

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER



TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

(SINGLE NO. FIVE CENTS.)

VOL. XV NO. 11.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1864.

{WHOLE NO. 739.

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

CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE.
CHARLES D. BRADGON, 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.

Drainage.—Now that the snows begin to melt and the ground to freeze and thaw, alternately, it is important that you see that the water runs off from the newly seeded, and winter grain fields. It will take but a little frost-lifting, if the surface drainage is not perfect, to ruin many acres of wheat and young clover. In many localities the frost is not yet out of the ground. The sun, of these March days, thaws the light snows which fall and the surface soil; but the frost, below, holds the water like a basin; and if there is no way provided for it to run off, it freezes at night, breaking and destroying the roots of the plants. If with spade and hoe and pick, you can save a rod square of wheat, or of well caught young clover, it should be done.

Dairy.—During these rough, windy, March days the dairy-house or cellar should be thoroughly cleansed and put in condition. It is easier to do it now than to wait until out-door-work will exact all your time. Your own comfort should be consulted by performing this and other necessary in-door jobs now; for March is rather rough on a body.

Debts.—There is no greater curse to agriculturists than debts. If there are any bills payable on your books, pay take care of them. See that they are paid. But a short time since we heard a thorough business man say that there was no class of men who so little regard the rules of business established by law, as farmers. They do not think it any disgrace, nor any matter if their notes go to protest—even when perfectly able to pay they rarely exhibit any sensitiveness on the subject. They seem to expect to be dunned for the money, perhaps sued. Some of them seem to think that when they have given a note they have discharged the debt; then, if the holder of the note can collect it he is smart—that's all. If they promise to deliver their produce to a certain party, at a certain price, and find afterward that they can get a trifle more for it, they do not hesitate to disappoint the first party and sell to the second; but if they find that they have been offered above the market price; or if the current price falls below the original offer before they deliver it, they do not scruple to hold the contractor to his proffered price. So talked the merchant. He did not assert that there was no dishonesty among business men of other classes, but he did assert that there was more disregard of business rules, honor and justice, among farmers than among any other class. It is proper farmers should know what reputation they have, and it will be well for each individual to do what he may to remove any cause which may exist for such reputation. There is a feeling existing among many farmers that all other classes are seeking to oppress them—to take their life-blood

out of them. And they act as they think. This begets antagonism where none ought to exist. We should remember that each class has its work; and the work must be done and paid for. Dependence is mutual. Debts must be paid promptly. A owes B; B owes C; and C owes F. B depends upon the money which A owes him, to pay C; and C cannot pay F until he gets it. F wants to go to Europe on a certain day to attend to an important business matter; but he cannot go unless he receives promptly the money which C owes him. So if A fails to meet his payment at the hour, the whole row of bricks fall! And in the business world business men depend upon each other in precisely this manner.

Dogs.—We pray you destroy every dog on your premises that is not useful—that is not essential. But if you keep a dog, for your children's sake, for your own sake, keep him muzzled, except when you have a special duty for him to perform. One of the best mode of ridding the country of predatory dogs, is to dig their graves, put in the bottom of the same some fresh meat—beef or mutton—well flavored with strychnine. The next morning the burial may be performed without priest and prayer. If we were in the neighborhood of dogs fond of sheep, that is precisely what we should do.

Eggs.—At this season of the year they will bring a good price. But properly cooked, they are an exceedingly nutritious food. And farmer's are wise who provide a large supply for the table. The hens should not be allowed to range over, through and under the barns and sheds, and scatter the eggs. Nests should be made for them in the hen-house or yard. And they should be confined there. Enough more eggs will be saved to defray the expense of inclosing them.

Fences.—They must be looked after—especially the rail fences. Perhaps the frost is not out of the ground sufficiently to straighten up the posts, and sink them to the original depth. But this work should be done as soon as possible. Many farmers plan to change their division fences so as to protect crops or throw meadows into pasture, &c. All this labor should be avoided as much as practicable. An entire field should be used for grain, or grass, or pasture, so that it may be cleared of a crop as nearly at the same time as possible in the fall, and stock admitted to it, if at all, when they can derive the most benefit from it. Many farmers lose a great deal of fine fall feed, because they have a patch of corn in one corner of a field, turnips in another, carrots or potatoes in another, the bulk of the field being in grass. Fences must be put about each little patch, or the fall feed must be lost. This is evidence of poor planning; and in arranging the fences this spring, see that these farm leaks are stopped.

Fowls.—If you have no yard for them, now is the time to provide one. Do not wait until they have got into your hot-bed,—which they surely will do the first time you leave it open—and destroyed two-thirds or all of the young plants you have so successfully started. Now wait, if you have no hot-bed, until you have put in the early lettuce and given them an opportunity to scratch the bed over just as it gets sprouted. Shut the fowls up this month by all means.

Grass Seed.—Sow this month, if you failed to do so when you put in the winter's grain, and design to seed. Select a morning when the ground is frozen, and there is a very light snow on the ground. The snow will serve as a guide; and added, as the sun melts it, it will carry the seed into the soil. It will be well, also, to look over the clover fields and scatter seed where the frost is at work destroying the roots.

Help.—Have you secured the "hired man" for the season? Or is he in the army? If you have none, what are you going to do about it? Have you any plans? Talk with your neighbors who want help. Find how many hands are wanted in the neighborhood. Select one of your number best qualified, furnish him with money and credentials, send him to New York city with instructions to secure, with the aid of the Commissioners of Immigration there, a supply from among the thousands of sturdy foreigners constantly arriving there. Before he can get aid there, he must be supplied with a guarantee that he is an honorable man, and that the emigrants placed under his care will be well cared for. Your shrewdest and best informed men should be sent on this mission; and they should accompany and watch over those they

can induce to go with them until they arrive safely at their destination.

Maple Sugar making, if you have the trees and tools, will probably pay well, if you have the help to prosecute the work. It will be patriotic to secure all the sweet within your own resources that is practicable. In making arrangements, the object should be to secure the greatest results with the least labor and expense of fuel. Each one, knowing his own resources, should plan to use them to the best advantage. Maple sugar manufacture is a business transaction as much as the manufacture of wool into cloth. But some farmers manage to make it cost them far more than it comes to. The back volumes of the RURAL contain many articles, from practical men, on this subject, which it will be well for you to review.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

COAL ASHES.—Are coal ashes good as fertilizers? If so, on what soil and with what crops?—A. L. L. POTTER.

As intimated in an article last week, we regard them well worth saving and using. We should not apply them directly to land except in large quantity. They will be found most valuable to use in composts as absorbents. We know of one or two instances in which they have been applied directly to old moss-bound meadows with good results. We do not know of any crop to which we should apply them direct unless on grass lands. And even then we question whether the greatest and best results would not be derived from them by composting with stable manure. We have seen reports of good effects where applied as a top-dressing to corn. We can not doubt that it would be better so to apply them than to throw them away as some do. Let those who have experience give the results of the same.

COMPOSTS IN VATS.—Where cow manure is made under shelter, in a water-tight vat, with litter enough to absorb all the liquid, would you advise to compost with muck there or in the field? We should probably be obliged to draw it out two or three times during the winter, the muck to lay in heaps at least one year before being used. If you think it would pay the extra expense of composting under shelter, would like to know the why.—L.

THERE are some advantages to be gained by composting under shelter. The compost may be turned wet days when it would not be practicable to do it out of doors. And you can better control the distribution of your fertilizers. A compost heap in the center of a field is unsightly, occupies ground that should be productive, and if you cultivate or mow it you will have to cultivate or mow around it. The question is whether the convenience of adding to the compost, of turning it and controlling it, together with the possible saving from leaching, will compensate for any added labor in handling. The loss from exposure, if proper and abundant absorbents are used, would be very slight. In your case, where the vat must be emptied so often, after adding absorbents enough to take up the liquid, we should add to muck and litter in the field. But we should much prefer muck as an absorbent in the vat to coarse, strawy litter. And the bulk would be less, the vat would not fill so soon, and the liquid and gases would be more completely saved.

HAND CORN PLANTER.—Will corn, planted with a hand planter do as well as when planted with a hoe? Help being very scarce this season in this section, I would like to take the shortest way, providing it will do just as well.—R. N., Lockport, 1864.

WE have never yet seen a hand-planter that we would willingly substitute in the field for a good, careful hand. In order to secure the best results from planting, it is important that the seed should be put in good, moist soil, thoroughly pulverized, and pressed compactly about it. When the seed germinates it should have about it something beside air and clouds. The finer the soil, and the closer the particles are together, the quicker will the new roots gain nourishment, and the more rapid, vigorous and uninterrupted the growth. No hand corn-planter that we have ever seen, secures to the seed these conditions of soil. There are two-horse planters, however, that plant better than two-thirds of the men we hire can do it. Among the best, we may name one manufactured by SELBY & ELDER, Peoria, Ill., price \$35; another by MCGAFFEY & CO., Chicago, Ill., price from \$35 to \$45; another, (a most popular planter,) by G. W. BROWN, Galesburg, Ill.,

price from \$35 to \$45. These planters drop two rows at a time, put the seed in good soil and press it compactly about it. From fifteen to twenty-five acres per day are planted with them in the West.

MANURING POTATOES.—Will you inform one of your subscribers which mode is to be preferred in planting potatoes in drills, to place the manure above or below the potato?—Damos, Huron Co., O.

The manure should be thoroughly decomposed and incorporated with the soil previous to planting. As a rule it is a doubtful practice to manure potatoes in the hill. We have seen it succeed on new land—on a tolerably heavy loam. But we would not recommend the practice as a safe one. You do not give us the kind and condition of your soil, so that a more specific reply is impossible. All who ask questions should remember that "circumstances alter cases."

ENCOURAGE THE YOUNG FARMERS.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER.—As the spring days of 18—lengthened out, the question arose at our fireside as to what should be my occupation. I was a farmer's son, fifteen years old, and it was, of course, an interest to me to plan something for the future. My father owned a large, but ill-cultivated, farm, and I, being the only son left at home, was looked upon to be a farmer. Still my hopes were to get away. I looked upon the farm the same as ever, feeling that the sooner I could leave the happier I would be. I thought of some village store, some office or shop; but it was of no use; stay at home I must, at least one or two years. I had in my mind that the least I had to do the more fortunate I was, and, of course, took no interest in anything that belonged to the farm.

It was a few months after, on a warm day, that I was set to hoe some corn in the garden. I hoed a few rows, but not having much of a mind to work, I dropped my hoe and took a seat under the nearest shade tree. I began to think of my unhappy situation, how unpleasant I made my home, and to reason why it was so. I looked around me; there was the old farm the same as ever; there was the flock of sheep, the barns, horses, cattle, &c., all of which were in want of a hand to care for them. The thought came to me strongly; I asked myself why I could not be a happy and prosperous farmer; why I could not make farming my trade, and do as my parents and friends wanted me to do, instead of being a clerk in a store or being in some other poor business. But what if I did work, I could not see that I had made any advancement, I could get nothing for it that I could call my own. I had no encouragement from any one, and all seemed dark before me.

The sheep came to my mind, and I asked myself if I could not take care of the flock of sheep one year, and have a part of the profits, and have something that I could say that I earned myself, and call my own. The thought gave me encouragement, and again I set at work with renewed vigor. The weeds fell thick and fast until noon, and the plans of the forenoon were laid before my aged parents. They were considered. I was successful. I was to have the sheep in my care for one year, and a small share of the profits. From that time until the present have I been a happy and successful farmer. That was the "turning point" in my life. How much I owe to those moments for my success and future.

There was a change in my life from the time I went forth with a view to be a farmer. I improved every moment. Everything was looked to. Plans were laid to be executed, and all seemed to glide along smoothly. Such has been the way with few while many have given farming up in despair, and desolated their homes by seeking a fortune in the city or country store or shop, all for want of a little encouragement at home. A large part of those who leave home thus, make the gamblers and drunkards of our large cities, while a few make themselves useful men. Oh, that parents would feel the necessity of looking to their sons in this important hour of their life! Only let them have business at home—give them something to care for, encourage them in their undertakings, and let them feel that they are making themselves useful, and industry and prosperity would reign. Many homes would be made happy, lands would be better cultivated, and the professional agriculturist would assume his right place.

I am acquainted with young men who have fair prospects for the future if they would

remain at home, but who would leave immediately if they could get a position behind a counter or in an office. Such is the case every where. May the time hasten when they will feel proud of being honest and honorable farmers and making their homes happy and their nation prosperous.

Troy, Brad. Co., Pa. AN AMERICAN FARMER.

REMARKS.—We regard the above experience and suggestions of the gravest importance. There are few young men educated upon the farm who have not had similar struggles in the effort to decide their own future; and many have been less fortunate than the writer of the above, in receiving aid from the parents. As a rule, the relations of the farmer and his sons are not sufficiently intimate; they know too little of each other's plans, thoughts and desires. There should be greater frankness, confidence and sympathy. Then the father's interest would become the son's; and the boy's welfare would become identified with the father's. Families would not so often become scattered; or, if scattered, the members of each would work together, co-operate with each other, and retain and use the strength which union gives. Our correspondent could have written upon a subject of no greater importance to agriculture. We hope our readers will think about it.

GIVE CREDIT.

J. W. CHADDOCK, of Michigan, writes:—"There is a greater variety of persons engaged in farming, who aid in its improvements, than some persons appear disposed to give credit for, which idea is suggested to me by reading the quotation of 'H. T. B.' from Dr. HALL, published in a recent number of the RURAL, viz.:—'It is too much the case with the farming population that they have no breadth of view; they cannot sustain a conversation beyond a few comments on the weather, the crops, the markets, and the neighborhood news.' To this, so far as it goes, I have no objections; but as it leaves the reader too apt to infer that such as are not 'given' to writing or talking are of little use in promoting improvements, it ought to be further said, there are farmers who have a faculty to carry on a conversation, or express themselves, and can write for others to read, yet are wanting in breadth of view; and that there are farmers not so much wanting in breadth of view, who have not the art of conversing, neither have they the faculty to express themselves in written communications. And as the latter class are generally demonstrating the practicality of what they think judicious, there is quite as much due to them, as aids to improvement, as to the former.

"The farmer who studies the character and conditions of his farm with reference to the adoption of a system, adopts the one chosen, divides his land suitably by fencing, builds buildings, and makes other arrangements with the same end in view, and thereby shows to his neighbors how to practice as well as how to plan, does vastly more to elevate the standard by which farmers are disposed habitually to govern themselves than one who often proposes, even publicly, to do all these things, yet does nothing. The doer may not, verbally, call anybody's attention to his works; they speak for themselves.

"There is no division of men whose business is of much importance who are so poorly qualified to 'adapt means to ends,' and who manifest so little care for improvement as the farmers of our country. But it is an encouraging thought that there is a portion—and the number is increasing—who have 'inquiring minds,' and are gradually adding to their knowledge of the principles that should govern their business; and fewer who, if they agree to pay 1 1/2 lbs. wool, worth 70 cents, for the use of a sheep worth \$2 for one year, don't know they would do better to borrow money and buy instead of borrow sheep.

"Calculating farmers can show results when questioned; and experience has taught me there are many such who, modestly disposed, seldom volunteer advice, yet they are industriously furnishing examples which others are following.

"I am inclined to be jealous of the treatment of this class of farmers, for, workers as they are, they pay less attention to trumpeting their claims than to the quality of their work; and possibly thereby incur the damage resulting from the idea that 'they have no breadth of view.'"

Condensed Correspondence.

How to get Heifer Calves.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Mass. Ploughman* gives a recipe for obtaining female calves, which he says he has tried many years and never knew to fail, and which piece of information he calls worth \$50 to any breeder. It is this:—When the cow is served have her head stand directly facing the sun, no matter in what part of the heavens it may be.

A Valuable Poultice.

I GIVE a recipe for the best poultice we ever heard of. We have tried it for several years with great success, curing even bad cases of poll-evil in less than twenty-four hours. It is simply Sassafras root bark, cut into convenient sized pieces, and boiled with wheat bran to retain the heat, and placed in a bag and bound on when warm, at night.—JULIUS M. BATES, Titusville, Feb. 1864.

Bloated Cattle.

A CORRESPONDENT at Cherry Creek, N. Y., gives the following as a sure and reliable cure:—"Insert the blade of a large pocket knife half way from the hip to the rib, on the left side, nearly the length of the blade; then insert a quill. This will allow the gas to escape from the stomach, keep down the bloated, and relieve the animal in a few hours. Bloated calves may be served the same way."

Deadening Beech and Maple.

I KEPT a memorandum of my work one spring and summer, girdling as I had opportunity. The result showed that more depends on the way in which the work is done than in the time of the moon or month of the year. Throw the axe in heavy, and be sure the cuts overlap each other. If girdled in spring or early summer the trees decay soonest; if girdled after harvest the bark falls off and the trees become dry and hard.—H. Y., Bellmore, Ind.

Manuring Corn Ground.

R. L. R., of Ellington, N. Y., writes in response to CHAS. APPLIGATE'S question, that he thinks a good deal depends upon what the manure is, as well as upon the soil. If the manure is stable manure, free from straw, he would "plow the ground early and deep, cultivate thorough, lengthwise of the furrows, then spread the manure on—the more the better—and harrow the opposite way; then cultivate and harrow the ground as often as you find time until time to plant. Go over the ground with a light brush before marking the ground for planting. If the manure is coarse pile it up to rot."

Tobacco Experience.

