TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.]

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER, AN ORIGINAL WEEKLY

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE, With a Corps of Able Assistants and Contributors

C. D. BRAGDON, Western Corresponding Editor.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER is designed to be unsurpassed in Value, Purity and Variety of Contents, and unique and beautiful in Appearance. Its Conductor devotes his personal attention to the supervision of its various depart-ments, 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 Homes of people of intelligence, taste and discrimination. It embraces more Agricultural, Horticultural, Scientific, Educational, Literary and News Matter, interspersed with appropriate Engravings, than any other journal,-rendering it the most complete AGRICULTURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER in America.

For Terms and other particulars, see last page.

Agricultural.

WESTERN EDITORIAL NOTES.

"THE LAMB EPIZOOTIC OF 1862." I EMPLOY the above title because an eminent writer on sheep husbandry has done so before me; and because I wish to quote from an article under the above head by HENRY S. RANDALL.

We have, in the West, a no more experienced, intelligent, skillful, and successful shepherd and breeder than DANIEL KELLY, Jr., of Wheaton, Dupage Co., Ill. And there are no flocks of Spanish Merino sheep, East or West, superior to his. Receiving a message from him that he had something of importance to communicate relative to the disease called by Mr. RANDALL, an epizootic, and known in the West as diphtheria, I at once hastened to visit him. Mr. K. is one of a small class of men who, seeing effects, search diligently for causes; and he does not hesitate to sacrifice properity if he can gain an item of knowledge concerning the physiology of an animal, or a diagnosis of a disease which may exist in his flocks.

This diphtheria, epizootic, or whatever it may properly be called, attracted the attention of Mr. K. as early as the spring of 1861, and experiments resulted in the discovery of a cure of the disease in lambs, which was published in the RURAL sometime during that season. But the cause of the disease was sought for. The disease was making alarming ravages, not only in the flocks of New York, but in most, if not all, of the North-Western States. The per centum lost in the spring of 1862 was much larger than in 1861; and the loss among the flocks of Illinois the present winter is alarming flock-masters not a little. Many are talking of going out of the business because of the loss of the natural increase of their flocks.

The discussion of this disease, the present year, was opened by an article in the Country Gentleman of January 1st, by Mr. RANDALL, above named. He says:

"The lambs affected by the epizootic had the appearance of a general want of physical development at the time of their birth. Their bodies were small and lean, or if not, they had a peculiarly flaccid feeling, as if the muscles had not attained their normal consistency. The bones generally lacked the usual size. The back and neck were thin, the legs slender, the head small, and the face oftentimes singularly attenuated. When to these appearances was added the not unusual one of a coating of wool and hair much thinner and shorter than usual, the resemblance to a prematurely born animal was striking.

"Some were brought forth so feeble that they never ros to suck. A portion survived for a few moments or hours; others lingered along from two or three days to a week. They were usually dull, made but languid efforts to feed themselves if their dams were at all shy, and many of them would scarcely follow their dams about the yard or fields. Those that survived required extra care, and very few of them attained ordinary size and plumpness, however plentiful their supply of milk."

Mr. Kelly confirms the above statement of the condition of the lamb at birth. He asserts that the lamb is often over-size - too large to be natural. The bones seem soft and small; or rather do not seem to be developed into bone nor matured. Instead of fact by killing the lambs at once to discover the cause of the disease.

Then, again, the lambs, when born, are undersize. Sometimes the lamb is dropped before its time; but the worst cases occur when the lamb is

dropped after its time. The time of parturition in cases where the lamb is diseased, ranges from about eight days before, to two weeks after the proper time. Mr. K. records his ewes, and knows this to be a fact. In some cases, when parturition occurred after time, there was not a particle of wool on the lamb; it was more hair or bristles than wool. Some of these lambs were brought forth so feeble that they never moved a limb,had no life to move.

THIS DISEASE MAY BE CURED.

Mr. Kelly says, if the lamb lives an hour, he never loses it. Especially where the lamb has strength to linger two or three days, they may be saved if the flock-master knows his business. The lamb should be assisted to nurse. It should be held to the ewe; and if the ewe is restless she should be confined. The shepherd should see that the lamb gets an abundance of milk, and is kept warm. A woolen cloth should also be wet with spirits of camphor, or the tincture of iodine, and put about the neck where it is swollen, and kent there, and wet. This is sure to cure them. There is little, if any, difference in the effectiveness of these tinctures. One is about as good as the other. In all cases the throat of the lamb is swollen when it is born. If the diseased lamb is unable to take the whole milk furnished by the ewe, some other lamb should be put on her, so as to keep her milk up. The lamb will require it in the end. Then, as it gets strength, it will get the food necessary to develop it. Care, watching, and the application of these remedies will secure the life of a lamb, if it has vitality enough to live an hour after it is born.

BUT THE DISEASE IS INHERITED BY THE LAMB Mr. Kelly's investigations have resulted in discovering that in every instance where the lamb is diseased when born, the throat of the mother is swollen. And if the throat of the ewe is affected, the progeny is sure to be diseased; and the vitality of the lamb, when born, will de-

The sheep, when this disease is on them, are indisposed to move. The skin has a flabby appearance; and when they run they waddle about and appear just as they do with the Maw sickness, or Bot. They are invariably swollen under

pend upon the development of the disease in the

the throat—plainly distinguishable by feeling. Mr. K. gave me an instance. He said:-" discovered that the best sheep I have got, had this appearance. I watched her close, because of her value. I watched the effect of the disease upon the wool; and I must say that it did not appear to diminish the fleece at all, for I sheared from this ewe, last spring, 121 pounds of clean washed wool. And I have not since discovered that the wool of a sheep diseased is affected at all. This ewe dropped her lamb four days after her time had expired. The lamb was large; it had no strength. The throat was badly swollen, and you could hear it wheeze all over the barn. My neighbor Barnes came along, and said, 'Do take your knife and cut that lamb's throat; it cannot live.' I helped the lamb to nurse, and wet a woolen bandage with iodine, and applied it to the throat of the lamb, and in two weeks it was perfectly well, to all appearance; and is well to-day, and is worth \$300. I have refused that sum for it this winter.*

"When the lamb was 24 hours old, I gave the ewe a teaspoonful of gunpowder, but I think neither the ewe nor the lamb derived any benefit. I gave it because I wanted to learn what I could do with the rest of them, and because I know it to be excellent to give cows and sheep that do not clean well.

"Neither does the diseased condition of the ewe appear to affect either the quality or quantity of the milk. If the lamb lives long enough to get strength to nurse, the ewe affords the usual amount of milk. Ewes that have lost their own lambs have brought up others, put on them, in good style."

THE DISEASED EWES CAN BE CURED.

Having established the fact that this disease among lambs is hereditary, Mr. K. determined last season to experiment with a portion of his ewes, and see if he could not cure them and save the lambs of 1863. The first week in September last. he gave about one pound of saltpeter-pounded fine and mixed with salt-to 140 ewes. Many blood, the circulating fluid is water-stained; it of these ewes were diseased as above described. cannot be called blood. He has ascertained this But they did not all of them get an equal quantity of saltpeter. They were called to the troughs from the field; and the first who reached the troughs got the most. The effect was immediate

* The writer saw this lamb subsequently, and never saw sounder one, and few better.

and striking-indeed, Mr. K. called it alarming. Every animal diseased was at once attacked with a violent diarrhœa or dysentery, which continued several weeks - some of them as long as six weeks. It was very violent in some cases. Mr. K. said he did not intend any one should know what the cause of this diarrhea was unless it proved effectual as a cure. His invention was taxed to the uttermost to give visitors the reason why his ewes were in such a fix, and yet not confess the truth.

The result of this diarrhea was, that the swelling of the throat gradually yet surely disappeared as time passed; and to-day, not an ewe that got any of that saltpeter, or a sufficient quantity to affect the bowels at all, is diseased; neither has one of them dropped a diseased lamb the present spring; while ewes that got no saltpeter and had no diarrhoea, (which were few in number,) are bringing diseased lambs. Last year, about one-third of the lambs dropped were dis eased. This year, not more than two per cent. This is not the case, however, with other flocks where the disease prevailed last year. So confident is Mr. K. that this is an effective cure of the diseased ewes, that he is going to feed his ewes saltpeter again the coming season-those that are found diseased, at least. He proposes to do so earlier in the season - say in July instead of September.

He does not regard it an epizootic; but he has not discovered the cause of the disease. It came by degrees upon his flock-eight cases in 1861; 33 per cent. in 1862; and the present year he claims to have checked it as above described. He is confident it is inherited by the lamb, because he has never found a lamb with it whose mother was not likewise affected at the throatswollen there. Some people assert differently, but it is because they have not examined the ewe. It is not contagious.

"HEADS AND NECKS DRAWN DOWN."

In the article above referred to, Mr. RANDALL says:--"In several flocks a few of the lambs were born with their heads and necks so drawn down, and occasionally also twisted sideways, by the action of the muscles, that they could only suck with difficulty, and by assuming the most unusual postures."

But he does not regard this fact as having anything to do with the epizootic. Neither does Mr. Kelly. Such cases occur when the lamb is delivered wrong—with the fore-leg over the head or in some other mal-form. It usually occurs in the case of young ewes. In their struggles, one of the forward limbs of the animal is often caught back. Mr. K. says such cases have occurred frequently in his experience the part 37 y ears as a shenherd — it is not unusual

SOMETHING ELSE.

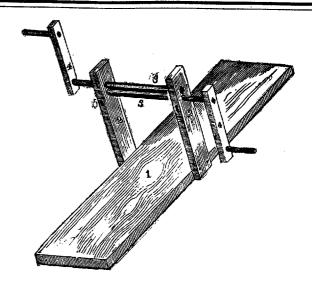
Again Mr. RANDALL says:

"In the same or other flocks, another set of symptoms appeared. Strong healthy lambs a week or two old, suddenly lost the use of their legs to a greater or less degree Some hobbled about as if lame in every foot; others could scarcely walk. A portion grew no worse, and after a few weeks recovered. A small number became unable to stand even when placed on their feet; but they continued to look healthy, fed heartily when assisted, and so far as my own immediate observation extended, most of them gradually recovered when the weather became settled and

In a foot note he says:

"The lameness and loss of the limbs, I am disposed to consider the effects of epizootic rheumatism, equivalent to epidemic rheumatism among human subjects, which sometimes prevails extensively among children. I neve witnessed the malady among lambs before 1862. But on mentioning it at a farmers' meeting at Manlius, N. Y., a few months since, I found that it had prevailed in that re gion for several years. Luther Baker, an intelligent flockmaster of Lafayette, stated that it had several times appeared among his own and his brother's flocks, and had proved so destructive that they considered it the worst enemy their lambs had to encounter. He said it appeared at the time the ewes were let out of their winter inclosures to grass, and that it attacked 'the best lambs.' He expressed no opinion as to its origin. A. H. Clapp, of Pom pey, another intelligent flock-master, stated that he had also lost lambs exhibiting the same symptoms; that he had discovered them eating dirt; that on opening their stom achs after death, he had found dirt in them. Mr. Baker replied that he had frequently opened their stomachs and found no dirt in them.'

Mr. Kelly says the cause of this is simple, and the remedy simple and effective. It is the result of a sudden increase in the quantity or richness of the milk of the ewe-or both-resulting from a change of diet. The effect upon the lamb is similar to founder. It is never known to occur except when the ewe is flush of milk. Such barn; and yet the per cent has diminished. It cases are more apt to occur when the ewe has does not seem to be confined to sheep in good



COTTON ROLLER GIN.

FOR ARTICLE ON THE CULTIVATION OF COTTON, SEE SECOND PAGE OF THIS NUMBER

8 inches wide. 2, Two standards, perpendicular to board, posite ends. The crank on the lower on the right hand, | ing it from the rollers as it comes through.

Geometrical scale 1 inch to 1 foot. 1, Board, 3 feet long | and the same on the upper as you sit facing it. 5, Mortites cut in the standards under the rollers in which to and fastened to it. 3, Two rollers, % inches in diameter, put pegs to force the rollers close together. The operators fitted into the standards, and with cranks 4, 4, on the op- | sit facing each other, the one feeding, and the other pick-

too much fresh food—especially fresh clover. If | nor in poor condition. Some of his worst cases taken from the fold, and a hay and grain diet, to are his poorest sheep. a fresh clover field, more or less cases are likely to occur unless great care is taken by the shepherd. When a lamb is attacked, the shepherd should at once give the lamb a teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine mixed with three teaspoonfuls of warm lard. Lard is the best oil-Mr. K. says the best physic ever given a sheep. Mr. K. says almost any animal that has a fever will eat dirt. But it was not the dirt that injured Mr. CLAPP'S lambs. He, K., came near ruining all of his lambs three years ago, by suddenly changing them from the yard to fields containing an abundance of fresh clover. He has had experience in this matter and knows whereof he speaks.

THE "EPIZOOTIC" AND FRESH AIR. Again Mr. RANDALL says:

"I have conferred with some of the most intelligent lock-masters in this State and Vermont on the subject, and the prevalent opinion among them appears to be that it was occasioned by a want of 'exercise and fresh air,' on he part of the dams during pregnancy. Some have as-

signed high condition in the dams, and their confinemen to dry feed, as concomitant causes,

"That our flocks of sheep in New-York were unusually confined during much of the winter of 1861-2 is certain. Incommonly deep snows fell about the first of February and though they wasted away towards spring, their hard crusts prevented sheep from straying from the immediate vicinity of their stables. Many flocks scarcely moved fifty yards from their stables during the last ten or twelve weeks of their pregnancy. Their appetites were kept keen by the steady cold. The free consumption of food, inaction and advancing pregnancy increased their fiesh, and these causes reacted and rendered them perfectly content. ed in their confinement. Many flock-masters have remarked to me that they never before saw their sheep so quiet. so disposed to remain constantly in their stables, and so fleshy towards spring. Having eaten, they laid most of the time in their bedding until they again rose to eat Flocks accustomed to run in pastures in the winter, and to dig down to the grass, were of course entirely cut off from their usual supply of succulent food.

* * * * "I believe the causes above assigned for the epizootic of 1862, are the true ones, or at least they are the main ones. I cannot conceive of any circumstances (consistent with ordinary care and good treatment) which would seem het ter calculated to lead to the non-development or other abnormal condition of the fœtus of a naturally restless and roving animal like the sheep, than long continued confine ment and inaction during pregnancy, the habitual inhalation of impure air, and an unusual, not to say morbid se cretion of fat. And I should consider abstinence from ucculent food, non-exposure to the bracing out-door air and wind, and deprivation of sunlight, additional or acessory causes.

Mr. Kelly insists that no such cause want of exercise and fresh air" existed in his case. There has been no difference in his practice of wintering sheep during the past 35 years. And there are instances when the fatality was greater where the flocks were exposed than when they were sheltered. Capt. HAMMOND, of Wayne, Dupage Co., lost one-third of his flocks, and they were well sheltered. His neighbor, who never shelters his flock, but winters them in the open air about stacks, lost more.

Mr. Kelly's sheep have been kept warmer the present season than last-in a new and tight

And the diet of his ewes is the same precisely as that given them for years. Their feed is clover and timothy at morn and at night; oats in the sheaf at noon, and a half bushel of corn to the one hundred sheep daily, with plenty of good water and salt twice a week

Every flock goes out of the pens into the air three times a day. Kelly says the inclination to be quiet, and disposed to "remain constantly in the stables," described above, is the result, and not the cause, of the disease. He regards it a proof that the ewes were diseased; for it is characteristic of the diseased animals that they can scarcely be induced to move. Their ears droop, and although they eat and drink well, seem fleshy, and chew their cuds, yet they have a listless air, and are not easily excited to move. *

VEGETABLE MOD INJURIOUS.

Mr. RANDALL says:

 $\ensuremath{^{\iota\iota}}$ Green feed in the winter for breeding ewes, is thought by many, perhaps by most of our flock-masters, to be of no particular utility. They have generally wintered their flocks without it, and they assert that their lambsare as large and strong as if they received it. Of the last fact they obviously cannot be certain. Who can say that this deprivation of natural food may not be one of the exciting causes of that unexplained and unexplainable loss of life or inferiority among lambs, which is occasionally witnessed in the most successfully managed flocks? Is it not easonable to suppose that the craving which sheep and other herbivorous animals show for green food in winter, is the result of an instinct which points out to them what is best for their health and the normal exercise of all their functions? It is not unreasonable to suppose, too, that in depriving the pregnant ewe of succulent food, we deprive her of the means of furnishing a full supply of the besnutriment to the embryo animal."

Mr. Kelly says his experience has taught him that vegetable food in cold weather weakens both the mother and offspring. Ewes and lambs are both better and stronger than if fed in cold weather with roots. The lamb may be larger when born if the ewe has had a vegetable diet: but it will lack the vigor and vitality of the lamb which is born of a mother whose diet has been good hay and oats in the sheaf. He regards oat straw as well as the grain, valuable. He knows the effect, but cannot tell why this effect results. He insists the ewe is better off without vegetable food until after parturition. The lambs are not so likely to be healthy if the roots are fed the ewe before; but would feed roots if he had them, after parturition. He pounds up potatoes and turnips if he has them, and feeds to his nursing ewes with meal. He regards oil-cake good at all times; but it is better to feed it after than before parturition. If fed to the ewe when first pregnant, and continued regularly, there is little danger; but there is danger from feeding it shortly before delivery for the first time; it will cause premature birth. Mr. K.

*I saw in Mr. K.'s barn an extreme case. A fine ewe, seven years old, had dropped her lamb two weeks after the time. It died without moving at all. It had no vitality. This ewe's throat, when I saw her (13th March,) was swollen as large as a bowl—a hard bunch. It was the worst case that had occurred in the flock. And yet this animal was chewing her cud, eats and drinks well, retains her fesh, and the lamb which she nurses (not her own) is in as fine condition as any I saw in this flock. But she looks ill; her countenance is not good, her ears droop and it requires a good deal of effort to induce her to stir.

experience. The ewes will thrive on it as much edge gained from other reliable sources. as they ought to, and the lambs will be vigorous. He does not think diet has aught to do with this disease—certainly not as causing it.

EL S-QYONY

There are other items gleaned during my visit to Mr. K., which will be given hereafter.

WASHING SHEEP.

THERE seems to be a strong disposition to revolt against the time-honored custom of washing sheep. Whatever conservative influences there are among us should be at once invoked, or "immemorial usage" may have to succumb to rampant innovation.

The whole matter of preparing wool for market needs careful revision. The present system of buying upon "the general average," is an outrageous discrimination in favor of carelessness and fraud. Wool that will shrink twenty per cent. is bought at the same figure with wool that will shrink fifty per cent.; hence, the man that "takes pains" does it at a serious loss. The good sense of buyers is but a poor guarantee for equal and exact justice to all wool-growers. The wool is bought in a hurry, and the agent that is the least particular, buys the most pounds, and gets the most pay. At present we have every degree of dirtiness, from that which is artistically put on, to that which is infinitesimally reduced by washing; and so on, in diminishing quantities, till we reach the flocks that have little affinity for dirt, and the flock owners of the old school who wash thoroughly from the force of habit, or because they have a fancy that it is wrong to cheat. It all goes for about the same price, unless, perhaps, the clean wool brings less, because the man who is so unsophisticated as to raise it is too unsophisticated for a salesman. Can we sooner get our deserts (which is just

what a good many of us don't want,) by continuing to wash, or by giving it up? This is the real question. It is conceded that the manufacturer can purify the wool cheaper and better than we can, but it is of the highest importance to receive and publish the proposed series of that we adopt that method that will put every man's wool on its true merits. Washing would do this if all the wool was perfectly cleansed and purified. I need not repeat that this is not the case. The assumption that washed wool belongs in one class, in regard to cleanliness, is the direct source of the grossest injustice. Washed or not washed, every individual lot should stand on its individual merits. I see not but that can be determined as well before washing as afterwards.

When the water is warm, and plenty, and clean, and convenient, it is no very serious matter to wash sheep. These contingencies, however, don't often happen. Our streams generally come from springs, and cold ones at that, approached by long and dusty roads, and the panting sheep take a cold bath, and keep on a wet blanket through, perhaps, a chilly night, to be followed, in some cases, by coughs and decline. If we do wash, we ought to use warm water, and house the sheep, unless very warm, the next night.

