

# MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER

AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE RURAL LIFE EXCELSIOR LITERATURE SCIENCE ARTS NEWS

TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

[SINGLE NO. FIVE CENTS.]

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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 departments, and earnestly labors to render the RURAL an eminently Reliable Guide on all the important Practical, Scientific and other Subjects intimately connected with the business of those whose interests it zealously advocates. As a FAMILY JOURNAL it is eminently Instructive and Entertaining—being so conducted that it can be safely taken to the 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.

### "ORIENTAL SUGAR ROOT."

We have received from a Post-Master in Michigan a circular "Highly Important to Farmers and Gardeners,"—so called,—and calling their attention "to the new vegetable called the Oriental Sugar Root, about which there has been so much excitement in Europe for some months past."

The history of this "Oriental Sugar Root," as set forth in this circular, is interesting, and we copy it:

"This root was first discovered to Europeans by C. BRUCE CAMPBELL, Esq., of Edinburgh, Scotland, while traveling in Central Asia, in 1856. The Orientals used it for food as commonly as we do the Irish potato, and Mr. CAMPBELL found it so agreeable to his taste and health that he was induced to inquire into its nature and properties, which led to the most satisfactory results. He found it not only an excellent article for both man and beast, but to contain a saccharine matter of very superior quality which was manufactured into sugar and universally used by the inhabitants. In a climate as cold as Scotland, with the miserable cultivation of the Asiatics, an English acre produced an average yield of about 1,400 *avgas*, or 800 bushels. These facts induced him, on his return to Scotland, to take with him a quantity of seed to experiment upon. He sowed and cultivated the same as with carrots, and met with the best of success; producing over 1,000 bushels to the acre. With an ordinary cider mill and a hand press, he made a superior quality of white sugar, at the rate of twenty pounds to the bushel, by simply boiling and cleansing as the American farmers do the sap of the sugar maple. Last year, Mr. C. planted 40 acres, yielding over 35,000 bushels, from which he manufactured 300,000 pounds of white sugar and fatted 500 bees, making a net profit of \$3,000, (\$15,000). Mr. C. has introduced the Sugar Root until it is quite generally grown in many portions of Europe; and in some districts of France it has entirely superseded the beet for sugar-making purposes," &c., &c.

It is proper for us to say something about this wonderful root; and we want to say,

1. No man, with common sense, it seems to us, could read the above without being convinced at once that the party who publishes this circular, with a view to get orders for seed, is attempting a swindle. The marvelous qualities of this root are told with far too few qualifications to insure it against the incredulity of thinking men. But unfortunately for themselves there is too large a class of men who do not think; and for this class we add what follows.

2. It is a little strange to men who see English, Irish, Scotch and French Agricultural papers weekly, that there should have been such an excitement in Europe over this "root," and these papers have taken no notice of it. We have seen no evidences of such "excitement," and yet we see said papers. We do not believe there has been any such "excitement;" and, if what is asserted concerning the product of this root in sugar, as grown by Mr. CAMPBELL, is true, we think the English and Scotch Agricultural Press would have had something to say concerning it.

3. Again, Mr. C. is not the first traveler who has traveled in Central Asia, (if, indeed, there is any such man as this "C. BRUCE CAMPBELL, Esq.," and yet no one within our knowledge has ever mentioned such a wonderful esculent. We don't believe the Asia story.

5. The author of this circular has drawn his figures of the yield per acre a little too strong. For instance, he asserts that 40 acres planted by Mr. CAMPBELL, yielded over 35,000 bushels, which would be over 875 bushels per acre. And each bushel yields twenty pounds of "a superior quality of white sugar!" Then 875 bushels multiplied by 20 pounds, would give the nice little product of 17,500 pounds of sugar as the product of one acre!—of *white sugar!* Wonder if it is not as transparent as glass, too? It seems to us it must be?

6. But in the publication of terms for packages of seed, he has been more shrewd. For, as an additional inducement to purchasers of seed—he having only a limited quantity, and the above recommendations being scarcely an inducement—he offers two excellent publications—the *Illustrated Annual Register of Rural Affairs*, and the *Country Gentleman*—as premiums for orders for seed. That is a very good movement—far more ingenious than the story of the history of the "Oriental Sugar Root" itself. The coupling the names of this respectable annual and valuable journal with the humbug will doubtless deceive a few, but we feel safe in saying such use is not authorized by the publishers of said Annual and Journal.

7. It is significant, too, that the proprietor of this seed does not use the Agricultural Journals as mediums for enlightening the Agricultural world upon the marvelous merits of this "Sugar Root." No communications have ever appeared in an American journal concerning it, and no extracts from foreign journals either. No one has seen an advertisement of it in an American Agricultural Journal. Why not? Because it is too transparent to withstand the looking into that would be given it. We have devoted it this much attention, because we have reason to believe that this circular has been extensively propagated through the West. We will be glad to furnish the police of our neighboring city, Utica, with the name of this would-be great public benefactor, and suggest that his seed operations be looked into officially.

### WESTERN EDITORIAL NOTES.

SOME HINTS FOR GREEN SHEPHERDS.—NO. 1.  
TO-DAY I have been on both sides of the line dividing Illinois and Wisconsin. I have been riding about with shepherds, visiting shepherds, and looking at flocks of fine-wool sheep—some pure bred Spanish Merino, and some Grades.

Within the past two weeks I have visited some most excellent flocks, talked with and listened to conversations between some of the best flock-masters in the West. This has enabled me to glean many items of interest—especially to beginners in this branch of husbandry. There are plenty of ambitious men who have invested very heavily in blooded sheep. Some have been as far East as Vermont to get the wool pulled over their eyes, and paid tremendous prices for having it done in a scientific manner. Many of these men will find it difficult to keep the sheep they may have purchased up to the *showing point* to which the Vermont shepherds may have pushed them. Some of them will have discovered that it is not the simplest thing in the world to "tend sheep." Such men will thank me if I throw them some of the crumbs of experience which fell from the lips of these men of the West. To old shepherds, much that I write may seem silly; and doubtless the parties to whom I listened, and whom I may quote, would hardly think it worth while to print what I now write. Hence I give no names as authority, but give what I hear, simply, together with some things I know.

#### ABOUT WASHING SHEEP.

There has been not a little discussion as to whether sheep should be washed or not. There are two sides to the question, and they are very frankly discussed. There are few men who do not assert or concede that more or less injury to the sheep is done annually, by washing. And the advantage is mythical in many instances, especially when sheep are driven long distances in the dust, and plunged in a stream with a muddy, miry bottom.

It is dangerous, always, to wash, in the usual manner, a highly fed animal. Men who breed Spanish and French Merinos pure, and feed the bucks high, rarely or never wash them. They are usually sheared without washing. And the danger resulting to a highly fed animal is doubtless one cause why the Vermont Wool-Grower's Association has resolved not to wash their flocks. For there is, probably, no class of shepherds in

the country that feed more highly, summer and winter, than those Vermonters,—especially the stock they propose to sell. It is not alone that it injures the animal that prevents shepherds washing their sheep; for some, especially those who want to sell, want to, and do, shear before they could wash. And then, washing injures the appearance of the animal. It checks the flow of the oil, and it does not crust evenly and well.

I hear it urged that the best practice would be to shear the sheep without washing before they are turned out to grass. It is claimed that there is less danger in shearing fine-wooled sheep when their diet is grain and hay, than later in the season, when it is warmer, and the diet is grass.

But there is a great difference in the amount of tare different shepherds are willing to allow on the unwashed wool of their flocks. There can be no uniform rate fixed. The owners of heavy, oily-fleeced Spanish flocks, are willing to give one-third tare. Others, who breed differently, would rather wash than give that amount. And, aside from the danger of injuring the flock, it would be more profitable to do so. And then there is a difficulty about shipping this oily wool unwashed. If shipped in warm weather in sacks, long distances, the sacks rot—will not hold together.

#### HOW TO WASH SHEEP.

Different shepherds have different ways of washing sheep. Some wash in tanks made for the purpose; others in artificial ponds; others under mill tails, in the swift running water. Others drive to streams that are sluggish, and swim the flocks across, back and forth—do not squeeze the fleece at all, nor handle the sheep; others go into the stream with the animal, and wash the fleece by squeezing and working the wool. I find that shepherds whose sheep are bred for oil as well as wool, and whose fleeces crust over, prefer to drive their flocks through the stream, without handling; or if they do handle them, are careful not to squeeze the wool. The approved method is to turn the animal on the back when once in the water, seize both forelegs with the right hand, and the back of the head with the left, and repeatedly plunge the animal in the stream, until it is white; but the hands are not used to squeeze out the dirt. The washing is better done than if the wool is handled,—especially with sheep that are oily and crusted; for squeezing stains the wool, injures the skin, and creates a scurf which affects the appearance of the wool.

#### CARE AND FEEDING.

The secret of success with the successful men is largely to be credited to the care and the feed. Of course, skill in breeding is essential; but without care combined with it, skill as a breeder is of comparatively little value. And too many who are inexperienced, fail in this respect. The man who breeds to sell, also feeds to sell. He feeds to develop what he breeds to produce. If he is unscrupulous, he too often fails to consult the interest of the party to whom he sells. After the money is in his pocket, and the animal is delivered, that is the end of his care concerning that animal. But all men are not of this class; and yet there are few who do not feed well. And care is equally essential—care to properly shelter the animal—feed, regularly, good food—care for the animal's health. I have to-day looked at two flocks that were purchased at the same time, of the same man, bred in the same way, and as nearly alike in all respects as could well be. But the difference to-day is marked. The length and evenness of the staple, the condition of the sheep in one case splendid; in the other, evidence enough that care has been wanting.

#### THE HEALTH AFFECTS THE STAPLE.

The importance of a regular diet and care from exposure, cannot be over-estimated. If the animal is diseased, the staple shows it. If over-fed, the staple is shortened. If not regularly fed and kept in continuous good health, the staple is uneven. And a good shepherd will quickly tell you whether you have fed regularly, and whether your sheep have been healthy, by examining the wool. A reasonable quantity of good common sense, and careful observation of the habits of a flock, will enable a man, with the aid of the written experience of shepherds, to take pretty good care of a flock, and keep it in pretty good health.

#### OVER-FEEDING.

Ambitious young men, who pay big prices for sheep, are apt, sometimes, to kill them with kindness—feed them to death. I have seen a few,

and frequently heard of more cases, where costly sheep have been killed by over-feeding. Some men set apart a sheep or two, or more, which they fit up for showing at Fairs. With these animals they intend to make a reputation. They deem it profitable to sacrifice a few sheep for this purpose. Others, inexperienced, make this sacrifice innocently—suffer losses they can ill afford. There are many men who feed a sheep grain as they would feed it to a hog,—who do not know any better than to feed all the animal will eat. Such men make a great mistake. Instead of increasing the length and weight of the fleece, it shortens the staple. And if fed to a young animal, if it does not kill him outright, permanently injures both the fleece and the physical character of the sheep. Any food beyond a healthful, growing diet, induces malformation of the young animal. He grows out of shape—does not develop as he may have been bred, and as the breeder intended he should, and as he would have done had he been fed with any judgment. Over-feeding makes a young and an old sheep gaunt—shrinks them up as heavy feed gaunts a horse. But, unlike the horse, a change of diet does not change the sheep to the original and natural form. Once gaunt, always so, with sheep.

I heard the question asked of an old and experienced shepherd to-day:—"How much corn ought a buck to have per day?" The reply was:—"There are few bucks that ought to have a whole ear of corn per day. Some will endure that amount of feed. But few young bucks should have it. As they get old they will bear more feed."

In feeding, some regard must be paid to the future usefulness of the animal. A slight indigestion destroys it. The length of life depends upon the character and quantity of the feed. A valuable breeding ewe, or a buck that gets excellent stock, is of too great value to the country to warrant any recklessness in feeding. And the man who intends to make breeding his business, will be very careful not to injure the stock he intends to breed from, in this manner.

#### FEEDING SHEEP TO SHOW.

This has become an art. A shepherd who has not learned it, need not hope to compete with the class of men who have, and who employ this art in preparing their sheep for the show grounds—at least, not if the judges do not happen to be thorough shepherds themselves, and adept in the arts employed, and can look through the finish and distinguish the staple. Show-sheep are often sheared early—earlier by a month or two, or more, than are sheep not intended for exhibition. Then if they are fine-wooled sheep of the oily kind, they are carefully sheltered from the rain and dew. This is done in order that the black crust, so fashionable on this class of sheep, may form, and that the fleece may not be bleached out. If the wool does not have the oil, the unscrupulous shepherd will apply it, and the amount of lamp-black or other substance necessary to form the fashionable crust. And this practice is much more common than it should be, and it is not confined to sheep intended for the fairs, but it is a practice among shepherds who have failed to breed oil with their sheep, and who wish to sell their flock on the reputation which oil would give them. But the shearing early, and oiling, and blacking sheep, is only a part of the art. There is a species of sheep-shearing called

#### "STUBBLE-SHEARING."

This is considerably practiced among a certain class of men who own a certain class of sheep, which they could not sell at prices asked, if their real merit were known. Show-sheep are often stubble-sheared—especially if they are sheared late. This consists in leaving a half-inch or more of the stubble of the old fleece on the sheep's back, in order to show a length of wool that shall astonish and take the judges. Then there are other objects that are effected by stubble-shearing. Precisely the same results are attained as have been before now secured by English breeders, when they have punctured the skin of a Short-horn and made a point where there was none, by filling out the space with air. You know,—or you may not know, but it is a fact,—that certain Vermont breeders of Spanish sheep, (and doubtless breeders in other States,) are getting exceedingly fine collars, or aprons, on the necks of the individual members of their flocks. They are getting necks resembling the French sheep much—wonderfully fine fronts for Spanish sheep. Well, they get big prices for this class of sheep, and it is claimed that they are bred pure, and all that, which is doubted by

some men who know a thing or two. Getting big prices for this class of sheep, it is natural enough that the largely increased demand should be supplied, if possible; and where the apron and collars are not bred upon the necks of the animal, stubble-shearing is resorted to, and the Western importer of fine-wool sheep is supplied with animals showing as fine collars as the best bred of the Vermont sheep, and a *wonderful length of wool on the neck!*

A certain Western breeder visited the Green Mountain State to buy sheep for himself, and received a commission from another gentleman to buy the best Spanish ewe he could get in that State for one hundred dollars. He did so, and to-day I happened to visit the flock-master who owns this one hundred dollar specimen of excellence.

There she stood, with impending fore-top, broad, beckoning collars, and ample apron. The fore-arms were "remarkably bred" as we looked at her, and the flank well filled. But shepherds who have had their "eye-teeth cut," are not content with a superficial and distant examination. The ewe was caught, and the three or four shepherds present each had a look at the Vermont sample.

A caught her and proceeded to lay the wool apart with his fingers, as shepherds know how to do so well—first on the shoulder, then on the side of the barrel, then on the rump, and flank, and fore-arm. Then he explored the depths of the folds, or collars, lifted the apron, and exclaimed, at the length of the wool:

"I tell you, B., there is long wool there. And it is good wool, too. Look here, on this fore-arm. We have not seen any such wool on a sheep to-day. She is going to shear heavy."

"I tell you what," said the purchaser, "that's mighty long wool on a ewe of that age. And it's handsome, too."

B, C and D examined the ewe, and commended her wool, its length, quality, the distribution of oil, &c., &c. An old shepherd, E, had looked her over carefully and silently. He had given no opinion. When the rest had completed their examinations, he said he wanted to look at her again. He did so.

"Now, gentlemen, let me show you a trick which is often very successful. See here; look at the length of the wool here on the rump—see, you don't call that very long, do you? Now look right below here, on the flank—four inches from the other point. How much longer is it here than up there?—a half or three-fourths of an inch. Now look on the fore-arm—a full half-inch longer than in the place last looked at. Now, see here—look at these collars! Here is plenty of wool—some of it, especially on the folds, an inch longer than on any other part of the sheep. What enormous folds, be sure! Suppose, D, the collars of that sheep yonder had been stubble-sheared, as these were, would not her front have been as imposing? See, the head of this animal was not sheared at all when the rest of the body was—if so, only slightly, in order to make her look alike all over. Marvelous points these! That ewe has been slightly stubble-sheared, and will shear more this season than she ever will again if sheared honestly. And her remarkable collars will disappear, never to appear again, if she is sheared as she should be. It is a great trade, gentlemen, but you can see it now as well as I."

And the shepherds, A, B, C and D, did see it; and the writer looked on, listened, and made a note of it for the benefit of men who may hereafter seek sheep with remarkable collars and aprons about their necks.

#### CARE OF SHEEP—FOOT-ROT, &c.

Now that wool is highly esteemed among men, we should look well to our flocks, and so make the most of our opportunities.

