

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.)

VOL. XV NO. 10. ROCHESTER, N. Y.—FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1864. {WHOLE NO. 738.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,
AN ORIGINAL WEEKLY
RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.
CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE.
CHARLES D. BRADTON, Associate Editor.
HENRY S. RANDALL, LL. D.,
Editor Department of Sheep Husbandry.
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS:
P. BARRY, C. DEWEY, LL. D.,
H. T. BROOKS, L. B. LANGWORTHY.
W. T. KENNEDY, Jr., Assistant Office 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.



SPRING WORK

This is Spring. Spring work has commenced. It is but a brief space of time since last we commenced it—a hand's breadth. But this is no time for sentiment. It is now—the work of to-day that demands attention. We have laid our plans. Each section of the farm plat has received its apportionment of productive duty. The manure is to be applied, the seed deposited, and in the autumn a draft will be made. Will it be honored? That is the question; and the solution depends upon the farm manager to a great extent. It is the work of the succeeding months to insure this return.

If the planning has not been done it should be. Where is the wheat to be sown? Where the oats, barley, &c.? Where will you plant the corn, sorghum, cotton, tobacco, beans, potatoes, onions, carrots, turnips, &c., &c.? Have you thought about this? If so, have you a satisfactory reason for the disposition of each crop? It is well to canvass this matter thoroughly. It ought to have been done long ago.

Accounts.—Have you prepared to keep an account with each crop and each class of animals? If not, why not? How are you going to render a record of transactions to the Collector of Internal Revenue unless you do adopt some system? You may wrong the government; and you will be quite as likely to wrong yourself by any effort to guess at facts that should be recorded in figures. Read again the excellent suggestions on this subject in RURAL of Feb. 20th.

Apples.—In the cellar, there may be decaying apples. As the weather gets warmer they will decay. They should be carefully assorted, wiped dry, repacked in barrels and headed up. Of course the decayed ones should be removed.

Arboriculture.—Have you determined to plant trees this spring? If so, where, and why? And have you determined what kinds shall be planted? Where will you get them? If you propose to transplant from the forest, we pray you, do not go into the thickest part of the forest where the trees are crowded, to get specimens. You do not want *pot s* with branches ten feet from the ground. Get trees, and remember that it is safer, and you are surer of satisfactory results if small, stocky trees are selected. It is well, if you have not done so, to go through the woods and hunt and mark such trees, until you have found the required number. But if you are going to get them from a nursery man, send for a catalogue at once, and decide what and how many you will plant, and order them at once. Do not wait till you want them before ordering; for the poor stock will be all that will be left for you then, if you are able to get any at all.

Ashes.—What have you done with your ashes? You have been making them all winter—both

wood and coal. Coal ashes should be carefully preserved and used. Use them as absorbents. Scatter them in the chicken yard, and pens, on the manure-heaps, and in the privy vaults. Do not forget to do it. It will save you money and help to insure health. Be careful where you put your wood ashes. A correspondent, whose article we shall print, writes that dry wood ashes will burn if fire is put in them. Do not put them in anything wooden, nor set them where the March winds can fan any fire they may contain into a flame. A little carelessness has cost many a farmer his home just as the busy season was coming on. It is better to be over careful than careless at all.

Apiary.—Examine the hives. Select a warm day and clean the hives and learn something of the condition of each colony. If they need food, feed them; if water, give them drink. A little timely attention may save you three or four colonies.

Cows.—They will need your especial attention—especially those that are to drop their calves soon. See that they are well fed. You should have saved the best hay for them until this time; and they should have it during this and the succeeding months until grass is plenty. Look after their condition? Are they tail sick? If so, bleed them. Give them plenty of air during the warm days; but do not let them on to the meadows nor into the pastures—keep them in the yard, and put them up before the night air chills them. Keep their mangers clean and take especial pains in cleaning the stables.

Calves.—If you are rearing early calves, do not let them stand and lie in their own filth on a barn floor, or in a close pen from one week's end to another. If you want them to thrive, keep them clean, and dry, and give them plenty of good food. Do not be satisfied with feeding them twice each day, as some are. Feed less at a time, and regularly at least three times a day—four or five times would be better. Remember how often a calf feeds that runs with its mother. It does not get so much, but gets it often. The stomach is not distended out of all proportion, and the shape of the calf destroyed for life. Added, there is not that continual bawling which is so common among calves after they are taken from the cow and half starved, half of the time. A little experience and care, the exercise of a little common sense in filling the calf's stomach, will help to add to its value as well as comfort, and greatly gratify you if you have a taste for fine animals. And so long as a calf drinks milk, it is always better to feed it warm—not hot, nor cold, but "milk-warm." It injures the calf's stomach and health to feed cold milk, and it is inhuman to feed it as hot as some do.

Composts.—It is well to look after the compost heaps. If they are under shelter, and are not frozen, turn them; and if decomposition has not taken place, and you propose using the compost this spring, add air-slaked lime to them as you turn them. Gather up the hen manure, if you have no other special use for it, and incorporate with it as you turn.

Cotton.—Have you got your seed? You want from one to two bushels per acre. Do you know how to distinguish good from poor seed? Put it in water. The good seed will sink; the poor will not. If you have a hot-bed—and you should have—you can start the plants in it, and transplant when danger from frost is over. This will lengthen the season, and insure your crop from late autumn frosts, perhaps. If your cotton land is not thoroughly pulverized, do not plant in it until it is. It is very essential that it should be.

Dirt.—While we do not urge that anybody should become a slave to their ambition to be clean and have everything clean about them—as some good housewives are—we do urge that an abhorrence of dirt—filth—in the house, barn, stable, dairy, out-buildings, and in the fields, nooks and corners, is orthodox. And, pray remember, you who have your hands cracked open and chapped up, that in nine cases out of ten, dirt does it. There is no law whereby a man is compelled to suffer when it can be legitimately avoided. If the hands chap in the cold spring winds, protect them by wearing good strong buckskin mittens or gloves. And keep them clean and dry and there will be less suffering. But a dirty barn floor, a dirty cellar, or out-building on the premises is worse, if possible, than dirty chapped hands.

We shall continue these hints.

TAXING TOBACCO.—INTERESTING FACTS.

We have before us a letter, purporting to have been written by ISAAC NEWTON, Commissioner of Agriculture, to JOHN SHERMAN, Chairman of the Congressional Committee on Agriculture, discussing the expediency of taxing leaf tobacco twenty cents per pound, as proposed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. This letter contains some facts, which, if properly grouped together, may interest our readers.

1. *The amount of tobacco grown in this country.*—By the census of 1850, we learn that the crop of the previous year was 200,000,000 pounds. In 1859, it was 423,000,000—the average crop during the years intervening between 1849 and 1859 being about 265,000,000 pounds. In 1892, the crop in the loyal States was estimated at 208,000,000; in 1896, at 268,000,000. During the past eight years, the estimated average production of all the States is about 275,000,000 pounds. Estimating that each acre will produce one hoghead of 1,200 pounds of tobacco, one small county containing 400 square miles, would produce all that is produced in the United States. And yet there is scarce a State in the Union that will not produce more than this amount of tobacco annually.

2. *The tobacco product of this country, compared with that of other countries.*—We only grow from one-fourth to one-third of the tobacco of the civilized world. The product of Europe is more than four hundred million of pounds. South America, Northern Africa, Australia, Japan and the East Indies, furnish nearly or quite one thousand million of pounds. Holland produces more than twenty million; Austria and Hungary 112 million; Belgium more than 14 million; France, including her plantations in Algeria, produces nearly 50,000,000 pounds, and yet her people are allowed to grow this product in but few of the Departments. Thus it will be seen that we do not and can not hope to monopolize the production of this staple.

3. *What we consume and export.*—It is estimated that we consume nearly one-third—say 65,000,000 pounds—of our product, annually. The balance is exported. During the past four years the amount, in pounds, of leaf tobacco exported, has diminished thirty-three per cent. At the same time the price per pound has increased eighty-five per cent; and the gross value, in dollars, of the export, has increased twenty per cent. This is significant as showing that with the increased price the foreign demand diminishes. American tobacco is sought for its strength, by foreign dealers, rather than for its superior flavor and aroma, and used to give potency to milder qualities. But in proportion as the price of the American product increases, in just such proportion are substitutes for it provided by tobacco dealers. A London tobacco circular of last August, says "the quantity of American grown tobacco, now used in the United Kingdom is not much more than one-half what it was two years ago, and it is gradually decreasing. Indeed, it is extremely problematical if the consumption of American tobacco ever reaches its former amount; for the growth of other countries is now so freely used that it threatens to supersede the American growth altogether." In this letter, a half dozen or more foreign tobacco circulars are quoted, showing that American tobacco is being gradually but surely displaced by a foreign grown product. And this result is largely, if not altogether, due to the increased price of our product. And the argument is that the proposed tax of 20 cents per pound will destroy the foreign demand for the article, diminish its production, and consequently the revenue to be derived therefrom to the country, instead of increasing it.

We think this showing sufficiently conclusive—that the policy of taxing the leaf is a bad one in its relation to the Government revenue. But there is a still graver objection to such taxation. It ought to be the established policy of this country that the products of the soil, in their gross state, shall not be taxed. It is right to tax property, both real and personal. It is right to demand a proportion of each man's revenue to aid in liquidating the debt of the country. But it is not policy nor right to paralyze the production of agricultural staples by taxation when the amount of such production depends upon the foreign demand, and must come in competition with foreign production. And this is the case with most, if not all, of our agricultural staples. Congress should hesitate long before taking a single step in this direction.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

EDITED BY HENRY S. RANDALL, LL. D.
TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Mr. RANDALL'S address is Cortland Village, Cortland Co., N. Y. All communications intended for this Department, and all inquiries relating to sheep, should be addressed to him as above.

SHEEP WORK IN MARCH.

MARCH, by common consent, is the most critical month of the year for sheep in the climate of the Northern States. Breeding ewes and last spring's lambs which have been poor through the winter, but which apparently have kept strong and hearty thus far, now frequently fail rapidly in strength, pine away and perish. After thirty years' experience, we know no effectual way of arresting this fatal decline after it has actually set in,—any medicine or processes which tend to reduce the system, are clearly out of place. It would seem that moderate tonics and stimulants ought to be beneficial, but we confess we have never discovered any which proved of the least avail. Some persons have thought that they found great advantage in administering raw, salt, fat pork—thrusting a piece of the size of two fingers down the throat of each feeble sheep once in two or three days. We have tried it without perceiving any good effects from it. Careful nursing, separating the stronger from the weaker, avoiding sudden changes of diet, and especially avoiding those nostrums which men possessing neither experience, observation nor knowledge of medicines are generally so ready to recommend, are all that we can confidently advise. The only real remedy is to be found in prevention—in bringing sheep into the winter in good condition, and keeping them so by proper feed, shelter and other care.

Even the hearty, rugged sheep of the flock require special attention in March. Now is the time to feed the choicest hay. Grain feeds, if given previously, should by no means be reduced. This is all-important in the case of inlamb ewes. The extra feed may be moderately and gradually increased if it appears necessary—but even if the ewe is already too fat, it is not safe to reduce her a particle within a few weeks of lambing.

Handle breeding ewes, if it is necessary to handle them at all, with still more care than previously, now as parturition approaches. Do not turn them over on their backs to exhibit their wool, pare their feet, or for any other purpose. Such handling, if carefully done, would not produce abortion, but it is liable to lead to wrong presentations of the lamb at birth. If they must be lifted, stand on one side of the ewe, put one arm before the fore-legs and brislet, the other behind the lower part of the thighs, and then press the arms toward each other just so that the sheep can be conveniently raised from the ground without bending its back either up or down—and set it down again as carefully as you would a sick man on a bed. Let sheep have exercise. Walking about moderately will do them good—though they unquestionably require less exercise as lambing approaches. But let nobody chase them. Let no thoughtless children take the sheep barns and yards for their play grounds. Let no strange dog enter their yards. Let no cows, and especially no frisking colts, put their feet in those yards.

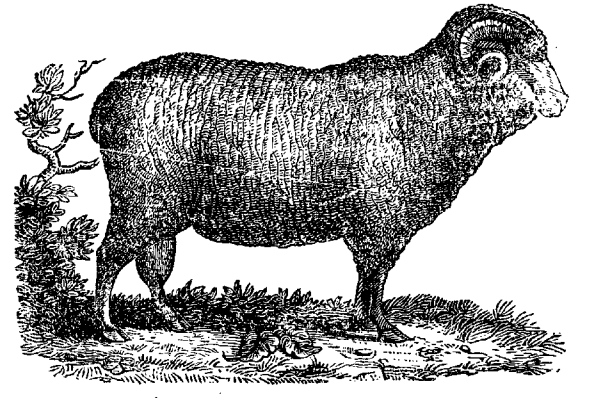
Draw out ewes and lambs from the flocks if they exhibit the least degree of weakness, and put them by themselves. See that manure does not accumulate too much in the stables. Keep everything in order. Continue to adhere rigorously and punctually to every part of a proper winter system in regard to feed, water, salt, shelter, ventilation, exercise, etc.

If ewes are to lamb in March, or early in April, stables must be in readiness that can be closed up tight in case of severe cold. The Vermonters tie coverings—made of pieces of old

comforters, blankets or the like—on their March lambs, and keep them there until moderate weather comes. We laughed very heartily when we first saw a troop of blanketed lambs capering in a Vermont sheep stable! But why not? If your hardy horse is better for a blanket, why not a delicate lamb, just ushered wet and weak from the blood heat temperature of its mother's womb into an atmosphere below zero? Mr. H—, of Vermont, had two or three "catch lambs" dropped last January. During some moderate weather in February, (when we were stopping with him,) his man suggested that these lambs had worn their blankets long enough. "Well," replied Mr. H—, "suppose you go into the house and take off your drawers: if you find yourself better for it, we'll try it on the lambs!" It would not be profitable for most flock-masters in our climate to have lambs dropped in March; but where it is profitable to do so, it is also profitable to take all necessary steps to save their lives and promote their growth.

IMPORTED RAM DON PEDRO.

THE first Merino ram known to have been imported into the United States, was brought from Spain into Boston, Massachusetts, by WILLIAM FORSTER, in 1793. He was killed, without having gotten any produce. The second was introduced in 1801, by M. DUPONT



DE NEMOURS, and a French banker named DELESSERT. This was DON PEDRO, whose portrait is given above. He was considered of fine form, weighed 138 pounds, and yielded 84 pounds of brook-washed wool. This, so far as our knowledge extends, is the heaviest fleece which was borne by any of the early Merinos imported into this country. DON PEDRO was first taken to DUPONT'S place near New York. In 1802, he was put on a farm belonging to M. DELESSERT, near the village of Kingston, N. Y., and was kept there until 1805. He was crossed with the common ewes of that region, but the produce was held in so little estimation that Chancellor LIVINGSTON, on his return from France in 1805, learned that near one hundred of his half and three-quarter blood progeny "had been sold at vendue at a price inferior to that of common sheep, and that above one-half had perished from neglect the following winter." The Chancellor purchased "all he could of the scattered remnant," and "picked up twenty-four ewes" at a price which "attracted the notice of those who had seen and neglected them." See Preface to LIVINGSTON'S Essay on Sheep, p. 8.

At DELESSERT'S sale, DON PEDRO was bought by DUPONT'S agent for sixty dollars. He was taken in 1808 to the farm of E. I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, Delaware. He founded a valuable flock of sheep for that gentleman—but was thought of so little value by his neighbors, that scarcely any of them would use the ram, though his services were gratuitously offered.

As DUPONT DE NEMOURS was the head of the Commission appointed by the French Government to select in Spain the flocks of Merinos given up by the latter by the Treaty of Basle, we have always conjectured that this ram was from the original Spanish, and not from the French variety of Merinos. The point, however, is of little practical importance, as the French sheep had not, at that period, diverged essentially from the parent stock.

The cut we give is copied from an old one, said to be very accurate, in the possession of LEWIS F. ALLEN, Esq., of Black Rock, New York. It represents a low animal of much substance, and uncommonly round in the rib, for the Spanish sheep of that day. But it is essen-

tially the "Merino ram" of our early recollections—before the American variety had assumed separate and distinctive features. Counterparts of it can now be found, or could recently have been found, in many unimproved American flocks. The intelligent Merino breeder of the present day can not but gaze with great interest on an authentic portrait of a first class Spanish ram at the period of the opening of the present century, and of the first sire ram of that breed which ever placed foot on the American continent.

We have secured an exceedingly truthful portrait of an American Infatado ewe, presenting the type of that variety twenty-five years ago—before they received their "modern improvements." We shall give an engraving of this as early as it can be procured. We much wish we had a similar drawing of one of the early Pauls, or Rich sheep, for the same purpose. Persons having old pictures of Merino sheep, known to be authentic, are invited to forward them to us—to be returned or not as they shall direct. We have on hand now fifteen portraits of the present Merino sheep, which are to be engraved for the RURAL NEW-YORKER.

SHEEP CHEWING TOBACCO.

CHESTER BAKER, of Lafayette, Onondaga county, New York—an experienced flock-master, and as truthful a man as lives— informs us that he has fed thirty-two Merino breeding ewes with tobacco stems all winter—giving them about as many, daily, as a man can carry at once in his arms! From the first, the ewes greedily ate of the small and damaged leaves from the tops of the stems, the tops of the stems themselves, the occasionally damaged leaves on the butts, and they also usually peeled off the bark from the entire stems! The substances thus consumed taste strongly of tobacco, and will readily produce a decoction strong enough to kill ticks. Mr. BAKER has known a neighbor to do the same thing—and he proceeded on the theory that the sheep would not eat what was not useful to them. They have abundance of hay and other feed, and are not, therefore, induced by hunger to indulge in this strange appetite. We shall await the final result of this curious experiment with interest.

IN-AND-IN-BREEDING.

DEAR SIR:—Having had several years' experience in breeding of cattle and sheep, both by crossing and breeding-in-and-in, I would say to all farmers that intend to make the raising of wool and mutton, or butter, cheese and beef, their business, beware of too close breeding; for whether neophytes, ignoramuses, or sensible, practical men, they will not succeed in raising as hardy and useful a flock of sheep, or herd of cattle, by close breeding, as they will by judicious crossing of families, or animals of different blood. Mr. ALLEN, in remarks on this subject in the RURAL, mentions instances in which breeders of fine stock bred in-and-in for several generations to the improvement of their stock.

