

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER

AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE RURAL LIFE EXCELSIOR LITERATURE SCIENCE ARTS NEWS

[TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

[SINGLE NO. FIVE CENTS.

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ROCHESTER, N. Y.—FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1864.

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

CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE.

With a Corps of Able Assistants and Contributors.

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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.



WOOLEN AND COTTON FABRICS.

SHEEP are often spoken of in complimentary terms; Mr. RANDALL has written a book about them with evident sympathy for his subject; painters put them into landscapes, and poets into song; excitable persons make pilgrimages to Vermont, as Mohammedians to Mecca—and yet I compute that sheep are only a trifle more than half appreciated. Those who like them only when they are fat, and well cooked, take a very narrow view of a great subject—those who like them when they can buy in a low and sell in a high market, have a very interested friendship. I wish my friends would go back to first principles and look at sheep from that "stand-point." They will then see that the distinguishing characteristic, the real personality of a sheep, is—wool! Then, having computed our distance from the equator, considered our atmospheric changes, and our constitutional susceptibilities, and remembering what wool and woolen are doing, and can do for us, they would be prepared to receive with reverence and respect the announcement of a "national thanksgiving" for the gracious gift of sheep.

WENDELL PHILLIPS says the devil sowed the cotton seed. I about half believe it, and for other reasons than he assigns. The cheapness of cotton brought it into universal use. Supplanting wool, supplanting linen, it enveloped all, from prince to peasant, from head to foot—our servant and our "king." How it ruled us, is historical—how it served us, let us consider:

First, it is chargeable with false pretences. It has the surface and outside show, when made up, of a garment, but analytically considered, it is more like a sham. Can anybody, by mere sense of feeling, tell the difference in a cold day between a calico dress and no dress at all? Cotton goods have length, as an unmistakable characteristic; they are sold by the yard; they have, or are popularly supposed to have, width, but thickness is not to be reckoned upon! They are a shadowy delusion for filching away cash. If that were all, it could be borne, but they filch away our health. They delude us into the belief that we are dressed, when we are only taking an airing. It is well to take an airing, but it isn't the whole business of life—keeping comfortable may well be superadded. The testimony of a good reliable thermometer ought to be conclusive as to the insufficiency of the light linen and cotton fabrics in this winter weather. To say nothing of grown people, just think of turning unoffending babes and unsophisticated youths loose among the elements with nothing but an attenuated cotton fabric between them and the frosts of a January day! It is sufficiently notorious that the lower limbs, and perhaps the arms of most children, have generally only this sort of protection. Dresses are worn for ceremony—it is bad enough that we

should degenerate into mere form in religion and social intercourse, without immolating our bodies upon that altar.

Every man, woman and child ought to be provided with a good thick pair of woollen pants at the expense of the government, if they cannot afford it themselves. It is a disgrace to the civilization of the age that anybody in this climate attempts to do without them. Hear what Dr. HALL says in his *Journal of Health* respecting woollen garments:

"The healthful clothing for our climate, the year round, is that made of wool. If worn next the skin by all classes, in summer as well as winter, an incalculable amount of coughs, colds, diarrheas, dysenteries and fevers would be prevented by the ability of a woollen garment to keep the natural heat about the body more perfectly, instead of conveying it away as fast as generated, as linen and flaxen garments do; as also cotton and silk, although these are less cooling than Irish linen, as any one can prove by noticing the different degrees of coldness on the application of a surface of six inches square of flannel, cotton and linen to the skin, the moment the clothing is removed. The occasion is, that wool is a bad conductor of heat, and linen is a good conductor. It is more healthful to wear woolen next to the skin in summer, because it absorbs the moisture or perspiration so rapidly as to keep the skin measurably dry all the time. It is curious to notice that the water is conveyed by a woollen garment from the surface of the body to the outer side of the garment, where the microscope shows it condensed in millions of pearly drops; while it is the experience of the observer that if a linen shirt become damp by perspiration, it remains cold and clammy for a long time afterwards; and unless removed, will surely cause some bodily ailment.

"In the night sweats of consumption, or of any debilitated condition of the system, a woollen flannel night-dress is immeasurably more comfortable than cotton or linen, because it prevents that sepulchral dampness and chilliness of feeling which are otherwise inevitable. The British government makes it imperative that every sailor in the navy shall wear woollen flannel shirts in the hottest climate."

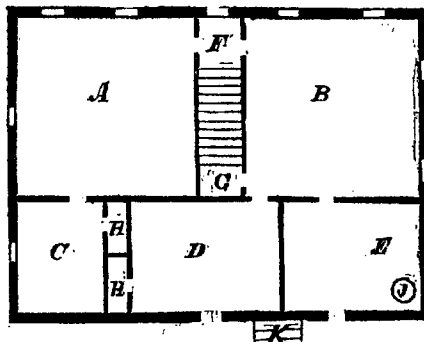
Another celebrated authority says:—"In all seasons of the year, and in all climates, the best material for dress, for old and young, for strong and weak, is woollen. It is the poorest conductor of heat, and therefore secures the most equable temperature. This is the principal object of dress. The superiority of woollen clothing for babes is even greater in July than in January. In the warmest days a single thickness of soft flannel will suffice. But if linen or cotton be worn, the garment is soon moistened by perspiration, and two or three thicknesses are needed to protect the child from the ill effects of a draught. Blacksmiths, glass-blowers, furnacemen, and woolen most useful. Few practices will do so much to secure the comfort and health of young children as dressing them in flannel night and day, the year round."

This being the testimony in favor of woollen, let us seize this auspicious moment, when cotton is scarce, to introduce woollen into more general use. Having introduced it, let us not be tempted, under any circumstances, to return again to those gauzy garments that are spreading the palor of death over youth and age.—H. T. B.

ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION.—"About these days," as the almanacs say, sundry matters require the special and personal attention of farmers. Let us enumerate a few of the indispensable duties. Every farmer who has a family should make proper provision for their physical, intellectual and moral comfort and improvement. Look to the conveniences of your household. Broken windows and crevices are an uncomfortable abomination, and a disgrace to the "man of the house." Repair all breaches which admit the chill monster; and don't forget to follow the reform by the provision and proper preparation of suitable fuel. See that all your domestic animals are cared for—well protected from the storms and cold, and regularly and properly fed. "The merciful man is merciful to his beast;"—it is for his interest to be so, and that ought to be a potent argument. Visit your district school, and see whether the schoolmaster is abroad or at home. Furnish good books and periodicals for the family circle. Go for the Union—attend the annual meeting of your Agricultural Society—and aid with your Presence, Purse and Voice every cause designed to benefit your Family, Community or Country.

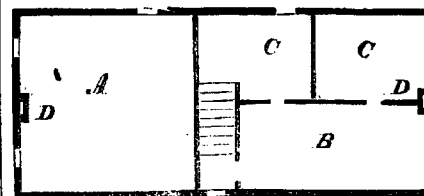
PLANS FOR A CHEAP FARM HOUSE.

IN the RURAL of December 19 we published an inquiry for a "plan for a cheap, plain farm house, with parlor, dining room and kitchen—about two bed rooms and pantry below, and suitable sleeping rooms above." We have received several plans in response, two of which are given below. The first is from Mr. PETER WYKOFF, of Romulus, N. Y. It is the plan of a house built by Mr. W. last summer, at a cost, for mechanical labor and materials, of about \$700. The cost of such a house would be, in different localities, from \$800 to \$800, according to style of finish. Mr. W. says he likes the old-fashioned square house—that in his upright is 16 by 36 feet, and the lean-to 10 by 36. He thinks he can get along in the country without a hall or pantry, and yet have things very convenient. The sills are the whole length—26 by 36—and cellar under the whole. The following is his plan and description:



FIRST FLOOR—26 BY 36 FEET.

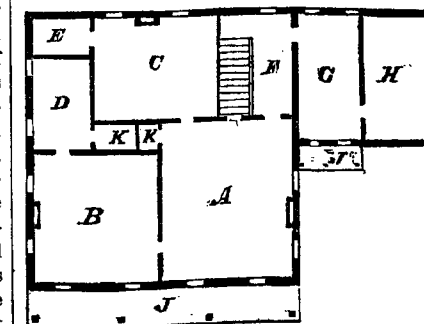
A, Parlor, 16 by 16. B, Dining and Sitting-room, 16 by 16. C, Bed-room, 8 by 10. D, Family Bedroom, 10 by 12. E, Cook-room, 10 by 13. F, Hall, 4 by 5. G, Cellar Door for inside. H, H, Closets for Bed-rooms, 2 by 6. J, Closets in Cellar, (made of field stones two feet thick and cemented inside with water lime.) K, Outside Cellar Stairs.



SECOND FLOOR—16 BY 36.

A, 16 by 16. B, 8 by 16. C, C, 8 by 10. D, D, Chimneys (which start about four feet from floor, leaning.)

The other plan, given below, is furnished by Mr. P. KENT, of Hickory Corners, Mich. Mr. K. says:—"Economy dictates that you build your house as near the square form as can be and secure the rooms and convenience of arrangement desired—because a given length of outside wall in the form of a square incloses more space than the same length of wall in the form of a parallelogram. The accompanying ground plan is a square with equal sides of thirty feet. The wing, in order to carry out the same idea, is 15 feet square. The same plan will do very well if the main building be reduced to 28 feet, and wing to 14 by 16. The kitchen is made purposely small so as to exclude the dining table, &c., but with two outside doors will be as cool to cook, wash, &c., in warm weather, as it can well be—and to avoid heat in summer is purposely put outside of main building. Open fire places are marked, and I would not dispense with them, except, perhaps, in the parlor. No hall is allowed."



GROUND PLAN OF FARM HOUSE.

A, Dining-rooms, 15 by 18. B, Parlor, 15 by 15. C, Bed-room, 12 by 13. D, Bed-room, 8 by 10. E, Clothes Press, 5 by 8. F, Pantry, 6 by 12. G, Kitchen, 7 1/2 by 15. H, Wood-house, 7 1/2 by 15. K, K, Clothes Press. J, J, Veranda. Chamber Stairs from Dining-room. Cellar Stairs from Pantry.



EDITED BY HENRY S. RANDALL, LL. D.

IN-AND-IN BREEDING OF ANIMALS.

DEAR SIR:—In compliance with your request for my views on the close breeding of animals as a tendency toward their improvement in desirable qualities and characteristics, I propose to give a few hints and suggestions; but as the time and opportunity which I can give to the subject are restricted, I must confine myself to few points, and treat even them as 'concisely as possible, however inconclusive they may be.

In-and-in breeding, with stock breeders and physiologists, means the union of animals of whatever kind, which are closely related in blood, as father to daughter, or grand-daughter; son to mother, or grand-mother; brother to sister, &c., &c., in any and every possible manner of blood relation, and which, if applied to the human family, would appear most incestuous and revolting. I state the matter in its most forbidding sense to those whose ideas and opinions have run in an opposite direction, and from them shall probably receive in reply, the adage, "Cousins' children are always fools," with additions from the old Mosaic law, as little applicable to the domestic government of mankind in the present day as other Mosaic requirements now counted as the height of absurdity and folly.

To understand the subject in its proper bearings, it may be as well to remark at the threshold, that in the manner I propose to treat the subject, there is scarcely a parallel between the human family and the brute creation. Mankind have mind, sympathies, affections, emotions, passions, prejudices, partialities, loves, hatreds, associations, any of which influence, either in conception or in the course of gestation, in a greater or less degree, the constitution, mind, habit and characteristics of their offspring. These mental qualities can not in any, or but in the remotest degree, influence the young of the brute creation, as they do not exist in the latter, or if so, in degrees relating to their instincts rather than to thought or reflection.

Yet, as the human family has been named in this connection, it may not be out of place to remark that, on proper conditions, the interbreeding of relatives no closer than cousins, has not resulted in those calamitous consequences so readily condemned by the ignorant and popular adage alluded to. Certain diseases, or peculiarities of mind are hereditary, as insanity, monomania, &c. So, also, are constitutional and chronic diseases, and tendencies to disease in the body, as scrofula, consumption, nervous affections, deafness, blindness, rheumatism, or any other infirmity appertaining to physical imperfection. If two persons intermarry, each having any of these diseases or imperfections, no matter if they came from opposite sides of the globe, the chances are that their progeny will have them also by direct inheritance from one or other, or both parents. If relatives intermarry under like disabilities, their offspring will be subjected to the same infirmities, though, perhaps, intensified by the sameness of association and blood in their parents. Whereas, if the parents be sound in health, both of mind and body, there is no natural law that shall make children of relatives either imbecile, idiotic, or physically defective. To state a case very broadly:—If a brother and sister, born of sound parents could be separated to distant localities in infancy, having no knowledge of each other, and when at proper age should, in the common course of such things, intermarry, supposing themselves to be strangers in blood, their children would be like other children in their faculties, both of body and mind. There can be no physiological reason why they should be otherwise; and all the "tables" and "reports" drawn from idiot and lunatic asylums and hospitals, showing the deteriorating effects of relative intermarriages, will, if examined, probably result in the fact that the parents of the unfortunates possessed, in degree, more or less, those disorders, or diseases, or tendencies to them, which, by their mutual connection, became intensified and developed in their offspring.

