.

PIC-NIC CAKE.—Take two cups of white sugar; two eggs, and the white of one; one cup of butter; one cup of sweet milk; three cups of flour; two teaspoonsful of cream of tartar; one teaspoonful of soda. Add a teaspoonful or two of lemon: This quantity is sufficient for two cakes.

UNION CAKE.—Take two cups of flour; two cups of sugar; one and a half cups of sour cream; two eggs; one teaspoonful of saleratus; one-half do. nutmeg. When all are united, stir them up.

GINGER CAKE.—Take one cup of molasses; one cup of water; one-half cup of shortening; one tablespoonful of ginger; one teaspoonful of saleratus; a little salt; flour sufficient to make it as thick as for pound cake.

COFFEE CAKE.—Take one cup of sugar; one cup of molasses; one cup of butter; one cup of good cold coffee; one pound of chopped raisins; one tablespoonful of cinnamon; one teaspoonful of allspice; one tablespoonful of cloves; one teaspoonful of saleratus. F. E. HART.

Barre, Orleans Co., N. Y., 1862.

APPLE DUMPLINGS.

PARE and thinly slice the apple; rub butter in the flour, nearly enough for an ordinary pie crust; mix a little soda in some buttermilk to make it foam; more than this is injurious; now moisten the crust as soft as an ordinary biscuit, roll out and butter it over lightly, then double it over once and repeat.

Put in no more apples than the crust will easily lap over on, and two small dumplings are better than one large one, as they are more easily got into a bag, and take less time in cooking. When the fruit is cooked the pastry is done, and the time of cooking must be regulated accordingly. If you cook the fruit before putting it in, half an hour is sufficient to boil an ordinary sized dumpling made in this way, though in roll, from an hour and a half to two hours is necessary. A good sauce to be eaten with apple dumplings is made as follows:—To a pint of boiling water, add a good slice of butter; half a nutmeg grated, two tablespoonsful of flour, previously mixed in cold water, and half a teaspoonful of extract of lemon, with a coffee-cup of white sugar; boil one minute.

BISCUIT FRITTERS.—Take some light biscuit or rusk; split them in halves; saturate them with custard made with six eggs to a quart of milk, omitting sugar (if the cakes are sweet); then fry them in hot lard to a light brown, and eat with wine sauce.

BAKER'S BREAD—RIPE CUCUMBER PICKLES.—Will some one please inform a RURAL reader how to make good baker's bread? Also, how to pickle ripe cucumbers, and favor—A. E. C., Chatsworth, Ill., 1862.

[SPECIAL NOTICE.]

KEEP IT BEFORE THE PEOPLE, that D. B. DE LAND & Co.'s Chemical Saleratus will universally perform all that the purifiers claim that it will, and therefore it is not only the best and healthiest Saleratus in the market, but it is also the cheapest, as its effects are certain and uniform, and consequently spoils no bread or biscuit. It is for sale by all respectable retail dealers in the country, and at wholesale in Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, Sandusky, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Chicago, Milwaukee, &c., &c.

Ladies' Department.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.] A MOTHER'S MISSION.

BY MRS. EMMA L. S.

As a pebble we cast in a placid lake, Only one ripple may seem to make; As we gaze they increase till we see them no more, But the last one reaches the furthest shore.

The gifted may scorn and cynics sneer At the quiet round of our limited sphere; They dream not that there Life's work is done; Its real battles are fought, its true victories won.

In patience possessing the earnest soul, Each wayward will to subdue and control. In gentleness training the mind so young, To do and to suffer, to bear and be strong;

Be good to be great, be right to be free, Are lessons best learnt at a mother's knee; Although tried and tempted a shield it will prove, As memory recalls a mother's love.

The great and gifted the laurel may claim, I would ask not this to wreath my name; But only say, Father, Thy grace be given, That my humble home be a type of Heaven.

Brant Co., C. W., 1862.

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

THAT woman is constantly taking a more elevated and important stand in the literary world, is a fact familiar to all who are acquainted with the literature of the present age. Earnestly and perseveringly she has struggled, until, wearing the laurels due true genius in any form, she treads with undisturbed right the fair field of letters. Nor is her course restricted to a single path, for with free access to every tree which grows in the broad, ample garden, she has plucked bright offerings to romance, biography, history, and science, and brighter still to poetry.

Conspicuous among the names of those who have offered their gifts at the shrine of the latter, is that of LETITIA ELIZABETH LANDON, who was born at Chelsea, England, 1802. Generally, to pen the history of genius is to unfold a web of bitter sorrows, mingled with a few bright threads which the world terms honors; and our task were no exception to this rule did we attempt to pencil a complete life-picture of the subject of our sketch, for she fully shared the heritage—misfortune—which falls to so many gifted ones. Her melancholy lot, however, served not to cloud her brow or heart, for she was endowed with a cheerful, sunny nature, and ever though slander added its venom to her life-cup, the draught was only embittered thereby, for an upright, worthy course of conduct rendered the effect harmless. She made her first appearance as the authoress of Poetical Sketches, published in the Literary Gazette. In 1824 appeared the "Improvisatrice," followed by other poems bearing the stamp of eminent talent, and promising richly for the future of the youthful poetess. She wandered, as poets will, into the broad ideal land which offers so many allurements to the imaginative; but the knowledge gathered there was not always woven into verse, for among her writings we find a novelet entitled "Romance and Reality."

In 1838 she was wedded to GEORGE MACLEAN, and soon after embarked for Cape Coast. Here, in her remote and lonely home, she resumed her literary labors. No long, weary days of toll were arrayed against her, and had they been, she would have encountered them with that brave cheerfulness which is the most potent weapon against the ills of life. But even this could not cope with life's dark adversary. She could but yield obedience to his mandate, which by its suddenness shocked those who were reasonably hoping so much for her future. "A few weeks after her arrival in her African home," says her biographer, "she was found dead in her room, having in her hand a bottle of Prussic acid. From subsequent investigation it was supposed that, seeking relief from pain, she had taken an over-dose of the fatal medicine."

Thus, we are again led to wonder that the brightest stars are so often extinguished by the unseen Hand that guides them all, while the dim are left to flicker on in their feebleness, some scarcely lending a ray of light to earth-weary travelers.

The works of Miss LANDON are known to all. What lover of poetry is unacquainted with the sweet notes awakened from her youthful lyre? Though simple, and oftentimes tinged with the melancholy coloring of her life, they are the pure outgushing of a true poet-soul. We are attracted by her sweet simplicity, which soothes the mind of the reader as he turns to her from more stirring but less gentle and winning authors. All who have perused her writings cannot but love her, and weep that "like a young bird on the wing she met the poisoned shaft," and dropped so soon, nevermore to warble her tender notes of poesy and love.

Oakwood, Mich., 1862.

EMMA WILCOX.

KEEP THE BRAIN FALLOW IN CHILDHOOD.—When we are considering the health of children, it is imperative not to omit the importance of keeping the brain fallow, as it were, for several of the first years of their existence. The mischief perpetrated by a contrary course, in the shape of bad health, peevish temper, and developed vanity, is incurable. Some infant prodigy, which is a standard of mischief throughout its neighborhood, misleads them. But parents may be assured that this early work is not, by any means, all gain even in the way of work. I suspect it is a loss; and that children who begin their education late, as it would be called, will rapidly overtake those who have been in harness long before them. And what advantage can it be that a child knows more at six years old than its companions, especially if this is to be gained by a sacrifice of health, which may never be regained? There may be some excuse for this early book-work in the case of those children who are to live by manual labor. It is worth while perhaps to run the risk of some physical injury to them, having only their early years in which we can teach them book-knowledge. The chance of mischief, too, will be less, being more likely to be counteracted by their after life. But for a child who is to be at book-work for the first twenty-one years of its life, what folly it is to exhaust in the least its mental energy, which, after all, is its surest implement!

CHILDREN make men better citizens. When your own child has learned in the streets to swear, it makes you feel that you are a stockholder in the public morality.

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

HAVE ye ever heard it, and know ye the spell that lingers about it? Has thine eye ever grown brighter, thy cheek fresher, and thy very soul been touched by that spell? When the daylight has gone down, and the rich gold was fast fading from the West, giving place to the mild light of evening—at that sweet hour, have ever the silvery tones of a flute breathed in thine ear some air which had been heard in childhood, and was still dear to thy memory? Or have the enchanting sounds of the bugle been borne gently along on the evening breeze, softened by the distance, yet not robbed of their melody; or, which is dearer far, has the rich cadence of some loved voice sounded in thine ear sweet strains of music? Then hast thou been blest; then has thy life not been all sorrow, not all gloom.

There is a charm in music which none can resist. Even the wild maniac loves and yields himself to it. As the sounds first fall on his ear, he becomes calm; as they increase in richness and he drinks in the melody, a flash, like reason's ray, plays over his features,—he is subdued by its power. Have you ever heard the cheering sound of the Cold Water Song as it rang from merry voices in praise of the sparkling fountain, without thinking that you loved Temperance better than ever, and resolving that water alone in its purity should fill your cup?

Has not your heart beat so high and strong for Freedom that it has well nigh burst from its prison house when the song of Liberty has echoed in your ear? And have you not then, if never before, heartily wished that all were as free as the sound which floated by you? Such is music's power over us; it reaches the very chords of the soul, and meets with a response there, thrilling as though it were the echoes of its own fairy tones.

It has been said, music is to the ear what truth is to the mind; a beautiful comparison; for as the influence of truth, the purest as well as the brightest treasure of the mind, is ever salutary, so in music there is nothing to offend. Its rich sounds do not remind us of the darkest ills which have brooded over us, they do not bid fierce and angry passions start up in the bosom; but though the memories which they awaken may be and often are sad, yet they rise softly from their slumbers under music's wand, breathe lightly over the mind, and then die away again as gently as do the sounds of the wind harp when the breeze ceases to murmur over its strings.

There is nothing in music to hinder an advancement in literature, and the student may safely forget for a while that he is climbing the rugged hill of science; forget that ambition has ever had a place in his bosom, while he listens to the gushing melodies of sound; for they have power to inspire him with a thirst for all that is noble and good, as well as at times to banish all unpleasant thoughts from his mind by the delight produced in the harmony of sound.

And then how almost perfect the bliss; how different from other earthly pleasures. 'Tis not the satisfaction which the miser feels when he bows before his idol and finds that his golden store is increasing fast as his heart can wish; 'tis not that with which the man of fame receives the laurels which are to crown his brow; but 'tis a more pure and heavenly enjoyment; 'tis one of the few thornless roses that bloom in life's pathway; 'tis one of earth's enjoyments that will never fade, one of its pleasures that shall not cease forever with this life, but which may be resumed after death, and, with celestial voices and harps of gold, be continued forever.

E. S. T.

LITTLE GIRLS.

We are glad to see that popular writers are turning their attention to children. Here is a very sensible paragraph about romping:—

"Never punish a girl for being a romp, but thank Heaven who has given her health to do so. It is better than a distorted spine or hectic cheek. Little girls ought to be great romps—better than paying doctor's bills for them. Where is the gymnasium that should be attached to every school? That coming, too, like other improvements."