When in England, I was acquainted with breeders of Short-Horn cattle, which took first premiums in that class for several years at the Royal Agricultural Shows, and they all bred close, not with a view of improvement, but to perpetuate the good qualities of certain animals, (they thought it necessary that their stock should contain at least one-fourth blood of another family.) The result was they succeeded in raising some splendid specimens, but many of their fine bred cows did not give sufficient milk to rear a kitten, (it was customary to keep half-bred or cross-bred cows to raise their premium calves on), and a great number of their cattle were about as hardy as a hot-house plant. Mr. ALLEN mentions the name of Mr. BAKEWELL, with others, as a successful breeder by the close breeding system. We are told by Mr. YOUATT, who is supposed to be one of the best writers on sheep in England, that Mr. BAKEWELL selected from different flocks in his neighborhood, without regard to size, the sheep which appeared to him to have the greatest propensity to fatten, and that having formed his flock from sheep so selected, it appears did not object to breeding from near relations, when by so doing he put together animals likely to produce a progeny possessing the characteristics that he wished to obtain. After describing the beauty of form and fine mutton qualities of that breed, Mr. YOUATT states:—"The new Leicesters, however, are not without their faults; they are not, even at the present day, so prolific as most other breeds, and the tups were not such sure lamb getters, and the ewes were not so well disposed for impregnation, and the secretion of milk was not so abundant as in other breeds.

"It was, likewise, and not without reason, objected to them, that their lambs were tender and weakly and unable to bear the occasional inclemency of the weather at lambing season. This he states was a necessary consequence of that delicacy of form and delicacy of constitution, too, which were so sedulously cultivated in the Leicester sheep." From my knowledge of breeding-in-and-in as practiced in England, I have reason to believe that if it produces a progeny of greater delicacy of form, it is at the expense of constitution and many good qualities necessary in animals, to all who rear them for their legitimate use.

I think if Mr. ALLEN traced the popular breeds of cattle and sheep a little nearer to the starting point, he would find a greater number of useful breeds produced by judicious crosses, than by breeding-in-and-in. For general usefulness among practical farmers in England, crosses of good breeds were preferred to thorough-bred; for instance, crosses of Short-Horn and Hereford were very popular for dairy cows and graziers; crosses of South Down and Lei-

cester, or South Down and Cotswold for mutton and the fattening of early lambs.

I own at the present time a herd of cattle, crosses of several breeds. During the best part of last season, my cows averaged over 34 pounds of cheese per day each, and they averaged through the season 24 pounds, although it was very dry and unfavorable for a large yield a great part of the time. I have also a flock of sheep, the progeny of various and even violent crosses, bred from the old stock of American Merinos before crossed with other breeds. The result of my last cross was beyond my expectations. I raised 84 lambs from 62 ewes, all dropped in May, 1862. One was ruptured and died that fall; three I sold; one died from accident during the winter. I sheared 89; the lightest fleece weighed eight pounds; the heaviest ten pounds and eight ounces. I sold one fleece to a neighbor, which, after being picked and cleaned with warm water and soap, and thoroughly dried, weighed six pounds and ten ounces—the wool, I think, being a little finer than half-blood Merino.

I have now about 200 of that cross, all square, well-formed sheep, and well-wooled over belly and legs; the live weight of wethers at two years old after shearing, will be about 200 pounds. They are hardy, and always in good condition; were fed outside of their yard during the inclement weather about New Years and since. They consume more coarse feed than my Merinos, but I feed them the same amount of grain in proportion to the number fed. Last winter I lost one lamb only from 270 sheep and lambs.—I have lost none this winter so far.

They do not cross or run back more than I intended, but are quite uniform. If they should eventually run out, a part to wool and the balance to mutton, (being bred for several successive generations from sheep excellent for wool, or mutton, or both,) better run in either direction, than have a number of weakly sheep in my flock unable to run at all except at the nose, which, I am satisfied, would be the case if I had bred-in-and-in as persistently as I have crossed.

If any practical farmer has produced better results by breeding-in-and-in, I should like to hear from him, not, however, if he has thorough-bred tups for sale.

Yours truly, R. H. SAUNDERS.

P. S.—I inclose two samples of wool pulled from my lambs to-day; lambs are now about eight months old, being dropped in May. If you think proper to insert the above, I am willing that you should do so, if you consider it worthy of notice.

The samples of wool forwarded are of medium quality, with heavy outer ends—each about 24 inches long exclusive of the small pointed ends. We see no reason why Mr. SAUNDERS should exclude the breeders and sellers of "thorough-bred tups" from replying to him. They ought to know as much of the subject as men who sell mongrel tups, wethers or ewes. We must remove Mr. SAUNDERS' restrictions; and all breeders of sheep are invited to express their views and detail their experience on this subject.—ED.

CONDENSED CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

ILLEGIBLE WRITING.—Mr. HEATH, of Philadelphia, must excuse us from answering his letter. If his time is too valuable to admit of his writing with a decent degree of plainness, ours is too valuable to spend four times the period it would take to write a letter of the same length, in trying to decipher his hieroglyphics.

CORN STALKS AND STRAW FOR SHEEP.—W. T. M., of Ira, N. Y., inquires "if sheep can be well and profitably wintered on corn stalks and straw with some grain—how much grain they would require—and the cost as compared with hay." Let Mr. M. read our article on "Cheap Mode of Wintering Sheep," in this number, and then make his own comparisons as to cost, with reference to the prices of the various articles of feed in the region where he lives.

A MANUFACTURER'S OPINION OF SHEEP GROWING.—T. S. FAXTON, the well known woolen manufacturer, of Utica, N. Y., in a private letter to us, makes the following statements:—"Sheep growing is to become a great business in the Western States in a short time. Were I younger and more acquainted with the subject practically, I would at once purchase 2,000 sheep and put them on my lands in Iowa." The State of New York possesses few so able, so sagacious, and so successful men as Mr. FAXTON. His opinion on this important subject is well worth quoting.

HOW TO WINTER SHEEP.—M. L. COE writes us:—"The best way to winter a sheep that I have ever tried, is to give it two pounds of carrots, cut fine, each day, with what straw it will eat—that is, six hundred bushels of carrots for 100 sheep; costing, necessarily, but thirty dollars. If any man can tell how to keep sheep fat, through a Northern winter for less money, let him speak. Sheep kept in this way need no water, and will not drink if they have a chance." Turnips are more cheaply raised than carrots, and are usually preferred as a sheep feed. Whatever roots are fed to sheep, they will drink some water, and breeding ewes ought to have it.

SHEEP ON THE PRAIRIES.—SPAYING SHEEP, &c.—L. B. MALTBY, near Keokuk, Iowa, writes us:—"The greatest difficulty to be found in the system of herding large flocks on the prairies is in the management and raising of lambs. When sheep become plenty, the small farmers with yards, barns and small flocks might raise lambs, and the prairie ranger could take the wethers and work for wool alone, or wool and mutton. Can the ewe be spayed? Here we spay almost everything. If I were to raise lambs, and had any shelter at all, I would certainly have them come in the winter, while the sheep are in the yards, so that when turned out to grass the trouble would be over. I am not yet prepared to believe that, with our liberal system of feeding, the Merino is the best for profit in even quite large flocks on the prairies. You know there is a vast difference between large flocks on a short pasture and large flocks on a wide range. We have no examples here, but I would like to see a large flock of Cotswolds or Oxford Downs. I believe they would do well and then their very early maturity is greatly in their favor. We can send mutton as well as beef to New York." We are not aware that sheep are spayed in any part of the world. Our views in respect to the proper breeds of sheep for the prairies, have been sufficiently expressed in the Practical Shepherd.

Communications, Etc.

CARROTS.

How to Raise and Store for Five Cents per Bushel.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Farmers have finally discovered that a few carrots for the horses, the oxen, the calves, and the sheep, are a very nice thing to have; but the trouble is, it is such an everlasting, puttering job to weed them that they all give it up in disgust. An acre of carrot ground will need ten loads of manure each year, or, if you have a poor acre of ground, which you wish to use for carrots, it will need thirty common loads of manure; but on most soils this dressing will last three years. Ground well fitted for corn will raise good carrots. Wait until the ground is dry and warm. Plow it at least twelve inches deep; harrow and plow until it is well mixed and thoroughly pulverized; then throw it into heavy ridges, coming to a point on the top, which will be at least four feet from center to center. Now, farmer boys, here is a chance for a skillful plowman! Don't let the job out, but take hold yourselves, for you will want to see your carrot rows as straight as a line. All the straightening must be done in the balk between the ridges, and none while closing the ridge. At this juncture the carrot seed should be sown and ready for planting; still, care must be taken to have the ground ready before or as soon as the seed is ready, for fear rains might come on and prevent fitting the ground, and the seed be lost. But if the ground is ready fitted, no ordinary rain will prevent planting.

The seed is sown as follows, and other seeds, such as onion, broomcorn, sugar cane, or any garden or farm seeds which are to be tested, may be sown in the same way. Inclose the seed in a cloth bag of sufficient size to hold the amount required; roll up in a deal bag so as to make a good-sized package, and bind it around firmly with twine. Saturate the mass in water as warm as can be borne by the hand and hang up over a stove. Repeat the wetting once in twenty-four hours until the seed is sprouted. Carrot seed will require four days, but should be examined after the third day. When sprouted, roll in land plaster or fine slaked lime, and the seed is ready for dropping.

The ridges are now prepared by raking the top lengthwise of the ridge with a manure or potato hook, to clear it from lumps, and level the top to the width of six inches. A drill is formed by rolling a wheel (formed by nailing two wheels of two inch plank together and fixing between two strips of board for handles,) on top of the ridge. Such weight must be used as will make a drill one inch deep.

We are now ready for the seed, which should be sown by hand until a machine can be secured that will do the work as well. The seed should be held so high that it will scatter the whole width of the drill. The seed is now covered one-half inch deep by carrying the edge of the hoe forward and perpendicular, using one side of the blade to do the work, bringing the earth from the side of the drill opposite to where you stand. With a little experience and care this job can be done as well as the raking; drilling and dropping nearly as fast as a man can walk backwards. All that remains now is to roll the wheel over the seed and the planting is done. Two good men will plant an acre in a day, provided the ground is in good order. If the weather is warm the plants may be looked for in forty-eight hours after planting, which will be found better than to allow the grass and weeds to grow two or three weeks before the puny little things can show themselves, which is not unfrequently the case when the dry seed is used.

To prepare for weeding, pass up the ridge on one side and down on the other, taking off the edge of the drill and working as near the plants as possible, cutting deep enough to use up the grass and weed roots effectually. Your row to be weeded well will now average no more than three inches wide. Now weed and thin the plants so as to leave from eight to twelve to each foot in length of row, throwing the weeds into the furrows. They are now ready for the plow. Turn the furrow from the plants, running as near as safety will permit. This process will cover all the remaining weeds. After they have had time to die, the ground must be turned back to its former position and the work is done. Now show your carrots to your neighbors and they will be well pleased. If the weather is favorable the plants will grow early; if not, they will wait until late in the season, and still make a good growth.

Your carrots now are in so great a depth of soil that they can be pulled with ease, unless the ground should be very dry at the time of harvesting; if so, run a plow along one side of the row and take them out by hand, throwing them into good-sized piles for topping.

Waupun, Wis., 1864. M. S. COE.

A HOP KILN.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Being a hop-grower I will answer the inquiry on this subject in a late RURAL. The most scientific growers in the State of New York now build what is called a "draft" kiln. The kiln for 10, 12 or 15 acres, should be about 20 by 20, or 22 by 22 feet, with a square roof, leaving a space about 4 by 4 feet for steam to escape, with a cowl similar to any dry-house. The rafters should be as long on the corners of the roof as the building is square. That is, a roof 20 by 20 feet square, should have 20 feet rafters, for corners, which will form a steep roof.

The kiln, from the ground to the cloth the hops lay on, should be from 14 to 18 feet, according to the size of the building. The longer the kiln, the more space should intervene be-

tween the ground where the stove sits and the cloth whereon the hops lie. A space of five feet between the cloth and the plates is sufficient where the roof is built as above directed. Preston, C. W., Feb., 1864. M. A. ABBET.

Condensed Correspondence.

Picking Stone.

ADIN BROWN writes us, that in clearing fields of stone, he uses a hoe to throw them in heaps; the advantages being that the operator can work standing straight; that the fingers are saved from wearing, and that the work can be done when it is too cold to handle stone with the hands. All of which are important considerations.

Goodrich's Potatoes.

JACOB SHELTLER, of Erie Co., N. Y., writes us commending three varieties of Goodrich's Seedlings—Garnet Chili, Cuzco, and the Pinkeye Rusty Coat. From an acre planted with equal parts of these varieties, he harvested, he says, 374 bushels of assorted potatoes and ten bushels of culls. They were of uniform size, and free from disease. Soil—rich, deep, heavy loam; grass land, manured in spring with cowstable manure, and plowed deep just before planting. Land naturally underdrained—cultivation good; weeds kept out.

Ring-Worm around Calves' Eyes.

IN reply to your question, "Do our readers know anything better?" on the above subject, I would say that I obtained the following directions from Dr. JEROME M. FOSTER, of New York. Wash the parts with soap and warm water, twice a day, and, after each ablation, apply a weak solution of the acetate of copper to the part affected. I have known this to remove them in every case. I have used the same upon my own children.—E. S. HOLLEY, Buffalo, N. Y.

Wheat for Horses.

MR. SANBORN, of Iowa, says that being destitute of oats to feed his team, and having wheat, which was comparatively cheaper, he resolved to try the experiment of feeding his horses on bolted wheat. He bolted his wheat, fed his horses through the winter on it, and they never did better, or looked finer. Perhaps it is worthy of trial by western farmers, wheat this season being comparatively much cheaper than coarse grains.—L. L. F.

Inquiries and Answers.

HOW MANY HOGS PER 100 COWS.—How many hogs may be kept at a cheese factory where the milk of a hundred cows is manufactured?—H. W. W., Cherry Creek, N. Y.

PRICE PAID FOR MILK AT THE CHEESE FACTORIES.—Will you, or your correspondents, tell me the price paid for milk at the cheese factories; and whether it is sold by the pound or gallon?—H. W. W., Cherry Creek.

HOW TO MAKE LARD OIL.—Can you inform me how to make lard oil? We need a good deal for our farm machinery, which might, perhaps, be manufactured cheaper than bought.—A SUBSCRIBER.

PRESERVING BIRDS, &c.—Will you or some of your subscribers give an explanation of the best mode of preserving birds, animals, &c.?—F. F., Junius, N. Y.

ON pages 9, 17 and 25, Vol. 9 of RURAL we gave a series of illustrated articles on this subject. If there is a demand for it, we will republish those articles.

POETRY WANTED.—Will not some of your readers send you for publication a piece of poetry called "The Sweets of Home." The first line is "The traveler may boast of the climes he hath seen, where the wonders of nature abound." I knew it long ago, and have forgotten it, and desire to obtain it.—Mrs. M. F. HOOTSEL, Brady, Mich.

A DISEASED COW.—My cow has a "poke" under the jaw, or a soft, hanging nature, and it comes and goes; is sometimes larger than others. She eats well, but is getting poor. I had one last year that had the same disease. She got along till grass came in the spring, when she took the scours and died. Whether the scours was caused by the other disease or not I do not know.—T. R., Ginger Hill.

We cannot say what ails your cow.

MARSH BROTHERS' HAND BINDING REAPER.—E. S. (Jewett, Lima, Mich.) We do not know that there is more than one machine in existence, of the kind described in RURAL last August. MARSH Brothers are simply ingenious, thrifty farmers, who got up this machine for their own convenience. It is not probable that they are manufactured. It was proposed by the owners of some of the self-rakers, to extend the platform of their machines so as to carry binders to bind with hand. Whether they are they are doing so, we are not informed.

P. S.—Since the above was written, we learn by a Western paper that MARSH Brothers are manufacturing two or three hundred machines.

A WATER-PROOF CEMENT.—I have a stone dam built on what some would call a mountain torrent—though it comes sparkling from an exhaustless spring—which does not hold water very well; the clay and gravel washing away with every flood. Now I propose to remove the dirt and line the dam with a water-proof lining, or cement, and wish to know of you or some of your subscribers the best method of accomplishing the desired object. Having a good foundation, can it be done after the manner of building concrete houses? Can you give the quantity of lime, &c., required to each solid foot?—JULIUS M. BATES.

Let such of our readers as may have had experience in such cases reply.

THE BEST BEE BOOK.—Have the goodness to let me know the best and most approved American treatise on the raising and management of Bees; whether QUINBY, LANGSTROTH, or HARRISON's contain the most plain and practical information for a beginner in the apian department; also, the cost of the work which you may recommend, and where it can be had conveniently.—READER, Lyons, Iowa.

We think either of the two first named books worth the money asked for them. We cannot undertake to say which is the best, nor measure the amount of practical knowledge they contain. But if we were going to have but one, we should select LANGSTROTH's. Any one of the three named, however, contain valuable practical information. We will mail you LANGSTROTH or QUINBY on receipt of \$1.25.

Rural Notes and Items.

SHEEP FEEDLER'S AGAIN.—A correspondent at Whitty, C. W., writes:—"I was not a little pleased to see in your last week's RURAL the article headed 'Beware of Sheep Feeders.' You give them just what they deserve. There are those who have been carrying on that business in the township of Whitty, Pickering and Darlington. They buy lambs and aged sheep at butcher's prices, and ship them by the Grand Trunk Railroad to Illinois, and other sections in the West, and, when they arrive at their destination, they are palmed off on the farmers as imported, or bred from imported sheep. They buy the lambs here at \$2 to \$2.50 per head. The expense of shipping is about \$2 per head. They net as clear profit about \$13 currency per head. To get Canada money, they purchase cattle with the shin plasters, and ship them to the Montreal markets."

This is one instance. Our correspondent is a reliable man. There are plenty of these operators who do not purchase their sheep in Canada, and who sell Vermont sheep which were never east of Ohio and Michigan.

