

RURAL NEW-YORKER

MOORE'S

AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE RURAL LIFE EXCELSIOR LITERATURE SCIENCE ARTS NEWS

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"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

THE LEADING AMERICAN WEEKLY

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE,

With an Able Corps of Assistants and Contributors.

CHAS. D. BRADGON, Western Corresponding Editor.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER is designed to be unsurpassed in Value, Purity, Usefulness 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 especially advocates. As a FAMILY JOURNAL, it is eminently instructive and entertaining—being so conducted that it can be safely taken to the Heart and Home of people of intelligence, taste and discrimination. It embraces more Agricultural, Horticultural, Scientific, Educational, Literary and News Matter, interspersed with appropriate and beautiful Engravings, than any other Journal, rendering it the most complete AGRICULTURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER in America.

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AGRICULTURAL.

WESTERN EDITORIAL NOTES.

SOME SORGHUM ITEMS.

It is difficult to give a Down-Easter who has never visited the West an adequate idea of the revolution the Sorghum product is working, and is likely to work in the husbandry of Western farmers. And this leads me to say here, that I never before saw such an opening for the profitable employment of unemployed capital as is apparent now. Land may be purchased cheap, the tools are at hand with which to work it economically, and without the aid of much manual labor; and the crops that may be grown have no uncertain value and yield a large profit. Witness what I shall write below.

THE CROP OF 1862.

It is large in the aggregate, but it is doubted if the yield of sorghum is so large per acre as that of some former seasons. It has been an unfavorable season for the production of the cane in most localities. The spring was late and the seed was not planted early; then it became wet and cold, and the plant did not begin to grow much until after the 1st or 15th of July; and then it grew too rapidly. The weeds meantime advanced faster than the plant—the ground being so wet this could not be prevented. In some instances it was so wet that no team could travel in it. Hundreds of acres, therefore, were left to themselves, and the weeds overtopped the Sorghum. This, of course, diminished the crop, and prevented many fields being harvested at all.

GOOD CROPS FOLLOW GOOD CULTURE.

This is an invariable rule, no matter what the character of the product. But it has been strikingly established by the Sorghum crops of the present year. Good culture has doubled, and in some instances tripled the product. One gentleman told me he knew of an instance where two fields, adjoining each other, were planted in Sorghum at the same time. The seed germinated equally well in each case. One field received thorough culture; the other was neglected, comparatively. The result was, 300 gallons of sirup to the acre from the cultivated field, and only 80 gallons per acre from the neglected one—a difference of \$55 per acre in favor of the cultivated field, reckoning the sirup at the lowest price paid for the crude article at the farm of the producer.

This is not an exceptional case by any means. I have listened to just such scathing criticisms upon the kind of husbandry pursued by many farmers, at almost every manufactory I have visited in the West this fall. Good culture pays. Poor culture, or no culture, does not pay.

HOW MUCH SORGHUM PAYS.

Take the above instance of the farmer who produced 300 gallons per acre. At 25 cents per gallon it yields him \$75 per acre. From this is to be deducted the labor and the interest on the capital employed in its production. It would leave a profit of \$50 per acre without any sort of doubt. But 25 cents per gallon is the minimum price for this product. The price the producer realizes is 25 to 50 cents per gallon, depending upon the character of the sirup, the distance from market, &c. From 35 to 40 cents per gallon is paid for the crude article in this city (Chicago) for refining. From this must be deducted freights hither.

But it is the best crop grown this year, where it has been properly cared for. One farmer came to this State from New York State a few years since, and purchased a farm of the Illinois Central Railroad Co. He went into grain growing—small grain. Did not pay expenses. He tried corn, and scarcely made a living. Was about abandoning the West, when the product from a half acre of Sorghum he had planted attracted his attention. He applied a little arithmetic to the result and figured out future profit. The result was the thorough preparation of 23 acres of land for the Sorghum crop of 1862. It was planted and thoroughly cultivated. He sold the product in this city a few days since, and found the net profit of the crop to be \$25 per acre;

the first money he had made by farming in Illinois, he said.