The genealogy of God's chosen people, the

Israelites, is full of close intermarriages. ISAAC, son of ABRAHAM, married his cousin REBEKAH. JACOB, son of ISAAC and REBEKAH, married his cousin RACHEL, and of the twelve sons of JACOB (JOSEPH and BENJAMIN only, sons of RACHEL) more or less of them, intermarried with close relations. MOAB and AMMON, founders of powerful tribes, were sons of the incestuous connection of LOT with his two daughters. Aside from these, numerous instances of illustrious men and women of ancient civilized history, trace their origin to what, under our present laws, would be rank incest, yet not so considered by Greek or Roman law-givers. In modern times, the history of the present reigning family of England is a succession of cousin-marriages for several generations, as well as of the same practice for many generations previous in their German homes. The Third GEORGE of England, married his German own cousin CHARLOTTE, who bore him thirteen stout, healthy sons and daughters, of quite average mind and capacity. (The Fourth GEORGE married his German cousin CAROLINE, from whom descended "the Princess CHARLOTTE," first wife of LEOPOLD, her own cousin, now King of Belgium—a Princess of rich promise—and had she lived, would have been Queen of Britain. EDWARD, Duke of Kent, and fourth son of GEORGE III, married one of his German cousins, and from that marriage came VICTORIA, the present Queen. She married her first cousin—German also—ALBERT, late Prince Consort, and their family of eight children, show, in appearance and promise, no deteriorating effects of intermarriage in their ancestry. These instances are not given as advocating such intermarriages, but to contradict, under favorable conditions, the illusion so commonly entertained of the results of marriage with blood relatives. It may be said, however, to the advantage of these Royal marriages, that they were born and educated in different countries, and their early associations were not intimate.

I do not at all recommend the intermarriage of blood relatives. For the promotion of the widest intelligence, and a continuous improvement in the human race, both mentally and physically, it is perhaps more conducive to those attainments that marriages be with strange blood, and diverse habits and educations, rather than among close neighborhoods with like habits, education and associations, even if unallied in family blood. But this episode may as well be wound up with the remark that "love or inclination will go where it listeth," and all rule or advice on such subjects is usually as futile as the human heart is wayward or capricious. The various brute animals are endowed only, beyond their own individual physical properties, with *instinct*, and such development of brain as enable them, by education and subjection to the use of mankind, to carry out in the highest degree of which their natures are capable, the original design of their creation. Their normal appetites are, the procurement of food sufficient to support life, and the begetting of offspring, with the addition, on the part of the females, and in some instances, the male parent, of a disposition to provide for their young until capable of shifting for themselves. That qualities, indicating more or less of mind among certain animals exist, need not here be discussed—it is admitted; but they have nothing to do with the present purpose. Domestic animals are gregarious. Excepting some of the feathered tribes, family relations do not exist with them. Indiscriminate sexual intercourse in the propagation of their kind is the rule, as well as law of their natures; and in the development of their best and most profitable use, we have only to take advantage of their capacities for improvement to perfection, if possible. Oblivious as they are to ties of consanguinity or blood relation, it matters nothing to them, so that their sexual appetites be gratified. All that we have to do is to make the proper selections of male and female, irrespective of blood relation, and finding the qualities in them we wish to cultivate and perpetuate, put them together, and the progeny is quite sure to meet our expectations.

It is not here proposed to go into a dissertation on the principles of breeding generally; it is simply of *in-and-in breeding*; and for this a few rules and suggestions may be asserted. In the first place, the breeder must know exactly what qualities he wants in the animal sought to be bred. In the next place, he must procure the animals, male and female, possessing those qualities in the greatest possible degree; and then,

at the proper times and seasons, and under the most favorable conditions of food, shelter, treatment and general care, couple them together.

That accidents or anomalies will sometimes occur in the production of offspring, however bred, is certain.

Let us consult history as to the matter of in-and-in breeding, so far as we are enabled to arrive at results.

The English blood horse, in his finest developments of speed, power and endurance, has sprung from very close interbreeding.

brought their flocks to the perfection and reputation they enjoyed by close breeding.

But, after all, neophytes and ignoramuses had better not "play with edge-tools."

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 5.

OUR party reached here last night, and owing to the detentions occasioned by the "great storm" did not have the expected opportunity of visiting some of the Ohio Sheep Establishments on the route to this place.

The first resolution called out a highly spirited debate, in which speakers of every kind took part.

In the evening, Col. NEEDHAM, of Vermont, delivered an address in respect to the success of the American articles presented at the International Exhibition at Hamburg.

[We failed to receive the official proceedings of the Convention in time to give even a synopsis in this number, but shall probably be able to do so in our next.—Ed.]

Communications, Etc.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVENIENCES.

A SHEEP AND GRAIN BARN.

HAVING the past season built a sheep and grain barn combined, with some improvements over the style that was in vogue forty years ago, we will endeavor to show to those that appreciate conveniences, some of the important improvements.

It is 35 by 45, with 16 feet posts, situated on a slight side hill, with a solid stone wall six and a half feet high, except the south, or yard side, which is inclosed with boards; and here are two large hoisting doors, some fifteen feet apart, each eight feet wide, and seven high.

If you keep all kinds of stock in one yard, as we are obliged to do, it is very convenient to leave the door just high enough to allow the sheep to pass in and out at pleasure.

The feeding racks form a partition on the north and east sides, some six feet from the wall. At the north-east corner are the stairs which ascend to the second floor, which is 18 by 35 feet.

The next we come to is the granary, which is like most granaries, except it is proof against mice and rats, is lighted by a full-sized window, and the front of each bin can be taken out of the slides if necessary.

The main floor is lighted by two full-sized south windows; there is also a window in each gable end, which can be raised by means of a cord running to the peak through a pulley attached there, then down the rafter to the plate to another pulley, then along the plate to post to another pulley, then down the post to the floor, where it is attached to a pin, which holds the window where desired.

Last, though not least, come the large door fastenings. We call it the "Top and Bottom Lever Fastener," and will try to tell you how to make it.

G. B. JOHNSON.

Near Brewerton, Onondaga Co., Jan. 7, 1864.

A PULLING HORSE CURED.

In good old times when brick ovens were in fashion, my uncle had a goodly pile of oven

wood near his shed door. A mischievous cousin brought the horse and hitched him to one of the shed posts, directly in front of said pile of wood.

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Rural Notes and Items.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We are under special obligations to many former and quite a number of new correspondents for valuable contributions.

Anonymous correspondents are again informed that our rule is to pay no attention to articles unaccompanied by the real names of the writers.

Another thing. We almost daily receive propositions from writers who wish engagements as paid contributors.

One thing more. We receive many articles, in both prose and poetry, of a local character, which we cannot consistently publish.

THE GREAT STORM AT THE WEST.—Many of our letters from the West contain remarks concerning the recent great storm and extreme cold.

It seems that our Western Aid, Mr. BRADGON, had more than a slight experience during the storm.

THE CHEESE MANUFACTURERS' CONVENTION.—A large and intelligent assembly of the elite of the representatives and friends of the Cheese Factory System, representing nearly all the great establishments in that line now in operation in this State, met in Convention at Rome, Oneida Co., last week.

THE WHITE WILLOW.—A wide-awake correspondent at Crestline, Ohio, writes:—"The white willow man has been around and sold cuttings to more than one."

Inquiries and Answers.

HIGLEY'S CORN-SHELLER.—Would like to know if Higley's Champion Corn-Sheller, patented March 17, 1863, is on sale in Rochester.

"The Champion Corn-Sheller" was advertised in the RURAL some weeks ago as for sale by FELLOWS & CO., of Rochester, and we presume they are prepared to fill orders.

CULTURE OF MADDER.—The RURAL has come to my house regularly for years past. I do not call to mind any article in it on the subject of Madder growing.

CEMENT PIPE.—(L. W. L., Little Genesee, N. Y.) Water has been successfully carried under greater heads than fifteen feet, and may be carried across streams, if the water can be turned aside long enough for it to set.

VALUE OF MILK.—(A Subscriber, Florence.) It is generally estimated that at the average value of butter, milk at 2 cents per quart pays the best.

FOR ANSWER to your question about measuring hay see the rule given in our issue of the 2d inst.

WINTER BUTTER-MAKING.—(G. G., Hillsdale, N. Y.) One of the secrets of the butter-making business is the proper temperature, which must be 60 to 62 degrees Fah., without which it is no use to talk or churn either.

MOCKING BIRD.—(H. C., Guilford.) The true mocking bird (Turdus polyglottus) requires nearly the same food as a robin—all kinds of insects, worms and grasshoppers in their season.

PEMVICAN.—(S. M. S. & M. H., Lawrenceville, Tioga Co., Pa.) The article you inquire about is called Pemvican, and is made by pulverizing lean meats and mixing with fat, and condensing into a small compass.

FOR SHEEP poisoned by eating the broad-leaved Laurel, a strong decoction of the twigs of ash with milk and molasses is recommended.

Tobacco Seed.—(A. M. M., Lewiston, N. Y.) There is considerable excitement on the subject of raising this vile weed just now, but we think it a crop easily overdone, as our climate will not produce an article that can be used for any other purpose than wrappers for cigars.

Lime as a Manure, Grubs, &c.—(A. B., Alps, Rensselaer Co., N. Y.) Lime is an inert substance, not materially affecting the vegetable plant.

The hop delights in strong nitrogenous manures—fish, woolen rags, bones and horn shavings.

The grub is a pest that defies the art of man. If it is the large white grub, the larvae of the May bug (Melolontha), they remain in the earth from three to five years before attaining the insect transformation and are very destructive.

Agricultural Societies.

THIS ANNUAL MEETING OF THE N. Y. STATE AG. SOCIETY is to be held in the Capitol, at Albany, on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1864.

LIVINGSTON Co. AG. SOCIETY.—At the annual meeting of this Society, held on the 6th inst., the officers of last year were re-elected as follows: President—Hon. CHARLES H. CARROLL.

CATTARAUGUS Co. AG. SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this Society was held at Ellicottville, on the 2d inst., and the following gentlemen elected officers for 1864: President—SAMUEL W. JOHNSON.

SKANEATELES FARMERS' CLUB.—At the annual meeting of this Society, held on the 2d inst., the following named officers were elected for the ensuing year: President—DOR. AUSTIN.

THE VIENNA AG. SOCIETY elected the following officers for 1864: President—D. G. VAN ZANDT.

Horticultural.

THE NURSERY BUSINESS OF ROCHESTER.

BY D. W. RAY.

The reputation of Rochester as a city of Nurseries, and of Monroe county as the garden county of the State, has become national, yet few people are aware of the magnitude and extent of the nursery business, and the vast amount of capital invested in this city and county in carrying on this gigantic branch of trade. It employs a capital that can only be estimated by millions, and the amount is increasing year by year. It is little more than a quarter of a century since the trade commenced, and from small beginnings it has grown to magnificent proportions, so that the aggregate yearly sales of trees and plants from this city and vicinity now reach from one to two millions of dollars.

The commencement of the trade was with apple trees, upon the old system of stump grafting. This system has given way before the march of improvement, and in later years the seedlings which have been raised by the million have been grafted in the root. By this system a single root can be divided into sections and used for two or three scions, and their liability to thrive and do well is vastly increased. Soon after, a demand sprang up for other varieties of fruit, and the cultivation of cherry, pear, plum, and peach trees was added, until now our nurserymen cultivate trees and plants of every variety of fruit that will thrive in a temperate climate. For the past ten or fifteen years new and finer varieties of all kinds of fruit have been introduced from seedlings, and the importation of plants from France and England, until now this country can boast of as extensive and valuable lists of fruit as the world affords.

DEMAND FOR NURSERY PRODUCTS.

There has been a steady and rapid demand for nursery productions which has reached the remotest sections of the country. As the trade enlarged and expanded, the nurserymen here were obliged to add to the cultivation of fruit trees all kinds of ornamental trees, flowering plants, shrubs, evergreens, etc., and they are now grown in endless variety. To the cultivation of trees has also been added green-house productions of every description, including all kinds of rare exotic flowers, which have been gathered from every quarter of the globe. The green-houses of this city will exceed in extent and quantity of production anything of the kind in the country. The system of dwarfing trees, so that an extensive variety of fruits could be grown even in small gardens, has done much to add to and extend the nursery business.

By this system of culture the possessors of even the smallest garden could cultivate dwarf apples, pears and cherries, thus producing fruit early and not shading the ground so as to prevent cultivation. About ten years since the demand for these dwarf trees was so great that the nurserymen here could not supply it, and many thousands of the trees were imported directly from Europe to supply the requirements of the trade. Now they are grown in sufficient quantity to meet the demand.