Irregular, insufficient, and injudicious feeding is as prevalent as fatal to the sheep. They need their supply of food at right times, in right quantities, and of the proper quality. Sheep should be prepared for, and fortified against, the enervating and relaxing influences of spring weather, by grain seasonably given. They need to be sheltered from all winter storms, and from all severe storms at any season of the year, particularly after washing or shearing. The practice of abandoning sheep to the elements, with no further care "after grass comes," is barbarous, unchristian, and *don't pay*. General debility, colds, coughs, consumption, and a multitude of hereditary diseases, follow in that train. A shed should be in every pasture, or close by, where

the flock can be driven when it storms; unfortunately, sheep don't always know enough to come in when it rains.

Having been recently called a considerable distance to testify in a "court of justice," so called, as to the nature of the "foot-rot," and the possibility of a remedy, and finding that very crude ideas exist on that subject, in spite of "the intelligence of the age," and the general "progress of knowledge," I will give my ideas briefly, for the general good.

1st. Foot-rot can be cured. Whoever doubts it is grossly ignorant, and if his doubts are of long standing, probably hopelessly so.

2d. The cure does not depend so much upon the efficacy of some particular medicine, as upon the general management.

3d. The first thing to do is to yard the flock, and select all that appear unaffected and put them by themselves. With a swab wash their feet between the hoofs with a strong solution of blue vitriol, or diluted nitric acid, or corrosive sublimate dissolved in alcohol, or something that will destroy any infection that may attach to the foot. Put them in a pasture where no diseased sheep have been, and carefully watch the "first appearance of evil." If a sheep appears at all lame remove it at once, and it may be best to re-examine and swab them all after about a fortnight. Watch them close for a few weeks, and don't let any sheep stay in the flock after it shows any signs of being affected.

4th. Carefully examine all the lame sheep; remove with a sharp knife the diseased flesh and loosened horn or hoof, carefully avoiding to cut the live flesh, and then apply blue vitriol, or some other approved remedy, and put the sheep into a dry, clean place. Repeat that process once a week till they are cured—and cure them you can.

Failures occur because people fancy there is some omnipotence in the medicine—whereas much depends upon judicious surgery, and more upon unremitting attention till the cure is complete. Cures will never be effected by semi-annual doctoring. The first application will cure the majority of the cases, but if you wait till they are re-infected before you look to them again, you are back to the starting place; and if you persevere till all are cured but one or two, and leave them to spread the infection, as is very often done, then you will never be rid of the disease. But if you follow it up skillfully, without omission, once every week, you will surely have them sound in from four to six weeks—unless, very rarely, the disease may be dormant for that time in cold weather, and in that case be ready for it when it comes out.

No farmer should ever tolerate the foot-rot in his flock—it is a crime and a disgrace to suffer it to continue year after year. I have knowingly bought it a great many times, but I have waged war upon it unremittingly and successfully.—H. T. B.

WASHING SHEEP.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—As I receive much valuable information from your columns, and desiring to return an equivalent therefore, I wish to say a word, with your permission.

I see that the subject of washing sheep is being discussed pro and con, and that a convention of wool-growers has been called to consider the question. This is a matter in which I feel considerable interest, and I would say that, in my opinion, the time for the proposed change is not well chosen, as wool, if prepared as customary, is certain to rule very high, and if put unwashed, buyers will most certainly take advantage of that fact to depreciate the price of wool below its intrinsic value, and in the end buy the wool for far less money than though farmers had kept on in their usual way. I, for one, will wash my sheep.

And now, allow me to tell you how I do it easily and cheaply, and to advise other sheep-raisers to do likewise. Select a small stream of clear, pure water, and build a dam about four feet high, so as to secure about that much fall. Make a spout three and one-half or four feet broad, for the water to pass through over the breast of your dam. Make a platform of boards to lay your sheep on and go to work. I always wash mine myself, handle them carefully, use no whiskey, and from one to two minutes is long enough for a sheep. You need do nothing but turn them over, as the action of the water will cleanse the wool. I don't know as there is any danger of injuring them, provided, always, they be handled with care. I would far rather wash and shear a sheep than shear it without washing, only considering the work. By the process I have described, sheep will be well washed, as no water touches them but that which is clean.

Take your sheep home, turn them in a clean pasture, and, if the weather is very warm, shear in two weeks—if not very warm, let them run until it becomes so. Hire your shears by the day, and make them do their work well—shear smooth, cut close; and now, mark! tie up your wool yourself, and put up no fleece you would be ashamed to open. Store away in a clean, dark room, and if your wool is good keep it there until you get one dollar per pound, or until you are sure you can't get it.

Now, brother wool-growers, this is my plan, and I propose following it this year. Don't you allow the speculators to pull wool over your eyes by persuading you to shear without washing. We'll try that experiment when wool gets low.

I intended to say something about the management of sheep, sheep-houses, most profitable breeds, &c. but as this is my first correspondence to the RURAL, I will close by saying, keep your sheep dry at this season, and save all the lambs, which should soon make their appearance. Feed well, and don't turn out to grass too soon—let it get a good start before you attempt to pasture. J. G. WALKER. Lexington, Ohio, March 24, 1863.

ABOUT FLAX.—NO. III.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—In my programme, laid down with regard to the manufacture of flax, my second proposition was to show that flax that had ripened its seed was capable of being wrought into the finest fabric.

In number 11 of your present volume, on page 86, I find a communication over the signature of S. W., in which I find that he still adheres to our former prejudice, for he says:—"To grow flax for lint, it should be sown much thicker, and pulled before the seed has well ripened, as they do in Ireland. The Irish farmers sow imported seed. Water-rotting is the true process for preparing flax for lint, but the very little grown in this country for domestic use is generally dew-rotted."

Now, I agree with S. W. in many of his positions, viz., that in raising flax for lint, it should be sown thicker than when cultivated for seed, for several reasons. First, it is found that when sown thick, the size of the fiber is smaller than when sown thin for seed, and the length and quantity, as well as quality, increased, and that water-rotting is the true process for preparing flax for lint. In his position, that the Irish at this time pull their flax before the seed is ripe, or depend upon foreign seed for sowing, I may be allowed to differ, but admit that this was formerly the case. Since the return of Mr. BERNARD from the Netherlands, and the offer of premiums by the Linen and Hempen Board of Ireland for every acre of flax that should be allowed to ripen its seed, I think very little foreign seed has been used in that country.

With regard to sowing thicker for lint, allow me to give a communication which was made to me in 1831, by a practical farmer of Pembroke, Genesee county, N. Y. He says:

"I have, for a few years past, made some experiments in the growing and preparation of flax, and believe, from my own experience, that the Irish mode is decidedly the most advantageous for this country. Water-rotted flax is vastly superior, when the process is performed in water of proper quality; but I think the water of Old Genesee generally too hard to produce a first-rate article." (The water of Genesee county is mostly strongly impregnated with lime.) "Last year I exposed my crop to the equinoctial rain, and in five days the rotting process was finished, and a better article of the kind I have never seen in this country. Our farmers, generally, have imbibed very erroneous notions with regard to the proper quantity of seed to be sown on an acre. From one to two bushels is the common quantity sown. This renders the crop coarse and harsh like hemp. I sowed last year eight bushels per acre, and received at the rate of twelve hundred pounds per acre, of first-rate flax. The ground was in fine order, and the crop pulled when about two-thirds the capsules were formed."

Now, if we add to the above reported crop twenty-five per cent. for the increase by water-rotting, this would show an enormous crop, as compared with Marshall's Report to the Linen and Hempen Board as the average crop of Ireland,—and if to this we add twenty-five per cent. more for the difference in preparing flax for market in the two countries, (which I shall allude to hereafter,) it will go far toward convincing farmers that our soil and climate are favorable for the cultivation of flax.

My third proposition was to show that flax was capable of being spun by machinery at less expense than cotton.

I have already remarked that when I arrived in Ireland, in 1823, they were in a transition state with regard to the cultivation and manufacture of flax. Mr. BERNARD's report of the process pursued in the Netherlands, with regard to the cultivation and preparation of flax, was taking the place of their former process, and a Mr. CROSTHWAIT, an eminent banker of Dublin, had established at Lucan, about seven miles from Dublin, a factory for spinning linen by machinery. This gentleman might, with propriety, be called the pioneer for putting in use machinery for spinning flax, and had he done it during the palmy days of BONAPARTE, would, undoubtedly, have been entitled to the one million of francs offered by him to any person who would invent a competent machine for spinning flax; but as it is, his name should be associated with those of WHITNEY and ARKWRIGHT, as a benefactor of mankind.

On the 12th of July, 1823, in company with Mr. CROSTHWAIT, I visited his manufactory at Lucan. He was so polite as to take me through every part of it, and explain to me the different operations. At this establishment they dressed, spun, wove, bleached, and finished the cloth from five tuns of flax per week. The machinery for spinning was less costly than for spinning cotton. The spindles upon which the flax was spun turned about three thousand times per minute, or rather the flyer which surrounded it, and one girl tended about eighty of them, which spun from one hundred to one hundred and twenty runs per day. Mr. CROSTHWAIT showed me about two hundred tuns of flax, a part of which was Russian, and a part Irish. The Riga flax, he informed me, cost him from fifty to sixty pounds sterling per tun, the Tandarage flax cost him eighty pounds per tun, equal to about eighteen cents per pound, while American dew-rotted flax, in New York, was only worth from eight to ten cents per pound. There was such a difference in the appearance of the flax here seen and any of our dew-rotted flax which I had ever seen in market, that I will attempt to describe it. First, the flax was all water-rotted; next broken by passing between small fluted rollers which only bent in one place at the same time, leaving both ends of the fiber free, consequently the fibers were not broken as when operated upon by our brakes, which are generally formed having two slats on the upper part, which press down between three in the lower part, by which a tension is produced which

breaks a great proportion of the fibers, which draw out in the coarse hatching, and what we call dressing, by which twenty-five per cent. of waste occurs more than in preparing such flax as I saw at Mr. CROSTHWAIT's factory. This flax was simply broken as I describe, the shives or woody part shaken out as clean as may be when it is done up for market, no knife or hatchel used, as with us, to make the flax fine, and the more flat and plated the fiber lies the better they like it.

After the flax is taken from the bale, as imported, the dressing commences. What was termed dressing at this establishment, was what we Yankees would call hatching. When the handful is taken from the bale, it has the receptacles of the capsules on the upper end, the same as ours when it comes from the brake, and also some coarse pieces, not entirely free from shives, at the lower end. The ends only are passed through a hatchel to separate these coarse particles, which are reserved for the manufacture of crash, and goods of that description.

I may as well state that the hatchels used at Mr. CROSTHWAIT's establishment were different from those used by our farming families. The coarsest I saw somewhat resembled those seen in families where they formerly manufactured flax, with this difference, the teeth appeared to be twice as long, according to their size, and of steel, spring-tempered. A board is placed on the backside of the hatchel, coming up to about the middle of the teeth, so that the work is done on the upper half of the teeth, the points of which are made very sharp, and graded down to the size of darning needles; and although I did not see any finer than that, Mr. BERNARD assured me that in the Netherlands they were made as fine as cambric needles, and as delicately sharp. This delicacy of point is necessary for the division of the fiber, which, when separate, is not as large as a human hair,—and yet it is a flexible tube. After the coarse ends spoken of are separated, and the flax passed to a finer hatchel, the operator holds his flax in his right hand, and as he draws it through the teeth, brings his left hand up in front, gathering any broken fibers which may be left projecting in front, drawing them out and laying them down straight at his left side, and so in all after hatching. This they call short flax, and is used for filling, as the longer flax is used for warp; hence there is very little waste in what we call tow. After the flax has been dressed as fine as they wish, it is then fit for the spinning process.

N. GOODSELL.

New Haven, Oswego Co., N. Y., 1863.

FROST AND SNOW UPON HILLS AND IN VALLEYS.

WHY are highlands in a hilly country more subject to snow than the valleys? and in spring and fall less exposed to frost? Thus asks a Pennsylvania correspondent.

Snow occurs earlier in the fall, and continues later in the spring, on high mountains, than on lower hills and in the valleys. In New England we ever hear of the early snow on the summit of the White Mountains, and on the higher tops of the Green Mountains; or, on the summits of the high peaks in the northern part of the State of New York, or the like places in the Alleghany range, than on the low grounds contiguous to these mountains. This takes place earlier in the fall, the further north and higher the mountain summit. The atmosphere is thus proved to be colder as the place is higher. For about each five hundred feet of elevation, in the same circumstances, the temperature is one degree lower. This is true, also, as we ascend in a balloon into the upper regions. Thus, too, we often see snow falling from clouds, which is melted before it reaches the earth. In hilly countries the snow is often seen to cover the hilltops and down their sides to three or four hundred feet above the adjacent valley, from which point only rain fell in the valley, and the line of the snow can be distinctly seen for miles horizontally along the side of the hills. On very high mountains, even near the equator, the snow line in summer is far below their summits. The tropical sun of summer does not prevent this line of perpetual congelation from remaining, though the line is higher on the Himalayas, lower on the Andes, and lower still on the Alps, and on the Rocky Mountains.

The second question is easily answered, also. I have known Indian corn killed by frost in September in a valley, while on the hills, a few hundred feet above, no frost was formed. I once saw the common flowers of many gardens killed by the first frost of autumn, while in a garden, perhaps three hundred feet higher and fully exposed, flowers of the same kind were not touched by frost, as particular examination of them proved none had been formed there.

Dew and frost are formed only in clear and still nights. Then, plants, water, earth, having been more heated by day, and having imparted of their heat to the atmosphere in contact, throw off their caloric by radiating it into and through the air, become colder, and cool the air in contact with them, until dew is formed, or even frost, if the process is carried sufficiently far. At the same time the warmer air of the valley above the plants rises, and the cold and heavier air of the hills settles into the valleys, and when the valley is not wide this effect aids in increasing the cold and frost. In such a deep valley as Franconia, N. H., in the midst of mountains, the great cold is thus produced. But on the moderate hills, the radiation is less, the cooled air, too, settles toward the valleys, and often a perceptible current of air is formed, which effectually prevents the formation of frost.

In the spring, the same causes operate in the same way; but as the climate is cooler on the hills, vegetation is later, and the flowers of the apple, or peach, which may be killed by frost in the valley, are not sufficiently advanced to suffer injury on the hills; or, when they come to be exposed, the increased heat of the season may

prevent the frost on the hills. Should this last not prove to be fact, the flowers on the hills will be destroyed at a later day, when those of the valley have passed the danger.

There may be local causes which operate to prevent the evils of frost. Thus, along the south shore of Lake Ontario there is a fine fruit-bearing country for ten or twelve miles from the lake. Very rarely are the blossoms of the peach killed by frost in this district, as the vapor rising from the lake is converted into hazy clouds, and no frost is formed. A few more miles at the south the sky remains clear, and the blossoms are frozen.—C. D.

RURAL EXPERIENCES.—NO. IX.

PROFITS OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF STOCK.

CALVES are probably the most unprofitable stock that farmers keep; for this reason, they are not particular as to what they breed from, forgetting that "like produces like."

Farmers who raise calves would find it to be a good investment to pay one dollar, or even five dollars, for the use of an animal whose stock, when four years old, will be worth double that of some cheap, inferior animal.

It will pay to raise good calves; and the way to raise such is to have a good one to start with; feed him regularly, and not too much at a time, teach him to eat bran, slops, cabbage leaves, &c., and keep the feeding up till he goes into winter quarters, which should be warm, but not too confined, give good hay with a mess of something every day, and occasionally a handful of oil-cake meal, which will keep the lice from destroying his comfort and growth—the main object is to keep them growing, and you will have calves that will make cows and oxen that you will not be ashamed of.

Sheep,—who will deny that they are not profitable,—with this as with all other kinds of stock, it pays to keep the best, and in the best possible manner.

Counting care and cost, think they are as profitable stock as a man can keep, if he likes it, if not, let them alone and keep something he does like.

Swine.—Considering the price of nails, the scarcity of lumber and labor, why will some people continue to keep the land-pike, tear-to-pieces, squealing breed, at a cost of more than double the short-nosed, short-legged, quiet disposition pig?

Think the best way to make pork is to take such a pig and put into pen and yard, and feed well until you kill him.

It may pay some to winter pigs, but it does not us, had rather make beef and mutton of grain than pork.

Poultry, unlike most animals, the greater the number the smaller the profits accordingly. It pays to keep from fifteen to thirty on every farm if a man has somewhere beside his wagon-house for them to roost. As to the breed, the laying kind suits us best, which are Creoles and Hamburgs. They are not good to eat, but will lay if you feed them well. Think it better to sell the eggs and buy your chickens than to raise them; for the eggs that are spoiled, and the chickens that are caught and die, would, when the eggs were good, buy the chickens you raise, and you are minus your time and lots of dough.