It is now held by some of our best flock masters that early shearing (say the first of May) is preferable to the first of July-the sheep being, if properly protected against cold and storms, much better without their fleeces, while they are allowed to commence clothing themselves early for the next winter; but it is difficult, or impossible, to find a suitable time to wash and dry sheep, in this latitude, before the first of June.

I apprehend serious difficulty in fixing upon the proper allowance to be made for unwashed wool. It may be right enough to deduct "one-third" for very greasy or dirty fleeces, but clips in general will not be submitted to such shrinkage. I understand it is in contemplation to hold a meeting of wool-growers in Rochester early in April to discuss this matter, inviting buyers and manufacturers to meet with them. The subject is an important one, and if the change is to be made, it should, if possible, be generally concurred in. — H. T. B.

ABOUT FLAX - INTRODUCTORY.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:-I have this day received the first ten numbers of your valuable paper for 1863, and as I am not a subscriber, I think the compliment is equal to saying, "I should like to hear from you." I think you would have received a communication from me before this, but I was afraid if I made application to be admitted into the army of your contributors, I should receive the same answer that I did when I offered to join the army to put down this rebellion, viz., "that I was too old." Now, I do not believe that it is criminal to become old, yet it is not altogether pleasant to be told of it at every corner.

I have been looking over your numbers to find what subjects were considered most interesting to your readers at this time, judging from the frequency of communications. My first attention was directed to "Draining," but I found that | Mr. WADE is an amateur farmer, of but limited a set of numbers were already commenced on that subject, and as the country had been pretty well drained (of men and specie) for the last two years, I thought I would leave that matter to be discussed by wiser heads.

It then occurred to me that there was not as much flax and hemp used in this country as there ought to be, and as I considered we were half a century behind most other civilized nations in the manufacture of these products, more particularly so with regard to flax, I would offer to give you a few numbers on that subject, if they would be acceptable, commencing with the management of flax after it has been pulled and the seed taken from it, and I make this offer with more confidence as the Committees of Congress for the years 1825, and 1830,—who were appointed to investigate, and report, upon the manufacture of hemp and flax,-made up their

recommends the feed which he uses, after a long | myself, from my own experiments, and knowl-

During the years 1821, 1822 and 1823, there was quite an excitement in this country on the cultivation and manufacture of hemp and flax, and the Agricultural community flattered themselves that our Government were about to do something to encourage this branch of industry, but they were disappointed, and after many speeches were made in Congress, and in State Legislatures, mostly of the "buncombe" order, the thing died away and went to the tomb of the Capulets, since which cotton became King, and we have heard little said about hemp and flax.

At this time, owing to many existing circumstances, it does appear that the cultivation and manufacture of flax may be made profitable to the farmer, manufacturers, and the community at large, for many years to come, and as there are many erroneous opinions prevalent with us on this subject, I propose to send you a few articles to substantiate the following propositions:

First-That the soil and climate in many parts of the United States is favorable for producing a good growth of flax.

Second—That flax which has been allowed to ripen its seed is capable of being wrought into the finest fabrics.

Third—That flax is capable of being spun by machinery at less expense than cotton. Fourth-That the process of dew-rotting flax,

beside reducing the product more than twentyfive per cent., renders it comparatively worthless for the manufacturer. I shall not attempt giving directions for sowing

and harvesting the crop, taking it for granted that every man claiming to be a farmer, understands that part of his business as well as raising corn or potatoes. N. GOODSELL. New Haven, Oswego Co., N. Y., March, 1863.

REMARKS.-Many of our readers will recognize Mr. G. as an Agricultural Editor twenty-five or thirty years ago, and will be glad to find that he not only "still lives," but can wield the pen as well as of yore. Of course, we shall be glad articles, and have no doubt they will be read with interest and profit by thousands of our

MANURES.

readers. — Ed.

As the subject of manures is treated by the RURAL as a specialty, I am induced to send you some facts on the subject from one of the oldest settled portions of the New World. Portions of the towns of South and East Hampton, comprising the eastern extremity of Long Island, have been under cultivation for a period of more than two hundred years. The soil along the south side of the island is of a loamy character, and was once good, but long-continued cropping so exhausted it that it finally became necessary to spend large sums of money in the purchase of manure in order to render farming at all remunerating. For sixty or more years leached ashes constituted the principal manure that was purchased. The ashes were chiefly from the soap manufacturing establishments of New York, Providence and Boston, and cost, delivered at the wharf in this place, an average price of \$4 per tun; and even at this price, and to which is added the cost of hauling from six to ten miles, it has proved a profitable investment, as the returns in wheat and hay were extraordinary. After repeated applications of this manure for a long series of years, it ceases to produce the desired effect - not, probably, from an oversupply, so much as from the exhaustion of other essential ingredients in the soil. Fish are also extensively used as a manure on

these lands, as well as upon the lighter soils on the middle and north side of the island. These fish are caught in immense numbers, both in the sea and in the bays. A million and upward of these fish have frequently been taken at a single haul of the seine. These fish are sometimes applied directly to the land, among the growing corn, and sometimes composted with turf, and applied to wheat lands in the fall. More recently, extensive establishments have been erected for extracting the oil from the fish by a steaming process. The remaining mass is then packed in barrels and sold as fish guano. The effect of fish upon the land is similar to that of guano, immediate and of short duration. Of late years, the farmers have purchased guano largely, but the application of ground bones now seems to claim the preference. But while the farmers here have been expending such immense sums in the purchase of special manures, they have, as others are doing throughout the country, failed to economize the natural supply at home. An interesting experiment, showing the comparative value of different manures, and more particularly the importance of securing the liquid portions of the manure from farm animals, came under my observation last season, the result of which is too important to be overlooked. It occurred on the farm of O. R. WADE, Esq., near this village. practice; yet I know of none who grow better crops. He has tried all the various manures commonly used, and finds none to yield returns on his land equal to his stable manure. This is cast daily into vaults, communicating with the stables. The vaults are made of brick, bottom and sides, and rendered water-tight with cement, and run at right angles with the stalls outside of the stables, and so arranged as to secure all the liquid portions of the manure. The whole is covered with a shed roof. Two or three hogs are allowed access to each of these vaults, who find employment in turning up and mixing the

Last season Mr. Wade manured a field of several acres with various manures, assigning an equal section of the field to each kind, and planted the whole with corn. The most marked results were where the fish guano and the stable mediately joined. That portion which received the fish gave a good crop, but that which was manured from the vaults was best throughout the season, always the largest, the leaves presenting a dark, rich color, and at harvest yielded twenty-five per cent. the largest crop. I did not learn the quantity of the different kinds of manure applied per acre, but the design was to apply as much of each as could be rendered available. From the result of this experiment, and from my own experience and observation, I am satisfied that stable manure thrown out, as it is by the farmers in general, and exposed in the yard to the washing rains, and to the drying and bleaching influences of the sun and winds, with the loss of the liquid portions from the animals, is deprived of more than half of its enriching properties.

It is not, I presume, so much on account of the cost of building cellars, or vaults, in connection with stables, that farmers do not more generally adopt them, as it is that they do not know the great superiority of the manure made in them, over that which is exposed to weather in the open yard.

Sag Harbor, L. I., March, 1863.

CULTIVATION OF COTTON.

I saw an inquiry in a recent number of the RURAL in regard to the cultivation of cotton. I have seen no response to it since, and conceiving it a subject worthy the attention of every one who has even a small piece of ground to cultivate, I am induced to give what little information I have gathered, as well as my own experience. I am fully convinced that it is a crop that can be raised with profit in the Northern States, especially all South of latitude 42 degrees, and in many localities, particularly favorable to it, much further North.

I suppose what was intended by the inquiry referred to above, was something practical in cultivating it here at the North; for in some respects its management should be different from its cultivation in a warmer climate. For this purpose I will give a brief outline sufficient for those who wish to try the experiment of rais-

The preparation of the ground should be about the same as for planting corn, with the addition of throwing the ground into ridges about three feet apart, with a light plow. Land that will grow good dent corn will grow cotton, although warm, sandy soils are the best adapted to it.

The seed should be drilled into the top of the ridges, and just enough earth put on them to cover them. The seed should be drilled in quite thick to insure a "good stand;" or, if there is a scarcity of seed, a "good stand" may be secured by dropping four or five seed in little hills about one foot apart, and throwing out all except the strongest plants when they come up. The seed will have attached to them small particles of cotton, and it will be found difficult to drill them, unless they are wet and mixed or rolled in leached ashes.

When the plants are well up the "scraping' of the cotton should begin, which consists in hoeing the dirt from the plants and thinning out to about one foot apart. The after cultivation can be performed with a light plow or cultivator, and all that is needed is to keep the ground mellow and free from weeds. The ground never should be worked when it is wet, or when the plants are wet with the dew or recent rains.

Time for Planting.—I have seen some articles' on the "cultivation of cotton," advising to plant as soon in April as the ground will admit the seed. All who have raised cotton here, with whom I have conversed on the subject, take exception to this. They say about the 10th of May is soon enough. The seed then germinates quickly, and there is no danger from late frosts or cold rains. The cotton plant is very delicate, and a light frost will kill it, or a cold rain will give it the "scabby shins," from which it will not recover without extra care.

It will begin to blossom from the middle to the last of July. The cotton should not be picked too soon. The fiber is improved if the balls are allowed to open well, and the cotton nearly ready to shed. The first picking probably will be about the first of October.

One man can cultivate from 10 to 15 acres, and the average yield will probably be from 200 to 300 pounds of clean cotton to the acre.

For the benefit of those who have raised a little cotton the past year, or who propose to raise a little the coming season. I send a drawing of a five acres, (generally about three, that being 'roller gin." [See cut and description of gin on preceding page.—Ed.] The rollers can be made of wood, or iron, and two children of eight years S. E. HILL. of age can operate it. Odin. Ill., 1863.

TIME TO CUT TIMBER.-HORSE DISEASES.

DEAR RURAL:-- I sit down this stormy day to answer two inquiries that were asked in your paper some time since. One subscriber asks what time he should cut posts. Now, I have an example on my place that is satisfactory to my mind, although one example may not always be depended upon as settling any one point. In June, twenty-nine years ago, having need of a pair of bar-posts, I had to cut a tree for that purpose. I cut a white oak about two feet through at the but, and split out a pair. The bark peeled off easily. I set them with the but-end in the ground. Now that pair of posts have outlasted about three sets in other parts of my farm, and the rails split at that time are much better than many that were split many years after. Now, basswood rails split in the summer, when they will peel easily, will outlast ordinary oak cut in the winter. Is not the old theory, that timber ought to be cut in February, entirely wrong? I, at least, think so. Are we not too apt to accept reports mostly from communications made by manure were applied. These two sections im- old saws without looking into the philosophy of Armstrong, do.

facts, or experimenting on our own hooks? This timber cutting business is getting to be important already in this once heavy timbered country. It is a subject we need light upon.

Another subscriber wants to know what will cure the scratches on horses. I once bought a pair of horses that had been driven from New York here through the mud. They had the scratches the worst that I ever saw any animal have it, their legs very much swollen and very sore. I cured them by a few washings with beef brine from my beef barrel; perhaps any brine would have answered as well. A horse that is properly cleaned will seldom have the disease. I have never had a horse have it since. But there is a disease, that resembles the scratches, that will need a thorough treatment, and perhaps not be cured at that. The name of the disease I do not now remember. As far as my experience goes, most of the diseases that trouble horses in this country are owing to hard driving, unsteady feeding, or want of proper grooming. I never had but one sick horse, except by horse-distemper, and that one bloated on clover. Of all the animals given for man's use, they are the worst abused. If I believed in transmigration of souls, I should think some of my friends would find themselves hard-driven and poorly-fed horses in Hades.

Yours truly, WILLIAM CONE. Troy, Mich., March 2d, 1863.

SHALL WE WASH SHEEP?

PLEASE allow me to thank Mr. N. Nourse, of Hinsdale, for informing us in the RURAL of March 7th, that wool undergoes the same process of cleansing by the manufacturer "whether it has been washed on the sheep or not," and that "the difference in expense is trifling" between cleansing washed and unwashed wool; and also that there would be more uniformity in the condition of wool if sheared without washing. Here the one important point is provedthat the manufacturer can cleanse wool cheaper than the grower. But Mr. N. adds that the expense of shearing and transportation would be much increased.

It is true that if all sheep that were pretended to be washed, were well washed, their wool would average about 25 per cent less in weight than from unwashed sheep; but when we know that many sheep are scarcely washed at all-or kept in the water but one minute as Mr. N. tells usit would seem that the difference in the transportation between such washed wool and unwashed should be very trifling. Let it also be remembered that one cent pays for transporting a dollar's worth of wool a long distance.

Unless the war shall cause a rise in the price of farm labor, I see no reason why unwashed sheep may not be sheared for the same price per head formerly paid for clipping washed sheep for no substance can be found near the skin on the body of well-managed sheep that would impede the shearer. The trouble has been we have all waited until the 10th or 15th of June for the weather and water to become warm enough to wash, and then we are all in a hurry to shear the same week, as we should be; for it is really late for sheep to get a length of wool sufficient for their protection the next winter; but give the good shearers more time by beginning to shear unwashed sheep two or three weeks earlier, and we shall get our sheep clipped quite as cheap as under the old system of late washing.

But the most hopeful point in Mr. N.'s article is, that " buyers expect to take the wool as growers prepare it, and pay according to its condition." If they will do so, and discriminate, not particularly between that taken from sheep that have been in water and such as have not, but all the way along, from the cleanest to that which is very gummy and dirty, it will be right, and is all the conscientious wool-grower will ask. But, judging from the past, I fear a great moral reformation among wool-buyers will be very much needed before such a desirable change can be SOLOMON HITCHCOCK. brought about. Conesus Center, N. Y., March, 1863.

OFFICERS OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Below we give the principal officers for 1863 of several County Ag. Societies in this State:

CORTLAND .- President-STEPHEN D. FREER, Cortland. Secretary—A. D. Blodgett, Cortland. Treasurer—Morgan L. Webb, Cortland.

COLUMBIA. - Pres't-PETER T. MESICK. Sec'y-E. Back as, Chatham 4 Corners. Treas.—Jas. T. Shufelt. CHENANGO .- Pres't-ASA PELLET, Plymouth. Sec'y-

. A. Kendall, Norwich. Treas.—Dr. B. Harris, Norwich. DUTCHESS .- ABRAM STAATS, Red Hook. Sec'y-Geo. weet, Washington Hollow. Treas.-Wm. W. Haxtun, Poughkeepsie.

FULTON. -Pres't - WM. LOGAN, Johnstown. Sec'ysaiah Yanney, Johnstown. Treas—M. Wade, Johnstown. OSWEGO.—(Fulton.)—Pres't—GARDNER WOOD, Fulton. Sec'y-John W. Smith, Oswego Falls. Treas.—S. G. Merriam, Oswego.

OSWEGO .- (Mexico.) -- Pres't-HIRAM WALKER, Union Square. Sec'y—John R. French, Mexico. Treas.—L. H. Conklin, Mexico.

ORANGE.—Pres't-Thomas Edsal, Goshen. Cor. Sec'y -Daniel A. Morrison, Montgomery. Rec. Sec'y-Geo. W. Greene, Goshen. Treas.—Wm. N. Sayer, Goshen. PUTNAM .- Pres't-THATCHER H. THEAL, Croton Falls.

Sec'y—G. M. Belden, Carmel. Treas.—Saxton Smith, Red Mills. RENSSELAER'-Pres't-Jno. B. Tibbitts, Troy. Sec'y -W. T. Willard, Troy. Treas.-H. W. Knickerbacker,

Lansingburgh. ROCKLAND.—Pres't-M. D. BOGART, Clarkstown. Rec. Sec'y-J. DeNoyelles, Haverstraw. Cor. Sec'y-A. Edward Suffern, Haverstraw. Treas.—Erastus Johnson, Ra-

SCHUYLER.-Pres't-Timothy Owen, Hector. Sec'y-John W. Thompson, Watkins. Treas.-Thomas Evans,

ULSTER.-Pres't-J. P. MYERS, Kingston. Sec'y-A Schoonmaker, Kingston. Treas.—Wm. Townsend, do. WESTCHESTER .- Pres't -- SIMEON LELAND, New Rochelle. Sec'y-John Cowan, White Plains. Treas.-Jas.

Rural Notes and Items.

DEFERRED .- We have in type, but are compelled to deer, over a page of articles on practical and seasonable topics. Various notices, inquiries and answers, items, etc. prepared for publication, are also necessarily deferred. The RURAL is a sizable sheet, and each number admits considerable matter, but not half as much as we desire to

NEW QUARTER-Back Numbers .- Agents and others interested are reminded that the second quarter of this volume will commence next week. See notice on next page. As our edition of back numbers of this volume is nearly exhausted, we do not furnish them unless specially ordered. We now have no more than we wish to save for binding. Agents or others having extra copies of No's 1, 2, 3 and 4, or either of them, will oblige us by returning the same.

NEW BOOK ON TOBACCO CULTURE. - A timely and valable little work on Tobacco Culture has just been issued by C. M. SAXTON, of New York. It is intended as a practical guide for the selection of the soil and its preparation; kind and quantity of manures to be used and how applied; growth of plants; transplanting and mode of culture generally, from time of planting the seed bed, through harvesting; curing, and preparation for market." The work embraces what Hon. Geo. Geddes gives on tobacco culture in his admirable Survey of Onondaga Co., and also a paper by Mr. H. BEARDSLEE, a Connecticut tobacco grower of considerable experience. We can furnish the work; 25 cents at office, or 30 cents by mail.

WOOL GROWERS' CONVENTION.—Those of our readers interested are reminded that the Wool Growers of Western New York are to meet at the Court House, in Rochester, on Thursday next (April 2,) at 1 o'clock P. M., to take into consideration the propriety of Shearing without Washing Sheep. See notice in last RURAL.

Inquiries and Answers.

WHAT KIND OF CLOVER TO SOW .- In answer to an inquiry let me say that I would sow the medium for hay, pasture, or for plowing in. It starts earlier in the spring and grows rapidly, consequently you have a larger growth to turn under early. For hay it is far better, for you can get your crop of hay and a crop of clover seed the same season, and some pasture after it; and for pasture alone it will produce more feed throughout the season. I have raised both the large and medium more or less for the last thirty years; have grown them side by side in the same field; and prefer the medium-I sow no other.

For laying down an old orchard I would sow clover. timothy and orchard grass in about equal quantities-ten or twelve lbs. to the acre. I sowed my orchard in this way six years ago, and have since had as fine a pasture as you could wish. I had my orchard in fine condition in April and sowed to barley, then put on the seed as above. The orchard grass grows best of any of the grasses in the shade. The seed I had from HALLOCK'S, in Rochester .-D. E. R., Wheatland, N. Y.

OINTMENT FOR SCAB ON SHEEP .- Mix 1/2 lb. quicksilver (cost two shillings) with one teacupful of tar. Stir until thoroughly cut and mixed; then add 3 lbs. lard, warmed just enough to stir, but no more, else the quicksilver will settle. Then add one teacupful, each, of spirits turpentine, sulphur and soft soap; mix thoroughly and it is fit for use. Watch the sheep carefully, and if there be any appearance of scab, itching, loosening or falling of the wool, remove all the loose wool and rub on and saturate all the parts affected, with the cintment; also, rub the ointment on the bare skin under all the legs. This simple process may save many a fine sheep, and many a fine flock from utter ruin. It is a great preservative of health in sheep to feed one heaping teaspoonful of sulphur mixed with salt to each sheep, at least once in three weeks. Great advantage also will accrue, in the health of the sheep, and in the freeness of the wool by dipping in a strong decoction of tobacco, soon after shearing.-T. P. B., Greigsville, N. Y.

FENCE POSTS TOFS DOWN.—There are men who assert that fence posts last longer if the top end of the timber is set in the ground. I do not know but it is so, but I cannot see the philosophy of it—have never heard a good reason given for it, have you?—QUEREUS.

Yes, we have seen such a reason given. We do not vouch for its correctness, but we give it as we have seen it. "It is moisture, for instance, that rots timber. Keep it dry and it is exempt from decay. There are many kinds of vegetables that will propagate from the slips—for instance, the currant, willow, grape, &c. These, although separated from any connection with the root, continue to elevate the moisture from the earth so as to cause their growth, Of course, the vessels of post timber, if placed in the ground according to the arrangements of nature, will elevate moisture and keep the timber damp; but if that order is reversed, it remains comparatively dry—hence the principal reason, no doubt, why a post lasts longest top down-

LIGE ON COLTS.-I observed in a former number of the RURAL that one of its readers inquired for a remedy, and tobacco was recommended. I have tried that, but it only kills those hatched, and they soon make their appearance again. [You did not make the solution strong enough, probably.-ED.] Take Hellebore roots and boil strong and wash the stock all over. This will kill nits as well as lice, on both cattle and horses. Always be carful to tie them up until they are dry, to prevent them from licking while wet.-E. S. B., Nassau, N. Y.