WHERE THE TREES ARE SOLD.

In former times, trees from this city were shipped extensively to California, and as far east as Nova Scotia—40,000 apple trees were shipped in one season a few years since from here to Nova Scotia. Kansas received her first supply of trees from our nurseries. They have been sold as far south as Texas, and are now distributed throughout the entire North.

Previous to the breaking out of the rebellion, the South afforded an extensive market for Rochester trees, and the indefatigable agents from our leading nurseries found their way to almost every portion of the so-called Confederacy that could be reached by steamboat or railroad. This trade ceased at the commencement of the war, and some of the dealers lost heavily by their Southern customers. For the first year the war had a disastrous effect upon this business, but the trade is looking up, and last autumn it was nearly as large as ever. Our Canadian neighbors have been, and are still, good customers for trees and plants, and thousands of dollars worth find their way across the border annually. Our Nurserymen also receive large orders for trees and plants from New York city and vicinity, to adorn and beautify the many palatial country seats around the great metropolises.

It is estimated that there are from five to eight thousand acres of land in this county devoted exclusively to the culture of trees and plants, and no soil on the American continent seems to be better adapted to their growth and culture than the Valley of the Genesee. Trees planted in it grow strongly and vigorously, with plenty of fibrous roots, enabling them to be transplanted with safety to any portion of the country.

METHOD OF GROWING TREES.

The apple seedlings are grown about a foot apart, in rows with space between wide enough for a horse cultivator to pass through, to keep the ground free from weeds. To do well, the seeds should be planted in deep, rich, mellow soil. At the end of two years the roots are large enough to graft. The seedlings are taken up in the autumn and packed in sand, in cellars secure from frost, ready for grafting. This operation is usually performed in the winter when other nursery operations can not be carried on. An expert hand will set from 1,500 to 1,800 scions per day. After the grafting is completed the embryo trees are again packed in moist sand in boxes, where they are allowed to remain until early spring when they are transplanted into the nursery rows. Some nursery firms graft from 200,000 to 500,000 of these seedlings annually. Next to apples, pears are most

largely cultivated by the nurserymen. They are also grown from seeds in the same manner as apples, and then transplanted to the nursery rows. Standard pears are budded. This operation is performed the latter part of July, while the young and tender bark peels easily, and the sap is in full flow. Dwarf pear trees are budded upon the Angers quince stock, which seems to be far preferable for this purpose to our native quince. These were formerly imported direct from France. They are now grown from cuttings and layers. Dwarf and standard pear trees are ready for market at two or three years from the bud. Cherries, plums, peaches and apricots are all grown from the pits, and budded with the leading varieties of these kinds of fruits.

OUR LEADING NURSERYMEN.

Among the Nurserymen here, the firm of ELLWANGER & BARRY take the lead. In fact, they are the largest Nurserymen in the United States, and their trade amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. They commenced business in a small way, and by giving it their personal attention, added to shrewd, careful management, they have reached an enviable position among the business men of the city. Both have built palatial residences, and they conduct their business with a wise liberality that insures its success. They have about 500 to 600 acres of ground covered with every kind of fruit and ornamental tree. They employ a small army of men. Their trees are finely grown, and are sold over a wide range of territory. Their nurseries are located near Mount Hope, and are visited annually by thousands of people.

FROST & CO., of the Genesee Valley Nursery, have also a large nursery, embracing between three and four hundred acres. They do an extensive business, and ship trees to Canada and every portion of the United States. This firm employ a large force, and rank high among the nurserymen of the country.

We give below a list of the principal Nurserymen of Rochester and vicinity, and the number of acres they are reputed to have under cultivation for the growth of nursery trees and stocks:

- Samuel Moulton, 250 to 300 acres; C. J. Ryan & Co., 200 to 250 acres; Hooker, Farley & Co., Brighton, 200 acres; T. B. Yale & Co., Brighton, 200 acres; W. M. Hoyt, Brighton, 150 acres; Gould, Beckwith & Co., Brighton, 150 acres; Moore Brothers, Brighton, 150 acres; H. E. Hooker & Co., 130 acres; Robert Donnelly & Brother, Greece, 100 acres; C. S. Mills & Co., 100 acres; Fellows & Co., Penfield, 80 to 100 acres; S. Boardman, Brighton, 75 acres; Wright & Davis, Irondequoit, 75 acres; Foster Hoyt, — acres; Howe & Lewis, Brighton, 75 acres; D. McCarthy & Co., Brighton, 75 acres; G. G. McKinstler, Irondequoit, 75 acres; C. W. Seelye, Central Nurseries, 75 acres; Thomas Hayward, Pittsford, 50 to 75 acres; Fish & Bro., Gates, 40 to 50 acres; A. C. Wheeler, Brighton, 50 acres; J. B. Norris, Brighton, 40 to 50 acres; Salter & Anthony, 40 to 50 acres; Dryer, Nash & Co., 50 acres; S. B. Kelly, Brighton, 35 acres; B. W. Fassett, Brighton, 25 acres; B. Millard, Pittsford, — acres; Lyons & Fisk, — acres; Huntington & Co., 25 to 30 acres; Asa Anthony, Gates, 25 acres; J. Wentz, Brighton, 15 to 20 acres; Wm. King, 10 acres; Brooks & Co., 10 acres; Geo. Cooper, Irondequoit, 10 acres; C. F. Crosman, 10 acres.

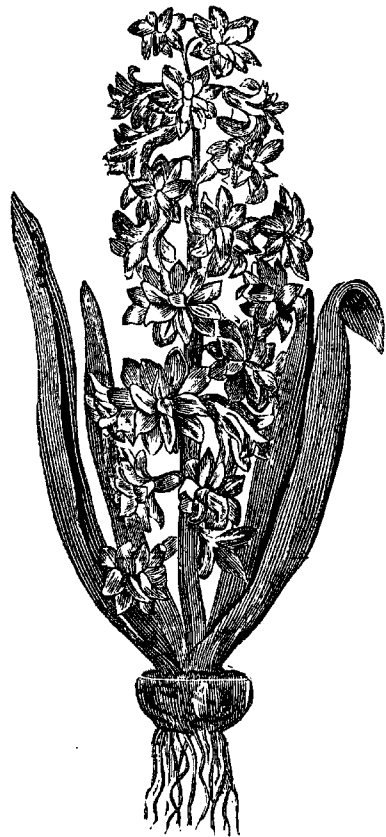
In addition to the above, there are a large number of smaller nurserymen, whose names we are not familiar with, and probably some larger ones whose names have escaped our memory. Suffice it to say, the nursery business in this county is yet in its infancy, and is destined to reach still greater proportions. It already affords employment not only for a vast amount of capital, but to a large number of laborers, and has been the means of adding largely to the material wealth and prosperity of our people. It has adorned and beautified our pleasant city, making it one of the finest in the State. It has fostered among our people a love of the beautiful, added to their material wealth, and led many to adorn and beautify their houses, which always increases and intensifies the love of country and patriotism of a people. It has educated the people to a higher standard of refinement and taste, and its benefits and blessings have been countless and beyond measure. May this business, which has been the means of doing so much good, long continue to prosper.

THE HYACINTH.

THE HYACINTH is a universal favorite. It commends itself to all by its early season of flowering in the spring, by the beauty and sweetness of its flowers, and by the ease with which it may be grown, either in the garden, green-house, or in the living-room window. There is one thing about it, however, which cultivators understand, and that is, that while good, freshly imported Dutch Bulbs will produce one good season's bloom, they will rarely do more, and that the propagation of this Bulb is to this day confined to a limited tract of country in Holland. Why is this? It evidently must be either that the soil of the Dutch growers, or the culture, or both, are different from ours. The following article on the subject, from the London *Gardeners' Chronicle*, will be found instructive:

THE BULB FARMS OF HAARLEM have been sending us, during the last few weeks, their annual consignments of Hyacinths, on which we depend so much for the decoration of our windows, green-houses, and gardens in the early portion of the year. Holland appears peculiarly well adapted for the production of such plants. Her moist air, sandy soil, and the water which is always met with standing a few feet below the surface of the ground, would seem to fur-

nish the most favorable conditions for their cultivation, and until such conditions are met with in other countries, she is likely to remain without a rival in the market for such things. We buy them yearly of her; they bloom with us in perfection the first season, but are afterwards thought worthless, and, in most instances, they are thrown to the rubbish heap. All those millions of Hyacinth bulbs which crowd or have crowded our seedsmen's shops and auction rooms, will have disappeared by this time next year, and their places will be filled by another importation direct from Holland. And so we go on year after year; the bulbs are reared in the sandy plains about Haarlem, where they form and lay up in store a stock of organic matter which enables them to bloom well one year at least after they are sent over to England, and then they dwindle away, degenerate, and die.



Is this result to be attributed to climate and soil, or to our mode of cultivation and general treatment of the bulbs? Is it possible, or probable, that the day may arrive when we shall be able to cultivate the Hyacinth as successfully as our Dutch friends do now, and keep it in health and vigor for a number of years instead of one only? We fully concur in the opinion that soil and climate are somewhat in favor of those who dwell in the vicinity of Haarlem; and further, that it will always be more satisfactory for us to import our annual supplies of fresh bulbs than to attempt to grow them ourselves.

But having admitted thus much, we, as good gardeners, ought not to consider such disadvantages insurmountable. With a little extra expense and care it is not impossible to preserve the Hyacinth in health and vigor, and thus enable it to grow and bloom with us for many successive years. Let us endeavor, therefore, to direct attention to the system of cultivation which is practiced in Holland with such successful results.

In the first place, the natural soil about Haarlem is composed chiefly of sand and decaying shell, which has been thrown up in former times by the ocean. It also contains a portion of vegetable matter, and is enriched annually by a liberal supply of cow-dung—the only kind of manure which is used. The land which is to be planted with the bulbs is trenched two or three feet deep in spring, and manured at the same time. But it is not yet in a fit condition for the reception of the Hyacinth. And mark, particularly, the next preparatory operation. *A crop of vegetables, generally potatoes, is taken off in order to draw out any rankness or impurities which might prove injurious to the Hyacinth.* This being done during the spring and summer months, the land is ready for the reception of the bulbs in autumn, which is the proper season to plant them. Nor is this all; a careful system of rotation in cropping is also observed, so that these bulbs are rarely, if ever, grown on the same land two years in succession.

When planted, in October, the bulbs are covered over with three or four inches of soil, and are further protected during the winter months with a layer of reeds, some five or six inches in thickness. And now the process of growth immediately begins, and in a way to which we beg to draw particular attention. It is the roots only that grow. They strike deep down into the earth in search of nourishment, while the stem remains, all but inactive, patiently waiting for the time when the roots shall be in a position to supply all its requirements. And thus it happens that when the spring comes round, and when the bulb begins to grow, as we say, a sufficient supply of nourishment is readily and abundantly supplied.

Another point which the Dutch cultivator considers of great importance, is the careful preservation and full development of the leaves. Any disease in the leaves is rapidly communicated to the bulb, and hence every precaution is used to keep them in health and vigor. The flower stems themselves are usually removed before they are in full bloom, not with the view, as is sometimes supposed, of strengthening the bulbs, but in order to prevent the heavy flower heads from falling upon and rotting the leaves. Huge heaps of Hyacinth blooms may be seen laid up in the corners of all the fields about Haarlem in the month of April, having been cut to prevent the chance of such a thing taking place. The Hyacinth would appear to be very

liable to become diseased, and hence every precaution is taken by the Dutch cultivator to remove any predisposing cause, whether that be in the composition of the soil or in any injury that may happen to the leaves.

These, then, would appear to be the principal reasons which account for the success which attends the cultivation of the Hyacinth in Holland. That our gardeners, were they to try, might be as successful as the Dutch, we have little doubt, but whether such success would be worth their while, or whether "it would pay," is quite another matter. All that we have in view is to point out the cause of this success, namely, a mode of management founded on a knowledge of the laws of vegetable physiology, and on the peculiar nature and habits of the Hyacinth.

In the above remarks we have drawn especial notice to the manner in which the growth of the Hyacinth commences; how the roots are formed during the autumn and winter, ready to supply nourishment to the leaves as they are put forth in the spring. This circumstance will explain, at a glance, the kind treatment which should be given to Hyacinths when they are grown in glasses, or vases, in water, for the decoration of our windows or sitting rooms. At this season of the year, when our fair readers, in particular, are engaged in this kind of Hyacinth culture, we cannot do better than repeat the advice which we have often given, namely, "keep your bulbs in a dark place until they have formed a good supply of roots to nourish and support the coming leaves and flowers."

Horticultural Notes.

THE FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF UPPER CANADA is to hold its next Annual Meeting at the Mechanics' Institute, Hamilton, on Wednesday, the 20th day of January, 1864, at 2 o'clock P. M.