For full particulars about poultry you will be obliged to take a trip to Clinton, Oneida Co.

OBSERVATION.

Near Brewerton, Onon. Co., N. Y., 1863.

Inquiries and Answers.

FOOT ROT IN SHEEP.—Just now I am in want of the best remedy for the foot rot in sheep. Will you please to give it in your next issue, if convenient, and much oblige me, and I trust many of your other subscribers.—O., Onondaga, N. Y.

The best and cheapest remedy for foot rot, when severe, is an application of butter of Antimony, with a swab, to the diseased parts after they have been completely laid bare by the removal of portions of the hoof which cover them. This is best where nearly all fall. Apply once a week or fortnight in hot weather, according to circumstances—and say once a month in winter. Do not apply too freely, for it is a burning remedy. For slight cases, solutions of blue vitriol are most used—sometimes with oil, sometimes with water. If with the former, the vitriol must be thoroughly pulverized, and be in the oil some days before use. The oil helps keep off water, but in other respects is not particularly useful. Blue vitriol is not a burning caustic, and wet grass, &c., wash it out of the feet before it has exerted its full effect. The feet of sheep should be kept dry at least 36 hours after applying it.

"NEW ENGLAND HARVESTER."—Will you or some of your many contributors give what information you can concerning the relative value of the "New England Harvester" compared with other machines—its durability, &c., and oblige a large number interested.—SUBSCRIBER, Cooper, Mich.

We can say nothing concerning this Harvester, because we have never before heard of it—and we have seen a great many machines. It is well to test a new machine thoroughly before purchasing. We would not buy a reaper whose reputation was not thoroughly established, unless we purchased conditionally.

HOW MUCH MILK FOR A LB. OF CHEESE.—M. H., No. Jura, inquires "how much milk by measure (also by weight), is required to make a pound of cheese."—By records kept at some of the cheese factories in Oneida Co., it appears that a pound of cured cheese has been made from a beer gallon of milk. We understand an effort is being made to get at the weight of milk as accurately as possible by the Imperial beer and wine gallon. In small dairies it has taken five quarts, wine measure, to make a lb. of cured cheese. The point is not yet definitely settled.

SEEDING WITH CLOVER.—"A Reader of the RURAL at Morrisville," has a piece of light, sandy land which he wishes to seed with clover. He "wishes to know if it would be more likely to live through the drought of summer if no grain is sown with it."—We think not. We should sow spring rye, and seed with that crop, rolling when the rye plant is well up, sowing plaster as soon as the young clover plant is in the fourth leaf. Land so treated will stand a pretty severe drought.

BEANS.—A. S., of Elmira, N. Y., says:—"Please inform a young farmer the best mode of planting beans, and what kind yields the best and sells for the most in market, the mode of gathering, and average yield per acre."—Our correspondent is referred to H. T. B.'s article "About Beans" in RURAL of 4th inst.

Rural Notes and Items.

THE SEASON IS BACKWARD—for "Winter lingers in the lap of Spring," and so tenaciously that earth, sky and atmosphere appear very Decemberish. March was unusually cold, with frequent and heavy snow storms—more unpleasant than either of the winter months—and April has thus far been frigid and unpropitious. On Sunday last nearly six inches of snow fell, and the sleighs were in motion—the temperature and snow indicating mid winter rather than April. And as we write (A. M. of 7th,) a snow storm prevails, and the almanac must be consulted to prove that it is really Spring. Some city people say it is very healthy weather, etc., but we opine that soil cultivators would prefer that which we trust will soon be vouchsafed—warm and pleasant weather, suitable for opening the campaign in field, orchard, garden, etc.

NEW WORK ON FLAX CULTURE.—In order to meet the wants of thousands of farmers who propose to try flax growing the ensuing season, and are seeking information thereupon, we have made arrangements to issue in a week or two—as early as the 16th or 20th of April—a small manual containing all necessary information on the subject of Flax Culture. The work will contain an able Essay, comprising full and practical directions, so that any intelligent reader can readily comprehend and practice the proper mode of culture, etc. The author of the Essay—Wm. NEWCOMB, Esq., of Rensselaer County—has had over thirty years experience as a flax grower, thoroughly understands the whole subject, and can properly impart the knowledge he possesses. The work will also contain the series of able articles on the Culture and Manufacture of Flax in the United States, recently commenced in the RURAL, from the pen of N. GOODSELL, Esq. [These articles will thus be given in the book before they are issued in the paper.] In addition to these valuable papers the work will comprise much other useful and timely information on the subject of Flax Culture and Manufacture, and include several illustrations. See advertisement.

A NEW INVENTION FOR HORSEMEN.—Is entitled Dodge's Patent apparatus for holding a horse's tail in position, after being pricked or nicked. We have received from the inventor, a circular giving illustrations, and describing the *modus operandi* of this invention, and from the examination we have given it, are very favorably impressed with its humanity and usefulness. If men will insist upon "setting up" the tails of their horses, it is important that it should be done with as little suffering to the animals as possible, and no one who has seen a horse, on a hot day, confined to a stall with his tail tied up by means of a pulley and a load of brick, can fail to have wished some more humane method of accomplishing the end might be devised. By Mr. DODGE's plan, the tail, instead of being pulled up by the hair at its end, is fastened by a rod, around which all the hair of the tail is lifted, and as this rod is kept at the desired angle by straps attached to a sort of saddle, the horse is at liberty to assume any position he may choose, without having the wound pulled upon. The invention seems also well adapted to secure a straight tail, which is a desideratum, we believe. We commend it to the attention of all interested, and have no doubt that the inventor, Mr. HAMPTON DODGE, (of the firm of CHERSEMAN & DODGE, Livertmen,) Buffalo, N. Y., will furnish any needed information regarding it.

WOOL GROWERS' CONVENTION.—The Wool Growers of Western New York met in Convention at the Court House, Rochester, on the 2d inst. Though the weather was bad, there was a respectable attendance from Monroe, Genesee, Livingston, Steuben, Wyoming, Ontario, Wayne and Orleans counties. Hon. ELISEA HARMON, of Monroe, was appointed President; and A. F. WHITAKER of Yates, A.M. WILCOX of Genesee, ABRAHAM STOKING of Livingston, F. P. ROOT of Monroe, and A. G. PERCY of Wayne, were chosen Vice Pres. A. McPHERSON, Jr., of Genesee, and D. D. T. MOORE were chosen Secretaries. Maj. H. T. BROOKS, of Wyoming, stated the objects of the call—the chief one being to discuss the propriety of discontinuing the practice of washing sheep. At the conclusion of Maj. B.'s remarks the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to draft resolutions: A. McPHERSON, Jr., of Genesee, Silas Hillman of Livingston, H. T. Brooks of Wyoming, F. P. Root of Monroe, and Alexander Arnold of Steuben. The committee reported the following:

Resolved, That the practice of washing sheep should be abolished; because, 1st. It permits of early shearing, which secures a greater quantity of wool and longer staple, and a better condition of sheep and lambs throughout the year. 2d. It would be conducive to the interest of the grower and manufacturer, inasmuch as it would necessitate the purchase of wool upon its merits, and abolish the unjust practice of purchasing at average rates.

3d. Of the exposure to contagious diseases, such as scab, foot-rot, &c.

4th. It is an expensive, unpleasant job, and unhealthy for man and sheep. That the loss resulting from sheep taking cold, overran in yards, drowning, and other accidents and injuries incidental to washing is often very great, and that the manufacturer can cleanse the wool cheaper than the grower.

5th. That it is the duty, as it is for the interest of wool growers to put their unwashed wool in good condition for the buyer by thoroughly tagging their sheep, by keeping their sheds and yards well littered during the folding season, and by throwing out all filth that can be separated from the wool.

6th. As some lots of wool are more gross and gummy than others, the buyer should not decide on any uniform rate of deduction for shrinkage, but each lot should be sold on its own merits, according to its quality and condition.

7th. As generally practiced, washing is little or no improvement to the fleece in cleanliness or condition. The report was discussed at some length by the President, Messrs. Brooks and Bristol of Wyoming, McPHERSON and Townsend of Genesee, WHITNEY, McVEAN, ROSS and McBEAN of Monroe, McMILLAN and Sheldon of Livingston, PERCY of Wayne, WHITAKER of Yates, and several others. The discussion was quite animated and interesting, and we regret that we are unable to give even a synopsis. Strong arguments were advanced both for and against washing sheep, and considerable information elicited. Several wool buyers participated in the discussion. On taking the question on the adoption of the report but few delegates seemed prepared to vote, and no decision was announced by the chair. The following resolution, offered by D. D. T. MOORE, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the practice of wool buyers in paying nearly or quite as much for poorly put up wool of inferior quality, with dirt and tags included, as they do for a clean, well-prepared, fine staple, is a premium for slovenliness; not dishonesty; and that, whether we wash our sheep or not, one of the greatest wants of fair and honorable wool-growers is a just discrimination on the part of purchasers and manufacturers.

The following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That a committee of one in each county in Western New York be appointed to ascertain (through the aid of a sub-committee of one in each town) how many wool-growers are willing to dispense with washing their sheep—obtaining the names of those who wash and those who do not—and report the result through its Chairman, (to be located in Rochester or some other central point,) for publication.

On motion, a committee consisting of Elisha Harmon, D. D. T. Moore, and A. McPHERSON, Jr., was appointed to consult with manufacturers, and ascertain what they would pay for unwashed wool, and the difference between that and washed. The Convention then adjourned, several members expressing themselves highly pleased with the information obtained.

CONVENTION.—In RURAL of March 28th, in article on "Lamb's Epizootic," 1st page, 2d column, in describing the condition of the ewe when diseased the term "Maw sickness or Bot" is used. I need not tell old sheep-keepers that "Maw sickness or Bot" was intended, and, I think, written.—C. D. B.

Horticultural.

WESTERN EDITORIAL NOTES.

WINTER PEACHES.

I WAS introduced to a Michigan peach-grower named BRIDGEMAN the other day, who, in the course of our conversation, named three peaches which he said had been kept in saw-dust, in a cool, dry cellar, all winter, as fresh and good as ever an apple had kept.

PEACHES FOR EGYPT.

The Illinois State Horticultural Society, appointed a committee, (of which the writer was a member,) to procure peach lists from the different peach localities best adapted to the wants of the market orchardist.

From past consultations with orchardists in this vicinity, together with my own observations and experience, I submit the following list of peaches for market purposes, for an orchard of two thousand trees:

Table with 3 columns: Peach variety, Ripens, and Date. Includes varieties like Hale's Early, Early Tillotson, Troth's Early, etc.

I have tested the above varieties in the Chicago market as well as in the orchard. Early Tillotson mildews badly, but as there is no other variety to take its place, I would recommend a few.

PEACHES IN MISSOURI.

No body of men west of Ohio can discuss peach culture more intelligently, nor talk of varieties more understandingly, than the members of the Missouri Horticultural Society, because there is no equal number of Western men who have had the experience with the best cultivated varieties of peaches that they have.

LIST FOR PROFIT.

Troth's Early—HADLEY, of South Illinois. In 1861 it ripened the 15th of July at Makanda Station, Ill. Cen. R. It ripened at St. Louis the 20th to the 25th of July.

Hale's Early—COLEMAN. It is not known here. KNOX. I have not cultivated it, but have heard of it in the vicinity of Cleveland. It is said to be earlier than the Troth's Early.

Pettingill's Early—A gentleman asked for information. MR. PETTINGILL said:—It is a seedling from a New Hampshire tree. Brought the seed from N. H. Planted three stones and have three trees almost identical. It is earlier than the Serrale Early York.

Large Early York—Added to the list for profit. HADLEY. It commences to ripen about a week later than Troth's Early. It is the best peach to succeed Troth's Early without a break.

White Heath Free—HADLEY. It is a good white peach. It is a little tender for carriage. It is of good flavor, a good bearer, and a good canning peach.

Large Early York—Added to the list for profit. HADLEY. It commences to ripen about a week later than Troth's Early. It is the best peach to succeed Troth's Early without a break.

size, but productive. BLAR, of Ind. It is the best early peach in Indiana. It ripens all at once; can pick the fruit on a tree at one time—at one picking. HEAVER, of Cinn. It is scarcely the size of the Early York; second in quality; only desirable because of its earliness, productiveness and size.

Crawford's Early—QUINETTE. It is as good a peach as you can put in the orchard in its season. It is a hardy tree, and usually productive. The fruit should be thinned out; it should not be allowed to overbear.

Yellow Rarissime—HADLEY. It is a fine peach, a little tender for shipping. It is good size, a pretty fair bearer and a good grower. In unfavorable weather the fruit is liable to rot, and subjects the grower to a loss in damp and hot weather.

Cole's Early—HUGGINS. I want gentlemen to understand that it is far better for profit than the Early Crawford, on the prairies, because it is hardier. I should recommend it every time.

Bergen's Yellow—MUIR. It follows the Crawford. It was added to the list; also Old Mixon Free, without discussion.

New England Cling—QUINETTE. This peach ought to be put next in the list. It is profitable. I have cultivated it 15 years. I have had no difficulty in selling it if I could get people to taste of it.

Magnum Bonum—HADLEY. It is next in season. It is excellent, red, fair size, good for carriage, firm good flavor. I would not know how to dispense with it.

Harker's Seedling—HADLEY. This is a good peach—the best I know of in its season. It carries well, sells well, and is a good dessert peach. I should not know how to dispense with it.

Washington Cling—QUINETTE. This fruit ripens before Crawford's Late, and should be added to the list. It is an excellent Cling. Added to the list.

Crawford's Late—Added to the list without discussion.

Stump the World—BOOTH. It is in season with the Late Crawford, is hardy, very productive, very large and valuable. DR. SPAULDING. I have obtained it from some gardens and think highly of it.

Red Cheeked Melocoton—QUINETTE. It is not an extra peach in any shape. It is ripe before the Crawford. DR. WARDER. It is a favorite peach in Cincinnati market. Not votes enough to adopt it.

Columbia—DR. WARDER. It is one of the best. It is not tempting in appearance, but excellent. QUINETTE. It is one of the best peaches. Added to the list for profit.

President—DR. MORSE. It ought to be recommended on account of its flavor. DR. WARDER. And for market. It is one of the best. No action.

Morris' White—It is one of the best for family use, but too tender for market. No action.

Missouri Mammoth—COLMAN. I recommend this peach. It is large, yellow and excellent. QUINETTE. If it is not the Columbia it ought to be put on the list for canning purposes. DR. BEALE. It was from Virginia, and is called "Virginia" there.

Glasgow—COLMAN. It is one of the best peaches of its season. QUINETTE. It is a red freestone peach. I do not know it by any other name than Glasgow. Have failed to identify it with any of the described peaches, and cannot get it at the nurseries where I have ordered it.

White Heath Free—HADLEY. It is a good white peach. It is a little tender for carriage. It is of good flavor, a good bearer, and a good canning peach. It fills a place with us that no other one does.

Delaware White—HADLEY. It fills a place in the season that no other peach occupies, and is one of the best of the white peaches. It has a fine sweet flavor. I don't know how to fill its place with any other peach.

Heath Cling—Placed on the list for profit, without discussion.

Smock—QUINETTE. It is the latest peach in the market, and indispensable. Added to the list.

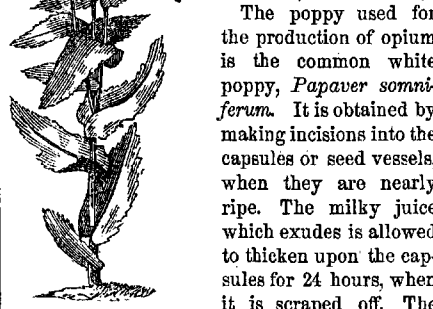
President—A motion was here made and votes enough secured to place it on the list for profit. It follows Old Mixon Free in season.

Carpenter's White—MUIR. It is put on the list by BARRY as the very latest. I ask for information concerning it. No one responded.

La Grange—COLMAN. It ripens the 25th of September to early in October. About the time or after the Heath Cling. It ripens after Smock. BOOTH. It is worthless. I have never had a sound peach from it.

OPIUM POPPY.

THE rebellion is producing its effect upon the agriculture of the country. Those who have heretofore been content with the production of corn and wheat and other staple crops, are turning their attention to the culture of tobacco, flax, and clover; in some places in the South-West cotton is to be tested somewhat during the present season, and letters now before us from two subscribers, physicians, express the determination of the writers to engage in the culture of the poppy for opium.



The poppy used for the production of opium is the common white poppy, Papaver somniferum. It is obtained by making incisions into the capsules or seed vessels, when they are nearly ripe. The milky juice which exudes is allowed to thicken upon the capsules for 24 hours, when it is scraped off.