AN EASY WAY TO GET RID OF THE STUMPS .- In the RURAL of the 14th inst., "A Subscriber, Dansville, N. Y.," wishes to know how to get rid of pine stumps. With your permission, friend MOORE, I will give a remedy my father tried twenty five years ago, and which he found to be very effective. It is simple, but requires a little energy to carry it into effect. Here it is:-Emigrale to the broad prairies of Illinois.—G. Jones, Prairie City, Ill.

Hops.—Twine for Poling—Hop Worm.—Will some of the readers of the RURAL, if there be any in the business, who knows anything about it, please give a description of poling hops with twine, and how it answers the place of poles? Would like to hear from some one as early as nossible.

possible.

— And also if there is anything that will drive away the hop worm from the roots without injury to them. I think salt would, but do not wish to make the experiment without knowing something about it. Perhaps some one in Otsego or Madison can give the desired information, and by so doing oblige—A RURAL READER, Reasselaer Co.

PATENT COW MILKER.—Is there such an instrument, that is effective, by which labor may be saved and the animal remain uninjured? England has gone crazy over an American invention of this sort. Has any one in the Union used it?—Nero, Oberlin, Ohio.

Any one who knows will please respond to the above important inquiry.

Scours in Pigs.—What am I to do with my pigs? They are about three weeks old and have commenced to scour. If you or any of the Rural readers can tell me what will stop it, you will oblige—Jas. R. Todd, Brampton, C. W.

Will some one who has had experience, and can furnish a remedy, answer the above?

Morticultural.

WESTERN EDITORIAL NOTES.

GRAPES IN MISSOURI.

Col. GEO. HUSMANN, of Hermann, read a very interesting paper, on the grape in Missouri, before the State Horticultural Society at its recent meeting in St. Louis. He stated that Geological surveys show that Missouri has more locations eligible to grape culture than France, Italy and Germany combined, ever had. He reviewed the history of grape culture and its progress in the State. After a good deal of effort and some progress, the Catawba, which had been planted largely, showed its fickle character in 1849. It also failed in 1850 and 1851; and these failures discouraged the people. About this time Norton's Virginia was introduced. Some of the scions were grafted on Catawba vines. Some of the Missouri wine-growers heard that Mr. Long-WORTH had grown it, and he was asked about it. He condemned it. Meantime the vines increased in size and healthfulness. Norton's Virginia has at last vindicated itself as the best grape for red wine in America—producing a wine equal to the best Burgundy, when subjected to the same process of manufacture.

WILL GRAPE CULTURE PAY?

Col. H. answers "yes," and adds, "even the Catawba will pay. I have five acres which, for ten years, have paid me \$233 per acre! Norton's Virginia, with good cultivation, will produce 400 gallons of wine per acre. At \$2 per gallon, the product will be \$800. Deducting \$100 for culture, manufacture, &c., and the profit is \$700 per acre.

The Concord is still more profitable. It will produce \$1,000 per acre, net."

THE SOIL EASILY PREPARED.

There are thousands, nay, millions of acres in this State that can be prepared for the grape by simply clearing the land and plowing and subsoiling eighteen inches deep. Col. H. said it was all the preparation needed for most of the grape lands of Missouri. And in none of the grape countries is there a surer return to reward the labor of the grape-grower.

A PROMISING CHILD.

Reviewing the history of grape culture in this country, and comparing it and the manufacture of wine with that of the old country, where great experience and accumulated facilities enables them to excel, Col. H. said, "The child has learned its first lessons. If the child in its bib and tucker can do what it does, what will the full grown child do?"

COL. HUSMANN'S LIST OF GRAPES.

Col. H. recommends the following as worthy of general cultivation in Missouri: For Wine - Norton's Virginia, Herbemont

For Table and Market - Concord, Herbe-

mont, Hartford Prolific, Blood's Black, Union Village, North Carolina Seedling or Mary Ann. The following are recommended as promising

For Wine-Cassady, Cunningham, Arkansas, Cynthiana or Red River, Clinton, Louisiana, Taylor's Bullit, Minor's Seedling, North Carolina Seedling.

For Table and Market.—Taylor's Bullit, Clara, Minor's Seedling.

GRAPE LISTS RECOMMENDED BY THE MISSOURI HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Society, after discussing varieties at length, adopted the following:

For Table and Market-Concord, Delaware. Hartford Prolific, Herbemont, Catawba.

For Wine - Norton's Virginia, Herbemont

Mead's Seedling was recommended as promis-

Catawba, Delaware, Concord, Clinton.

ing well as a grape for the table and market.

THE TALK ABOUT VARIETIES.

The Herbemont. - This grape was recommended by Mr. Husmann. But it was said to be tender. Dr. WARDER says that it has proved tender when only a single vine is allowed to grow; but if two, three, or four, are allowed to grow, it is hardy enough. Mr. Wood, of Alton, said his had been neglected, and allowed to grow as they chose, and were perfectly hardy. Hus-MANN regards it only second to the Clara for the table. Unlike the Delaware, it never cloys on the stomach. Heaver, of Cincinnati, says it ought to be better known. Properly grown it is productive. It is hardy under most circumstances. But it is liable to be injured.

Delaware.-MALLINKRADTS says it is a good grape, and will make an excellent grape for wine of great body. It makes little wood and much fruit, but lacks aroma. Mr. HUSMANN said it had been affected by leaf blight with him. J. J. Knox, of Pittsburg, thinks much of the Delaware, and that perhaps it has been sufficiently praised. It may be a good wine grape. It is a freer grower with him than in some localities. It ought to be more tested as a wineproducing grape. HEAVER says it holds the first place of all hardy native grapes. For winemaking purposes it is equal to the best, or any grape that we have. MOTTIER trained it to stakes this year seven feet high, and the tops of the stakes were clothed with green foliage when he was making wine from the Catawba. The vineyard had been well prepared.

Catawba .- Husmann calls it fickle, and compared with other varieties, unprofitable. MAL-LINKRADTS calls it a good grape, but it will mildew and rot. He believes both the rot and mildew inheres in varieties, and that the Catawba is one of those varieties. He would discard it. Heaver would not place it on a list to be recommended for general cultivation, although under certain circumstances it excels all other hardy grapes—especially in the item of

last six years. The average for the past six years is 142 gallons per acre. Mr. K. says it pays him at that, and he shall plant the Catawba till he gets a better grape. Dr. CLAGGETT believed the cause of so much disaffection with the Catawba, was too much pruning-and especially summer pruning. Mudd, of St. Louis, said he was going to graft every Catawba vine on his place with other varieties. The Clinton, the past season, had retained its leaf, while that of the Catawba had been destroyed by the Thrip.

Concord.—Husmann asserts that it is the most profitable grape grown — and that it promises to make a very good wine. MALLINKRADTS says it is one of three varieties free from the midge with him. It ripens evenly, is productive, and a good market grape. It rots a little. Knox calls the Concord the best of all grapes for profit. With him the vine never mildews, the fruit is free from rot, and it ripens evenly,-just as you cut it from the vine so you can take it into market. The third year after planting it will produce ten pounds of fruit to the vine; the 4th year, twentyfive pounds. It is beautiful-no fruit more so; is large, compact and covered with bloom. It is a good table grape-better than the Delaware. It is not so sweet, but has a flavor that renders it popular when placed along side the Delaware. am clearly satisfied that it is, for the present, the grape for the country. It is growing in favor more rapidly than any other grape. My Concords ripened the 10th of September the past season, and I continued to market them till the middle of November. I left them on the vines. MALLINERADTS .- Its only fault is that it don't keep. For a table grape it is good for naught, compared with foreign grapes. It will, however, give more satisfaction than any other. According to the European standard it is the best table grape we have here. If it makes too much wood it will be likely to kill. If planted on poor soil, it matures, and don't winter kill. The trouble is, it makes a second growth; it ought to be covered. HEAVER.-I cannot regard the Concord as good a table grape as the Delaware. Our people do not so regard it. I regard it, however, as the grape for the million. I put it in the list to recommend for general culture.

Norton's Virginia. - MALLINKRADTS said this grape was some injured by the midge the past year. It does not rot, and properly cultivated and managed makes a respectable wine grape. HUSMANN calls it the best red wine grape in America. HEAVER.—With us it is getting to be sought for as a wine grape. I think it will prove a good wine grape.

Hartford Prolific.-KNOX.-For an early grape I have the Hartford Prolific. Both vine and fruit are free from disease. I am reported to have said that the fruit drops from the vine. It has hung on with me two and a half months. I don't advise planting it extensively-only sufficient to fill the season preceding the ripening of the Concord. I sold my Hartford Prolific grapes at 33 cents per pound.

Clinton .- MALLINKRADTS .- It is one of the three not affected by the midge. It is a good grape to grow. It is ripe about the 15th of July at St. Louis. It makes a good wine.

Taylor, or Bullit.-This is the third grape that was not affected by the midge, MALLINKRADTS says. He calls it a good table grape. HEAVER.— I have condemned it. It is small size, large seeds, a little aroma mixed up with so much trash that it is not worth hunting for. It is not half the size of the Delaware with us. Hus-MANN .- At Hermann it is larger than the Delaware, exceedingly productive, and of very good quality. I place it, in this respect, next to the Delaware. It is a good grower. Dr. EDWARDS, of St. Louis.—It is larger than the Delaware with me. Growth nearly as great as the Herbemont. It is productive. Colman.- I have cultivated and watched it for four or five years. It promises remarkably well. It is very productive, as large or larger than the Delaware, a strong grower, and hardy as an oak. It has but two seeds. It is a pleasant grape to eat-next to the Delaware. Knox thinks the Bullit of Missonri identical with that of Clio. But this difference in the character of the grape and its reputation, is only another of the many evidences of the changeful effect of soil and climate upon the same fruit. Husmann.—As it grows here, it is not a pure white grape. When fully exposed to the sun it is a pale lilac.

Clara. HUSMANN. - Of all the native grapes I ever tasted this comes the nearest my ideal of a grape. It is the best flavored of 100 varieties I have, and with which I am acquainted. It is pure white - perfectly transparent. Dr. ED-WARDS.—I had the pleasure of tasting this grape, and think it the best I ever saw.

Creveling.-Knox calls this a valuable grape. It is three to five days earlier than the Hartford Prolific, hence valuable to the grape-grower in filling out the season. He only recommends planting it for this purpose-for early grapes.

Cunningham.—This is recommended by Hus-MANN. He says it produces a peculiar wine not surpassed by any he has seen. It makes a wine of good body and good flavor. Remains sweet a long time.

Mary Ann or N. C. Seedling .- Vine strong grower, good bearer, ripening its fruit before the Concord. Berry black and large. Bunch large. Fruit of good quality. It promises to be as good a market fruit as the Concord. It will make a good wine I am led to believe. So says Hus-MANN.

Cassady.—Husmann says this is a hardy grape, sweet as honey, thick skin, and will probably make a good wine.

Diana.--Knox.--It has not the objection that the Concord has. It is a good keeper. By putting fifty cents per pound on it, I keep it till January.

Colman's White, or Cuyahoga.—HEAVER.—It is aroma. Flage, of Alton, had visited Kepley's possess more good qualities than any other I in flower.

Highland vineyard, and got his figures for the know of. The Rebecca we have tried, but its leaves burn off early in the season, and it is condemned with us. Knox has seen it recommended as a wine grape. Asks for information on that point,-no response.

Burgundy.—Colman.—This grape has been grown here 15 years, and is a hardy, prolific and profitable grape. It is not foxy, is foreign, and ought to be recommended as an amateur grape.

Rulander.—Colman.—This is also a foreign grape, hardy and prolific, and highly regarded. Mr. Koch, of Golconda, Ill., an extensive grape cultivator, recommends it as a wine grape of superior merit.

WHAT FLOWERS TO SOW?

WE wish to cultivate a few of the more showy and choice varieties of Flora's treasures; those which will make a good display through the season. We wish to pay due regard to economy, and not make a great outlay for novelties or high sounding titles. We do not object to old varieties if they are worthy. Please indicate say about ten of the best that can be procured, at a cost not exceeding one dollar, that would make a creditable display for a small place located near a village; something that does not need too much care and nursing, as we have only a few spare moments to give to their care. Please give some particulars as to their arrangement and location, culture, &c. We read any amount of generalities, but what we want is particulars, such directions as any one entirely ignorant of their culture would need. Also, please name half-a-dozen or so of the best hardy shrubs. By answering the above you will confer a favor on many in our sitnation.—L. L. F., Rolling Prairie, Wis.

A PERSON entirely ignorant of the culture of flowers cannot expect to become very expert or successful in one season, by any directions we may give. The culture of flowers is a work that must be learned more by observation and experience than by instructions. The house-wife may tell the novice how to make bread, how much of flour, water, &c., to use, and yet most likely the first batch will be a failure. Two persons will read the same instructions, attempt to follow them, and one fail and the other succeed. The amateur must read, think, observe,-if he fails, ascertain the cause, and try again. Those who take the greatest pains will be rewarded with the best success. General rules are much more valuable than those which are more specific, because general principles are universal, while specific directions are restricted in their application and may lead astray. More than this, to treat of each plant and give the necessary directions for its culture would require a great deal of space. We will give our correspondent the names of a few flowers which will be good and hardy:

TEN-WEEK STOCK, one of the best of our annuals, of almost every desirable color; showy, delicate and sweet-scented.

ASTER, a universal favorite, and the best of our ntumn blooming flowers.

Phlox Drummondii, very fine and indispensable in even the smallest collection of annuals. Anterrhinum, excellent, flowering the first eason, and usually the second. though suffering sometimes in the winter.

Double Zinnia, very fine and showy. Large plants and hardy. PORTULACCA, unsurpassed for a brilliant show.

and delights in a sandy soil. Pansy, flowering well first and second season.

Sweet Peas, unequaled for fragrance. Perfectly hardy. Should be sown very early.

For flowering the second season there is nothing that surpasses the Picotee and Sweet William. As soon as the weather becomes somewhat warm sow the seeds carefully in a light, mellow soil, merely covering the seeds very lightly. Then place a box around the bed and cover with a sash; or if this too much trouble wait until the weather is more warm and sow the seeds in a sheltered warm border, without the protection of glass. When the plants get strong set them out in the beds where they are to flower. The Sweet Peas should be planted where they are to bloom, and the Portulacca, also, if the soil is quite sandy, but if heavy it is better to grow the



FORSYTHIA VIRIDISSIMA.

THERE are so many desirable hardy flowering shrubs that we find it difficult to select six, as we must necessarily exclude many that deserve a place even in a very small collection. Among the earliest of our flowering shrubs is the Forsuthia viridissima, with very pretty yellow flowers, that appear just as the leaves begin to start. They are very numerous, and pendant, are said to be a very good white grape; and a good | blooming at a time when flowers are scarce, and white grape is very desirable. This seems to very desirable. The engraving shows a branch



About the same time, or a little later, the Japan Quince shows its bright scarlet flowers; and is one of the most attractive of our spring flowering shrubs. The hardiness of the plant and the brilliancy of the flowers, make it a very desirable appendage to the shrubbery or lawn. We give an engraving showing a piece of a branch in flower.

The Daphne Mezereon flowers earlier than either of the above, and has pink flowers, clustered around the shoots, before a leaf appears. These are succeeded by bright scarlet berries. The Daphne will thrive in any good garden soil, but dislikes much moisture.

In addition to these, we must always recommend the Lilacs, Snow Ball, Syringas, Spireas, and Thorns, which flower in June, and the Altheas which make the shrubbery so gay in the antumn-time.

Inquiries and Answers.

DAISY PLANTS.—Can you tell me the market value of nountain daises, per yard, as border plants? Where can seeds of the opium poppy be obtained?—E.

Daisy plants are sold usually at about \$1 or \$1,50 per dozen, and not by the yard. Opium poppy seed can be

PRUNING THE GRAPE.—I noticed in a late number of the RURAL, a confession of Mr. BRIGHT, stating that the "renewal system" of pruning grape vines, is an error. I have planted a vineyard of about 200 vines. They were planted in the spring of 1861. The first year I raised one upright cane; in the fall I cut back within 12 or 16 inches of the ground. Last season I allowed two horizontal branches to grow from each vine. I intended to raise about four upright shoots from each of these lateral branches of last year's growth. I consulted Dowwing, BARRY, and other Authors on Fruit Growing and supposed I was pursuing the right method. Is this system the one to which Mr. BRIGHT refers? If so, is it a wrong system? If wrong, what is the right system of training and pruning. If you will please answer these questions through your invaluable RURAL, you will much oblige—A SUBSCRIBER, Centerfield, N. Y.

The system you have adopted you will find satisfactor in all respects, if well followed up. This is not the close pruning recommended by Mr. BRIGHT. His plan was to grow two shoots from the ground and cut one back each year to a single eye.

Horticultural Advertisements.

CRAPES AND STRAWBERRIES.—Delaware, Con-cord, Rebecca.—superior plants, layered from strong bearing vines. Also, Rogers' Hybrids, and other choice va-rieties, at reasonable rates. Wilson's Albany, Triomphe de Gand, Austin, and other new and choice varieties of Strawberries, by the 100 or 1,-

new and choice varieties of Business of Oto, cheap as the cheapest.

I. H. BABCOCK & CO., Lockport, N. Y.

100.000 APPLE TREES, five to seven feet.
100.000 Apple Stocks \$1 per thousand.
100 a good stock Pear, Peach and Cherry Trees.
100.000 Apple Stocks \$1 per thousand.
100.000 Apple Stocks \$1 per thousand.
100.000 Apple Stocks \$1 per thousand.
100.000 Apple TREES, five to seven feet.
100.000 Apple Stocks \$1 per thousand.
100.0

CHICORY SEED.—I have a supply of Chicory Seed, and can supply those who wish to test this root as a substitute for coffee. Sent by mail, postage paid, at 10 cts. an ounce, or \$1,25 per pound.

JAMES VICK, Rochester, N. Y.

TOBACCO SEED.—I have a good lot of Connecticut Seed Leaf Tobacco, which I will send by mail to those who desire, at 76 cents per ounce. I have also a small lot of the best Cuban seed, sent me by a friend on the Island. Per-haps it is worthy of trial — 50 cents an ounce. JAMES VICK, Rochester, N. Y.

NEW JERSEY NURSERY AND SEED FARM.

For sale at this Establishment a fine assortment of well rown and thrifty Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Vines, Plants and

Bushes, Flowering Bulbs, &c., &c. GARDEN SEEDS-Exclusively of my own growing

warranted fresh and genuine. For Descriptive Catalogues *tratis*, address 687-7t FRANCIS BRILL, Newark, New Jersey.

THE CRANBERRY AND ITS CUL-THE CRANBERRY AND ITS
TURE.—The Subscriber has issued a Circular from the
press treating on the Cranberry and its Culture. Said Circular will give persons the proper information as to the
commencement of their Culture. I will take pleasure i
forwarding them to all parts of the United States, to those
sending post stamp to pay postage. Persons wishing plants
may receive them in small or large quantities by Express
for wet or dry soil. Address
GEORGE A. BATES, Bellingham, Norfolk Co., Mass.

CRANBERRY PLANTS of the Bell and Cherry varieties for sale at low prices. Send for a Circular, address 686-4t P. D. CHILSON, Bellingham, Mass.

TOR THE SPRING TRADE.—50,000 Apple Trees, 4. Vears old, 6 to 8 ft., \$40 per 1,000.

100,000 2-year Apple Stocks, \$2.50 per 1,000.

Also, Standard and Dwarf Pear trees, Plum trees and Cherry trees, in great variety, together with a large stock of the small fruits, and Evergreens. Wholesale Catalogues sent on application.

WILLIAMS, RAMSDEN & CO., Dansville, Liv. Co., N. Y.

Dansville, Liv. Co., N. Y.