PAPER FROM THE BEGASSE.

But the sirup it produces is not the only merchantable part of it. It is found to be a better material than straw for the manufacture of paper. It is softer and makes a stronger paper. It, however, costs as much to manufacture it, and perhaps a little more, than it does straw. But it is valuable to mix with straw. It softens the paper. The same process is adopted in its manufacture as in the manufacture of straw, either into wrapping or print paper. Whether it will render print paper cheaper than it now is, must depend much on the price of bleaching powders. It requires double the amount of these to bleach it, that rags do, and more than straw. A manufacturer asserts, however, that if they succeed in its manufacture into print paper, as there is prospect they will do, it will be found profitable to farmers to dry the begasse and bale it ready for shipment. Hence it will be seen that here is another important item. It is worth as much per ton to the manufacturer as straw, which is worth two and a half or three dollars per ton. In order to insure a sale of this begasse it is important that the juice be all crushed out of it. The crushing process is a necessary preparation of the fiber for the paper manufacturer; and it is important that the begasse be dried before fermentation can follow. The value of the fiber is quickly affected by fermentation, and its value for manufacturing purposes thereby depreciated. There are heaps of it about the various mills in the West, which may be made available to the manufacturer by a little timely effort.

ABOUT SEED FOR 1863.

Where and how the seed for the crop of 1863 is to be obtained is now agitating Sorghum men. The crop of good seed the present year is said to be small. A gentleman of large experience says he believes two-thirds of the seed grown the past year is mongrel. He had traveled three weeks in Iowa this fall to buy seed, and found but two lots that he would plant. Farmers are careless in planting—plant it too near broom corn, or other allied species with which it will hybridize. But the greatest difficulty seems to be, that care is not taken to select the seed of the best corn—the earliest, purest, and that which yields the greatest amount of saccharine matter—that positive improvement in the character of the crop is not secured, instead of positive deterioration.

A gentleman largely interested in these matters suggests that local Agricultural Societies could do the community great service by appointing committees or a committee to canvass each township and impress the importance of this case in the selection of seed upon the farmers of said township—selecting, and if necessary purchasing, the best seed that can be found. Such committees might do great good; and every man who regards this an important matter may profitably (to the country) employ his personal influence in his neighborhood in this direction. This will be one of the duties of the Sorghum Convention soon to meet at Rockford in this State—to adopt some system by which good, pure seed may be secured the coming year.

THE BEST SOIL FOR SORGHUM.

Each year's experience establishes the fact that a light sandy loam, or gravel, or clayey soil is much better for this crop than the black, mucky, prairie soils. The difference is apparent more in the quality of the sirup manufactured than otherwise; but it is found also that the same amount of juice yields a greater amount of saccharine matter. It is found that the crude article of sirup grown on the mucky soils, even if as light colored, does not refine as well as that manufactured from cane grown on the light sandy or gravelly soils. Refiners make a difference in the prices they pay for sirup, in favor of that grown on these light and clayey soils.

HOW TO GET SUGAR FROM SORGHUM.

I find that men who are best posted, and who have had the aid of chemical investigation, in forming their conclusions, have about abandoned the hope of precipitating sugar from Sorghum by rapid evaporation. There is too much grape sugar in it. But they concede that if boiled down to a thick sirup and allowed to remain in a uniform temperature a very large per cent. of it will crystallize.

ONE OR TWO VARIETIES OF IMPHEE

Promise more sugar and a surer crop, than the Sorghum. There is a cane in this State, called by a rampant editor who is selling the seed, Otaheitan Cane, which crystallizes by evaporation as maple sugar crystallizes. Intelligent gentlemen who have seen it growing, assert that it is a variety of the Imphee. It certainly resembles it in many respects. Its growth is as great as the Sorghum; but, unlike it does not sucker. It bears its seed in different form. I have seen sugar said to have been made from it by the rudest process, which would compare favorably with raw N. O. sugars. What the origin of this cane is, or why the name it bears is given it, I have been unable to learn. There seems to be much to hope from it as a sugar-producing plant. Its first appearance in this State, was, I believe, on the farm of SAMUEL HOOKER, of Schuyler county.