Incisions are made through the outer skin only. There is a variety with white seeds and flowers, and another with lilac flowers, both equally productive. Seeds should be sown as early as possible in the spring, the sooner the better, either in drills or broadcast, and be thinned out with the hoe, leaving the plants five or six inches apart.

HOUSE PLANTS IN LIVING-ROOMS.—Will some of the many subscribers of the RURAL inform me whether plants kept through the winter in a warm sitting-room are injurious to the health? As we have a large collection of plants in our room, and the subject "Keeping House Plants" has often been discussed, but never fully decided on either side, information would be gratefully received by—JENNIE McFARLIN, Bath, Ohio.

APPLE BARK LOUSE.—One of the RURAL subscribers asks about the bark louse on apple trees. Having had some experience with it, I propose to give it. In the spring of 1857 I set fifty apple trees, in '68 fifty more. After I had them set, a friend was looking at them, and said they were lousy, that they would probably bear some, but that the louse would kill them in time.

APPLS.—We are indebted to JOSEPH THORN, of Chili, N. Y., for magnificent specimens of the Tompkins County King apple; and to D. M. HANCOCK, of Kendall, N. Y., for a very good apple, which we could not name.

PRICES OF PEARS.—The American Agriculturist for April states that on the 11th of March Mr. W. S. CARPENTER, of Westchester Co., sold Vicar of Winkfield pears in New York at \$35 per barrel, and Glout Moreau at \$1.50 per dozen. These pears had been kept during winter "in a cool place, packed among unwinnowed oats."

ORNAMENTAL LIVING FENCES.—In forming the sides of walks, plant your slender trees in a slanting direction—i. e. every tree leaning the opposite way and in the same line, so that they will cross each other and form a regular trellis with diamond-shaped openings.

DEATH OF DR. BEADLE.—We regret to receive intelligence of the death of DR. BEADLE, the well-known and much respected nurseryman of St. Catharines, Canada West.

DR. MORSE'S WHITE.—It is one of the best for family use, but too tender for market. No action.

DELaware WHITE.—It fills a place in the season that no other peach occupies, and is one of the best of the white peaches. It has a fine sweet flavor. I don't know how to fill its place with any other peach.

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A NEW PEACH TREE ENEMY.—I notice in the RURAL of Feb. 7th, 1863, on page 47, a small thread like worm described by Mr. PELTON, of Illinois, as being an enemy of the peach tree, not hitherto noticed or reported by any one writing for journals. I am in the peach orchard business, and have been for some five or six years, and in my experience in battling with the enemies of my trees, I have often come across the said white worm down at the collar of the tree, but never could see that they did any damage—never found them in any case except in the gum of an old wood produced by the common grub, and I am of the opinion that they are perfectly harmless.

NATIVE GRAPES—TIME OF RIPENING.—An interesting and condensed report on the prominent native varieties is given in a late number of the Horticulturist, by F. C. BREHM, of Waterloo, N. Y., a successful cultivator at that place. The Delaware and Hartford Prolific both ripened Sept. 13th; Union Village, Sept. 14th; Clinton, Sept. 16th; Diana, Sept. 20th; Concord and Isabella, both Sept. 25th; Rebecca, Oct. 1st; To-Kalon and Catawba, Oct. 4th.

WATER-PROOF GARDEN WALKS.—The London Gardener's Chronicle and Floricultural Cabinet states that cement walks are becoming common in English gardens. They are made as follows:—Procure a sufficient quantity of the best Portland cement; then turn up the path with a pick, and mix six parts, by measure, of clean screened gravel with three of sharp sand, and one of the cement; then work them thoroughly with a spade in the dry state.

Horticultural Advertisements.

50 BUSHELS FROSTED PEACH PITS WANTED. O. WANNEMA, HER, East Aurora, N. Y.

THE ADIRONDAC GRAPE.—The earliest and best native Grape, ripening two weeks earlier than any other good Grape, possessing a most delicious flavor, in fact equal to the most delicate Vinery Grapes.

RUSSELL'S STRAWBERRY.—This great Strawberry, combining all the good qualities of "Longworth's Prolific" and "McAvoy's Superior," added to enormous size, possesses all the properties to make it the best Strawberry yet known, after six years' trial, being the largest and most prolific bearer, with an exceeding rich aroma—full of various juices, and for deliciousness unsurpassed—very hardy in its growth, enduring severe frosts. It is found to combine both prolific and staminate.

STRAWBERRY PLANTS.—We have taken special pains to procure and preserve our varieties true to name. We cultivate our plants with the same care we do our fruit, and all sent out by us are not only the best quality, but we guarantee them to be genuine.

PLANTS BY MAIL.—We will not send hereafter less than one dollar's worth of plants by mail, nor less than one dozen of any one kind, and in all cases at the price per dozen, except as designated below: For \$1 we will send one dozen each of any three kinds offered at 35 cents per dozen.

SEEDS! SEEDS!

100,000 APPLE TREES.—5 to 8 feet high, at \$3 per hundred. 20,000 Standard Pear Trees, 5 to 7 feet high, at \$25 per 100. 20,000 do do do 1 year old, 5 inches to 2 feet high at \$6 per 100.

FLOWER SEEDS FOR 1863.—MY NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS is now ready to send out. It contains descriptions of all the FINEST FLOWERS, both old and new, with English names and some of those that are new and particularly valuable, with a full list of the NOVELTIES FOR 1863!

Domestic Economy.

CAKE RECIPES.

ENCLOSED I send you a few recipes, all of which I know to be good.

PLAIN FRUIT CAKE.—Four cups of sugar; 1 1/2 of butter; 3/4 of flour; 2 of sweet milk; 6 eggs; 1 nutmeg; 2 teaspoons of soda; 1 pound of stoned raisins, chopped fine; citron, if you wish.

GERMAN CAKES.—One pound of flour; 1 pound of sugar; 4 eggs; season with caraway; cut out and bake like cookies.

FRIED CAKES—A very excellent recipe.—A two quart basin even full of flour; 2 teacups of cream; 1 do. buttermilk; 1 do. sugar; 1 egg; 1 teaspoon of soda; half a teaspoon of salt.

JELLY CAKE.—One egg; 2 tablespoonfuls of sweet milk; 1 of thin, sweet cream; 2 tablespoonfuls of sugar; 1 teaspoonful of cream of tartar; half do. of soda, and a small quantity of flour. Spread on the jelly and roll while warm.

NICE SPONGE CAKE.—One pound of sugar; three-fourths pound of flour; 10 eggs, the whites beaten separately. Put the sugar and yolks together, then put in a little flour and a little of the whites, beating it each time. This will make two cakes on large tins.

PREPARING RENNET.

NOTICING among "The Batch of Inquiries" in the RURAL of Feb. 7th, on page for preparing rennet, and the quantity used, I send the following rule, which, if J. MILLER, New Jersey, will adopt, will secure him good cheese and ready market.

Let four rennets (half hogs' rennets preferred) be put to soak for twenty-four hours in four gallons of water. Strain off the liquor, and add all the salt it will dissolve, leaving some in the bottom of the pot. Steep two ounces of cloves, and two of cinnamon, and add this, strained, to the liquor. Two lemons sliced and put in will add much to the flavor; also, a small piece of annatto. Of this preparation I use 3 gills for eighteen gallons of milk. J. MILLER can readily tell what amount will be required for one gallon.

If, after soaking, the rennets are placed in a stone jar and thoroughly covered with salt, they may be used a second, and even a third time, with equal success; though it will require a larger quantity of the third soaking, than of the first and second.

CONE FRAMES.—I find in the RURAL of Feb. 7th, a wish for instruction about Cone Frames. First, select such cones as you wish to use. Prepare your glue by boiling a long time. Wet a space on the frame with glue, then arrange the cones to your taste, or pattern, until the glue cools, and then wet again; and so on till you have arranged and filled up all your designs.

THE SUCCESSFUL MERCHANT.—The successful merchant is always the one who keeps the best class of goods of all kinds, and as many of them are aware of the fact, they keep the Chemical Salesman, manufactured by D. B. DRELAND & Co., at Fairport, Monroe Co., N. Y. For sale by most wholesale and retail dealers in the country.

The Publisher to the Public.

NEW QUARTER—PLEASE NOTICE! THE Second Quarter of present Volume of the RURAL commenced April 4th. Now, therefore, is the time to 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 January—or we will send from April to January next for \$1.12 1/2 per copy, if ordered by any one who has formed a club for present Volume.

ABOUT CLUB TERMS, &c.—We endeavor to adhere strictly to our club rates, which require a certain number of subscribers to get the paper, &c. But, in answer to frequent inquiries, we would state that, in cases where from four to six copies are ordered 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 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 a specified price—say ten to get it at \$1.50 per copy, &c.

BACK VOLUMES.—Bound copies of Volume XIII, for 1862, are now ready for delivery—price, \$3. We would again state that neither of the first five volumes of the RURAL can be furnished by us at any price. The subsequent volumes 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 remittances, 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 offer 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 the paper offered, in any case, below price.

Ladies' Department.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. THE SONG OF LONG AGO.

BY MARY M. BARNES.

Now, while the stars of twilight shine, And winds are whispering low, Sing me the song I love to hear— The song of long ago.

The sweet, entrancing melody Shall fall upon my heart, Until its utterance shall seem Of my own soul a part.

Oh, Love that died! Oh, broken Faith! Bright dreams forever gone! Ye shall be mine while once again I listen to that song.

Cambria, N. Y., 1863.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. ONE OF MANY.

"Ah me!" sighed ARABELLA LUCRETTA, leaning wearily upon the open casement, "Full many a flower is born to blush unseen, And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

"Oh, I am so miserable! Here, in this dingy little place, I must stay, and stay,—hedged in by hills on every side, with nothing to rest one's eyes upon but corn fields and potato patches! And to think that it can never be any different! If only papa had a brother who went to India years ago, and had never been heard from,—or if his great grandfather's uncle had been the disinherited son of some English nobleman, then there might be some hopes for me. But no! We are nothing but plain 'ONES' whose ancestors have lived and delved in Dovertown from time immemorial. This isn't life! And I don't care how soon I'm dead and buried away in some lone grave-yard. But then—a no poet would ever come to Dovertown to write an elegy over my grave."

"ARABELLA! ARABELLA!" calls a weary voice from below.

"O, dear! What do you want now?" "Won't you come down and watch FREDDY while I finish the churning? He is very troublesome this morning."

"There! That's just the way it always is! Now I've got to go and take care of that squalling young one, when I wanted to finish this beautiful story." And taking an armful of Ledgers, she very ungracefully tripped down stairs.

While ARABELLA is alternately following the fortunes of the beautiful heroine, and dealing sharp epithets upon the pale, sickly child in the crib, we will look around, and see, if we can find any reasonable cause for all this misery.

Surely it is not very gloomy out of doors this sweet June morning. Dame Nature has sketched a very pretty picture, notwithstanding corn fields and potato patches, and I think it would be very pleasant in this sitting-room, if ARABELLA would lay aside those Ledgers, raise the window, loop back the curtain, and place a vase of flowers upon the stand beneath it. But no! She must finish this story—it is so "grand." Her sympathies are excited for the beautiful "ROSA-MOND," a captive in the "Lone House" of the forest, and the ready tears well up into her eyes as she fancies her uncontrollable grief. "Poor girl," she sighs. "How dreadful to be a prisoner in that gloomy place, with only that one-eyed hunch-back shrew for an attendant, and the band of robbers below!"

Here FREDDY'S moans increase to a cry of pain, and Mrs. JONES comes up, weary and dejected, and soothes the fretful child as only love can soothe, and ARABELLA is free to enjoy, undisturbed, the luxury of refined grief with the unfortunate captive.

But how groundless are her fears! Here, in this old, dilapidated mansion, "ROSA-MOND" is surrounded with all that heart could wish; and then, those "outlaws," are so noble-looking and gentlemanly. Why! Their chief is a real "Knight of the olden times" with his "Midnight locks, and coat of mail," and ARABELLA thinks she should certainly prefer him, if he is a robber, to any of the vulgar clodhoppers of Dovertown.

All through that bright sunny day ARABELLA'S thoughts and sympathies were with the captive, and every available moment was snatched to continue her history. Late in the night it was finished, and with brain fevered with wild adventure and unholly passions, she retired to rest.

Poor ARABELLA! She is discontented and unhappy. She fears that another immortal mind, with all its rich gifts and capabilities for happiness, is to be buried in oblivion, that another flower, whose beauty, if properly cultivated, might grace the garden of princes, will

"Waste its sweetness on the desert air."

She imagines that a great mistake has been made in placing her in circumstances so uncongenial to her tastes; so she closes her eyes upon the little beauties that cluster along her path,—shuts her heart against the little loves and sympathies which are the sunshine of real life, and taking an imaginary personage for her ideal she is discontented because the distance between the dull routine of her life and that of her ideal is so great. She believes that there is denied her that which is indispensably necessary to her happiness, and that there is within her the elements

of a nobler life; which, in her contracted sphere can never be developed. No wonder that she is unhappy! Who would not be, were this his doom, registered and sealed in the book of Fate? But it is not. Not a flower, not a plant, not an insect, has our Father created, which has not its mission. And has He created immortal minds to no purpose? He does not place tender violets upon cold, barren rocks. He knows the soil and the place where each of His lower creations can best accomplish its mission. And can He mistake the sphere in which His "Brighter Intelligences," should move? No. He has given ARABELLA her mission, and because it was displeasing to her, she has refused it. He has given her talents, one, or many, and He will demand them with usury when she sleeps in the "lone grave-yard." But it requires energy, much energy, in her circumstances, to obtain that increase, and she is sinking, willfully, into a deadly lethargy, while her energies are being bound with cords, though silken, yet stronger, we fear, than her weakened mind will ever break.

Steuben Co., N. Y., 1863. EDITH HAINES.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. MY OPINION ABOUT SOLDIERS.

DEAR RURAL:—I have just suspended my knitting a moment, laying it carefully down with the toe pointing to the South, (it is a soldier's stocking,) to differ a little from my friend MINNIE MINTWOOD, though with all due respect for her opinion. Your humble correspondent enjoys one, too, and wishes to express it.

I, too, am ever ready to pay due respect to a blue suit and brass buttons tipped off with a jaunty military cap. I voluntarily wish to touch my hat to them, as an expression of my respect. Our deepest esteem should be shown them, and our encouragement and love go with them to the gory field, from whence many may never return to press the hands of loved ones in greeting. Then, should we deny them the privilege of carrying, carefully hid from careless eyes, the greatest happiness of their lives, the assurance that there is one at home, more dear than all others, to wait and pray for them? and, whatever betides, to know "Tis sweet to be remembered?" Are there not many weary heads at rest from the turmoil of battle beneath the soil where blooms the sweetest flowers, heavy with clinging dewdrops, when the first flush of morning appears, greeted by the song birds' matin lay? Would not the consciousness of possessing the heart's purest affection of some waiting one at home, make the few remaining hours of untold suffering almost peaceful? And does it not give new strength to purpose, and nerve anew the arm for the coming conflict? Then, can we deny them the small privilege of asking a girl to be their wife, because this is not a free land? I think not! Rather let them leave their homes with light hearts, looking on the bright side, not denying them that small recompense for all they sacrifice for their country. Then, perhaps, we may the sooner join in singing "The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave." So, boys, I contend it is your right to ask a girl to marry you, and should she be so disposed, she has something more to live for.

Now, let me add, in conclusion, that "shoulder straps" give me queer sensations sometimes; however, I don't stop to analyze them. But it is my private opinion that, if the honest zeal of some of our privates should animate the hearts of some of our officers, then I should forever subscribe to "shoulder straps."

Onondaga, N. Y., 1863. YOUR COUNTRY COUSIN.

THE TRUTHFUL AND SINCERE WOMAN.

MIGHTY is the moral influence of the truthful and sincere woman—she whose character is crystal clear, without fold and without waxen mask. In the neighborhood where she lives she has ever the casting vote in favor of men and measures, while her disapprobation is accepted as the judgment of one whose truthfulness gives her insight; and her very prejudices are listened to with respect, and suffered to carry weight. Sincerity is one of the qualities absolutely necessary in love or friendship. Though her nature be of the tenderest, her sympathies warm as sunshine, and her compassion soft as swan's down, yet if our friend has not sincerity, her gold is but burnished brass, and her music soft-voiced discord. Of what healing power her tenderness, of what balm her pity, if only a trick of temperament—an easy play of eye and muscle, with no soul beneath—a mere surface-stirring of shallow waters, with no depth or source below? Does it help one much to hear friendly words warmly spoken, and sympathies prodigally offered, and to know that in half an hour afterwards we shall be laughed at or betrayed—all those gracious praises, like summer flowers uprooted, lying withering on her lips beneath the blight of her untruth?