APPLE TREES, 5 to 8 feet high, at \$3 per hundred.
20,000 Standard Pear Trees, 6 to 7 feet high, at \$25 \times 100.
20,000 Month Pear Trees, 6 to 7 feet high, at \$25 \times 100.
10,000 Dwarf Pear Trees, 3 to 5 feet high, at \$18 \times 100.
10,000 Dwarf Pear Trees, 3 to 5 feet high, at \$18 \times 100.
20,000 White Grape and Cherry Currants; 6,000 Diana Cappe Vines. A large stock of Peace, Cherry Vires, Plum trees, Gooseberries, Rapberries, Blackberries, Straw-berries, most of the new varieties of Native Grapes, &c., &c.
Wholesale and Descriptive Catalogues sent to all applicants who inclose stamps to pre-pay poeting.
Address

Sil-12t

Niagara Nurseries, Lockport, N. Y.

Domestic Gronomy.

BISCUIT, COOKIES, &c.

Sona Biscuit.-Into one quart of flour rub wo teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar. Dissolve one teaspoonful soda in one cup of cream, (or milk and a little butter,) mix soft, and, if necessary, add a little sweet milk and bake quick.

GINGER CRACKERS. - One and one-half cup molasses; one-half cup sugar; one cup butter; one teaspoonful soda dissolved in one-half cup of water; ginger to the taste,-mix quite stiff and roll thin.

SPONGE CAKE.—One pound sugar; ten eggs; ten ounces flour; season with nutmeg. Stir the yolks and sugar together, beat the whites thoroughly, mix, add the flour and bake immediately.

Pound Cookies. - One pound sugar; one pound butter; one pound flour; ten eggs. Beat thoroughly, roll middling thin, and bake immediately. These cookies are excellent, and "long keepers."

CUP CARE.—Two cups sugar; one cup butter; one cup eggs; one cup cream and five of flour; one teaspoonful soda. Dried currants or raisins are nice in this kind of cake.

DIET CAKE.—Two eggs; one and one-half cup sugar; butter the size of an egg; one cup cream; a small teaspoonful soda.

LEMON CARE.—Stir together two teacups of sugar; butter size of a butternut, and two eggs; dissolve two teaspoonfuls of soda in one and one-half cups of sweet milk, and sift three teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar into four cups of flour; add all together, and flavor with lemon, or to your taste.

Michigan, March, 1863.

cement for leather.

GLUE FOR READY USE.—To any quantity of glue use common whiskey, instead of water. Put both together in a bottle, cork it tight, and set it away for three or four days, when it will be fit for use without the application of heat. Glue thus prepared will keep for years, and is at all times fit for use, except in very cold weather, when it should be set in warm water before using. To obviate the difficulty of the stopper getting tight by the glue drying in the mouth of the vessel, use a tin vessel, with the cover fitting tight on the outside, to prevent the escape of the spirit by evaporation. A strong solution of isinglass, made in the same manner, is an excellent

PRESERVING WOOLENS FROM MOTHS. - The simplest and best way of preserving woolens through the summer from the destruction of moths, is to wrap them well up, after brushing and beating them, in cotton or linen cloths. The moth can pass neither. Two covers, well wrapped around, and secured from the air, will be effectual. An old sheet will answer.-Ex.

Egg Stain.— To remove the stains on spoons caused by using them for boiled eggs, take a little moist common salt between the thumb and finger, and briskly rub the stain, which will soon

TO CLEAN SILVER ARTICLES. - The best way to clean silver articles is to wash them first with warm water and soap, and afterwards polish them with pure whiting and a piece of leather.

[SPECIAL NOTICE.]

Union.-Unite your good flour with D. B. DELAND & Co.'s Chemical Saleratus, if you want extra bread, biscuit and pastry of all kinds. United they rise, divided they fall.

The Lublisher to the Lublic.

NEW QUARTER-PLEASE NOTICE!

THE Second Quarter of present Volume of the RURAL form new clubs to commence with the Quarter, or add to those formed. Additions to clubs can be made for one year from April, at the same price as one year from Januaryor we will send from April to January next for \$1.12% per copy, if ordered by any one who has formed a club for present Volume.

-Thanks to Agents and others for continued efforts in behalf of RURAL. This morning's mail (16th) brought us clubs from Canada, California, Missouri, and several of the Eastern, Middle and Western States — and the remittances were accompanied with very encouraging remarks in a number of instances. For all which we bend in grateful acknowledgment, and shall endeavor to render the RURAL more and more worthy its wide and increasing popularity. ABOUT CLUB TERMS, &c.—We endeavor to adhere strictly

to our club rates, which require a certain number of subscribers to get the paper at a specified price—say ten to get it at \$1.50 per copy, &c. But, in answer to frequent inquiries, we would state that, in cases where from four to six copies are ordered at \$1,50 each, with a reasonable prospect of filling up a club of ten, we will send them — and when the club is completed shall send extra copy, &c. This will accommodate those who do not wish to wait for others. Any person who is not an agent, sending the club rate (\$1,50) for a single copy (the price of which is \$2,) will only (al. 00) for a single only receive the paper the length of time the money pays for at full single copy price. The only way to get the RURAL for less than \$2 a year, is to form or join a club. BACK VOLUMES.—Bound copies of Volume XIII, for 1862.

are now ready for delivery - price, \$3. We would again state that meither of the first five volumes of the RURAL can be furnished by us at any price. The subsequent vol-umes will be supplied, bound, at \$3 each — or if several are taken, at \$2.50 each. The only volumes we can furnish, unbound, are those of 1859, '60, '61 and '62-price, \$2 each. SELECT YOUR PREMIUMS .- If those forming clubs will specify the premiums preferred, where they have the choice, and name Express Office (in cases where they are to be sent by Express,) in the letters containing their mittances, we shall be saved some trouble, and perhaps subsequent scolding. We desire to pay all premiums as promptly as possible.

Adhere to Terms.—We endeavor to adhere strictly to subscription terms, and no person is authorized to affer the Rural at less than published rates. Agents and friends are at liberty to give away as many copies of the RURAL as they are disposed to pay for at club rate, but we do not wish mps to pre-pay postage, mps to pre-pay postage.

Niagara Nurseries, Lockport, N. Y.

Niagara Nurseries, Lockport, N. Y.

Padies' Department.

CRADLE SONG.

BY TIMOTHY TITCOMB.

HITHER, sleep! a mother wants thee! Come with velvet arms, Hold the baby that she grants thee To thy own soft charms.

Bear him into Dreamland lightly! Give him sight of flowers Do not bring him back till brightly Break the morning hours!

Close his eyes with gentle fingers, Cross his hands of snow Tell the angels where he lingers They must whisper low.

THE EMPTY SWING.

Our in the shadow under the trees Kissed by the rain-drops, swayed by the breeze Hangs a lone little swing; its owner is gone; Our rosebud of promise, our light-hearted fawn, Is gone with the angels; ne'er again shall we see The form we so loved bend the branch of that tree; The earth is unpressed by the dear little feet, Unclasped is the rope, and vacant the seat.

Yet we gaze on that swing in the still evening hour, Love lending the while its magical power, Till we deem that again, like a bird on the wing, Our bright one returns to her dearly loved swing. Then take it not down, for a mother's fond love Sees a halo around it that comes from above, And her heart in its longings a dear picture sees The form of her child in the swing 'neath the trees.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. MORE ABOUT WHAT WOMEN CAN DO.

WRITING TO THE SOLDIERS.

I HAVE seen considerable about what women can do for the soldier, and have been very much pleased; am glad the RURAL gives space for any one to say a word in favor of the soldier.

Yes,-we can write to them, and although have written a great many letters in my life, I never realized how great a blessing it was, till since the war broke out. I have corresponded with several since May, 1861, and I find that a letter from home gives the encouragement that is needed. I always try to give them all the news in general, and if we have a new minster, or have had an extra meeting, I tell them the leading points, and strive to point out the way by which they may receive a starry crown in that "Beautiful World" where there shall be no more wars, whether their lot may be to die on the battle field, or in a land of peace. I sometimes pick out chapters in the Bible for them to read; in this way they will take up the "Book of Books" when they would not otherwise. They have sometimes told me that the chapter seemed expressly for their case.

If I attend a soldier's funeral I try to remember all I can, and write them, - tell them the honors a soldier receives for giving his life in defence of the "Star Spangled Banner."

In one regiment they had a Chaplain (unworthy of the name,) that preached to them but four times in five or six months, and the boys say if it were not for the letters they get from home they should almost forget there was such a thing as preaching or meetings.

Dear RUBAL readers let us strive to be more punctual in writing to the soldiers. Let every mother and sister write to some soldiers, whether they are relatives or not-remembering they are some one's fathers and sons. Are they not our brothers, gone to fight for us and our country? Tell them how proud you are to own them as such. I received a letter, a few days since, from a soldier's mother, giving his address, and saying, "write to him; he is so glad to get a letter from any one he knows, or ever thought of knowing; it encourages him to know he is remembered by friends at home."

having one or more they can send in defense of imperfect mastication, and then hurry to business, our country. I would be one to make some sacrifice, for I feel with the RURAL writer, that this is indeed a glorious war, when we view it from the end it has in prospect. Let us stand by those who hold the reins of government, trusting that the Allwise Being will so over-rule them to make laws, and appoint those best calculated to win the cause

Hoping to hear more on the subject of writing to soldier's, I will stop lest I weary. Illinois, March, 1863. A RURAL READER

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

SOLDIER'S DRESS.

I was thinking to-day if I had been a man I should be a soldier, if for nothing more than to wear a soldier's dress -- a very selfish motive I must admit. But whenever I see a soldier I cannot help harboring a great deal of admiration for him, and even if he has an ugly face, I cannot help feeling kindly toward and interested in him. I somehow feel indebted to him, and know not how to repay him except with profound respect and esteem.

When I see a finely formed man, about six feet high, arrayed in the uniform of an United States army officer, my heart goes bang, bang, "against my ribs," (a la Artemas Ward,) and big and securely stationed as it is, it requires all my "force of character" to keep it from telling the officer how much it likes him.

I tell you, a pair of shoulder straps are wonderfully bewitching. The blue and gold of the uniform remind me of a heaven full of stars. But then I love soldiers better than other men, any way. One soldier is worth a score of "stay at home rangers;" and any man who left for parts unknown to escape the draft, isn't worth two cents. Why, I'd rather have a button off a prisoul. I not unfrequently see men wearing a everything, and satisfied with nothing.

soldier's dress, when they're no soldiers at all. perhaps have been in the service long enough to get a suit of clothes out of "Uncle Sam," and then come home and strut around with all the pompousness of a Brigadier-General. They tell a lie wherever they go. I don't think a man has any right to adorn himself in the glorious garb of a United States officer or soldier unless he has fully earned it. Neither do I think a chap has any right to ask a girl to be his wife until he can give her a home in a free land!

MINNIE MINTWOOD. Athenæum Lyceum, Alfred University, N. Y., 1863.

ENGLISH vs. AMERICAN WOMEN.

WE learn more of ourselves by comparison than by any abstract study we may make. Therefore, "odious" as comparisons may be, they will be found useful, if instituted and applied with the right spirit. Hence the following article, from the pen of R. T. TRALL, is given our lady readers. There are some hints in it, which it may be well to heed:

"The better vital development of the English, particularly of the women and children, has long been a subject of remark with travelers; and we have been in the habit of alluding to this subject in our lectures on the health and diseases of women. Hence, when the opportunity presented, we could not help studying this subject with much interest. We trace the great difference which exists in this respect-and it is even greater than we had supposed-to two sources, the greater amount of sleep, and the more exposure to the fresh air. English mothers expose themselves and their children to the air often and freely as a matter of habit, while American mothers exclude themselves and their children from the fresh air as much as possible. On the cars, on the boats, in the omnibuses, in the hotels, everywhere, we noticed the almost universal attention paid to ventilation. Nowhere did we see an Englishwoman shut a window for fear her baby would 'catch its death of cold,' and none of the babies seemed to have colds. All that we noticed seemed to be remarkably good-natured. It is almost impossible to travel on a train in America where there are several young children, without hearing continually the cry of distress from some of them. But we heard nothing of this kind in England. We do not absolutely know, from actual observation and experience, that an English baby ever does cry, or can. English women are generally less irritable, less morbidly nervous, than American women, for the reason already assigned -- more rest, more sleep, more quiet - and this circumstance. of course, has no small influence on the organization and temper of their offspring. And we think, this view of the matter is fully confirmed by a comparison of the waists of English and American women. The effect of early and abundant exposure to and exercise in the open air, is to promote free breathing, enlarge the capacity of the respiratory apparatus, develop the vital organs, expand the chest, and enlarge the waist. And the vital resources of any woman, or any man, or any animal, other circumstances being equal, may be measured by the dimensions of the lower part of the thorax. The English woman, as a general rule, will out-measure the American several inches. This rule is well exemplified in the German women, who exercise much from early childhood in the open air, and who do not lace their vital organs out of all symmetrical proportions to the rest of the body. On board the Bavaria were half a hundred women and girls from Germany, not one of whom had not a round, full, well-developed chest, so much so, perhaps, as to be regarded as decidedly ungenteel, by the wasp-waisted fashionables of uppertendom in New York. Another circumstance that tells in favor of better digestion and more enduring vitality with the English is, a habit of eating more slowly. So far as diet itself is concerned, there is not very much to choose. But the American people eat almost as soon as out of I think it a great misfortune to some, in not | bed in the morning, swallow their food with very all of which tends to a precocity of brain and muscular activity, with the inevitable consequence of early decline."

A MINISTERING ANGEL.

A Washington correspondent of the Journal of Commerce pays the following deserved tribute to the wife of Senator HARLAN, of Iowa:

The women of the war, not those who picturescuely doff petticoats, and don breeches to follow their lovers-not the free and easy vivandieres-but the Florence Nightingales who spend the long days, and longer nights, in waiting and watching, and in ministering to the creature comforts of our valiant soldiers, who, in the sickening atmosphere of hospitals, amid contagion and death, walk with the blessed presence of God protecting them, doing their duty with high and holy hearts-of such a class and character is Mrs. Senator Harlan-whose time is not spent in showing off the charms of her admirable and cultivated intellect, but in seeking with purse in hand to relieve the distressed, whose name is legion, be it small pox or typhoid fever, gangrened wounds, or putrid erysipelas; to her suffering humanity never calls in vain. It is of such as her that Zoroaster says:-- "They shall have their names written in pearls upon the robes of angels." Meek, quiet in her plain black dress, the soldiers call her "aunty," and her coming lights their faces with the rays of hope, and makes them forget the tedium of a hospital cure. Would that the wives of all our Senators followed her example! Many think they would be quite as serviceable to the Republic as their husbands.

A CHILD is never happy from having his own way. Decide for him, and he has but one thing to vate's jacket than fifty such cowards, body and do; put him to please himself, he is troubled with

Choice Miscellany.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. THE SWEETEST SONGS.

BY ANNIE M. BEACH

WHY is it that the sweetest songs That minstrels e'er have sung Was when the heaviest weight of grief Upon their hearts was hung?

Why is it that our own sweet thoughts Are not in gayest hours, But come to us in solitude, As dew to drooping flowers

Around the rugged forest oak, The slender ivy twines; Alike in Summer's zephyr breaths. Or winter's driving winds.

We do not know how bravely up, Alone, that vine would bear Till rudely from the giant prop, Its clinging clasp we tear.

When lo !--as if new strength were given, It bides the fearful storn Which breaks before its chainless might. The oak's proud towering form.

E'en so do throbbing human hearts Their clinging tendrils twine, Round idol forms of mortal mould, And worship at their shrine.

Leaning upon these earthly props, Their strength they never try, But when the idol forms of love. Fate stricken, change or die,

They turn them from the ruined shrines To learn, themselves, at last A power within, to stand alone Before the blinding blast.

Then out before the gazing world Their hidden wealth they bring Singing sweet songs, which erst in joy, They ne'er had cared to sing.

Earth listens to the gushing strains, And twines the laurel wreath Nor heeds the heart which yearns for love's Sweet sympathy, beneath Cambria, Niagara Co., N. Y., 1863.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. ANNIVERSARY DAYS

Our lives are full of anniversary days-days when our thoughts go back, way back, one, two, and perhaps scores of years, to the scenes and hopes of the "Long Ago." We love these days; they are enshrined in our hearts as sacred, and we have built around them a wall of holy memories, so high and broad that forgetfulness can never climb over it.

And as one after another of them returns, we take up our journals, and read again the records which on that day, years before, we had put down. Some of them are sad; some are glad; some bring bitterness and the memory of bright ness gone; and then we write again of those old scenes-home-scenes, I mean-fair pictures of our early life, when there was a happy household band, father, mother, sisters and brothers.

But one of these anniversary days tells how and when the circle was broken,-tells of sickness and sorrow and death - of loving eyes grown dim and lustreless—of pale hands folded over the calm and pulseless breast of one we had loved so long and so well. We remember how the sweet, noble face was shut from our tearful gaze by the coffin-lid, and then the long loneliness, and the vacant chair, and the voice unheard in the evening hymn. You all know how sad are such anniversary days; you know how they bring back to us our great loss; you know how dark life seemed then-vou who have seen father or mother go down into the deep "cold river," waving their hands toward the other shore, while you stood on this side, pleading passionately for one last good-bye. And so, when the year on its homeward round brings to you that cold, dreary, winter day, you go away alone, and commune with your beautiful dead.

And there are the birth-days -- glad days to us, as children, for we had generous homefriends, and they always remembered us then. Mother gave us a Bible on one of these, and told us to be good children, and said she would always pray for us. Ah, me! we are grown-up children now, and have been many years

"In the world's broad field of battle," and we ask ourselves if we have been good children; but our mother can no longer pray for us, for the angels came for her-and took her

There are many more of these days, but we cannot tell of them all to-night. We would leave these anniversaries of home-life, for our glorious national days. Our Fourth of July What nation beside ours has such a grand jubilee! And to-day has been the anniversary of the birth of the "Father of our country." Does the nation remember this? Aye! And all along the ranks of our brave "soldier boys," volley after volley of cheers and salutes are sent up! But methinks Washington would not think this a gala day, were he walking with us now. Rather would he gird him with sackcloth, and go mourning the dearth of loyal hearts and

I believe God will yet give us an anniversary. that shall, in blessings to this people, far surpass any that has yet been. It shall be the day when our now sad-browed, weary-hearted Republic puts on her robes of victory, and stands forth among the nations, the Queen of Liberty and Equality! May it come quickly! ALIGE BROWN NICHOLS.

loyal hands, to put down our national foe.

Wilson, N. Y., Feb. 22, 1863.

BLESSED is the calamity that makes us humble; though so repugnant thereto is our nature in our present state, that after awhile it is to be feared THE LIFETIME OF MAN.

WHEN the world was created, and all creatures assembled to have their lifetime appointed, the ass first advanced and asked how long he would have to live?

"Thirty years," replied Nature, "will that be agreeable to thee?"

"Alas!" answered the ass, "it is a long while. Remember what a wearisome existence will be mine; from morning until night I shall have to bear heavy burdens, dragging cornsacks to the mill, that others may eat bread, while I shall have no encouragement, nor be refreshed by anything but blows and kicks. Give me but a portion of that time, I pray!"

Nature was moved with compassion, and presented but eighteen years. The ass went away comforted, and the dog came forward.

"How long dost thou require to live?" asked Nature. "Thirty years were too many for the ass, but wilt thou be contented with them?"

"Is it thy will that I should?" replied the dog. "Think how much I shall have to run about; my feet will not last for so long a time, and when I shall have lost my voice for barking, and my teeth for biting, what else shall I be fit for but lie in the corner and growl?"

Nature thought he was right, and gave twelve

The ape then appeared.

"Thou wilt, doubtless, willingly live the thirty years," said Nature; thou will not have to labor as the ass and dog. Life will be pleasant to

"Ah, no!" cried he; "so it may seem to others. but it will not be! Should puddings ever rain down, I shall excite laughter by my grimaces, and then be rewarded by a sour apple. How often sorrow lies concealed behind a jest! I shall not be able to endure for thirty years."

Nature was gracious, and he received but

At last came man, healthy and strong, and asked the measure of his days

"Will thirty years content thee?"

"How short a time!" exclaimed man. "When shall have built my house, and kindled a fire upon my own hearth—when the trees I shall have planted are about to bloom and bear fruit —when life shall seem to me most desirable, I shall die. Oh, Nature, grant me a longer period."

"Then shalt thou have the eighteen years of the ass besides."

"That is not enough," replied the man.

"Take, likewise, the twelve years of the "It is not yet sufficient," reiterated man; "give

me more." "I will give thee, then, the ten years of the

ape; and in vain wilt thou claim more."