DEATH OF DAVID HAGERSTON.—We record, says the *Magazine of Horticulture*, with deep regret, the death of Mr. HAGERSTON, in his 62d year, which occurred at his residence at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Friday, November 6th, one of the most skillful and practical gardeners of the old school, who has filled many situations of great responsibility, and done as much, if not more, to develop a taste for plants and fruits in our vicinity, than any other gardener of his time. An early acquaintance with Mr. H., when he was proprietor of the Charleston Vineyard, which he carried on for some time, enabled us to know him well; and during a period of more than thirty years he has been devoted to the true interests of gardening. As a member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, he has served on various committees, and filled the office of Chairman of the Flower Committee for three or four years, to the entire satisfaction of every member. It has been our good fortune to act with him at various times, and we do no more than justice when we say, that to his good judgment and sound advice the Society is indebted for the success of many of its exhibitions. Mr. HAGERSTON was a thorough gardener, well versed in every branch, and a man of much intelligence. The arduous duties of his recent position, Superintendent of Mt. Hope Cemetery, prevented him from taking the active part in horticultural matters which he formerly did, and his absence has been much regretted. Kind and generous to a fault, he leaves a void in a large circle of friends who knew his worth.

Inquiries and Answers.

LIST OF NURSERYMEN.—A. C. LINDS, N. Y., asks us if there is a complete list of Nurserymen in the United States in print. We know of none that is accurate or of recent publication. Lists were published some three years ago, but we know of none now extant that is reliable.

BEST LOCALITIES FOR GRAPE CULTURE.—May I ask of you the favor to give me your opinion of the best localities for the culture of grapes in the United States, and profitable culture of grapes—where they are, and to which you would give the preference? And then, in the second place, and as a distinct question, where, in your judgment, is the best locality, both in reference to grapes and climate, for the health of one who has been prostrated in strength by southern fevers, sedentary life and irritation of the bronchia or lungs, or both, and is at present lacking in strength, nervous or otherwise, and affected with catarrhal tendencies. A climate that will invigorate the system generally, particularly the digestive functions, and at the same time not tend to provoke catarrhal irritation, is the one desired for a permanent residence. Have we a good wine grape in our country which would produce wine that would compete successfully with foreign wine? Will the Catawba grape answer this description? A grape that will be desirable for table use and also for purposes of wine manufacture, I think, be an article to be sought after—or a region of country where the two kinds could be well grown—one adapted favorably for table use and another more particularly for wine. In this case, when the one purpose or kind may prove unprofitable for any reason, the other might be available to supply the deficiency. Is there any Wine Growers' Association of which you know which presents favorable inducements, and with which it may be to my advantage to become connected and interested?

I am told that the vine is being cultivated near the sea shore of southern New Jersey, at Absecon and vicinity. Would you think it could be cultivated to advantage, and with permanent success in such a locality? —FRANCIS G. CUMMINGS, Philadelphia, Pa.

There are only a few localities in the United States where grape culture for wine making has made any considerable progress. These are—1st, A district of country in Ohio and Kentucky around the city of Cincinnati. 2d, Kelly's Island in Lake Erie, on the northern shore of Ohio. 3d, Hermann, in Missouri, on the Missouri river some eighty miles west of St. Louis. 4th, Hammondsport, at the head of Crooked Lake, Steuben Co., N. Y. There may be others that are unknown to us.

The Catawba, we believe, is the principal wine grape of all these localities, except, perhaps, Hermann, where we understand the Norton's Virginia, or some other varieties are preferred. Many other sorts are now being tested as to their fitness for wine making; among these are the Delaware and Concord, which seem to enjoy the greatest prominence. We understand that in Northern Ohio the grape promises to be a profitable object of culture, both for table and wine, and the climate, we think, is something like what our correspondent is seeking. In Western New York the grape is extensively planted, chiefly Isabella, Concord and Delaware for the table, and the experience thus far is highly favorable on the score of profit. The climate is healthy and invigorating, but whether it would suit a constitution such as that of our correspondent we will not venture an opinion.

There is a Wine Growers' Association at Cincinnati, which may be addressed through Dr. JNO. A. WARDER. There is one at Hermann, we think, that may be reached through Mr. GEO. HUBERMAN, and one at Hammondsport, New York; Mr. WEBER, we believe is the manager. We have no information at hand as to Southern New Jersey.

Domestic Economy.

SOUP, CAKE, PUDDING.

MESSERS. EDS.:—I want to do something for the RURAL, so I send a few recipes, as they may interest some:

CABBAGE SOUP.—Take one head of cabbage, chop it fine, put on it about two quarts of water, boil about two hours, then add milk or cream, and season to your taste.

CURRENT CAKE.—Take 1/2 pound cleaned and dried currants; 1/2 pound sifted flour; 1/2 pound butter; 2 yolks & 3 whites of eggs; both well beaten separately. Beat the butter to a cream, add the sugar, (1 lb.) then the eggs and flour, and beat them well for twenty minutes. Mix in the currants and bake as nice as you can.

PLUM PUDDING.—Will some RURAL reader please inform me, through its columns, the best method of making a tip-top plum pudding, and oblige,
YOUNG HOUSEKEEPER,
Trenton, Wis., 1864.

CHAPPED HANDS.

THE discomfort and annoyance of chapped hands is very great, and might be avoided if people would take proper care in drying their hands after washing them. Cold cream is a very good remedy for this and other cutaneous irritations, and the following recipe will enable any one to prepare it where the article cannot be procured at the shops:—Melt together in a water bath (that is, a vessel immersed in boiling water, like a carpenter's glue-pot) eight ounces of fine neat's-foot oil or almond oil, three ounces of spermaceti, and one and a half ounces of white wax; when thoroughly melted pour the whole into a pan, which, in winter, must be kept very warm by the fire; then, with a clean, flat stick, beat the mass continually until it is uniform in body; pour in half a pint of rose or orange-flower water, and one-fourth of an ounce of spirit of bergamot, or any other perfume desired; then beat rapidly again until the whole of the water and spirit is taken up by the unctuous portions. If made in winter, all the materials must be warmed as mixed, or the mass will be lumpy. Lard or sweet oil may be substituted for the almond oil. If care is observed, the mass will be as white as snow.—Sci. Am.

GOOD VINEGAR.—Noticing an inquiry in the RURAL how to make good vinegar, I have a recipe which I have tried and know to be good, and which is as follows:—Good vinegar may be made by adding three quarts of molasses to eight gallons of clear rain water, the same put into a good cask and well shook up a few times. Then put in two or three spoonfuls of good yeast, or two yeast cakes. Place the cask, if in summer, out-doors, at the warmest side of the house; but if in cold weather, near the chimney, where it may be kept warm. In ten or fifteen days place in the liquor a sheet of brown paper, torn into strips, dipped into molasses, and good vinegar will be produced. This is cheap.—MRS. B. M. SMITH, Moffitt's Store, Col. Co., N. Y., 1864.

PRESERVING CIDER.—As I have seen in two or three late numbers of the RURAL an inquiry and recipes for preserving cider, I will give one, which I believe to be far superior to any that I have seen. In the first place, I get the best cider I can, new, and let it stand about twenty-four hours. Then rack it off into another barrel, and let it stand three or four days; rack again, and let it be until it gets worked sufficiently, or to suit the taste. Then put in 1 1/2 lbs. of horse-radish (pounded middling fine) to the 32 gallons of cider. Bung up, and in winter you will have a splendid beverage. I had some fixed in this way last winter, and it was the best I ever saw.—WM. D. CLARK, JR., Albion, N. Y.

RECIPE FOR SAUSAGES.—As I have for a long time been a reader of the RURAL, and found many valuable recipes in the same, I thought I would contribute one which many of us have tried and know to be good:—Ten lbs. meat; 2 oz. salt; 1 oz. pepper,—sage and other seasoning to suit the taste.—MRS. H. HOWELL, Rushville, Yates Co., N. Y.

REMOVING IRON RUST.—Somebody's wife asks how to take iron rust out, and I will give my way. I choose the warmest and sunniest day, and dip the spot in lemon juice, then dry in the sun. I have always succeeded thus without damaging the article. Some dilute oil vitriol, but as that is injurious, I have never tried it.—MARY, Port Byron, N. Y., 1864.

GOOD CORN BREAD.—Take one coffee cup of sweet milk, and the same of sour cream; half a cup of sugar and one teaspoonful of saleratus; two eggs and half a cup of wheat flour. Thicken to a stiff batter, and bake one hour and a half with a slow fire.—LIBBIE.

THE small white sago, called pearl sago, is the best. The large brown kind has an earthy taste. These articles, and tapioca, ground rice, etc., should be kept covered.

OMELET.—Will some one please send a recipe for making an omelet, and oblige—A YOUNG HOUSEKEEPER, Howell, Mich., 1864.

[SPECIAL NOTICE.]

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.—No housekeeper or cook is fully prepared to enter successfully upon her culinary duties without having the *Chemical Saleratus* on hand. It relieves the mind of much of the care and anxiety experienced by a skillful cook. For sale by most merchants and grocers. Call for the genuine in red papers, and beware of the counterfeit put up in green.

Ladies' Department.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. OUR LOVED ONES—GONE.

Gone from earth's darkness—gone to rest Away in the beautiful land of the blest...

Many a time we have clasped the hand Of friends who are now in the spirit land...

Two of our little loved ones have flown, And are now with the Angels around the throne...

Oh, our Father! why could not I Have died for them? why, oh why!

But I will murmur no more; for I seem to hear Angel voices whispering near...

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

I AM well aware that this momentous subject, however ably discussed, may fail to awaken, in the public mind, the deep interest that the "Polish Question," "Mexican Affairs," or even the "Great Rebellion" has.

"Why need people use 'baby-talk' to children?" Because it is perfectly natural for a loving mother; just as natural as to hug and kiss her babe...

Just across the street lives my excellent neighbor, Mrs. JOHNSON. A multitude of family cares compel her sometimes to let little SOLOMON—named after his good old grandfather—lie in his cradle a little longer than he chooses...

Now, I suppose a "sensible" woman would have said, "SOLOMON, my son, why do you weep? It is very unmanly; cease those infantile wailings. I will attend to your necessities as soon as convenient."

Blessings upon mothers who can use "baby-talk," for I never knew a fretful, impatient one who did, nor never knew a child injured by it...

As to its sounding "flat," many people think everything "flat" pertaining to babies; and as to the "logic," I "fail to see" the need of any; but I never failed to discover beauty, and music, in the imperfect language of childhood...

DOMESTIC COMFORT.—The most prominent among temporal things, to make life pleasant, is to be within the walls of a well-ordered house. Not conspicuous for its finery or costliness, but by its fitness, its air of neatness, and content to all who enter to enjoy its comforts.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. "MISSING."

DEAR READER, mine, has sad experience taught you the fearful import of this word? Is there a vacant spot at your fireside, a missing link from the home chain?

O! fearful word! What tales it tells of crushed hopes, and bleeding hearts! We see it written everywhere. The evening breeze that fans your cheek wafts the sad music of the word to some poor stricken heart.

"Fallen in battle,—we never may know, The spot where they dealt the last fatal blow; Thou hast found thee a grave in the land of thy foes, And we know not the place where thy ashes repose."

The gay and happy may pace the rooms, even as now, but it is lonely still. We hear the joyous laughter, the merry jest, but heed them not,—one is missing. These rooms, once familiar, will never re-echo the sound of his foot-falls again.

"No rolling drum disturbs his rest Beneath the quiet sod, The mold lies heavy on his breast, His spirit is with God."

Friends, you who never have waited with anxious longing for tidings from loved ones,—who have never read the lists of "killed, wounded and missing" with a heart-sickening fear that you would recognize one familiar name;—you who know not what it is to spend days of anxiety and sleepless watching, for "loved ones gone to war," do you realize what all this suffering is for?

Some of our boys have returned, others will come, but how many are "missing." We will welcome the returning braves with open arms, though our hearts seem almost breaking for those who never will come again. How many have looked forward to the close of this cruel war as the time for the realization of their fondest anticipations, whose hopes are already dashed to earth, and, instead, the bitter cup of sorrow pressed to their lips.

MUSIC AN AMUSEMENT OF THE HOME.

WHAT shall the amusement of the home be? When there are the ability and taste, I regard music as combining in happiest proportions instruction and pleasure, as standing at the head of the home evening enjoyment. What a never failing resource have those homes which God has blessed with this gift!

MAXIMS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS.—Never give reproof, if it can be avoided, while the feelings of either party are excited. If the parent or teacher be not calm, his influence is diminished, and a bad example is set.

Choice Miscellany.

Written for the Rural New-Yorker. INVOCATION TO SLEEP.

BY CLIO STANLEY.