MAN'S DUTY TO WOMAN.—Let no man practice on woman perpetually the shameless falsehood of pretending admiration and acting contempt. Let them not exhaust their kindness in adorning her person, and ask in return the humiliation of her soul. Let them not assent to her very high opinion, as if she was not strong enough to maintain it against opposition, nor yet manufacture opinion for her and force it on her lips by dictation. Let them not crucify her motives, nor ridicule her frailty, nor crush her individuality, nor insult her independence, nor play mean jests upon her honor in convivial companies, nor bandy unclean doubts of her, as a wretched substitute of wit; nor whisper vulgar suspicions of her purity, which, as compared with their own, is like the immaculate whiteness of angels. Let them multiply her social advantages, enhance her dignity, minister to her intelligence, and by manly gentleness, be the champions of her genius, the friends of her fortunes, and the equals, if they can, of her heart.—Rev. F. D. Huntington.

Choice Miscellany.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. NATURE'S LANGUAGE.

BY MINNIE MINTWOOD.

It seems to me, as oft I dream, The sky is earth's twin brother, And what one claims as all his own, He freely grants the other.

In spring the crimson clouds looked down Upon the smiling flowers, And earth, in meekness, asked the sky, To send the genial showers.

In summer-time, as gently waved The meadow's richer glory, The spangled sky seemed glad to tell To earth the golden story.

Then came the grand old harvest-time, The fields in modest manner Looked up to see the autumn clouds Hang out their mottled banner.

Old winter now his snowy robe, Has flung o'er mount and river, While overhead the white clouds glide, Like angel-forms, forever.

Thus speak these twin mute sons of God, By his own wisdom given, So shall they be till time shall end, And both be one in Heaven.

Alfred University, N. Y., 1863.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. LIFE.

"LIFE'S a barque upon the ocean," its burden a strange mingling of poetry and prose, of the ideal and the real, the beautiful, strange and stern—a barque not launched to float for a time on smooth waters and sink into nothingness, but with a God-given soul to guide it, and Heaven its destined port.

Between it and its "haven of rest" winds and waves may wash away the ideal and dim the beautiful; it may drift "wide of a righteous course" upon bars of misery and sin; but "out of His deeps of love it cannot be." Storms have no power to stay its onward course—and however darkly the night of sorrows may close around it, the Beacon Light never wanes or grows dim in the harbor of the Eternal Home.

"Life's a field of toil"—one on which sorrow's rain as well as joy's sunlight must fall—one that is "broken up" oftentimes by the sharp plowshare of pain, and sown with bitter tears—one that requires

"Labor, constant labor, toil of the hand and head;" a guard set over every evil impulse—over word, thought and deed; that at the harvest time there may not be more "tares" than "wheat."

"Life is real." It is "no dream, no false mirage" to us who walk daily in its paths—who set our feet upon its thorns and gather, too, its roses—who are blest one moment by its gifts of sunlight, and plunged at the next into dark labyrinths by their loss—who hope and dream, and suffer and pray, each in our own distinct pathway, pined for our sorrows and envied for our joys by those who see us from afar, and going with every heart-throb one step nearer to another Life that will be none the less real because now unknown.

And can we say, too, "Life is earnest?" In these days of mourning, when thousands upon thousands of lives as real as our own are laid down upon the battlefield, and other lives are darkened through the sacrifice, do we who have, perchance, escaped the loss and the sorrow, lay solemnly upon our hearts the conviction that for us life should be earnest, that our duty lies in seeing that its daily deeds are of charity and compassion, that its daily thoughts are lifted out of all selfish depths, and that its daily prayers stop not at personal benefits, but ask, too, the renewal of the spirit of CHRIST'S time—"Peace on earth, good will among men."

"Life." It is but a short and simple word, yet to us who wear the robes of mortality—how precious is its possession. In its morning and at its noontide may we so abide by its laws that at its close we may

"Say not good night, but in some brighter clime Bid it good morning." Charlotte Center, N. Y., 1863. E. C. L. K.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. THE TEACHINGS OF NATURE.

A THOUSAND voices meet us in the passing breeze, telling of fear and gloom and sorrow, or hope, merriment and gladness. The streams, with their varied voices, from the indistinct murmur of the rivulet to the hoarse roar of the cataract, all speak a language which to hear is to understand. Birds, from their green homes, send forth their clear notes, and we know at once the spirit of the source from which they issue; or, if far off in the summer sky,—so far that our dim eyes cannot trace them,—we cannot mistake the tone of their songs. Voices of the loved reach our ears, perhaps issuing from the shadowy distance of the long-forgotten past, and instantly the well-known tone is remembered, and without an effort we listen and understand.

Sounds are ever falling on the ear, and if the heart hath aught of sympathy, we shall know the tale which they bring. But we grow cold and spiritless, and lessons fraught with rich instruction fall unheeded on an ear as dull, heavy and senseless as the ear of death. The broad earth is around us, the spacious sky above, and the mind within. All these have lessons, silent teachings, which the ear, listening for sounds less holy, hears not, and the heart, in love with the busy world, is slow to understand. Yet the truth is there, and needs but a willing and attentive mind to unfold its sacred precepts. Still we must strive long and arduously to bar out harsh discords, and the heart must be quick to learn the lesson, and ready to practice it, else

soon the strange earth, with its thronging, busy occupants, and the firmament, spread like the wing of God above us, will cease their teaching. Earth will seem like a chance creation, whereon we are formed to live, to mourn, and crumble again to dust, and the sky a mass of vapors, lit up at times by a flicker gleam, not unlike the flash of the fire-fly, the deceitful glow of the wandering will-o'-the-wisp, or the feeble glimmer of the glow-worm. The earth has no teaching so effectual, so persuasive, as the expression of the human face ere it has learned to dissemble, and every thought and affection of the heart is traced upon the fair tablet. No reproof can be so keen, or wound so deeply, as the sad, unspoken reproofs upon the countenance of a friend we have injured, and an eye resting on us in anger, reproach or revenge, will often haunt us for years. That same eye, beaming with pity, affection or sympathy, or lit up with gratitude, has made a little heaven of our hearts when the trials of life were well-nigh crushing them. Earth has her myriads of teachers, and every cloud that appears upon the sky, and every leaf that unfolds in spring, presents a rich volume for our perusal, but the face of a friend is a book of which we never weary, for on its pages are mirrored all the workings of the heart beneath. Sheridan Center, N. Y., 1863. MAGGIE M. KETCHUM.

DANGERS FROM WORKS OF FICTION.

THERE is a danger to be guarded against, in young persons especially, of an over-indulgence of imagination in reading works of fiction, and in what is called "castle-building." Not that such an exercise of the imagination is to be condemned as an evil in itself, supposing, of course, that we avoid immoral books; but an excess in the perusal of fictions is apt to disqualify any one for real life, by creating a distaste and disgust for actual every-day scenes, and humble practical duties, which do not equal in brilliancy the ideal scenes and imaginary transactions of fiction. The heart may even become hardened against real objects of commiseration, from our having been too much occupied in dwelling on the elegant and poetical pictures of ideal distress which tales the poems exhibit. For in these, a flaming excitement being all that is aimed at, there is, of course, a studied exclusion of all those homely and sometimes disgusting circumstances which often accompany real distresses, such as we are called upon to sympathize with and to relieve.

And there is also a danger of our becoming dissatisfied with estimable friends, because they do not come up to the standard of the heroes and heroines of romances. And what are usually reckoned as moral tales, and are written with a good design, are sometimes the most hurtful in this way; for they commonly represent the good characters as perfect, and bad ones as fiends, both being quite unlike what we meet with in real life, and therefore serving to engender false notions. It is allowable, indeed, and right, to bestow cultivation on the flower-gardens of your mind, only they must not be allowed to take the place of the plain but necessary corn-fields, or lead you to neglect their cultivation.—Whately's Lesson on Mind.

HOW TO GET ALONG.—We have some suggestions to offer, which will enable our readers to get through life in the most easy and comfortable manner. If a bee has the audacity and folly to sheathe his sting in your cuticle, justice demands that you should upset the hive wherein the offender has his headquarters, and exterminate every bee therein. If a dog bites you in the calf of the leg, stern justice demands that you should bite the dog in the calf of his leg. On the same principle, if an irate donkey rudely elevates his posterior extremities against your sacred person, the true way is to kick back. If a horse falls upon you, the sublime principles of the lex talionis requires that you should fall upon the horse. If Joggles calls you a liar, the treatment is to call him a liar, and a thief in the bargain. If you are a farmer, and a neighbor's cow happens to get into your young corn, your instant mode of obtaining satisfaction is to turn all your cows, hogs, etc., into his corn. By following out these sublime ideas of justice and self-respect, your daily life will be full of sweet peace, and you will eventually become as docile and playful as a kitten.

SMALL VICES.—Most men are the slaves of small vices. We hold that by every evil habit—if it is nothing more than putting his hands in his pockets—a man's power and efficiency is so much weakened. A man is not physically perfect who has lost his little finger. It is no answer to say that such a man can do many things as well as before his mutilation. Can he do every thing as well? So every bad habit cripples in kind though not in degree, and when they are numerous enough, such small vices deprive us of appreciable power. We remember that Gulliver was effectually bound and made helpless by the Lilliputians, though every cable used was but a thread.

THE MEMORY OF THE DEAD.—It is an exquisite and beautiful thing in our nature, that when our heart is touched and softened by some tranquil happiness or affectionate feeling, the memory of the dead comes over it most powerfully and irresistibly. It would almost seem as though our better thoughts and sympathies were charms, in virtue of which the soul is enabled to hold some vague and mysterious intercourse with the spirits of those whom we dearly loved in life. Alas, how often and how long may those patient angels hover above us, watching for the spell which is so seldom uttered and soon forgotten.

PHYSIOGNOMY is a true science. The man of profound thought, the man of ability, and, above all, the man of genius, has his character stamped by nature; the man of violent passions and the voluptuary have it stamped by habit.

Sabbath Musings.

HEAVEN.

WHAT is Heaven?—not a steep Frowning o'er the sands of time, Guarded like a castle's keep, Which the strong can only climb; 'Tis an ever-present bliss In the soul, by God refined; 'Tis that better world in this, Which the pure in spirit find.

Where is Heaven? Wheresoe'er Lives a pure and loving heart; Love is all the atmosphere, Where the holy dwell apart; Men and angels mingle there, Whether earth be passed or not— Heaven is here and everywhere, If the evil be forgot.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. PAIN.

THERE is an untold burden of pain borne by mankind. Physical pain, alone, is not referred to, as that is but a small part of the suffering endured. There could be no physical pain only by the soul-life pervading its mortal tenement with its mysterious and vitalizing power; but just as that which touches a man rises from the lower to the higher parts of his nature, the pain or pleasure which is experienced increases in intensity. The pain which seizes upon the higher part of man's nature is a fearful thing. "Every heart knoweth its own bitterness;" and many suppose that their ills exceed those which others are called to bear. But no one bears that which has not been borne, and is not now being borne by thousands. There are few who have not some mute grief upon their secret lives, to which no expression is or can be given.

Those who have read the letters of Lord Byron, cannot fail to remember that he found in the Certosa Cemetery, at Ferrara, the following epitaphs:

"Martial Luigi, Implora pace!"

"Lucretia Picini, Implora eterna quiete."

Expression cannot be given to anything more pathetic in any language. BYRON wrote:—"Can anything be more full of pathos? These few words say all that can be said or sought; the dead had had enough of life; all they want is rest, and this they implore! There is all the helplessness, and humble hope, and death-like prayer, that can arise from the grave—'implora pace.'" Nearly all mankind have the experience of anticipating and seeking for happiness, reaching the inevitable goal of disappointment, and then yearning only for peace; which can alone be found in the future life. "Implora pace."

It is impossible in this life to understand the infinite purpose. The Bible, however, throws much light upon the principles of the Divine Administration. God has a purpose which is being wrought out in the lives of men; but it is impossible for finite intelligence to grasp the full scope of the controlling and hidden laws. That joy is to come out of the present pain, is the assurance upon which faith must rest. God knows every individual life through every moment of its existence, and keeps constantly in view the great ultimate purpose of being. His superior wisdom shall be displayed through the future glory which will be wrought of the present pain, if there be only submission to His laws, and trust in His purposes. "The sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Pain means love. There is One wise, Who looks o'er all of being's years, And sees what fruits at last may rise Above the flow of human tears,— Sees how each pain that is felt here, If 'tis but borne with patient trust, To add new glory will appear, And crown the resurrected dust!

Child, Child, astray; Child, nearer Me— That voice is heard in every pain, When troubled spirits rise to die, How gain is loss and loss is gain; For every pang is but a voice, Of warning or persuasiveness, From Him who would have all rejoice Where none can ever feel distress.

Oh! who would not most gladly go The way our CURSER with patience trod; Which leads out from the earthly woe, And up to glory and to God! He, our exemplar, took the cross,— His soul by darkest griefs was torn; Earth's loss is gain, its gain is loss, For blest are they who on earth mourn. Wadhams Mills, N. Y., 1863. A. T. E. C.

SPIRITUAL LIFE.—The first true sign of spiritual life, prayer is the means of maintaining it. Man can as well live physically without breathing, as spiritually without praying. There is a class of animals—cetaceous, neither fish nor sea-fowl—that inhabit the deep. It is their home—they never leave it for the shore; yet, though swimming beneath its waves and sounding its darkest depths, they have ever and anon rise to the surface that they may breathe the air. Without that, these monarchs of the deep could not exist in the dense element in which they live, and move, and have their being. And something like what is imposed on them by a physical necessity, the Christian has to do by a spiritual one. It is by ever and anon ascending up to God—by rising through prayer into a loftier, purer region, for supplies of divine grace—that maintains his spiritual life. Prevent these animals from rising to the surface, and they die for want of breath; prevent him from rising to God, and he dies for want of prayer.

To all men the best friend is virtue; the best companions are high endeavors and honorable sentiments.

The Educator.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.  
ENCOURAGE YOUR TEACHERS.

It has often been said, and very truly, that "a school is what the teacher makes it." May it not as truly be said that the teachers are what the patrons make them?

Many parents seem to think that when they send their children to school, provide books for them, and pay the teacher, their whole duty is done. We think they can do much more by way of encouraging the teacher. All know something of the duties of a teacher; yet none but a teacher can know the weight of care and responsibility which every true teacher feels. None but a teacher can know the weary, midnight hours spent in anxious thought as to how they may win the heart and cause some rough, ungoverned one to yield quietly to wholesome restraints—or trying to devise some new method of explanation by which they can bring abstract truth to the comprehension of some poor, neglected mind. You who sometimes feel that to lead your own little ones aright is more than you can do, have you no encouraging word for the teacher who has not only the mental, but for the time, the moral and physical faculties of a score or more to develop?

A parent may watch and toil through long years, and then be fully repaid by seeing the rich fruit of their labors. Not so, usually, with teachers. They must labor, sowing the seed, and then leave the field, not knowing but their successors, in seeking to root up the remaining tares, will root up the wheat also. Their future reward is only in approving consciences.

But, perhaps, you say our teachers are inefficient; many of them are mere school girls who engage in teaching as a pastime, or for the pay. Even if there are many such, can you not encourage them for the sake of your children? Let your children see that you have little or no confidence in their teachers, and they will soon lose all respect for them; then, of what use is their instruction? When you have teachers who possess little interest in their work, show them that you feel deeply interested in their success, and thus you may awaken to greater exertion for the pupils. If a teacher does well, why should you withhold due praise? If one errs in government or instruction, reprove gently, if at all. Few teachers, we think, are spoiled by undue praise, while many fail for want of proper encouragement from the parents.

Marilla, N. Y., 1863.

SCHOOLS AND BUSINESS.

We commend to the attention of the reader, the sound and practical views of the following article, from the New Hampshire Journal of Education, at the same time suggesting that Learning, like Charity, should begin at home:

A practical man once remarked to us, "I was provoked the other day. My James came home from our district school, and said he had done studying Arithmetic. He had been through three times, could perform all the examples, and the teacher told him he would do. He needn't study it any more. Now I was, of course, pleased with this announcement. James is sixteen years old. But I thought I would try him. So I said, 'James, there is a wood-pile. I paid \$3.00 per cord for it. Now take this measure, and find its contents, and tell me how much it cost me.' Now, do you think, he could not do it. He couldn't begin to do it. He hadn't learned how. I say, I was provoked. James had been in school, teacher was popular; he was reported doing well, and was costing me some money out of pocket, besides his time. I had hoped some return. But now he could not perform one of the simplest operations of practical life. And yet his teacher said he would do. I began to think our common schools a humbug."