EXPORTS OF LIVE STOCK TO CANADA.—WELLS' Commercial Express says:—"The recent seizure of live stock by the customs authorities at the Niagara suspension bridge, has caused an investigation, which shows that during the first three quarters of 1863, the imports into Canada of live stock from the United States amounted to 1,319 horses, 5,508 horned cattle, 2,765 sheep, and 10,867 swine. Partial reports of the last quarter show a still further import of 277 horses, 664 horned cattle, 2,507 sheep, and 7,517 hogs. An explanation is asked for, in view of such heavy importations long after the order was issued prohibiting the exportation of articles of which the present policy required the detention. Secretary Chase expresses surprise, in his reply of Jan. 19th, that the order of May 19th had so little effect in diminishing the exportation of live stock to Canada, and declares his intention of immediately correcting the negligence or misapprehension of the custom officers of the frontier, but cannot make an exception in favor of the parties who suffered loss by seizure at the Suspension Bridge."

WOOL GROWERS' MEETING AT SYRACUSE.—A meeting, under the auspices of the several Agricultural Societies of Onondaga, will be held at Syracuse, on the 10th of March, for the discussion of the subject of wool growing, etc., and the taking of such initiatory steps as may secure to the agriculturists of this section any advantages which might arise from a wool growers' association, laboring in union with similar organizations throughout the country. It is expected that the meeting will be addressed by the Hon. H. S. RANDALL, Hon. GEO. GRIDGES, and others. All wool growers, and all who would become such, are earnestly invited to support the objects of this meeting by their presence and cooperation.—C. B. T.

PAMPHLETS, &c., RECEIVED.—"Sweet Home, or Nature's Bee Book" is the rather gushing title of a small hand book sent us by W. A. FLANDERS, of Shelby, Ohio. It contains many valuable hints.—APPLETON'S United States Postal Guide, containing the chief regulations of the Post Office, and a complete list of Post Offices throughout the United States. This work is published by D. APPLETON & Co., New York, with the sanction of, and as an authorized medium of, the Post Master General. Hence it is valuable. Published quarterly, \$1 per year.—From X. A. WILLARD, the Seventh Annual Report of the Secretary of the Farmer's Club of Little Falls, with accompanying papers.

SORGO AND IMPURE SUGAR IN OHIO.—We see it stated that the Ohio Commissioner of Statistics, reports that the sugar production of Ohio in 1862, was worth \$221,190—that no less than 8,280,000 pounds of sugar was made in that State that year. Of this, it is asserted that 27,000 pounds was made from Sorghum. We are not told what the balance was made from—what proportion of it was maple, and what Impure sugar. It would be interesting to know. The molasses crop for 1862 is put down as worth \$1,942,854. It is exceedingly gratifying to know that so large an amount of Sorghum sugar has been produced. Will not friend HARRISON procure and send us a copy of this report?

FIELD TRIALS OF AG'L MACHINERY.—We learn that at the annual meeting of the State Ag. Society (N. Y.), a resolution was adopted urging the propriety of providing for the trial of implements embraced in the following classes:—1. For preparing the land for crops; 2. For harvesting and securing the crops; 3. For preparing them for market. We are glad to see this movement. The premiums of an Agricultural Society ought never to be awarded an implement which has not been thoroughly tested by the committee making the award in competition with other machines in the same class.

WHAT BECOMES OF DEAD ARMY HORSES.—A contract has been made for the purchase of the dead horses of the army of the Potomac, at \$1.75 per head delivered at the factory of the contractor. It is said 50 animals die per day. \$60,000 were made on the contract last year, and \$100,000 will be this. The shoes from a horse are worth about 50 cents; the hoofs \$2 a set; the tail 50 cents; and the hide, tallow, if any, and shins—bones are an added commercial value.

FENCES IN THE WEST.—A correspondent, who knows a thing or two, very innocently writes—"It seems certain that nothing else will make such a cheap fence as the White Willow. White Pine lumber is selling for \$18 per M., while White Willow is advertised as low as \$2 per M. Most of the White Willow used last year for fencing was seasoned stuff, but it seems to be the general opinion that it can be used green with quite as good success."

MUSKRAT WEED.—MARK WILCOX, of Michigan, writes us that he lost a good many sheep by feeding them hay containing a weed which he gives the above name. His neighbor has also lost cattle by their eating the root of this weed turned up by plowing. Our correspondent urges that the farmers of Northern Michigan should, when this plant is in bloom, pull it up. We do not know this plant by that name.

A DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY.—We see it proposed in Congress to create a new Department of Government, to be called "The Department of Industry," and to include the Bureau of Agriculture, Mines and Minerals, Immigration and Freedmen's Affairs. This Department will embrace important interests and require at its head a statesman.

HORSE RACING AT FAIRS.—At a recent meeting of the Onondaga Co. Agricultural Society, the opinion prevailed that trials of speed or horse racing at Fairs was inconsistent with the objects of the Society, and unfavorable to its reputation, and a resolution was adopted striking out this class from the premium list.

PERSONAL.—We find the following in a Western paper:—"It is reported that SANFORD HOWARD, Esq., of the Boston Cultivator, has been invited to become Secretary of the Michigan State Agricultural College."

Horticultural.

FRUIT GROWERS' SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK.

TENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

(Continued from page 71, last number.)

SOIL FOR PEARS.

What soil is best suited to the Pear?

Mr. SMITH—Good, strong loam with a strong admixture of clay, is best. If you have not got that put it on the best soil you have got.

G. ELLWANGER—There is nothing further need be said on that subject.

SHARPE—Pears grow well with me. My subsoil is rock; and the surface soil is stone mixed with a little rock and less dirt. I don't want to see orchards put out on good land—not on land that is too good to appropriate for the purpose. Good milk cannot be got unless you put it into the mouth of the cow; and you must feed the tree as you would feed the cow to get good milk.

BEADLE—Does the last speaker pulverize his soil deep? [Laughter.]

J. J. THOMAS—I think the best rule is to experiment and see where they grow best. I have planted on sand, loam, and clay in one location, and succeeded; and on soil with the same general characteristics, in another locality, and failed.

G. ELLWANGER—Pears have always succeeded with us, planted on a good, strong, heavy loam, with a good, strong clay subsoil.

PRUNING PEARS.

What is the best mode of trimming the Standard and the Dwarf Pear?

HOOKER—I have changed my mind so often on this subject that I really do not know which is best. It depends upon the habit of the tree. I could not recommend any particular method. I have seen all sorts of trees trimmed in all sorts of ways.

MOODY—There is one plan of trimming which I think should be urged. The tree should be thinned out so as to let in the sun on the fruit. We must not shorten-in, simply; the tree should be thinned.

SHARPE—I have cut my orchard back pretty thoroughly. I plant thick and have never thinned out at all, and have satisfactory results. I doubt the propriety of thinning out a great deal. My trees are very low. I would thin the fruit, but I question if there is more foliage than is needed to protect and ripen the fruit.

MOODY—I do not know of an orchard which needs thinning more than that of the gentleman who has just taken his seat. And I wish to call attention to the fact, in this connection, that the rock on which his orchard is planted is porous.

SHARPE—The gentleman is right as regards the character of the rock. It is porous, and a very good substitute for soil. But I do not agree with him about the thinning. My crop of 80 barrels averaged over \$11 per barrel. A portion of my crop was injured. If it had not been, it would have averaged me \$13 per barrel. Had all of my bearing trees stood in an orchard together, at the distance apart at which I have planted, my crop would have netted me \$400 per acre.

MOODY—The fruit on Mr. S.'s trees all grow on the lower limbs. He has a neighbor who thinned his orchard, whose trees bore more fruit, I think.

SHARPE—Doubtful. At any rate, I got from my orchard all I cared about getting from it.

PROMPT OF DWARF PEAR CULTURE.

Has the success attending the culture of Dwarf Pears in Western New York been such as to promise profit if planted largely in orchards?

SHARPE—A neighbor of mine planted 104 dwarf pears. The third year after planting he sold \$50 worth of fruit. Another neighbor put out 400 bearing trees. The second year his crop brought him \$69.50; the third year he got but little from it; the 4th year, \$175; this last year he received \$300 for his crop. Another neighbor planted an acre and one-eighth with dwarf pears. Some of these trees did not bear the past year, yet he sold his crop of fifty barrels at \$10 per barrel in the orchard—the orchardist to pick the fruit, and the purchaser furnish the barrels.

I think nursery men have injured community by selling trees so low that they are never cared for. A man I know of bought trees for little or nothing, and paid for them with what he did not think of any value, and they are good for nothing now—worse than nothing. If I can make a good hole in a gentleman's purse when he comes to purchase trees, I am sure he will thank me for it. I tell me when they come to me and want to buy trees low, that they had better not buy at all.

J. J. THOMAS—Years ago, I was led to adopt the erroneous opinion that trees should only be planted in gardens. Now I am fully convinced they ought only to be planted in orchards. In gardens they are often neglected—the vegetables are cultivated, but the trees are not. Hand hoeing and spade culture does not answer. The quince roots extend, and the soil needs stirring. A dwarf pear orchard ought to be as large as a corn field, and cultivated as often or oftener—especially when they will yield the figures given here. Horse cultivation will produce better trees. I would plant them 12 feet apart in the field—would grow them in large fields and give them horse culture.

SHARPE—I cultivated beans for two or three years in my orchard; but would not recommend it as a practice.

FISHER—These pear orchards that we have heard from are, I suppose, the best pear orchards in the country. It is not safe to base our recommendations upon their success. With me, with good culture, dwarf pears would not pay \$10 per acre. I do not believe that we are warranted in believing that 10 acres can be cultivated and

net the orchardist \$200 per acre. I selected, under P. Barry's advice, 16 varieties for a family and market orchard. Nearly all of them were dwarfs. They are fine healthy trees. I have a gravelly loam soil with a clay subsoil. These trees have been transplanted 5 years; and three-fourths of them have not borne a pear.

G. ELLWANGER—A different selection of varieties is made when one plants for market, than is made for an orchard for family use.

SHARPE—If the gentleman will plant Duchesse d'Angouleme and Louise Bonne de Jersey, 480 trees to the acre, they will produce for him a crop that will bring the figures I have named.

Judge LA RUE—Has any gentleman grown such crops five or ten years successively; or in other words, have dwarf pear orchards averaged such results that length of time?

FISHER—I can report only on half an acre. They have borne more or less for years. Trees all good and healthy. I have 25 or 30 varieties—the Duchesse in considerable numbers, a few Seckels, and all dwarfs. But I have had no such result in figures as have been given here.

OLMSTED—In 1858 I planted 800 standard trees; in 1859, 600 dwarfs. From the standards, the past year, I gathered 47 barrels; from the dwarfs, 7 barrels. I sold the whole at \$10 per barrel. The standard trees cost me \$35 per 100; the dwarfs, \$30 per 100. The crops of beans taken from the ground have paid for cultivation. The crop of fruit the past year has paid the cost of trees and planting.

SMITH—I planted, about four years ago, 4,000 pear trees; three-fourths of them were dwarfs. The latter were planted 10 feet apart; the former 20 feet apart. Crops grown on the ground between the trees paid for the culture. During the four years these trees have not produced five bushels. They did bear some fruit in spite of all I could do. They should never be allowed to bear fruit when only three or four years old.

FISHER—I do not wish to be understood as being dissatisfied with my pear planting, nor with what the trees have done for me; but I am not disposed to let the figures given here go out as being what every man may expect who plants dwarf pears.

J. J. THOMAS—There are such orchards as 10 year old dwarf pear orchards. I may name Mr. Yeoman's orchard of one-third of an acre, that has borne at different times \$400 and \$500 worth of pears—all from one-third of an acre. One year he sold his crop at \$35 per barrel.

FISHER—The gentleman named by J. J. Thomas sold \$500 worth of pears from one-third of an acre one year.

SHARPE—He sold in two years over \$1,000 worth of pears from the third of an acre. They were Duchesse d'Angouleme. The two varieties I named will give the orchardist in five or six years from planting \$400 to \$500 per acre. I would plant 8 by 12 feet apart.

At this point a gentleman read a letter he had recently received from Mr. Yeoman, above named, in which he stated that his crop the past year was 70 barrels, which sold at from \$8 to \$20 per barrel.

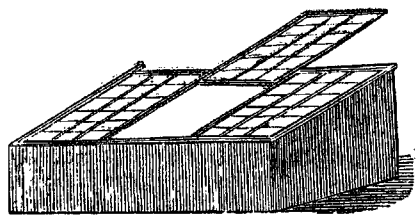
AINSWORTH—I sold the crop from one acre of Virgaleus and Seckels for over \$400; they averaged \$15 per barrel.

FROST—I think it will be found to be the experience of most persons who have cultivated pears several—say eight or ten—years, that they have proved a total failure.

ELLWANGER—I have cultivated pears twenty years, and cannot agree with Mr. Frost. There is profit in pear culture.

A HOT-BED FOR FLOWERS.

THE RURAL's readers are scattered over a large area of territory, embracing many degrees of latitude. Hence, information, in order to be timely to the greatest number of readers, must anticipate the season considerably in some localities. RAND, in his admirable work entitled, "Flowers for the Parlor and Garden," gives the mode of preparing a hot-bed for flowers, furnished him by one of his friends, "who," RAND says, "with his hot-beds accomplishes wonders; and whose flower garden presents a gay appearance than many who have unlimited green-house facilities at command." We copy the mode given, condensing it somewhat.



1. *The Frame.*—A good size is 5 by 10 feet square, 10 inches high in front, 18 in the rear; with the ends shaped, of course, to match. Let these (the ends) be cleated so as to prevent warping, and fasten together at the corners with hasps. Let in flush with the edge, narrow strips, at proper distances, for sashes to slide on, with a narrower one in the middle for a guide. These will receive four sashes of proper proportions for glass eight inches wide, which should be inserted in grooves, rather than by the old method of putting; for putty soon crumbles with exposure. Anybody with mechanical gumption can make the frame; and the sash can be purchased at a window factory, or made by a joiner. Paint the whole well with coarse paint. RAND says, if the portions of the frame touching the ground can be charred it will prevent decay.

2. *The manure* is thrown in a heap so as to present as little surface to the atmosphere as possible, and allowed to ferment. Let it heat. If it is coarse, no matter. Ordinary stable manure answers.

3. *Making the Bed.*—Measure a space 12 by 7 feet, (to give a projection of a foot all around the

outside the frame,) on a spot well sheltered from the cold winds and open to the sun. Set boards on edge secured by stakes, and fill in first with a layer of straw, leaves, or other material, then a layer of manure, beating it down with the fork, but not treading it hard. Continue this until you have used sufficient litter to make the bed, with the manure about two feet high. Put on the frame, cover the outside bank with boards laid flat, fill in with about four inches of tan, put on the sashes, and while the heat is getting up, get seeds ready, and prepare materials for potting.

4. *Potting Material.*—Bits of charcoal for drainage, the dust of which may be sifted from it and mixed with the soil for potting. Peat which has been exposed during the winter, sod, earth or loam and the bottom of an old hot-bed, if you have one, is good material. Equal parts of each, with some of the coal dust mixed in is good potting material for present purposes.

5. *The heat will be up* in about a week after the bed is made as described above. You may learn something of the condition of the bed by trying it with a sharp stick thrust into it.

6. *Sow first*, in the pots, the seeds of such plants as will bear turning out in the open border first—or plants whose growth is slow. Plunge the pots to the rim in the tan, and the heat from below will soon cause the seeds to germinate and grow. It is better, on some accounts, to sow the seeds in pots; because they are easier transplanted, and with less risk to the plant.

7. *Seed may be sown directly in the hot-bed.* But in order to do this no tan should be put in the bed when making it; but instead, fine, rich loam should be sifted on the manure to the depth of eight inches. After a few days have elapsed to allow the rank heat and steam to pass off, sow the seed in this loam, in drills.

8. *The bed requires attention* to prevent burning the plants, to water as may be necessary, to give air to prevent damping off, and to close it before nightfall, covering it with mats during the cold nights. Common sense added to this care, with each day's experience, will soon enable the reader to manage a hot-bed skillfully.

9. *Air should be given freely* when the weather is warm and sunny; on cold, cloudy days the sashes should be kept closed, unless it is necessary to get rid of damp, which may be effected by opening the frame about an inch at the top. If the weather is very cold the mats should not be removed from the sashes. Ventilate by drawing the sash down from the top. If more air is required prop up the sides about an inch, which will quickly carry off the surplus heat. After days become warm and sunny, and the sun gets high, the sashes may be removed, replacing them at night. Finally, they may be removed altogether and thus render the plants hardy and stocky.

10. *Protection.*—We have spoken of mats. Mats will only be needed where the bed is started quite early, or unseasonable weather occurs. A thick straw mat is generally used, and is as good and convenient as anything. If properly taken care of it will last for years.

We have not followed the text of the book we have named above, seeking to adapt this article to the wants of the greatest number of our readers. The directions given here for making a hot-bed for flowers, will apply where a bed is designed for starting early vegetables, except that the material used may be selected with less care. But it will pay to do anything well.

TREES ON THE PRAIRIES.

At the late Annual Meeting of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, a committee was appointed to prepare and procure the publication of a circular to the farmers of the State setting forth the advantages of planting forest trees on the prairies. We are indebted to JONATHAN PERHAM, the Chairman of that Committee, for copies of this circular. The committee give the chief objects to be gained by the extensive planting of forest trees, thus concisely:

1st. *The Promotion of Health.*—It being a well known fact in vegetable physiology that poisonous gases are absorbed by the leaves of trees, and thus converted from health destroying into health promoting elements.

2d. *Shelter from Violent Winds,* and an absolute checking of their force to so great a degree as to preserve growing crops of cereals from destruction, and secure a large increase of fruit; also secure a more equal distribution of rain and snow over the surface of the ground.

3d. *Securing a Supply of Timber* for fencing, building, fuel, and all mechanical purposes.

4th. *Adorning our Prairies,* rendering our homes attractive; in short, changing these nude and monotonous prairies into charming and varied landscapes.

EVERGREENS FOR THE PRAIRIES.