HENRY GERMAN, of Erie Co., Ohio, writes us that he planted, last year, five acres with Connecticut Seed Leaf tobacco. Product, 9,725 pounds, or 1,945 pounds per acre. Cost of cultivation, harvesting, boxing, shipping, \$258, or \$51.60 per acre; boxes, \$25.96; hauling to market, \$5; total expense of crop, \$288.96. Has been offered 25 cents per pound for the crop, but will not sell for less than 30 cents. At 25 cents the product amounts to \$2,431.50. Deduct cost, \$288.96, and it leaves \$2,142.54, or \$428.50 per acre. Soil on which the crop was grown, a deep, black, sandy loam, which had been in pasture five or six years. He cultivated according to directions given in the first essay of JUDD'S work on tobacco culture.

Time to Cut Timber.

A. E. RENIFF, Potter Co., Pa., writes us on this subject, giving his experience in cutting pine. To preserve it for working he would cut it in October, November and December. "Then the trunk is free from sap, and the parents of those troublesome creatures are no where to be seen." If cut in the spring when the sap is in the trunk, the timber cannot be saved from worms unless the bark is split along the top of the trunk. This lets in the water, which destroys the sweet flavor of the sap and keeps out the worms.

Concerning the origin of these worms, he says:—"There is a small, slim, black fly always in the woods at this season (spring) of the year, and the smell of newly cut timber draws them around to sip the sweet sap as it flows out. They deposit their eggs in the rough bark, which the sun soon hatches out and then the larva bore through the outside bark until they come to the soft inner bark, on which they will live until it loses its sweetness to them; then they penetrate still deeper into the solid timber."

Wheel the Manure out.

"LEWISTON" commenting upon an article which appeared sometime since in the *RURAL*, entitled, "A Lazy Man's Shovel," says he likes it until, by way of application, the writer says, "And now to come back to the Lazy Man's Shovel." Here is a chance to try it in this cow-stable, one hundred feet long. The manure is to be 'put through those windows?' LEWISTON says, "Whew! There's the rub! Through the windows, eh? I wouldn't have a man on my premises that disposed of the contents of a stable in such a barbarous manner!" Go into such a stable and note its filthy walls, and then walk out and observe the decayed clapboards and siding of the building. See it in the spring after the rain-washed heaps have been drawn away, and you will acknowledge that those ugly stains on the siding of the barn are proofs that the practice is a miserable one. Here is a capital way of 'doing it up.' Get a light, but strong wheelbarrow, one that will not tire a man or boy to use, and wheel your manure out to a shed in your back yard. A row of boards for the wheelbarrow to run on will enable you to perform work to your entire satisfaction.



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.

GOITRE.

THOSE swellings which are often seen in the necks of lambs, are generally designated by this name—though some farmers continue to write us about "swelled neck," "lumps in the neck," etc. The enlargement is, so far as our observation has extended, confined to the thyroid glands—which are the seat of goitre in the human being. These glands, in their natural state, are shaped not unlike a Lima bean, are of small size and rather soft texture, so that, according to our recollection, they are not very perceptible to the feeling, as separate bodies, in the necks of plump, muscular, healthy lambs at birth. But we are inclined to think they may be pretty plainly felt, even when not swollen, in the necks of thin, feeble, flaccid lambs. The thyroid glands lie on each side of the upper portion of the wind-pipe, so that when they are swollen, the "lumps" are felt on the under side of the neck, usually, in a short-necked Morino lamb, say about two inches below the throat.

This glandular enlargement is either the manifestation of a disease, (goitre), or it is the accompaniment of some other disease, which has already proved immensely destructive to lambs in the United States. Opinions are divided on this subject. All are aware that every year—and much more some years than others—large numbers of lambs are born small and weak, and soon perish. Some are of full size and plump, but have a soft, jelly-like feeling, as if their muscular tissues were not properly developed; and these are feebler and die sooner than the small, lean ones. In both cases, the bones are very small, and there is a general appearance of delicacy and want of vigor.

Some persons attribute all this to goitre, and claim that every such lamb, on inspection, will be found to have enlarged thyroid glands. Others go a step further and claim that all the dams of such lambs will be found affected with goitrous enlargements. Neither assertion is true. We have seen hundreds of these perishing lambs which did not exhibit the least appearance of goitre, and we have seen hundreds of lambs with enlarged glands whose dams were wholly free from that disease. We have repeatedly, too, seen flocks of these feeble lambs where a part had swelled necks and a part not. That it is the general and sweeping cause of that mortality which we are investigating, would seem, therefore, to be out of the question.

That mortality came in, or at least attained its present prevalence, with the new system of managing sheep—with the system of exclusively dry feed and close confinement to small yards in winter—and it is found to be greatly heightened by pampering. We have discussed this topic pretty fully elsewhere (in *Practical Shepherd*) and have not room to re-discuss it here.

The lambing season of 1864 is now at hand. It is the time, therefore, for careful observation, intelligent experiment, and exact records on this important subject. Let every flock-master who finds his lambs coming any smaller and weaker than usual, carefully note the circumstances, such as the previous feed, &c., of the ewe, her condition at lambing, the appearance of the lamb, whether its thyroid glands are enlarged, whether those of its dam are enlarged, the remedies applied, and their results. If a few closely observing flock-masters, among whose sheep this lamb disease makes its appearance, will scrupulously and accurately make a written record of the cases—keeping the account of a number of marked cases separately and properly, it will combine information a hundred times more valuable than all that has hitherto appeared on the subject. If the history of each case is not kept separate, and if the memory is relied on to preserve the facts, we shall only have the same loose, vague, unreliable statements as hitherto. An ignorant man sees a thing twice, jumps at a conclusion, and then all subsequent facts are warped by him to sustain the theory of that conclusion. We want neither theories nor conclusions. We want the literal facts observed in each case,—and it will be time enough to seek out the lessons which they teach after we get them all together.

There is nothing which our agricultural literature is so deficient in as precise facts—nothing which it superabounds in so much as foolish, unsupported theories. Carefully state all the symptoms. Where the thyroid glands are enlarged, let the record mention how large they appear to be at birth, how large the second day, and so on, until their final disappearance, or the death of the patient. We suggest that spirits of camphor (which is alleged to disperse such swellings,) be first tested in a few instances. Bind a woollen cloth about the neck, and wet it over the swellings several times a day. A pledget of lint or cotton placed between the bandage and the swellings will retain the moisture longer. If this is found ineffectual, try tincture of iodine in the same way. State how these remedies gradually and finally affect the patient in each separate instance—and the same of any other remedies applied. State how many lambs are dropped good and strong, and how many weak—how many have and how many have not swelled necks—how many live and how many

die—and in what state the living ones are at a month old. Give us the same particulars when lambs are affected by rheumatism, when they become lame, lose the use of their legs, &c. In all cases compare the structures of the feeble and dying lambs with those of healthy lambs. Compare the size of their thyroid glands, bones, weight of body, etc. Send us literal copies of the original records. Each will be worth a bushel of speculations. We will collate them, and publish the substance of each; and the information thus obtained will be worth having.

The opinion of a well educated physician would be of great value in establishing the existence of goitre proper, or in determining the true nature of the malady. The opinion of an ignorant empiric—accustomed to dose cattle, horses, sheep, etc., with unmentionable nostrums—would not, to us, be worth the paper it would occupy.

PEDIGREES.

MANY persons laugh at pedigrees of domestic animals. They want a cow or a sheep for "what it is, not for its pedigree!" Very well. We suppose everybody wants an animal for "what it is"—that is, for its own good qualities; but how are you going to obtain those good qualities, if you breed them instead of buying them? Will you do it by sending your cow or ewe to the worst bull or ram you know of—or to the best one within your reach? Now, don't, Mr. HARDSHELL, say you wouldn't care which—because if you do everybody will know you don't tell the truth. There are many stung men who, however rich they may be, won't buy good males—and there are ignorant, careless, self-satisfied men who never look for them—but there is not, on the average, one farmer in an American county, who is such a fool that he would not use a good male animal to raise stock from, instead of a miserable runt, provided it was equally cheap and convenient for him to do so. And he who gives preference to the superior male, thereby acknowledges the great fact on which all the utility of knowing or preserving pedigrees exclusively rests; for he shows that he believes that qualities are transmissible from parent to offspring. He may not believe they are uniformly or exclusively transmissible. Nobody asks him to adopt that extreme opinion. It is quite sufficient to establish the importance of knowing and preserving pedigrees, if it be conceded that a good male is more likely to get good progeny than a bad male, and that a bad male is more likely to get bad progeny than a good male.

Many scoff at pedigrees because in reality they don't know what they are. Pedigree is lineage—descent from certain animals through certain other animals. To know a pedigree is simply to know genealogical antecedents. It does not follow that this knowledge implies excellence in those antecedents. The poet BURNS humorously wrote:

"My ancient, though ignoble blood,
Has crept through scoundrels since the flood."

Even a good pedigree may, in the expressive popular phrase, "run out," in consequence of a bad course of breeding, selection, etc. A weak, weedy horse—a flat-ribbed, worthless bull—a ram without a medium fleece or carcass—is only rendered more contemptible by being traced respectively to the Godolphin Arabian, to Hubback, or to Sweepstakes. A vagabond, or a dunce, excites our ridicule by putting on airs on the strength of the fact that he is the great-grandson of POCAHONTAS or President ADAMS. Pedigree, without anything else, reminds us of a savage with a gaudy head dress of feathers, while the rest of his body is as bare as possible!

It is the putting forward of these pedigrees where they are accompanied by no individual excellence, and the manufacture of false pedigrees, which have brought all of them into contempt in the minds of so many persons. But while they condemn the name, they show more or less by their acts that they do not despise the fact. As already said, they, other things being equal, prefer a good animal for a sire. As between two apparently equal sire animals, one descended from a long line of good ancestors, the other from a long line of bad ancestors, they would unhesitatingly choose the first. Why? Because every man of common observation knows that where the same qualities have been handed down through several generations, they are more likely to continue to be handed down, than where they are simply "accidental" good traits, and do not usually belong to the family.

Pedigrees do not necessarily require names, or even recorded lines of individual descent, to prove purity of blood. Mr. A. buys six Devon cows and a bull of established purity of blood. He and his posterity bred them and their posterity for 20 or 50 generations together, without admixture of other blood. Their descendants necessarily remain pure blooded. If he introduces Devon bulls from other herds, he must be prepared to show their blood, and then the pedigree of the herd is complete.

It is better, however, where circumstances admit of it, to preserve individual pedigrees. Every herd and flock has its superior females as well as males. A ram out of the best ewe of the flock, would be preferred by anybody to a ram of equal appearance out of the worst ewe of the flock. And that preference would be increased, if it was known that that best ewe's dam, grand-dam, etc., were all among the best, and that that worst ewe's dam, grand-dam, etc., were all among the worst ewes of the flock. In other words, in the most even flock there are better and worse strains of blood—and a pedigree of names, accompanied by a knowledge of the qualities of the individual animals thus named, shows the particular strain. It is not only useful to guide to a selection of the best breeding animals, but by giving a special knowledge of

the antecedents of each, of its strong and weak points, the breeder is taught what to seek and what to shun in subsequently coupling them together for breeding.

Many breeders, unfortunately, carry all this knowledge of individual characteristics merely in their memories, so that to other persons, there is no knowledge of antecedents back of the living generation, unless possibly in the case of a few celebrated rams. Therefore, when the owner dies, or sells, the succeeding owner does not, except so far as the animal itself exhibits it, understand its hereditary tendencies or proclivities. A very experienced breeder knows that this is a most serious disadvantage. Here, for example, is a very valuable appearing ewe. She is full in the crops. Yet all her female ancestors were defective in the crops, and it was only by breeding her dam to just the right ram—one individually and hereditarily perfect in the crops, and known to be especially prone to transmit the same good point to his progeny—that her hereditary imperfection was made to disappear in her offspring. But in such cases the imperfection is only in a state of abeyance. The hereditary tendency, received from the dam, is not extinct. If a proper course of breeding is kept up for a number of generations, it may become extinct. But, if, on the other hand, the ewe having this hereditary tendency, is bred to a ram having the same tendency—or, worse still, to one actually possessing the defect—the progeny may be expected to exhibit the fault of its ancestors full-blown, a retrograde step has been taken in breeding—the last generation in a great and essential point of breeding is inferior to the preceding one. A faithful record of individual characteristics connected with the pedigree of each animal would obviate all necessity of making such mistakes.

But unfortunately it requires a practiced, and usually a disinterested pen, to describe animals accurately. Every man's goose looks like a swan to himself. In default of a general description, certain fixed facts, in regard to which there could be no unintentional error, might be recorded which would be of great value—such as the weight of each fleece (accompanied by a specimen of the wool), the weight of the full-grown carcass, in medium condition, the height, length of head, neck, body and legs, &c. But who is going to take all this trouble? A good share of our farmers had rather work a day than write ten minutes! We must probably despair of anything of this kind, except in the case of a few small breeding flocks of great value. Yet it would pay any breeder of good, pure blood sheep for his trouble, and it would confer a still greater benefit on the succeeding owners.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE MERINO SHEEP.

I WOULD like to see the following question discussed in the columns of the *RURAL*, in a broad, liberal manner, with a view solely to the public good, and without regard to the prejudices, pre-conceptions, or private interests of any person whatsoever:

Can the Merino Sheep be bred hornless, and his general form at the same time be improved without weakening his constitution, or injuring the quality of his wool, or lessening its quantity?

If this be decided in the affirmative, after thorough discussion, I will then propose a second question:—What is the best method to bring about so desirable a change in the form, &c., of Merino sheep? But till the first question is passed upon, I hope those writing on this subject will confine themselves exclusively to this one point, and not ramble from it in the least degree, otherwise we shall make little advance in the matter desired. A. B. ALLEN. New York, Feb. 20, 1864.

CONDENSED CORRESPONDENCE, MINOR ITEMS, &c.

SPECIMENS OF WOOL.—HENRY PERCY, of Newark, N. Y., forwards us specimen locks of wool from two rams. That from the living animal is of superior quality.

NUMBER OF SHEEP IN ILLINOIS.—The *Prairie Farmer* points out an error in the *Practical Shepherd* in regard to the number of sheep in Illinois. It was a misprint, and has been corrected in several of the last issued editions.

HURDLING SHEEP.—D. BROWN, of Grafton, Illinois, writes us:—"A hundred hurdles may be so placed as to enclose 200 sheep, and with two more the fold may be so made as to hold 400. How can this be done?" If Mr. BROWN knows anything useful on the subject of hurdling sheep, we advise him to tell it, without propping hurdles.

COMPETITION IN WOOL GROWING.—Mr. T., of Skanateles, N. Y., writes us:—"In the *RURAL* of Jan. 9, it is stated that 'MORRIS BEARD, of Pompey, from 480 sheep clipped this season 3,010 lbs. of washed wool, besides raising 125 lambs.' From the comparatively small number of lambs, we infer that but a small portion of the flock were breeding ewes, which are the lightest class of shearers. L. A. SWEET, of Skanateles, from 180 sheep, comprising 101 breeding ewes, 78 yearlings and one ram, clipped this season 1,345 lbs. of washed wool, and raised 96 lambs. The wool was sold for 75 cents a pound. Can Camillus or Pompey beat the above?"

BLACK MERINOS.—HENRY BOYNTON, of Bellows Falls, Vt., asks:—"What are we to infer from the fact that a black lamb occasionally makes its appearance in flocks of Merino sheep for which the purest and most careful breeding, for a space of twenty-five or thirty years, is claimed by their growers?" Nothing need necessarily be inferred, except that the animal breeds back to the black sheep, which, with red, tawny ones, etc., constituted its origin. If we may believe the undisputed accounts of PLINY, COLUMELLA, and other contemporaneous Roman authors. Black Merinos have always existed in Spain. Two pairs of them were imported into the United States in 1803. They occasionally appeared in all our early imported Spanish flocks, and even among the later introduced Saxons. They have been so carefully excluded from breeding and from flocks, by the fine wool growers of this country, that they have become extremely rare; but they occasionally "turn up." We heard more of them in 1863, than during a long preceding period.

Inquiries and Answers.

TO CLEAN GARDEN SEEDS.—Will some of the readers of the *RURAL* please inform me through its columns how to clean garden seeds, and if there is a machine for that purpose?—W. K., Clinton, Wis.

A CHEAP PAINT.—Will some of your readers please inform me if a durable paint for the outside of buildings can be made cheaper than oil paint. If so, have they tried it, &c.?—LIZZE M.

SOWING OLD GRAIN TO PREVENT SMUT.—I wish to learn whether sowing wheat, or barley, or oats will prevent smut.—ROBT DEW, Urbane.

We do not know that it will.

WORK ON TOBACCO CULTURE.—Will you please inform me where I can get a work on tobacco culture, and the price?—B. LILLYBRIDGE.

We will mail you one on receipt of thirty cents.

SUGAR BEET INFORMATION.—We were in error in a recent number in giving the pages of the last volume on which information concerning sugar beets may be found. On pages 285, 273, 258, 61, 103, 126, of last volume (1863), and on pages 46, 189, 190, 341 and 397 of vol XII, (1862), there are articles on this subject.

SORGHUM SEED.—We have about two score inquiries after Sorghum seed—where it can be obtained, &c. Those having pure seed should advertise. We see that the Commissioner of Agriculture is importing pure seed from France and China for gratuitous distribution. File your claims for it with him, or with the member of Congress from your District. If the latter is anxious to be re-elected, you will probably get it.

THE BEST VARIETY OF CORN TO PLANT.—I wish to know which is the most profitable kind of corn to plant for market—or which will give the greatest yield per acre.—B. N., Lockport.