Our common schools were established to educate the people for all the ordinary duties and responsibilities of parents, neighbors, citizens; to make accurate business men; trustworthy public officers. Do they do it? We want facts, and ask our sober, observing men, to bring them forward. Let us question our men and women, old and young, "who have received all of their education" in these schools. Let us see their hand-writing; let us see their spelling; let us hear them read; let us see their letter of business or friendship; let us ask them to make out the town taxes, draft a bond or deed, cast the interest on a note running three or four years, and complicated by several partial payments. Do they do these things readily and "in good shape?" Very well, if they do. But did they acquire their skill in the common school, or in the severe school of active life? Now let us question them in Geography, English Grammar and United States History. Are they "at home" in these important things? If they are, did they gain their aptness in the common school? Now let us go to our men of influence in churches and political parties; to our skillful men in our factories, counting-rooms and banks; to our selectmen and other town officers; to our best farmers, who know their soil and what to do with it; to our master mechanics, who plan the work and execute it dextrously. Did they gain their knowledge and skill in the common school, or did they learn most of it afterward from other masters—from the strong-minded parent, the professional teacher, the merchant, artisan, or public officer with whom they served?

Many parents feel when they come to test their children, after their school-days are over, somewhat as our friend above felt. And so do many feel, in after life, when they reflect how little of practical value they learned in the common school. But it is true, teachers cannot give brains to pupils. It is true that the teacher and the text-book, at the best, can lead the student

but a little way into real life. But it does seem to us that our teaching might well be more practical,—that it ought to show the young how to do, at least the most common things, to apply the most common principles in every-day life. Our educators may plead rightly, that their great work is to teach how to learn; but let them not forget the ultimate object in training children should be to teach them those things they will need to know when they become men. Then our teachers must be practical men and women; (both, to make the work complete,) no novices in common affairs, apt in showing how to do what they teach.

TRUE EDUCATION.—Educate your children to activity, to enterprise, to fearlessness in what is right, and to cowardice in what is wrong. Educate them to make for themselves the noblest purposes of life, and then to follow them out. Educate them to despise suffering that stands in the way of the accomplishment of many aims, and count it as a little thing. Make them free by lifting them up into the arms of life, and not by covering them with soft and downy plush.

SCHOOLS NOT GOVERNED BY RULE.—It is difficult if not impossible to lay down definite rules by which the teacher, following as a ritual, can govern or instruct a school. There are certain qualifications, certain kinds of talent and of tact, certain qualities of the head and of the heart, necessary for such a task; and as the teacher possesses or acquires, develops and uses those qualifications, or is wanting in the possession and use of them, success or failure will follow.—Massachusetts Teacher.

Reading for the Young.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.  
FANNY'S BIRD.

BY MRS. E. J. METCALF.

LITTLE FANNY MAYFIELD was the dainty fairy of "Mayfield Lodge," the only daughter among a host of unruly boys. Mayfield Lodge was a sunny place—a rare, old-fashioned house, surrounded by ancestral trees and clustering shrubbery, but in no wise shrouded with foliage like some gloomy houses, whose owners drape them with mouldering vines 'till not one ray of sunshine steals its way through door or lattice. The little gay twitterers spring brings flitted from bough to bough, or poised themselves on the iron railings of the lawn fence. All the summer long, which seemed an age of delight to little FANNY, the robins sat on branches of the elm tree that stretched its graceful arms close to her chamber window, and seemed to sing, in the dewy morning,

"Twitter, twitter, little Fanny,  
Come and gather dewy flowers;  
Come, the morn is very sunny,  
Birds like us sing in your bowers."

When the winter came, and the trees were bare, and the hedge was white with the fallen snow, FANNY would assemble the wrens, the little gray snow-birds, on the lawn in front of the dining-room window, and cast far and wide, from her rosy palm, crumbs begged from the cook. But FANNY soon wearied of the pets who sang at her chamber window in spring, and of the little wrens that shared her winter morning bounties. Little girls, and little boys, too, are apt to desire some new pleasure when they become accustomed to the old, so little FANNY fancied if she had only a wren caged to feed and care for, she would be perfectly happy. She thought she would place the cage on her dressing-table, and BETTY, the maid, should assist her in providing for its wants, and the bird would sing for her, and be very grateful for her fostering care.

FANNY forgot that birds were more grateful than little girls, who often poorly repay their friends for their bounties; especially in captivity. FANNY resolved in her little round head many schemes for catching birds,—finally PETER, the serving man, kindly showed her how to make a horse-hair noose, which was to be fastened to a hoop. FANNY was in ecstasies when she saw it placed upon the snow in front of the parlor windows, and when a little unwary bird came to pick up the scattered crumbs, and got its little black foot entangled in the noose, she actually clapped her fair hands and screamed with delight. FANNY ran out upon the lawn, and securing the bird, hastened to show it to her mother.

"Oh, mother, dear, see what a darling little birdie I've got. PETER made the trap, and I caught it, and it's all mine by myself, and it will love me so," she exclaimed, rushing into her mother's room, all out of breath.

"Why, FANNY," said her mother, "what have you there? Don't you remember the little song in your primer,

"Don't harm the birds, the pretty birds,  
That come about your door."

I did not think my little girl would be guilty of bird-trapping."

"But, oh, mama, I won't hurt it; and I'll feed it, and it will love me so well."

"Yes, FANNY, dear; but the little bird would be separated from its mates, and be very lonely,—and, beside, does little daughter imagine she could be happy if some great monster should seize upon and cage her, even if the monster fed her on plum cake, her favorite dainty?"

FANNY smiled at the mention of plum cake. Her mother continued, "Does daughter think she could be gay away from papa, and mama, and brothers, and dear old home?"

FANNY hung her head in silence. "See how the little captive trembles," said her mother. "Does FANNY remember how sorry she felt for the 'homeless robin' cousin CHARLEY caught last spring? I know my FANNY would

TWO PATHS OF LIFE.



CHILDHOOD.



YOUTH.

TWO PATHS IN LIFE.

THESE contrasted pictures furnish texts for a whole volume; of sermons upon human life and destiny. The CHILD stands at the parting of the ways, and he may run through in succession all the phases depicted in either series of portraits. The essential elements of either course of development lie alike in those smooth features. Which shall be actually realized, depends mostly upon the influences brought to bear upon him from without. A few years of training in our schools upon the one hand, or in the streets upon the other, will make all the difference, in the YOUTH, between the characters that stand opposed to each other in these opposite pictures. A youth of study and training in a few years moulds lineaments of the face into the resemblance of the first picture of MANHOOD; while, by a law equally inevitable, idleness and dissipation bring out all the lower animal faculties, which reveal themselves in the depressed forehead, the hard eyebrow, the coarse mouth, and the thickened neck of the opposite picture. The short-boy, and rowdy, and blackleg, if he escapes the State Prison and the gallows, passes, as he reaches the confines of MIDDLE AGE, into the drunken loafer, sneaking around the grog-shop in the chance of securing a treat from some one who knew him in his flush days; while he who has chosen the other path, as he passes the "mid-journey of life," and slowly descends the slope toward AGE, grows daily richer in the love and esteem of those around him; and in the bosom of the family that gathers about his hearth, lives over again his happy youth and earnest manhood. What a different picture is presented in the fate of him who has chosen the returnless downward path, another and almost the last stage of which is portrayed in the companion sketch of AGE. The shadows deepen as he descends the hill of life. He has been successively useless, a pest, and a burden to society, and when he dies there is not a soul to wish that his life had been prolonged. Two lives like these lie in possibility folded within every infant born into the world.



YOUTH.



MANHOOD.



MIDDLE LIFE.



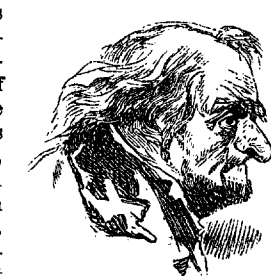
AGE.



MANHOOD.



MIDDLE LIFE.



AGE.

not amuse herself at the expense of the happiness and liberty of even a wren."

"Oh, no, dear mama," cried FANNY, with tearful eyes. "Only kiss naughty FAN, and she'll let it go."

MRS. MAYFIELD kissed her daughter, and FANNY let the unhappy bird go out at the window. Poor thing, it gave a cheerful, joyful chirp as it flew from her finger—away, away to its mates, who, no doubt, awaited it in great suspense.

When FANNY had closed the casement again, Mrs. MAYFIELD called her to her side. "My dear child," said she, "in the world whose broad avenue lies before you, there are many snares and pitfalls, as subtly disguised as your bird-trap, therefore be not too anxious to enter upon untried pleasures, lest beneath the luring surface lies a painful snare for your unwary feet," and stroking the little girl's glossy curls, and imprinting a mother's blessed kiss on her upturned face, Mrs. MAYFIELD sent her to her governess, who awaited her in the school-room.

Elkhorn City, Nebraska, 1863.

HONORING PARENTS.

As a stranger went into the church-yard of a pretty village, he beheld three children at a newly-made grave. A boy about ten years of age was busily engaged in placing plats of turf about it, while a girl, who appeared a year or two younger, held in her apron a few roots of wild flowers. The third child, still younger, was sitting on the grass, watching with thoughtful look the movements of the other two. They wore pieces of crape on their straw hats, and a few other signs of mourning, such as are sometimes worn by the poor who struggle between their poverty and their afflictions.

The girl began by planting some of her wild flowers around the head of the grave, when the stranger thus addressed them:

"Whose grave is this, children, about which you are so busily engaged?"

"Mother's grave, sir," said the boy.

"And did your father send you to place these flowers around your mother's grave?"

"No, sir, father lies here, too, and little Willie and sister Jane."

"When did they die?"

"Mother was buried a fortnight yesterday, sir, but father died last winter—they all lie here."

"Then who told you to do this?"

"Nobody, sir," replied the girl.

"Then why do you do it?"

They appeared at a loss for an answer; but the stranger looked so kindly at them that at length the eldest replied, as the tears started to his eyes:

"O, we do love them, sir."

"Then you put these grass turfs and wild flowers where your parents are laid, because you love them?"

"Yes, sir," they all eagerly replied.

What can be more beautiful than such an exhibition of children honoring deceased parents? Never forget the dear parents who loved and cherished you in your infant days. Ever remember their parental kindness. Honor their memory by doing those things which you know would please them when alive, by a particular regard to their dying commands, and carrying on their plans of usefulness. Are your parents spared to you? Ever treat them as you will wish you had done, when you stand a lonely orphan at their graves. How will a remembrance of kind, affectionate conduct towards these departed friends, then help to soothe your grief and heal your wounded heart.

DROPS OF WISDOM.

THE more we help others to bear their burdens, the lighter our own will be.

EXCELLENCE is never granted to man but as the reward of labor.

STONES and idle words are things not to be thrown at random.

If you think your opportunities are not good enough, you had better improve them.

DELIBERATE with caution, but act with decision; and yield with graciousness, or oppose with firmness.

A HEAD properly constituted can accommodate itself to whatever pillows vicissitudes of fortune may place under it.

By examining the tongue of the patient, physicians find out the diseases of the body—philosophers, of the mind.

THE dove, recollect, did not return to Noah with the olive branch till the second time of her going forth; why, then, should you despond at the failure of a first attempt?

Scientific, Useful, &c.

THE SEASONS OF CALIFORNIA.

NOWHERE in all the earth are the phenomena of day and night ushered in with such splendor as in this Valley that lies so closely on the confines of the occidental sea. Nowhere does the beautiful sun—manifest type of God—so drape himself in banneted clouds, so grandly fit to be the couch of all magnificence, as he does in this, our Palestine. A poet and a dreamer would say that when the sun so clothed himself in such array of billowed beauty, it was a grand prayer and a benediction, a terrestrial adoration swelling from nature's heart to nature's God. May the sunset of Time be as gorgeously painted and as auspicious of hope! The seasons of California are varied and lovely. In this Valley, during the warm days of summer, our eyes rest on snow-capped hills that surround us at the North, while the ocean breezes from the South fan us into pleasantness. During our warmest months night comes to our relief, cold and exhilarating. Then we are favored by the delightful season of autumn. Could more be asked on earth, so far as weather is concerned, than has been presented the past few weeks? The husbandman has been enabled to harvest his golden crops, while the miner has been allowed to delve in the sands of the rivers for hidden treasures, unmolested by early rains. Soon we will reach the season of winter, when the heavens will commence their weeping, interspersed by clear skies and bright sunshine. We pass through the season of rain and of sunshine, to be conducted into the season of spring, when the lilies will spring from the mountain side, the floods be withdrawn, and the plain covered with flowers. Verily, we dwell in pleasant places, and while peace is by our firesides, we are furnished with plenty, and should consider ourselves the most happy and prosperous people on the face of the earth.—Marysville Appeal.

SUGAR AS FOOD.

In the last number of the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, there is an interesting paper on "Sugar as Food, and as a Product of the Organism." In alluding to the uses of sugar in assisting assimilation, the reviewer quotes Mr. Bridges Adams:—"I know by experience the difference in nutritious effect produced by the flesh of tired cattle on a march, and those slain in a condition arising from abundant food and healthy exercise. In the former case any amount might be eaten without the satisfaction of hunger, whilst in the latter a smaller amount removed hunger. But I discovered that certain other food of a different quality, such as grape-sugar and fruit, would help the tired meat to assimilate, and thus remove hunger." Puddings and fruit tarts are not, therefore, simple flattening of the palate, but digestive agents, provided always they are not themselves of rebelliously indigestible materials, which, in English cookery, is too frequently the case. The reviewer alludes to the fondness of artisans for confectionery, and of patients just discharged from the hospital asking for "sweets," in preference to good substantial food, as examples of a correct instinct. There is no doubt that in children, in whom the requirements of growth call for a rapid and efficient transformation of food into tissue, the demand for sweets is very imperious, and parents should understand that the jam pot will diminish the butcher's bill and increase the amount of nutrition extracted from beef and mutton.

THE YEAR OF NINES.

THE present year, 1863, presents some curious combinations in regard to the figure 9.

If you add the first two figures together, thus 1x2—they equal 3.

If you add the last two, 6x3—they equal 9.

If you set the first two figures 18, under 63—and add them together, the result is 81, the figures of which added together, 8x1—9.

If you subtract the first two from 63—the remainder is 45, the figures of which if added together, 4x5—9.

If you divide the 63 by the 18, the quotient is 3, with 9 remainder.

If you multiply all the figures together, thus 1x3x6x3, the result is 144, the figures of which 1x4x4—9.

If you add all the figures of the year together the sum is 18, and the sum, 1x8—9.

If you divide 1863 by 3, the quotient is 621, and 6x2x1—9.

If you divide 1863 by 9, the quotient is 207, and 2x0x7—9.

If you divide 1863 by 23, the quotient is 81, and 2x7—9.

If you divide 1863 by 59, the quotient is 27, and 2x7—9.

There are other similar results. The year 1881 will provide a large variety of similar combinations.

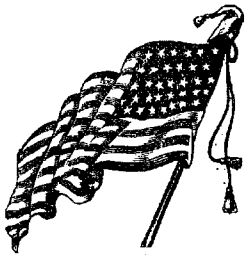
THE FIRST CANNON.—The first iron cannon is said to have been cast in Sussex, England, in 1536. Bonds were taken in after years from owners of charcoal furnaces, to the amount of \$5,000, that no cannon should be sold without a license. It was feared that the French would obtain them.

PERFUMES.—So perfect were the Egyptians in the manufacture of perfumes that some of their ancient ointment, preserved in an alabaster vase in the Museum at Alnwick (England), still retains a very powerful odor, though it must be between 2,000 and 3,000 years old.

VALUE no man for his opinion, but esteem him according as his life corresponds with the rules of piety and justice. A man's actions, not his conceptions, render him valuable.

Rural New Yorker.

NEWS DEPARTMENT.



LEAVES fall, but lo, the young buds peep! Flowers die, but still their seed shall bloom!

ROCHESTER, N. Y., APRIL 11, 1863.

The Army in Virginia.

AN attack by rebel cavalry 100 strong was made on the 29th ult., on our cavalry patrol on the telegraph road between Dumfries and the Occoquan.

An expedition from Gen. Hooker's army, under Col. Fairchild, which was sent out recently to Northern Neck, returned to Belle Plain on the 29th, after a successful forage, in which they got possession of 300 lbs. of bacon, 1,000 lbs. of pork, 230 bushels of wheat, 3,000 bushels of corn and a large quantity of oats.

The following has been received at headquarters of the army:

GEN. SCHENCK'S HEADQUARTERS, Baltimore, April 4th.