We copy what the committee say on this subject, with great pleasure. The planting of belts and groves of deciduous trees needs less encouragement. As the country settles up, and homesteads are made, orchards will be planted, and sheltering groves of rapid growing trees will spring up. The increase of the timber, in the settled portions of the Prairie States, during the past ten years, is almost marvelous; but it is almost wholly of deciduous trees. In no country do evergreens thrive better. In no climate are they needed more. No where will so radical a change result from their planting. And if one half the money invested in willow sticks the past two years, had been invested in the planting of evergreens, the result would have been ten fold more gratifying to purchasers, and an hundred fold more so in the modification of climate, and the enhanced beauty of prairie land-

scapes. It is with this conviction, therefore, that we shall continue, as we have in the past, to hurrah for the evergreens, while other, and perhaps wiser, men throw up their hats for the willows. Now for the information furnished by this circular:

List of Varieties.—The following varieties will succeed in almost all locations, and with the cultivation which we shall describe, will make an average growth of about twenty inches per year, viz.:—Norway Spruce, Red Cedar, American Arbor Vitae, White, Scotch and Austrian Pines. There are several other varieties which are hardy and may be planted with profit, viz.: Balsam Fir, our Native Spruces, Yellow and Gray Pines, and a few others.

How to get them.—All the varieties of Evergreens are difficult of propagation from seeds, and can be purchased from those who make this their special business much more cheaply than the farmer can propagate them.

How to prepare the ground.—The ground should be prepared by trench-plowing or subsoiling in the autumn, or deep plowing and thorough harrowing in the spring.

When to plant, and how.—Early spring is the best time for planting all varieties of Evergreens, though they may be removed with little loss at any time during the spring and summer months. If in the latter, a damp, cloudy day should be selected for the work. In removing Evergreens, pains should be taken to preserve as many of the roots as possible, without mutilating them, or splitting them at the collar. The roots should be dipped in mud (previously prepared) as soon as taken from the ground, and packed with damp straw or moss about them, being careful to prevent their exposure to the sun or dry air, for if the small roots are once allowed to get dry, the trees cannot be relied upon to survive.

In planting, pains should be taken to have a mellow bed for the roots, which should be spread out with the extremities lower than the collar, filling all the interstices with fine earth. Press the dirt moderately upon the roots, and cultivate thoroughly with the plow for the first four years; after which a thorough mulching of straw once in two years will be sufficient. Treated in this manner, not one tree in forty will die.

The Norway Spruce is doubtless one of the best, if not the very best, of trees for screens. It may be transplanted without a loss of one per cent., is perfectly hardy, grows rapidly, forming a dense pyramid or cone of evergreen foliage one hundred feet high, with a base, when standing alone, of at least thirty feet in diameter. Trees of this variety, two and one half feet high, can be purchased at \$20 per hundred.

Trees of the Norway Spruce should be planted in rows, ten to fifteen feet apart, with the trees the same distance in the rows, placing the trees in the second row opposite the spaces in the first. At these distances the branches will eventually interlock to a considerable height, forming an almost impenetrable and beautiful wall of foliage, which will effectually check the fury of our most violent storms.

The Balsam grows rapidly, and has the darkest, richest foliage of any of the varieties named, retaining its color through winter, though since it is liable to lose its lower branches after the trees attain a height of about forty feet, it is not as desirable to plant alone as the first named sorts; yet it may be mixed in with the Spruces and Pines with pleasing effect.

The Pines should not be planted closer than sixteen feet, as they grow into broad majestic trees. A better plan would be to plant the rows twenty feet apart in the rows; and when grown so as to interfere, cut out each alternate tree, leaving the trees standing in the positions named.

Red Cedar, &c.—Trees of the Red Cedar and Arbor Vitae can be procured at about ten dollars per hundred, and may be planted more closely if desired, though if closer than ten feet they will not attain their full size and strength as forest trees.

We propose to make further extracts from this circular as we find space.

Inquiries and Answers.

S. N. TRADER, Chicago. The nursery stocks in this vicinity, so far as we have been able to ascertain are uninjured. The cold has not been extreme here at any time this winter—not sufficiently so to destroy all the peach buds, much less injure the wood of fruit trees.

STRAWBERRY BASKETS.—Can you, or some of your subscribers, tell where I can obtain some strawberry baskets, of which they are manufactured, and oblige—A RURAL READER, *Ann Arbor Mich.*

Let those who manufacture, advertise.

CHICORY SEED.—Can you inform me where I can procure chicory seed? I am anxious to cultivate some the coming season.—A SUBSCRIBER.

Probably of any of the seedsmen advertising in our columns.

GRAPE VINES WANTED.—Can you inform me where I can procure Catawba and Delaware Grape vines sufficient to plant an acre?—J. H. STAFFORD.

If our advertising columns do not give that information, we cannot furnish it. They do, or will give it, if you read them carefully.

TO PREVENT ROSES BLASTING.—Please tell me if there is anything which will prevent roses from blasting? We have a variety called by some a Province, by others the Damask or Cabbage rose, but by us "The Old fashioned." It is a free grower, very hardy, and the flower of the most delicate blush and exquisite fragrance when it opens; but the bush will be covered with buds, with the outer leaves closed tightly, blasted, so that not one in fifty expands. What is the trouble, and is there a remedy?—A. E. K. R.

If the bush is a healthy one, and there are no insects sapping its life, we think that if you thin out the buds, say one-half, as soon as they begin to form, you will have a satisfactory crop of blossoms. Such results have followed such treatment.

Domestic Economy.

TO COLOR BLACK.

EDS. RURAL.—Seeing an inquiry for a recipe for coloring black, I send you mine. Take four ounces extract of logwood, put in an iron kettle, over which pour ten quarts of soft water; let it boil. Stir often, take off the scum, wash the goods in soap suds, put them in the dye, let them boil about half an hour, take out, air well. Add one teaspoonful copperas, one-third of a pint, put in the goods, scald about 15 minutes, take out, dry, then dip in sweet milk to set the color, wash in good soap suds, iron while damp, and you have as handsome black as you could desire.—FROM A SUBSCRIBER'S WIFE.

ANOTHER.—One pound of logwood; three pounds of yarn; one-fourth of a pound of copperas put in three gallons of water; when it boils skim off all the scum, put in the yarn, boil one hour, let it cool sufficient to ring, cover the yarn to prevent it from drying, then boil the logwood in the same water; dip and air three times; dry before washing.—EMILY SKEER.

EDS. RURAL.—Having noticed in the Feb. 6th No. of the RURAL an inquiry for coloring black that will not fade, mother proposes to send you hers, which she has used for a number of years, and knows to be an excellent recipe:—Take one pound of logwood chips, and half an ounce of copperas. This will color two pounds of cloth or yarn, silk or woolen. Put your logwood into a sufficient quantity of soft water to cover your cloth, and place it on the stove to soak; then put your copperas into a similar quantity of water; stir till dissolved; then put in your cloth and let it simmer for an hour; take out and hang out to dry. When dry, rinse through two or three waters, and put into the dye. Let it boil very slowly for an hour, then dry and rinse, and you have a black that will neither crock nor fade. It must be stirred frequently while in both the copperas water and the dye, to prevent its spotting.—A RURAL READER, *Milan, Ohio, 1864.*

COOKIES.—Take one large teacup sugar, one cup sour cream, one-half cup butter, one egg, and one teaspoon saleratus. Season to taste.—GACIE HALL, *Homeland, Feb., 1864.*

REMARKS.—We suppose there is no flour needed for cookies of this sort. If so, in what proportion? We are satisfied that a great many worthless, or incomplete recipes are given in this Department of the RURAL, and some that are valuable. But the editors, not being practical cooks, can not distinguish between the good and bad. We, therefore, invite candid criticism of such as are published. We would like such as prove worthless pointed out.

FOR COLORING SCARLET.—Take one ounce of cochineal, two of tincture of tin, one oz. of cream tartar, to one pound of rags. Dip the yarn in warm water before coloring; take the cochineal, pulverize it, add cream tartar, soak them a short time, add the tin, then the cloth, and scald twenty minutes.—EMILY SKEER.

PLUM PUDDING.—I inclose a recipe for making a tip-top plum pudding for the benefit of "a young housekeeper."—Half pound of raisins; half do. currants; half do. suet, chopped fine; half do. flour; 2 eggs; 1 teaspoonful grated ginger; same of nutmeg; 1 glass port wine; 1 oz. preserved citron.—FRANCES.

JOHNNY CAKE.—Take one quart of sour milk, to which add one egg well beaten; one tablespoonful of melted lard; one teaspoonful of saleratus; a little salt; stir in corn meal with a little flour, making a batter not very stiff. Bake slow, and I think it excellent.—ADA E., *Seneca Co., N. Y., 1864.*

DOMESTIC INQUIRIES.

TO COLOR DARK DRAB.—Please inform me through the columns of the RURAL how to color a dark drab; also a brown, and oblige—Mrs. E. B. C., *Fayette, N. Y.*

RISE PUDDING.—Will some of the RURAL readers please furnish a simple recipe for making rice pudding. ADA E., *Seneca Co., N. Y.*

INDIAN MEAL PANCAKES.—Will some RURAL reader inform me through its columns how to make good Indian meal pancakes, and oblige—FRANCES.

TO RENDER CLOTHING INCOMBUSTIBLE.—Is there any preparation which will render a lady's clothing incombustible, without injuring it? If there is it will be humane to publish it.—JENNIE R. COLCHESTER.

In 1860, at a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society in Edinburgh, an experiment was made by Dr. STEVENSON McADAM, with a crinoline dress, one half of which had been immersed in a solution of sulphate of ammonia. Fire was applied to it, and that part of it which had not been steeped in the solution was at once enveloped in flames; but the only effect upon the other part was to char it. It did not burn.

TO PAPER WHITENED WALLS.—Can you inform me if there is any way to make paper stick to walls that have been whitewashed, and oblige—AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.—*West Bloomfield.*

Yes. Scrape off all the whitewash before putting on the paper, and there will be no trouble. We know of no other way.

CAN EGGS BE PRESERVED THROUGH THE SUMMER.—Can eggs be preserved from the spring months until winter without spoiling, and how?—A SUBSCRIBER, *Salem Station, Wis.*

[SPECIAL NOTICE.]

THE ROMANCE TAKEN OUT.—"My dear, the sun is just stooping to kiss the western wave," said a lady to her husband, "and I am reminded that I must see that you have some biscuits for tea as light as the snowflake and as harmless." "Stop," said she, "I cannot do it for I am out of Chemical Saleratus, the only article fit to be used for the purpose." The grocery was doubtless far away, or the lady would have found the article put up in bright red papers.

Ladies' Department.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.
WAITING ON THE STEPS.

INSCRIBED TO MY DEAR WIFE.

WAITING on the steps,
Sunshine in his hair,
Kisses on his lips,
Watching for me there
Yes! he sees the cars
Coming up the street!
"Does papa get off?
May I run to meet?"
Now he claps his hands—
Open swings the gate;
Half a block he runs
His papa to greet.
Joy is in his eyes;
"Welcome home" he brings;
Arms about my neck,
Close to me he clings.
He is "father's boy,"
And his "mother's too!"
Will I mend his toy?
Tell him "what to do!"
One quiet summer evening,
He threw me his last kiss.
I turned me home again
His "welcome home" to miss
No prayers in his crib that night,
No "pleasant dreams" said he;
No boy, in the morning bright,
Came from that crib to me.

One golden Autumn day
He bade mamma "good-bye,"
And left his boyish play,
And went "up in the sky."

And, at the golden portals,
With kisses on his lips,
My dear, he's watching for us,
Is waiting on the steps.

GOSSIPY PARAGRAPHS.

—ALI PASHA, the Sultan's grand vizier, was in Paris recently. A lady to whom he was introduced at a *soiree*, naively asked him:—"Is the Sultan married?" "A great deal, madam," replied the Grand Vizier.

—At one of the Berlin theaters the director has issued an order suppressing the wearing of crinoline among the ladies of the theater on the stage. A revolution is confidently predicted. At least there is the premonitory agitation.

—A COSTLY skating cap, that! A New York milliner obtained five hundred dollars damages, the other day, for abusive language from a gentleman whose wife's skating cap she had not trimmed satisfactorily. What a villainous tongue for a man to have in his head!

—THE sixth article of the Ohio Cheese Manufacturers Association, recently organized, provides that all ladies who are wives of members, and all other ladies who are superintendents of cheese manufactories in the State, shall, upon request, be enrolled as honorary members of the Association.

—ONCE there was a peasant, in Switzerland, at work in his garden very early in the spring. A lady passing said, "I fear the plants which have come forward rapidly will yet be destroyed by frost." Mark the wisdom of the peasant:—"God has been our father a great while," was the reply.

—IN London a Professor PEPPER is lecturing, and illustrates one of his lectures by introducing a young lady clad in a muslin dress dipped in a cheap chemical solution, to which fire is applied in vain, so far as combustion is concerned. It will shrivel and singe, but it will not burn. What this solution is we are not informed.

—IN Monroe Co., Michigan, there is a Ladies' Horticultural Association. Their second annual meeting was announced to take place on the 22d of February. The proper treatment of frozen plants, and how to insure winter blossoms, were the subjects announced for discussion. There are some other towns where such an association might be profitable and pleasant.

—As a historical fact it should be recorded that the Empress of Austria has the smallest waist in Christendom. It measures *fifteen and a quarter inches*—about the circumference of her husband's neck. And yet the circumference of her body at the shoulders is *thirty-three and a half inches*. And she thinks herself prettier for this distortion perhaps! Some foolish girls do.

—A MRS. HOWARD, by whom the present Emperor of the French had two children prior to his marriage with EUGENIE, and who has the reputation or credit of having so advised Napoleon as to have materially aided him in securing his present position, is in Paris, and it is reported divides the attention of the Emperor with his royal spouse—has become his counselor-in-chief.

—THE New England and the Philadelphia Female Medical Colleges have adopted as the style and title of diplomas given to graduates, and of the degree conferred, that of *Doctress of Medicine*. That is good sense. And we suggest that government, now that it is appointing women to such positions in the Postal service, recognize their sex, and instead of calling Mrs. JONES Post-master, call her Post-mistress.

—A LONDON dealer describes a new style of crinoline as so perfect that a lady may ascend a steep stair, lean against a table, throw herself into an arm-chair or occupy a fourth seat in a carriage without inconvenience to herself or others, or provoking rude remarks from observers, thus modifying in an important degree all those peculiarities tending to destroy the mod-

esty of English women; and it allows the dress to fall in graceful folds. Such a crinoline is needed in America.

—IN Springfield, Mass., a wee little girl besought her mother as she was going out shopping, the other day, to bring her home a baby. The indulgent parent selected a pretty doll and on her return made the presentation, expecting to see her naughtier greatly pleased with it. But the precocious child could hardly keep the tears from her eyes, as she disappointedly exclaimed, "I don't want that—I want a meat baby!"

—IT is asserted that women of taste in New York, as well as in Paris, wear crinoline of an entirely different size and shape in the street to that which is permitted upon occasions which call for a grand toilet. For street wear it is very small at the top, and expands only moderately, until it reaches a proper walking length, slightly deeper behind than in front. For drawing-room wear, on the contrary, though still small at the top, it expands out to much wider dimensions, terminating behind in a sort of trail, which adds much to the effect of a rich silk or *moire antique*.

—A WOMAN writing of Washington life says: "Can one mingle in Washington gay life and be a consistent Christian? I ask the question daily. One is pretty sure to be put to the test. They come girded about with wholesome precepts and habits. The accidents of position take hold upon them; day by day they find weaving about them a bright insidious little web of social courtesies, adverse to their creed and their practice. Shall they resist the charmer, charm she ever so wisely; cruelly the lusts of the senses, and burnish bright the armor of self-denial; or is there a safe, rose-planted pathway side the dizzy precipice, over which so many worldlings step into a dread eternity?"

—A WRITER gives the following reason for disliking to see the dress drawn up during promenade because it somehow gives to every woman the appearance of that respectable but diminutive inmate of a barn-yard, known as a bantam hen. Moreover, it requires certain points and conditions, which, after all, only a few women possess—such as small feet, a small, well-shaped ankle, a habit of wearing neat walking boots, and a properly shaped walking hoop. One woman in twenty may fulfill all these requisites as she walks, with her dress elevated over her Balmoral skirt, but the other nineteen who also have their dresses raised in various ways, and at various points of the compass, will shock one's taste and one's ideas of propriety with immense feet, or an awkward, ungainly step, or an ill-fitting or neglected boot, or, worse than all, flop along under a pressure of sail occasioned by a too expansive crinoline—some of the ladies who have eagerly adopted a fashion to save their dresses being very far behind fashion in other respects.

SKATING COSTUMES IN PARIS.

IN the course of a lively description of skaters and skating in Paris, the correspondent of the *London Post* has the following "anent" the costumes:—"Most of the fair creatures wear a pretty round hat, with a red or white wing, or feathers, and a veil, which invites the curiosity of youthful imagination. Any gay colored jacket, of any cut, decorated with any description of fur, is allowed; and very pretty it is to observe the animated patches of red, violet, blue, white and black, darting about amid the gloomy great coats and ugly hats and caps of the men. But to continue my description of the ladies' costume. Now comes the difficulty; to describe the toilette, costume, dress, robe, modes—how ought it to be called?—of what comes below the jackets, casaque, polonaises, paletots—how ought such things also to be called? Well, that portion of female covering which begins after the waist, and in our day assumes awful proportions before it hides the feet, is in the ice-modes of Paris drawn up in festoons by unseen mysterious mechanical aid, leaving very visible nearly a whole pair of stockings, which may be red, or black, or "fancy." Then come the Polish boots, and then the silver skates. My limited descriptive powers are happily no longer required; but if such enchanting toilets do not lead to holy matrimony, men's hearts are frozen as well as the waters of the Bois de Boulogne."

COURTING BY BOOK.—A gentleman sends to the lady of his affections, in another part of the country, a Bible with the leaf turned down at Romans, Chapter I, from the 9th to the 12th verses:

"For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, making request if by any means how at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come to you, for I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gifts to the end that you may be established. That is, that I may be comforted together with you, by the mutual faith both of you and me."