Man departed unsatisfied. Thus man lives seventy years. The first thirty are his human years, and pass swiftly by. He is then healthy and happy. He labors carefully, and rejoices in his existence. The eighteen of the ass come next; burden upon burden is heaped upon him-he carries the corn that is to feed others; blows and kicks are the reward of his faithful service. The twelve years of the dog follow, and he loses his teeth, and lies down in the corner and growls. When these are gone, the ape's ten years form a conclusion. Then man, weak and silly, becomes the sport of chil-

dren .- Translated from the German

THINK FOR YOURSELVES .- It is always best to think first for yourselves on any subject, and then have resource to others for the correction or improvement of your own sentiments. Thus we may reach truth which we should never have observed had we caught a particular mode of thinking from any author. No principle should be received from education or habit merely. Let me observe before perusing the opinions of others. We check original thought by first learning how and what to think from others. The strength of others should be called to assist our weakness, not to prevent the exertion of our powers. By means of this dependence upon books, error as well as truth descends in hereditary succession.

MORAL CHARACTER.—There is nothing which adds so much to the beauty and power of a man as a good character. It dignifies him in every station, exalts him in every period of life. Such a character is more to be desired than everything else on earth. No servile fool, no crouching sycophant, no treacherous honor seeker, ever bore such a character; the pure joys of rightousness never spring in such a person. If young men but knew how much a good character would dignify and exalt them, how glorious it would make their prospects even in this life; never should we find them yielding to the groveling and base-born purposes of human nature.

MUTUAL FORBEARANCE.—The house will be kept in turmoil where there is no toleration of each other's errors. If you lay a single stick of wood on the grate, and apply fire to it, it will go out; put on another stick, and they will burn; and a half dozen sticks, and you will have a blaze. If one member of the family gets into a passion, and is let alone, he will cool down, and may possibly be ashamed and repent. But oppose temper to temper, pile on the fuel, draw in others of the group, and let one harsh answer be followed by another, and there will be a blaze that will entrap them all.

THE BIRTH OF AN INFANT.—The birth of an infant, it has been truthfully said, "is a greater event than the production of the sun. The sun is only a lump of senseless matter; it sees not its own light; it feels not its own heat; and with all its grandeur, it will cease to be. But that infant beginning to breathe is possessed of reason, claims a principle infinitely superior to all matter, and a second and sharper calamity would be wanted lives through ages of eternity." Let the immorto cure us of our pride in having become humble. tal mind shed its lustre upon the world.

Sabbath Musings.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. AN EVENING PRAYER.

FATHER, to Thee I come; Deign to receive an humble suppliant's sigh; Thou who dost hear the hungry raven's cry Behold thy erring one

Oh, when the storm clouds lower-When o'er life's sea the tempests gather dark, How shall I guide my frail, and fragile bark, But by thy help and power?

Thou, only thou, canst speak Peace to the troubled waves that o'er me roll: Thou, only thou, canst soothe my weary soul-Oh, Savior guide and keep

Father forgive thy child, Who may at times forget to trust in thee, When the faint breeze scarce stirs the placid sea, When skies are blue, and mild.

But life's first fitful blast. Will drive the wandering penitent to thee, Thou Tower of Strength and Safety-at thy feet Our hoary head to cast.

Wilt thou not help to bear The weary burden we so long have borne, And e'en go with us to the unseen bourne, And smooth our passage there?

And Oh, on these dear ones On the dear one, the fondest loved, and best, I pray thee let thy choicest blessings rest,

Father of Light and Love. Keep thou thy stricken one Beneath the shadow of thy shelt'ring wing, The off'ring of a chastened heart I bring, Oh, make it all thine own.

Arlington, Mich., 1863.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker

LIZZIN D.

THE FIRST SABBATH.

LOOKING afar back through the vista of time we behold in the morning of the seventh day, the dawn of the first Sabbath. How gloriously streams down the welcome light of the young Sun! How the new Earth rejoices in his resplendent rays! How the green grass, the tender herb, the fruitful tree, greet the beautiful light, and the delicate earth-flower looks smilingly up from among its leafy surroundings into the ether blue of the cloudless firmament and draws from thence its own soft hues. The matin songs of little birds are heard, making glad the earth. The flocks and herds feed in tender pastures on the green hillsides, the fishes reioice in their proper element, and all nature joins in one universal song of praise and gladness.

But why, at the command of the Omnipotent, sprang all these beauties into life? Is it sufficient for Him to gaze upon His new creation and see nature flourish in her regal beauty? Is there no higher purpose than that the beasts of the earth may roam at will and enjoy His bounteous goodness? The noblest work of His hand we have not yet seen! For lo! in yonder garden, where the aroma of sweet spices fills the air, and beautiful trees, laden with all manner of pleasant fruits, have been planted by the hand of the Lord God, find we - MAN.

Created a little lower than the angels, to him is given dominion over the earth and all that is therein. Beside him stands his wife, in all the spotless purity of primeval innocence. Sin has not yet entered to mar the holy peace of Paradise, and, in sweet communion with their Maker, the new-created dwellers of the earth rejoice.

It is the Sabbath. The Lord of Heaven rests. The Eternal ceases from His six day's labor, and consecrates the seventh to repose. How tranquil the hours of this holy day! All is peace and security to those within that lovely garden.

Sabbath-breaking is yet unknown. How beautifully suggestive the thought that the first day spent on earth, by reasoning mortals, should be one of rest and prayer. Surely life was well

Had not the wily serpent, who delights in destroying the happiness of all immorta king them like himself, discovered this new abode, this world never would have been the scene of war and bloodshed; peace and happiness were our inheritance, and a heaven on earth was ours. But now we look for a higher and more glorious Country, where the archetypes of all things beautiful are found, and where one eternal Sabbath, more lovely than the first, shall DELIGHT. be the portion of the Just. Kendaia, Seneca Co., N. Y., 1863.

PROOFS OF IMMORTALITY.-When I consider the boundless activity of our minds, the remembrance we have to things past, our foresight of what is to come-when I reflect on the noble discoveries and vast improvements by which those minds have advanced in art and science — I am entirely persuaded, and out of all doubt, that a nature which has in itself a fund of so many excellent things, can not possibly be mortal.-Xenophon.

A GOOD MAN'S WISH .-- I freely confess to you that I would wish, when I am laid down in the grave, to have some one in his manhood stand over me and say, "There lies one who was a real friend to me, and privately warned me of the dangers of the young; no one knew it, but he aided me in the time of need; I owe what I am to him:" or else to have some widow, with choking utterance, telling her children, "There is your friend and mine.

From the time that, at my mother's feet, or on my father's knee, I first learned to lisp verses from the Sacred Writings, they have been my daily study and vigilant contemplation. If there be anything in my style or thought to be commended, the credit is due to my kind parents in instilling into my mind an early love of the Scriptures.—Daniel Webster.

The Educator.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. WHISPERING IN (SCHOOL.

Ir there is one thing more than another which is naturally inherent in a school, it is the practice of whispering. It is peculiar to all, with slight differences of degree, a fact which, of itself, is sufficient to demonstrate that it is both perfectly natural, and essentially necessary.

Whispering may or may not be an evil. Under proper restraints it may accomplish something better than disturbing the tranquillity of some nervous teacher by awakening unpleasant remembrances of the hissing of serpents, or the sibilations of geese. Experience has proven at least two things relative to this subject, the first being that the tongue is an unruly member; the other, that it cannot be subdued. By the unanimous testimony of teachers it is confirmed that for the creation of noise the tongue bears the palm in the school room, notwithstanding it has been the subject of special legislation since schools began. Occasionally it has been awed into reluctant submission by the enunciation of menacing rules, or by the vigorous application of the ferule. But when the teacher relaxes his vigilance, and thoughts come pressing on demanding utterance, a quick ear is just at hand willing to give attendance. Who can resist the temptation to retaliate upon the master? For his positive rules chafe (although in another place,) quite as certainly as would iron fetters. A moment more, and a shrill, serpent-like hiss proceeds from a pair of as pretty cherry lips as mother Nature has moulded since the halcyon days of primal purity, when, according to orthodox teachers, whispering was unknown. One or two of the scholars simply overhear the innocent digression, and would proceed with their studies, but the monitor reports, and the teacher grasps the ferule, (for rules must not be broken however unreasonable and unnatural these rules may be,) and business is suspended for half an hour that the offender may be duly punished. So, all over the land, in a thousand schools, at the same time, this conflict between arbitrary rules and nature is continually being carried on. An excess of whispering should be prevented

in every school, for the evil consists entirely in the excess, and the prohibition should apply only to so much of it as is not positively necessary The manner in which this excess is to be prevented is the main question for every teacher to settle. Arbitrary rules, if not an absolute failure, are only an apparent success. Punishment, however severe, must fail upon general application. The system of marking in accordance with the report of the scholar, is an inducement to equivocate, which should not be presented to young persons. If there is any way to prevent an excess of whispering, it lies in commencing at the source. Should the water in the brook that goes sparkling and dancing by your door become infected with poisonous matter, nothing could be more unwise than to attempt to obviate the difficulty by constructing a dam across it. The wiser course would be to proceed at once to the fountain, and pull out the poisonous serpent which, even in death, proves himself capable of something worse than hissing. And yet, for centuries, orthodox teachers have been trying to dam up a natural impulse, instead of endeavoring to purify it. Should a stream become diverted from its proper channel, if, instead of driving down posts and throwing in obstructions to stop it entirely, the energies were directed to turn it into its natural and proper course, much more might be accomplished.

So with training the mind. If the teacher, instead of directing his energies immediately to combat that which is bad by attempting to suppress it entirely, should apply himself to the inculcation of that which is good, by instilling pure and noble thoughts into the mind; he need have no fear of failure, for reason suggests that, from its very nature, a mind properly taught distract the purposes and knowledge that may Privy Council in England and Ireland are 220. would soon forget rusty jack-knives and old have been half-formed. sleds, and readily apply itself to the pursuit of that which is more beautiful.

Let the teacher, instead of writing rules and using the ferule, present ideas for the contemplation of the scholar. Divest yourself of the austerity of master, and become an interested friend, and the hissing rogues will soon be transfermed into attentive and studious children.

Rockford, Ill., 1863.

Written for Moore Rural's New-Yorker. THE TEACHER'S INFLUENCE.

JAMES F. CLINTON.

Drop a pebble into the ocean and, "in the language of philosophy," it displaces every particle of matter in the watery element; for two bodies cannot occupy the same space at the same time. The yielding fluid retires to give place to any substance of greater specific gravity than itself; every atom, although infinitely small, possesses length, breadth, and thickness, and when moved from its place, must of necessity transmit an influence to contiguous particles, and they, in their turn, to others, until the whole mass of water in Neptune's vast domain is moved by its

How many have amused themselves by the side of some silvery stream, or placid lake, by casting stones over its banks and watching with motions of pleasure, the lines of beauty formed on its liquid bosom, unconscious that they were thus moving the entire stream, or lake, and changing the relative position of its waters. Drop an idea carelessly in the school-room, filled with scholars, and it will find its way to the inmost recesses of some minds, crowding aside other thoughts until it secures a lodgment in the depths of the soul; while the effects of this mencan duly appreciate the importance of a word addressed to the tender mind of youth? If 22,577 pupils.

spoken in season it will prove salutary, and its good effects will be felt through life, and, peradventure, after this life shall have ended.

A single "golden-orbed thought" is sufficient to move the great ocean of mind in either hemisphere. The discoveries of NEWTON, FRANKLIN and Morse, will ever be remembered, and the precepts of Washington will be observed, so long as man chooses to be happy and free. A word may change the destinies of an empire by influencing the mind of some noble youth to travel in the path of virtue, and to live for the good of his age and nation, who otherwise might become the scourge and ruin of society. Why did Arnold desert the cause of freedom while Marion, with his feeble band of compatriots, remained firm and unshaken amid the storms that darkened the horizon of his native land, and threatened to throw the pall of despotism over the country he was called to defend. The former, when young, was permitted to have his own way, and allowed to play the tyrant among his associates; he died in a foreign land unhonored and unwept! The latter was taught to obey when a youth, and for his worthy deeds in the great cause of human freedom, he is now honored by every friend of liberty throughout the world; and his name will be handed down to unborn generations as one of the benefactors of his race.

The teachers of our common schools are the most influential class of citizens in the Republic, for they are the instructors of the millions of youth growing up among us who are destined to be to future arbiters of the nation, and her future prosperity depends upon the right education of those who are rapidly advancing to the stage of active life. The ten thousand teachers of the Empire State are the directors of a million of juvenile minds, that are now expanding under the magic touch of their instructors.

The perpetuity of our free institutions, depends upon the virtue, intelligence and patriotism of the people, hence the importance of inculcating the principles of freedom in the minds of the young, and teaching them to understand the value of our system of government, so that when they arrive at maturity, they may be enabled to appreciate the blessings of civil and religious liberty-that they may be inclined to discharge in private and public life, in an intelligent and patriotic manner, the responsible duties of American citizens. N. B. AMENT.

Mt. Morris, N. Y., 1863.

FAULT-FINDING AT RECITATIONS.

THE child should be taught to manifest a due degree of independence in recitation. There are however, two extremes here, and chiefly attributable to the practice of the teacher. We shall endeavor to guard him against both. The one is a blind adherence to books and customs, and a cowardly or indolent dependence, which forbids every attempt to think for one's self; the other is an egotistic assurance, or self-conceited effront

ery, that sets aside all books and definitions.

It is a disposition and a habit some teachers fall into, of finding fault with authors and every body else whose opinions do not agree with their own. They seem to think it a mark of wisdom to quarrel with definitions and rules. They build up their reputation with the bones of their demolished (?) adversaries, and often build upon their follies and weaknesses. They live by plunder. They are wiseacres. They are continually making discoveries that others have made long before them, but which their better judgment led them to see were no discoveries. They can see but one side of an argument, and that is their side, and unfortunately it is too frequently the wrong side. Such, for example, are those who must live by excitement, always straining to make the world believe that every thing has been going wrong until they happened to be born. sits in the House also as Baron Auckland. In They do not spend their time and energies so much in teaching the sciences as in finding fault await their coming of age to take their seats in with them; and hence weaken the confidence of the House. The peers of Parliament number the scholar that needs strengthening, unbend the 114, of whom 5 are minors. There are 14 Peerenergies that need stimulating, and unsettle and esses in their own right. The members of the

The other extreme is scarcely less detrimental to true progress, but not so dangerous. The one is absolute destruction; the other is simply a barrier. While the first cuts loose from all moor ing, carries no anchor, and ignores all faith save what its own dogmatism invents; the other remains bound fast to the ancient customs, and dares not believe and practice any thing that does not conform to the creed. The one is rapid radicalism; the other, rank conservatism. The one is meteoric, or gaseous; the other is fossiliferous. Both are destructive to healthy growth of mind.

The effects of either of these extremes upon the pupil can easily be imagined. They become either pedantic, self-conceited, and opinionated, or obsequious, stupid and parasitical. But there is a happy mean between the two extremes; and that the teacher should endeavor to follow. While I would not recommend a blind subsers iency to the old usages, and to texts and definitions as laid down by authors; yet I would say agree with authors just as far as possible, lest your distrust and skepticism lead those who have less judgment too far from a settled belief, and lest you distract the interest and attention so necessary to progress.—Science of Education and Art of Teaching.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ILLINOIS. - The whole number of public schools in Illinois is 9,811, which last year were attended by 516,037 scholars. The total amount paid for teachers' salaries was \$1,315,686, and the entire sum paid for school purposes was \$2,008,312. Five hundred new schools were established during the last year, in which 40,000 scholars were acommodated. The permanent school fund of the State tal image is lasting, either for good or evil. Who at this time amounts to \$4,973,842. There are also in the State 720 private schools, attended by

Scientific, Aseful. &c.

RIFLE BALLS VS. THE WIND.

It is difficult for an inexperienced person to conceive of the effect of even a light wind upon so small an object as a rifle ball, when shot from the gun. The difficulty arises from the impossibility of taking in the idea of such rapid flight, or of the resistance produced by it, by comparison with anything within the limits of our experience. We may attain a conception of it, however, by trying to move a stick through the water. Moving it slowly, the resistance is imperceptible; but as we increase the velocity we find the difficulty to increase very rapidly, and if we try to strike a quick blow through the water, we find the resistance so enormous that the effect is almost paralyzed. Mathematically, the resistance increases in the ratio of the square of the velocity; and although the air is of course more easily displaced than water, the same rule applies to it, and the flight of a ball is so inconceivably rapid that the resistance becomes enormous. The average initial velocity of a cannon or rifle ball is sixteen hundred feet in a second, and a 12-pound round shot, moving at this rate, encounters an atmospheric resistance of nearly two hundred pounds, or more than sixteen times its own weight. Perhaps a clearer idea may be attained by the statement of the fact, that, were it possible to remove this resistance, or, in other words, to fire a ball into a vacuum, it would fiv ten miles in a second - the same time it now requires to move sixteen hundred feet. Bearing in mind this enormous resistance, it will be more readily apparent that even a slight motion of the element through which the ball is struggling must influence its course. For this reason it is that the best time to shoot, as a general rule, is in the morning or evening, when the air is most apt to be perfectly calm. It will often be found, after making very satisfactory shots at sunrise, that by ten o'clock, even, on what would be called a calm day, it is impossible to attain to any thing like the accuracy with which the day's work was begun; and, owing to the irregular motion of the air, the difficulty can not be overcome, except to a limited degree, by making allowance for it.

It is well, however, to practice in all possible conditions of weather, and not to be discouraged at finding unaccountable variations at different times in the flight of balls. A few weeks' experience will at least enable the learner to judge of the veracity of a class of stories one often hears of the feats of backwoodsmen. It is not long since we were gravely assured by a quondam traveling acquaintance, who no doubt believed it himself, that there were plenty of men in the South who could shave off either ear of a squirrel with a rifle ball at one hundred yards, without doing him further injury. A short experience of target shooting will suffice to demonstrate the absurdity of all the wonderfi I stories of this class which are often and often insisted on with all the bigotry of ignorance. A somewhat extended acquaintance with backwoodsmen has served only to convince us, that, while a practical familiarity with the rifle is more general with them than with us, a scientific knowledge of its principles is rare, and the best target shooting we have ever seen was in New England .-Atlantic Monthly.

THE ENGLISH PEERAGE.

THE House of Peers at present consists of 1 Prince, 2 Royal Dukes, 3 Archbishops, 25 Dukes, 30 Marquises, 361 Earls, 29 Viscounts, 27 Bishops, and 159 Barons, making a total of 436 members, as the present Bishop of Bath and Wells addition there are 19 Peers who are minors, and There are 852 Baronets, 479 Civil or Military knights, and 114 noblemen and Baronets, who are also knights of the various Orders of Knighthood. There are 735 Companions of the Order of the Bath, 7 Field Marshals in the army, 506 Generals, 380 Generals in the Indian Army, 326 Admirals and 157 Queen's Counsels and Sergeants at law.

Of Norman William's twenty earldoms not one exists; and in like manner have passed away the creations of William Rufus, Henry the First, Stephen, Henry the Second, Richard the First, and John. Norfolk and Somerset, and perhaps Cornwall (enjoyed by the Prince of Wales.) are the only extant English dukedoms created from the first institution of the order down to the commencement of Charles the Second's reign; and for about half a century, Norfolk and Somerset having been attained in the reign of Elizabeth, the ducal order was extinct, until James the First revived it in the person of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. There is no existing English marquisate older than the reign of George the Third, Winchester and Worcester excepted, of which two the latter is merged in the dukedom of Beaufort. The Henrys and Edwards were frequent bestowers of the earl's coronet; but of all the Norman, Plantagenet, and Tudor earldoms, eleven only remain, of which six are merged in higher titles, whilst five (Shrewsbury, Derby, Huntingdon, Pembroke and Devon) still give designation to their possessors.

In proportion as man's intelligence increases is his labor more valuable. A small compensation is the reward of mere physical power, while skill, combined with a moderate amount of strength, commands high wages. The labor of an ignorant man is scarcely more valuable than the same amount of brute force; but the services of an intelligent, skillful person are a hundred-fold more productive.—Prof. Mayhew.

THE GOOD OLD WINTERS.