An English writer has some very good and true remarks:—

"The pleasures of children are very real, although to grown-up people they may seem simple. Among the most noticeable of these pleasures are such petty amusements as sliding down a grass slope, spilling drosses by gathering blackberries, taking out the inside of a doll, and burying a dead bird with a full funeral service. These are the pursuits, half naughty, half good, which strike home to the fibres of a childish heart, and which are ruthlessly forbidden by the substitution of unmeaning flattery, old talk and domestic discussions. It is pleasant, as Horace remarked, to be silly on a proper occasion; and these follies of childhood are as sweet as anything can be to the natural infant."

HOMELY WOMEN.

For a homely—even an ugly man—I have no pity to spare. I never saw one so ugly yet, that if he had brains and a heart, he could not find a beautiful woman sensible enough to marry him. But for the hopelessly plain and homely sisters—"these tears?" There is a class of women who know that they possess in their persons no attractions for men—that their faces are homely, that their frames are ill-formed, that their carriage is clumsy, and that, whatever may be their gifts of mind, no man can have the slightest desire to possess their persons. That there are compensations for these women, I have no doubt, but many of them fail to find them. Many of them feel that the sweetest sympathies of life must be repressed, and that there is a world of affection from which they must remain shut out forever. It is hard for a woman to feel that her person is not pleasing—harder than for a man to feel thus. I would tell why, if it were necessary—for there is a bundle of very interesting philosophy-tied up in the matter—but I will content myself with stating the fact, and permitting my readers to reason about it as they will.—Dr. Holland.

If you would add a lustre to all your accomplishments, study a modest behavior. To excel in anything valuable is great; but to be above conceit on account of one's accomplishments is greater. Consider, if you have rich natural gifts, you owe them to the divine bounty. If you have improved your understanding, and studied virtue, you have only done your duty. And thus there seems little ground left for vanity.

WHEN we find ourselves more inclined to persecute than persuade, we may be certain that our zeal has more of pride in it than charity.

Choice Miscellany.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.] STAND BESIDE THE BANNER.

BY ANNIE M. BRACE.

BROTHERS, stand beside the banner, Rally round the cause of right; Truth shall triumph, and Oppression Sink before you gathered might. Sons of aires who boldly battled On the gory fields of old, Can you see our fair flag flying, Can you hear its story told, And not rally to defend it, Firm of heart and strong of hand, Till it floats a joy forever On the sea and on the land?

We shall miss you from the fieside, We shall miss you from the board; Tears are starting while we bid you Boldly buckle on the sword. And when bursts the storm of battle, And the death-shots fill the air, Then remember, still remember, That our hearts are with you there. Think not in the homes you leave us We are idle all the day; No!—with hands and hearts united, We will labor, we will pray. He in Heaven, who ruleth o'er us, Be your strength, and be your shield; He can guide, and guard, and keep you, Even on the battle-field.

When shall break the glorious sunshine, And the din of battle cease, And above the homes of freedom Float the white-winged angel, Peace, If ye stand among the victors, Or among the sleepers rest, Thousands free at last from bondage Shall arise to call you blest. Brothers, stand beside the banner; In the God of battles trust, Truth shall triumph, and Oppression Fall before the brave and just.

Cambridge, N. Y., 1862.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.] TENT LIFE IN THE OLD DOMINION.

MUSIC on the great world that stretches out beyond my tent door, my thoughts wander to an editorial sanctum in a city many miles away, and I exclaim aloud, "God bless you, dear RUBAL! I wish you a Happy New Year!" And I know that the prayer will be echoed from many hearts in country homes, and city dwellings, all through the land, where year after year the RURAL is a welcome weekly visitor: aye! more than that—a constant inmate of the hallowed domestic shrine.

Did you ever spend New Year's Day in "Dixie's Land?" If not, you can scarcely imagine what a lovely day it was here—so warm and spring-like. It was ushered in with martial music and rattling musketry, and when the bright hours of sunshine had vanished, the stars came out in all their glory, and the winds kept revel in the pine woods. More than one social circle was gathered in these canvas homes of ours; many voices kept time with cheerful hearts; and if the first day be any criterion, this will be indeed a Happy New Year.

Alas! that we must remember we now look only on the sunny side of the picture; that darker hours are in store for all whose fates and fortunes are linked with the destinies of war. Days of anxiety and of loneliness for those who are left at home, and hours of mortal combat, perhaps months of lingering sickness and imprisonment for these brave men, who have taken their lives in their hands for their country's defense. God bless one and all, and hasten the advent of peace, and the glad day when our beloved land shall be in very truth the Country of the Free!

Day after day, and week after week has glided by since I took up my abode in a tent, and many a pleasant experience has Memory stored in her garner-house, to be recalled in future years. There have been long drives over a region which Nature has donned with varied beauty, but which is now desolated by the tread of mighty armies. Yet the tents which whiten hillside and valley through the day, and the camp fires which illumine them at night, add to, rather than detract from, the picturesqueness of the scene.

Once has it been my good fortune to join a pleasant excursion to Mount Vernon, that sacred shrine, dear to every American heart. Never have I beheld so lovely a spot. Apart from all its hallowed associations, its natural attractions are choice and abundant; but when to these is added the reflection that our beloved WASHINGTON was the owner and admirer of them all, the charm is complete. There have also been many long walks over these roads, and through these woods, which, while they furnished nothing of importance to record, have left sunny memories behind.

And then the tent! What a cheerful, cosy domicile has it proved; how have all former notions of comfort and convenience been revised and abbreviated, and follies of the necessities of life been abridged to duodecimos; while the idea of more than two rooms seems entirely superfluous, and an additional story above the "ground floor" a mere absurdity. No weary climbing of stairs; no sweeping of carpets, no dusting of costly furniture and frail ornaments, no washing of windows, (nor any opportunity for the indulgence of the feminine propensity for looking out of the same), no envying our neighbors, no vanity of dress or equipage, no devotion to fashion, in whose place we make Comfort our queen. Such has been my experience of tent life.

The soldiers, who are more particularly interested in this mode of existence, inasmuch as with them it is a necessity from which they cannot well escape, have more limited accommodations, but I believe are none the less pleased with them. There may be want and destitution in some camps, but certainly not in this; there may be discontented men even here, (for where are not such found?) but they are the exception and not the rule. Brave, hardy fellows, with strong hearts and stalwart arms—who would fear to trust them?

As I write, the wind is rocking our canvas walls, yet the sunshine glimmers through; the band is playing "Dixie's Land," and amid the cheerfulness and novelty of my surroundings, I am too well contented to sigh for the greater privileges and more polished appliances of my Northern home, which is, nevertheless, ever remembered with undiminished affection. With which assurance, allow me, dear RUBAL, to bid you good-bye. KATE CAMERON. Camp Franklin, Va., January 2, 1862.

WE can only know ourselves through the constant study how to govern ourselves.

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

BY LEAD PENCIL, ESQ.

ROBERT HALL says:—"The wheels of Nature are not made to roll backward; everything presses on toward Eternity."

I had just read thus much when the door bell rang. I answered it. There stood a modest, frill-looking woman, with a babe in her arms. She looked up into my eye appealingly and searchingly. She would read my soul.

"My husband is"—and she burst into tears. "In the army?" asked I, after a moment's suspense. "Yes," she said; "in the army. He was wounded at Belmont. He was a good husband at home—too patriotic to stay at home, although his family were dependent upon his daily labor when here. He said he would send us his wages, and we were assured that we would not suffer—that the citizens would supply our wants—the wants of the families of all the volunteers who were left destitute. He went. I gave him up, and we were left alone 'for our country's good.' He got no pay for a long time. And when he did, he was in debt to the sutler of the regiment, and he took it. Alas, sir, the help has not come from the citizens. I have applied again and again. I get little or nothing. What shall I do? See my children. I am unwell; and care makes me worse. What shall I do? Do you think they would let me go see my husband? O, dear, war is a terrible thing for some of us."

That is one of to-day's pictures—a part of the every-day life of the present. Now let us look on this. Just at dusk, returning from the postoffice, and passing the depot, I heard shouting. There was the ding-dong of the locomotive bell, too,—the two whistles prolonged indicating the departure of a train. "What is that shouting about?" I asked of a fellow foot passenger. Why, that is the second regiment of the Brigade starting for St. Louis. Poor fellows; they will sing a different tune before they get back. "Perhaps," I answered; "but it is a good cause to die in, and they are noble fellows who go." "Yes, if they had no other foe to fight than their brethren, who are misled. But they have deadly enemies in the camp, to whom too many of them will surrender without firing a gun, or who will kill them before they fight a battle."

We were interrupted and separated by the crowd which jostled by us. LEAD PENCIL mused upon the words of the very intelligent and very good man. He still heard the distant shouts of the departing soldiers, mingled with the music of the regimental bands.

"Come, come, get up here, you; this is no place for a man with an Uncle Sam's coat on his back to lodge, especially in a loyal country; and you ought not to get in the habit of sleeping at your post anywhere. Get up, I say—don't like to see you here." This was said in a bluff, hearty, good-natured tone, by a sturdy laborer to a fine-looking man in army uniform, whom he had found on the pavement, recovering from a drunken stupor. "Come, tell me where you live, and I will see you home. I don't want to see an American soldier, and as fine-looking a fellow as you are, in this condition, and likely to go to the watch-house, as you will, if the police find you here. See here, neighbor, help me put this man on his feet."

And LEAD PENCIL, Esq., "lent a hand" to the poor soldier who had fallen before he had seen a battle-field. The foe had met and conquered him. O, these hills, and this hellish traffic! Does everything "press toward Eternity?" I asked, as I took up my book to resume my reading that evening. Such was the record of a day.

LOOKING OUT FOR SLIGHTS.

THERE are some people always looking out for slights. They can not pay a visit, they can not receive a friend, they can not carry the daily intercourse of the family, without suspecting some offence is designed. They are as touchy as hair triggers. Their amour propre, like a porcupine, is ever ready to erect its quills. If they meet an acquaintance in the street, who happens to be pre-occupied with business, they attribute his abstraction to some motive personal to themselves, and take umbrage accordingly. They lay on others the fault of their own irritability. A bit of indigestion makes them see impertinence in everybody; they come into contact with innocent persons, who never dreamed of giving offence, are astonished to find some unfortunate word, or some momentary tactlessness, has been mistaken for an insult. To say the least, the habit is unfortunate. It is far wiser to take the more charitable view of our fellow beings, and not suppose a slight intended, unless the neglect is open and direct. After all, too, life takes its hue, in a great degree, from the color of our own minds. If we are frank and generous, the world treats us kindly. If, on the contrary, we are suspicious, men learn to be cold and cautious to us. Let a person get a reputation for being touchy, and everybody is under more or less restraint in his or her presence; and in this way the chances of an imaginary offence are vastly increased. You people who fire up easily, miss a deal of happiness. Their jaundiced tempers destroy their own comfort, as well as that of their friends. They have forever some fancied slight to brood over. The sunny, serene contentment of less selfish dispositions never visits them.