In return for which the lady transmits a Bible to her lover, with the 13th verse of the 14th chapter of St. Luke marked:

"I pray thee, have me excused."

THE HEART.—Dr. Lee, an eminent physician, asserts that he has discovered,—by what means we are not told,—that the heart is the organ or seat of nervous sensibility in the highest degree—not the brain as has long been supposed. Therefore, the Bible, when it speaks of the heart-broken, the heart-sorrowing, the heart-grieving, the heart-bleeding, does not use language unwarranted by physiological science, but what the recent discoverers of that science have demonstrated to be literally true—ripe science falling into harmony with revelation.

Choice Miscellany.

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

BY EDWIN E. RAZZ.

THERE'S a lonely green isle in the sea of the past,
Where the waves of dark passion ne'er roll;
Where the sleet of old age never comes on the blast,
Nor clings to its ever-green scroll;
Where clouds of the autumn never darken the sky,
And the glory of spring never fades;
Where the leaves of the forest never wither and die,
Nor the flowers that spring in its glades—
And a ray, from the glory of heaven, it seems,
Comes down thro' the mist from above;
And the shores recede from the view, as it gleams
On the ever pure waters of love.
Tho' the enchanted isle is now far away
O'er the turbulent waters of life,
Yet the merry hum of its long summer day
I can hear far above their dark strife.
And the low murmuring sound of the waves on its
strand,
Falls enchantingly still on my ear,
Tho' I'm tossed on the billows far out from the land.
That memory will ever hold dear.
And, as I gaze o'er the waste to the far distant shore,
One sad thought remains in my breast,
And I sigh that my tempest-tossed bark never more
In that peaceful haven may rest.
West Somerset, N. Y., 1864.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.
DAINTY DEVICES.

IN painting, sculpture and heraldry, we find devices without number to emblemize the artists' ideals, give to the world the shadows of their thoughts, or show forth human pride in all its dædal forms; but nowhere do we meet with such dainty devices of love and its kindred emotions as upon the leaves of the great book of Nature.

Spring breathes her delicate thoughts and her sweet aspirations into the brown fields, and lo! here and there in the green grass spring up her ideals; blue violets, white daisies and golden buttercups yield their fragrance and their beauty at her gentle call, and make child-hearts all over the world merrier and child-laughter sweeter; for where the children stray, over the hills and through the meadows, the bright blooms are gathered, and the dainty devices are read by their earnest eyes and woven into many a lesson for later years to muse upon.

Summer comes with her ardent glances and woos the green fields where the shadows begin to play amid the sunshine, and drops from her fair fingers red roses among the vines and hedges, that make the sweet summer air more fragrant, and lead the robins wings with incense for their flight heavenward. Blue-bells and the modest mignonette lift their heads from the garden-beds and tell their stories of trust and sweet humility. Then comes Autumn, jolly old Autumn, with marigolds and the crimson and purple aster, that shed their lingering glory over the earth; and so we are greeted, month after month, with the sweet, fresh blossoms,—dainty devices of their dainty fairy green—to lead us to cherish truer thoughts and happier imaginings than we would have known without them.

Love and Friendship, Faith, Truth and Humility, dear messages to us from that far-off land that seemeth so near, sometimes, and anon looks to our chilled vision almost out of reach. Cherish these lessons you find written in the fields and woods, and mayhap you may find your way the sooner through life's rough and thorny way, within sight of that glorious City where flowers immortal bloom through the endless years of Eternity.
CLIO STANLEY.
Philadelphia, 1864.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.
TOO LATE.

SOME people are *always* too late,—commence the day by being too late out of their beds in the morning, consequently too late for breakfast, too late at their business, too late for every transaction of importance throughout the whole day, too late at retiring to their rest at night, too late through life, too late in preparing for death,—and thereby necessarily too late for heaven and all its glories.

And this class of individuals are more numerous than some of my readers may imagine; as the haste conclude, perhaps, that I have over-estimated my subject.

It has been my lot to know some of these unfortunate (for unfortunate they surely are) people. They are not only unfortunate themselves, but, whether consciously or no, they render uncomfortable, and even *unfortunate*, those with whom they have to deal.
I therefore boldly denounce unnecessary tardiness as an actual sin. Yes—a heinous sin against ourselves, and others. The laws of our own being, of Life as found in Society at large, and even universal life, are so intricately and delicately arranged, as to form a connecting link in the acts of all beings. Each one, therefore, exerts an influence, a *tremendous*, inestimable influence upon their fellow beings, and the world.

Get up too late in the morning, and you may retard the advancement (for aught that you know to the contrary,) of untold generations yet unborn. Eat your breakfast later than you should in the morning, and you may impoverish many a man. Retire too late at night, thereby depriving yourself of necessary rest, that would give you stronger impulses to exertion, and you may deprive some weary one of even a couch to rest upon. Punctuality is therefore a Virtue; and is one of the paths in the pathway that leads to heaven.

Oh, may we always punctual be,
And in no duty fail.
"As I launched upon Life's Stormy Sea,
For Heaven's sweet rest we sail."
Brookport, Feb., 1864. YUNO.

PERSONAL GOSSIP.

—A WOMAN writing of Speaker COLFAX and a recent reception he gave, says:—"It was a most brilliant affair;" and the worthy man is said to do things of that sort with as much grace, courtesy and skill, as he is sure to manage the graver affairs of life. Foreign ministers and cabinet members, members of both houses, cultured and beautiful women, elegantly attired, were there. Music and simple refreshments were pleasant features, and a high-bred, unrestrained flow of sociability the charm. The Speaker is doing a handsome thing for Washington society. He is a fine-looking man, with an earnest, eager face, and just a slight, sufficient touch of grace to a well-knit figure, suggestive of strength and endurance.

—A LADY correspondent of a New England paper writes:—"Sitting in the gallery of the Senate Chamber the other day, I took a woman's pleasure in gauging senatorial comeliness. Out of the ordeal walked CHARLES SUMNER, as most combining a look of scholarly culture with a certain free and easy air of society. Senator HALE owns a handsome face, also Senator RAMSEY. Senator FESSENDEN, of Maine, though not comely to look upon, carries a head well-freighted with brain.

—It seems the Society to which THEODORE PARKER preached has called to them the Rev. ROBERT COLLYER of Chicago. And he has accepted the call. A Boston correspondent says of one of his (COLLYER'S) recent lectures there:—"Comparing some of our public men to various metals, he said, 'Men of iron and steel, like GRANT and BUTLER; their of lead and pinchbeck, like FITZ JOHN PORTER and MCCLELLAN; men of a new and nameless metal, but of undoubted value, like MEADE; men of gold in the process of purification, like LINCOLN, and of pure and unalloyed gold, like SHAW and WINTHROP, and a host of others within the vale.'" Mr. COLLYER is so unlike THEODORE PARKER, that the friends of both look with interest toward his coming career with the strong-minded, uncompromising 28th. It is JOHN the beloved taking the place of PETER, whose sword was in his hand.—Imagine in THEODORE PARKER'S seat a man, fair-haired and gentle-eyed, whose presence is a benediction, lifting up his hands and saying, "Little children, love ye one another!"

—MAURY, the rebel—he of air-current notoriety; was long ago accused of being a charlatan; but his accusers had not the influence necessary to affect his position at Washington. But we see that at a recent meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, held at Washington, the Navy Department submitted the traitor MAURY'S Sailing Directions and Wind and Current Charts to the examination of the members. The result of their investigations was a resolution declaring that these works embrace much which is unsound in philosophy and little that is practically useful, and that therefore they ought not longer to be issued in their present form.

—We see it announced by the *Courier Journal* that the name by which ALBERT EDWARD, Prince of Wales, will ascend the throne will be KING EDWARD the Seventh. It is said this was the express wish of the late Prince Consort, who thought that ALBERT First would hardly sound congenial to the English ear.

WHAT WE MAY DO.—No human being can be isolated and self-sustained. The strongest and bravest, and most hopeful have yet acknowledged and unacknowledged to themselves, moments of hungry soul-yearning for companionship and sympathy. For the want of this what wrecks of humanity lie strewn about us. Youth wasted for the mocking semblance of friendship. Adrift at the mercy of a chance, for the want of a grasp of a true, firm hand, and a kindly, loving heart to counsel. It is affecting to see how strong is this yearning, so fatal to its possessor, if not guided rightly, such a life-anchor if safely placed. "Friendless!" What a tragedy may be hidden in that one little word. None to labor for; none to care whether we win or lose in life's struggle. A kind word or a smile coming to such an one unexpectedly at such crisis of life, how often has it been the plank of the drowning man, lacking which he must surely have perished. These, surely, we may bestow as we pass those less favored than ourselves, whose souls are waiting for our sympathetic recognition.—*Fanny Fern*.

THE PARENT NEVER WRETCHED.—It would be unwise in us to call that man wretched who, whatever he suffers as to pain inflicted or pleasure denied, has a child for whom he hopes, and on whom he dotes. Poverty may grind him to the dust; obscurity may cast its darkest mantle over him; the song of the gay may be far from his own dwelling; his face may be unknown to his neighbors, and his voice may be unheeded by those among whom he dwells—even pain may rack his joints, and sleep may flee from his pillow. Yet he has a gem with which he would not part for wealth, defying computation, for fame filling a world's ear, for the luxury of the highest wealth, or for the sweetest sleep that ever sat upon mortal eyes.

IN conversation, humor is more than wit, casiness more than knowledge; few desire to learn or to think they need it; all desire to be pleased, or if not, to be easy.—*Sir William Temple*.

EGOTISM is incurable greenness. An artist one who has more, not less respect for the common eye.

ASPIRATION without attainment is better than contentment without desire.

Sabbath Musings.

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

WHEN sorrow and gloom o'ershadow our way,
How sweet is the thought, "quickly passing away;"
We mourn not Time's flight, but bid him speed on,
And live in the hope of bright days to come.
Hope comforts the mourner: when earthly friends fall,
And spread o'er the scene is Death's curtained pall;
Like an angel of mercy, to bless and to cheer,
Through all of life's changes, bright Hope hovers near.
Hope sheds round the couch of the sufferer a light,
She maketh the path of the dying grow bright,
She illumines the dark recess of the cold tomb,
Dispelling its sorrows, its doubts, and its gloom.
Hope waits on the saints till their last fleeting breath,
Tis their rod and staff through the valley of death;
Thus sustained and supported, they fear naught of ill,
And the dark waves of Jordan have no power to chill.
And glorious hope ever beams from afar,
It dawns on our pathway, a bright morning star;
It leads our thoughts upward till they take hold within
The veil of the future—it reveals the unseen.
Casasagua, N. Y., 1863. E. T. G.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.
CHRIST NEAR UNTO US.

CHRIST is very near unto those who will draw nigh unto Him. He has said, "come unto me, ye that labor," &c. Thus making it our duty to call upon Him without delay. He was very near unto those with whom He daily walked and conversed. Those who reclined at table, slept under the same roof with Him, and those who saw His miracles and heard His doctrines of salvation proclaimed by himself. He is equally near unto us of the present day, speaking unto us through His word—through the influence of the Holy Spirit—and in many ways unseen by mankind around us. His disciples conversed with Him, told Him their wants and necessities. It is equally appropriate for us to address Him by way of prayer. They saw Him with the bodily eye; we see with the spiritual eye. Our love for Christ increases with our nearness of approach to Him. There is no reason why we who profess to be His, should follow Him at so great a distance.

The impatient have no valid reason for remaining away, no reason to scorn and reject His law. On the other hand He has every reason to be offended in us. We have continually rebelled against His law. Many do not come to Christ because He says they will not:—"Ye love darkness rather than light." We naturally prefer superstition, in our natural state, dread death and meeting our God. Many such live and die in superstitious dread and darkness. But it is our duty to come to the light. Christ says "I am the way, the light, and the truth." That He is near unto us, is shown forth by His laying down His life for us, sending us His Holy Spirit, making plain the way of salvation through His truth, the word of GOD, and surrounding us with influences for good. Prayer, Praise and lip service are not all the essential qualities of the Christian. When Christ healed the sick, He said, "thy sins be forgiven thee," without mentioning anything that had been done to merit so great kindness. We should place full reliance on His mercy in forgiving sin. "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have Eternal Life, and they are they which testify of me."
Romulus, N. Y., 1864. P. W.

LIGHT-HOLDERS.

THE Rev. THEODORE L. CUYLER, in an article with the above title says:—"The lantern of a light-house is not self-luminous. It has to be kindled by a hand from without itself. By nature, every Christian is as unfitted to give spiritual light as the empty tower on Minot's Reef or on Sandy Hook would be to guide the mariner at midnight. God creates the natural power, the mental faculties, as the builder rears the stone-tower of Eddystone or Sandy Hook. Neither natural heart or stone-tower are self-luminous. A hand from without must bring them light."

"Conversion by the Holy Spirit is a spiritual illumination of the soul. God's grace lights up the dark heart. Sometimes suddenly, as in the case of Paul. Sometimes, as in the case of John Newton, there is at first a feeble germ of light, like the little blue point of flame on a candle-wick, and this germ of light grows into a clear, full blaze. The beginning of true religion is in the first acts of sincere penitence—the first breathings of earnest prayer—the first hungerings after God—the first honest attempt to do right and to serve the Lord. God's grace, remember, is the only original source of the light that makes any man a luminary in society. And when a man has once been kindled at the cross of Christ, he is bound to *shine*.
"And, in order to do this, he need not be conspicuous in society for talents, wealth, or intellectual culture. The modest candle by which a housewife threads her needle shines as truly as does the great lantern that burns in the tower of a City Hall.

"A humble saint who begins his day with household devotions, and serves his God all day in his shop, or at his work-bench, is as truly a light-holder as if he flamed from Spurgeon's pulpit or illuminated a theological class from a professor's chair. To 'shine' means something more than the mere profession of piety; it is the reflection of Gospel-religion that makes the *burner*."

NEXT to the Bible and History, our old men are connecting links with the past, sent down from one generation to serve as a conservative element in the next succeeding, without which they might madly destroy themselves.

Educational.

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

THIS science bears such intimate relations to the constant changes that are taking place daily around us, and to a thorough knowledge of all the various arts and manufactures, that we are warranted in saying that no common school course is complete without it gives the pupil at least the rudiments of this interesting science. One objection, heretofore, to its general introduction, has been the complicated and costly apparatus and materials necessary to a full understanding of the subject. Professor PORTER, of Yale College, has given us a new edition of his work on Chemistry, in which only the simplest materials are used, and the requisite utensils, or apparatus, for the performance of experiments, can be found in almost any household, with a few cheap and simple exceptions. He deserves the thanks of teachers and the public for bringing this science within the reach and means of the teachers and pupils of our public schools. The work is also well adapted to individuals who wish to gain some knowledge of the science, but are deprived of the benefits of a school or teacher.

L. L. F.

Rolling Prairie, Wis.

LOUD TALKING.

VERY loud talk is designed for people who are deaf. Nothing is more really offensive to quiet and sensitive people, than boisterous talking. Loud talkers are perpetual "bores." Their presence is thoroughly destructive to real peace and quietude. In the family, loud and boisterous talk is a most certain indication of ill-breeding. When the mother talks to her children as if they were all deaf, you may be certain she has not the proper control of them. Children should everywhere be taught that *talking* demands a *hearing*. Talking "for fun," on ordinary occasions, is poor business. Of course we refer to talking in contradistinction to those seasons of mirth and pastime, not at all inconsistent with the real philosophy of living. But in no place is loud talk more intolerable than in the school-room. A well-regulated school is not unlike a well-regulated family.

Timothy Jones is a perfect specimen of a loud-talking teacher. He enters the school-room in the morning with what is sometimes termed a "regular swell." If the fire is not in proper trim he commands John Smith, in a loud tone of voice, to bring some wood. John is accustomed to this loud talk, and does not start until spoken to several times. When the hour arrives for school, Mr. Jones seizes the big bell and rings it with might and main at the front door of the school-room. A loud talker must, of course, have things about him to correspond with his inveterate habit of boisterous speaking. And so he rings the bell as if all the children were deaf, or as if he would call in the whole neighborhood. It is not unfrequent that this loud call has to be repeated; for it is a fact that children who are accustomed to hear loud talk, are not those of the most acute hearing.

It is not *quantity*, but *style* of voice and deportment, that demands attention. After considerable ringing and loud talking, the scholars are in their places, when the teacher commences reading in a loud voice, his morning lesson. He reads *loud* that they may all hear. But the fact is, the quiet and attentive portion of the school is nearly "crazed," while those whose ears have never been educated, understand as little of what is said, as they do of the language of the wind.

Mr. Jones calls his classes in a loud voice; indeed, he must make some effort to be heard amid the din, which is ever heard in this kind of a school-room. He asks his questions in a voice which would disturb pupils intent upon getting their lessons. He reproves a wayward scholar, so that the whole school may hear the reproof. He talks incessantly, and in a tone which can be heard by a thousand people. He never has real quiet or order in his school; and the important reason is, he does not preach by the power of example. You may talk ever so long and loud upon the importance of quiet and order in the school-room, but a little wholesome *example* will prove many times more efficacious. Mr. Jones just keep quiet yourself; show by consistent *example* what you would like to see in your pupils, and you will be delighted with the speedily improved appearance and conduct of your school.

Over the way is a school-room regulated by entirely a *different* system. In Mr. Jones' school, strangers wonder why he talks so loud, in other, the wonder is that pupils seem to hear what strangers can not distinguish. Every movement is quiet and orderly; and the pupils who attend this school, seem to need very little correction or reproof. Tasks are done more cheerfully and more promptly. No particular amount of talk is necessary to preserve quiet and order. One thing be very careful to impress upon the minds of your pupils:—That when you do *talk*, you do so to be *heard*. This lesson well taught will save you much trouble in the future. Let it be a *daily* lesson until it is thoroughly learned. The teacher who teaches by the silent power of example, will be most carefully watched by his pupils, while the inveterate talker will be as the "idle wind," which few regard with much interest. Take pains to educate the ears of your children. *Hearing* is a most important avenue to the human soul. But how often it seems overgrown with briars and thorns. While your talk should be discreet and timely, the ears of your pupils should be ready to listen. You may as well talk by the sea shore, to the mighty dashing of the wild

waters, as to talk to those who are not prepared to hear.