Come, gentle Sleep! Come on the viewless wings of night, Come with the glancing star-beams dight,

Come, sweetest Sleep! Come with thy dreams of rare repose, Come with the scent of poppy and rose,

Come, calmest Sleep! Come with the murmur of Lethæan waves, Come with thy vision of grass-covered graves,

Come, deepest Sleep! Let me no spirit of darkness discern, Let me no future of suffering learn,

Come, peaceful Sleep! In thy dim shade let my wandering feet Other twin footsteps but once again meet,

Come, kindly Sleep! Come with the heart that with tenderness beats, Come with the lip that a love-word repeats,

Come, holy Sleep! Come, and the drowsy air hush with thy spell, Let the old voices the old story tell,

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. HENRY D. THOREAU.*

WE avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded by the appearance of this posthumous volume, to give a brief sketch of its author. His name is probably not familiar to most of the readers of the RURAL.

THOREAU, as we have just hinted, was not a voluminous author. He wielded the pen with a chariness that was a source of keen disappointment to those who admired his genius so greatly.

THOREAU'S life was an enigma even to those who knew him best; and no one could know him well. No deep sea soundings were sufficient to fathom the depths of his eccentricity and originality.

THOREAU was in every sense a child of Nature. He loved her with a devotion that almost passed comprehension. He communed with her continually, and studied "her visible forms" with a minuteness, an acumen, and an untiring diligence, which have never been surpassed.

* EXCERPTIONS: BY HENRY D. THOREAU, author of "Walden," and "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers." Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1863.

sublime, to know it by experience, and be able to give a true account of it in my next excursion."—[Walden, p. 98.]

And yet in the midst of this solitude he was not alone. To him solitude was the most companionable of all companions. He held familiar converse with the trees, the streams the sky, and all the inhabitants of earth, air or water, and desired no other companions.

THOREAU'S writings have a singular fascination for all those whose hearts have anything in common with his, and who can look with charity and patience upon his peculiar traits. We will not enter into a minute examination of his style, in order to discover the secret of its power.

MORAL PRECOCITY UNDESIRABLE.

Do you expect from a child any great amount of goodness. During early years, every civilized man passes through that phase of character exhibited by the barbarous race from which he is descended.

Hence the tendencies to cruelty, to thieving, to lying, so general among children—tendencies, which even without the aid of discipline, will become more or less modified just as the features do.

Not only is it unwise to set up a high standing for infantile good conduct, but it is even unwise to use very urgent incitements to such good conduct. Already most people recognize the detrimental results of intellectual precocity, but there remains to be recognized the truth that there is a moral precocity which is also detrimental.

SOWING YOUR WILD OATS.

IN all the wide range of accepted British maxims, there is none, take it for all in all, more thoroughly abominable than this one as to the sowing of wild oats. Look at it on what side you will, and I defy you to make anything but a devil's maxim of it.

WORDS.—Just as in some fossil, curious and beautiful shapes of vegetable or animal life, the graceful fern, or the finely vertebrated lizard, such as now, it may be, have been extinct for thousands of years, are permanently bound up with the stone, and rescued from that perishing which would have otherwise been theirs—so in words are beautiful thoughts and images, the imagination and the feeling of past ages, of men whose very names have perished, too, preserved and made safe forever.—Trench.

IDEAS INEXPRESSIBLE.—All of our thoughts have not words corresponding to them; many of them, in our yet imperfectly developed nature, can never express themselves in acts, but must be appreciable by God only, like the silent melodies in a great musician's heart, never to roll forth from harp or organ.—De Quincy.

FAMILY DISSENSION.—From what stranger can you accept attachment if you are at variance with your own family?

Sabbath Musings.

NEVER AGAIN.

BROKEN the golden chord, Severed the silken tie; Never again will the old days come, Darling, to you and I.

Dead the beautiful Past! Scattered around its bier Pale thoughts lie thick, and memories Of days that were so dear.

Memories? Fold them up— Lay them sacred by; What avails it to dream of the Past! The Future! for you and I!

Broken the silken chord, Severed the golden chain, Linking us with the beautiful days That never can come again!

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker. THE LIGHT OF FAITH.

"THEN WE SHALL KNOW AS WE ARE KNOWN." WHEN the finger of GOD touches the eyelids of the human creature, the scales fall off. As the thought of Him fills the soul, it no longer looks through the media which the poor, blind world has given it, all bedimmed with deceit, selfishness and error, but step by step it is led up higher, until it looks, as it were, through the eye-glass of the Infinite.

But what of the work which sorrow hath wrought? Do we always reap good from the sowing of tears? I trow not. Though often "upon the stepping-stones of our dead selves we rise to better things," yet many times we descend still lower. As he who is thus illuminated travels hopefully but perhaps wearily on, he glances backward over the rough places which once caused his feet to bleed.

We hear much about the war as a developing power. So it is. We are told that every fatal bullet pierces many hearts, and when the blood ceases flowing, they are nerved with stronger and better purposes. There are fruit and flowers where before were only weeds and fallow ground. But not always. Often it is like the violent storm that sweeps all before it instead of the gentle rain that mellow and fertilizes.

Do you never feel heavy-hearted when you see those to whom no light comes? Some of them, perhaps, are blessed with little of this world's knowledge, and possess a dim view of the way homeward. They grope this way and that until the spirit is chafed with much searching and no finding. Whence am I? What am I? Whither going? Who is the Father? are questions which come to us with fearful meaning, and the silence which follows is still more fearful.

The vision of many is rendered clear by long waiting and much suffering, as the best eye-glasses are rendered perfectly pellucid by the process of heating. So the spiritual vision is made free from impurities as by fire. Very likely human nature writhes in the midst of the flame, and the natural eye is dimmed as the spiritual eye grows brighter; but what is the mortal to the immortal? The world, with its work and sorrow, sometimes bears heavily, but the restless, doubting soul is a greater burden. You would fain close the eyelids, and fold the hands over the still bosom of such an one, so that darkness and doubting may be no more, but not yet. GOD has given us much light in this world, but it is not perfect, yet in the dimness we may hear a soft, still voice saying, "Now we look as through a glass darkly, but then we shall see him face to face." M. M. M. Lima, N. Y., 1863.

Useful, Scientific, &c.

THE AILANTHUS SILK-WORM OF CHINA.

Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.
New developments are everywhere met by new plans of procedure; sometimes are eminently chimerical, and sometimes really feasible: a plain, practicable theory is a desideratum, certainly, when there is a sphere awaiting it.

The present scarcity of labor and the high prices of all wearing materials, are well known facts; if, then, a product can be introduced meeting in part the consequent exigencies, ought it not to receive a candid consideration? Those who have carefully tested its merits, tell us that the Ailanthus silk-worm of China is admirably adapted to meet such a demand.

The natural food of the worm, though it is said to be omnivorous, is the leaves of the Ailanthus, a tree that is easily obtained, that grows and is multiplied rapidly, that will flourish on sterile soil and furnish food the first season, I think, if sown from the seeds. The odor of its leaves renders it objectionable as a shade tree, but this odor protects it from animals, so that no inclosure is necessary. The trees should be planted closely together that a hedge may be formed.

In weaving its cocoon, the caterpillar does not work like the mulberry cocoon; the latter closes its cocoon all around, and when the perfect cocoon comes out, it severs the threads so that it can not be continuously unwound; the Ailanthus leaves an opening for its exit, or the cocoon at that end is so thin that the perfect insect can come out by pushing the threads aside and not cutting them.

The silk thus obtained is not so valuable as that of the mulberry cocoon, but holds a medium place between that and wool, and its durability is such that in China it can be and is often worn by the second and third generation. The product of silk is as abundant as in the mulberry cocoon, and there is but little expense attending its culture. It is also easily wrought; the thread is strong, shining, smooth and supple. It forms "an excellent material which has a great future for all industrials in raw silk."

The worms, when a few days old, are transferred from the house to the hedge, they require to be looked after occasionally, and if any, by eating off the base of the leaf, or otherwise, have fallen to the ground, they must be replaced, branches drawn together that are too far apart and guarded against wasps, worms and birds. They are left out during the entire season, through cold rains or heavy winds, without injury. The silk-worm can produce three generations during the summer months, but two broods are thought to do better. For ages it has been a source of wealth to the Chinaman. Not till 1860 was it introduced into France—there it was carded, and spun, and woven into a durable fabric, easily dyed and retaining its color. Since the latter period it has been introduced and acclimated in Philadelphia with good success. Those who know most of its habits and nature believe that it will flourish as vigorously here, unless it be at the extreme North, as in its native China,—those, too, who have not forgotten the insane silk speculation of thirty years.

The advantages, then, of the Ailanthus Silk-Worm are quite numerous. The required labor can be performed mostly by infirm or elderly persons and children—such, for instance, as looking after the worm during its stay upon the hedge, taking care that it has sufficient food, and protecting it against vermin. But little capital is needed to begin with. There is no loss of time, as there is sufficient growth of leaves the first season to support the worm. It is adapted to our climate, because of the tenacity of life the Ailanthus has upon sterile soil, and the cheapness and durability of the fabric obtained.

For a full and graphic account of the manner in which the Ailanthus silk-worm is treated, the reader is referred to the Patent Office Report of 1861, from which the above facts are mostly gathered.
MARY J. CROSMAN.
Des Moines, Iowa, 1868.

HISTORY OF THE DISCOVERY OF PETROLEUM.

It is one of the most remarkable things connected with the immense trade suddenly springing up from the distillation of our coal oil, that while the existence of oil springs has been known from the most remote antiquity, the knowledge should never have been turned to any great practical purposes until our own times. Nothing will show more completely the value of that sort of practical education and intelligence which is common in America, than this simple fact. Here is a substance which the oldest naturalists of the world, such as Pliny, have written upon, which Tacitus and Vitruvius have both mentioned, yet never turned to any practical utility of moment until within a few years, by a gentleman (Colonel Drake) from Connecticut, the very central land of all Yankee notions.

The oldest allusion to it probably is in Deut. xxxii: "He made him to suck oil out of the flinty rock." At least it is well known that in the thicker and more resinous form of solid bitumen it is found in quantities on the shores of the Dead Sea, and for thousands of years has been called "Jews' pitch" on this account. Strange to say, Herodotus mentions a spring of this sort of oil in one of the Ionian Isles recently relinquished by the British government, no doubt as ignorant of its value as the Mexicans of the gold of California. But for more than two thousand years, in the island of Zante, that oil spring has been flowing and known in history, its value alone unknown.

In Agrigentum, in Sicily, the petroleum was collected and used in lamps before the Christian era, as a substitute for oil. This has been the

case also, for ages past, in Burma, near Rangoon, and now higher up the River Irrawaddy very large springs are being discovered. At Baku, on the Caspian, from the most remote ages, this oil has been worshiped, but never turned to any practical account of consequence, and certainly never developed as within the past five years by Americans, although it seems that about three million francs' worth has been annually sold to Persia.

In Parma and Modena oil wells have been dug for the last two hundred years. But as no method of purifying these oils has been adopted, they have never risen to much value.

In Pennsylvania, while the French occupied Fort Duquesne, opposite Pittsburgh, the Commander wrote to General Montcalm of attending a meeting of Indians on Oil Creek, which at night was suddenly lighted up by setting fire to the oil floating on the surface of the lake, just after the manner of the fire worshippers on the Caspian.

In Ohio, in boring for salt springs, a vein of this oil was struck, and as early as 1828, in the American Journal of Science, it was predicted that this sort of oil would be valued some day for lighting the streets of the cities of Ohio. Yet it was not till 1858, Col. Drake of Hartford, bored for oil, taking the hint, no doubt, from the above accidental result of boring, because others were making oil by distillation from the coal.

Four or five years before this a Mr. Young, in England, had distilled some of this sort of oil that had exuded in the coal pits, but the supply giving out, had taken out a patent for distilling the cannel coal. This had been done successfully in this country, but of course from the moment of the discovery of this method of getting the raw oil, the whole of that business was superseded.

Perhaps nothing can more fully show the boundless stores of wealth laid up in every land for the use of man, to be developed by industry and education; nothing can more fully show the advantages to every country, of that diffusion of education, and those habits of thought so common in America, and so uncommon everywhere else. Now the country surrounding this discovery is rapidly becoming one of the most populous and wealthy in the interior of the State, railroads are building to carry the oil, and our cities are being built up by the trade and refinement of it.

THE TEETH.

THE teeth are divided into three classes, each class fitting us for a different kind of food:—First, The incisors, or cutting teeth, being eight in number, four top and bottom; those of the upper jaw being larger, and falling over the under ones inclosing the mouth. The office of these teeth is for dividing and cutting the food, by bringing it between the surfaces of the sharp edges. Second, The canine teeth, so called from their resemblance to the dog's tooth, are placed on each side of the incisors, making two in each jaw. The intention of these teeth is to lay hold of substances, and are peculiar to all carnivorous animals, and of which man is considered the most harmless. Third, The molars, or grinders, are ten in each jaw, and serve to fit the food for the stomach, by dividing it into minute portions, or pulp. Thus, it will be seen that Nature designed man should partake of each of the foods common to the carnivorous, herbivorous, and graminivorous animals. There are other teeth, appearing late in life, called "wisdom teeth;" but frequently these are not to be met with at all.