Our correspondent omits the State. We do not know whether he is at Lockport, N. Y., or in Illinois. It would of course depend on locality. Will not Eastern and Western correspondents give us their votes for varieties for market, with their reasons therefor in the fewest possible words?

Rural Notes and Items.

SHALL THE RATES OF THE *RURAL* BE ADVANCED?—Is a question which has become somewhat vital to the publisher. Within two weeks of the time (last fall) when we announced the terms of the *RURAL* for 1864, the prices of paper, labor, provisions, etc., advanced very materially, and many articles have continued to "go up" until they can scarcely be reached or seen. In consequence, merchants and manufacturers frequently mark up their prices, and refuse to make contracts for goods or wares at present rates, to be delivered months hence. But newspaper publishers are obliged to fill contracts for a year at specified rates, in consequence of which many have lost and are losing money. Several of our contemporaries have avoided this by wisely advancing their rates. Some months ago the *Scientific American*—the first cost of which is certainly no more, and we think less, than the *RURAL*—advanced its price for a single copy from \$2 to \$3 per year, and its club rate from \$1.50 to \$2.50. Other journals have advanced their rates in proportion. The *Phrenological Journal*, a monthly, formerly \$1 a year, is now \$1.50, and the last number announces the necessity of advancing the price to \$3 on the 1st of July. The great expense of publishing the *RURAL*, compared with the price at which it is furnished, convinces us that in order to realize any profit, we ought to follow the example of the above named and other journals—and, having given all an opportunity to avail themselves of the low terms at which our present volume was announced, we have about concluded to advance both our Subscription and Advertising rates on and after the first of April ensuing. Until that date we will receive subscriptions and advertisements (of an appropriate character) at present rates,—but after that, unless the prices of articles we are obliged to use (many of which now cost double what they did years ago, while our rates are the same as then), fall, we shall probably charge \$2.50 or \$3 for a single copy of the *RURAL*, and \$2 or \$2.50 in clubs, and for advertising 50 cents a line instead of 25 as at present.

TO MANUFACTURERS OF FARM IMPLEMENTS.—Will builders and dealers in reapers, mowers, threshers, plows, cultivators, drills—indeed all classes of farm and garden implements—send us their catalogues or other documents embracing engravings and descriptions of their implements, and especially any novelties or improvements they have made in their machinery. By so doing they will confer a favor upon us, personally, upon the public, and last—though not least—upon themselves. For we desire to be kept well advised of the Progress and Improvement in this branch of Industry, that we may keep our readers advised also.

LOOK AT THE SEASONABLE ADVERTISEMENTS!—We have lots of good practical matter in type which we are compelled to "lay over" for want of space. These advertisements contain seasonable information of interest to our readers. See VICK'S story of how people are swindled, on the last page. Read the Horticultural advertisements on the third page. Indeed, read carefully all that appear in our columns. And when you write to any of these advertisers tell them where you saw their advertisements.

SOWING SPRING WHEAT has already commenced in the West. Those who improved the fine weather of last autumn and plowed their fields—as is the practice in spring wheat sections of the West—are prepared to take advantage of the first opportunity to get in the seed. Even here in New York, we would rather risk it put in on fall plowed lands before the ground ceases freezing and thawing, than to wait for April showers followed by a dry term. Take time by the fore-lock, and in with the wheat.

SORGHUM FOR STOCK.—Several correspondents ask if Sorghum does not injure stock when fed with it. We answer that we do not know of a case where any permanent injury has resulted. We do know of instances where animals—horses, swine and cattle—when first fed with it have eaten greedily, and suffered from colic, apparently—noting worse. But they quickly recovered. If our readers in the West know of any permanent injury resulting we shall be glad if they will state the circumstances.

SWISS CHEESE.—A correspondent at Cortland Village, N. Y., writes:—"Somebody has inquired where Swiss Cheese is manufactured. A Swiss gentleman—name unknown to me—has rented a building at South Cortland, and intends to manufacture Swiss cheese there the coming season."

CATTLE VALUATION.—According to published statistics, it appears that the wholesale cost of live animals brought to New York for slaughter last year, exceeded \$30,000,000, and that more than half of the beef comes from the single State of Illinois.

Horticultural.

THE FRUIT BUDS.

FROM our correspondents we have the following notes on this subject: ROBERT DOUGLAS, Waukegan, Ill., writes, Feb. 25th: "We had another stinger last week and no snow, but our trees have not suffered except that the blossom buds are killed on the finer varieties of plums and cherries. Although we have had the coldest weather we ever had here, our trees are not injured as in the hard winter eight or nine years since; nor as they were in Rochester and all over Western New York the year previous to our hard winter."

WM. O. TAYLOR, Bedford, Ohio, writes, February 26th: "I find the fruit buds of the peach all killed; the wood is not killed; wood buds are all right. Of grapes I have tested the Diana in a flower pot, and find about half the buds good. Very few Isabellas are left. Clifton and some hardy seedlings are as bright as last fall. Clinton colored and was eatable, although sour, about two weeks before Isabella. With favorable weather we may yet have a fair crop of grapes."

D. B. WESTLOCK, Horse Heads, N. Y., Feb. 22d, writes: "This morning I examined, with a magnifying glass, and find the peaches all dead; cherries two-thirds alive; apples, all that I have examined, looking good; pears some good and some doubtful. The peach trees are not killed. Small fruits I did not notice."

ROGERS' HYBRID GRAPES.

IN RURAL of January 30th is an extract from Hovey's Magazine on the "Progress of Horticulture," in relation to "new American Pears and Grapes." Rogers' Hybrid grapes are considered by Mr. HOVEY "to be simply improved varieties of kinds they are named from." What kinds are they named from? I believe Lowell Globe, Black Hamburg and Sweet Water! "And he cannot detect the least foreign blood in them," &c. As this is a kind of left-handed praise of these superior grapes, not at all warranted by facts, I had hoped to see a refutation of these "opinions" by other and abler pens than mine. As I see nothing, so far, on the subject, I cannot remain silent and let such a "thrust" at a most valuable discovery of grape improvement pass unnoticed. Such "opinions," no doubt, would have the effect of discouraging many who otherwise would lend their aid and time in experimenting, with the object of still further improving our table and wine grapes.

And you, Mr. B., fully indorse this opinion, saying, "we have examined these grapes in fruit, wood, foliage, and habits of growth, and have been unable (like Mr. HOVEY,) to detect the least foreign blood in them," &c. As this is a kind of left-handed praise of these superior grapes, not at all warranted by facts, I had hoped to see a refutation of these "opinions" by other and abler pens than mine. As I see nothing, so far, on the subject, I cannot remain silent and let such a "thrust" at a most valuable discovery of grape improvement pass unnoticed. Such "opinions," no doubt, would have the effect of discouraging many who otherwise would lend their aid and time in experimenting, with the object of still further improving our table and wine grapes.

Had this "bright idea" remained dormant in Hovey's Magazine, I should not have considered it worth while to spoil ink and paper in trying to refute it; but as you not only give circulation to it in a more extended sphere, but actually indorse this erroneous idea, it behooves us, who are interested in the improvement of the grape, to try and reason on the subject, and see if such opinions will stand the test of truth.

Perhaps I should premise that I have no interest in these "crossed grapes," nor any other, further than the mere desire of progressive improvement. I am no nurseryman, have "no axe to grind;" never sold a plant or cutting, though I have made the grape a special hobby for half a century. I have raised hundreds of seedlings from our native grapes, after spending time and money on the exotic to no purpose for out-door culture. In all my experiments of raising seedlings from such as Alexander, Isabella, Louisiana, Taylor, and with seeds from wild grapes from Virginia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Missouri, and other sections; of the *labrusca*, *astavalis*, *cordifolia*, Mustang, Post Oak, Scuppernon, &c., &c., I have always found a large proportion of the seedlings have proved males, or barren; and though I have few, perhaps in the proportion of one in five hundred, that are "promising," the chances of getting a superior variety from seed in its natural state are so very meagre, "so few and far between," that there is very little hope of progress by raising seedlings from any of our best grapes—a mere game of chance, where the blanks are many and the prizes few.

As to the gentlemen who are "unable to detect the least foreign blood" in these grapes of Mr. ROGERS, I would very much wish to have you explain, or give reasons for your unbelief, and also explain how it happened that Mr. ROGERS had such great success in raising all good grapes from his wild Fox? And why it is that his seedlings, every one of them, bore fruit? Mr. ROGERS, I understand, raised some forty to fifty plants from the seeds of the Lowell Globe, a rank Fox, and, he says, by previously impregnating the flowers with pollen from Black Hamburg and Sweet Water, foreign varieties; planted, as he thinks, the impregnated seeds of this worthless Fox, when ripe, and succeeded in raising some forty odd plants. In time they flowered, and every one of them are fruit bearing plants!—all are "good"—a single seed that came up accidentally of this Fox, unimpregnated, is a male. I have fruited fifteen of these cross-bred grapes last season, and I consider many of them among our very best hardy grapes. None of them have that rank, unpleasant aroma of the female parent. They still have more or less of the native pulp, though some of them considerably less than Isabella or Concord, and also less foxy aroma.

Perhaps, however, my judgment in the prem-

ises may not be of much account among adepts; though, in truth, I have been trying for fifty years to find out what constitutes a superior, hardy grape. Commencing with Fox and Frost grapes, which I then thought delicious, I got a step higher up the ladder, to Alexander, to York Maderia, Isabella, Catawba, and so on till I have tested and tasted over two hundred native and hybrid varieties. So you see, friend Editor, I ought to know, whether I do or not, the difference between a Fox grape and a Black Hamburg!

If Mr. H. or Mr. B., or any other person who doubts that ROGERS' grapes have foreign blood in them, will try the experiment of raising seedlings from this Lowell Globe, unimpregnated by exotic grapes, and will succeed in raising forty varieties of equal quality as Mr. R.'s out of five hundred, aye, I may say five thousand plants, then, and not till then, will their authority on the subject be worth listening to. Seedlings from that variety of Fox will produce, at least, one-half males or barren plants, and nine-tenths of the other half will be Fox and nothing but Fox. Still, growing in the vicinity of better varieties, there might be a "sport" among a few plants, the stigmas having been accidentally impregnated by bees or insects in their perigrinations from one plant to another after pollen.

I understand that Mr. ROGERS has again crossed some of the best of his first crosses with pollen from European varieties, and the plants raised from this second batch show foreign blood very perceptibly. So that, probably, skeptics will soon be enabled to see more proofs on the subject, if not willfully blind, that such a thing as crossing native with foreign grapes, can, and has been accomplished. How this second cross will fare in our variable climate is yet to be discovered. Mr. ROGERS has, so far, only fruited a few of them under glass. What is singular to me is, that Mr. ROGERS, "out of all his seedlings, both the first and second crosses, has never raised a male plant thus far." Let any person plant seeds of his female parent, the Lowell Globe, and "I guess" he will find males among them, aye, and Foxes, too.

I have some two dozen varieties of his first crosses, and they are uniformly more healthy, vigorous and promising than the great majority of our native grapes. In quality some of them are fully equal to the celebrated Delaware, and far more vigorous and healthy. I consider these grapes as undoubted crosses with *Vitisfera*, and a very great acquisition to our list of hardy grapes. J. B. GARBER.

Columbia, Pa., Feb. 1864.

P. S. Seedlings of grapes, it seems to me, vary more in color from the original than they do in quality. I have a white seedling from Alexander, a white, red, and black seedling from Louisiana, and a white, a red, and a blue seedling from Delaware. But none of them are much improved over the parents. J. B. G.

THE BELMONT APPLE—KEEPING APPLES.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—In your paper of the 30th ult., I am reported as having said in the Indiana State Pomological Meeting, recently held at Indianapolis, that I regarded the Belmont apple as the best single variety with which I was acquainted, and that "like most varieties, it did better in the open air than in close confinement."

This needs some explanation and correction lest some persons may be misled. It is true the Belmont is a great favorite with me, and think that I can raise more bushels of very excellent and beautiful apples that will bring more money in market than any other variety; yet I would not like to recommend it indiscriminately to everybody, for I have seen it do not near so well in other localities not very distant from me, both north and south. With me the trees never fail to have more fruit upon them than they can mature without breaking down. The specimens are all perfect and handsome, but the skin is thin—the texture of the flesh delicate, and consequently will not bear transportation well to a distant market. The trees must be relieved of a portion of the maturing crop, or they will almost invariably break down with the weight of the fruit, and become worthless in a few years. The tree is not very hardy when grown upon its own roots and is not, on that account, or for some other reason, much grown by nurserymen. I grow mine by top-grafting on the Northern Spy and other hardy varieties. It does not bear confinement in tight barrels; but when kept on open shelves it is an excellent keeper, being in use for eating and cooking from October till April. It is a mistake, however, when I am reported as saying that "it, like most other varieties, does better in the open air than in close confinement."

I have a pretty large collection of fruit and have given the subject of fruit ripening considerable attention, and discussed it briefly in my address; but did not intend to express the idea that most varieties keep best in the open air, for I do not think so. Some few varieties keep best in tight barrels, and where they do that is by all odds the cheapest and best method of putting them up. Others keep best upon shelves in a cool, dark cellar. In the prosecution of my experiments I find no difficulty in keeping our best winter varieties till April or May, without serious waste, by placing them upon wide shelves, so arranged as to have the fruit from six to twelve inches deep; some with sliding doors to inclose them, others altogether open, keeping the cellar dark and cool, with as little fluctuation of temperature as possible. For convenience of examination, assorting, &c., this method commends itself, which, together with the success attending the experiments made during the past few years, has induced me to adopt it for the preservation of nearly all my choice late keeping varieties. Elm Park, near Fort Wayne, Ind. J. D. G. NELSON.

ANNUAL STOCKS.

THE annual Stocks (*Mathida annua*) stand at the head of the list of desirable annuals. In fact the Stock presents nearly all the requisites of a perfect flowering plant—the habit is good, and sufficiently varied for many useful purposes, foliage fine, flowers brilliant, yet chaste and delicate, and of every desirable hue from the purest snowy white to the deepest purple and the most brilliant scarlet, while the fragrance is exquisite. The Stocks flower early, usually commencing in July, and continue during the whole season. The flowers are borne in splendid spikes.

Seed may be sown in the hot-bed or cold-frame for early flowering, or later in the season in the open ground. It is well to make two or three sowings where a continuance of fine flowers is desired from July until frost, though if the soil is made deep, and pretty rich, a pretty good display can be kept up with one sowing. Cow manure we have always found excellent for stocks. Young plants transplant easily, but this should be done when they are quite small. Plants should be set about eight or ten inches apart. The following are the most desirable varieties:

NEW LARGEST FLOWERING DWARF, with magnificent dense spikes of large double flowers. Plant dwarf in habit.

LARGE FLOWERING PYRAMIDAL. Plant of pyramidal habit, and rather low; spikes long; flowers large.

BRANCHING. Pretty tall; spikes of flowers long and rather loose. Excellent for bouquet making.

WALL-FLOWER LEAVED. Plant very dwarf; leaves smooth, dark green and glossy, like the Wall-flower; colors excellent.

NEW HYBRID. A new variety, and very excellent; leaves between the Wall-flower and the rough leaved. Flowers fine.

PERPETUAL FLOWERING. Plants dwarf; will flower in the autumn. Fine for culture in the house or conservatory, and will continue in bloom for a long time.

MINIATURE. Plant very dwarf, only about six inches in height; makes a splendid border if set four or five inches apart. Set about six or eight inches; nothing forms a richer bed.

Inquiries and Answers.

WHEN TO TRIM GRAPES.—Suppose my grapes—Isabellas—have not yet been trimmed for this year's crop, when is the best time to do it?—A. L. L. P. Do it at once, selecting a day when there is no frost in the wood, and yet when it does not thaw much.

NORWAY SPRUCE FOR WIND-BREAKERS.—What is proper distance to plant Norway Spruce for wind-breakers for a fruit orchard, either in single or double rows, alternating, &c? Will swine injure them if I am careful to cut up the worms and premature falling fruit?—A. READER. Ten feet apart, planted in double row, set alternately. For a screen we would plant a single hedge row. We have not known swine to injure them, but we cannot say that they would not do so.—B.