SUGAR FROM THE SUGAR BEET

Is now the object of capitalists interested in sugar manufacture. Last spring much seed was distributed in different parts of the West, and resulted in quite a crop of samples, grown on different soils, with great difference in culture. Analyses of these samples have been made with results depending, apparently, upon the different conditions (of soil, climate and culture,) under which they were grown. The per cent. of cane sugar these samples have been found to contain has ranged from 3 to 13 per centum. This range is greater than that of the same product in France or Germany, I think. The average will compare favorably with the sweetness of the beets produced in those countries with all the advantages of experience and superior culture which belong there. The soils on which the samples yielding the greatest per cent were grown were either very stiff, pure clays, or sandy soils. Culture had much to do with the result. Some samples were grown out of the ground—above the surface. Such did not contain much sugar, while samples to which the earth was drawn and were grown beneath the surface yielded a much greater product. The directions given in the present volume of the RURAL have proved profitable to those who cultivated their crop after the manner then recommended.

About the profit of this crop there should, of course, be some interest felt. Those who know best assert that if the beet, as grown here, will yield six per cent. of cane sugar it will be the most profitable crop the farmer can raise. If 12½ tons of the root can be grown per acre, containing six per cent. of sugar, the sugar product will be 1,500 pounds per acre. This product, at six cents per pound, will be \$90 per acre to be divided between the producer and his co-workers, and the manufacturer and those who aid him. Those who have grown roots in the West will not set 12½ tons per acre down as a very large crop to grow on prairie soils. The experiments in the manufacture of this crop into sugar, which are soon to commence in this city, will be regarded with great interest, and will determine, to a great extent, the future of the crop here. So great is the confidence of experienced Germans in the capacity and adaptability of western soils to the profitable culture of this crop, that large investments have been made in land, and extensive preparations are being made for cultivating a large crop the coming year. One gentleman near Chatsworth, in this State, is to plant 200 acres next spring.

SUGAR BEET CULTURE IN FRANCE.

An Eastern contemporary very cautiously cast a small tub of cold water on the revival of the interest in sugar beet culture in this country, last spring, quoting the early portion of its history in France to chill said water in said little tub. There was data in my possession then with which I had intended to reply; but the matter was necessarily deferred too long. Recently, however, I have seen a London Sugar Circular from one of the best informed firms in that city, from which I am permitted to publish the following facts, showing the progress of this culture there. The circular says: "The progress of this industry in France is remarkable,—the more so since it proceeds under the heavy infliction of duties and taxation. The produce of beet sugar in France in 1832 was only 9,000 tons; in 1840, 40,000 tons; in 1852, 68,000 tons; in 1860, 113,000 tons; in 1861, 159,000 tons. In combination with the distillation of molasses and cattle feeding from the pulp, the beet culture is looked upon next to the vine, as the most profitable branch of Agriculture, and liable to further great extension."

Of the beet sugar produced in 1861, 142,832 tons went into general consumption in France; 8,604 tons were exported from the country, leaving a stock on hand of 7,112 tons. It should be remembered that beet sugar in France pays the same duty to the Government that foreign sugars do; and yet its production is profitable and constantly increasing. In Germany the same result follows its culture. Profits there, are, if anything, greater. And here we have no such expensive system of manufacturing, no rents to pay, light taxes, improved implements of culture, and the genius and enterprise which adapts means to accomplish ends with such successes as to render the profit of sugar beet culture almost certain. At least it is worthy the attention of those who grow poor by grain growing.

EASTERN RURAL NOTES.