MAGNETIC MOUNTAIN.—The story of the mountain that drew all the nails and bolts out of the ships passing near it, which the voracious Sinbad the Sailor tells in the Arabian Nights, is reproduced now with a scientific difference. A magnetic mountain has been discovered in Swedish Lapland. The vein is the richest of natural magnetic ore at present known. Pieces weighing four hundred pounds have been obtained. Specimens are being sent to all the European mineralogical cabinets, and quite a traffic has grown up. They sell readily at from eighty centimes to three francs the kilogramme. It is already debated whether a magnetic pole of the earth should not be sought in Lapland rather than Siberia.

SHODDY.—Many persons have heard of shoddy who do not know its nature and use. It is made from woolen rags, which are torn and cut up by machinery for the purpose of mixing the product with new wool, to be made into cloth and other woolen fabrics. Cloth made with a mixture of shoddy is inferior in strength to that made from fresh wool, because much of the old rags from which the shoddy is made is rotten, and has lost its original strength of fiber. Shoddy is employed very extensively in the manufacture of cheap woolen goods, which do not wear half so long as those which are somewhat higher in price, made of clean new wool.

THE MOON.—Professor Phillips, of England, has succeeded in obtaining drawings of the moon seen through a new telescope with a six-inch object glass. They exhibit many new and striking features, showing a volcanic action of which we of this world have no conception. What would we think if our whole continent was a collection of craters, with hills rising out of their midst and divided by radiating ravines of awful depth? The only approach to any such scenery in our world, is to be found in the Cordilleras of our gold regions.—*Scientific Am.*

We can not look through Christian countries without seeing that Christianity is rather the flag under which the world sails than the rudder that steers its course.

Various Topics.

A FISHING CAT.

At this season, as is well known to the dwellers on the Long Island shores, vast shoals of the fish called Tom-cod, or frost-fish, come up into the bays and shallows to spawn. A snap of cold weather coming, they are chilled near the stones and old docks where they lie, and left by the receding tide. During the last two or three weeks they have been unusually abundant at Oyster Bay and vicinity; and an old Maltese cat, the property of Mr. Andrew Tappan, has taken advantage of their situation, to the benefit of her owner and the amusement of the whole neighborhood. She watches for the ebb of the waters, and, catching the fish, takes them one after another to her master's house, in such numbers as to supply his table, and afford enough for his friends.—*Spirit of the Times.*

Rochester can also boast of a cat having strong piscatorial propensities. There is a large abandoned stone quarry containing water the year round, situated near the Old Bull's Head Tavern, and south of the Small Pox Hospital, of which Thomas Burns is superintendent, who owns a cat that every morning during warm weather brings from three to six bullhead fish, all alive and kicking, to her master's door. These fish are taken by the cat while sitting on a narrow ledge of rock, five or six inches above the water line, and are struck, hooked and brought out with one of her paws.

Now this beats the Long Island cat as much as fly-fishing beats the bob and sinker, as she only procures them at the recession of the tide and while in a benumbed state.

We have known this fact for some time, and supposed it to be an anomaly till we saw the above statement.

NEWS FROM HOME—THE SOLDIERS' MAIL.

HOME-SICKNESS is a complaint that the world is apt to laugh at; but it kills, nevertheless. The doctors dignify it with a fine classical name—*Nostalgia*—but have no remedy for it in their repertory of drugs. It is of the soul, not of the body, and therefore there is no cure for it in the *materia medica*. Many a gallant fellow in the ranks of the Union army dies of it. The homesick soldier says little of the *hunger of the heart* which is destroying him. What surgeon would sympathize with him? He can show no wound. He is simply *dying to go home*, but would think it very unmanly and "spooney" to say so. Perhaps *home forgoes him*. Perhaps the frequent mail that brings joy to his comrade is to him a blank—bears no letter, no precious box or parcel, superscribed with his name. Alas! much of the homesickness in the army is occasioned by home neglect. A gentleman writing from Chattanooga, says:

"It pains me to think that more than one man has let his life slip out of a grasp too weak to hold it, because his dearest friends did not send him a prescription once a week, price three cents—a letter from home. Is some poor fellow sinking at heart because you do not write him? If there is, lay my letter down at once and write your own, and may He who sent a messenger all the way from heaven to earth with glad tidings, forgive you for deferring a hope to some soldier boy. You would not wonder at my warmth had you seen that boy waiting and waiting, as I have, for one little word from somebody. Too proud to own, and yet too sincere to quite conceal it, he tries to strangle the thought of home, and goes into the battle, whence he never comes forth. Let me relate one incident:—An Indiana soldier was struck in the breast at Chickamauga and fell. The bullet's errand was about done when it reached him; it pierced coat and under-clothing, and there was force enough left in it to wound, if not to kill him; but it had to work its way through a precious package of letters, indited by one heart and traced by one dear hand; that done, the bullet's power expended, there it lay asleep against the soldier's breast! Have you been making such a shield, dear lady, for somebody? Take care that it does not lack one letter of being bullet-proof."

Our troops are going into winter quarters—three or four dreary, weary months of inaction are before them. You that have sons, husbands, brothers or lovers in the army, see to it that the light of affection is sent into their camps at least once a week through the Soldiers' Mail.

ITEMS FROM THE MENAGERIE.

LIONS, and all other animals of the cat kind, suffer, when imported into this country, from a kind of consumption. They wheeze, lose flesh, their lungs become diseased, and they finally waste away and die. When one of these great beasts dies, he is submitted to the Faculty, and it is a pleasant evidence that the proprietors are not merely "showmen," but have an intelligent interest in these wonders of nature, that they have for many years contributed their defunct specimens to the collection of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, in whose halls may be found skeletons of lions, tigers and other animals famous in their day.

In the sub-division of labor one man takes charge of four cages, to clean, feed and attend upon all the wants of the occupants. The flesh-eating animals are fed but once a day, and not at all on Sundays. The monkeys and other small animals are fed twice a day. The elephants seem to browse all the day long. None but good beef is fed, and it must not have the slightest grain of salt upon it. Water is given four or five times a day. A full-grown lion eats from fifteen to eighteen pounds of meat per day. An elephant's rations are three hundred pounds of hay and two bushels of oats per day when he is traveling; when standing still he gets no oats,

but an additional hundred weight of hay. The elephants lie down when they go to sleep. Two barrels of water moisten each elephant's hay daily.

Not unfrequently animals bring forth young. Some dozens of lions have been born in this country, but only a very few live to cut their second set of teeth. Until the young are two months old they can not be exhibited on account of the jealousy of the mother, who sometimes kills her young in her frantic efforts to get them out of the way when strangers are staring at them; she will pick them up in her mouth and fling them against the back of the cage to get them out of sight. For this reason, when a lioness or a tiger has a young family she is shut off from the outer world and kept in wholesome quiet till her nerves acquire some tone, and she is able to receive visitors and exhibit her cubs without too great agitation.—*N. Y. Post.*

CARELESS PEOPLE.

THE world is full of careless people, and consequently the newspapers are full of "dreadful accidents," and "shocking casualties." Children are expected to be rattle-brained and careless; but for their fathers and mothers there is no excuse!

Only the other day our nerves were worked up to explosion point by an account of a perilous surgical operation, by which a woman's trachea was opened to remove a silver dime which had lodged there. And how on earth did a silver dime ever get into a woman's wind-pipe? Simply because she was careless, and laughed, with her mouth full of small coins. Was there no other place where she could keep her three-cent pieces?

We do feel sorry for a creeping baby, when it gets hold of the bars of the grate by mistake, or cuts its fingers, or bumps its head, but for grown people who suffer from their own recklessness, we have very little patience!

What is the use of a woman's converting her mouth into a pin-cushion, and then expecting our sympathy, when a sudden sneeze or an unexpected cough imperils her life?

What is the use of a man's balancing himself on an oscillating chair instead of sitting up straight, like a Christian? Are we expected to find vinegar and brown paper for the contusion on the back of his head, when finally he comes down with a crash (and serves him right)?

What is the use of a woman's picking her ears with a long knitting needle, as half the women do, when a child running against her would send the instrument three inches into her brain, if she has got any?

What is the use of a man's handling a loaded gun as though it were a broom-handle, and then accuse Providence because the charge goes into his head of foot, as he might have known it would?

What is the use of a woman's buying arsenic to poison rats, and putting it just where the children will be sure to get at it? What does she suppose her reasoning faculties were given to her for?

What is the use of leaving children to play by themselves in a room where there is fire, or of postponing the sweeping of that dangerous chimney until "to-morrow?"

What is the use of endangering life by the use of the fiend camphene, as long as anything else will give light? Those who persist in this practice must have a greater fancy for being burned to death than the rest of the world!

In short, what is the use of careless people?

OUR LOSSES AND CAPTURES.

THE writer of a communication in the New York Evening Post has taken the pains to go through General Halleck's report and make the following summary statement of results:

"During the year our losses were

Killed.....	10,070	Guns.....	42
Missing.....	30,677	Small Arms.....	8,840
Wounded.....	51,718		

"And 10,296 men reported under the heads of 'our losses,' 'killed and wounded' or 'killed, wounded and missing.'"

"Our captures were

Colors.....	53	Boats.....	158
Prisoners.....	86,786	Cattle.....	5,643
Guns.....	266	Horses.....	1,175
Small Arms.....	44,829		

"Besides in one place 'large stores,' in another 'four thousand four hundred pounds of powder and one hundred and fifty thousand rounds of cartridges,' and in another, in the language of General Grant, 'arms and munitions of war for an army of sixty thousand men.'"

"From this it appears that our loss during the year in killed, wounded and missing, was ninety-two thousand seven hundred and seventy men."

"If the Rebel 'killed and wounded,' of which we have no account in this report, bear the same proportion to 'prisoners' that ours does, their loss during the year must have been enormous, reaching to over three hundred thousand men."

A PROPHECY IN JEST.—The following extract from a burlesque article in the *New Monthly Magazine* for 1821, Vol. II., entitled "Specimen of a Prospective Newspaper, A. D., 4796," is curious:

The army of the Northern States (of America) will take the field against that of the Southern provinces early next Spring. The principal Northern force will consist of 1,490,000 picked troops. General Congreve's new mechanical cannon was tried last week at the siege of Georgia. It discharged in one hour 1,120 balls, each weighing five hundred weight. The distance of the objects fired at was eleven miles, and so perfect was the engine that the whole of these balls were lodged in the space of twenty feet square." A subsequent article in this specimen states that, "by means of a new invention Dr. Clark crossed the Atlantic in seven days." How little did the writer anticipate that in fifty years, to him wild fancies, would be almost realized.

Reading for the Young.

"WITH ALL THY MIGHT!"

"LOOK at that boy! He is a stout, strong fellow, and one of the sharpest in our workshop. But he will not serve our purpose he must be dismissed."

"Why?" I inquired.
"Because he does not work with all his might. Just watch the drowsy, indifferent way in which he handles his tools. He is thinking about something else all the time."

This was said to me, the other day, by one of the proprietors of an extensive manufactory for machinery, as he conducted me through a part of his enormous works.

"You must require great strength of muscle in your workmen," I remarked.

"No! not so much strength of muscle as strength of purpose. It is not men of might that we want, but men who use their might—men who work with zeal and energy at whatever they set themselves to do. It is not the strong 'Samsons' and the big 'Goliaths' that do the most good; but lads, like David, earnest, active, and strong of purpose; doing one thing at a time, but doing that thing well."

Alas! thought I, as I left the scene of intelligent labor, how many dwarf themselves down into forlorn and disappointed men, through no other fault than this!

"With all thy might!" It is God's own commandment, as well as man's. It is the law of heaven as well as the general condition of worldly success. No man ever achieves anything permanently great and useful without carrying out this great and useful principle. Our work may be head-work or it may be hand-work! We may be the strongest among the strong, or we may be the weakest among the weak. No matter, the rule of duty is the same for all. Work "with all your might!" All famous men whose words and deeds have graven a name which fathers teach their sons to spell—all these—every man of them—worked according to the wise precept, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." (Ecc. ix. 10.)

We cannot all be reckoned among the great and the famous, but we may all be reckoned among the useful and the earnest. However moderate our natural powers, however narrow our opportunities for action, life's motto should still be the same: "All thy might." Work with all thy might. Love and serve thy God "with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy might."—*Jewish Missionary Herald.*

WHISPERING AND WHISPERERS.

WHISPERING is a coward's weapon; it is a safe method of assassination; it is a safe way of killing a friend or foe without taking the risk of responsibility. It is like the fabulous air-gun that carries a deadly bullet without report or noise. Whisperers are the worst kind of poisoners. They poison not the body, but the soul and heart. They scatter their words like impalpable dust of deadly poison, and all who inhale it are filled with its mischief and malignancy.