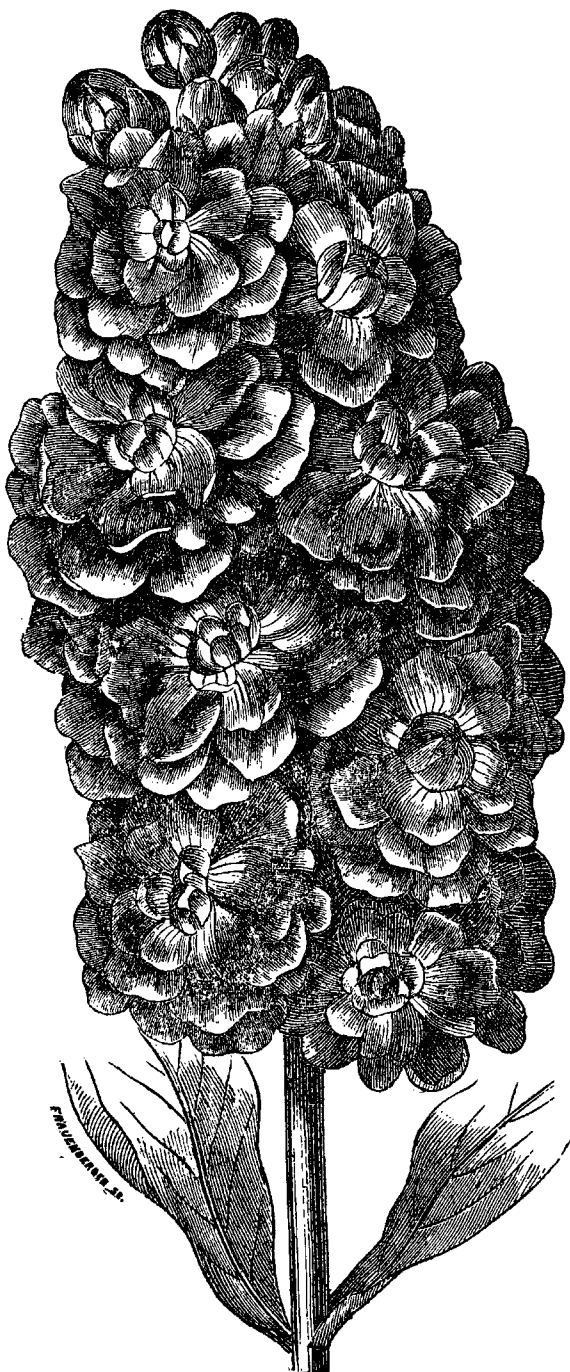
PLANTING PEACH PITS.—Last fall I happened to save a lot of choice peach seeds for my own use. They are still dry, and in a rack as I put them away at the time of saving, &c? Will you be kind enough to give me instructions, through the RURAL, in relation to the planting and after culture of the same? and greatly oblige a young farmer.—LOUIS A. REESE. Crack them and put the kernels among sand or earth, keep somewhat moist and warm, and they may vegetate in time to plant out about the 1st of May. Plant in drills, a foot apart, and keep clean with the hoe during summer. Next spring they may be set out where you intend them to fruit.—B.

PLANTS FOR HANGING BASKETS.—Will you inform me, through the RURAL, what plants would be pretty in a hanging basket, and where the seeds or plants could be obtained.—HELEN C., Scriba, N. Y. The following plants, which may be obtained at any of the larger commercial greenhouses, are suitable for hanging baskets:—Ivy-leaved Geranium; Lycopodium, several species; Lysimachia, or Moneyworts; Lobelia erina; Maurandia; Mabernia; Saxifraga sarmen-tosa; Sedum, several species; Petunias; Senecio heterifolia; Tradescantia zebrina; Vinca variegata major; Ivy, variegated, &c. Many others might be named equally suitable.—B.

A LIST of the best roses—say a half dozen or more of Hybrid Perpetuals, such as are free bloomers in reality. Also a half dozen, or more, of the hardiest and best Bourbon, and a few of any of the other classes as may be deemed desirable, either for house-blooming, or bedding out. A small, select list of such as are truly indispensable, is what is intended to be asked for in the above.—A. SEBECA CO. HOUSE-WIFE.

The following cannot fail to give satisfaction: Bourdon—Souvenir Malmaison, Mrs. Bosanquet, Appoline, Perre de St. Cyr, Gen. Blanchard, Comice de Tarn-et-Garonne. Hybrid Perpetual—Gen. Jacqueminot, Plus the Ninth, Baronne Prevost, Sydney, Peonie, L'Enfant du Mt. Carmel. Noisette—Cloth of Gold, Caroline Marneuse, Beauty of Greenmount. Tea—Isabella, Homer, Sombreuil.—B.

TRIMMING APPLE TREES.—When is the best time to trim apple trees?—A. L. L. P. We do not know! We should do it whenever we thought they needed it. We do not believe in a grand periodical slashing and sawing in an orchard. It is all humbug. There is too much of it done. If our correspondent had asked us when not to trim, we should have told him most of the time. The trimming of an orchard should be part of its training. If a limb is in the way of other limbs, or is actually superfluous, we should take it out whenever we made the discovery, provided it was not just as the tree is in bloom, or when the wood is frozen solid. And if we thought it necessary to cut



NEW LARGE TEN-WEEK STOCK.

Our engraving shows a flower spike of the Ten-Week-Stock, the New Large Flowering Dwarf, taken from a specimen grown by JAMES VICK, of this city. Mr. V. obtained the first premium at the last State Fair for the best collection of Stocks, and we never saw a more magnificent display. Who will grow the premium stocks this year? Who will try?

Horticultural Advertisements.

STRAWBERRY PLANTS.—Russell's Great Prolific Strawberry Plants, every one warranted true to name, for sale at 1 penny dozen; 55 per 100, packed in good order. Cash to accompany orders. Delaware Green Vines, very fine, at \$30 per 100; 50 cts. each, in small quantities. Address J. KESECH, Waterloo, N. Y. 759-101

20,000 RED CEDARS.—At the following low rates, 4 to 12 inches per 1,000, \$5; 5,000, \$20; 10,000, \$30; 10 to 12 inches, \$1 per 100; 12 to 20 inches, \$2 per 100, carefully packed and delivered at depot. J. A. CALVERT & CO. 750-21 Cobden, Union Co., Illinois.

DOCT. ABBOTT & SON OFFER THEIR ENTIRE stock of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Bulbous Roots, Evergreens, small Fruits. And also 50,000 Apple Seedlings, 2 years old, sold cheap for cash at the Old Kinderhook Nursery. The ground must be cleared. See general advertisement. J. W. LYON, General Agent. Valatie, Columbia Co., N. Y., March 7, 1864.

PINUS BENTHAMIANA.—We have the high of this beautiful California Pine. It is as hardy as our Northern Pines and remarkable for its long dark green foliage and rapid growth. See general advertisement. ELLWANGER & BARRY, 758-21 Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y. March 1, 1864.

FRUIT SEEDS, ETC. APPLE, PEAR, EVERGREEN AND OTHER SEEDS. Catalogue sent on receipt of one cent stamp. MEEHAN & WANDELL, Germantown, Pa.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO NURSERYMEN AND OTHERS.—Trees, Vines, and Plants, for sale cheap for cash. Standard and Dwarf Pear, Standard Cherry Trees, Baldwin and Tomp. Co. King Apple Trees, 15,000 Isabella and Catawba Grape Vines, Horsechestnut, Cherry Currant, Russell's Great Prolific and the Great Autumn Strawberry. Trees, Vines and Plants in large or small quantities. 763-21 JAYNE & PLATMAN, Benton, Yates Co., N. Y.

MAGNOLIAS.

We have the pleasure of offering a good stock of the following MAGNOLIAS, the most beautiful of all deciduous Ornamental Trees, and perfectly hardy in all parts of this country. MAGNOLIA ACUMINATA, 6 to 8 feet. Do. THOMPSONIANA, 3 feet. Do. SPECIOSA, 3 to 4 feet. Do. SOULANGEANA, 3 to 4 feet. Do. SUPERBA, 2 to 3 feet. Do. NORBERTIANA, 2 to 3 feet. Prices given on application. See general advertisement. ELLWANGER & BARRY, 758-21 Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y. March 1, 1864.

DIAMOND CEMENT.

DIAMOND CEMENT.—EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I saw in your last paper a request for a recipe for Diamond Cement. I send you one:—One pound of the best white glue, one-fourth pound of the best dry, white lead, one quart of soft water; half pint of alcohol. Boil the first three articles together until the glue is dissolved, then add the alcohol and boil again, and while warm bottle it.—I. W. MEDICK.

POOR MAN'S CAKE.

POOR MAN'S CAKE.—One cup sugar; 1 cup butter; 1 cup sour cream; 1 egg; flour enough to make good batter; 1 teaspoonful soda.

[SPECIAL NOTICE.] Good Cooks.—Ladies, if you would be known as good cooks, and would avoid the mortification of having poor biscuit for tea when you have company, use D. B. De Land & Co's Chemical Saleratus, and that only, and be careful when you buy to get the article in red papers, for there is a counterfeit put up in green.

FLOWER SEEDS.

Read the directions for preparing Hot-beds for Flowers, in the Rural of the 6th ult., and send at once for a Catalogue of all the

Choice Flowers

in cultivation. My Seeds are imported from the most reliable Seedsmen of Europe, and are offered as reasonably as GOOD SEEDS can be by any florist. Remember, a dozen GOOD PLANTS are worth a hundred poor ones. MARK D. WILLSON, Rochester, N. Y.

FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES,

FOR SPRING OF 1864!

Fruit and Ornamental Trees,

And Plants, of every description, which they now offer for spring planting. STANDARD FRUIT TREES for Orchards. DWARF FRUIT TREES for Gardens. LWARD MAIDEN TREES for Cottage. SWEET FRUITS, including the lowest and finest varieties of Gooseberries, Blackberries, Currants, Raspberries, Strawberries, &c. HARDY GRAPES for out-door culture. Over 70 varieties, including a large stock of strong plants of Delaware, Diana, Concord, Hartford Prolific, Rebecca, Rogers' Hybrid, and others worthy of cultivation. FOREIGN GRAPES for Vines, (30 varieties), strong, well-grown plants, in pots, of all the popular old sorts and new ones of merit, such as Bowwood Muscat, Golden Hamburg, Muscat Hamburg, Buckland's Sweetwater, Lady Down, &c. FIGS, ORANGES and LEMONS, fruiting plants.

Ornamental.

DECIDUOUS ORNAMENTAL TREES, upward of 300 species and varieties. WEEPING OR DROOPING TREES, 25 distinct and beautiful varieties. TREES WITH REMARKABLE AND ORNAMENTAL FOLIAGE of 50 distinct sorts. RARE AND BEAUTIFUL LAWN TREES. HARDY EVERGREEN TREES, of all kinds and sizes, of beautiful form, frequently transplanted and sure to move safely. NEW AND RARE EVERGREENS, from California, &c., &c. FLOWERING SHRUBS.—A great collection of over 300 different species and varieties of the most ornamental—large plants. CLIMBING AND TRAILING SHRUBS, over 60 species and varieties. ROSES, the largest stock in America, comprising over 600 of the most beautiful sorts of all classes. PEONIES, Chinese Herbaceous, 40 of the finest sorts. SUPERB DOUBLE DAHLIAS, 100 select sorts. PHLOXES AND CORYMBANTHUMS, the finest new old sorts. PERPETUAL OR MONTHLY CARNATIONS—A large and superb collection. HARDY HERBACEOUS FLOWERING PLANTS—upward of 300 species and varieties. GLADIOLI, the finest new and old sorts. GREEN-HOUSE AND BEDDING-OUT PLANTS in great variety. The entire stock is in perfect order; owing to the unusual mildness of the winter the most delicate trees have escaped injury. The following Catalogues, which give

PRICES AND TERMS,

Will be sent pre-paid upon the receipt of postage stamps, as follows:—Nos. 1 and 2, ten cents each, No. 3, five cents; No. 4, three cents. No. 1.—A Descriptive and Illustrated Catalogue of Fruits. No. 2.—A Descriptive and Illustrated Catalogue of Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, &c., &c. No. 3.—A Catalogue of Dahlias, Verbenas, Petunias, and select new Green-House and Bedding Plants, published every spring. No. 4.—A Wholesale Catalogue or Trade List, published every autumn. ELLWANGER & BARRY, Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y. 759-21

Domestic Economy.

CLEANSING MAPLE SUGAR.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Maple sugar may be cleansed from sediment, or limestone, or any other soils, by the following process:—When ready to cleanse the sirup, beat well two eggs to each gallon of sirup, add them thereto; when the sirup is cold, stir well, and keep stirring for a while after placing over the fire. Have ready some clean, cold sap, or water, and if like to boil before, add enough cold sap or water to prevent boiling till it can be well skimmed. Then add more cold sap or water, stir well from the bottom of the kettle, and, if more sediment rises, repeat the skimming. As some sirup is taken off with the skimmings, it may be saved by adding to it cold sap, and when the skum has risen, the sediment may be taken off, the sirup cooled, and more cleansing added to it, well stirred, and skimmed, and made into sugar or molasses.—H.

DOMESTIC INQUIRIES.

LADIES' WREATH.—(Mary.) We know nothing of this publication, and cannot answer your inquiries. To COLOR FUR BLACK.—I would like to know the manner of coloring fur black.—LIZZIE M.

PRESSED FLOWERS AND SKELETON LEAVES.—Will some one tell me how to arrange pressed flowers so as to show to good advantage, and still not be liable to injury? Also, how to make skeleton leaves?—A LADY.

HOW TO KEEP LARD.—Will some of your readers tell me how to keep lard for summer use free from mold?—A SUBSCRIBER.

OMELET.—Four eggs; one teaspoonful of butter, cut in bits; one large spoonful of milk or cream; salt and pepper to taste. Put a piece of butter, half the size of an egg, in the pan—which should not be so large as to allow it to spread too thin—let it melt, break in one slice of bread, crumbled fine, put in two large spoonfuls of cream. Beat the eggs well, stir them in briskly for a moment, let it cook about five minutes, then fold it over, and turn it out. This makes a very nice dish for the breakfast table.—GACIE HALL, Homeland, Feb., 1864.

DIAMOND CEMENT.

DIAMOND CEMENT.—EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I saw in your last paper a request for a recipe for Diamond Cement. I send you one:—One pound of the best white glue, one-fourth pound of the best dry, white lead, one quart of soft water; half pint of alcohol. Boil the first three articles together until the glue is dissolved, then add the alcohol and boil again, and while warm bottle it.—I. W. MEDICK.

POOR MAN'S CAKE.

POOR MAN'S CAKE.—One cup sugar; 1 cup butter; 1 cup sour cream; 1 egg; flour enough to make good batter; 1 teaspoonful soda.

[SPECIAL NOTICE.] Good Cooks.—Ladies, if you would be known as good cooks, and would avoid the mortification of having poor biscuit for tea when you have company, use D. B. De Land & Co's Chemical Saleratus, and that only, and be careful when you buy to get the article in red papers, for there is a counterfeit put up in green.

Ladies' Department.

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

BY OLIO STANLEY.

O'er the river's purple gleam I float, Listening to the swell Of the vesper-bell, As I guide my slender, rocking boat. Faint, sweet scents of lilies white, arise From the water's edge, From the reedy sedge Where the broad, green leaf securely lies. Saddest strains of music from the shore Greet my listening ear, And I seem to hear In their cadence, gladness gone before. Whither am I floating with the tide? My tired eyes behold Sunny hair, like gold, And blue eyes are closing by my side. Is it all a vision of the air That I've made my own? Oh! am I alone, With these mocking voices everywhere? Philadelphia, Pa., 1864.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. "THE DEAR BABY."

I CHANCED, one day last autumn, to be sitting in the depot at Albany waiting for the boat to leave. I had waited an hour or more, the time hanging heavily, when my attention was attracted by the coming in of what appeared to be a family group. There were the parents, quite an aged couple, an elder sister with her little girl, and last, a young soldier, with his wife and baby child.

From their conversation I soon learned that the soldier was one of the Army of the Cumberland, that he had been home on a furlough, was now on his way back, and that these friends had met here from their different homes to bid him good-bye.

This young soldier and his girl-wife were what the careless world would call a handsome couple. She with her broad white forehead, velvet cheeks, and large, blue, loving eyes; and the soldier,—why you would love him at a glance. There was about him such an honest truthfulness; and, though his face was rough and browned with exposure, there was marked upon it that intelligence, purity, and firmness that all instinctively respect.

They had been in but a few moments when the young man left them, but soon returned, bringing a package of card photographs. "Wife and baby," he said with a smile as he handed one to each—"had them taken the first of the week—aren't they nice—beautiful—perfect?" As he was standing quite near me, at the risk of being thought meddlesome, I asked would he please let me look at one? "Certainly," was his quick answer, "as long as you wish." To say the picture was beautiful is not enough. I had applied that term to many, but never had I seen one like that. There was nothing but the two heads on the white card, baby's face nestled up closely against the young mother's cheek; hers drooping fondly over it,—but it had about it such a pure, almost holy look, I could only compare it with a rare old picture I once saw of the mother MARY, and the child JESUS.

When the photographs were brought in, the child had been laid on the sofa and for the time overlooked; but it seemed to realize that it must be a "good baby" when all were so sad, and it lay there among the shawls laughing to itself, the little dimples playing around its mouth, while its round, blue, baby eyes wandered wonderingly about.

There was business to transact with the father-in-law—papers to be arranged and explained.

Once the young father, as though overcome by his feelings, left his papers lying on the seat around, and, with a quick step, crossed the room and knelt down by his child; again and again he laid his brown cheek down on that little pearly face, whispering—"the dear baby, the dear baby!" Then rising quickly, as though half ashamed of this emotion, he crushed back the fast coming tears and hurried back to his papers and father-in-law.

A half hour passed quickly away. The papers were all examined and replaced, and they sat talking in a pleasant, familiar way—cheerfully of the present, hopefully of the future, and a casual observer would have noticed in their appearance nothing unusual. They were trying to cover up with surface smiles—as we all do at times—aching hearts. Just then my traveling companion came in with a quick—"Come! the boat is about leaving." So with a hasty glance at the young soldier and an instinctive, "God protect you!" I left them.

It was night on the banks of the Cumberland. The moon was nearing the hills; and the lone soldier, as he stood leaning against a giant tree, often turned his eyes wistfully to the east watching for the dawn. All night long he had stood there, the keen cold air around him, the leafless trees above him, gazing on the moonlit river. Very chill, very lonely, very weary was the soldier now. All night long he had been thinking of his loved ones far away in his Western home, and now, as if to draw strength from even the shadow of those dear faces, he takes from his jacket a little card photograph, and, holding it up close, straining his weary eyes, tries to look at it by the moonlight. There is a rustle among the dead leaves—a cowering form beneath the shadows—a steady aim—a quick flash, and all is over.