To Maj.-Gen. H. W. Halleck, Gen.-in-Chief.—I have received through Brig.-Gen. S. Cameron, Capt. Carter's account of the Point Pleasant affair. Capt. Carter had 63 men, and reports two killed, three wounded and six taken prisoners; making our total loss eleven. The rebels lost in killed and wounded and prisoners twenty-two, and so their raid with their largely superior numbers was handsomely repulsed.

ROBT. H. SCHENCK, Maj.-Gen. Com'd'g.

The late attack on Point Pleasant, Va. was made by 250 of Jenkin's cavalry. They ransacked several houses and stores and burned 7,000 bushels of corn belonging to the Government and were finally driven out after a conflict which lasted several hours.

Telegraphic communication is cut along the Kanawha from Charleston to Point Pleasant. The Government steamer Victor No. 2 was fired into at Hale's Landing, 40 miles above Buffalo, on the Kanawha. One man was killed. The boat was completely riddled by musketry fire.

A force of rebel cavalry is reported to be on the Northern Neck, in the vicinity of King George Court House, engaged in seizing supplies and enforcing the conscription.

The enemy has within the last few days displayed a large body of troops in the neighborhood of the fords above Falmouth, but the impression is that this is only a ruse to conceal a retrograde movement.

Reports of deserters and from other sources lead to the belief that the enemy is still in force on the Rappahannock. He is removing stores from Culpepper Court House and fortifying the fords on the Rapidan. Gens. Lee, Jackson and A. P. Hill were present at a review below Fredericksburg, on Saturday week. An order was read reducing baggage and promising active service in April.

Ten of the enemy's straggling cavalymen were brought in from Dumfries by the 8th Illinois cavalry on the 4th. The prisoners were from seven different regiments belonging to Hampton's Legion and Fitzhugh Lee's command.

The wind and sun are drying up the mud with astonishing rapidity.

The following announcement is made by Gen. Hooker.—The following named officers are announced as serving on the staff of the Major-Gen. Commanding in addition to those mentioned in general order No. 2 of Jan. 29th, 1863, namely: Brig.-Gen. G. K. Warren, Vol. service; Col. E. Schriener, Inspector-Gen.; Lt.-Col. N. H. Davis, Asst.-Inspector-Gen.; Lt.-Col. E. R. Platt, Capt. 2d Artillery, Judge Advocate General; Maj. S. F. Barstow, A. A. G.; Col. G. H. Sharp 112th N. Y. Vols. Dep. Prov't Marshal General; Capt. Ulrich Dahlgren Aid de Camp; Capt. Chas. E. Cadwalader, 6th Pa. cavalry, Acting A. D. C.

Movements in the West and South-West.

KENTUCKY.—The following dispatches have been received at the headquarters of the army:

LOUISVILLE, April 1, 1863.

To Maj.-Gen. Halleck.—The following dispatch has been received from Gen. Gilmore, giving the details of his successful attack upon the enemy in Central Kentucky:

SOMERSET, Ky., March 31, 1863.

I attacked the enemy yesterday in a strong position of his own selection, defended by six cannon, near this town; fought him for five hours, driving him from one position to another. Finally stormed his position, whipped him handsomely, and drove him in confusion toward the river. His loss is over three hundred killed, wounded and prisoners. The enemy outnum-

bered us two to one, and were commanded by Pegram in person. Night stopped the pursuit, which will be renewed in the morning. We captured two stands of colors. Our loss in killed, wounded and missing will not exceed 30. Scott's famous rebel regiment was cut off from the rest and scattered.

GILMORE, Brig.-Gen. The rebel force has been driven out of Central Kentucky, and much of their plunder has been recaptured. I have this moment received a second dispatch from Gen. Gilmore, dated this morning, from Stagal's Ferry on the Cumberland, as follows:

"I underrated the enemy's force in my first report of yesterday's fight. They have over 2,600 men, outnumbering us more than two to one. During the night their troops recrossed the Cumberland in three places. We have retaken between 300 and 400 cattle. Pegram's loss will not fall short of 500 men."

GILMORE, Brig.-Gen. The alacrity with which the troops have concentrated, and the vigor and gallantry of their attack, are highly commendable.

A. E. BURNSIDE, Maj.-Gen. Commanding.

The Cincinnati Times' Lexington dispatch says Gen. Gilmore arrived from the battlefield of Somerset on the 2d. The enemy, numbering 2,600, were overhauled four miles north of Somerset. Skirmishing commenced, the rebels falling back to a position on a hill, a mile and a half from Somerset, where they made a stand, and the battle began in earnest. After five hours' fighting the rebels fled, pursued by our cavalry, to the river. Night coming on, and arrangements having been previously made, they effected a crossing, leaving 400 cattle. They had no train. Their loss was 50 killed and nearly 400 prisoners including 20 commissioned officers. Our loss was 21 killed and 25 wounded. Our force numbered 1,200.

Cluke's band of rebels have been completely dispersed by the 10th Kentucky cavalry.

TENNESSEE.—The Memphis Argus says the Sunflower expedition is a failure, and the troops have returned to Young's Point, while the Bulletin says that Gen. Sherman is in possession of Haines' Bluff.

Dispatches from Murfreesboro give an account of a brilliant skirmish on the 1st inst.:

An expedition, under Brig.-Gen. Hazen and Col. Envard, started for Woodbury to attempt to capture the rebel force at that point. One hundred of the Ohio cavalry accompanied it. The infantry had almost surrounded the rebel camp, but the cavalry dashed in so vigorously that the rebels were dispersed and fled over the hills. A number were killed and wounded, and 35 captured, together with 50 horses, a number of mules, four wagons and the rebel camp. We had only one wounded. The rebels were 600 strong and were commanded by Col. Smith. The expedition would have been completely successful if the cavalry had not been so eager.

A special from Cairo, to the Chicago Bulletin of the 2d, says the guerrillas who attacked the train near Morcur have been severely punished. Capt. Loomis, with about 100 men, came up with and attacked them on Monday. Five guerrillas were killed and six wounded, and 20 captured. Among the latter their leader. On their return part of our troops stopped at a farm house. The rest were attacked by a rebel force said to be 200 strong, under Col. Richardson. A desperate hand to hand conflict ensued, when 35 rebels were killed, and a large number wounded and taken prisoners. Our loss was 6 killed and 34 wounded. The rebels were completely repulsed.

The Cincinnati Commercial's Murfreesboro dispatch says Polk's corps, consisting of Cheatham's, Milton's, and McCollins' divisions, have advanced within 19 miles of Murfreesboro. Scouts affirm that the rebels must either attack or fall back on account of a scarcity of subsistence.

The Murfreesboro correspondent of the Philadelphia Press has obtained the following from a gentleman who has just returned from Chattanooga:

The rebels are building immense fortifications at Chattanooga and have already between 50 and 60 siege guns in position. At Bridgeport also there has been constructed some fine earthworks, and at Stevenson, Ala., Shelbyville, Tullahoma and Deckhart.

Bragg's loss at the battle of Stone River, was 15,000 killed, wounded and missing. This is the official figure. Seven hundred officers were killed, wounded and missing. Two Generals were killed and three wounded.

The rebel army in Tennessee consists of 190 regiments of infantry, and 75 regiments of cavalry, the latter under Gen. Wheeler, Gen. Van Dorn being second in command.

MISSISSIPPI.—A Cairo special of March 31st says:—Last Wednesday morning the rams Lancaster and Switzerland undertook to run by the batteries at Vicksburg. Soon as they came within range, the Confederates opened a tremendous fire. The Lancaster was struck 30 times; her entire bow was shot away, causing her to sink immediately, turning a complete summersault when she went down. All the crew except two escaped. The Switzerland was disabled by a 64-pound ball, penetrating her steam drum. She floated down, the batteries still firing, striking her repeatedly. Finally the Albatross ran along side and towed her to the lower mouth of the Canal. The loss of life was not ascertained.

On the way up the Hartford and Albatross encountered a battery at Grand Gulf more formidable than at Fort Hudson. The Hartford was struck 14 times. Three men were killed. The vessels returned the fire vigorously; both were more or less injured.

Rear Admiral Porter telegraphs to the Navy Department that the rams Lancaster and Switzerland would not have been allowed to go down the Mississippi had he been on the spot to see that his orders were obeyed. He adds that the rams were totally unprepared for the voyage, and that it was madness to attempt to pass the batteries in broad daylight. These rams were not transferred with the gunboats on the Western rivers to the Navy Department, but still belong to the War Department, and are under the command of Gen. Ellet.

Dispatches to April 1st, from the Mississippi squadron, embrace reports from the commanders of the several vessels which attempted to run past Port Hudson on the night of the 14th of March, from which it appears that they had reached the last and most formidable batteries, and were congratulating themselves upon having gained the turn in the river when the Mississippi grounded. Fearful that this vessel, under the mauling fire of the enemy, would fall into the enemy's hands, she was deliberately destroyed by her commander, after the removal of all on board. No private effects were saved. This mishap to the Mississippi caused a derangement of the well-contrived programme of Admiral Farragut for the passage of all the vessels of the fleet. The fighting on the part of our men is described as in the highest degree creditable to them, all striving to exhibit superior prowess.

MISSOURI.—The following has been received at the headquarters of the army in Washington:

St. Louis, April 3, 1863.

To Maj.-Gen. H. W. Halleck.—Col. Harrison, commanding at Fayetteville, telegraphs that Capt. J. J. Worthington, with two companies of the 1st Arkansas Cavalry, returned to-day from a scout in Carroll Co., Arkansas. In skirmishes with the rebels he killed 22 and took 7 prisoners. Captain Smith and McFarlain were killed, and Capt. Walker is a prisoner. Our loss was one man wounded—not dangerously.

S. R. CURTIS, Major-General.

St. Louis, April 3, 1863. To Maj.-Gen. H. W. Halleck.—A band of guerrillas took the steamers Gairy and Murdock and several soldiers and nine contrabands. Gen. Sloan telegraphs that Col. King is in pursuit, and had two fights yesterday with the guerrillas, totally routing them and mortally wounding their chief.

S. R. CURTIS, Major-General Commanding.

AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON.

THE Government has information that five powerful rams are building for the rebels on the Mersey and the Thames. The probabilities now are that no action will be taken at present under the law authorizing the President to grant Letters of Marque in certain contingencies. The question, what diplomatic or other proceedings may be necessary to prevent the construction and sailing of vessels of war and blockade runners for the rebels, is still undetermined.

The following is an official statement of the bonded debt:—7-30's, convertible in 6 per cents, due in 1881, \$139,736,950; average annual interest, 6 1-10 per cent.—6 per cent. debt, \$92,625,905; average annual interest, 6 per cent.—5 per cent. debt, \$30,333,000; average amount of interest, 5 per cent. Certificates, \$273,880,176; average amount of interest, 5 6-10. United States notes, \$345,553,500; no interest. Requisitions, \$46,646,615; no interest. Aggregate amount, \$929,186,147; aggregate amount of interest, 3.33-100 per cent. This amount is less than the public was led to apprehend from the speeches in Congressional debates.

An intercepted document addressed by Judah P. Benjamin, the Confederate Secretary of State, to Hon. Q. L. C. Lamar, the Confederate Commissioner at St. Petersburg, has lately come into possession of our Government.

It shows the prudent and significant reserve which the Confederate authorities prescribe to themselves in refusing to enter into any engagements with foreign nations not to renew the American slave trade. Mr. Benjamin says Mr. Lamar is well aware how firmly fixed in their Constitution is the policy of the Confederacy against the opening of that trade, but he remarks, we are informed, that false pretenses and invidious suggestions are made by the agents of the United States at European Courts, of the intention to change our Constitution as soon as peace is restored, and of authorizing the importation of slaves from Africa. If, therefore, Mr. Lamar should find, in his intercourse with the Cabinet to which he is accredited, that any such impressions are entertained, he must use every proper effort to remove them, and if any attempt is made to introduce into any treaty which he may be charged with, negotiating stipulations on the subject just mentioned, he will assume the position that the Constitution of the Confederates is an agreement made between independent States. In other words, no power is delegated to the Confederate Government over this subject.

In the course of his instructions, Mr. Benjamin says:—We trust that no unnecessary discussions on this subject will be introduced into your negotiations. If, unfortunately, this reliance should prove ill-founded, you will decline continuing negotiations on your side, and transfer them to us at home—where, in such event, they could be conducted with greater facility and advantage, under the direct supervision of the President. The Government has received an official copy of the Memorial of the Leeds Working Men's Institute to the following effect:

The members of the Leeds Workingmen's Institute have heard with pleasure which they cannot readily describe, of the contribution made by the people of America toward the relief of their distressed fellow laborers in Lancashire. This act of sympathy, so spontaneous and so generous, has excited through the country enormous feelings of gratitude. The thanks of the people at large will be conveyed to the people of America through other appropriate channels. But the working people of Leeds can at least bear witness to the feeling which has been aroused in a large section of their countrymen by this instance of good will on the part of the American people.

In justice, no less to their order than to themselves, they venture to give expression to that feeling in the present address; and in the first place they beg to offer their heartfelt thanks to those who have so gracefully ministered to the wants of a nation connected, indeed, with themselves by blood, by language and by laws, but of late too much estranged from them by political differences.

They cannot but remember that this assistance is rendered at a time which makes it particularly valuable as a token of sympathy, when other claims which might well be considered paramount are pressing on the American people. They would gladly see in this matter of kindness an assurance that, however the officials of the two countries have differed or may differ on

questions of internal or domestic matters, the hearts of their inhabitants are not yet severed, that the people of America and the people of England feel themselves bound together by a stronger tie than political alliances can furnish or that political differences can break.

The honestly hope that such distress as has lately been felt by the working people of Lancashire may never be experienced by any of those whom they address; but should the time unhappily arrive when such help as has now been afforded might be acceptably returned, by none would such assistance be more eagerly offered than by the working men of England.

In behalf of the Working Men's Institute. DARNTON LUPTRON, President. Leeds, Feb. 12, 1863.

The President has issued a proclamation designating the 30th inst. as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer. The following is the document:

Whereas, The Senate of the United States devoutly recognizing the Supreme authority and just government of Almighty God in all the affairs of men and nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for national prayer and humiliation; and,

Whereas, It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truths announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

And, inasmuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do by this, my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer. And I do hereby request all the people to abstain on that day from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, at their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us, then, rest humbly in the hope, authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one [L. S.] thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President: WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

It is asserted in quarters entitled to credit, that a draft will soon be made to fill up all regiments now in the field decimated by the casualties of war, to their proper standard. It is not yet known how many it will require, but probably 200,000. The drafted men will be sent at once to the regiments, where they will be taught the military tactics upon the field, and not in camps of instruction as has been proposed.

Gen. McClellan's official report of the seven days' fight on the Peninsula, and his falling back to Berkeley, dated July last, was published on the 3d inst. He says to the calm judgment of the future historian he leaves the task of pronouncing upon the movement, confident that its verdict will be that no such difficult one was more successfully executed; that no army more repeatedly, heroically and successfully fought against such odds; that no men of any race ever displayed greater endurance, and with such cheerfulness, and under such hardships.

NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

SOME ingenious German has invented a paper cup, which will completely hold a draught of the hottest liquid, and can be bought for a farthing. By means of this invention, the good people of Berlin can take up and drink at their ease, as they go along the railroad, the cups of coffee which we Americans find it impossible to swallow without scalding our throats.

In Boston, during the year 1862, there were six cases where a white woman was married to a colored man, but not one of a marriage between a white man and a colored woman.

THE Vote-Yourself-a-Library resolution, adopted by Congress before its adjournment, will give to each member between \$300 and \$400 worth of books belonging to the Government, many of which have been stored in Washington for a long time. They embrace works of Jefferson, Adams and the other Fathers; Statutes at Large, Reports of Exploring Expeditions, etc.

THE Common Council, Board of Trade, and citizens of Chicago have organized several committees to make arrangements for the great Canal Convention to be held at that city next June. It has been resolved to erect a building for the accommodation of the Convention, as large as the Republican Wigwam.

GOVERNMENT is purchasing fast steam tugs in Chicago, for the Mississippi. They are to be iron-clad, so as to be effective against light ordnance, to be used in the fleet to be employed against river guerrillas.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Strawberry Plants—J. Knox. Fisk & Hatch, Bankers, New York City. Hand-Book of the U. S. Tax Law—John S. Voorhies. New Book on Flux Culture—D. T. Moore. Russell's Strawberry—George Clapp. Lee's celebrated Grain Drill—S. R. Tracy. Valuable Farm for Sale—Henry S. Conde. Flux Seed—E. W. Blatchford. Clark's School Visitor—J. W. Daughaday. Kiddle's Patent Water Filters—James Terry & Co. Bone Dust Manure—C. G. Gootable, or Joseph Preston. The Adirondac Grape—John W. Bailey. Professor Hopkins, Family School for Boys. Produce Wanted—N. G. Simons. Bean Planter—Whiteside, Barnett & Co. Situation Wanted—Wm. H. Price. Stencil Plates—N. E. Baker. Peach Pits Wanted—O. Wannenmacher.