Give us an open-faced enemy! We can honor him his most wounding blows are not so provoking as the sly stabs of mean natures. You may parry the stroke of an honorable antagonist, or interpose some shield. But who can defend himself against a look, a wink, a shrug, a stealthy smile, a soft word, a whisper? They elude you! They dance like motes in the air, or fill it with invisible influence. The husband finds himself suspected of his wife—the wife abhors the dark suspicions that seem to overshadow her soul as if an evil spirit was above her, and cast down a malign shadow. The brother and sister find sweet confidence melting away, nor know exactly why or how it falls. Confiding friends and years-long companions fall from mutual faith, grow watchful, interpret with suspiciousness. And love, through all its life and members, feels the beat of this subtle poison, with strange pains and immedicable languors. God confound nimble-tongued whisperers.

A REGIMENT OF WOODSAWYERS.—The Dayton Journal says: "To the boys of Miami City, across the river, belongs the credit of first conceiving and carrying out the idea of organizing into companies for the purpose of sawing wood for soldiers' families in this vicinity. Two companies were formed there, and they upon the boys on this side of the river began operations in good earnest; the four hundred cords of wood brought in here for the soldiers' families by the loyal people of Old Montgomery, on the 7th instant, giving them an extensive opening for operations. Since last Monday, the 11th instant, all over the city the nights have resounded with the screeching of saws, the clatter of axes, and the cheering of boys at their work of preparing wood for the families of soldiers in every part of the city. Our readers at a distance must understand that these youngsters are not half-grown men, but boys from six to fifteen years of age. Not old enough to battle for their country, they are doing the next best thing they can—making those as comfortable as possible whom the soldiers in the field have left at home."

THE Spaniards have a proverb:—"The stone fit for a wall will not lie on the road." Prepare yourself for something better, and something better will come. The great art of success is to be able to seize the opportunity offered. Cheerful, patient perseverance in your lawful calling will best help you to do this. "He that hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have an abundance."

Rural New-Yorker.

NEWS DEPARTMENT.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JANUARY 16, 1864.

The Army in Virginia.

The latest information from Petersburg is that the post is now safe, the enemy having been going off on a full retreat for two days past. The post had been surrounded by the rebels, cutting off all communication with New Creek, but the enemy carefully avoided coming in range of our guns. Col. Thorburn, who was in command of the post, made every preparation to defend it to the last; and the men were in favor of a fight to the bitter end. This reflects credit on all concerned.

The following has been received at army headquarters:

A dispatch just received from Col. Thorburn, commanding at Petersburg, informs me that the rebel force threatening him for several days past has retreated towards the Shenandoah Valley. The force was a formidable one, consisting of three brigades—Lee's, Walker's and Rogers—all under the command of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee. Deserters report that it was the intention of Lee to capture the garrison at Petersburg, take New Creek and Cumberland, destroy our stores, and break the railroad by burning the bridge. I am happy to inform you that the great raid undertaken by Gen. Early in retaliation for our late movements in this department, has thus far resulted in a complete failure or fizzle. An empty wagon train of Col. Thorburn's, returning from Petersburg, was captured by a portion of the enemy's forces. With this exception, they have not thus far been able to inflict upon us any injury. Many deserters are coming in, and our cavalry are picking up many stragglers. The railroad is safe, and trains are running regularly. The weather is cold and the snow several inches deep. B. F. KELLY, Brig.-Gen.

The Philadelphia Bulletin has the following, dated Cumberland Gap, January 6th, which states that an overwhelming force came upon a small body of our troops near Jonesville, Va., consisting of 280 men of an Illinois regiment, commanded by Major Beers, and 18 men of Weill's battery, on Monday last. A desperate resistance was made by our troops, continuing from 7 A. M. to 5 P. M., when we were obliged to surrender. The attacking force numbered about 4,000 men. The forces captured were guarding a country which was our main reliance for forage.

A special from Cumberland, Md., the 9th, states that the official rebel documents containing the plans of the proposed raid by Early, have been captured, from which it appears that it was their intention to cut the railroad at Martinsburg, and capture our troops between there and New Creek, but Early finding that Averill was at Martinsburg, gave that expedition up, and sent a force against Petersburg, which also proved a failure. A force was also to capture Cumberland, but that also failed. Very important information has been obtained relative to rebel commands, and avowed interests of high rebel officers. The weather is very cold at Cumberland. Rebel deserters still continue daily to come in, bringing important information. The amnesty proclamation is very favorably received among the rebel soldiers.

The Government is in receipt of dispatches from Maj. Cole, commandant of a battalion of Maryland cavalry, encamped in Loudon Co., who was attacked at 4 A. M., of the 10th inst., by the guerrilla Moseby, the latter's force being nearly 400 strong. After severe fighting for an hour, Moseby was repulsed, leaving his killed and wounded on the field. Among the rebel dead were found four commissioned officers. Our loss is reported at two killed and eleven wounded. Gen. Sullivan has a force of cavalry now in pursuit of the enemy.

The following are the dispatches alluded to:

CUMBERLAND, Md., Jan. 10.

To Brig.-Gen. Calum, Chief of Staff—I cheerfully comply with the request of Gen. Sullivan, in calling the attention of the General-in-Chief to the gallant conduct of Maj. Cole and his brave command. The repulse of a murderous attack made by an overwhelming force at 4 o'clock, in a dark, cold morning, evinces a watchfulness and bravery most commendable.

B. F. KELLY, Brig.-Gen.
HARPER'S FERRY, Jan. 10.

Brig.-Gen. Kelly—Major Cole's camp was attacked this morning. He fought gallantly and drove the attacking party off. I send you his report:

To Capt. Brown—I have the honor to report that my camp was attacked this morning about 4 o'clock, by Gen. Moseby. After a brisk fight of about an hour, they were repulsed and driven from the camp. Our loss is two killed and thirteen wounded. Of the latter is Capt. Vernon seriously, and Lieutenant Rivers, slightly. There are some missing, but it is impossible to tell how many at present. The rebels left four dead, one captain and one lieutenant. They left three prisoners in our hands. Two of them wounded, one a lieutenant.

H. COLE, Maj. Com'g,
J. C. SULLIVAN, Brig.-Gen.

It is believed that the rebels will not be able to accomplish anything at present in the Shenandoah Valley, owing to the inclement weather and condition of the streams. The Shenandoah river is impassable from floating ice, and the movements have been such as to preclude the possibility of bridge building by the enemy. It is not expected that Early will remain in that section after the present month.

Department of the South.

A letter to the N. Y. Times gives an interesting account of a three weeks' expedition by the negro brigade in North Carolina. The results may be summed up as follows:

Between 2,000 and 3,000 slaves were released from bondage, with whom were taken along about 350 ox, horse and mule teams, and from 50 to 75 saddle horses, some of them valuable. The guerrillas lost 13 killed and wounded. Ten dwelling-houses, with many thousand bushels of

corn, were burned besides the two distilleries. Four of their camps were destroyed, and one of their number was hanged. One hundred rifles, uniforms, &c., fell into our hands as spoils, with a loss on the part of the brigade of 12 killed and wounded and one taken prisoner. Besides this, 14 rebel prisoners and four hostages were brought in. A comparatively small number of men were enlisted, not more than a hundred in all, a large proportion of the able-bodied slaves having previously left their masters, the facilities for escape being especially great in the region visited.

An officer of the Government just arrived from Newbern, N. C., reports that the scheme for the occupation of abandoned plantations works admirably, the rental already producing quite a revenue besides relieving the Government of the support of thousands of poor people, both white and colored.

Intelligence reached Newbern on the 5th inst., that the expedition under Col. McChesney of the 1st North Carolina regiment, which left Newbern on the 30th ult. for Granville, met the enemy on Thursday night near Washington. Both parties were surprised. Lieut. Adams charged on and routed the enemy, killing a lieutenant and five men, all of whom were left on the field. Ten men, one cannon and caisson with the horses of Starr's battery were captured. Our loss was Lieut. Adams killed and five men wounded.

Department of the Gulf.

ANOTHER secret expedition left New Orleans on the 31st ult., the destination of which is unknown. There is little doubt that it is intended to operate against Mobile. For the present it is supposed Pascagoula would be occupied and preparations made for an advance on Mobile as soon as the rainy season is ended.

For three days it has rained incessantly. On Sunday morning the city was submerged to a depth ranging from one to two feet. This lasted near the river for several hours. Back toward the swamps the streets are still under water.

A mass meeting of the loyal people in Louisiana has been called for the 8th of January next. The object is to take into consideration the formation of a free State government. Nearly enough are enrolled to enable the State to return to the Union under the President's proclamation.

Information has reached New Orleans from three or four different directions that all the rebel troops which have been operating in Western Louisiana, on the banks of the Mississippi river, and in fact the whole force of the enemy are gathering in Central Texas and vicinity to form one large army to attack our new acquisitions on the coast of Texas. They number at least 20,000. The most ample preparations have been made to meet this force as well as possible with the number of troops in this Department. There will soon be news of great interest from Texas.

General Banks has issued a general order, embracing the President's amnesty proclamation and such parts of his message as explain its limits and the oath of allegiance described by the President. General Banks informs the people that all who are desirous of receiving the amnesty and taking the above oath, can do so at once, and all the Provost Marshals are instructed to administer it.

The rebel troops have issues of only fresh beef and corn meal, with one ration of flour per week. They are badly clothed, have no tents, and suffer greatly. The reports of Federal success, and General Banks' possession of the Rio Grande, created great gloom among the rebels. The issue of President Lincoln's amnesty proclamation was also having effect throughout their ranks, and desertions were frequent. Their officers were promising a speedy advance to keep them quiet.

Recruiting is rapidly going on. Refugees are continually coming in, and all join the army. All the citizens remaining in Brownsville have taken the oath of allegiance and are loyal. The others were all forced to cross the Rio Grande into Mexico.

The Navy Department has been advised of the capture of the rebel schooner Marshal J. Smith by the gunboat Kennebec. She was discovered about eight miles east of Mobile Point at night. Discovering the Kennebec, she immediately changed her course and hauled to land. A shell was fired, and the vessel was approached and boarded. She was from Mobile, bound to Havana, with a cargo of 260 bales of cotton and some turpentine. Her manifest and other papers were thrown overboard.

On the 17th of December, the steamer Roebuck captured the British schooner Kingdove, off Sawnee river Florida, with a valuable cargo.

Movements in the West and South-West.

TENNESSEE.—Letters from Eastern Tennessee, of the 28th ult., to the N. Y. Herald state that our forces have been driven back from Bean Station by Longstreet. Our loss in four days skirmishing reached about 200, besides a few wagons. Rebel prisoners state that Longstreet has been re-enforced by Ewell, and that he has been ordered to take Knoxville at all hazards. Longstreet has about 40,000 men.

Gen. Foster is at Knoxville, and Gen. Porter commands in the field.

The N. Y. World's Chattanooga correspondent, dated 29th, states: The rebel Gen. Wheeler, with a large force of cavalry, attacked a train, capturing it for a few moments, but the 4th Ohio cavalry and the 20th Missouri infantry came up and dispersed the whole rebel force, recapturing the trains and taking over 200 prisoners.

General Thomas has issued an order assessing \$30,000 on rebel sympathizers living within ten miles of the recent murder of three soldiers near Mulberry, Tennessee, the money to be given to the families of the soldiers killed.

ARKANSAS.—Lieut. W. A. Brittain, of the 3d Arkansas regiment of Fagin's rebel brigade, came into our lines on the 5th inst., with a squad of his command. He left Price's headquarters at Longwood, 20 miles west of Camden, on Christmas.

Gen. Holmes is in command of the trans-Mississippi department, and Gen. Price commands in the field, and is reported at 17,000 strong, but Brittain says it does not exceed 13,000. Of Price's Missourians only 300 or 400 remain, and but few of these were part of the army which he took out of Missouri. The veterans of Lexington and Pea Ridge are nearly all in their graves. The Missouri troops consist of Shelby's cavalry and Parson's infantry brigades. Maxey's new recruits, conscripts and bushwhackers, recently joined Gen. Steele, who had been superseded in command of the rebel Department of Indian Territory by Brig. General Maxey.

Officers well informed are of the opinion that Price would move upon Little Rock and Maxey will, with another column, move upon Fort Smith.

The weather at Fort Smith is the coldest ever known. The thermometer has stood from 10 to 15 degrees below zero for several days, and snow is six inches deep.

Our cavalry crossed the river on the ice and intercepted a rebel mail, the letters in which speak of an immediate advance by the rebel forces as far northwest as possible.

AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON.

The Senate debated the conscription act most of the 7th inst., but came to no conclusion on any amendment. But one Senator favored the repeal of the \$300 clause, while all the others who spoke opposed such repeal. The indications are that not one-third of the Senate favor its repeal. During the debate the important fact came out that the terms of enlistment of only 20,000 veteran volunteers expire before the first of next July in all our armies. Not less than twenty-five different propositions to amend the law were submitted. The bill before the Military Committee has the approval of the Secretary of War and the Provost Marshal General. It will retain the \$300 clause, and, among other things borrowed from the French system, the requirement that the conscript shall be responsible for his substitute's service and fitness.