Morning comes. All brightness and beauty, the sun rolls up. Its warm rays shine down on the white tents, and cheered by the genial sunshine the light jest is heard, the gay repartee, and the whole camp is a scene of life and ac-

tivity. The sun rolls higher and higher, and still one of the pickets, their favorite comrade, tarries. The boys grow anxious. "Strange!" they say—"afraid some of them wicked Rebs have been around again last night,"—and soon a number are started in search. Over the fields they go with quick steps. They near the thicket where he was stationed. They stand beneath the giant tree. But oh, what a sight! There, with the glaring sun shining full on his white, dead face, lies the soldier. His head rests against the foot of the tree, his hands are folded over his breast, and, locked tightly, between them, is a little card photograph. They bend low; they look close; it is a baby face nestling up against a young mother's cheek, her head drooping fondly over it. Tenderly, with tear-dimmed eyes, they lift and bear him back to camp. Then they lay him on a lowly bier, while, with heavy hearts, his young comrades gather round. The light jest and loud laughter have died away. They take from between his fingers the little photograph, and, as it passes from hand to hand, many turn aside and brush away, with the back of their browned hands, the blinding tears. "Poor boy, poor boy!" they whisper,— "trying to look at it by the moonlight." Under a drooping tree, by the banks of the river, they dig his grave. They place the loved picture back on his breast, and lay him down with his blue cloak wrapped around him,—there will he rest till the resurrection.

The quick telegraph has done its work. There are white lips in a Northern home to-night—a low moaning, piteous to hear—a "dear baby" held close to a young mother's heart. The husband and the father, where is he? Far away from his once happy home—far away from his loved young wife—far away from his idolized child—he sleeps on the banks of the Cumberland.

Oh, when shall the Angel of Peace again spread her wings over our sore tried Nation? Great GOD, hasten the day!

KATE H. TITCOMB. Hagaman's, Montgomery Co., N. Y.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. HINTS ON SELECTING A WIFE.

"LOVE has no eyes," consequently can be of little use in the matter. Those old fogy times when common sense, good house-keeping, industry, economy, frugality, prudence, modesty, gentleness, amiability, intelligence and morality were considered essentials, are now, happily, well in the rear, giving place to times of great discoveries, advantages, improvements and events that former ages could have had little or no conception of. Instead of girls we now have young ladies, who, instead of the above vulgar qualifications, can boast of the following better ones, viz:—1, They are educated; 2, well informed; 3, smart; 4, well posted, (in conventionalities); 5, brilliant; 6, genteel; 7, graceful; 8, accomplished; 9, polite; 10, handsome, and 11, exceedingly beautiful. Where this latter qualification is possessed to any considerable degree, it will be quite useless to look for any other; for this is supposed to include all the rest, consequently where this is wanting nothing can compensate for its lack.

Thus having the qualifications settled, only one thing more is to be done to insure success; which is to present yourself in fine cloth and shiny boots; hair parted behind, and a well combed moustache, white hands and gold rings, massive gold watch chain and a polished cane. Thus armed, it will be impossible not to succeed; for ma looks upon such equipage with quite as much complaisance, as deary does upon admiration; and ma will welcome you as heartily as deary DA does; will excuse herself out so that you and deary can have the parlor all to yourselves. You can now fix the day for calling in the parson and making your tour to Europe, provided pa can furnish the greenbacks.

The young lady will accept the hand, not of that temperate and industrious mechanic; not of the young man whose face is somewhat browned by exposure to the sun, and whose hands are hardened by the use of the plow-handles; nor of the true gentleman, but of the fast young man. "How smart and genteel!" "How very agreeable!" "His father is very rich!" "Is he of good habits?" "Yes. He only smokes cigars and sometimes drinks a little, but not to be the worse for liquor." "Does he use good language?" "Good as any one; he swears sometimes, and what young gentleman don't?" "Does he gamble?" "No, he only plays cards for amusement." Well, young lady, he is your man; take him. Don't refuse him because your uncle and aunt, or perhaps parents, object to him; what can those see who have to look through conjugal spectacles?

Should you in after life find hopes blasted, expectations unrealized, anticipations disappointed, promised blessings not reached, joys promised unfulfilled, a crushed spirit, a broken heart, and an untimely grave not far in the distance, remember it will be when too late to seek a change for the better, or heed the advice matured by friendship and age. W. L. C. Near Clyde, Ohio, 1864.

INFLUENCE.—We believe that a young lady, by her constant, consistent, Christian example may exert untold power. You do not know the respect, the almost worship, which young men, no matter how wicked they may be themselves, pay to a consistent Christian lady, be she young or old. A gentleman once said to a lady who boarded in the same house with him, that her life was a constant proof of the Christian religion. Often the simple request of a young lady will keep a young man from doing wrong. We have known this to be the case very frequently, and young men have been kept from breaking the Sabbath, from drinking, from chewing, just because a lady whom they respected, and for whom they had an affection, requested it.

Choice Miscellany.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. DEATH OF A SOLDIER.

IN the spring of 1860, there came to my residence a young man about 20 years of age, of medium size, fine appearance, modest, dignified, self-possessed, bringing a letter of introduction from ELLWANGER & BARRY, of Mt. Hope, Rochester, saying that the bearer, Mr. GEORGE BROOKS, of Boston, wished to spend a few months with a farmer to acquaint himself with agriculture. Having several workmen, I could not conveniently enlarge my family, but invited him to stay a few days. I conversed with him on a variety of subjects, and in knowledge, varied information and maturity of judgment, I have never met his superior of the same age.

He left after a day or two, but his manly deportment, noble aims, intelligence and moral worth very forcibly impressed me, and I regretted that I had lost the benefit of his companionship. I wrote to him afterwards, inviting him back, but he had made other arrangements.

There came, however, a call to which he responded with all the fervor of his noble nature—his country's call to arms. Without waiting to consider consequences personal to himself, he left a home of comfort and refinement, hallowed by love and precious memories, to face the dangers of the battle field, the privations of the camp, and the pestilence that followed in the track of war. The rest is soon told—he served like a soldier—fought like a hero—died like a christian.

Rev. Dr. STONE, of Park St. Church, Boston, Chaplain of the 45th Mass. Regiment, to which he belonged, attended him in his last hours, and in a letter to his people, dated at Newbern, N. C., thus writes:

"MY DEAR PEOPLE:—There are few scenes on earth that reveal more visibly the glory of the Divine Presence, and the power of sustaining grace, than the death-bed of the christian. It has been my privilege to watch over the decline and departure of one of God's dear ones in our Reg't, GEORGE BROOKS, one of our own Boston boys. He was taken ill of typhoid fever about a week ago. From the first he expressed his entire resignation to the Divine Will. He was never dejected—never murmured. He said but little, as his lungs seemed congested, but by gasps and whispers he told me, holding my face close down to his so that he could make me hear his lowest word, that he never had had full assurance of his pardon and acceptance till since he became a soldier. He said that in the battle of Kingston, under that terrific fire of the enemy, his Savior came to him as never before—declared His presence, revealed His love and held his soul in His hands.

As the hour of death drew on, he seemed to have three burdens of prayer. The first was quickly disposed of. He prayed aloud "Oh Lord keep me—hold me fast—leave me not—let me not go!" And then all thoughts of himself seemed to be at an end. Shortly after his lips moved again audibly, and his second burden was laid down at the Divine feet "My God spare my country—oh save my dear native land!" After a few moments silence succeeded and then the voice of prayer was heard once more—the last earthly articulation of that tongue, though his consciousness continued till his last breath, some fifteen minutes later. This last burden was borne up on the old familiar petition. "Thy kingdom come—Thy will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven!" His own soul—his country—the Israel of God, these three interests he thus commended in his last utterances to the Faithful Promiser. How could a christian life close more appropriately and triumphantly?

He was a fine, manly young fellow, his eye very dark and bright—a swarthy face with a brilliant set of teeth, a pleasant smile, an agreeable and valued friend. He was, as you would infer, a brave soldier, and in the battle-field suffered no tremors to disturb his nerve or spirit. His body is to be embalmed and sent home, but his memory is already and forever embalmed in our hearts, and will be fragrant as long as christian patriotism shall be honored on earth, as long as christian friendship shall endure in Heaven.

If any man ever doubted the sufficiency of the Gospel of CHRIST to transform, sustain and elevate a human life, and meet its last and greatest need; let him look upon such a scene and his skepticism must vanish like mists before the sun. One's faith becomes more settled and unmovable after such an exhibition of the truth and tenderness of JESUS.

Let your prayers hover constantly over the pillows of our sick and wounded. The touch of loved fingers is far away, but your intercessions may be as the shadow of an angel's wing to faces growing white under the signature of death.

Ever and constantly yours, A. L. STONE.

His memory has been honored in the following lines by that gifted and noble woman, Mrs. L. H. SIGOURNEY:

The camp fires blazed—the watch was set, Where Southern pine trees wave, But on his pallet low he lay— While feebly ebb'd his life away— That soldier young and brave.

No tender mother's balmy kiss His throbbing temples prest, No gentle sister pitying brought To his parched lips the fever draught, Or hush'd to soothing rest.

No friend of boyhood's early day Lingered his bed beside, But near him knelt a chaplain true And steadfast rais'd his falling view Unto the Crucified.

His dark eye flash'd with hallow'd light, He stretch'd the emaciate hand, And then burst forth the parting prayer, "God spare my blessed country! Spare! God save my native land!"

Oh! soldier! ne'er again to see The dear New England shore— He whom thy soul did trust and love Remands thee to a home above, Where there is war no more.

Well may divines pronounce their solemn benedictions, and poets sing their sweetest songs at the graves of our country's defenders.

If a great cause sheds luster upon its supporters, inspiring them with noble sentiments and quickening them to heroic endeavors, we may well expect a bright record when the history of

our great struggle for constitutional freedom shall be written. Never were men permitted to identify themselves with nobler objects, never inspired by higher purposes.

When the great experiment of free constitutional government was about to be acknowledged a success by thoughtful men everywhere; when it had excited hopes and prompted efforts tending to universal freedom, and so was freighted with the dearest interests of a misgoverned world,—traitors—traitors to a government that had cherished and defended them, traitors to GOD and human liberty, drunk with their own abominations, conspired to disgrace, defeat and destroy that government. They open the gates of death, desolate their native land, willing to shipwreck constitutional liberty, and drift mankind into anarchy, despotism and slavery.

All the powers of evil are with them in the contest. Whoever wishes to profit by plunder and privilege, living on old abuses and inventing new, is against us. Whoever cherishes generous sentiments and noble aspirations, with faith in GOD and faith in man, is for us, and for the system of government that we are defending and propagating.

Far be it from us and from our children to forget those who give their lives to their country in this crisis of its fate. When a people are unmindful of the privations endured, the dangers encountered, and the lives sacrificed in their behalf, they are without the safeguards of public virtue, and are fit for any doom that despotism may decree.

Humanity has the same perils to encounter, the same precious interests to defend, as in the earlier history of our race; but we are allowed to believe that the citadel of our hopes is guarded by as noble a purpose, as stern resolve as the records of any age or nation show. We, too, have our heroes. They shall be embalmed in the memory of our race, inciting to noble deeds and heroic endeavors men of other ages and other climes. Thus we will pay to the future what we owe to the past; what we have learned of others, others shall learn of us—the family of martyrs shall endure forever. Honor to our soldiers—those who live shall have our gratitude and sympathy; those who die, our respect and reverence. H. T. B.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

LELLAH.

O, DO we not love her, with that frank, sweet face, those laughing eyes? How can our heart-tendrils help twining around her, and clasping her close in our love? How can we help watching her fairy feet bounding, or listening to her musical voice as she pours out her treasure of heart-happiness in song? How can we help calling her our sunbeam, our treasure, our pet? But hush! she sleeps. Step lightly to her side lest she awake. How sweetly the smile rests upon her lips! She has bright dreams, but look again, 'tis not LELLAH's smile, 'tis too changeless! Hers was ever like the ripple on the water, going, coming. Like the sunlight, quivering and dancing with the leaf-shadows. 'Tis not hers—'tis but the parting kiss left on the fairy clay at death. Yes, LELLAH has bright dreams, but not earthly. Dress her to the coffin—place bright buds amid her golden curls, and in her dimpled hand. Shut her sweet, young face from sight ere its beauty change, and gently put her in her low earth bed. Let tiny buds nestle closely on her grave, and weep not that the household pet is removed ere sorrow touch her heart—but rejoice that another sweet voice is heard—another angel form seen in Heaven—may one day be recognized as LELLAH'S. BELL CLINTON. Chenango Co., N. Y., 1864.

GIVING THE DEVIL HIS DUE.

THERE is an important lesson in the following:—A pastor was making a call upon an old lady, who made it a habitual rule never to speak ill of another, and had observed it so closely that she always justified those whom she had heard evil spoken of. Before the old lady made her appearance in the parlor, her several children were speaking of this peculiarity of their mother, and one of them playfully added:—"Mother has such a habit of speaking well of everybody, I believe that if Satan himself were the subject of conversation, mother would find some virtue or good quality even in him." Of course this remark elicited some smiling and merriment at the originality of the idea, in the midst of which the old lady entered the room, and, on being told what had just been said, she immediately and voluntarily replied, "Well, my children, I wish we all had Satan's industry and perseverance."

GOOD FOR FRANCIS JOSEPH.—Those very stiff-necked swells, the Austrian nobility, (says the Illustrated Times,) have recently received a heavy rap upon their noble knuckles from no less a personage than the Emperor Francis Joseph. At one of the Court balls a young officer of artillery, of plebeian birth, asked a lady of high rank to dance with him. All the lady's blue blood flushed into her face as she refused with marked disdain. Poor young officer! For a moment he must have felt every inch a democrat; the contempt of a woman is hard to bear. The Emperor, who had seen the insult offered to his guest and his uniform, came up and said, "Captain, my mother wishes to dance with you!" And a minute after the gunner was clasping the hand, and perhaps the waist, of her Imperial Highness the Archduchess Frederike Sophia Dorothea Wilhelmina, mother of His Imperial Majesty, Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria.

If a sense of the ridiculous is all there is in a man, he had better be an ape at once, and so have stood at the head of his profession.

Sabbath Musings.

Written for the Rural New-Yorker. OUR LIFE.

We live, and love, and hope, and fear, With now a smile, and then a tear; Now building castles in the air Out of day-dreams bright and fair; Then no looked-for good receiving, Over disappointment grieving; With much of toil and little rest, Still hurried, worried, never blest. Whether we laugh, or whether weep; Whether we toil, or whether sleep; Whether we note the hours which fly, Or let them pass unheeded by; Whether wasted in pampering self, In hoarding sordid, useless pelf, Or according with God's great plan, They're spent for Him, and good to man; Still swiftly, evenly, life's thread, From the fleece of the future fed, Upon the wheel of time is spun, On the reel of the busy doth run. Not a pause in the pasty round, Until our skein of life is wound, And Death with sudden touch doth read, The cord, man's art can never mend.

Happy we, if the broken strand, Held in our Father's loving hand, Unto the shining, golden thread Of life eternal, shall be wed, Which, with spending, lessens never, And which Death no more can sever, But from infinity supplied, Onward, for evermore shall glide. Webster, Feb., 1864. G. L. G. M.

DON'T LET THE LIGHT GO OUT.

If every Christian who trims his lamp and keeps the oil of grace up to its full supply is such a benefactor to others, what a terrible thing it is for a Christian to let his light go out! A traveler who once visited a light-house in the British Channel, said to the keeper:—"But what if your lights should go out at night?" "Never," said the keeper, "never—impossible. Sir, yonder are ships sailing to all parts of the world. If to-night my burner were out, in a few days I might hear, from France or Spain, or from Scotland or America, that on such a night the light-house in the Channel gave no warning, and some vessel had been wrecked. Ah! Sir, I sometimes feel, when I look at my lights, as if the eyes of the whole world were fixed on me. Go out! Burn dim!—never. Sir, never!"

How closely this incident comes home to us all. Perhaps in eternity I may hear that some precious soul was wrecked because my pulpit was not a faithful light-holder to my congregation. Some Gospel-burners were neglected and grew dim. One man, perhaps, stumbled into a drunkard's grave, because I did not warn him soon enough against the perils of the first glass. Another broke God's Sabbath for want of keeping the fourth commandment trimmed and burning. Before another was not held up the excelling sinfulness of sin; and Jesus, the light of the world, may not have been set forth aright to wandering sinners. "Go out—burn dim!" God help me to say "never—NEVER!"

I know of certain households in which I fear the lamp is out. That boy would not be seen so often on his way to the theater, or the drinking saloon, if father and mother held up the torch of loving warning! That giddy daughter, who was once thoughtful about her soul, might now be a Christian, if there had been a light holder near at hand to guide her to Jesus. There was a lamp of profession in the house. It did not shine. The oil was out. Love of the world had extinguished it. That dark lantern left the house in midnight.

Thank God! some lights never go out. Death cannot quench them. They shine forever. Luther's great lantern, "the just shall live by faith," still gleams from Wartburg Castle. John Bunyan's lamp twinkles through the gratings of of Bedford Jail. Old John Brown is still lighting ten thousand fugitive footsteps to liberty. Pastors, parents, teachers may be called home to heaven; but, like the good mother of the story, they "set a light in the window" to guide souls to the mansions of glory.

"Then gird your loins, my brethren dear, That distant home discerning; Our absent Lord has left us word, Let every lamp be burning!"

THE PHILOSOPHY OF HAPPINESS.