BY DR. O. W. TRUE.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—You have *Western Notes*, and why not have *Eastern Notes*, even though they should not be as valuable? Would they not be of some enhancing value to your already vigorous and enterprising paper? Here, then, let us try a few rounds and see whether or no they may not strike a chord or two in the major key which shall be *en rapport* with a few readers, to say the least.

SILSIEAN SHEEP.

In your report of the N. Y. State Fair, of October 11, p. 325, present volume, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN gives the average of his flock, of 400, at nine pounds. Was this washed wool? We here in the East wish more light about these sheep, because this is much better shearing than our flocks will average, even though kept in much smaller flocks. Will the Reporter or Mr. CHAMBERLAIN tell us about the keep

and size of this remarkable flock of sheep? [The reporter is at the West; we hope Mr. C. will respond.—Ed.]

THE SHEEP FEVER.

This fever is eminently contagious, not among the innocent sheep, but among the genus *homo*; the pacific effluvia which is so effectually absorbed and as surely effective in its results is from the essence of Gain, and when compressed and in a material form is known as the "Almighty Dollar." Memory doth not call up the time when sheep were in such demand, since the war of 1812, as this fall. Every one who keeps any kind of stock wants a "few more sheep." Lambs, half to three-fourths Merino, or less, dropped in May, here in Northern Maine are bringing \$2.25 to \$3; sheep, \$2.75 to \$3.50 by the flock.

WIRE FENCE.

There has been but little of this fence built in this section owing to there being a native supply of materials, and where it has been erected, as a general thing, it has proved a failure, as far as I am advised, yet it looked as though it would have been a fairer test of its merits had it been put up in a workman-like manner. The strands have not been stretched so taut as recommended in the RURAL of Nov. 15, lest when the posts were frozen in the ground the cold weather would shorten the wires enough to break them outright; but, on the contrary, were put in so that in a short time they would sag between some of the posts and injure the looks and efficiency of the same.

For us, in the East, it would be a good public investment, if roads are to be fenced, and they probably will be for a long time to come, because they are already nearly all fenced, and for the convenience of the thing, to put up wire fences along the roads open, over and through the snow-drifts would in a few years build all the fences necessary along the highways where stone-wall or wood fences cause the snow to lodge from four feet to ten feet deep in the traveled path. If it will do to stretch the wires so they will stay in place I can see no reason why they may not be built so to be durable and efficient. But when the thermometer is down to 30° below zero there would have to be some reserved slack somewhere to meet the tension thus brought to bear.

THE WEATHER.

The seventh of November it commenced snowing 8 o'clock, P. M., wind east, in Franklin county, and ceased in the night. About four inches fell and rain followed the 9th—enough to spoil the sleighing. We now have had a three days' rain and it is still raining at the writing of this, Nov. 21, which has taken the frost nearly all out of the ground. It was much needed to fill swamps, brooks, rills, wells, and springs for winter. It has been a pleasant fall, except some high winds which prostrated many fine trees.

Franklin Co., Maine, 1862.



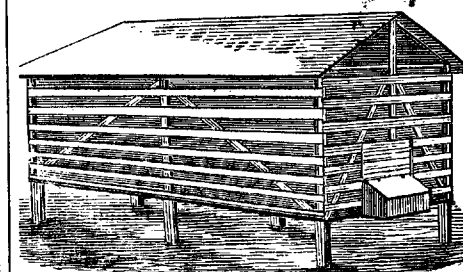
STANBROUGH'S SEEDING MACHINE.

Our engraving is intended to represent a machine for sowing Clover, Timothy, Turnip, and other small seeds, and also plaster, invented and patented by Mr. SAMUEL STANBROUGH, of Washtenaw county, Mich. It has been used for three or four years by many farmers in that State, and said to be highly approved. The sowing-box is longer than represented in the engraving, and sows from 10 to 12 feet wide. We saw this machine a few days ago, and witnessed its operation,—at an in-door trial,—and were favorably impressed with its simplicity, construction, and apparent accuracy in distributing seed evenly. It can easily be changed from a hand to a horse machine. We consider it worthy the attention of farmers interested, though we cannot speak of its practical operation in the field. For further information see advertisement in this paper.