Talk by the quiet force of example, if you expect to be heard.—J. W. B., in *New York Teacher*.

WHEN EDUCATION COMMENCES.

"Childhood shows the man.
As morning shows the day."

FROM the moment an infant turns his eye to follow the candle as the light from it crosses the line of his vision, his education has commenced; he has become conscious that there is something in life which he does not comprehend. The impression of the object seen will linger in the consciousness of the child, until it learns that the name of the strange thing is light. Should the child, in process of time, ascertain the origin and properties of light, he will have passed through those mental processes by which knowledge is acquired. To familiarize the child with these processes, or to enable him to receive correct impressions of material objects, and to acquire their names and their natures, uses and relations, and finally, to arrange, describe and reason from the facts thus obtained, is the province of an educator. Such training and instruction as this the child rarely receives at home, and therefore he is sent to school at an early age, that he may laboriously extract from books that knowledge of the material world which he could acquire with almost unconscious effort, were he taught by the voice of an instructor and in the presence of nature and her myriad shapes.

The Reviewer.

CAUTIONARY. A series of Essays on Life, Literature and Manners. By Sir E. BULWER LYTTON. New York: Harper & Brothers.

The intelligent, thoughtful reader will enjoy these essays. They are philosophical, and yet not too didactic in style. The reader is put in the position of listener to sundry conversations on and discussions of life, literature and manners; and is, of course, at liberty to adopt or reject the philosophy of the Baronet and his distinguished and cultivated conversational friends. An essay on Motive Power, which we happened to look at first, afforded us an hour of pleasant reading, and suggested much more than we read. We think our readers will thank us for commending this work to them. For sale by STEELE & AVERY. Price \$1.50.

THE PERFECT GENTLEMAN; OR, Etiquette and Eloquence. A book of Information and Instruction for those who desire to become brilliant, or conspicuous in Society, &c. By a Gentleman. New York: Dick & Fitzgerald.

This book, by its title page, professes to contain speeches for all occasions, with directions how to deliver them, and toasts and sentiments for everybody, and their proper mode of introduction. We should like to look into the man's face who will deliberately purchase this book for the purpose of preparing himself with a speech, or committing to memory a sentiment to be used at a public dinner. We should call him Mr. SIMPLETON, a man who got out of his short clothes too soon. And suppose Mr. SIMPLETON should meet at the public dinner his very near relative, IGNORAMUS VAIN, Esq., and both being expected to propose a toast, and deliver a speech, should have happened to prepare themselves with the same speech and committed the same sentiment—a thing not unlikely to occur, since "great minds run in the same channel"—would it not be awkward? We cannot conceive what such a work is prepared for, unless it be to supply a demand existing among that caste known as *Shoddyites*—a class of persons who have grown rich, and find riches an appendage they do not know how to wear. And this book is to aid them! We should like to look in upon a dinner whereat Shoddy should be in the foreground trying to remember a sentiment; guests expectant; bumpers ready; and see Shoddy fall for want of a prompter. There is no doubt at all but Shoddy will pay a large premium for this book as soon as he hears of it. And it will do him good, for there are some sensible suggestions in it. For sale by R. E. CLARK, at the Waverly Book Store.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY, CORRESPONDENCE, &c. OF LYMAN BEECHER, D. D. Edited by CHARLES BEECHER. New York: Harper & Brothers.

All who are interested in the BEECHER family will be interested in this work. A part of it was written by the venerable Dr. BEECHER; but another portion of it is a report of conversations on the subject of his early life, between himself and his children—conversations intended to elicit all the facts of interest within his memory. It is interesting as revealing the mental conflicts of the early New Englanders in religious matters; and so vividly are these struggles disclosed to the reader that they give pain rather than pleasure. But the book will furnish instructive lessons and much that will enlighten the public concerning the wonderful mental vigor of this notable family. For sale by STEELE & AVERY. Price \$1.75.

A POPULAR HAND BOOK OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. By GEORGE CUMMING McWHORTER. New York: Harper & Brothers.

This is a well written work, designed more especially as an aid to the Sabbath School teacher who has no access to the authorities from which it is compiled, or if he has such access has no time for research. It is also a book which will interest the general reader by the segments of the history of the early Christians, here joined together. For sale by STEELE & AVERY. Price \$1.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.—This periodical entered upon a new volume with the year. Although it is intensely Tory, and as such despises everything American, we are always much gratified in its perusal, for we like a hearty hater, and must therefore tender *Blackwood* our regards. It is a reflex of the opinions and culture of a certain portion of the English people (the minority, however), and is valuable to those who seek to understand thoroughly the mature and scholarly phases of British literature. The publishers of "Magi" also issue the English Reviews, and the American reprints of these leading British serials are in good style, and furnished at reasonable rates. Though they cannot be deemed by some a sort of literary *bitters*, they cannot but prove acceptable to such American readers as desire a full view of English life politically and socially. LEONARD SCOTT & Co., New York, publishers.

POCKET DIARIES.—A most extensive collection of these articles is offered to the public by E. DARROW & Bro., of this city. Each contains a Distance and Time Table from New York to various places on the Continent; Rates of Postage, Domestic and Foreign; Stamp Duties; Census of the United States, and various other matters of value and interest.



MAJOR-GENERAL GEORGE H. THOMAS.

MAJ.-GEN. GEO. H. THOMAS was born in Southampton Co., Va., July 31, 1816. His father, JOHN THOMAS, was of English, and his mother, ELIZABETH ROCHELLE, of Huguenot descent—both of respectable and wealthy families. He received a fair education, became Deputy Clerk of the County, and finally commenced to study law. In 1836 he received an appointment as Cadet, and entered the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. He graduated with a class of 45 in June, 1840, and on the 1st of July, 1840, was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the 3d Artillery. In November of the same year he joined his regiment in Florida, 18 months previous to the termination of the first Florida war. November 6th, 1841, he was brevetted First Lieutenant "for gallant conduct in the war against the Florida Indians." From Florida, early in January, 1842, he was ordered to New Orleans Barracks; in June, of the same year, to Fort Moultrie, in Charleston harbor. He remained there till December, 1843, when he was ordered to Fort McHenry, Maryland. May 17th, 1843, he was promoted First Lieutenant of artillery, and in the spring of 1844 joined company E, 3d Artillery, at Fort Moultrie. In July, 1845, he was ordered with his company to report to Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR in Texas. He arrived at Corpus Christi the same month in company with the 3d and 4th regiments of infantry, they being the first U. S. troops that occupied the soil of Texas. They marched from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande, and with one company of the 1st Artillery and six companies of U. S. Infantry were left to garrison Fort Brown. On the 2d of May, Fort Brown was invested by the Mexicans, and the Fort was bombarded until the 8th, when the Mexicans withdrew. Gen. THOMAS was brevetted Captain "for gallant conduct at the battle of Monterey." He took an active part in the battle of Buena Vista, and for gallant and meritorious services was brevetted Major, February 23d, 1847. He, with his company, recrossed the Rio Grande into Texas, August 20th, 1848. About the 1st of September he was ordered to Brazos, Santiago, to take charge of the Commissary depot there. In December he was ordered to Fort Adams, R. I. July 31, 1849, he was placed in command of company B, 3d Artillery, and ordered to Florida. December, 1850, he was ordered to Texas, but on arriving at New Orleans found later orders for Boston harbor. He reached Fort Independence January 1st, 1851, and remained there till March 28th, when he was assigned duty at West Point as Instructor of Artillery and Cavalry. December 24, 1853, he was promoted to a Captaincy in the 3d Artillery. May 31, 1854, he took command of a battalion of Artillery, and conducted it to California by way of Panama. He was assigned to Fort Yuma, Lower California. July 13, 1855, he left Fort Yuma and joined his regiment at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. May 1, 1856, his regiment was ordered to Texas, where he remained on duty till November 1, 1860, when he obtained leave of absence. While in Texas he was in command of his regiment three years, and absent on several expeditions, one of which, in August, 1860, in a skirmish with a party of predatory Indians, he was wounded slightly in the face. In April, 1861, he was ordered to Carlisle Barracks, Pa., to remount the 2d Cavalry, which had been dismounted and ordered out of Texas by Gen. TWIGGS. Four companies were equipped at once and sent to Washington to join two that had preceded them thither. April 25th he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel; and to a Colonelcy May 3d, 1861. He has served during the present war under Major-Gens. PATTERSON and BANKS; later under Brig.-Gen. ROBERT ANDERSON, in Kentucky. He defeated ZOLLICOFFER in the battle of Wildcat. Meantime he had been made a Brigadier-General of Volunteers. He was actively engaged in Tennessee and Kentucky during 1861. April 25th, 1862, he was made Major-General of Volunteers, and on the first of May his division was transferred to the Army of the Tennessee. On the 10th of June he was

transferred to the Army of the Ohio. He participated in the battles on Stone River, and distinguished himself there,—is mentioned in ROSECRANS' report as "true and prudent, distinguished in council and for his courage." Later, our readers are familiar with the fame he won at Chickamauga—how he saved the Army of the Cumberland. Such is a brief compend of his military life. Of his *personnel* we let an army correspondent speak:

Major-General THOMAS is an impressive man, his deportment is as quiet and simple as that of a poet's farmer. He looks heavy. It takes an occasion to move him, I should say, but when he moves his momentum is enormous. He has the complexion of a sanguine temperament. He is a close observer, but a better thinker, and is wedded to his profession. Long after he was commissioned a Brigadier-General, he persisted in wearing his Colonel's *passants*. Finally he donned the solitary star, probably because the eagle *vargent* on his shoulders was worn out. Some months have elapsed since he was appointed Major-General, and he appears to be waiting for the lone star to wear out. Some of the "boys" are discussing the propriety of purchasing the twin stars for him, if they can get assurance that he will mount them. His aspect is peculiar—not stern, but rather benevolent and grave, with a strong cast of firmness. Simply the expression of integrity, decision, and high moral character rather than that of stubborn obstinacy. His figure is so square and large, that, together with considerable corpulence, it seems to rob him of several inches of stature. He is fully six feet high and big, almost as great as NELSON was. The former swelled, you know, as you looked at him. Manners, more than matter, were the cause of that optical delusion. Gen. THOMAS don't magnify until you begin to measure him. Sandy hair and whiskers closely cut; keen blue eyes of medium proportions, sunken under shaggy brows; straight nose, not strikingly prominent, but strong; ruddy features, deeply seamed; square face and body; large, compact head; general bigness; heavy, but firm, step—and you have the man, personally. He is patient, persevering and persistent, even-tempered and energetic, speaks deliberately and not frequently, and sometimes indulges in grim pleasantry, which is rather astonishing than otherwise. Altogether, the lads describe him best when they tell you about a "Pap" THOMAS. His escort occasionally get a little impatient at his deliberate way of riding, and press too hard upon him. He is accustomed to remind them of their indiscretion by giving the command, "slow trot?" so the boys got to naming him old "Slow Trot." General ROSECRANS entertained such an exalted esteem for him at the Military Academy that he was accustomed to call him "General WASHINGTON." His regard for him has not diminished. He is a native of Virginia; is aged about forty-five, and good, one would think, for a very long life.

SCIENTIFIC GLEANINGS.

A Parasitic Pestilence.—VAN RUDOLF LEUCHART states that one-sixth of the annual deaths among the people of Iceland is solely owing to a little entozoon living in the dog, from which the larva is generated, which, if kept in an imperfectly developed condition, grows to an immense size. These larva infest both men and cattle.

Typhoid Fever.—Prof. SIGBI, in a memoir to the French Academy, states that the infusoria, bacterium, were found in the blood of a man who died of this disease at the hospital of Sienna.

Electricity in Asthma.—M. POGGIOLI reports to the French Academy that the true asthma, a nervous disorder of the respiratory organs, has been successfully treated by electricity.

In this connection we may say that a correspondent from Newark, N. Y., asks if any person who reads the *RURAL* knows a cure for this distressing complaint.

Reading for the Young.

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

IT was a few days past the commencement of a country village school. The exercises were over for the first half of the day, and the pupils were excused. The boys hurried out; some of them to play, but several ran to the post-office. A company had gathered there after the arrival of the Southern mail, and were, when the boys entered, engaged in discussing the rumored removal of General MEADE from his position in the "army of the Potomac."

Presently one of the boys shouted, "Hurrah, boys! here is JERRY!"

In a corner, seated behind some of the men who were talking so busily over the war news, was JERRY. JERRY was one of the district boys.

"I say JERRY," spake JOHNNY, another school-boy, "are you going to school this winter?"

"Well, I have thought some of going next week," replied JERRY. "But how does school go?"

"Oh, yes! tell us about the school," chimed in several voices. And all were listening eagerly in a moment to hear what the boys had to say.

"I think," said CLINTON, "if you wish to know how our school is getting on, you should go to the school-room and see for yourselves."

"I'll try him, if I go next week, and see how sharp he is for rogues," said JERRY, from the corner.

"I'll tell you what is truth, young fellow," said one of the men, "you are only disgracing yourself by such language. What do you think the school-room is for? The few dollars a month which the teacher receives is but little when compared with the good that he can do, if he is faithful. What he is teaching will be of use to you every day of your life. Shame! Will you be so ungrateful and mean-spirited as to try the teacher's patience while he is working for you? You should conclude to go to school next week and win the teacher's love by doing the very best you can."

"I think just so," added EDWARD. "You talk, JERRY, as though it were something to your credit to evade the needful regulations of school, if you can get a chance. You will, however, lose your credit, unless you alter your course. It is time for you to be ashamed."

And, in truth, JERRY did feel somewhat ashamed of his sentiments. So did two or three boys, who would gladly have joined him; but all were against them, for all saw that JERRY was wrong.

"JERRY," said WILL, from the school-room, in a low tone to him, "you should resolve to come to school and do as well as you know how, and then come next week and do it."

"I think, JERRY," added CHARLEY, "if you do the best you can, you will find a friend in our teacher."

JERRY went home very thoughtful. He shall see what he resolved to do.

A. T. E. C.

GIVE THE BOYS TOOLS.

WE have so frequently spoken of the importance of a good set of tools on every farm, that we fear our readers will think the subject a favorite one with us. So it is, and at the risk of trespassing upon the reader's patience, we again present it. There is, in man, what may be termed, a "making instinct," and our houses, garments, ships, machinery, and in fact, everything we use, are the practical results of this instinct. How important then that this faculty be cultivated, and that the idea be at once and forever abandoned that none but mechanics require this great element of usefulness and happiness. Whatever a man's occupation, whether he be a farmer, a merchant, an artist or a mechanic, there are hourly occasions for its practical application. Being thus general in its usefulness, the cultivation of this constructive faculty should be a primary consideration with parents, but more particularly with farmers, who have sons whom they design to be their successors upon the farm.

Skill in the use of tools is of incalculable advantage to him who tills the soil. It enables him to do many things which others cannot well do for him, and do them better and cheaper. It gives useful employment to many an otherwise idle hour. It prompts him to add a thousand little conveniences to the house and farm which but for this skill would never be made. In a word, it is the carrying out, in a fuller sense, of the design of the Creator, when he implanted this faculty of constructiveness within him. Let it then be cultivated in children. Indulge the propensity to make water-wheels and miniature wagons, kites and toy boats, sleds and houses, anything in fact which will serve to develop it and render it practically useful. Give the boys good pocket knives, and what is better, give them a good workshop. Employed in it, they will not only be kept out of mischief, but they will be strengthening their muscles, exercising their mental powers, and fitting themselves for greater usefulness when they shall be called upon to take their place in the ranks of men.—*Philadelphia Outlook*.

If there be great wrongs, we cannot distrust the Maker, and postpone the security of the soul. Impatience is a wrong as great as any. Love and trust are remedies for wrong.

INCREDULITY is but credulity seen from behind, bowing and nodding its head to the habitual and the fashionable.

Rural New-Yorker.

NEWS DEPARTMENT.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., MARCH 5, 1864.

The Army in Virginia.

There seems to be but little activity in this Department of our army. Washington specials furnish the following items:

General Lee's orderly, a deserter, has arrived. The strength of Lee's army is now 25,000. He expects our army to be ready for operations by the middle of March, at which time he has ordered all his men to be back. Stuart's cavalry is used up, and horses have been sent south for forage. Lee expects by March or April to have 60,000 men to check any advance of our army, or drive it back on Washington and invade Pennsylvania.

Maj.-Gen. Franz Sigel has been assigned to the command of the Department of Western Virginia.

The reconnaissance by Col. Murphy, of the 470th New York, from Fairfax to Wool Run, on the 25th ult., found a strong force of rebel cavalry there. Our forces retired without attacking them. It is reported, but unconfirmed, that a portion of Lee's army was moving down the west side of the mountains towards Harper's Ferry. Unusual activity among the troops might give some color to the rumor.

On the 22d ult., as a detachment of the 2d Massachusetts cavalry, under command of Capt. J. L. Reed, who had been out on a scouting expedition, were returning toward Greenville, Va., on the way to Vienna, they were attacked on the Drainsville Pike, about two miles from the latter place, by a gang of rebel guerrillas, supposed to be under Moseby, concealed in the pines. The 2d Mass. were fired upon from a dense pine wood, near Drainsville, and retreated. Afterwards eight of our men were found dead and seven wounded. In the detachment of Massachusetts cavalry were 150 men, while Moseby was supposed to have at least between 200 and 300 men. It was at first supposed that from 50 to 75 were taken prisoners, and at least that number are missing; but as scattering ones are coming in from time to time, the number will doubtless be considerably reduced. Among the prisoners is Capt. Manning, of Me. Capt. Reed, the commander of the detachment, was shot through the left lung and died in a few minutes. Moseby beat a precipitate retreat, and troops were at once sent in pursuit, but have not yet been heard from.

On the 24th Lieut. Dabney, of the 2d Mass. cavalry, and twenty-five men, who were captured, escaped and crossed the Potomac. Not more than twenty prisoners are left in the hands of the rebels.

On the 25th about 100 rebels crossed the river near Raccoon Ford, and made a slight demonstration on our pickets, killing two horses. In a few minutes they beat a hasty retreat across the river. Thirteen of the rebels, however, took the opportunity to desert, and came into our lines.