In 401 the Black sea was entirely frozen over. In 763 not only the Black Sea, but the Straits of Dardanelles, were frozen over; the snow in some places arose fifty feet high. In 822 the great rivers of Europe, the Danube, the Elbe, etc., were so hard frozen as to bear heavy wagons for a month. In 860 the Adriatic was frozen. In 991 everything was frozen, the crops totally failed, and famine and pestilence closed the year. In 1067 most of the travelers in Germany were frozen to death on the roads. In 1134 the Po was frozen from Cremona to the sea; the wine sacks were burst, and the trees split by the action of the frost with immense noise. In 1237 the Danube was frozen to the bottom, and remained long in that state. In 1317 the crops wholly failed in Germany; wheat, which some years before sold in England at 6s. the quarter, rose to 62. In 1308 the crops failed in Scotland, and such a famine ensued that the poor were reduced to feed on grass, and many perished miserably in the fields. The successive winters of 1422-3-4 were uncommonly severe. In 1368 the wine distributed to the soldiers was cut with hatchets. In 1683 it was excessively cold. Most of the hollies were killed. Coaches drove along the Thames, the ice of which was eleven inches thick. In 1709 occurred the cold winter; the frost penetrated the earth three yards into the ground. In 1716 booths were erected on the Thames. In 1744 and 1745 the strongest ale in England, exposed to the air, was covered in less than fifteen minutes with ice an eighth of an inch thick. In 1809, and again in 1812, the winters were remarkably cold. In 1814 there was a fair on the frozen Thames.-

BRAZILIAN FORESTS.

WHEN we look at the beautiful rosewoods, I think we have hardly begun to see the specimens of the Brazilian forests. Ere long the railroads into the interior, which have been chartered, will bring to the seacoast those giants of the forest. I have been surprised, again and again, in looking at those beautiful trees, which are of the "sensitive plant" character. When the sun goes down, they fold their leaves and to slumber, and are not aroused until by the morning sun and singing birds. I observed in some portions of the interior that rosewood was used for very common purposes. In Christian ox-carts the spokes would be made of rosewood. And I use the term Christian ox-carts in distinction from Roman ox-carts, where the axle and wheel turn together. Rosewood is used in carts made like our own. . The teeth of cogwheels are often made of it. A gentleman showed me in his sugar house a beam nearly forty feet in length, and three or four in diameter, which he told me was a violet-colored rosewood. He took me then to his pig pen, and-would you believe it ladies?—his pig pen was made out of rosewood! I would not have you understand that it looked like the legs of a piano forte. Nothing of the kind; for when left rough and exposed to the weather, it becomes as plebeian in its appearance as our own aristocrat, the black walnut of the Mississippi. When I returned, I brought with me a box of mosaic, made up of perhaps a hundred pieces of Brazilian wood, from the purest white to ebony black .-- J. C. Fletcher.

THE ORIGIN OF FAMILIAR PHRASES.-The term "masterly inactivity" originated with Sir James Mackintosh. "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," which everybody, who did not suppose it was in the Bible, credited to Sterne, was stolen by him from George Herbert, who translated it from the French of Henry Estienne. "The cup that cheers but not inebriates," was conveyed by Cowper from Bishop Berkley, in his "Siris." Wordsworth's "The child is father to the man," is traced from him to Milton, and from Miton to Sir Thomas More. "Like angel's visits -few and far between," is the offspring of Hook; it is not Thomas Campbell's original thought. Old John Norris (1659) originated it, and after him, Robert Blair, as late as 1745. "There's gude time coming," is Scott's phrase in "Rob Roy," and the "almighty dollar" is Washington Irving's happy thought.

Reading for the Young.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. HOW THE BOYS SHOULD MAKE FIRES.

Among the readers of the RURAL there are doubtless many lads whose business it is to make fires in the morning. It is said that boys, as well as men and women, always love to do what they can do well. I propose therefore to give some directions whereby the important business of making a fire in the morning can always be well done. First, if you have a wood-house-if not extemporize a small shelter for the purposeconstantly keep on hand, piled criss-cross, say a quarter or half a cord of wood split extra fine. As this pile diminishes, at leisure times commence another, so that an armful of extra fine and dry wood is always ready. Second, provide a small basket always kept filled with splinters and small fragments of dry wood, which your mother will allow you to hang up to the kitchen ceiling, where its contents will always keep in

Now you are ready for action on this wise:-First, clear the stove of ashes except about one inch in depth—which should always be left—then place your coals, or shavings, as the case may be, at the mouth of the draft, on them scatter a handful from the basket, next a few sticks of the extra fine, filling up with the ordinary wood. Now adjust the draft, and you will have a fire, snapping, crackling, blazing and springing, as it were, into instant existence, which will be a delight to you three hundred and sixty-five times in the year. Before you commence building the fire you may be as near the young man's back.

excellent order.

may call mother, sister, and maid, for they will soon learn that, be as spry as they can, a warm room and beautiful fire awaits them in both sitting-room and kitchen. How different this from the smoking, steaming, clogged attempt at a fire which induces the maid to turn over in bed and take another nap, waiting for the fire to burn, and which chills and half freezes the boy who is hovering over it. UNCLE PETER.

Milan, Erie Co., Ohio, 1863.

THE BELTED KINGFISHER.

THE Kingfisher inhabits all our fresh water rivers and bays, from the extreme north to Mexiico. There are several species, but only one is found in this country. Amidst the roar of a cataract, over the foam of the torrent, or by the smooth gliding stream he has been seen by most of our young readers perched upon an overhanging bough, turning his piercing eye down into the waters for a sight of his scaly prey, which, when observed, with a sudden, circular plunge, he sweeps from their native element and swal-



The voice of the Kngfisher is loud, harsh, and his cry is sudden and sometimes startling, but not unpleasant when heard with the sounds of rushing waters. He may often be seen skimming over the surface of the water, and sometimes apparently suspended and motionless for a moment. ready to pounce upon his prey. For many an hour have we watched these curious and industrious birds. They build their nests in the high river banks, first digging holes with their bills, sometimes four or more feet, horizontally. In size they are about twelve inches long, of a bluish slate color, and around the neck is a collar of pure white; the head is large and crested; the feathers are long and generally erect; the breast is blue and brown, the under parts white.

BOY ENTERPRISE.

Boys of energy and enterprise are the boys who become men of prominence and wealth in these progressive times. If American boys would learn the art of taking care of themselves, they must acquire the "knack" of "earning their own bread and butter;" of being on the look out for every "smart chance that may turn up," if they would be honored men.

When a servant of a friend answered the door bell one day last week, she found a little boy, with a shovel on his shoulder, on the steps.

"I want to put in your coal," said the boy.

"We haven't got any," said the girl. "But it is coming," returned the boy.

The servant was puzzled, and summoned her mistress, who no sooner appeared than the boy

accosted her: "If you please, Madam, there is a load of coal coming to your house. Your husband ordered it this morning. I got the number and came ahead of the cart to get the job of putting it in, if

ou please.' Of course, Madam could not refuse so enterprising a youth, and the job was given to him. In a few minutes, sure enough, the coal was "dumped" at the door, and the little "heaver" was busily at work. Before he was through eight

boys came to apply for the same job. A fair representative of Young America, was that boy. He may be a millionaire, or he may be a congressman, or a cabinet officer, or, perchance, a candidate for the Presidency.

A FATAL HABIT.—The habit referred to is not vicious in itself, but it leads to vice, creeping upon its victim with a fatal facility, the penalty of which many a fine heart has paid at the scaffold. It is the habit of irresolution. The idler, the spendthrift, the epicurean, and the drunkard are among its victims. Perhaps in the latter its effects appear in the most hideous form. He knows, for the example of thousands has painted it in glaring colors, that it will deaden all his faculties, take the strength from his limbs and the happiness from his heart, oppress him with disease, and hurry his progress to a dishonored grave, yet he drains it. How beautiful, on the contrary, is the power of resolution, enabling the one who posesses it to pass through perils and dangers, trials and temptations. Avoid then the contraction of the habit of irresolution. Strive against it to the

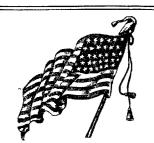
HE who cannot bear to be alone because he soon gets weary of himself, should know that others will probably get weary of him still

A MAN feels relieved and gay, when he has put his heart into his work and done his best; but what he has done or said otherwise, shall give him no peace.

Though death is before the old man's face, he

Kural New-Yorker.

NEWS DEPARTMENT.



LEAVES fall, but lo, the young buds peep Flowers die, but still their seed shall bloom From death the quick young life will leap, When spring shall come and touch the tomb. The splendid shiver of brave blood Is thrilling through our country now, And she who in old times withstood The tyrant, lifts again her brow. God's precious charge we sternly keep Unto the final victory; With freedom we will live, or sleep With our great dead who set us free God forget us when we forget To keep the old flag flying yet.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., MARCH 28, 1863.

The Army in Virginia,

AFTER the review of the 12th Army Corps by Gen. Hooker on the 20th he met the officers at Gen. Slocum's headquarters. In the course of the interview he expressed his gratification at the soldierly appearance of the soldiers under their command, and said that he relied upon them for their assistance and hearty co-operation in the ensuing campaign. So far as he was concerned. he meant that there should be no more mistakes or doubtful results.

Gen. Hooker and Medical Director Latterman pronounce the army of the Potomac to be the healthiest army the world has ever known. The health of that army is much superior to that of the rebel army lying on the opposite bank of the Rappahannock.

It is said that the difficulties which constrained Gen. Sigel to tender his resignation have been adjusted, and that he will withdraw his resignation and return to his command.

Miss Ford, whose name is connected with Gen. Stoughton's capture at Fairfax Court House, has been arrested. Upon the prisoner were found letters which indicated that she had been corresponding with the rebels in Richmond. Some papers of an important character were not overlooked, and through them it is learned that another raid had been planned for Saturday night. Eleven of the so-called guerillas who captured the General are under arrest. Only 24 participated in the raid, and no one of them lived over eight miles from Fairfax.

An additional list of officers has been reported at the headquarters of the army, mainly for absence without authority, others for failure to report at the convalescent camp as ordered, and one for accepting bribes for procuring the discharge of soldiers. They will stand discharged from the service of the United States unless, within fifteen days, they appear before the commission in session in Washington, of which Gen. Ricketts is President, and make satisfactory defence to the charges against them. There is less leniency than heretofore towards such classes of offenders.

A most brilliant cavalry fight occured on the Rappahannock on the 19th, at Kelly's Ford. The reconnoisance, under command of Gen. Averell forced a passage over the river in the face of a determined resistance, by a considerable number of rebel sharpshooters, who were covered by houses, rifle pits, and a dry mill race with an abattis in front. The Ford admitted but a single horseman at a time, and the stream, which was swollen, was very rapid. Arriving at the south side of the river our cavalry charged on the enemy in their entrenchments, killing and capturing their entire force, besides securing a large number of horses picketed near by.

A short distance from the shore General Averell's command encountered the rebel cavalry under Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee, who had hastened from Culpepper to prevent our passage. They made some dashing charges upon our troops, who repulsed and in turn charged them with fatal effect, using sabres only in the conflict. Wherever the enemy made a stand they immediately charged upon, and routed them from their position. The battle lasted about five hours. and was a series of charges and conflicts, resulting in the falling back of the enemy. The forces were about two hundred on each side.

The enemy at last took refuge behind an entrenched battery, four miles from the ford, flanked by rifle forts and abattis. Gen. Averell having accomplished his object and secured his prisoners, the wounded on both sides, and a large number of horses, recrossed the river without attack by the rebels, who were so badly whipped that they could not follow or anoy him. Among the prisoners were Major Breckinridge, a cousin to the traitor John C. Breckinridge.

At 1 o'clock on the morning of the 17th two sections of Capt. Davis' 7th Massachusetts battery and the 11th Pennsylvania cavalry were dispatched by Major Gen. Peck, under command of Major Spear, to attack the enemy in his entrenchments on this side of the Blackwater opposite Franklin. We were to make the attack at daylight, but owing to the bad condidition of of the roads found it impossible to do so until' 9 A. M. Small arms, heavy guns and cavalry were used on both sides. The fight lasted for nearly an hour, and was highly spirited in its character. Two separate cavalry charges were made on the fortifications. They were found to be literally lined with infantry who poured a

first charge, which was made by Major Stratton. The Major was wounded in the shoulder. Also Lieut. Mondy in the hip. The latter is thought fatally.

The second charge was conducted by Major up and down in front of the fortifications to try and jump the ditch, &c. But the move was soon found to be impracticable. The enemy opposed a heavy force of infantry and cavalry to the right and left of our position, in order to turn and outflank us, but with little show of success.

The enemy is strongly entrenched behind well constructed breastworks. The charges of the cavalry were the most dashing bravery I have ever witnessed. Gen. Jenkins, of South Carolina, is in command of the rebel forces. Re-enforcements are daily being sent to defend and prevent the passage of the Blackwater by the Union toops. The rebels are strongly of opinion that we will soon move in this direction, and are making preparations accordingly. We took some prisoners, among them were some wounded Three hundred and seventy released prisoners

arrived from Richmond on the 20th. One of them, very intelligent, Mr. Leeds, of Cincinnati, and a New Orleans pilot, mentions the steady and significant removal of machinery for manufacturing ordnance and small arms from Richmond to Northern Georgia. The removal of ordnance stores in large quantities has also been going on for some time. The possibility of the transfer of the seat of war below Virginia is recognized by the authorities at Richmond. On the interesting point of the duration of the war Mr. Leeds said it might last six months after the next crop, but he thought it would be ended with the crop. If Vicksburg should be taken it would end almost immediately, for the armies would be cutoff from their supply of meat, which is in Texas. He said that every pound of meat eaten in Richmond prisons came from there.

He mentioned a conversation between General Winder and another officer, well authenticated, in which Gen. Winder said it would be ended by August. Mr. Leeds declares that there is a general feeling among the soldiers, from all the Southern States, favorable to ending the war and returning to the Union. The prisons of the South are full of deserters awaiting trial by. court-martial. Military executions are so common as to cease being commented upon by the

Department of the South.

THE bulk of the Federal forces heretofore stationed in Newbern having been withdrawn for service at other points, the rebels made an attempt to re-capture the place. The detail of their movements, as forwarded by the correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, under date March 16th, is as follows:

Deserters told us early last week that the rebel Gen. Longstreet had just paid a visit to Kinston. and had said in a speech there that on the 14th of March, last year, Newbern was taken by the Yankees. He intended to celebrate the first anniversary of that day by driving them out of it. His programme was not known, and the above declarations was regarded as the merest bravado. as the place was generally considered as almost impregnable. His plan, however, was a real one, and began to develop itself on Friday evening last, when our pickets were driven in on the Trent road, and an immense column of the enemy. with 30 pieces of artillery, were reported to be mo<u>vi</u>ng on Newbern.

On Saturday morning, also, the pickets of the 92d New York, which is occupying a small unfinished earthwork on the north side of the Neuse river, and nearly opposite this city, reported the rebels advancing in that quarter. There were only 300 men over there, of the above regiment, which was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Anderson. They had no guns mounted. unnecessary destruction of life he had given them an opportunity to capitulate. They need expect no assistance from the other side, he said. as attack would be made simultaneously upon Newbern, and all the Union troops would be needed there. Col. Anderson's brief but significant reply was, that "He couldn't see it."

The rebels opened upon the fort a terrible fire of shell, solid shot, grape, canister and shrapnell which they kept up for four hours without cessa tion, except twice, when there was a lull for a few minutes for the purpose of ordering a sur render. Col. Anderson's last reply was, that "the regiments of Gen. Wessel's brigade never surrender!" Gen. Foster sent word to Col. Anderson to hold out to the last extremity, while Gen. Prince and staff, riding down to the river side, placed artillery as fast as it arrived in position on the bank. Ransom's battery of 20-pound howitzers sent quick and successive discharges of grape and canister into the ranks of the rebels with telling effect. About 9 o'clock the gunboat Hunchback came to the assistance of the unpleasantly situated garrison. Gen. Pettigrew retreated and has not since been heard from. The injuries to the men of the 92d amounted to two men being wounded.

The demonstration on the Trent road was just about as brilliant as this. The enemy came down to a spot called Deep Gully, some ten miles out, and after remaining there about thirtysix hours retired. The precise number of men or who commanded, is not known. Perhaps Gen. Longstreet will wait till the next anniversary of the capture of Newbern before he sends any more expeditions hither.

On Sunday, March 1st, an expedition left Newbern for Hyde county to disperse the guerrillas infesting that portion of the State. The expedition consisted of Co. F, 3d N. Y. cavalry, one

combined force, under command of Capt. Richardson, embarked on board the steamer Escort, and accompanied by the gunboat North State, sailed for Roseberry Bridge, at which place they arrived on Monday. Immediately disembarking Corning in person, who took his men up to and they proceeded to make a detour around Wittimisket. On Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock the guerrillas were overtaken at the place called Skeet, about nine miles from Lake Landing. Some eight or ten shots were fired, when the infantry immediately deployed as skirmishers, fired as they advanced, charged into the wood, dispersing the guerrillas.

The expedition arrived within a mile and a half of Swanquarter, where they encountered the guerrillas posted in strong force. A volley was received which killed three cavalrymen and wounded fifteen. The infantry immediately advanced and poured in a deadly fire. The battery proceeded to the front and began to shell the enemy with canister. The charge was entirely successful, and the rebels were driven at the point of the bayonet, losing their Captain, killed, and 28 killed and wounded. A Newbern letter of the 9th inst., gives an account of the reconnoisance by Gen. Prince's division, two batteries and a part of the 3d N. Y. cavalry. The rebel cavalry force in Onslow county was completely broken up, about a dozen prisoners captured, and the balance dispersed. The expedition returned to Newbern on the 11th inst., the enemy having failed to make a stand.

On the north side of the Trent river, the 25th Massachusetts volunteers, with two companies of the 3d N. Y. cavalry, started an expedition. They surprised a rebel encampment of two companies by night, and captured or dispersed the whole command, destroying all their camp

A special commission of the U.S. Board of Supervising Inspectors of Steamers, consisting of J. F. Muller and J. Remington, have been dispatched hither by Secretary Chase, to examine into the condition of the steamers in this Department. Ten Government transports and six chartered ones are found to be unfit for service.

The gunboat Gem of the Sea, on the 10th inst., aptured the sloop Peter, of Savannah, for Nassau. while attempting to run the blockade of Indian River Inlet, East Florida. She had a cargo of

The rebel schooners Pembroke and Lightning have been captured by the blockading vessels.

The Port Royal New South, of the 14th inst., says:-Jacksonville was taken by the colored brigade on the 10th. The negroes behaved with propriety and no one was harmed. On the 11th, Col. Montgomery, with 200 men, had a sharp skirmish three miles from town with 200 rebels. Baldwin, the junction of the Jacksonville and Tallahasse and the Cedar Keys railroad, is supposed to be the point aimed at by the expedition.

Movements in the West and South-West.

KENTUCKY.— The rumors heretofore given of the proposed rebel invasion of Kentucky, are not groundless. Cincinnati journals learn from a Southern gentleman, who left Chattanooga on Sunday week, that the rebel troops who left Virginia, did not re-enforce Gen. Bragg, but concentrated at Knoxville, Tenn.

On the 14th a body of 400 rebels crossed the Cumberland at Rowena, Ky., and it was reported that a large force was following them. It is suspected that their invasion has already begun.

A special dispatch to the Cincinnati Commercial, from Paris, Ky., says:-The rebel Col. Cluke surrounded Mt. Sterling, Ky., at 1 o'clock, A. M., of the 21st. Federals, amounting to 200, fought from the houses for four hours, but were finally compelled to snrrender. The rebels then burned the town. It was believed that Cluke intended to take Paris on the 22d.

TENNESSEE.—The Gazette has additional particulars of the Milton battle. Our forces were commanded by Col. Hall, of the 15th Ohio, who Just before daybreak this little garrison was finding that he was attacked by superior numsummoned to surrender by Gen. Pettigrew, who | bers, fell back to a commanding position, and said he had 4,000 men and 18 pieces of artillery, sent a courier to Murfreesboro for re-enforcewith which to reduce the work, but to avoid any | ments, promising to hold his ground until they should arrive. Part of the rebel cavalry dismounted and attacked our position with impetuosity, but were repulsed at every point. Section 1st, of the Harris battery, kept up all this time a most effective fire. The enemy enraged at this fire, charged the battery with hideous yells. The 1st Missouri regiment were lying concealed behind the battery, waiting until the enemy was within 30 yards, when they opened a destructive fire causing them to retire from the field leaving their dead and wounded. Col. Hall's victory was complete before the re-enforcements arrived. Among the rebel killed was one captain and three lieutenants. Our loss was 7 killed and 30 wounded. The battle lasted about four hours.