A GOOD AND CHEAP CORN CRIB.

In passing around the country since corn harvest I have noticed with interest the different methods of farmers in storing its valuable product. Some have cribs variously constructed, some store in barns and outhouses, and a few have costly corn houses. In nearly all cases the corn is exposed to the depredations of rats and mice, sometimes to birds, and where

barns are used, the corn, if husked early, is very liable to mould. Very many thousands of bushels of Indian corn are annually wasted, destroyed, and injured because of defective storage. For three years past I have used a crib of my own invention and construction, the ventilation of which is perfect; so that early husking, while the weather is pleasant, is safe—its contents are exempt from rats, mice and birds; it is of light cost—as any farmer who knows how to use saw and square may build one—and, moreover, if well built is a neat and tasteful appendage to any farmer's premises. As winter is a good time to prepare materials, perhaps it will now be reasonable to give a



DESCRIPTION:—Plant in the ground firmly, not less than 3½ feet deep, six posts, of the most durable wood that can be obtained, spaced so as to support a structure 6 feet by 12. Cut them off level 2 feet from the surface of the ground, then shave them round and smooth, and sheathe them with tin at least 12 inches at the top. On these posts spike sills of 4 by 4 oak scantling halved together, with cross joists framed in. On this nail a floor of hard wood boards. The side sills and the floor should project 12 inches at the end where the door is placed. Now with white oak ribs, sawed 3 inches wide by 1½ thick, lay up the crib, (as a log house is built,) laying the ribs flatwise, nailing them firmly together wherever they come in contact, and nailing a block, or short piece of rib, in the middle of the sides between each long rib. This, when finished, will have the appearance of a post. Some thick, cheap paint, should be applied, as the work progresses, wherever the ribs touch each other. Plumb straight edges should be nailed up, as a guide in building, at the corners. At one end of the crib a door frame (made of ribs) with flanges to receive the ribs of which the end is built, should be built in. Attached to this door may be a box, with a roof cover, so constructed that the box may be removed at pleasure when entrance into the crib is desired. At other times it will be full of corn for use. About 6 feet high from the sills will be a proper height for the walls. When the walls are of this height they should be braced on the inside, as pictured in the engraving. A light post at each end (inside) and one in the center, will support a ridge pole. To this ridge pole one side of the roof may be firmly nailed. The other side may be nailed at each end, and in the middle, leaving two spaces without nailing for the purpose of filling the crib with a scoop-shovel from a wagon driven alongside. The roof may be of wide pine boards projecting well at the eaves and gables, and battened. The materials for the construction of such a crib will cost, here, a trifle over \$5, and it will hold over 300 bushels even measure, or over 250 bushels of ears of corn. I tried, first, inverted tin pans on the post tops. An agile rat would occasionally scramble over. I added the sheathing; it was effectual. PETER HATHAWAY, Milan, Erie Co., Ohio, 1862.

A FARMER'S THOUGHTS.

THE Winter season is indeed one of comparative leisure to the husbandman, yet a thorough and industrious farmer finds but little leisure at any season of the year. Though we are all endowed with social qualities of mind and are more or less fond of amusement, many farmers make this a season of recreation beyond what is profitable or beneficial. The general appearance of a man's farm, and the condition of his stock in the Spring of the year, tell in a great degree how the Winter has been spent; and if rightly improved, when the season for more active farming operations shall arrive, he will be prepared to commence his labors fully armed and equipped with suitable implements of husbandry, and his teams will likewise be in a condition to perform their labors with cheerfulness and alacrity. If the winter and early spring months are wisely and properly improved, the advantage and beneficial results arising therefrom will be plainly seen and felt throughout the year.