Have you this suspicious tendency in your character? Lose no time in eradicating it. Whether it comes from excessive sensitiveness or from a worse source, it will prove the bane of your life and the annoyance of your friends. You will always be "in hot water," to quote the old adage, while you retain such a weakness. Neither wife nor husband, parent nor child, friend nor acquaintance, can preserve for you an undiminished affection, if you continue suspicious, if you imagine slights that were never intended: it is both more prudent and Christian to err, if you err at all, by not seeing neglect that is intended. Often a bitter quarrel, a lifelong alienation, may be averted by overlooking conduct which is the result of temporary irritation. How worse than foolish, therefore, to see a slight where none was meant.—Philadelphia Ledger.

MANY of those men and women who are most brilliant, fascinating, and gentle in society at large, reserve their demon—their evil temper—for some unfortunate home slave, on whom they think they can vent it safely, since the wretch does not complain. A bad temper prefers one victim out of a family; on that one it vents its spite, indulging at the others, that it may have defenders with the world.

Sabbath Musings.

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

BY MARIA M. JONES.

PRIDE, though thy path be drear, And dark clouds are hovering near; Though smiling Hope may cease to beam O'er thy ship on life's lone stream, Still let Faith abide on high, And murmur not—God knows why.

Though despair may wring thy heart, And affliction's griefs impart, Yet be unwavering in thy trust, Leave it not with earthly dust; Let not all its beauty die, Though you suffer—God knows why.

Trust in Him—His hand can save The precious boon which first He gave, For He loves thee as His own, And will protect the suffering one,— Though temptation may venture nigh, Fear thou not—God knows why.

Accept His love, thy lamp will be, To direct thee o'er life's sea; If thy feet on thorns do tread, And a tempest hangs o'er head, Though thy heart may faint and sigh, Yet, O, trust Him—God knows why.

Soon the vale of death thou'lt pass, And thy sorrows end at last; Though dark indeed is earth's renown, Struggle on to gain the crown; Thou, when life's lone end draws nigh, Thou wilt answer—God knows why.

Detroit, Mich., 1861.

PERFECT PEACE.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee.—Isaiah xlviii. 3.

CONFIDENCE in God will keep the mind steady in the wildest storm and under the heaviest trials. God's covenant character is the repose of the soul; in that we are to trust—on that we are to stay ourselves. And he that believeth that God is gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and in truth, and that he intends to display and illustrate these glorious perfections in his experience, will find his mind calm, and his soul enjoying repose under all the changing circumstances of time. Taking the eye off creatures, circumstances and self, and fixing it intently upon God as revealed in Jesus, and as working all things after the counsel of his own will, will bring rest to the soul and preserve the mind in peace. Let the spirit be but stayed on God as love, and let the heart trust in God's truth, faithfulness and immutability, and there will be "perfect peace." But the moment it is taken off the LORD, there will be agitation, fear and painful perplexity. Like PETER on the water, so long as he kept his eye on JESUS, he was safe—he could tread the waves under his feet; but the moment he began to listen to the winds, and look at the billows, that moment he began to sink. Just so it is with us; let us therefore seek grace, to trust in the LORD at all times and stay ourselves upon our God. Gracious Savior, thou dost stretch forth thine hand to catch sinking PETER; let thy hand hold us, and let thy loving voice cheer and refresh us under all our changing frames and sinking feelings! Underneath us, place thy everlasting arms!

THE FALSE BALANCE.—Alas! what narrow creatures we are, after all! How distinctly we can see the "note" in other eyes, so imperceptible in our own. How easily we can settle the question of duty for a tried, tempted, discouraged fellow-creature, and what a large margin we allow for our own weakness and follies. How seldom do we reflect that, placed in the same circumstances, we might be even more reprehensible than they whom we so uncharitably condemn. God help us all—what if He should so ungenerously and unrelentingly measure our motives and lives! What if unworthiness were the measure of His daily favors and recognition! May the thought stifle on our lips the harsh judgment, and prompt the extended hand of succor to the tempted and discouraged.—Fanny Fern.

THE MINISTER.—Some would make the minister a student; some a visiting pastor; some a public speaker. Undoubtedly, the same rule cannot be applied to all. Different modes of labor are appropriate to different men, and to different conditions of society. Still, the great idea of the Christian minister in plain. He is to be a teacher; and in order that he may teach, he must learn. His peculiar work is to quicken the community by the promulgation of exalting truth. The acquisition of this truth, and the clear, powerful expression of it, are, then, his chief labors; and these imply much solitary thought. He is to be a thinker. To this severest task his life is to be mainly given.—Channing.

THE DEAD.—The past is all that we have; the dead are all holy, even they that were base and wicked when alive. Their baseness and wickedness was not theirs, but was the heavy unmanageable environment that lay around them, with which they fought unavailingly; they, the ethereal, God-given force that dwelt in them, and was their self, have now shuffled off that heavy environment and are free and pure; their life-long battle, go how it might, is now ended, with many wound or with fewer; they have been recalled from it, and the once harsh jarring battle-field has become an awe-inspiring Golgotha and Gethsemane.—Field of God.—Carlyle.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD.—Live in the sight of God. This is what heaven will be—the eternal presence of God. Do nothing you would not like God to see. Say nothing you would not like Him to hear. Write nothing you would not like Him to read. Go to no place where you would not like God to find you. Read no books of which you would not like God to say, "Show it me." Never spend your time in such a way that you would not like God to say, "What art thou doing?"

THE GOOD GIFT.—The best gift that God can give you is a new heart, and the best gift that you can give God is your old heart. He says, in the language of a tender father, "My son, give me thine heart." Give him your understanding, inclinations, feelings, desires, purposes, words, bodies, and actions. Give them to the Father, for the sake of the Savior, and by the help of the Spirit.

FLETCHER illustrated in his own life that which he urged upon others. In consequence of living wholly for Christ, he led a happy and a useful life. Here is the secret of happiness and of usefulness.—Sunday-School Times.

Rural New-Yorker.

NEWS DEPARTMENT.



"Lord of the Universe! shield us and guide us, Trusting Thee always, through shadow and sun, Thou hast united us; who shall divide us? Keep us, O, keep us, the many in one! Up with our banner bright, Sprinkled with starry light, Spread its fair emblems from mountain to shore, While through the sounding sky Loud rings the Nation's cry - Union and Liberty! one evermore!"

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JANUARY 18, 1862.

THE WAR'S PROGRESS.

FACTS, SCENES, INCIDENTS, ETC.

The Northern States and the War.

As the period for convening the Legislatures of the various States has arrived, and the Annual Messages of their respective Governors are being delivered to these Legislative bodies, we extract from each what has been the action of the different States relative to the existing rebellion. By so doing our readers may form some idea of the spirit which actuates the men who are fighting for the integrity and preservation of the Union.

NEW YORK.

After a review of the events which culminated in the attack on Fort Sumter, Gov. Morgan remarks: The President immediately appointed a special session of Congress to meet July 4th. He also issued his proclamation, calling for seventy-five thousand three months militia. Of this force the quota of New York was thirteen thousand men.

On the morning of the fifteenth, I communicated this fact to the Assembly, and recommended that a military force, sufficiently large to meet the present and prospective demands of the Government, be authorized, and that greater discretionary power be conferred to embody and equip a volunteer militia for the public defence, and to provide the necessary means therefor. A bill for this object, in a few hours, passed through all the forms of law, with but six dissenting voices. In the Senate, its passage was equally prompt and decisive. It empowered the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Comptroller, State Engineer and Surveyor and State Treasurer, to accept into the service of the State, in addition to and as a part of its militia, for two years, thirty thousand volunteers. The officers named in the act immediately met and resolved to raise seventeen regiments of seven hundred and eighty men each. A proclamation was issued by me, calling for this force to serve as infantry or riflemen, and to rendezvous at New York, Albany, and Elmira. The spirit aroused by the insult to the flag in Charleston harbor, sent a company from every neighborhood, and at the end of a fortnight, and just when the spirit of volunteering was rising, the first quota was filled. Through the efforts of a member of the Board, who visited Washington for that purpose, the Government consented to accept the twenty-one regiments still remaining of the force authorized by the act referred to.

On the twenty-fourth of April an agent of the State was dispatched to Europe with a letter of credit for five hundred thousand dollars, and authority to purchase twenty-five thousand stand of arms. On this he obtained and shipped nineteen thousand Enfield muskets, which were delivered in New York at a cost of about three hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars.

By the twenty-fifth of May, the thirty thousand volunteers, authorized by the act, had been raised, accepted by the Board into the service of the State, and organized into thirty-eight regiments. On the eleventh of June, the respective regimental field officers had been elected, and their services accepted, and on the twelfth of July, the last of the thirty-eight regiments had left the State. This in a period of eighty-seven days a volunteer force of thirty thousand men had been drawn from various parts of the State, organized, fitted for service, and dispatched to the seat of war. By the middle of July there were in the service of the Government from this State, of three months militia, about eight thousand three hundred men; of three years militia, about three thousand four hundred; of two years volunteers, thirty thousand; and of three years volunteers, accepted directly by the War Department, and through the committee of citizens of New York, about five thousand, making an aggregate force of forty-six thousand.

Immediately after the engagement at Bull Run, the President communicated to me his desire that New York should furnish an additional force of twenty-five thousand three-year volunteers. Proper authority was duly granted by the War Department for this purpose, and directions were given to the agents of the Government at Washington, and on service in this State, to aid me in this work. I, therefore, on the twenty-fifth of July, issued my proclamation, calling for a volunteer force of twenty-five thousand men, to serve for three years or during the war. On October first, the Government authorized an increase of the force from this State to one hundred thousand men. Again, on the sixth of November, this number was enlarged to one hundred and twenty-five thousand.

The annual report of the Adjutant-General will show that New York has sent into the field, of infantry and riflemen, ninety-nine regiments, of which number eleven were three months militia; of cavalry, ten regiments and one battalion; of artillery, two regiments, two battalions, and nine batteries; a rocket battalion, and a regiment of engineer officers and soldiers; or an organized force equivalent to one hundred and fifteen regiments. In addition to this, there are now in the State, of volunteers mustered into the service of the United States, about fourteen thousand five hundred, or sufficient for fifteen regiments more, including New York's contribution to one hundred and thirty regiments. Muster-in rolls and statistics as to numbers are as yet incomplete; but the accurate returns are not likely to materially vary the following figures relating to the above organizations, namely:

Table with columns for 'Recruits since added', 'Total that have entered service beyond limits of State, 1861-1862', 'Now in the State, mustered into U. S. service, 1861-1862', etc.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS MADE AT ROCHESTER, STATE OF NEW YORK.

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER—ANNUAL ABSTRACT—C. T. KREYER, OBSERVER, FOR SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.

Latitude 43°, 8', 17". Longitude 77°, 51'. Height above the Sea, five hundred and sixteen feet.

Meteorological table with columns for months (Jan-Dec) and rows for various weather metrics: Thermometer Monthly Mean, Highest Degree, Lowest Degree, Range, Warmest day, Coldest day, Barometer Monthly Mean, Highest Observation, Lowest Observation, Range, Winds, Weather, Amount of water in inches, Amount of snow in inches.