The following dispatch has been received at headquarters, Washington:

MURFREESBORO, March 16, 1863. To Gen. H. W. Halleck:—I have the pleasure to report the gallant conduct of our cavalry under the brave Col. Minty. They drove the rebel cavalry wherever they met them, captured one of their camps, 17 wagons, 42 mules and 114 prisoners. They used the sabre where the carbine would delay.

W. S. ROSECRANS.

MISSISSIPPI.—There is no doubt that the rebels will soon evacuate Vicksburg, if they have not already done so. Our forces have succeeded in destroying an important bridge, cutting off another of their communications, and they will probably retire from Vicksburg to Jackson, where they are strongly fortified. This would leave Port Hudson exposed to an attack from the upper Mississippi flotilla, which would render the fall of that Fort certain, and give the control of the river to the Unionists.

The St. Louis Republican's Memphis dispatch of the 20th, says advices from Greenwood to Monday week, are to the effect that the gunboat Chillicothe bombarded Fort Pemberton on Saturday and Sunday, but without a decided result. deadly fire into our ranks, wounding many in the howitzer, and Co. B, 1st N. C. volunteers. The The rebel batteries were so situated that it could far West."

not be attacked by a land force on account of high water. The guns of the DeKalb had been taken ashore and a land battery constructed near the rebel works. The rebel force is estimated at 6,-000, under Gen. Loring. Re-enforcements are being rapidly sent to the seat of operations, and it is expected that our fleet will soon be able to reduce all the fortifications on the Yazoo.

NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

GEN. E. V. SUMNER, U. S. Army, expired at the residence of his son-in-law, Col. Teall, in Syracuse, on the 21st inst., of congestion of the lungs, after an illness of five days. The General was under orders to report at St. Louis for duty, and was on the point of starting when attacked by the disease which has terminated so fatally. In the death of Gen. Sumner the country will mourn the loss of one of its most patriotic defenders. He was one of the oldest Generals in the army, having been in the service for 43 years. The last words of the veteran hero were, "God save my country, the United States of America."

ADJUTANT GENERAL SPRAGUE, in a communication to the Military Committee of the Senate, reports that of the 222,053 men enlisted in New York State and turned over to the United States, there were mustered into the National service for three months, 15,922; for nine months, 2,560; for two years, 30,250; for three years, 173,321. Total-222,053.

THERE is a new invention in France, by which a foot soldier, in heavy marching order, is enabled to walk on the water without sinking. It consists of a pair of India rubber boots and trousers, all of one piece, which are filled with air a little below the waist, and heavily weighted at the feet. With these trousers on, a detachment has frequently crossed the lake of Vincennes, where the water is about fifteen feet deep, firing their muskets and loading as they went. The men sink about two feet, the water barely reaching the top of their thighs, and appear not to have any difficulty in keeping their balance and moving along.

THE Charleston Courier of February 25th says: The bakers of this city have raised the price of bread to twenty-five cents for a half pound loaf. Flour is selling at sixty-five dollars per barrel. An enormous sin in the eyes of God."

GEN. HAYNAU, who achieved an infamous reputation for the atrocities he committed in Hungary, and who was mobbed by Barkley and Perkins' brewers in London, recently committed suicide at Cassel.

THE samples of Illinois cotton received in New York are pronounced equal in quality to the middling uplands from North Carolina and Tennessee. They have brought as high as 84c per

An important army order has recently been issued which prohibits any citizen from wearing a United States uniform, no matter how it came into his possession, whether by purchase or otherwise. Discharged soldiers have a right to wear a uniform as a badge of honor. The Provost guards have been instructed to act under this order, and take from every citizen any portion of the uniform or buttons of the United States army which they may wear in public.

THE iron trade of Lake Superior is growing important. During 1862, 115,721 tuns of iron ore and 8,590 tuns of pig iron were shipped for market. The value of the rough copper shipped from the same region in 1862 is stated at \$4,000,000.

AT the late town meeting in Barre Mass. Lyman Sibley, Esq., was elected Town Clerk for the forty-fifth year. He first held the office in 1818, and retained ever since, with the exception of the year 1855, when Americanism ousted him. He is now 79 years of age. Mr. Sibley served in the Legislatures of 1824 and 1825.

CANADA EAST papers state that the storm of week before last was the most severe experienced there for several years, the snow measuring 4 feet deep on an average. The houses were half buried in the snow, and communication outside has been interrupted for several days, the roads having been absolutely impassable for horses and sleighs. The mail from Quebec had reached Three Rivers, carried on snow shoes, and after much delay. Several people in the country, having business in town, resorted to the same kind of locomotion.

THE annual report of the New York Lunatic Asylum discloses the curious fact that the war has not increased the number of admissions to the institution; on the contrary, very many of those who were regarded as partially insane have found positions in the army. That fact is self evident.

GEN. GRANT has ordered all resigned officers and discharged soldiers to leave the department, as, on examination, the cotton disease has been discovered in many of them.

A LIVERPOOL letter states that while the George Griswold was coming up the harbor with food for the poor of England, the steamer Dolphin was going out with a cargo of munitions of war

Mr. Frelinghuysen, Attorney General of New Jersey, has given his opinion, in reply to a request made by the Legislature, that volunteers from that State may be constitutionally entitled to vote.

PROF. AGASSIZ begins, in the last Atlantic, a new series of scientific articles under the title America the Old World." in which he maintains that the American Continent has been falsely denominated the New World. "Hers was the first dry land lifted out of the waters, hers was the first shore that was washed by the ocean that enveloped all the world beside; and while Europe was represented only by islands rising here and there above the sea, America already stretched an unbroken line of land from Nova Scotia to the

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

The Annual Cyclopædia and Register of Important Events D Appleton & Co. -D Appleton & Co.
American Stock Journal—C M Saxton.
Filters—J E Cheney.
Seed Potatoes—James H Jewett.
Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.
Saxton's Hand-Book on Tobacco Culture—C M Saxton.
Otaheitan Cane Seed—C Cory & Sons.
Licensed Real Estate Broker—J B Wheaton.
Grapes and Strawberries—I H Babcock & Co.
Farm for Sale—Pitt May.

Special Notices.

Coughs, Colds—Brown's Bronchial Troches. Union—D B De Land & Co.

The News Condenser.

- Massachusetts has just invested over \$700,000 in U. securities.

- The Massachusetts colored regiment now numbers some 300 men.

- \$10 counterfeit bills on the Atlantic Bank, Boston, are in circulation. - There are now nearly 5,000 men employed at the

Brooklyn Navy Yard. - The Mint at Philadelphia is now running its entire force upon nickel cents.

- Thus far in our army 44 have died from sickness to 9

from wounds—nearly five to one. - News is now passed between the Sandwich Islands

and N. Y. in less than two weeks. - Governor Andrew has appointed Thursday, April 2,

as the annual fast-day in Mass - The War Department is busily engaged in arranging the necessary machinery for conscription

- The Peace Resolutions have passed the New-Jersey House of Assembly by a vote of 38 to 13. . - The hotels of Windsor, Canada, opposite Detroit, are

crowded with skedaddlers to avoid the draft. - The duty on dogs in England last year amounted to

£196,527; and on game certificates to £140,984. - A movement has been started in Philadelphia for

ending relief to the suffering people in Ireland. - The Indiana Legislature adjourned sine die on Monday week without passing any appropriation bills.

- The penalty for selling poor butter in Philadelphia s confiscation—half to go to the clerk, half to the poor.

- The Governor of Wisconsin has received urgent requests for medical aid for the troops before Vicksburg.

- The French Emperor contemplates declaring the dignity of Senator hereditary—at least in certain families. - General Cooper, of Ohio, has issued a general order against the unsoldierly practice of mobbing newspaper offices.

- The Memphis Bulletin nominates Governor Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, as a candidate for Vice-President in 1864.

- There being a sufficiency of 25 and 50 cent postagecurrency in circulation, the Government has stopped printing

- The Hon. Ferguson Blair has been appointed Receiver-General of Canada, in place of the Hon. Mr. Morris

- Indians are reported to be collecting in large numbers on the Upper Mississippi, preparatory to a raid on the settlements.

- The weekly receipts at the office of Internal Revenue in Washington are about one million two hundred thousand dollars.

- The Minister from Hayti (colored) has rented the fine house in Washington formerly owned by Senator Latham, of California. - Out of the twenty-six Lake Superior copper mines

now working, six are paying dividends and fifteen are earning profits. - The U. S. Consul at Tunis gives a gratifying picture

of the rapid strides which civilization is making in the Barbary States. - An "infernal machine," containing 150 lbs. of powder, was picked up while floating in the river near Baton

Rouge recently - Five hundred and ten American ships and one hundred and forty-four American barks are employed in the East India trade.

- A tiger belonging to a menagerie got loose in the streets of Cincinnati some nights since, and occasioned a first-class sensation.

- The hospitals in Washington and near the city have 9,229 inmates. In these 28 hospitals there are 13,941 beds, and 4,712 vacant beds. - Hon. John W. Noell, of Missouri, member of the

late House of Representatives, died on Saturday week, after several weeks' illness. The gossips in Richmond intimate that the wiles of

a charming rebel widow had something to do with the loss of the Queen of the West. - The State of Missouri grows more than twenty-five million pounds of tobacco annually, and the quality holds

a high repute in thè market. - Over 3,000 letters from New Orleans were received at the Albany Post Office one morning lately. Most of these

were probably from the army. — All U.S. supply and transport vessls leaving the Navy Yards for squadrons, are to be heavily armed, in order to protect themselves from pirates.

- On Tuesday week Lord Lyons, the British Minister at Washington, gave a brilliant dinner in honor of the marriage of the Prince of Wales.

- The U.S. Marshal has seized a large amount of real estate in Cincinnati belonging to Albert, Wm. A. and T. J. Jenkins, officers in the rebel army.

- The Court of Appeals has decided that marriage under an assumed name is legal and valid, and that the offspring of such marriage is legitimate.

- General Rousseau has obtained leave to organize a corps of ten thousand mounted men, equipped like the rebel troops under Morgan and Forrest - The total amount of salt produced on the Onondaga

Salt Springs Reservation since 1797, when the State supervision commenced, is 146,991,422 bushels. - Applicants for passports are now required to give

bonds in \$1,000 that they have not been drafted or mustered into the service of the United States. - Adams Express company, by special arrangement with the navy department, will hereafter forward supplies

when the regular transport vessels run short. - The deep sea telegraph cable between France and Algiers has failed. It has been unavailable for three months,

and all attempts to repair it have proved abortive. - A shoal of speculators having appeared among the tobacco-growers in the Connecticut Valley, the price of

the weed has advanced to 20@25 cents per pound. - One of the Mich. So. R. R. Elevators at Toledo, conaining 120,000 bushels of grain and 2,000 barrels of flour, was burned Wednesday week. Loss about \$200,000.

- William S. Russell, of Plymouth, a prominent historical writer of Massachusetts, chiefly known for his

"Recollections of the Pilgrims," died on Saturday week.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

Special Notices.

COLDS, COUGHS.

SUDDEN changes of climate are sources of Pulmonary and Bronchial affections. Experience having proved that simple remedies act speedily and certainly when taken in the early stage of disease, recourse should at once be had to "Brown's Bronchial Troches," or Lozenges, let the Cold, Cough, or Irritation of the Throat be ever so slight, as by this precaution a more serious attack may be effectually warded off. Soldiers should have them, as they can be carried in the pocket, and taken as occasion requires.

Markets, Commerce, &c.

WE have but few changes to note in our market. Corn has declined 3@5 cents per bushel; Oats have advanced 2@ d cents. Dressed Hogs are 50 cents per cwt better. Butter and Cheese are still moving upward. Choice Sheep Pelts bring \$5,00. All other matters are as last quoted.

Rochester Wholesale Prices.

Flour and Grain.	Eggs, dozen 14@15c	
Wlong win wheat \$7.25@8.50	Honey, box 12@14c	
Flour, spring do 6,50@7,00	Cand es, box 13/2@14c	
Flour, buckwheat. 2,50@2,50	and is extra 14@14%c	
Meal Indian 1,18@1,18	Fruit and Roots.	
	Apples, bushel 25@30c	
	Do. dried \$1 15 . 4 @ 4 1/4 c	
Corn, old 77@78c	Peaches, do . 14@15c	
Corn, new 77@78c	Cherries, do 14@16c	
Rye, 60 fbs 42 bush 90c@\$1	Plums, do 9@10c	
Oats, by weight 58@62c	Potatoes, do 40@50c	
Barley 1,20@1,35	Hides and Skins.	
Buckwheat 55@60c	Slaughter 7 @ 71/4c	
Beans 1,50@2,50	Calf	
Meats.	Sheep Pelts 1.25@5.00	
Pork, old mess 15,50@16,00	Lamb Pelts 25@2.00	
Pork, new mess_10,00(@10,00]	Seeds.	
Pork, clear17,00@17,50	Clover, medium. 5,00@5,50	
' Dressed hors cwt 5.75(a) 7.00	Do. large 6,50 @7,00	
Beef cut. 4.00(a) 6.50	Timothy 2,00@3,00	
Beef, cwt 4,00(a) 6,50 Spring lambs,each 1,50(a) 2,00	Sundries.	
Mutton, carcass. 5 @6%c	Wood, hard 5,00@6,00	
Hams, smoked 9 @9%c	Wood, soft 3,00(24,00	
Shoulders 6 @6%c	Coal, Scranton 6,75@7,75	
	Coal, Pittston 6,75@7,50	
	Cool Phone Lin 67507.00	
	Coal, Shamokin. 6,75@7,50	
Geose 40 @50c	Coal, Char. 7 @ 8c	
Dalry, &c.	Salt, bbl 1,75@2,90	
Butter, roll 20 @23c	Straw, tun 5,00@7,00	
Butter, firkin 18 @20c	Hay, tun 8,00@16,00	
Cheese 12 @15c	Wool, ∰ 15 50@60c	
Lard, tried 10%@11c	Wool, ∰ h	
Tallow rough 7 @ 7½0	Codish. duintal. 5.50(a)6.25	
Tallow, tried 10@10%c	Trout, half bbl 4,50@5,00	
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THE PROVISION MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 22—FLOUR—Market dull and heavy, and may be quoted 62 lower, with a very moderate business doing for export and home consumption. At the close there were no buyers at outside quotations. Sales at 6,70 (26.99 for superfine State; \$7,00/27.10 for extra State; \$6,78 (26.99 for superfine Western; \$7,00/27.10 for extra State; \$6,78 (26.99 for superfine Western; \$7,00/27.30 for common to medium extra western; \$7,30/27.13 for shipping brands extra round hooped Ohio, and \$7,50/28.80 for trade brands do,—the market closing dull. Sales of choice extra State were made at \$7,15/27.35. Canadian flour dull, and may be quoted 56 lower; sales at \$7,05/27.15 for common, and \$7,20 (26.39) for goin ferior to choice. Corn meal steady; sales at \$4,20/24.20 for Jersey; \$4,30/24.90 for Brandywine, and \$4,35(24.40) for calculate. Gue the common of the c

BUFFAIO, March 23—FLOUR—The market quiet and a shade easier; sales white wheat double extra Southern Ohio at \$7.50; spring extras \$5,00@,75; white wheat double extras Southern Ohio at \$7.50; spring extras \$5,00@,75; white wheat double extras \$7,500,00.

GRAIN—Wheat quiet and inactive; no sales ro ported. Corn—The market quiet, and only selling in \$1.25; screen for \$7.50; barged; held at 70c round lots. Oats—\$1.50; hand norminal at 50.05c. Barley—Sales State at \$1.00; hand \$1.35 Ohio and Illinois \$1.45@,1.47. Rye—Nominal at 50.05 for Chicago and Milwaukee. Retail \$1,00.

PRAS—Sales 400 bush. Canada at 90c.

BEANS—Firmer; sales at \$2.20; prices range from \$2.25@, 2.00 for fair to choice.

SEEDS—Quiet; quoted at \$2.25@,2.00 for timothy; \$5.50 for clover, and \$4.50 for flax seed.

PROVISIONS—The market quiet; mess pork, heavy, \$15.00 (2016.0); light mess \$15.00(215.50). Smoked Hams \$9.50 (2016.0); light mess \$15.00(215.50). Smoked Hams \$9.50 (2016.0) with fair demand. Smoked shoulders at 65.50. Dried and smoked beef \$9.00(211.00); beef hams \$16.00. White fish and trout in half bbls at \$4.500.500.

CHENSE—The market quiet but firm; there has been only limited demand during the week, and prices are quoted ranging from 14%, 2016c.

THE CATTLE MARKETS. NEW YORK, March 17.—The current prices for the week at all the markets are as follows:

BERF CATTLE.

Ordinary quality 9,50@10,25 Common quality 8,50@9,50 Inferior quality 8,00@3,50
COWS AND CALVES.
First quality \$45,00@50,00 Ordinary quality 40,00@45,00 Common quality 50,00@35,00 Inferior quality 25,00@28,00
VEAL CALVES.
Ordinary 5½@6 c Common 5 @5½c Inferior 4½@5 c
SHEEP AND LAWDS
Extras
Inferior
Corn-fed SWINE. 6 @5% Do. Light and Medium .64@6 c Still Hogs .5 @5%
5 @5½c

ALBANY, March 23.—Beeves—As we expected, in view the sharp speculation that has marked the trade during le last three weeks, prices have grain advanced from 200

o 50c \$100 lbs, live weight.	ve again adya	aced from 30c
Premium (per 100 lbs)	This week.	Last week. \$5.90@6.25
First quality	··· 5,50@6,10	5,10@5,70 4,25@4,75
Third quality	3,70@4,40	3,30@3,90
SHEEP —Demand continues g and prices keep pace with th		
normaton an Catandar mana Ci	dauvance in	seef. The rul-

ing rates on Saturday were & (300 to the outside for good fine-wooled averaging 100@110 fbs. There were none on sale at the close. Hoss—Receipts about 11,000; demand continues fair and prices remain about the same as last week.—Alas & Arpus.

CAMBRIDGE, March 13.—Whole number of Cattle at narket 636; about 550 Beeves, and 36 Stores, consisting of Working Oxen, Milch Cows, and one, two and three year

old.

MARKET BEEF—Prices, Extra \$8,00@5,50; first quality \$7, 00@1,50; second do. \$6,50@6,75; third do. \$5,00@5,25.

WORKING OXEN—\$ pair—None.
COWS AND CALVES—\$30, \$70@44.
SCHES—Yearlings, none; two years old, \$20@21; three years old, \$22@24.
SEEF AND LAMBS—2150 at market; prices in lots, \$5,00@6,50; each; extra, \$7,60@6,00.

HINES—\$3,00@4,00 each.
CALF SKINS—None. Yeal Calves—None.

A SUNS OF

THE WOOL MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 21.—The market is less active and prices seem a shade easier. Buyers look for a material decline in exchange and expect heavy importations of was an adventured and lower prices to follow. Importers and dealers are more anxious to realize, and seem willing to submit to lower rates. Sales, however, are limited and we cannot materially alter our quotations. Particular transactions since our last report have been chiefly on private terms, and we have no details to report.

no details to report.
Seveny Fleece, #2 fb. 90705e
Saxony Fleece, \$\Percept{R}\$ fb. 90@95c American full-blood Merino 85@90
iio half and unree-quarter do socass
Do Native and quarter do
Extra pulled
Superfine do
No. 1, do
Do common do sucado l
Peruyian washed 40(0.50 Chilian Merino unwashed 40(0.43
Chilian Merino unwashed40.043
Do Mestiza do 36@37 Valparaiso do .27@28 South American Merino unwashed .36@38
Valparaiso do27@28
Bouth American Merino unwashed
Do do Mestiza do 28@84 Do do common washed 28@30 Do do Entre Rios washed 30@32
Do do Entre Rios washed 30@32
Do do do do unwashed21@23
Do do Cordova washed 48@50
Cape Good Hope unwashed 46@47 East India washed 46@60
East india washed45@60
African unwashed
Do washed 45(0.55 Mexican unwashed 32(0.35
Toyag
Texas ————————————————————————————————————
Do weahed 49@48
Syrian unwashed
BOSTON, March 18.—Fleece and pulled Wool have been
comparatively quiet since our last, and the sales have been
moderate.
Saxony and Merino, fine
Do do full-blood92/2093
Do do half and three-fourths 85@91
Common
Pulled, extra95@\$I
Do superfine
D) No. 1
Smyrna washed
Do unwashed 22@36
Syrian

Married.