The farmer's duties and labors are not confined exclusively to the farm. Most farmers have sons and daughters to educate and fit for the varied duties and responsibilities of mature life,—and it is at this season of the year that the greatest portion of them receive the most of their education. This season of relaxation from farm labors affords them an opportunity to cultivate their minds and stock them with useful knowledge; and it is highly important that they should be properly trained and disciplined, for the human mind is a prolific soil, and without proper cultivation will send forth spontaneous productions, the evil consequences and influences of which will be seriously felt in every branch and department of society. At this season every farmer, however advanced in life or well skilled in

his profession, can find time for study, and gather new ideas that will enable him to prosecute his labors more successfully, and thus advance the interests of his high calling. Notwithstanding farming is an honorable and indispensable avocation, it is but lightly prized by many farmers' sons, and they seek other employments and follow less honorable pursuits.

But, from a glance at the present condition of our country, I apprehend that the benefits and importance of Agriculture will ere long become more apparent even to a casual observer,—and though it may not be the speediest road to wealth and distinction, it will be found to be the more sure foundation to build upon. It is time that every farmer should be aroused to a true sense of his position. Our Government is to be vindicated, large armies are to be clothed and fed, and heavy taxes must be paid, which will call largely upon the farmer's resources. Nor are the tillers of the soil to labor for our own country alone. Beyond broad Atlantic's tumultuous waves a voice has ever been ringing in our ears for bread, and that voice will continue at intervals to sound upon the American farmer's ear. Then, is it not highly important and necessary that every American farmer should be industrious and economical, that much unnecessary suffering may be avoided, and his power and influence be felt at home and abroad?

Monroe Co., N. Y., Dec., 1862.

LETTER FROM BUCKS CO., PA.

CROPS OF 1862—FARM IMPLEMENTS, &c.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—The crops of 1862 have generally yielded an average in this region. Grass and wheat have produced a full average, but oats were badly injured by the Aphid, or grain louse, which made the grain very light. A large portion of the grain will not weigh twenty pounds per bushel. The corn crop suffered badly in some localities from the drouth, which is often the case. But the yield will be fair, and nearly up to the average of the last ten years. Potatoes—a light yield, but are keeping well, and clear of the rot, that so often destroys the whole crop with us. The apples are the fullest crop of the season, and probably greater than we have had since 1844—quite a treat for us, as we have not had enough for home consumption for the last five years. I now have bearing trees enough to procure six thousand bushels annually, which have not had more than six hundred (previous to the present year) for the past five years—the bloom being destroyed twice by cold storms, and three times by foggy, dull weather, in that time. I am happy to see that, although a large portion of the laboring class has been called to the battle-field, to protect us and our country, those who have remained at home have been successful in providing for the wants of all, and have a surplus yet to spare—so that we have no fear that famine will be added to the horrors of war.

I see an inquiry in your paper for the best farm mill to grind grain by horse power, with two horses, and in reply I will state that I have one of Feltor's, manufactured at Troy, which I have had in use about ten years. During that time I have ground about 7,000 bushels of grain for feed, such as corn, rye and oats. It grinds moderately fine, at the rate of six to eight bushels per hour, with a two-horse railway power, without any expense for repairs, and I think the mill will last (from present appearance) for twenty years to come, as the grinding surface does not appear to be in the least injured by wear. As I have no interest in the sale of the above mills, I cannot inform "Inquirer" whether the mills are still manufactured there, or if so, at what price they can be obtained; but I think this the best mill I have ever seen.

I have tried many of our new and improved implements, and I find some of them superior to old ones we have in use, and others of but little value. I had the second fork for unloading hay by horse-power that was ever used in Pennsylvania. After a fair trial, I had it brought to notice through the Albany Cultivator, and I am pleased to see the good that I accomplished by bringing it before the public. I also tried HALLOWAY'S Wind-Mill for pumping water for stock, but it proved a failure with us, in consequence of our severe gales.

As I fear that I am troubling you with a long letter, and but little profit, I will close by wishing you success with the RURAL.