THE Rev. D. W. CLARKE says:—"The whole philosophy of happiness lies in the right condition and development of the moral affections. A man must be happy on the same principle that GOD is—in being and doing good. Well said CICERO that 'men resemble the gods in nothing more than in doing good.' Happiness is of necessity a question of the affections. A right condition of the heart draws after it right, moral actions, as a pure fountain sends forth pure water, or a good tree brings forth good fruit. The outside moral world is reached and raised upward by the good man from the inside world of the heart. All noble, godlike action is born in the soul. The sum of a good man's force in the world, and by consequence, his wealth in happiness, is the measure of his moral power. He is happy only in the proportion he is like GOD in being and doing good. As the effect follows the cause, so he does, because he is good."

GOD would not be God, if He could fill less than the universe, could leave cold and empty corners, could remain beyond thought, could be order around and not within the brain.

A FRENCH writer says:—"Sorrow is a fruit; God does not let it grow on a branch too weak to bear it."

Educational.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. SUCCESSFUL TEACHING. ONE STEP AT A TIME.

TEACHING is hard work. I do not mean that it is hard work to assign a given number of pages for a lesson, and on the day following ask a routine of questions respecting it, and if the answers as contained in the book are correctly repeated, assign another lesson, and so on; or if the lesson is not "learned," put down a "black mark" for each delinquent, on the book or back, and "give the lesson over again."

But to develop properly the mental faculties—to discipline the mind to think closely, to judge, to compare, to investigate, and to enable it to acquire new ideas, is an arduous task, requiring great skill and much patient labor; and only in proportion to the accomplishment of it, can the teacher be said to be successful.

Successful teaching depends upon taking one step at a time. To illustrate, let us take Addition of Fractions, or what is preparatory to it—Reduction of Fractions to a Common Denominator. As stated in a previous article, on Teaching Fractions, the first step is to render the minds of the pupils familiar with the idea of a fraction—that it originates from dividing a unit into a number of equal parts and using one or more of the parts, or from dividing several units (taken as a whole) into a certain number of equal parts, and using but one of the parts.

Having taken these two steps, each of which, as they include several distinct ideas, should be carefully dwelt upon till thoroughly understood, the pupils are prepared to ascertain how to change fractions whose denominators are unlike so as to make them alike, and yet not change the value of the fractions; in other words, how to reduce fractions to a common denominator. The usual method is first to require the pupils to repeat the rule. "Multiply the terms of each fraction by the denominators of all the other fractions;" or if the least common denominator be required, then the corresponding rule—and then if they can not work the examples and get the right answers, show them how.

In the examples before us, the course pursued might be something as follows:—First step. State to the pupil that a given number may be changed to any other number of which it is a factor, by multiplying it by the other factor, that is, by the factor arising from dividing the required number by the given number; or, what is better, first ask such questions as to what number will five be changed if multiplied by two? by three? by four? by nine? and so on. How can four be changed to eight? to twelve? to sixteen? to thirty-two? and so on; varying the questions sufficiently to render the idea familiar, (as every teacher, whose aim is to convey an idea fully, will always do,) and then make the general statement above, which the pupil will readily comprehend.

Pursuing the same course, the pupils will soon be enabled to understand the general statement that two or more numbers may always be changed to the number represented by their product by multiplying each number by the product of the other numbers; and hence, also, they may be changed to any multiple of that product. Third step. Let the teacher now state to the pupils that numbers which do not contain any factor common to two or more of them can not be changed to any number smaller than their product, while numbers containing one or more factors common to two or more of them, can be changed to a number smaller than their products, namely, to the number represented by the product of the common factors, and the numbers remaining after eliminating the common factors from the given numbers. A few examples will make this statement plain. Thus, any number containing the factors 2 and 3 is divisible by their product, 6; and any number containing the factors 5 and 7 is divisible by their product, 35; hence, any number (and such a number only) containing the factors 2 and 3, 5 and 7, can be exactly divided by the numbers 6 and 35; the smallest number containing the factors 2,

3, (6,) 5, 7, (35,) is their product, 210; therefore, the product of 6 and 35 is the smallest number to which they can be changed. Again:—Any number containing the factors 2 and 5 is divisible by their product, 10; and any number containing the factors 2 and 7 is divisible by their product, 14—hence, any number containing the factors 2, 5, 7, (one of the factors, 2, 2, being omitted) is divisible by 2 times 5 (10) and by 2 times 7, (14,) (hold the minds of the pupils to this point,) and hence 70, the product of the factors 2, 5, 7, is divisible by the numbers 10 and 14.

The three successive steps, just taken, prepare the pupils for the fourth and last step. Taking some examples, as three-fourths (3/4) and five-sixths (5/6), the teacher states to the pupils that he desires these fractions to be changed to fractions, such that the denominators shall be alike, and yet the fractions themselves equal in value to the fractions given. The pupils ascertain at once that the denominators 4 and 6 can each be changed to 12, or to 24, 36, 48, &c.,—12 being preferred, it being the smallest number. By now reminding them of what they learned at the outset, namely, that the value of a fraction will remain unchanged, if in changing the denominator there also be made a corresponding change of the numerator, they readily perceive that if the denominators 4 and 6 be multiplied successively by 3 and 2, the numerators 3 and 4 must also be multiplied by the same numbers—the denominators being multiplied by 3 and 2 in order to obtain the desired result, namely, to change them to like denominators, and the numerators being multiplied by the same numbers (3 and 2) simply to preserve the value of the fractions unchanged.

Although the several steps, in the illustration just given, include the definition of a fraction, changing fractions to higher or lower terms, finding multiples, &c., yet no definite allusion is made to such a division of the subject, the design being to so connect the several parts that the pupils shall see the full force and bearing of each step upon the step following, and thus be led along step by step till they attain to a clear and definite understanding of the subject in all its parts.

Too great care can not be taken in the use of scientific terms and expressions. Should such terms and expressions reach the pupils' ears before the ideas they represent reach the pupils' minds, there is great danger of their proving stumbling blocks to all further progress.

As stated in the beginning, to teach according to the method illustrated above, is hard work. The skill and patience of the teacher will be called into full exercise in holding the minds of the pupils to each idea (especially to those more difficult of apprehension, like the one contained in the latter part of the third step, above,) till it is clearly and fully apprehended. But though hard work, it is, nevertheless, very pleasant work, because successful; for success in a great and noble work—and development and culture of intellect is truly a great and noble work—is attended with the highest pleasure. E. M. C. Rochester, Feb. 20, 1864.

Useful, Scientific, &c.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. HOW TO BUY.

THERE is a right time to purchase. That time is when goods are low. Goods are low, as a general rule, when there is the least demand for them. Winter goods are low in the spring and summer. Summer goods are low in the fall and winter. The merchant will sell his winter stock in the spring at first cost. His summer stock in the fall at cost. He commonly sells his goods at least twenty-five per cent above first cost. If, then, you buy his winter goods in the spring, and his summer goods in the fall, you save the per centage, and get your goods at wholesale, or just as low as the merchant bought them by the quantity. If your family requires one hundred dollars yearly in these goods, the saving will be twenty-five dollars, by buying at the proper time. When winter renders navigation and transportation difficult, groceries and heavy goods are generally higher. Sugar is generally high in fruit and "preserving time." Watch the markets. When the goods you need are below an average price lay in a supply for some time ahead. Buy your goods by the quantity. Let the market be what it will, you can generally buy a quantity at less figures, proportionately, than small amounts.

Sugar will cost you a cent on a pound less; tea, ten cents or a shilling; heavy cloths one to two shillings per yard, and so on to the end of the catalogue. Another consideration is not to be forgotten. A good article is much cheaper in the long run, than a poor one at a much less price. Better pay more for a thoroughly made serviceable article, than buy an inferior one, poorly made, at any price. Ready cash is always better than any man's credit. A dealer, who understands his business, can and will sell cheaper for ready money than he will for the best man's credit. A handsome yearly saving may be made, in any family, depending in amount on the number in the family and the quantity of goods used, by buying at the right time—buying by the large quantity—buying "good goods," and paying ready cash. If you have not got the cash, live a little closer, cut off all unnecessary expenses, until you get a little ready money ahead, and are thus ready to take advantage of the markets. The saving that can thus be made in providing for the household, if carefully husbanded, will provide for a "rainy day," or a compulsion to make old age comfortable. L. L. FAIRCHILD. Rolling Prairie, Wis., January, 1864.

REMARKS.—The above is very sensible advice and sound economical doctrine.

"THAWING OUT PUMPS."

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Your correspondent "L. L. F." has not given the proper system for "thawing out pumps." He cannot, I think, thaw out a pump with eight feet of ice in it in two days; and, if he could, it must be considered a slow process. I can tell him how he can accomplish the work in a few minutes—certainly within half an hour—in the most simple manner.

Let him procure a tin pipe of any size that will pass freely into the pump along side of the rod, and set it in the pump, the lower end resting on the ice. Then pour hot water into the top of the pipe, and he will see it immediately commence a journey downwards, which it will continue so long as he continues to pour in hot water, until it has bored a hole through the ice in the pump. Pouring hot water into the open pump can have no good effect. It will at the first dose melt a small hole in the ice, and become cold and remain there, and probably freeze again while you are pouring hot water in at the top which runs off at the spout. The object is to bring the hot water immediately and continuously in contact with the ice, which is fully accomplished by means of the tube. The hot water, by its greater height in the pipe, is forced to the bottom, and having done its work and become cold, is forced up outside and flows off.

The pipe should be in two or more parts, fitting snugly into each other, so that when the first pipe has descended its full length into the pump, you can add another link, and so on. It should also be secured with a small cord, to prevent its sinking down when it gets through the ice. Every person using a pump in the winter, exposed to the frost, should have such a pipe ready for use. The expense is quite trifling. The application of "hot iron" or hot coals and ashes, which I have sometimes seen applied, is perfectly useless. J. L. Brampton, C. W., 1864.

THE MONEY PHASES OF COIN AND PAPER.

It is a rather curious fact that the only coin now in current use on this continent which is not round, is the fifty dollar gold piece struck for California, which is octagonal in shape. All the coins in Europe are round. In Japan they have oblong wedges of silver. It is curious, too, that for many years money has been made out of paper, when leather or cloth would seem to be much more durable. Yet paper, when representing coin, lasts a great while, and not infrequently the Bank of England receives a note of extraordinary age; and the Bank of Bengal, in India, recently was called upon to pay several thousand pounds of notes so old that none of the present generation remembered the pattern. It is also worthy of remark that gems or precious stones have never been used for money, nor has platinum or any other metal taken the place of gold. In Africa a species of shell forms the circulating medium, the value of which fluctuates sometimes twenty per cent. a week. But all civilized countries have gold as the standard of money value, and all other circulating medi-

um is but a representative of the great standard. Only the Hindoo has ever learned to test coin accurately by the hand.

Of all gold coinage that of England is perhaps the most beautiful. A new, fresh gold sovereign is probably as graceful and attractive a coin as exists. Next to it, the American eagle is the most elegant gold coin. The twenty-franc pieces of the present kingdom of Italy are also very neat. Probably the smallest gold coin in use is the French five-franc piece, although a few half-dollar gold pieces have been struck off in California. At present there are current in France in everyday traffic, coin bearing the noble face of the first Napoleon, both as consul and emperor; the heavy round heads of Charles X and Louis XVIII; the shrewd countenance of Louis Philippe, and the familiar features of the present Emperor. In some cases Napoleon III is represented with, and in others without, a laurel wreath.

The most beautiful silver coinage is that of Russia, each piece being in itself a work of art, so finely and elaborately is the die cut. On the other hand, the ugliest silver coinage is that of the city of Hamburg; each piece, adulterated and poorly cut, is usually to be found encrusted with dirt and filth, and looking like a refuse fragment of tin. The silver coinage of Germany is very bad also. In Italy—excepting portions subject to the Pope and the Emperor of Austria—the franc piece is taking the place of former coins, though the local coinage of the duchies of Parma and Modena still infests those portions of the country. Naples also retains in retail traffic the complicated coins in use under the Bourbon rule.

Perhaps the neatest paper money in the world is that of Greece—which is manufactured by American engravers and workmen. The old bank currency of this country is often very elegant. The worst and most wretched paper money in the world is the five-kreuzer note of Austria, printed on a soft, thick, grayish paper, which has a faculty of washing and rubbing away like ordinary blotting paper. But nearly as bad is the postal currency with which, for our sins, we are now afflicted. He who steals a purse full of our five and ten cent notes—frayed, dirty, worn and illegible, does indeed steal "trash."—N. Y. Evening Post.

Reading for the Young.

A TALK WITH THE BOYS.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—With your permission I would like to talk a little with "the boys." Some may ask, "how old are you?" That may be answered by saying—I am a few years beyond my "teens." But that does not matter. Let us set about our talk. Suppose we converse of habits, especially bad ones, such as drinking tea and coffee, smoking and chewing tobacco, drinking beer, wine and rum, and visiting gaming houses.

Don't think this a "lecture on morals," for I am no great moralist. But I like to see men come up erect, without leaning upon broken reeds in the shape of "naughty habits." It is not expected that you will disrespect your father, or any one else, but the bad practices they have acquired. Make up your minds to be men without the stain of tobacco juice on your face, or the smell of its smoke upon your clothes—men, without the smell of strong drink in your breath, without the appearance of being a red-faced beer keg, bloated to its utmost extremity, with blood-shot eyes, peering out from their swollen sockets, like sun-burned potatoes, as seen thro' the cracks of an over-filled potato hill.

We will consider the matter "financially." Suppose you form the practice of drinking tea and coffee at twelve or fifteen years of age, and you are permitted to live to the age of forty, making twenty-five years of tea and coffee drinking. Drinking coffee for breakfast, and tea for supper, you will require one-quarter of a pound of tea, and one pound of coffee every month, which at the price of one dollar per pound for the former, and twenty-five cents for the latter, we have the sum of six dollars a year, or the total of one hundred and fifty dollars in a lifetime.

If you form the habit of using tobacco in segars, using them moderately, say two each day, a segar fit for your dignity will cost at least five cents, making seventy cents a week; thirty-six dollars and forty cents a year, or the sum of one hundred and ten dollars during your life.

Music by O. A. ARCHER.

Musical score for 'Morning in Spring' with four staves of music and lyrics. The lyrics describe a morning scene with dew, flowers, and a newborn child.

The moderate tobacco monger will use a pound and a half of it per month, which at the price of fifty cents per pound, would be nine dollars in a year, or two hundred and twenty-five dollars in a life-time.

The beer toper, of moderate appetite, will drink one glass of beer per day, costing at least five cents a glass, making thirty-five cents a week, eighteen dollars and ten cents a year, or four hundred and fifty-two dollars and fifty cents in a life-time.

If you are in the habit of visiting billiard saloons, or places where any of the kindred games are practiced, you are led on by the excitement of the game, until game after game has been played. Perhaps you are the unlucky one, and have the "rub" to pay. May be you have bet the segars, or beer, or the whisky for the party. If you visit them as moderately as once a week, that one visit will cost you at least fifty cents, making the sum of twenty-six dollars a year, or six hundred and fifty dollars in the course of your life-time.

In our calculations, one considerable item of expense has been overlooked; that is, the trimmings to the tea and coffee, which will cost at least thirty-seven and a half cents per month, four dollars and a half a year, or one hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents in the term of years mentioned. This makes a total of twenty-five hundred dollars in twenty-five years—all to no purpose, except to give a little fleeting enjoyment which tends only to make life shorter, and freight it with disease.

Counting the interest on the above amount at six per cent, and compounding it, which is not extravagant, we have the sum of about \$5,700—perhaps more. Boys, some of you whose heads are clear, look this over, and see if it is near correct.

This seems almost unreasonable, yet it is no over estimation, but falls short of the cost of these habits to a great many. Drinking tea and coffee may not be considered so bad as some other habits. All allow that they are stimulants which do not strengthen nature permanently, but merely brings her faculties into more vigorous action—wastes vitality. For they expend that which they cannot replace. We need not look far to see this demonstrated. Perhaps your father, or mother, or some of your acquaintances use these "drugs." Observe them when, by some mishap or other, they are deprived of their dreams. How low-spirited they are, and what "awful headaches" they have! And how eager they are to get a supply!

The same may be said of those using tobacco, there being but little difference between them. And also of those using beer and wine, "only a little more so." All of them are as nearly related as second or third cousins to the "worm of the still," whose liquid fire has burned and blasted the better natures of millions of human beings, turning them into intellectual "brutes,"—sinking, in its own conflagration, millions of its victims—making at least seventy-five thousand paupers annually for our country to support—which, but for rum, might help support it. This is the "worm" who commits three-fourths of all the crimes—five-sixths of all the murders, and who is responsible for the destroyed happiness of multitudes in a future existence.

Then be sure that you are laying the foundation sure upon which you are building your characters. Remember that "just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined." It is easier to keep from bad habits than to break off from them, when established.

Better spend your money for books, or give it to the poor, and your time in reading those books, or in doing good. F. B. MC. Pontiac, Mich, 1864.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. SHUN EVIL COMPANY.

VICIOUS company is as dangerous as the infectious, contagious distemper—as smothering as the blasts of Sahara's burning waste—as delusive as the mirage, which seems to the weary traveler as a placid, cooling lake; but as he advances to cool his burning lips, it, too, advances with equal rapidity. Evil company will steal your noble intentions, and mould them into demonic designs. Its fruit is vile and corrupting conversation, which tends to prostrate true excellence, subvert true modesty, expunge true affability, and finally, it leads the young victim into the drifting mists of vice, which so deaden and benumb his once noble mind, that it even refuses to try to extricate itself. Then avoid evil company—the instigator of evil thought—the poisonous reef upon which hangs the hideous wrecks of multitudes of once noble minds. Play with the venomous coya, sport in your fragile bark near the brink of Niagara's angry flood, sport with the circling waves of the maelstrom, carelessly bask before the sweeping torrent of burning lava, but arise and flee from the soul-blackening curse—evil company. Its effects will last until the sun of eternity will set to rise no more. S. A. G. Lexington, Ohio.