REMARKS.—The observations are made at 7 A. M., 2 P. M., and 9 P. M., and the table contains a great amount of meteorological results, obvious on inspection. The mean heat of 1861 is 47.16°, and for thirty years ending with 1861 is 47.05°; as taken for the Regents of the University of New York. The mean temperature from my own observations for twenty-five years is 46.94°, and the mean for 1861 is 46.97°.

scattered over nine States, in forty-three different brigades, and under twelve Generals of Division. I will not attempt to heighten the importance of the foregoing exhibit by comments. The figures are more emphatic than words. The New York troops have taken part in every engagement during the war east of the Alleghanies and south of Washington. They have enriched the soil of six States with their loyal blood. Their bearing has at all times been that of freemen contending for freedom rights. They have never forgotten the dignity and humanity of the citizen and neighbor in the uniform of the soldier. Courage, coolness, and the endurance of veterans, have characterized them in the hour of danger. Of the first to obey the forward call, one of her young commanders was among the earliest to inscribe his name on the bright page of hero-martyrs. Others, of beloved memory, have fallen; some in battle, others by disease; and from yet others not a breeze from the South but bears upon it the manly sighs of those who, because they loved and would defend their country's rights, fill the felon's cell. When the enduring record shall be made up, in all that constitutes the brave soldier, the war for the Union will suffer nothing when compared with the grand struggle which gave us a national existence.

MASSACHUSETTS. Governor ANDREW'S Message to the Legislature was delivered on the 3d inst. The document is of unusual length, including all matters of local interest and a general history of facts and figures, showing the part Massachusetts has thus far taken against the Southern rebellion:

"The ordinary expenditures of the year foot up about \$1,180,000; the ordinary revenue about \$1,127,000; the war expenses foot up nearly \$3,385,000. To offset this the State has been reimbursed by the Government \$775,000, and by other sums, making the aggregate refunded nearly \$3,000,000. The troops sent into the field both for three months and three years, with the exception of one battery, have been fully armed and equipped by the State. The Governor recommends that the State assume the collection of direct national tax of \$24,681, being its proportion of the \$20,000,000 authorized by Congress.

The State has contributed five regiments of infantry, one battery of artillery, and one battalion of rifles of her militia to the three months service. To the three years volunteer service she has sent, as volunteers, twenty-four regiments of infantry, one of cavalry, five batteries of artillery, two companies of sharpshooters, and one infantry battalion of five companies. Six companies more became attached to two regiments of New York. The Governor urges the repeal of the constitutional discrimination between citizens and aliens, and those of foreign birth.

The recommendation of the General Government in reference to coast defence is fully endorsed. A communication from Gen. Follen upon this subject will be laid before the Legislature. Military education in our common schools is recommended. The whole number of enrolled militia is 137,456. The whole number who have gone into the volunteer service of the United States is reported by the Adjutant-General as 27,275. About 11,000 men are estimated to be in the naval service as sailors and marines, leaving 119,000 at home, besides those men capable of the ordinary duties of civil life not included within the prescribed age for military enrollment."

The Governor closes his message as follows: "The great Rebellion must be put down and its promoters crushed beneath the ruins of their own ambition. The greatest crime of history must receive a doom so swift and sure that the enemies of popular government shall stand in awe while they contemplate the elastic energy and concentrative powers of the Democratic institutions of a free people."

MICHIGAN. An extra session of the Michigan Legislature convened at Lansing on the 2d inst. The Governor's Message suggests the liquidation of direct Federal tax by releasing the United States Government from reimbursing the State on account of war expenses to an equal amount.

Michigan has furnished 24,000 men for the war, of which ten regiments are for three years; one battery of artillery, and one regiment for three months. Volunteers have been raised at the expense of the State, costing \$689,000, of which \$292,000 have been refunded by the United States Government.

In view of the manifest disposition of the foreign powers intermeddling with our domestic affairs, he recommends that provision be made for the organization and uniforming of the militia to constitute an active force, and their speedy enrollment, to be subject to draft at any time; and not favoring the speedy creation of fortifications, he advises the Legislature to urge upon Congress the immediate necessity of establishing at some convenient point at the Northwest, an arsenal and manufactory of arms and munitions of war, and also a naval station, to be located in Michigan, as being the most advantageous, both from the extent of her coast and her unrivalled resources for ship building.

In alluding to the National affairs, he attributes our complications abroad and troubles at home to the inactivity of the army, and says the people will not tamely submit to see our armies used to protect the slave property of the rebels, when the most active means should be taken to suppress the rebellion, sparing nothing and apologizing to nobody for our actions.

The pressure upon our columns precludes publication of any further extracts from these State documents in present number, but we will resume the matter in next issue.

General Burnside and his Officers.

The expedition which has been fitting out at Annapolis for some time, and which is now (January 7th), awaiting orders to move, has attracted a great deal of attention both from ourselves and the rebels. On the part of the latter, intense anxiety is manifested. The rebel, John A. Magruder, in anticipation of an attack, sent all his stock from Yorktown to Richmond. He had also sent for reinforcements, alleging that Wool was rapidly outflanking him, and if Burnside should operate on the James River, it would cut off his command. It is believed in well-informed circles at Washington that its successful landing will be the signal for a general advance. But a short time ago General McClellan inquired of General Porter in what time he could move. Being answered, "in twenty-four hours," he rejoined that he "wished the soldiers not to be deluded into the belief that they were about going into winter quarters, but to hold themselves in readiness, as they would shortly move forward." Since that time it has transpired that orders have been given to move by the way of Occoquan. Should it ascend the Rappahannock River, a movement forward by Occoquan will compel the evacuation of the rebel batteries on the Potomac, and also give us possession of the terminus of the Richmond railway at Aquia Creek, and leave the Confederates at Manassas the choice of two evils, to fall back on Richmond, or be completely outflanked and captured by McClellan's mastery strategy. Under these circumstances a sketch of the commander and some of his officers will prove interesting; hence we condense from the N. Y. Evening Post the following:

BRIGADIER-GENERAL AMBROS EVERETT BURNSIDE, who commands the expedition, was born at Liberty, Union Co., Indiana, 23d May, 1824. At the age of eighteen years he entered West Point, and graduated fifteenth in a class of forty-seven members in 1847. He was brevetted Second Lieutenant in the Second Artillery, and was transferred the next year to the Third Artillery. Joining his regiment in Mexico, he marched in Patterson's column to the city of Mexico, where he remained till peace was declared. Returning to the North, he was stationed at Fort Adams in Newport Harbor. In 1849 he was attached as a First Lieutenant to Captain (now rebel General) Bragg's battery, and was engaged for three or four years in frontier service in New Mexico. In an engagement with the Apache Indians in August, 1849, near Los Vegas, Lieutenant Burnside commanded a company of twenty-nine men, who killed eighteen Indians, took nine prisoners, and captured forty horses. For this action he was recommended to the Secretary of War and to President Fillmore for promotion. He afterwards served as Quartermaster to the Commission which surveyed the boundary line between the United States and Mexico. In 1861 he crossed the Plains from the Gila River through the Indian Territory, traveling twelve hundred miles in seventeen days, with an escort of but three men, bringing dispatches from Colonel Graham to the President.

Lieutenant Burnside was next stationed at Fort Adams, and while there he resigned his commission for the purpose of devoting his attention to the manufacture of a breech-loading rifle of his own invention, and took up his residence at Bristol, R. I. His new enterprise proving unfortunate, he went to Chicago and entered the office of the Illinois Central Railroad Company as Cashier of the Land Department, while George B. (now General) McClellan was General Superintendent and afterwards Vice President of the company. After holding the position of Cashier two years, Burnside was elected Treasurer of the company, and removed to New York. While acting in this capacity, soon after the outbreak of the rebellion, he received a telegraphic dispatch from Governor Sprague, notifying him that the First Rhode Island regiment of 1,000 men was raised, and asking him to take the command. In half an hour he left his office and was on his way to Providence. The regiment was one of the first and one of the best which went to Washington, and was among the most prominent of those which took part in the engagements at Stone Bridge, Colonel Burnside acting as Brigadier-General during that battle. His conduct on that occasion commended him to the attention of the authorities at Washington, and on the sixth of August he was appointed Brigadier-General of volunteers. General McClellan, who knows his worth and military capacity, has selected him to command one of the most important expeditions projected since the commencement of the war.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN G. FOSTER, commanding the First Brigade, is a native of New Hampshire, and graduated at West Point, fourth in his class, in 1846, and was brevetted Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. He was brevetted First Lieutenant August 20, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco. At the storming of El Molino del Rey he was wounded, and was brevetted Captain September 8, 1847. In 1854 he was promoted full First Lieutenant of Engineers, and was appointed Assistant Professor of Engineering at West Point. In July, 1860, he was promoted Captain, and was Captain of Engineers under Major Anderson at Fort Sumter. He returned with the garrison to New York, and for some months was actively engaged in superintending the erection of the new fort at Sandy Hook. He has recently been appointed Brigadier-General of Volunteers, and was in command of the coast division at Annapolis until the arrival of General Burnside.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL JESSIE L. RENO, commanding the Second Brigade, is a Pennsylvanian by birth, and is now thirty-six years of age. He entered West Point in 1842, and graduated seventh in his class in 1846. He was brevetted Second Lieutenant of ordnance, and went to Mexico, participating in every engagement from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico. For his gallantry at Cerro Gordo he was brevetted First Lieutenant 18th April, 1847. At Chapultepec he was wounded, and was brevetted Captain 13th September, 1847. In both these engagements he commanded a battery. After the peace with Mexico, for six months he was Assistant Professor of Mathematics at West Point, and for the next year and a half was Secretary to the Artillery Board, during which time he was engaged in testing heavy ordnance and compiling tactics for heavy artillery. For a time he was on the Coast Survey, and was afterwards employed in topographical duty at the West, and was a year engaged in building the military road from the Big Sioux River to St. Paul, Minnesota Territory. From 1854 to 1857 he was stationed at the Frankfort Arsenal. He then went to Utah as chief ordnance officer of the expedition under General Johnson, and stayed there till 1859, when he returned and was stationed at Mount Vernon Arsenal in Alabama. Since then he has been on duty at Leavenworth, Kansas Territory, and was appointed Brigadier-General of Volunteers 12th November, 1861.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL J. G. PARKE, commanding the Third Brigade, is also a Pennsylvanian, and is thirty-four years old. He was graduated second in his class at West Point in 1849, and was brevetted Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. He has been Secretary of the Lighthouse Board, Secretary of the Board of River and Harbor Improvements, on duty a year on the staff of Colonel Monroe in the department of New Mexico, and went from there to California on a reconnaissance with Captain Sitgreaves' expedition. He has been three times across the plains on topographical duty, and in 1867 was appointed Chief Astronomer and Surveyor to the Northwest Boundary Survey. This duty took him to Vancouver's Island, where he has been employed till August last, returning to Washington in October. He was appointed Captain in the new (regular) Thirtieth Infantry, but was subsequently promoted September 9, 1861, Captain in his own corps, the Topographical Engineers. On the 23d November he was appointed Brigadier-General of volunteers.