Yours truly, ADRIAN CORNELL, SR.
Bucks County, Pa., Nov., 1862.

A YOUNG FARMER ON FARMING.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Not long since while reading some of your excellent papers, (which my father takes, and thinks an indispensable article,) I noticed an article urging farmers to write on the subject of farming, and I thought that through the columns of your paper I would say something on this important topic. It is a fact that too many of our farmers don't make farming pay. I suppose it is the same with you as it is among us—that some men who own farms of fifty to a hundred acres of land complain that they can't get rich, or make farming pay. Some farmers will let their farms go to loose ends; let their cattle and sheep run over the farm wherever they will. The front yard and barn doors are often open, and the hogs and cattle fighting to see which will get the most feed, while the owner runs in, picks up the fork, gives them a good pricking, and away they go, "helter to skelter." In the meantime he gets a pitch-fork full of fodder, and goes out and throws it in the mud, saying, "there, I guess that will do for this time." He throws the fork into the barn, sets a rail against the doors, and goes to the house to warm his shins. His cattle, hogs and sheep are huddled so close together that the four feet of each would almost stand on a penny; while the rain and snow are giving their hides a good soaking; and then a gust of wind comes and almost blows them off their foundations, and the boards on the barn are keeping time with the storm.

Now, the above is true of many farmers in this region. Keep your cattle and sheep under cover, and see the difference. After the fall's work is done, or any other spare time, go to the woods and get out some timber; get some rails and boards, and put up some stables; then make a sheep shed, and see in how much better order your cattle will be in the spring. Your sheep won't have their wool half off their backs. Give your stock some roots or grain. Last winter my father tried this way of farming, and found that there was nothing lost, but a good deal gained. But perhaps I am occupying too much room in your valuable paper, and will close for the present, though I may hereafter give you some facts and figures of past experience.

South Norwich, C. W., 1862.

J. M. W.

HOW TO BUILD AN ICE-HOUSE.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Seeing an inquiry in a late RURAL in regard to building an Ice-House, brought to mind the fact of how few avail themselves of the greatest of all luxuries in hot weather, which is ice. I will now give you a plan of my ice-house, from which any one can build who can use a saw and hammer.

It has been built about ten years, and is all sound yet, with the exception of the boards on the inside, which will want to be replaced once in about five or six years. The size is 8 by 10 outside, six feet high. I took two-inch plank, 12 inches wide, for sills and plates, halved together at the corners. I used studs on the inside, and boarded up and down outside. The cracks should be covered with battens to prevent the air striking the ice. The rafters should be five or six inch stuff, boarded on the inside, and the space filled with either saw-dust or refuse tan-bark. The inside should be boarded the other way to within a foot or so of the plates, which should be left until the space is filled. I place poles or scantling in the bottom, and cover with slabs, which will afford all the drainage necessary. The door should always be on the north side. The cracks in the north gable-end should be left open for the purpose of ventilation. I consider saw-dust the best to fill the sides with, but tan-bark, turner's shavings, chaff or straw will do.

It is more work to fill an ice-house the first year than it is ever after that. I like snow the best of anything to pack in—always filling the cracks between the cakes as solid as possible. I have taken out snow the last of summer just as fresh as when it was put in. The size of this house may be objected to by some, but mine holds enough for a large family, and also a dairy of 20 cows. I don't believe any dairyman who has had ice to use one year would be without it for ten times the cost.

One thing more about the house:—It should be banked up at the bottom, for any circulation of air through the ice will melt it as fast as water poured through it.

Black River, Jeff. Co., N. Y.

FLAX CULTURE—INQUIRIES.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I notice in a late number of the RURAL an article taken from the N. E. Farmer in reference to the cultivation of flax. I regard this matter of vast importance to the farmer and to the whole country. Last season I took considerable interest in calling the attention of the farming community, through the medium of our home paper, to the importance of cultivating flax for cottonizing purposes. The article you publish does not give the full particulars in reference to its cultivation, rotting, breaking, &c. Will you, therefore, or some of your readers, answer the annexed questions for the benefit of your correspondent, and all who are interested in advancing the interests of the Legal North, and to aid in "floating out," effectually, King Cotton?