Special Notices. Atlantic Monthly—Tieknor & Felds. Coughs, Colds—Brown's Bronchial Troches. A Successful Merchant—D. B. De Land & Co. Sheep Farmers—Jas. F. Levin.

The News Condenser.

- A traitor has been convicted in Kentucky, and will be executed. — The confederates have been successful in negotiating an European loan. — In Richmond oranges and lemons were recently sold at auction for 75¢ per box. — The Federal Council of Switzerland has ceded the Valley of Dapples to France. — The Union League Societies in the State of Ohio now number over 100,000 members. — It is said that the Empress of the French has invited the ex-Queen of Naples to Paris. — Col. Clark, Chief of Gen. Banks' staff, killed at Port Hudson, was a citizen of Auburn. — All the steamboats at Cincinnati are being pressed into the service of the Government. — Vessels are arriving at Oswego from Canada. Nearly all the ports on Lake Ontario are open. — The ladies of Paris are collecting linen and lint in large quantities for the wounded Poles. — Only about one hundred rebel prisoners remain at Johnson's Island, near Sandusky, now. — Marian Langiewicz, Dictator of Poland, is only 33 years old. He is the son of a physician. — The citizens of Key West have contributed \$1,500 to the Soldiers' Relief Fund of New York. — A letter from Port Royal says the number of freed slaves in that department is nearly 17,000. — All disloyal residents of counties in front of Washington are to be sent to the enemy's lines. — Several medical students are leaving Paris in order to attend upon the wounded patriots in Poland. — Gen. Grant's medical director reports that the sickness in his army has been largely exaggerated. — The expenditures on the geological survey of California up to the present time, have been \$46,749. — Gen. Sigel has withdrawn his resignation, and his friends apply for a command in Texas for him. — George Long Dnyekinec, an eminent itinerant, in N. Y. city, died Monday week after a brief illness. — Counterfeit \$5 bills on the Bank of the Commonwealth, of New York, have made their appearance. — It is not impossible that a negro regiment may be organized in one of the loyal Slave States—Delaware. — Fresh strawberries have been for over a week on the bills of fare of the leading restaurants in New York. — Eleven barrels of whiskey sold in Atlanta, Ga., a few days ago, for \$8,000, being more than \$700 a barrel. — Valuable salt springs have been discovered near Leavenworth, Kansas. They are said to be inexhaustible. — A bill which grants separate schools for Catholic children in Upper Canada has passed the Canadian Parliament. — A goose, owned by Daniel Palmer, of Buxton, Me., died on the 19th ult., at the extreme age of fifty-two years. — A large emigration to the State of Illinois is taking place from the States of Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri. — Serfdom expired in Russia on the 3d inst. The event was celebrated in all the churches, and complete tranquility prevailed. — Six women lost their lives by suffocation in the crowd in London, during the royal procession at the Prince of Wales' marriage. — The St. Louis Democrat is joyful over the resumption of navigation on the Western rivers, and the improved prospects of trade. — In the town of Berger, in Prussia, is an elegant church capable of holding 1,000 persons, constructed—statues and all—of paper mache. — The English papers state that the royal plate on the Prince of Wales' marriage breakfast table was of the value of ten million dollars! — Secretary Chase has placed in the hands of the Paymaster General a sufficient amount to pay the entire army up to the 1st of March. — The London Zoological Society are preparing tanks for some white whales, twelve feet long, which are coming from the St. Lawrence. — The English Government is opening a negotiation for the purchase of the Hudson Bay Company's charter. The company ask £1,500,000. — The board of visitors of the public schools of New Orleans have decided to require the scholars to unite in singing the national airs. — Nathaniel Fillmore, father of Ex-President Millard Fillmore, died at his residence in East Aurora, Erie Co., on Saturday week, aged 92. — Mrs. Jane G. Swishsham, of Minnesota, has lately been appointed to a position in the War Department, with a salary of \$1,000 per annum. — Kansas has a variety of soldiers in the field, namely: a dozen regiments of white men, five regiments of Indians and two regiments of negroes. — The exchange of prisoners of war goes on briskly on the James River. On Tuesday week two or three boatloads were passed up and down. — It is said that some of the testimony taken before the War Committee, concerning the early conduct of the war, is too disgraceful to be published. — Miss Elizabeth A. Richardson, of Manchester, N. H., has been appointed captain in the War Department, Washington, at a salary of \$600 a year. — It is estimated that there are twenty million of grape vines planted in California, which will produce twelve million gallons of wine annually. — The Virginia Legislature have agreed upon a bill to take possession of the salt-works in Washington County, and to work them upon State account. — The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has decided that any gift enterprise in which prizes are to be drawn is a lottery, and subject to a tax of \$1,000. — Nineteen Federal and twenty one rebel generals have been killed in battle or died from the effects of wounds since the commencement of the war.

Special Notices

THROAT AFFECTIONS.

A Physician writing from Newfane, New York, speaking of the beneficial effects resulting from the use of "Brown's Bronchial Troches," says:—"Oblige me by sending a dozen more of your Bronchial Troches, enclosing bill. For alleviating that horrid irritation only felt by those who have suffered from any Bronchial affection, and for hoarseness and sore throat, I am free to confess (though I am an M. D.) they answer all you claim for them. I would beg you to feel that I am one of the last men in the profession to puff a nostrum, but feel I am but doing you justice to assert what I have." To avoid disappointment, be sure to obtain the genuine "Brown's Bronchial Troches."

Atlantic Monthly

NUMBERS among its contributors the most eminent writers of America. It is the only magazine which contains articles from the pens of LONGFELLOW, LOWELL, AGASSIZ, HOLMES, WHITTIER, EMERSON, Mrs. STOWE, HAWTHORNE, all of whom are regular contributors. Send for a Specimen Number. Price, \$3 per year, postage paid by the Publishers. Address TICKNOR & FIELDS, No. 135 Washington-st., Boston, Mass.

SHEEP FARMERS.

And all others who have stock troubled with VERMIN, Should try the SOUTH DOWN CO.'S EXTRACT OF TOBACCO. For sale by FISHER & Co., or JAMES F. LEVIN, 4t-cow 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Mass.

Markets, Commerce, &c.

Rural New-Yorker Office, } ROCHESTER, April 7, 1863.

Wheat—The market is dull and inactive. We do not observe any change in prices. Oats—The only alteration we have been able to note is in Oats, in which grain there is an advance equal to 2 cents per bushel. Meats—Dressed Hogs are 75c@81.25 better per 100 lbs. They are scarce just now and wanted for use as fresh pork. Hams have advanced 50c@81.00 cwt. Sides are dull and declining. HAY is very scarce and advancing.

Rochester Wholesale Prices.

Table listing various commodities and their prices, including Flour and Grain, Eggs, Honey, Butter, and other goods. Columns include item names and prices per unit.

THE PROVISION MARKETS.

NEW YORK, April 6.—Flour—Market may be quoted without material change in prices, with only a moderate business doing for export and home consumption. Sales at \$3.40 for superfine State; \$3.95 for extra State; \$4.45 for No. 1 Western; \$5.00 for No. 2 Western. Corn—Market is quiet and nominal at \$1.15 for Canada. Corn market may be quoted steady, with a more active business doing for export and home consumption. Sales at \$1.15 for extra, \$1.25 for No. 1 Western, and \$1.35 for No. 2 Western.

Married

In New York City, on the 22d of March, Mr. ERNEST B. SIMON of New York City, and Miss CAROLINE KAHN, of Tarrytown, N. Y.

Died.

In Ralston, Pa., on Saturday, March 28th, of diphtheria, EMILY A., daughter of JOHN and MELINDA NICHOLS, of Wells, Pa., aged 17 years and 8 months.

New Advertisements.

ADVERTISING TERMS, in Advance—THIRTY-FIVE CENTS A LINE, each insertion. A price and a half for extra display, or 62 1/2 cents per line of space. SPECIAL NOTICES (following reading matter, leaded), 60 cents a line.

THE CATTLE MARKETS.

ALBANY, April 6.—Beef—Market is dull this week, although the prices of last week have been well maintained. In several instances at the opening 10c@12c per 100 lbs better was realized, but this difference was fully offset by the improvement in the average quality than for some weeks past. At the close the market was languid, and prices had a slight downward tendency.

DEAN PLANTER.

We are manufacturing the latest improved Dean Planter. Price, \$13.00. Combined Corn and Bean Planter \$18.00. We make and sell the well known Iron-Beam Currier Flour. We are also agents for the Buckeye Grain Drill and Grass Seed Sower, for the counties of Monroe and Genesee, N. Y.

PRODUCE WANTED.

The undersigned would like to hold correspondence with farmers, for the purpose of buying their products, such as Flour, Butter, Cheese, Potatoes, Lard, Eggs, Dried Apples, Beans, &c. Farmers having any of the above named articles to sell, are invited to give the lowest prices, for cash, delivered on board the cars. Address: NATHANIEL G. SIMONS, No. 139 Main Street, Charlestown, Mass.

BONE DUST MANURE.

The undersigned is prepared to furnish a superior article of BONE DUST MANURE, of his manufacture. Prices, \$16 to \$19 per ton, according to fineness. Apply to, or address 155 Main Street, Rochester, N. Y., or call at the Factory on North Clinton, near Norton Street. ROBERT PRISTON, 601-st.

PROFESSOR HOPKINS' FAMILY SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

Select in character, and limited to 15,—A BARE AGRICULTURAL and HORTICULTURAL instruction, combined with a thorough English and Classical course. School located in the beautiful and pleasant village of Medina, N. Y., 27 miles from New York. Students admitted in April and September of each year. Send for Circulars. 691-st.

KEDZIE'S PATENT WATER FILTERS. Have been in constant use over twenty years, for filtering water, and saving thousands of families throughout the United States.

A SCHOOL MAGAZINE FREE. A Clark's School Visitor, -Vol. VII. The Publisher of this favorite Monthly, in order to reach all schools, will send the VISITOR one year GRATIS to one person, (who will act as AGENT) at any post-office in the United States.

FLAX SEED, For sowing purposes, FOR SALE IN SHIPPING ORDER, AT CHICAGO LEAD AND OIL WORKS. Chicago, Ill., March 31, 1863.

VALUABLE FARM FOR SALE.—I will sell my valuable farm of 120 acres, situated less than one mile north-west from the beautiful village of Batavia, N. Y. It is known to be one of the best farms in Genesee County; is well supplied with choice fruit, and with a choice wood lot of about 15 acres, all in a high state of cultivation, (wood lot excepted).

THE CELEBRATED GRAIN DRILL, AND THE GREAT AMERICAN CULTIVATOR.—The most Popular Farming Implements in the World.

THE GRAIN DRILL.—Has been before the agricultural public for the last twelve or fifteen years, and has, in all instances, given perfect satisfaction.

THE CULTIVATOR!—The celebrity of these Cultivators is world-wide.

NEW BOOK ON FLAX CULTURE! THE PUBLISHER OF THE RURAL NEW-YORKER has made arrangements to issue soon—as early as the 15th or 20th of April—a PRACTICAL MANUAL on the subject of FLAX CULTURE.

It will be a Good and Useful Book, The aim being to furnish a much-sought desideratum—a complete and reliable, yet cheap and intelligible GUIDE FOR FLAX GROWERS.

TO RETURNED DISABLED SOLDIERS. A liberal discount on the terms for Tuition will be allowed.

HAND-BOOK OF THE U. S. TAX LAW. COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES, BY AMASA A. REDFIELD, Esq., Counsellor at Law.

EVERY LAWYER should have it! EVERY BANKER and every BROKER should have it! EVERY INSURANCE COMPANY should have it! EVERY RAILROAD COMPANY should have it!

FISH & HATCH, BANKERS, AND DEALERS IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES, AGENTS FOR THE U. S. Five-Twenty Loan.

NEW MODE OF INSTRUCTION. The great success attending our New Mode of Instruction has produced quite a sensation among the Managers of similar Schools.

CHEESE-MAKING APPARATUS. The Excelsior Patent Bee-Hive, agree to that it is the best Hive ever invented! It is the only Hive that effectually gets rid of the moth-worm!

EASTMAN'S MODEL MERCANTILE COLLEGE, ROCHESTER, N. Y., Established in 1842. FOR THE BUSINESS EDUCATION OF YOUNG MEN.

THE SYSTEM OF PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION. Is effected by means of a regular COLLEGE BANKING INSTITUTION.

Eastman's Model Mercantile College, OF ROCHESTER, N. Y. The System of Practical Instruction.

A MODEL COLLEGE IN FACT. To supply the students with goods, where almost every kind of Dry Goods and Groceries are dealt out.

YOUNG MEN. Under this System of Education no young man of ordinary ability need fall of being able in a very short time (ten to twelve weeks) to act as Book-keeper.

TO FARMERS, TO DAIRYMEN, TO COUNTRY MERCHANTS. TO ALL WHO HAVE FOR SALE Sorghum Sugar and Sirup, Furs and Skins, Fruits, dry and green, Butter, Cheese, Lard, Hams, Eggs, Poultry, Game, Vegetables, Flour, Grain, Hops, Flax, Cotton, Tallow, Wool, &c., &c.

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Penmanship. Strict attention is paid to this most essential branch of Education.

YOUNG MEN OF CANADA. The high premium on gold and silver on this side (from 50 to 60 per cent.) will lessen your expenses more than one third from what they have been heretofore.

NEW MODE OF INSTRUCTION. The great success attending our New Mode of Instruction has produced quite a sensation among the Managers of similar Schools.

CHEESE-MAKING APPARATUS. The Excelsior Patent Bee-Hive, agree to that it is the best Hive ever invented!

TO CHEESE DAIRYMEN. RALPH'S PATENT IMPROVED "ONEIDA CHEESE VAT," Was awarded the FIRST PREMIUM, after a thorough test, at the New York State Fair, 1862.

FACTORY CHEESE-MAKING. More economical in use than steam, and much less expensive in cost. Sizes varying from 84 to 336 gallons on hand and ready for delivery.

THE UNIVERSAL WARRANTED WITH COG WHEELS! CLOTHES WRINGER. IT SAVES TIME, LABOR, CLOTHES AND MONEY.

THE UNIVERSAL WRINGER TOOK THE FIRST PREMIUM, A Silver Medal and Diploma, at the New York State Fair, 1862.

EXCELSIOR HOPE PLOUGH. Patented by N. PALMER. FOR HORSES OR HIGHS.

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ONLY ONE KILLED!

BY ANNIE M. BRACH.

On, bid me not be gay to night, I cannot join the joyous band...

DAVID, a man who acted in the double capacity of gardener and groom, assisted her to mount. As she took the reins, she looked at him kindly, saying: "Thank you, DAVID, we are going to Mount Dorth. Good-bye."

The Story-Teller.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

A LEAF OF LIFE.

BY E. A. SANDFORD.

[Concluded from page 116 of our last No.]

We commenced our study. She came to the library, punctually, every day. We looked over our mathematics, in which her advancement quite equaled mine...

"Is it possible," said she, "that with all your learning, you are ignorant of the legendary lore of your own vicinity? You should live more familiarly with your neighbors, and you would pick up many an interesting bit of intelligence..."

to speak to me,—to say that she was not injured,—that she was not suffering,—that she was safe and happy in my arms. I called her by every endearing name, and then and there poured out my whole heart in a wild torrent of passion.

he will be surprised to see how the troubles that have oppressed him are brushed away, and the future before him is brightened. New beauties will come upon the face of nature, and new joys and hopes will spring up in his heart.

Advertisements. CRANBERRY PLANTS of the Bell and Cherry varieties for sale at low prices. CHOICE GRAPE VINES.—For \$1 I will send two Concord, two Perkins and one Hartford Prolific...

Wit and Humor.

LITTLE JOKERS.

PEOPLE who like so much to talk their mind, should sometimes try and mind their talk.

Corner for the Young.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 40 letters. My 3, 27, 12, 14, 21 is a river in France.

AN ANAGRAM.

I have ota hwetlra lo oewrp ro lskli, Ot roastadob lal ourand;

RIDDLE.

I'm pretty, I'm useful in various ways, But if often you kiss me, 'twill shorten your days;

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS, &c., IN No. 689.

Answer to Mythological Enigmas.—Epinaminondas. Answer to Anagrams of Officers Names.—Don Carlos Buell, Henry Halleck, John C. Fremont, Ambrose E. Burnside, Winfield Scott, George B. McClellan, Joseph Hooker, Fitz John Porter.

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