The President sent a message to Congress on the 7th, inclosing a copy of the decree of the Court for the Southern District of New York, recommending an appropriation of \$17,000 as indemnity for the illegal capture of the British schooner Glen.

A bill will be soon introduced in Congress, repealing that portion of the confiscation act which limits the possession of property sold to the natural life of the owner. This step is considered absolutely necessary to afford protection to the purchasers of confiscated property. The Norfolk rebels, whose property has been confiscated, are returning in large numbers, taking the oath of allegiance, and reinstating themselves in ancient comforts and rights.

The commission appointed for the relief of the sufferers by the Indian hostilities in Minnesota, consisting of Col. Aldrick and Messrs. White and Chase, were in session at St. Peters, Minnesota, for about five months, working twelve to sixteen hours a day. The claims presented and examined were 2,940. A large number were also presented, but could not be examined, as the law fixed the time for the expiration of their duties December 1st. The above number of claims amounted to \$2,468,000. The commission awarded \$1,370,458. The \$200,000 appropriation at last session for the immediate relief of the most needy sufferers, were paid to over 1,400 persons, many of whom were made widows and orphans by the Indians. Nearly 11,000 witnesses were examined, and their testimony reduced to writing, covering about 16,000 sheets of legal cap paper. The testimony shows that over 800 men, women and children were butchered by the Indians. Thousands who had purchased homesteads of the United States, and paid for them, were driven away, and are now refugees, it being unsafe to return to the frontier. It is estimated that \$5,000,000 will not reimburse the people for the damage done by the Indians on the frontier of Minnesota. The U. S. government holds about \$3,000,000 annuities forfeited by the rebellious Sioux. It is proposed to use this sum in payment of the above claims, and a bill appropriating \$1,100,000 is being prepared to meet the balance due on the amount awarded by the commission.

Gen. McClellan's report has been transmitted to Congress. It consists of 765 foolscap pages and is divided into four parts. He concludes as follows:

"Nor can I, living, forget that when I was ordered to the command of the troops for the defence of the Capitol, the troops, with whom I had shared so much of the anxiety, pains and sufferings of the war, had not lost their confidence in me as their commander, but sprang to my call with all their ancient vigor, discipline and courage. I led them into Maryland fifteen days after they had fallen back defeated before Washington; met the enemy on the rugged heights of South Mountain, pursued him to the hard fought field of Antietam, and drove him, broken and disappointed, across the Potomac into Virginia.

"The army had need of rest after the terrible experiences of battles and marches with scarcely an interval of repose which they had gone through, from the time of leaving the Peninsula to the return to Washington—the defeat in Virginia, the victory at South Mountain, and again at Antietam. It was not surprising that they were, in a large degree, destitute of the absolute necessities to effective duty. Their shoes were worn out, blankets were lost, their clothing was

in rags—in short, the army were unfit for active service, and an interval for rest and equipments was necessary.

"When the slowly forwarded supplies came to us I led the army across the river, renovated, refreshed and in good order and discipline, and followed the retreating foe to a position where I was confident of a decisive victory; when, in the midst of the movement, and while my advance guard was actually in contact with the enemy, I was removed from the command.

"I am devoutly grateful to God that my last campaign with this brave army was crowned with a victory which saved the nation from the greatest peril it had then undergone.

"I have not accomplished my purpose, if by this report the Army of the Potomac is not placed high on the roll of the historic armies of the world. Its deeds enabled the nation to which it belongs—always ready for battle, always firm, steadfast and trustworthy. I never called on it in vain, nor will the nation ever have cause to attribute its want of success, under myself or under other commanders, to any failure of patriotism or bravery in that noble body of American soldiers. No man can justly charge upon any portion of that army, from the Commanding General to a private, any lack of devotion to the service of the U. S. Government and the cause of the Constitution and Union. They have proved their fealty in much sorrow, suffering, danger, and through the very shadow of death. Their comrades dead on all the fields where we fought have scarcely more claims to the honor of a nation's reverence than the survivors to the justice of a nation's gratitude."

The report covers the period from the 26th of July, 1861, to November 7, 1862.

NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

GREENBACKS are openly sold on the streets of Richmond, and command a large premium. What a commentary on the prospects of the Sham Confederacy.

THE Legislature of New York organized, the Senate choosing the following officers: Clerk—James Terwilliger; Sergeant-at-Arms—Azal B. B. Hall; Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms—Sanders Watson. The Assembly elected—Speaker—Thomas G. Alvord; Clerk—Joseph Cushman; Sergeant-at-Arms, Charles E. Young.

A CAIRO letter says:—"Large quantities of cotton are coming in all along the Mississippi. The prospects are now that the amount of cotton will increase as the river rises and navigation becomes more safe. Three hundred plantations are now in successful and profitable operation along the banks of the Mississippi, and it is expected that before May both sides of the river will be in complete operation, by people prepared to labor and defend themselves.

JOHN HUGHES, Archbishop of New York, died on Sunday evening about 8 o'clock. He was born in the north of Ireland in 1796, and was consequently 66 years of age. He was first ordained in Philadelphia in 1825, and was settled in a parish in that city. In 1839 he was appointed administrator to the diocese, and in 1842 he succeeded to the dignity of Bishop. In 1850 New York was made an arch-bishopric, and he went to Rome to receive the pallium at the hands of the Pope. His public services during the rebellion are too recent to require mention. His last moments were very quiet, being scarcely able to articulate, although retaining his senses until his death.

MRS. JANE R. MUNSSELL, wife of Addison T. Munsell of South Carolina, died at Sandy Spring in Maryland, on the 22d of November. Mrs. Munsell made the tour of the Northern States two years ago, and addressed the Legislature at Albany, and other public bodies. The rebels had imprisoned her husband, and she had wandered in quest of him, knowing nothing of his fate. She succeeded at last in finding him at Williamsport Maryland, after the rebels had been driven from that place. For two years past she had given her labors to sick and wounded soldiers, both in the hospital and on the battle-field.

The following figures show the commerce of the country for the last fiscal year:

Foreign Merchandise Imported,	\$252,731,939
Foreign Specie Imported,	9,565,648
Total Import,	\$262,297,587
Domestic Produce Exported,	249,836,849
Foreign goods re-exported,	17,796,300
American Coin,	\$5,992,562
Foreign Coin,	\$1,163,048
Total Export,	\$264,800,450
Difference in favor of the U. S.,	69,521,872

These figures are very suggestive. In the first place they show that our exports are greater in a time of war than in a time of peace, and that New York exports more goods to Europe, without the cotton crop, than she did with it. The table also shows that our total exports exceed our total imports by over sixty millions of dollars.

THE King of Denmark is, we believe, the only monarch who has died during the past year. France has lost Billault, her leading government minister. England's list of distinguished dead is unusually large. It includes the Marquises of Lansdowne and Normanby, Sir George Cornwall Lewis, Mulready, the painter, Sir Creswell Creswell, Lord Clyde, Archbishop Whately and Lord Lyndhurst. In this country, but very few prominent civilians have died. In the army our losses have been severe, including among the generals the names of Berry, Reynolds, Sill, Lytle, Bayard, Saunders, Buford and Corcoran. The navy has lost the gallant Commodore Foot and Rogers. The rebels have lost Stonewall Jackson, Generals Paxton, Tracy, Tilghman, Pender, Garnett, Barksdale, Helm, Smith, Van Dorn and John B. Floyd and Mr. Yancey. Mexico has lost one of her best men, Gen. Comonfort.

List of New Advertisements.

Rochester Central Nurseries—C. W. Seelye.
Schenectady Ag'l Works.—G. Westinghouse & Co.
Brown's Bronchial Troches.
Vick's Illustrated Catalogue—Jas. Vick.
Holland and Iowa Land for Sale—John Cassidy.
Seed Wheat clean from Oats—A. Sprague.
Farm for Sale—Trevor & Co.
Annual Meeting N. Y. State Ag. Society—B. P. Johnson.
Farm for Sale—E. Root.
Agents Wanted—Boylan & Co.
Farm at Auction—W. S. Fluskey.
Commission Tree Broker—Thos. Wright.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Atlantic Monthly—Ticknor & Field.
Everybody Goes For It—D. B. De Land & Co.

The News Condenser.

— Chicago received 122,000 hogs in one week recently.

— The free letter delivery system has been established in Buffalo.

— There were 177 fires in Chicago last year, causing a loss of \$298,180.

— The receipts of the Sanitary Fair at Cincinnati are estimated at \$240,000.

— There are 20 cheese factories in Oneida county, and the number is increasing.

— The bill for one of the Russian dinners in New York amounts to \$6,750.

— Gen. Averill is suffering from having his feet frozen during his late brilliant raid.

— Some patient statistician calculates that there are just 20,620 stitches in a shirt.

— Boston has a one-legged skater whose evolutions on the ice attract much attention.

— The total number of volunteer enlistments from Jan. 31st, 1863, is given as 117,000.

— The milk-men of New York have advanced the price of milk to eight cents per quart.

— Very rich mines of lead, containing silver, have been discovered in Lancaster Co., Pa.

— Upward of 2,000,000 bushels of oysters have been sold in Baltimore during the past year.

— Two soldiers were frozen to death at Chattanooga on the 30th ult. The weather was very cold.

— There was another fall in the price of coal at the regular monthly sale in New York the other day.

— Prof. Whitney, the State Geologist of California, says the big trees of Tuolumne are 1,260 years old.

— By order of Gen. Grant the sale of whisky, either at wholesale or retail, has been prohibited at Nashville.

— In the year 1863 there were 2,284 dwelling houses, fifteen factories and nine churches erected in Philadelphia.

— Christopher Sargent, of St. Johnsbury, Vt. has nine hens which have laid during three months 1,366 eggs.

— The story that Gen. Schofield has been relieved from the command of the Department of Missouri, is denied.

— Rebel officers and soldiers in large numbers have come into Newbern, N. C., and accepted the President's pardon.

— Austria has followed the example of England, in definitely refusing to take any part in the proposed Congress.

— A waterfall has been found on the Lewis fork of the Columbia river that is thirty-eight feet higher than Niagara.

— A lady recently returned to Hartford, Conn., from the South, who paid \$1,500 as the traveling expenses of her trip.

— Eastern capitalists are buying immense tracts of land in Michigan. One New York company has invested \$600,000.

— Mrs. Sarah Waters died at Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer county, a few days since, at the age of one hundred and one years.

— The total amount of the claims presented by citizens of Minnesota for losses sustained in the Sioux war is \$2,600,000.

— The estimate of the bureau of Internal Revenue of the annual manufacture of whisky in the country, is 100,000,000 gallons.

— The total number of disasters to vessels on the western lakes during 1863 was about 350—an increase over the previous year of 60.

— A young woman is in prison in London for getting her mother's life handsomely insured and then poisoning the old lady with arsenic.

— A young lady of Patterson, N. J., on Christmas day skated all the way from that city to Newark and back, a distance of 30 miles.

— Small-pox is prevailing to an alarming extent at Horicon, Wis. Places of business have been closed, and great excitement prevails.

— There is said to be so much American butter in England that at present prices it would be a good speculation to bring it back for sale.

— There is a place in New Brunswick called "Skead-dler's Ridge." It is where some fifty cowards have gone to avoid wearing uniforms.

— Both branches of the legislature of Western Virginia have agreed to a bill calling a convention for the abolition of slavery in that State.

— There are six United States general hospitals in Ohio, capable of accommodating three thousand six hundred and ninety-eight patients.

— The historical works of Bancroft, Irving and Prescott are the fashion in France through the excellent translations of Guizot, and others.

— Nathaniel Wodell of Westport, Mass., who mysteriously disappeared in 1816, has returned after an absence of forty-seven and a half years.

— An eagle so loaded down with ice that he could not fly, was captured in Orange last week. He measured seven feet two inches from tip to tip.

— The cattle disease has made its appearance in Littleton, Mass., in the last few days. One person has been obliged to kill sixteen head of cattle.

— The estimated strength of the Federal army for the ensuing year, including regulars, volunteers and drafted men, is 927,606; of the navy, 58,000 men.

— The first white person born in Ohio is still living—Johanna Maria Heckwelder. She is the daughter of a Moravian Missionary; is 83 years of age.

— The whole quota of Rhode Island, under the present call, was furnished before Christmas. She is now enlisting men to be credited on another call.

— Gen. Gilmore is gradually destroying Charleston, it is said. He caused flames to break out in seven different places recently after one series of firings.

— The question of erecting a statue in Central Park, N. Y., to John Bright, the friend of freedom and the North in England, is being agitated in that city.

— A telegraph company in Pennsylvania was lately sued for refusing to send a message that was known to be untrue, and the court sustained the company.