Capt. Wallace, of the 23d Illinois infantry, returned on the 25th from a scout to Morefield, Hardy county, where he captured Lieut. Parker, of the 7th Virginia rebel cavalry, two privates, three horses, equipments, &c.

It is positively asserted that the Army of the Potomac is to be formed into three grand divisions—Sedgwick to command the right, Pleasanton the center, and Hancock the left; and Kilpatrick to command the cavalry corps.

Department of the Gulf.

It will be remembered that a portion of the troops attached to Gen. Gilmore's force before Charleston were a short time since sent to Florida for the purpose of cutting off the meat supplies of the rebels. At first our efforts were successful; but at last accounts we had met with a heavy reverse near Lake City. The following is from the N. Y. Express:

Our informant says it was the opinion of officers who took part in the expedition that our losses in killed, wounded and missing are between 1,200 and 1,500. Gen. Seymour is severely censured for not throwing out scouts and skirmishers as our troops advanced. As it was, our troops were led into a trap. Hamilton's artillery led the van, and suffered severely. The rebel sharpshooters picked off the horses, and the guns had to be abandoned. The 40th Mass. mounted infantry have also suffered severely. In the retreat many of our wounded were left behind in the enemy's lines. Our troops were right in front of rebel batteries, in a piece of woods, before we were aware of their presence; and when their batteries opened a galling fire, our men were driven back panic stricken and in disorder. The rebel force is not known, but it is supposed to be large. One of the prisoners captured stated that troops had recently been sent down from Charleston, and Gen. Beauregard was in command.

Two Union soldiers named Wells, 9th Illinois cavalry, and Ingram, 16th Illinois cavalry, who were captured at Moscow, Tenn., Dec. 6th, had arrived at New Orleans. They escaped from prison at Cahawba, Ala., and walked through the country at night, eating nothing for six days. On reaching East Escambia Bay, Florida, they were taken on board a schooner bound for Pensacola, and thence taken to New Orleans. They report the woods full of refugees from conscript officers. Patrols with bloodhounds are on the principal roads.

The Navy Department has received intelligence of the following captures:

On the 11th inst. the U. S. schooner Queen captured the schooner Louisa, from Nassau, running for the mouth of the Brazos river. She gave up to the Queen a British certificate of

registry and the shipping articles, remarking at the time that she surrendered with a lawful prize to the Queen. Upon a hasty examination of the cargo it was found to consist of powder, Enfield rifles, &c.

On the 21st inst., a boat expedition from the United States bark lying in St. Andrews Sound, captured a sloop laden with 74 bales of cotton.

Department of the South.

DISPATCHES from Newbern dated the 24th ult., state that Maj.-Gen. Peck since his return, has been busily engaged in making a rigid inspection of all the fortifications of the Department. He has received reliable intelligence of the enemy's intention to make another effort to dispossess us of our possession in East North Carolina, with the assistance of three rebel ironclads plated ten inches thick, which are nearly ready to move simultaneously down the Neuse, Roanoke and Tar Rivers. Gen. Peck is taking measures to impede the progress of these ironclads, for which purpose is moving conjointly with land forces on our three most important points on these three rivers—Newbern, Plymouth and Washington.

It seems to be the impression both within and outside our lines, that Virginia is to be evacuated, and that the battle-ground is to be transferred to North Carolina. Hence, the desire of the enemy to make a formidable and desperate effort to obtain possession of this State and its extensive water communications before re-enforcements can arrive for us.

The Wilmington Journal, in its recent declaration that North Carolina would be lost to the Confederacy unless this achievement is realized, the condition on which Gov. Vance would pledge the further co-operation of this State with the Confederacy. The presence of an additional number of formidable gunboats, and a small increase to our present force which Gen. Peck is anxious to obtain, will make the enemy's efforts fruitless, and turn the existing conditional co-operation mentioned, in our favor.

On the 21st ult., a small force of troops left Hilton Head in transports, and proceeded up the Savannah River to Williams Island, arriving at that place about dark. A company of men of the 4th New Hampshire landed in a small boat and made a reconnaissance, in course of which they met a small body of the enemy. We lost four men of the 85th Pennsylvania. The enemy's loss greatly outnumbered ours. The next morning our forces were withdrawn, bringing twenty prisoners.

Movements in the West and South-West.

TENNESSEE.—On the 22d ult., a battalion of 11th Tenn. cavalry, stationed on the Virginia road, were surprised at daylight and surrounded by a large force of rebel cavalry. Two companies of infantry of the 91st Ind. and 2d North Carolina, were with the command of Colonel Davis. The companies of the 91st, in charge of Lieut. Wise, cut and fought their way through, with a loss of about three killed. Two officers and about sixty of Col. Davis' men succeeded in making their escape, but the rest of the command were probably captured. At the same time the rebels attacked our outposts at Powell's Bridge on the Tazewell road, five miles south of Knoxville, consisting of 50 men in charge of Capt. Pickering, 34th Kentucky, supported by a block-house. The rebels were repulsed three times, when Captain Pickering and his men were withdrawn to prevent their being cut off from the Gap. Colonel Davis is said to be severely wounded.

A reconnaissance in force, in the command of Gen. Sherman, with the forces of Gens. Hascall and Hazer, was made on the 22d, toward Bull Gap, which discovered that the rebel cavalry had retreated beyond the French Broad. On Saturday, the 20th, General Longstreet began his retreat from Strawberry Plains toward Bull Gap, first destroying the bridge, and reports say he has his camp equipage, &c. Gen. Schofield moved to the Plains with the Union forces the 22d, re-signing the command of the post and defenses of Knoxville to Gen. Hascall, who will send forward the army equipage and stores. Rumors of a raid by the Union forces in Longstreet's rear are current, which are supposed to account for the precipitate rebel retreat.

It is thought that having failed to accumulate a force sufficient for prompt and energetic communication, he has grown fearful of concentration against him or Johnston, and is now endeavoring to form a junction with the latter at Dalton before the spring campaign can open. The largest estimates give Longstreet 20,000 infantry and 50 field pieces. Johnston can alone have at Dalton six divisions, of about 40,000 men. The two armies concentrated will probably muster 60,000 men, and might prove dangerous.

On the 22d, a strong column preceded by cavalry, moved out from Chattanooga near the old battle-field of Chickamauga, and took the direct route for Tunnel Hill and Dalton. Gens. Palmer, Johnson, Baird, Davis and Carlin directed the movement.

The force advanced without opposition east of the Chickamauga, across which and back through Ringold's Gap and Taylor's Ridge a party of rebel cavalry were driven in confusion by Col. Harrison. The head of the column marched on, driving the right on Ringold. The advance cavalry had several lively skirmishes with the enemy's mounted forces, consisting of the 1st Tenn. rebels. They were, however, pushed back until about 4 P. M., when our forces came in sight of Tunnel Hill. Here a conflict ensued, in which a great deal of fighting was done, especially by the enemy. There was little loss on either side. Col. Harrison having pushed far toward the front, and seeing that the rebels greatly outnumbered his force, returned until he was met by our infantry advancing.

Certain of support, Harrison advanced and drove the enemy precipitately out of the town of Tunnel Hill.

In the engagement at Tunnel Hill, Gen. Palmer captured over 200 prisoners, who had been brought to Chattanooga. We lost about 75 killed and wounded.

A reliable informant, leaving the front on the 26th ult., reports our army then five miles from Tunnel Hill, and two miles from Dalton; that they had ascertained the enemy was in force at Dalton; had full rations and would attack Dalton when deemed advisable. On the contrary, intelligence received by military men, of the same date, says our army having accomplished the object of their reconnaissance towards Dalton has returned to Chattanooga. The latter opinion is mainly entertained by military authorities here. The silence of the associated correspondents in front for the past three days, indicates that they have been prohibited sending news for the present.

MISSISSIPPI.—Reports from Vicksburg confirm the previous reports that Gen. Sherman has occupied Selma, Alabama.

The reports from Gen. Smith's cavalry expedition are not so good. Strangers who arrived at Memphis on the 24th, state that the rebel Gens. Forrest, Lee and Roddy concentrated their forces against Gen. Smith and forced him back with considerable loss. He had a severe fight at West Point, Miss. The slow movements of Col. Waring's division, consisting mainly of Pennsylvania and New Jersey regiments delayed the expedition some eight days, giving the enemy time to make preparations.

Gen. Smith arrived at Memphis on the 26th. From an officer's diary, kept during the expedition, the agent of the associated press condenses the following particulars:

On the 18th the expedition reached Okolona on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, 75 miles south of Corinth, and 145 miles southeast of Memphis. Here he heard Sherman had captured Meridian and was advancing east.

19th—Marched to Egypt Station on Memphis and Ohio Railroad, where we captured and destroyed vast quantities of Confederate corn. One column went through Aberdeen, the other west of the railroad, concentrating at Prairie Station. The Aberdeen column, under Gen. Grierson, had considerable skirmishing in the rear of that place, destroying over 100,000 bushels of Confederate corn at Prairie Station; also a lot of Confederate cotton.

20th—Broke camp at 5:30; Forrest reported in force at West Point; 11 A. M., advanced; skirmished heavily with the enemy; 3 P. M., halted one mile from West Point; lost one lieutenant killed and five men wounded in skirmishing; killed one rebel captain and wounded and captured a rebel major.

21st—Moved west; found that Forrest, Lee, Chalmers and Roddy were camped against us. They tried to cut our column in two, but without success. Very heavy fighting occurred, both in the rear and advance. The 2d Iowa had a number killed and wounded in a gallant charge. Two to three thousand rebels were on each flank. There was a heavy force in our rear, constantly charging. We here lost three pieces of 4-pounder steel guns, which were spiked before captured. All their ammunition was saved. Smith now fell back slowly, our troops ambushing the rebels as they advanced. The rebel loss was quite heavy. Smith burned every trestle on the M. & O. railroad, destroyed miles of track and a very large amount of iron as he fell back.

22d—Broke camp after resting only two hours; severe fighting in rear all day; rebels lost heavily all day as the roads were ambushed at every available point. Volley after volley poured into them at short range as they advanced, but having so much the largest force they continued to press our rear heavily, the rebel column moving each flank, with the evident design of reaching Tallahatchee in advance of our forces; forming a junction to prevent our crossing and capture of the whole command, but by forced marching Smith passed both flanking columns and marching all night, crossed safely at New Albany at noon.

23d—Rear guard skirmishing all the way.

24th—Skirmishing continued.

25th—Marched 62 miles, arriving at Memphis at 11 P. M. Most of the expedition, however, stopped at Collinsville.

The following is an estimate of the results of the expedition:

Destroyed over a million bushels of corn; tore up and destroyed miles of track of the M. & O. railroad; burned many bridges; captured and brought away over 1,500 mules and horses, about 2,000 negroes, and over 300 rebel prisoners, who are now in Irving Prison. It is impossible to give our loss, but it is much less than the enemy's. The expedition was successful in every point and in every particular, except the important one of making a junction with Sherman, which is attributed mainly to the slow movement of Pennsylvania and New Jersey cavalry regiments, causing a delay of one week in starting the expedition. The retreat was not at any time a rout, although there was some straggling.

Gen. Palmer's forces occupied Ringold. Our mounted infantry in advance drove out the small rebel patrols found at Colorado, about two miles distant, but did not pursue. The town is quiet. But seven families are left in the place, which formerly contained 3,000 inhabitants.

The gunboat Conestoga, ten miles below the mouth of Red River, recently captured four rebel officers, two of them Colonels, while attempting to cross the river with a large rebel mail, \$30,000 in New Orleans money, thirty bales of cotton, and a number of mules, horses, &c. The prisoners were retained in the gunboat.

Nearly three hundred rebels have been captured in the neighborhood of St. Helena and

sent to Nashville by Gen. Buford during the past month.

Col. Phillips' brigade had a fight with rebel Indians and Texans on the Middle Boggy River, on the 14th inst., killing 40 of them. The enemy was pursued to Fort Arbuckle. Our force then returned to the Canadian River. Our loss was one.

An official dispatch says that our troops in Arkansas are ridding the country of armed rebels with great success. The secrecy of the movements confound the enemy, so that they have lost all heart, and surrender in small squads every day.

AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON.

SENATOR SUMNER'S report, made on the 29th ult., from the Select Committee on Freedmen, discusses the relation between slavery and the fugitive slave act, which it says may be viewed as part of the system of slavery, and therefore obnoxious to the judgment which civilization is accumulating against this barbarism. It is bad enough to thrust an escaped slave back into bondage at any time. It is absurd to thrust him back at a moment when slavery is rallying all its forces for the conflict which it has challenged, but the curse of such a transaction is not diminished by its absurdity. A slave with courage and address to escape from his master has the qualities needed for a soldier of freedom. The Committee report in favor of annulling the Fugitive Slave Law on the ground that it would simply draw an irrelational support from slavery.

The Committee agree that the 4th article, section 2d of the Constitution, according to the best rules of interpretation, can not be considered as applicable to fugitive slaves, since whatever may have been the intention of its authors, no such words were employed as described fugitive slaves and nobody else. It is obvious this clause, on its face, is applicable to apprentices.

Secondary signification—that the clause can be applicable to fugitive slaves.

These and kindred topics are amply discussed, and the Committee, in conclusion, say:—Unhappily the statute must always remain on the pages of history. But every day of delay in its repeal is hurtful to the National cause and to the National name. Would you put down the rebellion; would you uphold our fame abroad; would you save the Constitution from outrage; would you extinguish slavery; above all, would you follow the Constitution and establish justice; then repeal this statute at once.

The principal amendment proposed to the National Currency Act by the Comptroller of the Currency, requires National Banks to redeem their circulating notes in the city of New York at a small discount; fixes the uniform rate of seven per cent. throughout the United States; reduces their lawful money reserved to be left in bonds from 25 to 15 per cent. for country banks; and from 25 to 20 per cent. for city banks; makes provisions for chartering of banks whenever the owners of two-thirds of the capital stock demand it; it requires at least \$100,000 capital for banks in the country and \$300,000 in the cities, and requires an amount of bonds equal to one-third of the capital stocks paid up, to be kept on deposit until the Treasurer of the United States decides whether banks take circulation or not.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War have decided to extend their investigations somewhat, and will accordingly visit New York to examine into the condition of military affairs connected with the expenditures of money, &c. It is alleged that there are great irregularities in both the Quartermaster's and Commissary Departments, and immense frauds have been perpetrated in the purchase of horses.

The Senate Judiciary Committee agree to an amendment to the Constitution forever prohibiting slavery in the United States.

NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

It is one of the most singular coincidences of the war, that Col. Straight, for whom John Morgan was held as a hostage, should have escaped from prison at Richmond in precisely the same manner as Morgan got away from Columbus.

THE Secretary of War has given formal authority to the American Baptist Home Missionary Society to take possession of every abandoned Baptist meeting house in the insurrectionary districts.

EX-GOV. MORTON, of Massachusetts, died at his residence in Taunton on Saturday week. He was born in Freetown, Dec. 19, 1784, graduated at Brown's University in 1804, and was chosen clerk of the Massachusetts Senate in 1811. He held a seat in Congress from 1817 to 1821. In 1823 he served in the Executive Council, in 1824 was elected Lieut. Governor, and subsequently appointed upon the Supreme Bench, where he continued for many years. He was twice elected Governor.

THE London Times has at last confessed that its hostility to this Republic is based on jealousy of its growing power. It says, "While the Republic was overtopping and overshadowing us, while it stretched its limbs and raised its tones to the scale of a giant, it was impossible but that our sympathy with it should be weakened. To wish the United States to retain their integrity, or now recover it, would be to wish our own abasement, and our own destruction."

THE camels imported for the government six years ago, and since kept near the Tejon reservation on the plains, have increased from fifteen to thirty-seven. They are now removed to Benicia, California. They can easily travel fifty miles a day, but they are not allowed to do more than thirty. One of them has carried four bales of wool or cotton.

List of New Advertisements.

Lane's Purchasing Agency—Harvey B. Lane. Seymour's Patent Improved Sewing Machines—P & C. H. Seymour. Hiram's Hair Restorative—Jos. Hoyt & Co. The Cultivation of the Cranberry—B. M. Watson. Epilepsy—Dr. C. Robbins. Pure Extract of Tobacco—R. H. Allen & Co. Farm for Sale—M. O. Benjamin. Nursery Stock for Sale—J. B. Kelly. Reminiscence of 80th N. Y. Engineers—F. B. Williams. Farm for Sale—J. D. Thompson. Oster Willows—Henry V. Corlies. Tobacco Seed—Julius Rising. Small Farm for Sale—C. B. Hildebrand. Apple Seedlings for Sale—J. D. Conklin. Fulleys—J. P. Griffin. Grape Cuttings—J. H. Ousted. Drain Tile Machine—A. Le Tourrette.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Romance taken out—D. B. DeLand & Co.

The News Condenser.