COMMANDER SAMUEL F. HAZARD, United States Navy, was born at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1804, and is a son of Nathaniel Hazard, U. S. Senator from Rhode Island in 1820, and is a cousin of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry. He entered the navy as a midshipman in 1823, and has been thirty-eight years in the service, thirty-two of which have been passed in sea and shore duty. He was First Lieutenant during the Mexican war, and was detailed from the Cumberland by Commodore Perry to command the captured prize Nonato, with which he sailed for Tobasco, and assisted in the bombardment and reduction of that place. His appointment as Commander dates from 1855. He has been on duty at every naval station except the East Indian, and was for three years in command of the receiving ship Ohio, at Boston. His last command at sea was on board the United States steamer Pocahontas, and he returned in her from the Gulf last February. During the past five months Commander Hazard has been second in command of the gunboat fleet at St. Louis, and from there was ordered to the Rip Raps. From the Rip Raps he was ordered to Annapolis as the naval adviser and coadjutor of General Burnside, and will be second only to the Commodore in the naval part of the expedition.

It will be observed that two of the Generals, Foster and Reno, were class-mates of General McClellan at West Point. They are all superior military men and are all young. None of them are more than thirty-eight years old, and the youngest, Parke, is but thirty-four. "The history of heroes is the history of youth."

Southern Points of Interest.

TYBEE ISLAND.—Tybee is a nice little "isle-of-ocean," long, narrow, and somewhat marshy, in the coast county of Chatham, Georgia, and in climate and scenery is very much like Fort Royal and the other Carolina sea islands. A small amount of Sea Island cotton is raised upon it, and its inhabitants are but few. It has a beautiful creek to the west of it, where a ship of any burden may lie in safety at anchor. If any of the vessels of war now cruising on the Carolina coast, or any of the others now in this vicinity getting ready for a Southern trip, should suddenly make their appearance in that deep creek, Fort Pulaski had better look out for its rear as well as its front, and the rebels of Savannah had better be getting ready their sackcloth and ashes.

SAVANNAH.—Savannah is fourteen miles above Tybee Island, on the Savannah River. It has a good harbor. Vessels requiring 14 feet of water come up to the wharves of the city, and larger vessels come up to the Five Fathom Hole, four miles below. The city is defended by Fort Wayne on the east side, by Fort Jackson at Five Fathom Hole, and by Fort Pulaski on Cockspar Island. They have also, since secession, erected a small fort on Skidaway Island, covering the creek to the west, by which gunboats could get up towards the rear of Savannah. The guns on the parapets are mostly field pieces, mounted on frameworks of wood, instead of regular carriages. Besides these, strong earthworks have lately been thrown up on the mainland along the river, and on the islands in the river, to resist a naval attack, as well as earthworks on the west and south, to resist a land attack. Every spot of vantage ground has been seized upon and prepared for defence. The city, like every other secession city, considers itself impregnable. The cotton shipped from Savannah amounts to about 400,000 bales of upland annually.

FORT PULASKI.—Fort Pulaski is situated on the northeastern corner of Cockspar Island, which is separated from Tybee Island by the creek or arm of the sea already mentioned. It defends the mouth of the Savannah River and the approaches to the city. The fort, like so many others, being left to take care of itself, the Georgians, at secession times, quietly stepped in and took possession. They immediately commenced work, completing the defences, mounting additional guns, etc., till at the time of Mr. Russell's visit in May last, he thought it capable of stopping a fleet very effectually. He describes the fort as an "irregular pentagon, with the base line or certain face inland, and the other faces casemated and bearing upon the approaches. The curtain, which is simply crenelated, is covered by a redan, surrounded by a deep ditch, inside the parapet of which are granite platforms ready for the reception of guns. The parapet is thick, and the counterscarp is faced with solid masonry. A drawbridge affords access to the interior of the redan, whence the gate of the fort is approached across a deep and broad moat, which is crossed by another drawbridge." Sand-bag traverses guard the magazine doors, and everything is in as good trim as the rebels know how. The walls are exceedingly solid, and well built of hard gray brick, strong as iron, upwards of six feet in thickness, the casemates and bombproofs being lofty and capacious. The garrison of the fort is 650 men, and it is undoubtedly now fully garrisoned. The work is intended for 128 guns, of which probably half are mounted on the casemates. They are long thirty-twos, with a few forty-twos and columbiads. The 10-inch columbiads are en barbette. There are three furnaces for heating red-hot shot. The channel into the Savannah River at this point is very narrow, and passes close to the guns of the fort. Mr. Russell thought it would take some hard blows before Georgia would be driven to let her grip of Fort Pulaski.

OCCUPATION OF BILOXI.—Advices from the Gulf coast inform us that our forces have occupied Biloxi, Mississippi. The place is situated on Biloxi Bay, and commands the railway communication between New Orleans and Mobile. By its occupation, our troops will be able to menace at once Mobile, New Orleans, and Jackson. It has a population of some 350 inhabitants.

WHERE IS CUMBERLAND GAP?—Cumberland Gap is situated about ten miles from Cumberland Ford, in Tennessee, and has been celebrated for a century as a great depression in the mountain ridge which traverses the continent from New Hampshire to North Alabama. Through this gap, very striking in appearance and characteristic to the South Pass in the Rocky Mountains, formerly the emigrants from Virginia and North Carolina passed on their way to the virgin wilds of the West. For half a century thousands upon thousands poured through this natural gateway, into the Mississippi Valley, from the Atlantic slopes. Boone, Kenton, and their pioneer confederates, first entered the land of "cane and turkey" over the pre-Adamite turnpike. It really forms, to this hour, the best, and, in fact, the only practicable road for the transportation of troops and heavy munitions of war from East Tennessee into Kentucky.

War Items and Incidents.

POLK and Pillow have been in the regular receipt of "bottled news," floated down the river to them from Cairo. But what they get at this end of the route we get at the other. It is stated that the officers of the blockading fleet at New Orleans receive late news by "bottle express," floated down the Mississippi river, which some of their Union friends in New Orleans and up the Mississippi send down to them sealed.

LONG lines of advertisements appear in the Charleston and Savannah papers of plantations for sale, some of which are recommended as beyond the line of defence. Significant.

THE steamship Constitution at Boston is loading with stores and munitions of war, preparatory to sailing on her second trip to Ship Island. She will carry out on this occasion about 2,800—perhaps 3,000—troops. Major-General Butler is expected to go with the detachment.

DR. YOST, a resident of Western Virginia, makes a statement in the Wheeling Intelligencer, to the effect that many of his friends engaged in the rebel service are anxious to return to their allegiance, and that many Western Virginians would come back and behave themselves if they dared.

It will be remembered that after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, the South Carolinians passed resolutions inviting the "mudsills" of Massachusetts

sets to visit the classic shores of that State. The invitation was accepted, and the Old Bay State takes the subjects of the rattlesnake flag at their word, by sending three regiments of her sons as guests for the winter.

A PATRIOTIC old lady named Jane Arbicht, aged seventy years, and a resident of Sugar Creek township, Hancock county, Ind., put in with her own hands the past season about ten acres of wheat. She has sent her two sons to fight the battles of the Union, and nobly applied herself to do their labor.

We learn from the New Orleans Delta of the 23rd ult., that four persons in that city, thought to be disloyal to the Southern Confederacy, were sent for six months to the workhouse.

One thousand copies of the spelling books recently exchanged for an improved series, by the children in the public schools at Worcester, Mass., have been forwarded to Fortress Monroe at the request of the Massachusetts soldiers there, who are teaching contraband ideas how to shoot.

The illustrious Baron Munchausen, the Evening Post thinks, must have received the appointment of Chief of the Statistical Bureau at Richmond, if we may judge by the reports which issue from the insurgent side from time to time. Thus, about arms, it was asserted months ago, "on the best authority," that the Confederates had received, by a vessel running the blockade at New Orleans, 300,000 Enfield rifles. More recently they say they received 200,000 more Enfield rifles at Charleston. This makes 500,000 British arms. Besides this, according to his organ, the Richmond Examiner, gun-thief Floyd stole over 300,000 United States arms; making altogether more than 800,000 first rate rifles and muskets. Meantime the Governor of Tennessee calls on the people of that State to bring in their shot-guns, for which Davis promises to pay a good price.

At a dinner party in Richmond recently, Gen. Beauregard gave an account of the Bull Run battle. He said his heart misgave him when the rumor came that Gen. Patterson was approaching to aid our side; and had it proved true, he felt that the Confederates would have been compelled to fall back and delay the battle for some days, or suffer defeat. He even sent to Johnston to have a reserve ready to protect the retrograde movement. Alas! that Patterson was not there!

Department of Missouri.

GEN. PALMER telegraphs to Gen. Halleck from Otterville, that on the 8th, Majors Terrence and Hubbard, with 450 troops, attacked the notorious rebel Poindexter, with from 1,000 to 1,300 men, on Silver Creek, Howard county, totally routing them, with the loss of seven left on the field and many more carried off, from 50 to 60 wounded, and 70 prisoners. Our loss was four. The rebel camp was destroyed, and a large number of horses and teams taken. A heavy fog alone saved them from complete destruction.

Intelligence known to be reliable and true, has just been received from Johnson county, to the effect that Col. Jennison's regiment was at Holden, and that they had made a descent in the neighborhood where the Government wagons were burned, and had fired the houses of the most prominent rebels in that affair, as well as in the attack on Major Hough's command. The rebels in Warrensburg are reported to be in a high state of excitement, consequent upon the near approach of Col. Jennison, as they well know they have committed all sorts of outrages on the quiet and peaceful Unionists of that county, and that, if justice be meted out to them, their houses will be burned.

An express messenger from Col. Nugent's regiment, stationed at West Point, Bates county, arrived at Sedalia on the evening of the 10th, on his way to St. Louis, with important dispatches to Gov. Gamble. He left Bates county on Friday, and reports that Jennison had burned Austin, in Cass county, Jennison, after leaving Austin, went northeast. The Union men in Johnson county are so much exasperated at the outrages of the rebels, that nothing but Federal troops will save Lexington and Warrensburg from being burned. The movements of Col. Jennison are kept secret, yet enough is known to warrant the opinion that certain notorious rebels in Johnson county, and their dupes, will be bagged.

In consequence of disproportionate assessments having been made on the rebels in St. Louis, under orders No. 26, Gen. Halleck has appointed a new board of assessors, to revise the old list, and make such changes as they deem proper. All other proceedings will be in accordance with the original order, and the Board are enjoined to assess no individual unjustly, as there will be no further appeal from their decision.

The following from the St. Louis Democrat, of Tuesday, the 7th inst., explains itself:

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, }
ST. LOUIS, JANUARY 4, 1862. }

I. At the Military Commission which convened at St. Louis, Mo., pursuant to Special Orders No. 31 of Dec. 21st, 1861, from these headquarters, and of which Brigadier-General S. D. Sturgis, U. S. Volunteers, is President, was tried Edward M. Mabie.

CHARGE 1.—"Encouraging rebellion against the Government of the United States, while enjoying its protection."

SPECIFICATION—"In this, that he, Edward M. Mabie, did express disloyal sentiments, and wishes hostile to the Government of the United States, and did say that it was his intention to go South and engage in privateering; and also, that he intended to run the blockade at Cairo. This at St. Louis, Missouri."

CHARGE 2.—"Communication with the enemy."

SPECIFICATION—"In this, that he, Edward M. Mabie, did go to the Rebel States crossing the lines of the United States forces without permission, on or about the first day of September, ultimo, and did return to St. Louis between the 15th and 20th days of November following, with the intention of again running the blockade, so soon as he was prepared to leave."