Rural New-Yorker.

NEWS DEPARTMENT.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., MARCH 12, 1864.

The Army in Virginia.

On the 28th ult., Gen. Custar started with a force of cavalry to make a reconnaissance toward Gordonsville, the 6th corps following in support. He passed through Madison Court House on Monday morning, and on reaching Warrenton, a few miles beyond, encountered a rebel picket which he captured. Crossing the Rapidan and Rappahannock rivers in the direction of Stannardsville, he met the enemy within three miles of the latter place, when he charged the rebels under Stuart, driving them considerably. Capt. Ash, of the Regulars, charged upon a rebel camp near this place, with sixty men. Drove the enemy and burned their tents, six caissons and two forges, returning without the loss of a man.

Finding his small force opposed by infantry, Stuart's cavalry and several batteries which opened upon him, and that a number of trains had just arrived with troops to oppose his advance, he determined to return. After crossing the Rappahannock river, he burned the bridge, destroyed three flouring mills filled with grain, and fell back towards the Rapidan, but his battery horses giving out, he had to halt for the night. On nearing the Rapidan the next morning, he met a large body of rebel cavalry on the road to Burton's Ford, and skirmished with them for a time. Finding the rebels had concentrated their force at this point, he suddenly wheeled, and taking the road to Burton's Ford, crossed without opposition. The enemy followed some distance, but failed to inflict any damage.

Gen. Custar and his force returned to camp on the 2d inst., with only four men wounded slightly and one rather badly. He captured and brought in about 50 prisoners, a large number of negroes, some 300 horses, and, besides, destroyed a large quantity of valuable stores at Stannardsville. A number of rebels were wounded in the skirmish near the Rapidan.

The Washington Star says:—Gen. Custar has returned to this side of the Rapidan from his cavalry expedition, having successfully accomplished the part of the work which he started to do. He harassed the flank of Lee's army considerably, and near Stannardsville surprised the rebel camp, which he burned and totally destroyed, captured a number of prisoners and got possession of a large number of horses and brought them back with him to camp. These horses were in fine order, as they had just been returned to the army from the interior of the country where they had been sent to recruit. Gen. Custar did not lose a man in the expedition.

A dispatch from Washington on the 4th inst., says that Gen. Meade has been summoned by the President to answer the charges preferred against him by Gens. Sickles and Doubleday before the Committee on the Conduct of the War. The matter is assuming a rather serious aspect.

The Washington Republican of the 5th says: We are authorized to state that the government has received a dispatch from Gen. Butler covering another from Gen. Kilpatrick to Gen. Pleasanton, announcing that Kilpatrick succeeded in cutting the railroad and telegraph communications of Gen. Lee with Richmond, by tearing up the rails on the Virginia Central Railroad at various points and destroying the canal and mills on James River. He burned much property belonging to others, inflicting a severe blow on the rebellion. He was met by the enemy outside the defenses of Richmond, but succeeded in forcing him inside the outer works, where a sharp engagement ensued, when darkness came on and the conflict ended. Gen. Kilpatrick finding the enemy in the works too strong to allow him to reach the city, and having accomplished the object of the expedition, withdrew and reached the lines of Gen. Butler with the loss of about 150 men.

It is assigned as a reason for the unexpected alertness of the rebels in preparing to repel Gen. Kilpatrick that the destruction of the telegraph and track of the Telegraph & Virginia Central Railroad was announced in Richmond by Gen. Lee immediately after the occurrence over the telegraph lines between Richmond, Lynchburg and Gordonsville. This seems more than probable from the fact that the expedition passed through Lee's pickets and beyond his army without a skirmish and was met at some distance from Richmond by formidable force of mounted infantry.

The following are the dispatches referred to above:

HEADQUARTERS FORTRESS MONROE,
March 4th, 1864.

To the President:

I forward the annexed account from General Kilpatrick:

YORKTOWN, March 4.
GENERAL:—Col. Dahlgren was directed to make a diversion with 500 men on the James river. He attacked at 4 P. M. on Tuesday, and drove the enemy in on Richmond.

The main attack having failed, Col. Dahlgren attempted to rejoin me near the Meadow bridge. He and Col. Cook were with the advance guard, 50 men, and became separated from the main force, since which nothing has been heard from him. The main force reaches me with slight loss. I have hopes he may yet come in.

T. KILPATRICK.
In addition, a rebel deserter informed the 1st N. Y. Aid that a one-legged Colonel and about 100 men were taken prisoners.
I shall hear by a flag of truce on Sunday night, and will telegraph again.

B. F. BUTLER, Maj. Gen.

The cavalry scouting expedition sent out to Pendleton county, under command of Lieut.-Col. Koot, of the 15th N. Y. Cavalry has returned. He reports that no enemy appears to be in force in that county or neighborhood. Several small

guerrilla parties fled on the approach of our forces. The expedition effectually destroyed the salt-petre works south of Franklin, in Pendleton county. Another scouting party had a slight skirmish near Morefield, and captured some few of McNeil's cavalry. Five of the men are yet missing. Everything seems to be quiet in the Shenandoah Valley.

The N. Y. Times Special gives the following additional statement as to results, &c., of Kilpatrick's raid:—Miles of railroad track on the two principal roads over which Lee transports his supplies for the Northern Army of Virginia, have been so thoroughly destroyed that some time must elapse before the road will be in running order. Depots of commissary, or ordnance and quartermaster's stores, were brought away or destroyed. No less than six grist mills and one sawmill formerly at work for the rebel army, were burnt. Six canal boats loaded with grain, several locks on the James River canal, and the almost invaluable coal-pits at Manikin's Bend were destroyed. Nearly 300 prisoners were captured, several hundred horses were pressed into the service, and hundreds of negroes availed themselves of the opportunity to come within our lines.

Department of the South.

NOTHING new from Charleston. The bombardment still continued with good effect. The rebels reply at intervals, but rarely doing injury.

The rebels are removing the obstructions in Neuse River, below Kinston, in order to allow the rebel iron-plated ram to assist in the anticipated attack on Newbern, Washington and Plymouth, for which the rebels are making great preparations. A ram is also said to be ready on the Roanoke River, as well as one on the Tar River.

The Raleigh Confederate states that the recent attack on Newbern was only a diversion to be followed by heavier demonstrations.

Official intelligence confirms reports that Jeff. Davis ordered the immediate seizure of all points now held by the Federals in North Carolina. Gen. Peck has made all preparations in his power, and all the citizens and firemen are under orders, and will go into fortifications at Newbern.

The hanging by the rebels of 23 men of a N. C. white regiment, has exasperated the N. C. loyal troops beyond all bounds, and they have resolved to take no more prisoners.

All was quiet at Jacksonville, Florida, on the 2d. Re-enforcements were rapidly arriving, and Gen. Seymour's position was sufficiently formidable to repel any attack. Our troops are outside the town, some of them at a distance of eight miles. The fortifications in front of Jacksonville are of an extensive character.

Flags of truce have communicated with the rebels for the purpose of obtaining our wounded who fell into their hands. The request was refused.

The main body of the enemy is encamped between Ten Mile Run and Baldwin. The rebels admit their loss to be enormous, some setting it as high as 2,000.

On the 27th a skirmish occurred between the rebels and our cavalry near Camp Finnegan. The rebels had five wounded; none of our men were hurt.

General Gilmore arrived at Jacksonville on the 29th.

Details are published of the late battle at Olustee, Fla. Our forces engaged was 4,500 infantry, 400 cavalry, and 20 cannon. The enemy's strength was reported at 13,000 posted between swamps and protected by earth works and rifle pits.

The report that no skirmishers were thrown out is shown to be untrue. Our troops fought nobly against superior numbers, and retreated in good order. The enemy was commanded by Gen. Gardner, of Port Hudson fame.

Admiral Lee telegraphs the Navy Department from Newport News, Va., that the small side-wheel steamer Scotia was captured by the Connecticut on the 1st, having run out from Wilmington on the night of Feb. 29th. She had 108 bales of cotton on board. The Scotia is a paddle-wheel steamer about 300 tons burden, built on the Clyde and purchased and sent out from Glasgow in the summer of 1863, and belonged to the same company that sent out the Princess Royal.

The British blockade runner Effie was captured in Duboy Sound, Ga., by the gunboat Huron.

Movements in the West and South-West.

TENNESSEE.—Gen. Buckland, commanding the District of Mississippi, has issued an order requiring all the male residents of Memphis, between the ages of 16 and 50, who do not already belong to authorized companies of enrolled militia, to report in person to headquarters within five days from the date of said order, and all persons of the above class who may hereafter arrive in the city, are ordered to report at headquarters within ten days after arrival.

The diary of an officer attached to Gen. Grierson's column of Gen. Smith's cavalry expedition, furnishes a little information of importance beyond what has been previously reported.

Our loss in the attack on the enemy at West Point was forty killed and wounded. We drove the enemy and destroyed a number of cars and culverts, the depot, several miles of railroad track and a large amount of corn and cotton.

In the attack by Forrest upon our rear at Okolona the 3d Tennessee cavalry broke at the first fire, running six of our small guns into a ditch. The guns were spiked and their carriages broken. In this fight our loss was about 100, who were nearly all taken prisoners. Our total loss during the expedition, was about 150.

The column burned about 3,000 bales of Confederate cotton, over 1,000,000 bushels of corn,

and captured over 100 prisoners, 1,000 mules, and a multitude of negroes.

So large a portion of our force was required to guard the trains, captured property and wagons, that we were greatly outnumbered at Okolona by Forrest, whose effective force was over 5,000 strong.

Reports are rife that Gen. Sherman has returned to Vicksburg and are generally believed in official circles, but nothing definite has yet been received. There have been no arrivals from that place.

McPherson's corps is reported between Jackson and Black River, and Hurlburt near Brandon.

A dispatch from Knoxville, Tenn., 27th ult., says there are many rumors touching the cause of the rebel retreat, and but little is known concerning it, owing to the distance. It is pretty definitely ascertained here, however, that Wheeler's cavalry will join Morgan in an attack on the Chattanooga Railroad, and that the infantry are marching rapidly towards Virginia.

MISSISSIPPI.—In St. Louis, on the 5th inst., Capt Hopkins, well known before the war as a river captain, arrived from Mobile the 18th ult. He says there were but 8,000 troops in Mobile, and though the fortifications in the rear of the city were good, they could be carried by a large force. Gen. Sherman's movement frightened the people terribly, but a desperate resistance would have been made had he attacked the city. Every male there, between 18 and 55 years, was a well drilled soldier. There is no distress in the South, but the people are willing to accept peace on almost any terms. The leaders, however, are determined to fight to the last. Of the gunboats in Mobile four are iron clad, the Tennessee being the most formidable. Gens. Pemberton and Lovell were at Columbia, shelved.

ARKANSAS.—Capt. Ross and twelve of his men, deserters from Gen. Price's army, have arrived at Van Buren. He brings no confirmation of the news that Price had left the rebel army.

Gen. Frost, of Camp Jackson notoriety, has gone to Mexico.

Union mass meetings were being held daily, and the vote at the coming election will be large. Nearly 3,000 voters have been already registered.

Little Rock has been abandoned. Farms are being rapidly leased and the prospects for large crops are good.

We make the following extracts relating to movements in the Department from rebel papers: The Richmond Examiner, of February 27th, says an official dispatch was received by the President from Gen. Johnston yesterday, stating that the enemy were skirmishing all along his lines northeast from Dalton. It is in doubt that the enemy is making a general advance in Georgia.

The Selma Reporter says:—Sherman was on the Railroad thirty miles east of Meridian on the 17th. Polk had retired across the river, probably to decoy Sherman across, where he would offer battle.

Sherman, with sudden and unexpected rapidity, has moved against our weakest point. Mississippi is the very Egypt of the Confederacy, where, if not ejected, he can subsist till Spring, and do more damage than by winning a pitched battle. He will continue making war on our subsistence and resources, which to destroy is to defeat us. Sherman marches in a solid body, with his artillery in his front, in his rear, and on his flanks, and his cavalry close under his guns.

AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON.

THE Solicitor of the War Department, Mr. Whiting, has sent a long letter to the Committee on Public Lands, in relation to the confiscation of Southern lands. That committee, it is understood, have prepared a bill, in accordance with Mr. Whiting's suggestions, to secure to persons in the military or naval service, homesteads on confiscated or forfeited estates in insurrectionary districts.

The Senate has ratified the treaties made with various branches of the Shoshone Indians by Gov. Doty, of Utah, for the protection of overland emigration, the security of the proposed Pacific Railroad and telegraph lines, and for the safety of the miners and prospectors in Idaho and Utah. The principal part is allowed an annuity of \$10,000 for twenty years. The north-western band \$3,000 additional. The Goship tribe \$1,000, and the mixed band of Bannocks and Shoshones, of Shoshone river in Idaho, \$3,000. The Goships, living south of the Great Desert and between Stiptoe Valley on the west, and Salt Lake, Tulla, Rush Valley on the east, guarantee the un molested privilege of mining and prospecting within their boundaries, as do the Bannocks and Shoshones in theirs.

An official announcement is made of receipts and expenditures of the United States, exclusive of the trust funds, from October 1st to December 31st, by which it appears the receipts from customs were \$23,300,000; public lands, \$150,500; direct tax, \$14,000,000; from Internal Revenue, \$27,000,000; from incidental, &c., \$2,500,000; and the remainder from bonds and certificates of indebtedness. Expenditures were \$357,260,000, including for War Department, \$163,300,000; Navy, 4,000,000; redemption of certificate of indebtedness, \$57,000,000; re-imbursments of temporary loans, \$82,500,000.

It appears from the letter from the Commissioner of Pensions that only twelve of the Revolutionary soldiers are now living, whose ages range from 94 to 105 years, and whose pensions only amount to from \$24 to \$96 per annum.

Secretary Chase, in a communication to the Ways and Means Committee, says that in order to bring the revenue up to the amount estimated in his report it will be absolutely necessary to largely increase the tax on several articles specified. He recommends a tax of one dollar a

gallon on spirits; on leaf and manufactured tobacco 50 cents per pound; on petroleum, crude, 15 cents, refined, 25 cents.

The President having approved and signed the bill amendatory of the loan act of 1863, and the joint resolution extending payment of bounties to the 1st of April, they have become laws.

The whisky bill, as it has now passed both Houses of Congress and awaits the President's signature, imposes a tax of 60 cents a gallon on all spirits which may be distilled and sold, or removed for sale previous to the 1st of July next. Any tax after this time is to be provided for by future legislation, and will doubtless be inserted in a supplemental bill now under consideration by the Committee of Ways and Means. The whisky bill proposes an additional tax of 40 cents a gallon on imported spirits on hand. The sliding scale of duties on both domestic and foreign spirits, and the tax on stock on hand of domestic spirits, has no place in the bill.

The N. Y. Herald's Washington dispatch says:—The policy of extending the President's amnesty treaty is much talked of. Rebel prisoners and refugees state that this would cause whole regiments to give themselves up. An instance is rumored where a whole brigade were prepared to come over in a body, but was prevented by the exclusion of Colonels from the amnesty.

The President's recent call for 500,000 men is intended to include the last draft and clear up arrearages.

The Senate Special Committee on Slavery have decided to report a bill legalizing the President's Emancipation Proclamation.

NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

SALEM TOWN, LL. D., author of the well-known series of school books, and a Mason of high distinction, died at Greencastle, Ind., on Wednesday evening, aged 86.

THE Democracy of Connecticut have nominated the following ticket:—For Governor, ORIGIN L. SEYMOUR, of Litchfield; Lieutenant Governor, THOMAS H. BOND, of New Haven; Secretary of State, JAMES H. HOYT; Treasurer, ANDREW L. KINGSTON; Comptroller, LOYD BALDWIN.

THE Paris Presse says:—"Grant is the American Massena, the beloved child of victory, who has never met with a reverse, but who is as vigilant and indefatigable as if he had one to fear. Alone he is able to resist the three armies of the Confederation."

KENTELMANN, the head gardener of the King of Prussia, died the other day at the age of ninety. He was employed at the Saus Souci in the time of Frederick the Great, and related many personal anecdotes of the eccentric monarch. It was Kentelmann who cultivated the first dahlias which Alexander Von Humboldt introduced into Prussia, and to him are due the chief attractions of the gardens on Peacock Island, near Potsdam, the favorite resort of Frederick William III.

A SAILOR has recovered \$5,000 of a New York boarding-house keeper, for shipping him on a Liverpool voyage under pretence of shipping him to Havana.

RICHARD COBDEN has sent his autograph by request to the Brooklyn Soldiers' Fair, placing over it the sentence "Free Trade—The International Law of the Almighty!"

PREVIOUS to April, 1862, there were reported 78,457 desertions from the Army—being an average of 6,839 per month. In April, 1862, the Provost Marshal system was adopted, and since then the average desertions per month have been but 1,735. The total aggregate of desertions since the war broke out is 127,157.

LETTERS from Mazagan and Tangier report that great destruction of life and property had been caused in Morocco by the explosion of a magazine containing 400 quintals of gunpowder.

THE Board of Supervisors of New York have allowed "The Association for the Benefit of colored Orphans," \$72,080.20 for the loss of their buildings in the July riots.

ACCORDING to the nineteenth annual report of the public schools of Washington, there were at the beginning of the year 3,138, and at its close 2,869 pupils in attendance. The average number on the roll throughout the year was 3,091 under the charge of fifty-four teachers.