- Work is progressing rapidly on the Hoosic Tunnel.
- New York is taking measures to have a street telegraph.
- There are 70 miles of pipeage in the Detroit Water Works.
- Hoop skirts five yards in circumference are the rage at Paris.
- The Montgomery Mail says there is an abundance of salt in Alabama.
- At Alexandria, Texas, a coat is worth \$500, and a pair of pants \$450.
- Not a dozen pipes of real Madeira wine now leave that island annually.
- Ex-United States Senator Borland, of Arkansas, died in Texas recently.
- Raisins, equal to the best which are imported, are produced in California.
- The firearms taken from the people of Baltimore a year ago have been restored.
- The Nashville Union learns that Parson Brownlow is dangerously ill at Knoxville.
- During the last month California contributed \$58,110 to the Sanitary Commission.
- The Charleston Mercury complains that the South is being flooded with greenbacks.
- At St. Johnsbury, Vt., the thermometer was 18 degrees below zero on the 11th ult.
- The telegraph has been completed to Little Rock, Ark., via St. Louis and Fort Smith.
- There are 27 chaplains of 26 denominations in the Sixth Army Corps, Gen. Sedgwick's.
- Large quantities of cotton are stored at Huntsville, Ala., now in possession of our forces.
- The men at Fort Smith, Ark., are suffering and the mules and horses are dying for want of food.
- The first case of garrotter flogging under the new act of Parliament has just taken place in England.
- President making is lively in Washington—the nation's opinion, however, seems to be of no account.
- A French physician has discovered that brandy or rum is the best antidote for an overdose of chloroform.
- Four hundred thousand copies of the four gospels in modern Russian have been sold in Russia in two years.
- A female of Brooklyn, N. Y., has been arraigned and held to bail on a charge of being a "common scold."
- The Detroit Board of Trade has adopted resolutions in favor of the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty.
- Over \$50,000 dollars have been paid in Memphis, Tenn., to collectors of internal Revenue during the past sixty days.
- There is a "city of tents" at Bridgeport, Ala., containing twenty thousand troops under command of Gen. Geary.
- A Petroleum oil spring has been discovered only eight miles from Detroit. The Detroiters have the oil fever badly.
- The radical Emancipationists of St. Louis have appointed sixty delegates to the Louisville Freedom Convention.
- Contracts for 250,000 pairs of army shoes were awarded at Philadelphia lately, at prices averaging \$2.17 a pair.
- Three new daily anti-slavery papers are to be started in Tennessee, at Nashville, Murfreesboro and Chattanooga.
- Crooked Creek, in Cumberland County, Ill., has less than 125 voters, but has furnished 135 for the armies of the Union.
- There are about ten thousand liquor shops in New York City—of which number only six hundred and thirty are licensed.
- Wm. M. Stone, the new Governor of Iowa, was once a canal driver between Roscoe and Cleveland, O., at \$3 a month.
- A Quaker boy in Johnson Co., Iowa, refused an offer of \$1,000 to stay at home, and volunteered to fight for the republic.
- The liberal party in England have subscribed \$100,000 towards establishing a new paper for gratuitous circulation.
- There are eighteen persons confined in Castle Thunder, Richmond, charged with attempting to assassinate Jeff Davis.
- Property in New York, belonging to Trusten Polk, formerly a U. S. senator from Mo., has been seized, and will be confiscated.
- Sec. Stanton on Saturday week received an anonymous donation of twenty-five hundred dollars for the use of Government.
- The losses by the recent fire at Gloucester, Mass., amount to nearly half a million dollars. Eighty buildings were destroyed.
- John Burns, the old man who fought at Gettysburg on his own hook and was wounded, is to have a pension of \$8 a month.
- It is asserted that the gold customs of February, at New York, will probably be over \$5,700,000, with only \$3,000,000 to pay out.
- A public meeting is soon to be held at Huntsville, Alabama, to discuss measures for the restoration of that State to the Union.
- The Princess of Wales wanted to nurse her baby; but such a thing was never known in the British royal family, and so she couldn't.
- About \$7,000,000 of the new national currency have been issued to the national banks. This issue is of fives and tens exclusively.
- The Wisconsin legislature is seeking some constitutional mode of punishing those who have run away to Canada to escape the draft.
- There were 406,336 barrels of salt produced in Saginaw, Mich., during 1863, the fourth year in which the works have been in operation.

"STILL SHE KEEPS ROCKING HIM"

Still she keeps rocking him, Ever caressing him, Brushing the hair from His colorless brow.

The Story-Teller.

WOED AND MARRIED.

"Mrs. Crofton! Mrs. Crofton!" How odd it appears to me to be called Crofton, and Mrs., too.

Last autumn I was invited with my parents and my two sisters to spend a couple of weeks at Firgrove with the Rentons.

My sisters had each a regular outfit for the occasion, but mamma said I needed nothing.

Mrs. Renton appeared delighted to see me, and although my sister smiled at my credulity in thinking her sincere, my heart went out to meet her.

For there were annoyances which I could not avoid, and which were at times hard to endure; although I ought not to complain, since they occurred in consequence of the favor in which I was held by those persons which I admired and loved the most.

I laughed, and answered that I should never have a house of my own, for I was so small, and dark, and awkward, that mamma despaired of seeing me married, and I was quite content to remain papa's darling, for that was the title he always gave me.

Mrs. Renton replied pleasantly that she knew very well from papa how necessary I was to him, but that it was just possible that I might become as indispensable to another as I was to him.

After she left me I lay awake a long time, wishing I could know the very words papa used when he spoke of me to her; for, although I knew he loved me very much, he never told me so except by the tones of his voice and the glances of his eyes.

The principal topic of conversation among a part of the guests at Firgrove was the anticipated arrival of Mr. Gilbert Crofton, a brother

of our hostess. Miss Amelia Monkton and her brother Conrad declared him to be by far the best match in the country. They spoke of him as remarkably handsome, of good family, traveled, accomplished, and very wealthy.

He did arrive the same evening, but I saw very little of him, for in the morning there was never any room in the carriages for me to drive or a horse for me to ride, and if walking was proposed the twins were sure to want me to dress their dolls or help on with a game.

When the fortnight was over my parents and sisters returned home, but Mrs. Renton wouldn't listen to their proposal to take me with them. She said that she had not been able to do anything for my pleasure, and that I must remain until there were fewer guests, so that I might have my share in the festivities of the house.

Mr. Crofton left the same morning that my friends did, and I didn't expect to see him again, nor did I feel any regret; for whenever he noticed me at all, it was in such a teasing way that I had hard work to appear indifferent.

My wardrobe began to look scanty, but although Amelia Monkton and the three Allans sneered at my one evening dress, I should never have thought of asking mamma for anything.

My sky was not always so cloudless. The idea that Mr. Crofton could regard me as anything but a mere school-girl had not occurred to me. Mrs. Renton told me and others that her brother was pleased to find at the house a child intelligent enough for a companion yet too young for flirtation and scandal, and that, were I older he would not permit himself to offer such marked attentions.

My sky was not always so cloudless. The idea that Mr. Crofton could regard me as anything but a mere school-girl had not occurred to me. Mrs. Renton told me and others that her brother was pleased to find at the house a child intelligent enough for a companion yet too young for flirtation and scandal, and that, were I older he would not permit himself to offer such marked attentions.

I could not accomplish this do as I would. I was sitting with Maggie one twilight, holding her hand while she went to sleep, when Amelia and Conrad stopped to talk in the hall.

"How ridiculous Gilbert Crofton's manner is toward that absurd child!" said Amelia.

"She isn't absurd, and he isn't ridiculous," replied Conrad. "She is a bright little thing, homely, to be sure, but perfectly unassuming and good natured almost to a fault; and he, I imagine, is glad to come across one of the sex who doesn't say 'yes' eternally to his remarks and propositions, however extravagant they may be."

"At any rate it isn't right for him to be so exclusive in his attentions. By and by she will think he wants to marry her."

"Perhaps he will want to marry her, but I lose my guess if she isn't as much astonished as anybody when he tells her so, if ever he does. One thing, however, is certain, Amelia, you only lower yourself by joining those ill-bred Allans in snubbing Miss Marion. I have seen Crofton's face turn absolutely white with rage when Clara Allan has stung her with her mean, suspicious shafts."

The speakers passed on, leaving me grieved and angry, and crushed beneath a vague sense of injustice which I could not entirely understand. I half resolved not to go down to dinner, and then I remembered that Angelica was gone, and that no one would be willing to play for the dancing, or to bear poor Mr. Blakeman's pettishness; so instead of indulging myself in an unhappy evening alone, I made my prettiest toilette, did my duty thoroughly and cheerfully, and was rewarded by a precious half hour with Mrs. Renton in her room before retiring to mine.

The Monktons and Allans departed, and two other sets came and went, but my hostess still found some excellent reason why I should remain, especially after Angelica left. For two weeks we had an old gentleman who wanted somebody to read to him every day, so I gave him my three hours of translations, a good exercise for me, and pleasant for him, since I always selected something lively if not positively comic.

I had been at Firgrove three months when papa wrote me that he could no longer spare his darling. Mr. Crofton brought the letter to me in the library, and stood waiting for me to read it, after which he wished me to join Mrs. Renton and himself in a walk to the Crags.

"What does papa write?" he asked, as I began to re-fold the sheet.

"He writes that I must go home directly, for he cannot spare his darling any longer."

"Neither can I spare my darling."

"Notwithstanding he was so serious, I thought he was making sport of me. My cheeks crimsoned and my eyes flashed, and I said, 'When you have teased me heretofore, Mr. Crofton, it has been on indifferent subjects. To make sport of me now amounts to an insult.'"

"I am not making sport of you, Marion," he answered very gently. "I have loved you, God alone knows how much, ever since the first week of our acquaintance, when you moved so quietly about, sending peace and sunshine through the discordant elements of my sister's house. I ought to have spent this autumn at Aspenholt, but I could not leave you. I cannot part with you now, Marion. Let me try to make you love me."

He took my hand as he spoke and looked full into my eyes. I think he saw there an answering fervor, for at that moment I became conscious of my own affection for him—an affection which had been strengthening hour by hour for many days.

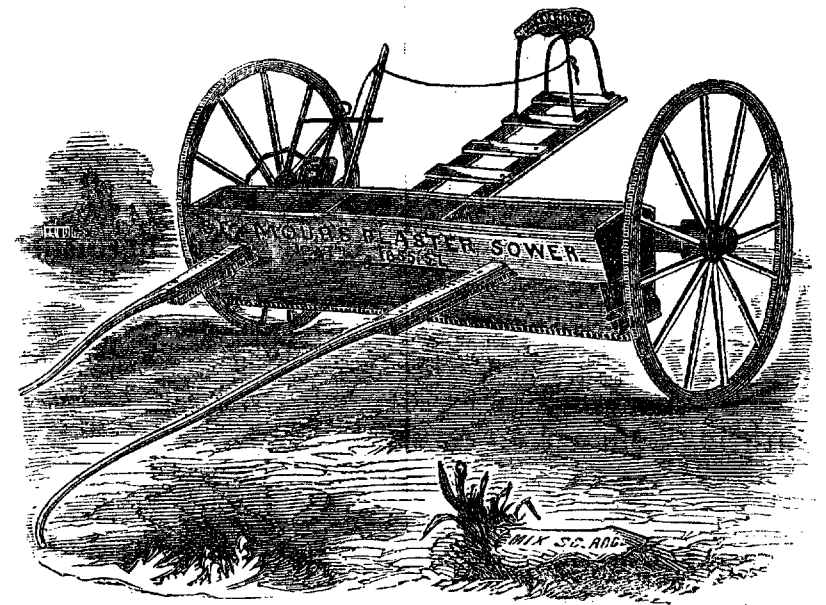
I expected that Mrs. Renton would be overwhelmed with astonishment, and perhaps anger, but she embraced me quietly and warmly, and said, "Three months ago, dear Marion, I knew that you would one day be Gilbert's and mine."

Mrs. Renton accompanied Gilbert and me to my home. Papa was silently happy to see me again, silently sad at the thought that he had ceased to be first in my heart; but I cannot describe the reception which mamma and the girls gave us. There was a refined deference in their manner toward my companion which I had never seen them exhibit before, and to me they were, for the first time, heartily affectionate.

I can with difficulty persuade myself that that was six months ago, or that I am really writing in this noble library, with my husband's kiss warm upon my lips, and the servant's "Mrs. Crofton" echoing in my ears.

HEAVEN is on the side of virtue; for whoever dreads punishment, suffers it; and whoever deserves it, dreads it.

Mechanical Inventions, Improvements, &c.



SEYMOUR'S PLASTER SOWER.

OUR engraving represents a Plaster Sower, gotten up by Mr. PIERPONT SEYMOUR, of East Bloomfield, N. Y., widely known as the inventor and manufacturer of seed drills, broadcast sowing machines, etc., which have met with favor from farmers.

NEW INVENTIONS.

A-LOOM FOR WEAVING HATS.—Such a loom has been invented in this country, whereby the hat is commenced at the center of the crown and finished to the edge of the crown complete, either plain or with a twill, and in shape to fit any sized head.

METALLIC FLAGS.—Mr. A. Watson, of Washington, D. C., has recently introduced a new metallic flag, which is highly spoken of by those who have seen it. The inventor says: "These flags are more beautiful than bunting, or even silk; and as they cannot be injured by the most violent storms of wind, rain, snow, or sleet, they will in the long run be twenty times cheaper than bunting. They will also answer the double purpose of a flag and a vane, and may be used as a sign. They are always thrown

to the breeze, wind or no wind, and are literally nailed to the mast."

A NEW BEE HIVE has just been patented, or an arrangement for the comb frames of a hive, whereby the least possible surface of said frames are brought in contact with the hive or box in which they may be placed; and the frames are arranged so as to be removed without annoying or exasperating the bees, and also adjusted at greater or less distances apart as desired.

A NEW HORSE HAY FORK.—A Michigan man has patented a new fork, so constructed that the ordinary head for the tines is avoided, and the bail is connected directly to the tines, resulting, it is said in a very durable and desirable fork. The mode of holding the fork in position and tripping it to discharge the load is said to be novel, but is not described.

A NEW RAKING ATTACHMENT for a reaper has been invented by a Minnesota gentleman. It commences to sweep the platform at the end nearest the standing grain, following the path of a circle, discharging the grain in a gavel at the rear of the platform.

A NEW CULTIVATOR has been patented by an Iowaian, which cultivates each side of a row at the same time, and has a novel and improved means for elevating the front part of the machine; also of adjusting the plows and scrapers whereby the several parts are under the control of the operator. This class of implements for western use have been greatly improved the past two years.

Corner for the Young.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.

- I AM composed of 22 letters. My 26, 10, 21, 14 is a city in China. My 6, 15, 20, 12, 13, 20 is a city in Austria. My 4, 11, 31, 20, 18 is a river in France. My 20, 8, 14, 26, 27, 7 is an island in a lake partly in the United States. My 14, 19, 18 is a city in India. My 23, 24, 10 is a mountain in the United States. My 18, 1, 2, 3, 23, 19, 13, 26 is an island in the Atlantic Ocean. My 25, 30, 7, 10, 22, 12, 23 is a county in Iowa. My 19, 17, 13, 26 is a mountain in Europe. My 26, 30, 11, 12 is three rivers in England of the same name. My 9, 3, 20, 20, 5, 32 is a city on the coast of Spain. My whole is a Bible saying. Eagle, M. Y., 1864. LEONARD M. PHILLIPS.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

A PUZZLE.

- My first is a girl's nickname. My second is an interjection. My third is a verb. My fourth means forever. My fifth is a measure. My sixth is a pronoun. My seventh is a kind of plant. My eighth is a vowel. My whole is what all should possess. Columbus, Mich., 1864. J. M. BRAINERD.

Answer in two weeks.

Written for the Rural New-Yorker.

ANAGRAMS OF RIVERS.

- End pier, Gob, Smeath, Wel ye, Cork, Last, Olena, Ohio, 1864. Dear G, Teach, Sen ten-see, Ah! nay leg, And, Skun in mug. D. V. V.

Answer in two weeks.

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS, &c., IN No. 736.

Answer to Modern Historical Enigma:—Das Historische Zeitblatt und Literarischer Anzeiger. Answer to Mathematical Problem:—The force to be applied at each pole is equal to three-sixteenths of the earth's weight.

HEAVEN is a land of peace, and all things are there in full age: here all are in minority, it is but yet night; but, when the day shall break up, and the shadows fly away, and the Prince of Peace shall appear and be revealed, He shall bring peace and grace both with Him, and both perfect.

SORE THROAT, COUGH, COLD,

And similar troubles, if suffered to progress, result in serious Pulmonary, Bronchial and Asthmatic affections, oftentimes incurable.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.

are compounded so as to reach directly the seat of the disease and give almost instant relief. 73-4t



EVERY SOLDIER should supply himself with a remedy to counteract all the ills, diseases, scratches, and bruises that he will be subjected to on his tiresome marches, and unhealthy localities. DAVIS' PAIN KILLER is the remedy sold by all dealers in medicines. 73-2t

Prices, 35 cents, 75 cents, and \$1.50 per bottle.

SHEEP WASH TOBACCO.

Will not injure the most delicate animal. Kills Ticks on Sheep. Cures Scab on Sheep. Kills all Vermin on Animals and Birds. Cures all Skin Diseases on Animals. Kills Bugs on Houses, Lice on House Plants. Kills Canker Worm on Apple Trees. Kills Bed-Bugs and Water Roaches. Kills all vermin that infest Grape and Cranberry Vines.

One Pound of this Extract will make Sixteen Gallons Wash.

For sale by all Druggists, and at Country and Agricultural Stores. Price, 75 cents per pound. A liberal discount to the trade and large pure asers. Orders promptly sent by express.

JAMES F. LEVIN, Agent South Down Co., 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Mass. R. H. ALLEN & CO., Agricultural Warehouse, 19 and 21 Water Street, New York. DUDLEY & STAFFORD, Druggists, 60 Beekman Street, New York. 73-60t

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

THE LARGEST-CIRCULATING

Agricultural, Literary and Family Newspaper,

IS PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY

D. D. T. MOORE, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Office, Union Buildings, Opposite the Court House, Buffalo St.

TERMS, IN ADVANCE:

Two Dollars a Year.—To Clubs and Agents as follows:—Three Copies one year, for \$5; Six, and one free to club agent, for \$10; Ten, and one free, for \$15; and any greater number at same rate—only \$1.50 per copy. Club papers directed to individuals and sent to as many different Post-Offices as desired. As we prepay American postage on copies sent abroad, \$1.70 is the lowest price for Canada, and \$2.50 to Europe,—but during the present rate of exchange, Canada Agents or Subscribers remitting for the RURAL in bills of their own specie-paying banks will not be charged postage. The best way to remit is by Draft on New York, (less cost of exchange),—and all drafts payable to the order of the Publisher, MAY BE MAILED AT HIS RISK.

The Postage on the RURAL NEW-YORKER is only 5 cents per quarter in any part of this State, (except Missouri per quarter where it goes free), and the same in any other country, where it goes free, and the same to any other loyal State, if paid quarterly in advance where received.

Direct to Rochester, N. Y.—All persons having occasion to address the RURAL NEW-YORKER, will please send to Rochester, N. Y., and not, as many do, to New York, Albany, Buffalo, &c. Money Letters intended for us are frequently directed and mailed to the above places.