To which charges and specifications, the accused pleaded "not guilty."

FINDING OF THE COMMISSION.—The Commission finds the accused as follows:—Of the specification, first charge, "guilty." Of the first charge, "guilty." Of the specification, second charge, "guilty." Of the second charge, "guilty."

SENTENCE.—And the Commission does therefore sentence him, Edward M. Mabie, "To be fined one thousand dollars, (\$1,000), and to be confined as a prisoner until the end of the present war."

II. The sentence is approved, but mitigated to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) fine, or confinement as a prisoner until the end of the present war.

By order of Major-General Halleck.

J. C. KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

One of the severest engagements that has been fought during the campaign in Missouri, took place on the 31st ult., at Mount Zion, eighteen miles southwest from the town of Sturgeon, between six hundred Federals, commanded by Brig.-Gen. Prentiss, consisting of a detachment from Col. Birge's sharpshooters and five companies from Col. Glover's

cavalry, and seven or eight hundred Confederates, which resulted in the rout of the rebels with severe loss, and the capture of their camp. Skirmishing commenced at eleven o'clock in the morning, and in three hours after, our troops held complete possession of the field. Not a rebel was to be seen except the captured, and the dead and the wounded, which the enemy were unable to take with them, on account of their precipitate retreat. As nearly as could be estimated, the rebel loss was fifteen killed and seventy wounded, twenty-seven prisoners, forty guns, and some sixty horses and mules. They were destitute of camp equipage and stores of any kind. Our loss reached three killed, two mortally wounded, and thirty more or less severely hurt.

The enemy were encamped in the edge of a wood upon a hill, difficult of approach, with every advantage in their favor. Capt. Boyd's riflemen were ordered to bring the enemy into action, and although a perfect storm of lead swept around them, they stood their ground and fought obstinately, as long as a rebel remained in sight. About 250 men participated in the engagement, and their courageous style of fighting was highly complimented by Gen. Prentiss. The officers, for the most part, showed coolness and courage, and managed their respective commands with skill and effect. The command returned to their camp at Sturgeon on the evening of the engagement, performing the extraordinary feat of marching forty-two miles, and fighting a severe battle, in twenty-four hours. There remain but a few armed bands of rebels in this part of the country at the present time, and the effect of this success of our arms will probably be to discourage and dishearten the friends of rebellion.

Thirty of the North Missouri bridge burners, mostly farmers, and some of them quite wealthy and with large families, are being tried by a military court at Palmyra, Mo., for the crime with which they are charged. If found guilty, they will be shot.

Department of the Mississippi.

FLAG officer Foote, with gun boats Essex, Lexington, and Tyler, made a reconnaissance down the Mississippi, on the 7th inst. He went within 200 yards of the range of the rebel batteries. On his return he was fired at by the rebel gun boat Mohawk, to which he replied, but the shots all fell short. The Flag officer is highly satisfied with the reconnaissance, and has examined all the points on the river as near as two miles to Columbus.

A dispatch from Cape Girardeau, says a detachment of the 7th Illinois cavalry, while scouting, had captured Major Williams, of Jeff. Thompson's band.

The Surveyor of the port of Metropolis seized a large quantity of gold lace, morphine, and other costly drugs, intended for the rebels. The goods were from Cincinnati.

Commodore Foote telegraphed the Navy Department on the 8th, that he had made a reconnaissance from Cairo in the gun boat Essex, Captain Porter, accompanied by the gun boats Taylor and Lexington, Captains Walker and Shirk, and Colonel Webster of the Engineer corps. They went down the Mississippi to within range of the batteries of Columbus. While reconnoitering the latter, one of the sub-marine batteries planted in the channel by the rebels was discovered, but did no harm.

Specials from Cairo say that 25,000 troops are now on their way there from different points, and as soon as they arrive a column of from 60,000 to 75,000 strong will march from this to Paducah under General Grant. The destination of his force is said to be Nashville, where, if a junction can be made with Buell's command, the entire army will proceed to New Orleans. This movement will undoubtedly occur within the next six days.

On the 11th three rebel gun boats from Columbus attacked our gun boats—Essex and St. Louis—lying off Fort Jefferson. A brisk engagement ensued for a short time, when the rebels retreated, our boats pursuing them until they reached the batteries of Columbus. It is believed one of the rebel boats was disabled.

Four of our pickets were shot on the 10th, near Bird's Point. It is supposed to have been done by some of Colonel Legwood's rebel cavalry, which have been roaming about committing depredations in that vicinity. General Paine has dispatched a force of cavalry in pursuit of them. Some deserters from Columbus arrived at Cairo on the 11th, and report great alarm there. Troops were apprehending an attack by the United States forces.

Department of the Ohio.

The Louisville Democrat of the 7th is informed that a Federal scouting party brought five prisoners into Columbia, who were endeavoring to join Gen. Zollicoffer. The party report Gen. Zollicoffer with 3,000 men between Greensboro and Columbia. Greensboro had been almost depopulated by the rebels, but Gen. Ward's Federal brigade had gone there to take possession. The rebels captured five soldiers who were guarding Borals Ferry, killing a man named Jones and taking 15 or 20 guns. The guard were surprised by rebel detachments on each side of the river.

The Cincinnati Gazette has the following:

From the editor of the late Sandy Hook Valley Advertiser, now one of the proprietors of the Louisville Democrat, who arrived here from Sandy Hook, we learn that the second rebel invasion of Eastern Kentucky has ended in a disgraceful rout. On Monday, the 6th inst., Col. Garfield's forces, including the 42d Ohio regiment, the 10th Kentucky regiment, and 1,800 cavalry, had proceeded up the Big Sandy to Painesville, within seven miles of the rebel camp, when they were met by a flag of truce from Humphrey Marshall, asking if matters could not be arranged without a fight. Colonel Garfield immediately replied that he could offer no arrangement, and that they (the rebels) must either fight or surrender unconditionally. Humphrey Marshall then addressed his men, telling them they had the alternative of surrendering or disbanding, and giving them their choice. They immediately collected and set fire to all their wagons, tents, camp equipage, &c., and then each man was permitted to take care of himself, and the whole force scattered in confusion. The rebels made no attempts to save anything except their cannon, which they hauled off. Col. Garfield has dispatched his cavalry in pursuit, and they have gone to capture the guns and perhaps pick up many of the flying rebels. The rebels in North Eastern Kentucky, from the high estimate in which Humphrey Marshall's military abilities were held, had strong hopes of success under his leadership. A sufficient Federal force will be left in that region to secure its future peace and safety.

The Louisville Democrat of the 11th has advices which corroborate the accounts received via Cincinnati of the disbanding of Humphrey Marshall's rebel forces near Painesville. No further particulars received.

The Bowling Green Courier of the 2d says that Floyd arrived at Nashville on the 1st, en route for Bowling Green.

Rumors prevail at Lebanon that the Federal troops have taken two steamers proceeding to Cumberland river with munitions of war, clothing, and provisions for Zollicoffer's forces. Locality of seizure is not stated.

Department of Western Virginia.

A SPECIAL to the Wheeling (Va.) Intelligencer from Cumberland on the 7th, says a detachment of Kelley's forces, commanded by Col. Dunning of the 5th Ohio regiment, left Romney last night at twelve o'clock and attacked the rebels, 2,000 strong, at Blue's Gap, east of Romney, at daylight this morning. The rebels were completely routed with a loss of two killed, two pieces of cannon, wagons, &c., with 90 prisoners, including one commissioned officer. Our loss is not stated.

A special to the Cincinnati Gazette from Huttonsville, says that Gen. Milroy is still moving. An expedition sent out by him on the 8th, of 300 of the 32d Ohio, under Capt. Lacy, into Tucker Co., dispersed 400 rebels, capturing a commissary and a large amount of his stores, a first lieutenant and a private. Four rebels were found dead on the ground, and a large number wounded. A detachment is still in hot pursuit.

The skirmish of Col. Russell at Bath on the 9th, was a brilliant affair. He had been detailed from Gen. Kelley's command with two regiments of infantry and two regiments of cavalry, and was stationed at Bath. On the approach of Gen. Jackson, in command of 6,000 or 8,000 rebels, his scouts gave him notice. He was six miles from the Potomac river. He took the infantry out about two miles, and posted them as skirmishers in a dense wood. The cavalry was left to engage the advance of the enemy. An exchange of shots was the consequence, and the enemy's advance under Turner Ashby, of guerrilla notoriety, came on and fell into the ambush. Capt. Russell lost seven horses and captured thirteen of the enemy's, and retired with his whole force across the Potomac with the loss of only two men, who were drowned in crossing.

Department of the East.

THERE is but little news of interest from this department, although every thing indicates a stirring season very soon. We condense from our reports the following:

General McClellan, for the first time in several weeks, appeared out of doors on the 9th, being able to ride in his carriage. He has nearly recovered his health.

There was considerable commotion on the 8th in military circles, in consequence of intelligence from Hancock that Jackson had suddenly appeared opposite that place with an estimated force of 7,000 men, one 14-pounder and three 12-pounder rifled guns. He sent word to General Lander to evacuate that place, or he would shell him out. General Lander responded that he should not evacuate, and if General Jackson opened fire upon the town he would hold him to strict accountability. General Jackson responded that he should assume the responsibility and carry out his project; consequently he commenced a steady fire, which was continued up to dark. The enemy's fire caused but slight damage to the buildings, and had no effect upon our troops.

On the repeated reports of our pickets on the 8th that trains were continually arriving from Manassas at Drainsville, orders were given by General McClellan to the divisions of Generals McCall and Smith, with Ayers' and Moti's batteries, and 250 wagons, should make a reconnaissance at daybreak. Twenty-two thousand men accordingly started on the 9th, with two days' rations and forty rounds of cartridges to each man. A march of five miles failed to discover the enemy. Fifty wagon loads of forage only rewarded the expedition.

The accumulation of letters sent to Fortress Monroe for transmission to prisoners of war and others at the South has become so large that the members of General Wool's staff, who are employed in their examination, cannot attend to a third of those that arrive daily. Orders will soon be issued probably to limit, in some way, the number which are allowed to pass; and in the mean time all persons desiring to communicate with friends in the South are requested to make their letters as few and as brief as possible. There are now several thousand waiting to be examined, and many of these, which are too long, will be destroyed without being read.

Burnside's expedition sailed for Hampton Roads on the 9th inst.

The following letter has been received from Brigadier-General Sherman:

HEADQUARTERS PORT ROYAL, }
South Carolina, January 2, 1862. }

SIR:—As the Vanderbilt leaves to-morrow, I deem it proper to inclose you a letter of instructions to General Stevens' command, the Second Brigade of this division, of December 30.

The simple object of this dash was to destroy batteries which the enemy appeared to have erected on Coosaw River, for the obstruction of navigation and the passage of that stream, and also to punish him for the insult in firing into the May Flower on her recent passage through that stream to sound the depth of the channel. The affair succeeded perfectly—the enemy were driven out, the batteries demolished, and the property found there brought away or destroyed with little or no loss of life on our side. After the object of the expedition was executed, General Stevens returned to Port Royal Island. As soon as his report reaches me it will be forwarded.