On the 18th inst, at Somerset, Niagara Co., N. Y., by the Rev. J. N. Van Wagner, LORIN W. DICKINSON, and Miss LORINDA PLUSE, of same place.

四ied

In Springdale, Iowa, March 12th, CORA ALICE, only laughter of E. R. and C. E. Smith, aged 4 years and 9 mos Near Sheboygan Falls, Wis., March 10th, of diphtheris EMMA M., eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Ash-CRAFT, aged 4 years, 10 months.

New Advertisements.

ADVERTISING TERMS, in Advance-Thirty-FIVE CENTS A LINE, each insertion. A price and a half for extra display, or 52½ cents per line of space. Special Notices (following reading matter, leaded,) 60 cents a line

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TAHEITAN CANE SEED.—The undersign ed offer for sale a selected lot of the above named seed; the purest in the market, and of tested vidatity. In our last year's experiments, (with our improved implements, and method of manufacturing,) its juices granulated no less readily and fully than is usually reported of the Southern Sugar Caue. We forward this seed, postage paid, at one dollar per pound.

Address

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Liebig's Letters on Chemis-Liebig's Letters on Chemistry made Michardson's Hive & Honey-Bee, Wilson on Flax.

Perzons on the Vine,

Richardson on the Horse, Richardson on the Horse, Richardson on Manures, Tophan's Chemistry made Learnes, Tophan's Chemistry made Researchen's Am. Kitchen Gardener, Rose Cultivation, Vine Dresser's Manual.

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AND REGISTER OF IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1862:

EMBRACING

POLITICAL, CIVIL, MILITARY, AND SOCIAL AF-FAIRS; PUBLIC DOCUMENTS; BIOGRAPHY; STATISTICS; COMMERCE; FINANCE; LITERATURE; SCIENCE; AGRICULTURE; AND MECHANICAL

INDUSTRY.

The very favorable reception given to the volume for the preceding year has induced us to make special efforts in the preparation of this one. Its contents embrace the material and intellectual progress of the year, particularly in this country; the important dvil and political measures of the Federal and State Governments, an accurate and minute history of the strangles of the great ramies and the many battles, illustrated with maps of the country and plans of the actions taken from official copies; the proceedings in the Confederate States to maintain the war and scatabilist their government; the debates of the Federal and Confederate Congresses; the financial measures of the government, the commerce, &c. also, the progress of foreign nations, including the Mexican Expedition; the ignominic Unina; the cautions march of the Russians into Persia, their intigues in Affanuistan, and their march to the Chinese frontier; the Cochin China War; the distress of the Lancashire operatives; the stoppage of the looms of Mulhouse and Lyons; also the developments in the physical sciences; the progress of literature, mechanical inventions and improvements; the religious statistics of the world, and biographical sketches of the eminent persons deceased in 1832.

The contents are arranged in an alphabetical order, and

in 1932.

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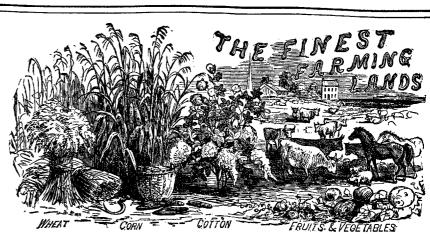
One mile east of the village of Peoria, being in the town of York, Livingston Co., N. Y; well known as the blake Farm, and among the best grain-growing farms in the Genesee Valley. It consists of 142 acres, nicely whater for the farm. Six acres of fine orchard, from whater for the farm. Six acres of fine orchard, from whater for the farm. Six acres of fine orchard, from whater for the farm. Six acres of excellent apples. Pears, Quinces, Cherries, Grapes, &c., in abundance. About fifty acres wheat, 38 of clover, and 20 of new land pasture on the farm. Also an excellent wood lot. The farm will be sold at a bargain. Terms easy; title perfect.

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they have never, in a single instance, failed to take the
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instruments in this country was to one of these. Prices of
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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

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"Factory" Cheese-Making. More economical in use than steam, and much less expensive in cost. Sizes varying from 34 to 355 gallons on hand and ready for delivery,—larger sizes for Factory use made to order.

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Send for Circular containing description, size and price list, directions for using, &c., to Genesee St., Utica, N. Y., WM. RALPH & CO., 133 Genesee St., Utica, N. Y., Manufacturers and Dealers, wholesale and retail, in Dairyman's Tools, and Implements. Vats carefully packed for shipment.

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BEST FAMILY SEWING MACHINE. WHEELER & WILSON

ANUFACTURING CO. were awarded the First Premium the Great International Exhibition, London, 1862.

Principal Office, 505 Broadway, N. Y. 8. W. DIBBLE, Agent, Rochester, N. K. 665

THE SOLDIER'S LETTER.

How sweet when night her misty veil Around the weary soldier throws, And twilight's golden skies grow pale, And wooing winds invite repose, To sit heside the watchfire's blaze. Where friendly comrades nightly come, To sing the songs of other days, And talk of things we love at home

Of those we love who list and wait, Beneath the same benignant moon, The postman's step behind the gate, With tidings from the absent one; And beaming smiles their thoughts reveal, And love is mirrored in their eyes, As eagerly they break the seal, Elate with joy and glad surprise

But dearer yet the shout that rings In exultation loud and clear, To hail the messenger who brings Letters from home and kindred dear: And 'neath the pale moon's smiling light The soldier reads his treasure o'er, And through the hours of silent night, In dreams he visits home once more

In dreams he sits beside the hearth, Afar from camps and traitor's wiles. And deems the dearest spot on earth Where loving wife and mother smiles; And many a face almost forgot, And many a word so fondly spoken, Come flitting round the soldier's cot, Till the sweet dream, at morn, is broken

O ye who love the soldier well-Bid him be hopeful, brave and gay; Better he knows than you can tell, The perils that attend his way. Some word of hope in battle's hope. While striving with a vengeful foe, Has nerved the soldier's arm with power To strike or ward the impending blow.

The soldier brave is often prone To deem himself forgotten quite, A wanderer on the earth alone When friends at home neglect to write. Then cheer him oft with words like these, And thus your deep affections prove; Let every keel that plows the seas Bear him some message full of love [Holbrook's U. S. Mail.

The Story-Teller

THE SOLDIER'S LETTER.

BY T. S. ARTHUR.

"When did you hear from Thomas?"

A young lady had stopped at the door of a small house, standing in the outskirts of a village in Pennsylvania, and asked this question of a woman who sat working on a coarse garment.

"It's more than two months since I've had a word from him, replied the woman, in a halftroubled, half-complaining tone. Then rising, she added, "Won't you come in, Miss Annie?" The young lady accepted the invitation, and

as she took the proffered chair, said: "Two months is a long time not to have heard

from your son, Mrs. Rogers. Where is he?" "The last news I had came from Williamsburg just after the battle. He sent me three or

four lines, to say that he wasn't hurt." "And you've heard nothing since?" "Nothing, Miss Annie. He may be dead, or

a prisoner, for all I know. Oh dear! dear! It's worrying the very life out of me." "When did you write to him last?" inquired

the young lady.

Mrs. Rogers moved uneasily, and a shame-flush

covered her face, as she replied: "I haven't taken a pen in my fingers these five

years. They're all cramped with hard work, and I couldn't write fit to be seen."

"A single line from your hand, Mrs. Rogers, blotted and scrawled though it might have been, would have come to Thomas, in his far away camp, as a most welcome visitor from home. Think of his comrades getting letters by every mail, while there came not a word or a token for him.

"Oh! but Miss Annie, I've sent him two pairs of stockings knit with my own hands; and he's never so much as let me know that he received them.

"A letter should have gone with them," said the young lady. "The stockings, if they ever reach him, were but dumb signs; a loving sentence, even if he had been obliged to spell it out slowly from among ill-formed words, would have spoken to his heart, and warmed it with a living pleasure. Write to your son, Mrs. Rogers. Nothing that you can send him will do Thomas half so much good as a letter from his mother. A single line will be precious. Don't let him any longer have the feeling, among his comrades, that he alone has no one to care for him, or send him sweet remembrances."

"I don't believe I can write, Miss Annie," said

Mrs. Rogers.

"Try. Have you pen and ink?" "No, Miss. As I told you just now, I haven't had a pen in my fingers these five years; and I don't believe I could compose a letter, even if I had

the skill to write it out." "You must try, Mrs. Rogers. It will never do a letter from home. I have a spare inkstand, and will step around for it."

And the young lady arose, saying, as she went

"I'll be back again in a little while, with pen, ink and paper. Between us Thomas must have a letter.

On Annie's return with writing materials, Mrs. Rogers, still reluctant to undertake the unaccustomed task of penning a letter, sat down, half per force, and made sundry awkward attempts to form words and sentences, by way of practice, before essaying the epistle which her ardent young visitor had made up her mind should be produced and mailed to the absent soldier

"Very well done! Of course, you can write!" said Annie, encouragingly, as she watched the efforts of Mrs. Rogers. "Now take a sheet of paper, and just think you are talking to him. Write down whatever you would like to say, and say just as much about home, and what is going on here, that you think would interest him, as you can call to mind. Take your time to it, and don't feel hurried. I'll come around again in the course of an hour, and see what you've done. Then we'll both go over it, and I'll make all the corrections needed, so that you can copy it out fairly. My word for it, there'll be a nice letter for Thomas, that will do his heart good."

In an hour Annie came back, as she had promised. Mrs. Rogers had filled two pages of paper with rather badly spelled sentences; but the matter was all right, as far as it went. Annie made all needed corrections, and then waited until Mrs. Rogers had copied the letter, which she folded and directed for her.

"Shall I mail it for you?"

"If you please," said Mrs. Rogers. And the young lady went away, taking the letter. Since learning that Thomas Rogers, whom she very well remembered, had not once received a letter from his mother, although he had been absent for over a year, she had felt pity and concern for the young man, whom she remembered | Rogers, risking his own life, saved that of his as a little wild in his habits before he went into the army. This had made her more urgent that the mother should do her duty. The letter was as well as could have been expected under the circumstances. Still, as Annie's thoughts went off to the distant camp, and dwelt on the young man's particular case, it did not seem to her all that he needed.

"I will write to him!" she said, as the case (continuing to dwell in her mind) presented itself in stronger and stronger light. "He was once, for a short time, my scholar in Sunday school, and that will be my warrant."

So she wrote him a brief, but pointed and earnest letter, touching his duties as a soldier and as a man. Not in a superior, lecturing tone; but in a kind, suggestive way, and in language calculated to touch his feelings and arouse his better nature.

An officer sat in his tent near Gaines' Mills, Virginia, three days previous to the assault on the right wing of our army before Richmond.

"In the guard-house again!" he said, speaking to the orderly, who had just submitted his report. There was regret, as well as discouragement in his voice. "What are we to do with the man?"

"You will have to order severer punishment. Simple confinement in the guard-house is of no use."

"He has in him all the elements of a good soldier," remarked the officer. "No one goes through the manual better. He is perfectly drilled; is quick, steady and brave. At Williamsburg he fought like a lion. I cannot forget that to his prompt courage I owe my life. No-no-not severer punishment. We must bear with him a little longer. What is his offense now?"

"He was away at roll-call, and his report of himself is unsatisfactory. The man is restless and brooding, and sometimes so ill-natured as to make trouble with his comrades."

The officer sat in thought for some time. He was about speaking, when a sergeant came in with letters, a mail having been received. In running his eyes over them, the officer noticed two directed to Thomas Rogers, the soldier reported as in the guard-house. He held them for a moment in his hand, and then laid them aside with his own letters.

"Let me see you in half an hour," he said to the orderly. "We must do something to reform this man. There is good in him, if we can only discover the way to make it active."

The orderly retired, and the officer became occupied with his letters. After getting through with them, word was passed to have Rogers brought before him. He came under guard, but the guard was dismissed, and the man was alone with the officer, who regarded him more in pity than in anger. The soldier was a young man, not over twenty years of age; of slender form, but compactly built and muscular. Even under disgrace, there was a manly, self-poise about him that did not escape the officer's notice.

"Under arrest again! What have you to say for yourself?" The officer tried to be stern, and to speak with severity.

The soldier did not answer; but a look, halfdogged, half-defiant, was visible in his face.

"I shall have to deder severer punishment." There was no reply; only a slight change in attitude and expression of countenance, that indicated a bracing of mind and nerve for more endurance.

"When did you hear from home?" asked the officer, who did not remember to have seen a letter addressed to Rogers until the receipt of that day's mail.

"Not for a long time," was answered, and with apparent surprise at so unexpected a question.

"Here are two letters to your address." And the officer, who had the letters in his hand, held them toward the soldier, who started, with in the world for Thomas to go any longer without | a strange look of surprise and bewilderment and received them with a hand that trembled visibly.

"Sit down and read them," said the officer. pointing to a camp-stool. The man sat down, showing considerable excitement, and after looking curiously at the delicately written superscriptions, opened one of the letters and glanced it through hurriedly.. The officer's gaze was on him, and he read in his countenance the rapid play of various emotions. Then he opened the second letter, which was read twice. As he finished it, he drew his hand hastily across his

"From home?" queried the officer. The young soldier stood up, giving the usual

ative. The officer noticed that his face was graver and paler; and that all the late look of dogged defiance had faded out.

"And now, Rogers, what have you to say for yourself? Will you drive us to a severer punishment? You know, as well as I do, that discipline must be enforced." There was remonstrance, not anger, in the officer's voice.

"Only this," answered the soldier, humbly, yet in a firm voice. "I have done wreng, and am sorry. Forgive me, and if I break a rule of the service again, shoot me."

"Spoken like a man and a soldier! I will trust you, Rogers," said the officer; and, dismissing the guard, he sent him to duty.

Two days afterward came that overwhelming assault upon our right wing, and on the next day the terrible conflict at Gaines' Mills. Among the coolest and bravest in all the fierce battles that followed, and among the most enduring in the long nights of retreat, was young Rogers. He was with that body of infantry which lay at the bottom of Malvern Hill, under our deathdealing batteries, the fire of which staggered and then drove back the rebel masses, whose desperate courage in that maddest of all assaults, was worthy of a better cause. Twice during this series of battles, as once at Williamsburg, had Captain; and in several of the conflicts he had shown such coolness and courage, that positions were saved, which, but for the infusion of his spirit into his comrades would have been lost.

One day, about three weeks after the letters were written to Thomas Rogers, the young lady whom we called Annie, received a reply from the soldier, dated, "In Camp, near Harrison's Landing." It ran thus:

"A good angel must have put it into your heart to send me that letter: for it came just in time to save me. I was in the guard-house for neglect of duty and disobedience of orders. I was reckless and desperate. All my comrades were getting word from home-letters came to them by every mail-but no one wrote to me, or seemed to care for me. So I lost respect for myself, grew sour, unhappy, and indifferent to duty. But your kind words-your talk about the past time when you were my teacher-your strong appeal to my better nature—your calm, true, sweet sentences, dear lady! stirred my heart with new feelings, and filled my eyes with tears. I was before my Captain, in disgrace, when your letter was placed in my hands. He waited for me to read it; saw that I was touched, and, like a true man, that he is, forgave my offense. Then and there, I resolved to die sooner than swerve a hair's-breadth from duty. I have been in fearful battles since, but God has kept me from harm. To-day, for bravery and faithful service in these battles, I have been made a Second Lieutenant. Thanks, thanks to you, kind, good

Fair reader, is there not, in some far-away camp, a soldier who would be made better or happier through a letter from your hand? Think! If there is, write to him. Brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, write often to the soldiers who have gone out from your homes. They are in the midst of temptations, trials, suffering and privations, and your words of love. your tenderly manifested interest, your exhortations to courage and duty, cannot fail to do them good .- Peterson's Magazine.

friend! You have saved one who came nigh

being lost!"

Wit and Kumor.

MIND WHAT YOU SAY BEFORE CHILDREN.-A gentleman was in the habit of calling at a neighbor's house, and the lady had always expressed much pleasure in seeing him. One day, just after she had remarked to him her happiness from his visit, the little boy entered the room. The gentleman took him on his knee, and

"Are you glad to see me, George?"

"No sir," replied the boy. "Why not, my little man?"

"Because mother don't want you to come," said George.

Here the mother looked daggers at her little son, and her face became crimson, but he saw

"Indeed, how do you know that?"

"Because she said yesterday she wished that old bore would not call again!"

The gentleman's hat was soon in requisition, and he left with the impression that "truth is mighty and will prevail."

ARTEMUS NONPLUSSED.—In his new lecture Artemus Ward makes some fun of Dr. Winship, the New England "strong man," who advertises that he will lift twelve able-bodied men at one time, at the close of his lecture. "Artemus" travesties the muscular New Englander, by facetiously inviting twelve agreeable young ladies to the platform, stating that he will lift them one at a time or "perish in the attempt." That's pretty good; but out in Indiana, at a town rejoicing in the name of Nolan, the girls rather more than got even with him, for when he extended the aforesaid invitation, twelve fair damsels solemnly arose and advanced to the platform, and demurely arranged themselves to be "lifted." The audience gave a regular Hoosier scream, but the showman failed to see anything particularly funny. He didn't lift 'em.

AN INCIDENT IN A RAILROAD CAR. - Monster -I'm afraid I'm sitting on your crinoline, ma'am! Affable young lady-O, never mind, sir, it's of no consequence; you can't hurt it. Monster-No, ma'am, it's not that; but the confounded thing hurts me!

A Young lady who had lost her beau, was advised to hang up her fiddle. She said the advice sign of respect, as he answered in the affirm- did great violence to her heart strings.

Corner for the Young.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker MYTHOLOGICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 11 letters.

My 2, 7, 4, 7, 8, 3 was the goddess of gardens and or-My 6, 10, 5, 3, 9, 1, 11 were the nymphs of streams and

fountains. My 9, 5, 7, 8, 1 was a nymph, and the mother of Venus. My 4, 1, 4, 8, 7, 6 was king of Ethiopia, the son of Tithonus and Aurora, killed by Achilles for assisting Pri-

am, and changed into a bird by request of his mother. My 9, 5, 11 was a title of Pluto, and god of the Gauls. My whole is the name of a distinguished hero of Greece J. H. T.

Answer in two weeks.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker. ANAGRAMS OF OFFICERS NAMES.

Can Sue rob doil. Find wilties cot. Hank helly cer. Come on jathfr. Ma burnrose beside

Nella C. McGrogbel. O Jose here koph. Jo fit zorp thern.

Washington, Mich., 1863. Answer in two weeks.

RIDDLE OF CHARLES II.

THE following riddle occurs in HEARNE'S MS. Collec-

What's that in the Fire, and not in the Flame? What's that in the Master, and not in the Dame? What's that in the Courtier, and not in the Clown? What's that in the Country, and not in the Town? Answer in two weeks.

> For Moore's Rural New-Yorker. RIDDLE

STRAIGHT as an arrow, swift as the lightning, and bright as a sunbeam, I take my flight to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Monmouth, Ill., 1863. Mar Answer in two weeks.

> For Moore's Rural New-Yorker. MECHANICAL QUESTION.

DETERMINE the center of percussion of a square stick of timber 4 by 7 inches, and 103 feet long. Gouverneur, N. Y., 1863.

Answer in two weeks.

FRENCH PUZZLE.

PERHAPS the RURAL would like to puzzle its French eaders with this:

Pir vent venir Un vient de le.

Murray, Orleans Co., N. Y.,

Answer in two weeks.

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS, &c., IN No. 687.

Answer to Historical Enigma:-Martin Luther. Answer to Geographical Enigma: - Harriet Beeche

Answer to Geographical Decapitations: - Thames Lewes, Cape, Snow, Star, Frio, Nash, Van.

Answer to Anagram:-A Sabbath well spent Brings a week of content, And strength for the toils of the morrow; But a Sabbath profaned, Whatever be gained.

Is a certain forerunner of sorrow Answer to Arithmetical Question:- Three at 4 cents each, fifteen 2 for a cent, and two 4 for a cent.

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ROBE. N. MOORE.

Scalue N. Y. March 16, 1863. 00 can remain on mortgage. Sodus, N. Y., March 16, 1863.

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Horse Heads, Chemung Co., N. Y.

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er, Muscat Humburg,
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