IN Louisville, Ky., the other day, a gentleman put some \$2,500 in greenbacks in the chimney of his sitting-room, thinking it would there be safe from robbers. His wife, in the exuberance of wifely thoughtfulness, kindled a fire so as to give her "lord" a cheery welcome, and the greenbacks were burned up.

MR. JOHN A. ROEBLING, the engineer of the Niagara Suspension Bridge, proposes to build a bridge between the cities of New York and Brooklyn. The superstructure of the bridge would form an arch about two miles long, clearing the water of the East River in one sweep of 1,600 to 1,800 span, and extending over the houses of both cities in a series of smaller spans, whose length would be gradually diminished from the East River towards either approach, say from 1,200 to 1,600 feet.

THERE is a society in Paris called the Prince Imperial Loan Society. It loans money to poor men without interest, and with no security but good faith. The poor man who seeks relief need only promise to repay the loan which he receives, and bring two friends to declare that they have known him a certain time, and that he is honorable in his dealings. The Society holds neither the borrower nor his friends as liable for the money loaned, it takes their word of honor as security, and will lend upon it any sum up to \$100. No defaulter is ever prosecuted, and so far every pledge has been redeemed to the last centime.

List of New Advertisements.

Lovers of Flowers, Attention—James Vick, Fruit and Ornamental Trees—Ellwanger & Barry. The Champion Clothes Wringer—N. B. Phelps. Magnolias—Ellwanger & Barry. Sickles on the Peninsula—Davis' Pain Killer. Flower Seeds—Mark D. Wilson. Steel Composition Bells—American Bell Company. Pius Benthamiana—Ellwanger & Barry. Patent Star on Chimney Burner—Peter Essig & Co. Fruit Seeds, &c.—Meehan & Wadell. Ammoniated Pacific Guano—J. O. Baker & Co. Farm for Sale in Cavuga County. Red Cedar—J. A. Carpenter & Co. Special Notice to Nurserymen—Jayne & Platman. Agents Wanted—Boylan & Co. Farm for Sale—Edward Tuttle. Strawberry Plants—J. Keck. Farm for Sale—T. C. Maxwell & Bros. Bridgeport Paint—Robert Reynolds. Doolittle Black Raspberry Plants—H. H. Doolittle. Fairfield Seminary—L. B. Barker. Fruit and Ornamental Trees, &c.—J. W. Lyon. Cheese Maker Wanted—Geo. A. Moore.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Good Cooks—D. B. DeLand & Co.

The News Condenser.

- Wisconsin is enlisting Indians to fill her quota.
- Nearly 90,000 veteran volunteers have re-enlisted.
- Popular education is making great strides in Italy.
- Lord Brougham is seriously ill at Tedworth, Eng. land.
- The war costs about a hundred thousand dollars an hour.
- Thirty-six Indiana regiments have re-enlisted as veterans.
- The marine losses for February are estimated a \$3,600,500.
- The people of Chicago have organized a Fuel Saving Society.
- Some 400 soldiers leave Louisville, Ky., daily, for Grant's army.
- The estimated value of the peat now in Ireland is \$280,000,000.
- There are about \$8,000,000 now due the army of the Potomac.
- The Sanitary Fair at Buffalo is closed, and has netted \$30,000.
- There were 156 applications for divorce in Philadelphia last year.
- It was three years the 14th ult. since Jeff. Davis was inaugurated.
- There are 11,500 miles of railroad open for traffic in the British Isles.
- Coal is selling at Elmira, N. Y., at six dollars and three-quarters a ton.
- Spotted fever is prevailing with fatal effect in Marshall county, Indiana.
- The cotton crop of Nicaragua has been greatly injured by the army worm.
- The Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair will commence on the 17th of May.
- The widow of Ex-President Harrison died at North Bend, Ohio, on Friday week.
- Town temperance leagues are forming in all the principal towns in Vermont.
- Rev. M. D. Conway, of Boston, is going to preach six months in a London pulpit.
- Overlin College, Ohio, has sent 357 graduates since 1851, 281 of whom were women.
- Later advices from China do not confirm the report of the blockade of the Alabama.
- There are more than 350,000 members of the various Lodges of Odd Fellows in England.
- The President has approved and signed the amendatory Enrollment bill, and it is now a law.
- The Farrington expedition is intended, when complete, to consist of forty ships of all classes.
- Gen. Pope is preparing for an active spring campaign against the Indians in the North-west.
- Three full-grown wolves chased a Mr. Doherty to within two miles of the western suburbs of Chicago.
- The Western journals are unanimous in opposing Mr. Weed's proposition to repeal the Homestead Act.
- The President declines to send to Congress the number of re-enlisted veterans, for prudential reasons.
- The money writers continue to remind the United States that we are importing more than we are exporting.
- The New York custom receipts in January last amounted to \$6,179,905 51, against \$4,395,356 95 in Jan., 1863.
- It is proposed to use the steamship Great Eastern in laying the Atlantic cable, which will weigh 6,000 tons.
- Maj. Gen. Randall, of the New York State Militia, died on Thursday week, in Buffalo, of disease of the heart.
- Mrs. Patterson Allan has been fully committed at Richmond, Va., foral as a traitor to the "Confederacy."
- An embalmer is being tried in Richmond for smuggling persons liable to conscription North in coffins.
- The rebel Gen. Beauregard has paid, through an agent, the U. S. tax of over \$100 on his property in Memphis.
- The small pox is spreading to an alarming extent at Covington, Ky. At Nashville, Tenn., the disease is abating.
- A valuable bed of coal underlies Stenbenville, O., and parties have offered the city \$150,000 for the privilege of mining it.
- Diphtheria is making such havoc at Lunenburg, Vt., that there is not at present a single school in the town in operation.
- A young Englishman was sworn in at New Haven lately who was one of the famous "six hundred" immortalized by Tennyson.
- Edward Hitchcock, D. D., LL. D., late President of Amherst College, died at Amherst, Mass., Feb. 27, in the 71st year of his age.
- About 300 freedmen a week are enlisted at Chattanooga. They come from Georgia and Alabama, in squads of from five to twenty.
- Capt. Dacie, an Englishman, has perpetrated swindles on Richmond merchants, and others, to the amount of \$1,800,000, and fled to England.
- A gentleman who withholds his name from the public has given \$90,000 to Yale College for the erection of a new dormitory building.
- Chief Justice L. H. Lefontaine, of Lower Canada, died recently, aged 83. He was one of the most eminent politicians and lawyers of British America.
- The people of Newfoundland are represented as being opposed to the continuance of the reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States.
- On every business day in London, upward of 700,000 persons enter the city by its various approaches, and leave it again in the evening for their homes.

MY BROTHER AND I.

BY J. T. TROWBRIDGE.

From the door where I stand I can see his fair land
Sloping up to a broad sunny height,
The meadows now shorn, and the green wavy corn,

His wife, with her gold, gives him friends, I am told,
With whom she is rather too gay,—
The Senator's son, who is ready to run

For still you must think, as you eat, as you drink,
As you hunt with your dogs and your guns,
How your pleasures are bought with the wealth that she brought,

We have bright, rosy girls, fair as ever an earl's,
And the wealth of their curls is our gold;
O, their lips and their laugh, they are sweeter by half,

Our boys have grown manly and bold,
And they never shall blush, when their proud consins brush
From the walls of their college such cobwebs of knowledge

Still my brother thou art, though our lives lie apart,
Path from path, heart from heart, more and more.
O, I have not forgot—O, remember you not

Our room in the cot by the shore?
And a night soon will come, when the murmur and hum
Of our days shall be dumb evermore,

The Story-Teller.

THE MADONNA AT THE RUINS.

BY CARR MYRICK.

EARLY in the morning of July 24th, 1794, a cart containing five prisoners, guarded by four gen d'armes, slowly left the village of Arras.
The sorrowful group turned their faces from the City Hall toward Cambrai, where a revolutionary tribunal sat daily.

old priest, who called himself JACQUES BERANGER, and put him in one corner of the prison yard.
They then unbound one of the Sisters, when one of the jailors cried, "But, citizen CAMBRIERE, I have no place for these aristocrats."

"O, well! do not trouble yourself about it," replied the attorney. "I shall send them directly to the tribunal; they will see me there."
And at his bidding the jailors left the cart, which returned to the place where CAMBRIERE and LEBAN held their councils, but the priest was left in the court yard.

"Here is all I have; you shall share it with me," the sisters entered, weeping. "You see God has not forsaken us. Have courage," said the old priest.

"A pale chamber sat two young girls sewing. A pale taper lighted the lonely room, for it was night; and the room was very desolate, being unfurnished save by a worm-eaten table and two chairs.

"The surprised stranger added in an instant, "Fifty thousand!" the officer shouted away, "Sixty thousand!"

"Then she became silent, and they resumed their work. "Poor uncle," said MARGUERITE, "where is he now? he may be dead."

Corner for the Young.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 35 letters.
My 1, 7, 35, 19, 17, 9, 16, 11 is a county in South Carolina.
My 5, 23, 21, 12, 20 is a very useful animal.

AN ANAGRAM.

Idm saulepns neyldt nad usocce.
Yrile ey keat rimo mih ovi delns;
Ew osat het gabeline ew sepes.

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS, &c., IN No. 737.

Answer to Miscellaneous Enigma—He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty.
Answer to Charade of Counties:—Mash-all, Cape-May, Walk-er, Mar-in, Dad-e, Car-roll, Dar-ling-ton, Lor-ain.

part with their wardrobes to conceal from the good uncle, even to the last moment, the frightful state of destitution in which they found themselves.
Christmas came. The proprietor of the rooms which the old priest and his nieces occupied, demanded their half-year rent.

"The Aster Seed you sent me when Mr. Foster procured his Vegetable Seeds, have produced flowers so beautiful and perfect in color, size, and every development, that I have to thank you for the great pleasure they afford me hourly, and to say I am sure I could procure you many customers if you would send me some Catalogues.

"The Double Zinnias I had of you are charming. The flowers are of double. I counted 21 rows of petals on one flower. One plant has borne 100 blossoms. I am impatient to see your new Flower Catalogue.

"The Flower Seeds which I purchased of you in the Spring, and which you called my James' and my boys' are very large and double. They have been in blossom a long time, and are now as pretty as ever.

"I bought several packages of Flower Seeds of you this Spring. All grew, and turned out true to name. The Double Zinnias were splendid, and so were the Asters.

"I have the pleasure of planting and taking care of the seeds you sent me, through the season. They came up like the wind and have made a good crop. I have had charge of Mrs. J. J. Thomas' flower department, and the seeds you sent him did finely, and made a most magnificent show of flowers.

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.

SICKNESS ON THE PENINSULA.

Our army before Richmond have suffered greatly from Chills and Fever, as well as Bowel Complaints.

Abbott Publishing Co.'s BOOK AGENT'S HEAD-QUARTERS.

THEY HAVE THE LATEST, LARGEST, CHEAPEST AND BEST SELLING HISTORY OF THE REBELLION, and other very popular books, for which they want good agents in all parts of the country.

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, \$1.75 is the lowest Club rate 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 specie-paying banks will not be charged postage on exchange,—and all drafts made 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 to any part of this State, (except Monticello county, where it goes free), and the same to any other Loyal State, if paid quarterly in advance where received.

LOVERS OF FLOWERS, ATTENTION!

Customers Badly Swindled!

Quantrell Conquered by Flowers, and a Nice Home Saved!

MY SEEDS TOO GOOD, AND A LAWSUIT THREATENED!

Read How Customers are Treated by JAMES VICK, of Rochester, New York, and Send for a Fine Catalogue of Fifty Pages, with Twenty-Five Engravings, and One Colored Plate.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM CUSTOMERS.

From SARAH J. GRIFFITH, Batesville, Noble county, Ohio, Sept. 2, 1863:

Your Flower Seeds I got this Summer gave good satisfaction. The five varieties of Plinks were beautiful, and admitted by all.

From WILLIAM LUCAS, Normandy, St. Louis Co., Mo., August 23, 1863:

Be good enough to mail me your next Catalogue as soon as published. The Flower Seeds you sent me this Spring, have turned out beyond all expectation, especially the Asters; they were the admiration of every one.

From MRS. R. Y. SHERMAN, New Hartford, Oneida Co., N. Y., Sept. 4, 1863:

The Asters from the seeds purchased of you last Spring, have been the wonder and admiration of all our acquaintances, far and near. The pleasure we have derived in bestowing the beautiful bouquets made from them on numberless friends, has repaid us fifty fold for most expence and care they cost.

From MRS. DR. FOSTER, Clifton Springs, N. Y., Sept. 2, 1863:

The Aster Seed you sent me when Mr. Foster procured his Vegetable Seeds, have produced flowers so beautiful and perfect in color, size, and every development, that I have to thank you for the great pleasure they afford me hourly, and to say I am sure I could procure you many customers if you would send me some Catalogues.

From GEO. E. JENNINGS, Waupun, Wis., Sept. 18, 1863:

The seeds had of you last Spring proved very satisfactory. My Asters now are splendid. I have them in a quarter inches in diameter.

From W. P. HAVENS, Corning, N. Y., Oct. 11, 1863:

I obtained a package of Double Zinnia seeds of you this Spring, and sowed only a part. I think ever sowed better. A few turned out single and a few semi-double. I had one which produced nearly or quite 20 flowers, some of them as large as a good sized Dahlia.

From B. W. STEERE, Adrian, Mich., Oct. 12, 1863:

The Flower Seeds obtained from you this Spring produced fine results. The Asters took a first premium, and I think the Double Zinnias would, if I could have preserved them from an early frost.

From MRS. MARY E. MORTON, Battle Creek, Michigan, Oct. 17, 1863:

Send me a Seed Catalogue as soon as published in the Spring. My Asters from your seeds were splendid!

From ELIZABETH B. SEELYE, Bethel, Conn., Sept. 21, 1863:

The Double Zinnias I had of you are charming. The flowers are of double. I counted 21 rows of petals on one flower. One plant has borne 100 blossoms. I am impatient to see your new Flower Catalogue.

From MARIEN M. GLENN, Nobletown, Pa., Oct. 18, 1863:

The Flower Seeds I obtained from you last Spring all came up and gave me and others great satisfaction.

From ROBT. J. HARRIS, Cincinnati, O., Oct. 16, 1863:

The Seeds I ordered of you last Spring came safely to hand and gave great satisfaction.

From JANE W. CURTIS, Ira, Rutland Co., Vermont: The Double Zinnias from the seed which I ordered of you last Spring, were splendid.

From MRS. WM. M. HARRISON, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Sept. 19, 1863:

Let me say that your Seeds give universal satisfaction to myself and friends. We have never had any, either Flower or Vegetable Seeds, to equal them.

From MRS. C. G. WOODFORD, Candor, N. Y., Sept. 22, 1863:

The Flower Seeds which I purchased of you in the Spring, and which you called my James' and my boys' are very large and double. They have been in blossom a long time, and are now as pretty as ever.

From CAROLINE F. CHADWICK, Middletown, Conn., Sept. 17, 1863:

The Seeds you sent me this Spring received the admiration of every one. The Zinnias and Asters are most beautiful.

From C. WHITE, Edwardsburgh, C. W., Sept. 23, 1863:

The seeds from you this Spring gave entire satisfaction. From CHARLES T. SIMPSON, Tiskilwa, Bureau Co., Illinois, Sept. 23, 1863:

I bought several packages of Flower Seeds of you this Spring. All grew, and turned out true to name. The Double Zinnias were splendid, and so were the Asters.

From THOMAS BULLOCK, Great Salt Lake City, Utah, Sept. 8, 1863:

The Flower Seeds I obtained of you this Spring produced the most beautiful flowers, and I am much gratified.

From G. B. WHITE, Union Springs, N. Y., Sept. 14, 1863:

I had the pleasure of planting and taking care of the seeds you sent me, through the season. They came up like the wind and have made a good crop. I have had charge of Mrs. J. J. Thomas' flower department, and the seeds you sent him did finely, and made a most magnificent show of flowers.

From MISS L. M. MAYNARD, Greenwich Station, Huron Co., Ohio, Sept. 9, 1863:

I take pleasure in saying that the seeds I ordered of you have richly repaid me for my labor. The Asters are perfect beauties, and are admired by every one who sees them.

From MRS. C. L. MARBETT, Mechanicville, Saratoga Co., N. Y., Nov. 23, 1863:

I was well pleased with seeds you sent me last Spring. From ROYAL E. BARRY, Cambridgeport, Vermont, Dec. 27, 1863:

The collection of Flower Seeds I purchased of you last Spring were very fine. The Asters and Double Zinnias far exceeded my expectation.

From the Summit County Beacon, Ohio: We have for several years procured our seeds from Mr. Vick, and can truly say, that we have found the seeds imported by him more sure to germinate than any others that we have ever used.

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.

SICKNESS ON THE PENINSULA.

Our army before Richmond have suffered greatly from Chills and Fever, as well as Bowel Complaints.

Abbott Publishing Co.'s BOOK AGENT'S HEAD-QUARTERS.

THEY HAVE THE LATEST, LARGEST, CHEAPEST AND BEST SELLING HISTORY OF THE REBELLION, and other very popular books, for which they want good agents in all parts of the country.

Money is plenty, and we guarantee a daily profit of from six to ten dollars. For full particulars, write soon to 730-cowt.

E. G. STORKE, Auburn, N. Y.

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, \$1.75 is the lowest Club rate 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 specie-paying banks will not be charged postage on exchange,—and all drafts made 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 to any part of this State, (except Monticello county, where it goes free), and the same to any other Loyal State, if paid quarterly in advance where received.