The dispatches received by the Navy Department on the 11th inst. from Captain Dupont, contain no features of interest in addition to those heretofore published in relation to the operations on New Year's Day. Accompanying reports from Commander Rogers and General Stevens show that each of these gentlemen compliment each other on the efficiency and promptness of their respective branches of service. To this happy accord is to be attributed the success of the expedition in defeating the designs of the enemy to shut up our troops in Port Royal Island, in order to encounter them at their own advantage.

Twelve vessels were awaiting storage for their cargoes at Port Royal, and new store-houses were to be immediately constructed. Our force at Tybee had been increased some 3,000 from Port Royal. Fort Pulaski kept firing, and one private had been killed.

A skirmish took place between part of General Sherman's force on the main land and some rebels on the 6th, resulting in serious loss to the rebels, besides several prisoners. Commodore Dupont had sent 2,500 men to re-enforce General Sherman, to make active operations on railroads between Savannah and Charleston, and had severely censured General Sherman for want of activity. Re-enforcements are daily arriving at Port Royal, and the troops are in good health and eager for the fight.

Progress is being made in collecting cotton, and "contrabands" are continually arriving.

The Spaulding has arrived at Fortress Monroe from Hatteras Inlet. From her news we gather the following:

On the 24th of December there arrived, in an open boat from Roanoke Island, fifteen "contrabands." On the day before the Spaulding left, five had arrived from Plymouth, who had been five days on the voyage. They say they were fired at as they passed Roanoke Island. They also report much privation among the people.

Christmas and New Year's days were celebrated in an appropriate manner, and the 8th of January was signalized by a general display of bunting.

The soldiers at Hatteras are conducting an adult school for the instruction of negroes. It is under charge of Patrick Kelly, of Company C, U. S. Artillery, a man deeply interested in the scheme, and in every way qualified for his difficult post.

AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON.

SPECIALS from Washington on the 10th inst. state that the members of the Van Wyck Investigating Committee have been to Boston, New York and Philadelphia, sharply looking into the ways unpatriotic men have of making money out of the Government, in the night of its dead hug with rebellion. To the shameful development already published, they will add enough to inflame the disposition which now exists in Congress, to punish with death, frauds committed on the Government in time of war.

Capt. Thomas, of the Clothing Department, has been engaged for the past week in inspecting the clothing of the army of the Potomac. He found in many cases inferior qualities were supplied by the contractors, which fact he has duly reported to the Quartermaster General. An effort will be made to establish a Bureau, especially to attend to this branch of business.

The steamship Pensacola, which left her anchorage off Alexandria on the 11th, proceeded to Indian Head, about 27 miles from Washington, where she remained till five or six o'clock on the morning of the 12th, and then proceeded to run the blockade, which she did with safety. Twenty-two shots were fired at her, but none struck. She did not return the fire. She was laden with cannon and other appliances of war, and was fully prepared for hostile service. The safe departure of the Pensacola is a general subject of congratulation, as it is known that the rebels have been for weeks reserving their fire to destroy this vessel, and prevent her passage out of the Potomac river.

An attempt was made on the night of the 9th to blow up the Mansion House in Alexandria. This was formerly occupied as a hotel, but now as a hospital. A barrel had been secreted in a cellar, filled with ponderous projectiles, and a fuse was found extending from there to the stable, in proximity to combustibles. Lucifer matches and Chinese crackers had been plentifully distributed. The fuse end at the stables had actually ignited, but this act was fortunately discovered by the guards, and the progress of the slow fire extinguished. But for this watchfulness and prompt action, not only would several hundred lives have been lost, but other casualties have occurred. One hundred and ninety of the prisoners released from Richmond arrived in Washington on the 9th, and were comfortably cared for at the Government volunteer recruiting house.

The President has approved and signed the bill to further promote the efficiency of the Navy. It provides that whenever the name of any naval officer of the United States shall have been in the Register 40 years, he shall be retired from active service, and his name entered on the retired list of officers of the grade to which he belonged at the time of his retirement. The President is authorized to assign any such officer to shore duty, who shall receive pay for his grade, and to detail from the retired list of the navy such officers as he may believe the good of the service require to be thus placed in command; and such officers may, if upon the recommendation of the President they shall receive a vote of Congress for services and action against an enemy, be restored to the active list, and not otherwise.

The President has also authority to select any officer from the grades of Captain or Commander in the Navy, and assign him to the command of a squadron, with rank and title of flag officer. Any officer thus assigned will have the same authority to receive the same obedience from commanders of ships in his squadron holding commissions of older date than his that he would be entitled to receive were his commission oldest; and to receive, when so employed, pay to which he would have been entitled had he continued on active list.

All officers retired under this act are to receive retired pay of their grade as fixed by law. The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to cause 200 medals of honor to be prepared, with suitable emblematic devices, which will be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landmen, and marines as shall most distinguish themselves by gallantry in action, and other seaman-like qualities, during the present war, and that the sum of \$1,000 is appropriated for the purpose of carrying this section into effect.

The telegraph this (Tuesday) morning states that Secretary of War CAMERON has resigned and EDWIN M. STANTON appointed to fill the vacancy.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

SENATE.—Mr. Hale offered a resolution that the Naval Committee be instructed to inquire whether the practice has prevailed in the Navy of making purchases through other than recognized agents, and if any such have been made, whether larger prices have been paid.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Fessenden moved to take up the joint resolution of the House allowing coffee and sugar bonded before the act raising the duty to be withdrawn from the warehouse on the payment of the former duty, and the remission of such duties as have been passed under this act. Passed.

Mr. Powell presented a resolution from the Kentucky Legislature concerning "our Federal relations," denouncing the rebellion and pledging the State to support the United States Government and to be true and loyal to the Constitution and the Union, protesting against any departure from the obligations of the Constitution in regard to local institutions; protesting against arming slaves in the Confederate States, and expressing approbation of the President's modification of Gen. Fremont's proclamation. Mr. Powell also presented a resolution from the Kentucky Legislature assuming that State's portion of the direct tax.

On motion of Mr. Ten Eyck the resolution reported back from the Judiciary Committee, that Trusten Polk be expelled from the Senate, was taken up. The resolution was adopted by yeas 36—nays none.

Mr. Trumbull moved to take up the report of the Judiciary Committee, that Waldo Johnson be expelled from the Senate. Carried.

Mr. Trumbull offered a resolution, which was adopted, that the Vice-President transmit a copy of the resolution expelling Messrs. Johnson and Polk from the Senate, to the Governor of Missouri. Adj.

HOUSE.—Mr. Colfax, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, reported a bill which was passed, extending the provisions of the law of July last, which authorizes soldiers to send letters through the mails without pre-payment of postage, to sailors and marines in the actual service of the United States, under such regulations as the Post Office Department may prescribe, the postage to be paid by the recipients.

Mr. Hickman, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a resolution, which was adopted, that the Committee be authorized to send for persons and examine witnesses as to the telegraphic censorship of the press, which subject has been referred to the Committee, and compel the production of papers and dispatches sent or proposed to be sent, and that if necessary, the Committee employ a stenographer.

On motion of Mr. Holman, the Secretary of War was requested to inform the House whether it is proposed to compensate for the transportation of troops and munitions of war to those companies which have received public lands for the construction of railroads, on condition that they would perform the service without compensation, &c.

Mr. Vallandigham introduced a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to give the sum total of the floating debt of the United States, giving as far as practicable the heads under which the said debt may be arranged.

On motion of Mr. Upton it was resolved that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to consider the expediency of reporting a bill at their earliest convenience, amending the 8th section of the act of August last, so as to provide for raising \$100,000,000 instead of \$20,000,000, by direct taxation, and that in this connection they consider the expediency of telegraph and stamp duties and excise duties upon cotton, tobacco, and all malt and distilled liquors.

On motion of Mr. Cox, of Ohio, it was resolved, that the President be requested to communicate to the House what, if any, steps the Executive Department has taken for the systematic exchange of prisoners.

Mr. Blair, of Missouri, offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Roads and Canals, to inquire into the expediency of completing a branch of the Pacific Railroad from Rolla to Springfield, Mo., in order to facilitate military operations.

FOREIGN NEWS.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Deputations from religious denominations, including the Congregational Union, Baptist Board and Union, had an interview, Dec. 26th, with Earl Russell, on the subject of the threatened war with America.

The English papers continue to teem with articles on the American question, but as they are mostly confined to speculations on the eve of solution, it is not essential to give them.

As the nearest precedent yet quoted to the Trent case, the Times draws attention to the affair of the Dutch brig Hendrick and Alida, captured by the British in 1777, bound to a neutral port. She had on board five officers for the American army. The ship and officers were released by the English Admiralty, the judge ruling that although the officers frankly admitted their positions, yet as they were passengers on a neutral ship, which sailed from a neutral port for another neutral port, the proximate destination of the passengers was entitled to be regarded as innocent destination, and they were consequently set at liberty. The Times claims that this case plainly establishes the principle that between one neutral port and another, all persons and things whatever may be legally carried.

Every regiment in camp at Aldershot had been inspected, so as to be in perfect readiness to embark immediately for Canada.

A body of trained nurses, on Florence Nightingale's plan, were to proceed at once to Halifax.

The Army and Navy Gazette says there is a prospect of trouble in India. Several batteries of artillery at Bombay, on the point of embarkation for England, were stopped by pressing telegrams from Bengal.

English funds were flat December 27th, and laid lower.

The Board of Trade returns for November show a falling off in exports of eight per cent, as compared with the same months in 1860, almost entirely made up of cotton manufactures.

In a letter written by the commander of the Queen, it is stated that the only consolation he can hope to find during the remainder of her confinement is sad and hopeless bereavement, is to endeavor to carry out the wishes and intentions of her beloved husband.

FRANCE.—The Montevideo announces the appointment of two vice-Admirals, three rear-Admirals, ten captains and forty Lieutenants of men-of-war, and fourteen captains of frigates.

It is reported that Prussia had made fresh proposals to France, in relation to the conclusion of the treaty of commerce between France and the Zollverein.

The Paris Bourse was flat on the 27th; 67f 60c for rentes.

PRUSSIA.—The Government of Prussia has addressed a dispatch to the Minister of Prussia at Washington, in reference to the arrest of Mason and Slidell, condemning the proceedings of Captain Wilkes.

ITALY.—There was a vague rumor of an attempt to assassinate Gen. Guyon at Rome, and that one of his aids had received poignard wounds.

It was reported that the French Ambassador to Rome had proposed to the Ex-King of Naples to take up his residence in France.

It was reported that Signor Pefingo, Lieut. Governor of Sicily, had tendered his resignation.

AUSTRIA.—It is reported that a considerable reduction of the Austrian army is contemplated.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The India and China mails reached Marseilles on Dec. 26th, and would probably arrive in London in season to catch the Canada via Queenstown.

Advices from Peking say that the Chinese authorities appeared to be desirous of receiving European consuls, and a favorable influence on foreign relations was consequently expected.

The foreigners at Shanghai had been attacked, and threatened with extermination.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

The New York Chronicle - P. Church & Co. A Beautiful Little Microscope - W. Bowen. Farm for Sale or Exchange. Circular for Spring of 1892 - J. Knox. Peach Pits for Sale - Schroeder & Co. Elmira College. Berkshire Pigs for Sale - J. Pettie.

Publisher's Notices

NEW AND OLD SUBSCRIBERS - Agents competing for Premiums should specify which are the new subscribers in their lists. If they will do this in all cases, we can easily keep the account, and pay the premiums more promptly than when obliged to refer to former lists.

APPLIES - For choice varieties, and in good condition, we note a better demand at an advance of 6c @ 2c bushel.

Rochester Wholesale Prices. Flour and Grain. Eggs, dozen. 15c @ 14c. Honey, 1 lb. 12c @ 11c. Butter, 1 lb. 12c @ 11c. Lard, 1 lb. 12c @ 11c. Tallow, 1 lb. 12c @ 11c.

ROBERTS - The following is our comparative statement of receipts at this market over the Central Railroad, estimating 10 to 15 to the car:

Cattle. This week. Last week. Cor week last year. Sheep. 2,432 2,443 2,304. Hogs. 7,110 6,224 5,630.

BERKSHIRE PIGS FOR SALE - BY J. PETTIE, Lakewood, Conn.

150 BUSHELS PEACH PITS (Western new crop) \$1.00 per bushel. SOHROEDER & CO., Rochester, N. Y.

The News Condenser.

The Chicago Tribune is calling for cotton seed. The destruction of Galveston has been ordered. There are 89 concert saloons in full blast in New York city.

ADHERE TO TERMS - We endeavor to adhere strictly to subscription terms, and no person is authorized to offer the RURAL at less than published rates.

FREE COPIES, PREMIUMS, &c. - We give only our free copy to each person competing for premiums, however large the list procured; but those who do not compete for any premiums are entitled to an extra free copy for every ten subscribers who remit.

THE PROVISION MARKETS.

NEW YORK, JAN. 18. - Flour - Market without any material change since our last report. Sales at \$2.25 @ 2.30 per bushel.

THE WOOL MARKETS.

NEW YORK, JAN. 18. - There has been a good demand for domestic fleeces during the week, and full prices are obtained.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, after a careful revision of the work, passed the following resolution: "Resolved, That this Board approve of the Manual of Agriculture submitted by its author, Messrs. George B. Emerson and Charles L. Flint, and recommend its publication by these gentlemen as a work well adapted for use in the schools of Massachusetts."

THE PICKET-GUARD.

"All quiet along the Potomac," they say, "Except now and then a stray picket is shot as he walks on his beat to and fro by a rifleman hid in the thicket."

The nothing—a private or two, now and then, Will not count in the news of the battle; Not an officer lost—only one of the men Moaning out, all alone, the death-rattle."

All quiet along the Potomac to-night, Where the soldiers lie peacefully dreaming; Their tents in the rays of the clear autumn moon, Or the light of the watch-fire gleaming.

A tremulous sigh, as the gentle night-wind Through the forest-leaves softly is creeping, While stars up above, with their glittering eyes, Keep guard—for the army is sleeping.

There's only the sound of the lone sentry's tread As he tramps from the rock to the fountain; And thinks of the two in the low trundle-bed, Far away in the cot on the mountain.

His musket falls slack—his face, dark and grim, Grows gentle with memories tender, As he mutters a prayer for the children asleep— For their mother—may Heaven defend her.

The moon seems to shine just as brightly as then, That night when the love yet unspoken Leaned up to his lips, when love-murmured vows Were pledged to be ever unbroken.

Then drawing his sleeve roughly over his eyes, He dashes off tears that are welling, And gathers his gun closer up to his place, As if to keep down the heart-swellings.

He passes the fountain, the blessed pine-tree, The footstep is lagging and weary; Yet onward he goes, through the broad belt of light, Toward the shade of the forest's softery.

Hark! 'tis the night-wind that rustled the leaves, Was it moonlight so wondrously flashing? It looked like a rite—"Ha! Mary, good-bye!" And the life-blood is ebbing and flashing.

All quiet along the Potomac to-night, No sound save the splash of the river; While soft falls the dew on the face of the dead— The picket's off duty forever!

ness of your inner life. I can shut my eyes and imagine you beside me now. But you can be nothing more to me, PAUL. The latter sentence she repeated a number of times, bowing low her head, and sobbing bitterly in the intervals.

CHAPTER VI.

DEAR PAUL.—With tears in my eyes, and with a wildly throbbing heart, I have perused your letter; a letter full of hope, and love, and life; a letter touching my heart in the simplicity of its eloquence; a letter winging me swiftly back to the beautiful long ago; a letter such as none other but mine own loved PAUL could write.

And so you are the heir of Remstead Place? Well, I am glad of it, PAUL. You are worthy of such a home—far, far more worthy than I was. You have waited long and patiently; struggled hard, and yet have ever been satisfied with the allotments of Providence.

How have I treated you, PAUL? God forgive me that, for I can never forgive myself. Did you know, PAUL, when you asked me to relinquish my estates, that you were the heir? I am slowly becoming satisfied in my mind that you were.

How sad that those estates must still stand between our happiness and our love! O, PAUL, were you poor and wretched, sick and weary, how I would fly to succor you, and with my gentle wooings make your heart grow warm and strong.

PAUL was sitting in his study at Remstead Place while reading this letter. "MIRIAM, MIRIAM," he murmured, "yes, as you say, it is sad that these estates must still stand between our happiness and our love.

"DEAR MIRIAM.—Your letter has been received—and biter as it is, I must fain be satisfied. And so you are going to Madrid? And whether then? You are a little truant—and I think that you are also a little bit selfish in not writing oftener to me and giving me a description of the sights and things you see.

Thus the letter ran on—full of common-places; a letter of gossip from a mere friend. MIRIAM was not happy as she read it, though she had forbidden the earnest pleading of love—the letter would still have been more sweetly refreshing had there not been such an air of coldness and indifference about it.

CHAPTER VII.

ANOTHER YEAR PASSED ON. In a low-roofed yet comfortably furnished cottage five or six miles from Remstead Place, an old man lay upon a bed of sickness and disease. For many weeks his body had been undergoing a slow prostration. By his bedside, administering spiritual consolation, sat the man of God, PAUL DEVARREUX.

ing twilight, I almost imagine that I can see the gleam of white wings. She is all that is beautiful, and true, and good." "I have never met her," said PAUL.

"No, you have not. She does not wish to meet you here, nor elsewhere. When I speak of you to her, her cheeks brighten—there is a dewiness in her eyes, and a tremor in her voice.

She was unconscious of the presence of PAUL; she did not cast her eyes around the room; had she done so, it is likely that she would not have seen him, it was so dark where he stood.

"MIRIAM, my beloved, my little wife! here you come back to me at last!" "Yes, I have, PAUL," and her head rested on his shoulder, and her bosom heaved with emotion.

COL. PLOWHANDLE AT WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, U. S., Dec. 10, 1861. COL. MOORE.—The President and I have been so busy getting the Message into Congress that I haven't had time to take my pen in hand to write to you before now.

"Why," says I, "President, run 'em through a fanning mill." "Well," says he, "that's it, exactly; I never thought of that before. But," says he, "we haint got any fanning mill anywhere round here."

But I haint told you how Mr. LINCOLN and I came to cotton to one another so well. Well, you see, I and the General had been using the fanning mill one morning, and the General says to me, says he, "Colonel, have you been over to see the President yet?"

"What a heap we made on the floor, scattered all over everywhere, for some of 'em were so light that they enmost blowed up chimbley. Says he, 'aint that funny?'" "Well," says I, "it does beat Gen. McCLELLAN's ples."

So I brushed up my coat a little, but it want any kind of use, for Mr. LINCOLN never seemed to know or care whether I had any coat on at all or not. Just as I come to the door and was going to knock, a fellow opened it, and I walked right in and looked all round to see Mr. LINCOLN.

A fellow showed me into the study room, and sure enough, it was chuck full of all kinds of people, waiting to see the President. Well, I waited a good while, and every little while some fellow would come and hand the door-keeper a little piece of paper, and he'd carry it in, and come back in a

minut and ask the man to walk in. Thinks I that's a good idee; but I saw others do it, and they didn't seem to get in any faster than their turn come. Says I to the man that stood by me, and had sent in his piece of paper a good while ago, says I, "Why don't you get called?"

"That's my name, sir." Says he, "The President would like to see you, sir." Didn't the folks stare when they found I belonged to "the distinguished individuals?"

"I wonder if you ever felt just as I do when you got to be Colonel, and mixed up with the big folks. I don't think now I'd run for Supervisor, or Member of Assembly, if I knowed I'd get elected. I tell you a man don't want to ride colts when he's on big hosses.

THE CHARACTER OF A GENTLEMAN.

THE power which the husband has over his wife, in which we must include the impunity with which he may be unkind to her; the father over his pupils; the old over the young, and the young over the aged; the strong over the weak; the officer over his men; the master of a vessel over his hands; the magistrate over the citizens; the employer over the employed; the rich over the poor; the educated over the unlettered; the experienced over the confiding; the keeper of a secret over him whom it touches; the gifted over the ordinary man; even the clever over the silly; the forbearing and inoffensive use of all the power or authority, or a total abstinence from it, where the case admits it, will show the in a plain light.

Corner for the Young.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA. I AM composed of 23 letters. My 1, 3, 16, 7, 17 means lonely. My 2, 5, 8, 4 is found in winter. My 3, 1, 1, 16 is the mother of poetry.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

ASTRONOMICAL ENIGMA. I AM composed of 21 letters. My 9, 4, 14, 20, 8, 7 was an Astronomer and one of the seven wise men of Greece.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

GRANDFATHER'S RIDDLE. AS I was beating o'er the forest grounds, Up starts a hare before my two greyhounds; The distance that she started up before Was fourscore yards exactly, and no more.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS, &c., IN No. 625. Answer to Zoological Enigma.—All is not gold that glitters. Answer to Decapitations.—Tin, pants, slip, Fannie, for, stop, shoe, president, star.

Wit and Humor.



UP TO (SCOTCH) SNUFF.

POPPING THE QUESTION.

FAIR Sally and her lover, Mat, Close by the fire in silence sat; A dish of apples, rosy-faced, Was 'twixt them on the table placed.

PRENTICE REDIVIVUS.

A N. Y. paper says that "King Cotton is upon his marrow bones." The poor old King, or ex-King, hasn't any marrow in his bones.

D. W. DEN, of Missouri, writes angrily to a Missouri paper that he can't see the object of prosecuting the war. He is not expected to see very well—he is cross ide.

"SPEAKING OF bores," says a victim to one of the species, "I can scarcely imagine one capable of inflicting more misery than an intolerable whistler. I can stand a fife, when all the nation is 'armed and equipped' on training day, and the drum with its 'flang, flang,' serves to drown its screams; but to listen to a poor air, badly murdered by a poorer pucker, I prefer death in some easier if not quicker way."

A WESTERN clergyman, in presenting a revolver to a volunteer, said, "If you get into a tight place, and have to use it, ask God's blessing if you have time, but be sure and not let your enemy get the start of you. You can say amen after you shoot."

A YOUNG lady at Niagara was heard to exclaim: "What an elegant trimming that rainbow would make for a white lace overdress."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

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