When is the best time to sow?—and would it answer just as well to sow the first or middle of May? How much seed to the acre? You speak of unrotted straw. Could the straw be converted (or broken) into fibre when the straw is unrotted? Some writers speak of dew rotting before taking off the seed. If it is necessary to dew rot, how long should it remain on the ground after cutting before housing or threshing? Some say thresh off the seed and then dew rot it before breaking. Which is best?

How is it prepared for market? Should it be scutched after breaking and before it is fit for baling? or is breaking sufficient? And, finally, will there always be a ready market for good prepared flax? and at what price?

REMARKS.—We could answer a portion of the above questions, but prefer to submit the whole subject to some experienced flax grower. There are many persons among our readers who can answer most of the queries correctly, (save the last one, which will require a prophet.) Who will respond?—Ed.

RURAL EXPERIENCES—NO. II.

Most people only tell one side of a story, and that is the smooth side; but here is the rough side. A few years ago my brother and myself built a hog-house, and wishing to save the urine with the manure, did not hardly know how to do it; but the stone mason (who always wants a good job,) said, "grout it, for that's the way they did it in Scotland." So we adopted his suggestion, and it looked very nice when finished. It was some time before we put the hogs upon it, so it would be dry and hard. It went very well for a few weeks, and then what a disappointment!—what a general rot up!—and a few days more and plank and sleepers took the place of stone and mortar.

We also grouted an underground stable, (for calves and sheep,) which proved more substantial, but too hard for their feet, and not a very soft place to sleep, unless well covered with straw.

Again we "missed it," rigged our stables with the shut-up, hold-fast, stand-still stanchions. These will do well enough for a dairy, but for young stock they are not the thing—as they, like small children, need exercise, and do better to run loose into a warm shed or stable. Sheep will also do much better to have their freedom, and not shut up in a stable. Cold does not affect sheep, but a wet, muddy yard does.

Last, but not least, fat pork at the cost of six dollars per hundred, and sell for five.

OBSERVATION.

Onondaga Co., N. Y., December, 1862.

The Bee-keeper

Change of Scene for Bees.

THE Scottish Farmer has the following on the "Importance of change of Scene to Bees":

A friend, who has been a bee-master for forty years, informs us that he considers a change of scene, especially from garden to heather, of great advantage to the bees. He noticed that when his hives were not removed to hill quarters for a few seasons, they became effeminate and thoughtless, and that, when bees from strange hives made an attack upon them or their stores, they showed a deficiency in courage; whereas he noticed that when sent off regularly to rusticate among the hills, they always showed a more stirring and plucky nature, and enemies were seldom successful in a battle. This he accounted for in this manner. Bees in a wild state change their abode frequently; indeed, this they are often forced to do, from the trees, etc., in which they lodge being frequently destroyed; hence their tendency to effeminacy when confined in the same abode for a number of years. Then, when they are placed among the hills, they are generally placed

along side of bees from various districts, with which they learn both to do battle and to do the amiable. In short, they see society, become bees of the world, and return to their garden nooks with renewed health and pluck, over and above adding considerably to the value of their stores. We have heard an extensive breeder of pheasants state that he considered change of scene for breeding birds also required, in order to keep the old birds in health, and in a state in which they would breed annually. It is a common thing to have the breeding pens fixed; and keepers know how spiritless they become in such places after a year or two's confinement. But when the pens are made of light material, and changed in situation every two years or so, birds remain comparatively healthy.

Removing Honey from Hives.

THE California Farmer says:—Two years ago we tried the following experiment on a hive of bees, from which it was desired to take the honey. Having bored a few holes near the top of the hive, it was then inverted and an empty box of the same size placed over it; both were then lifted into an empty tub, into which was slowly poured, allowing time for the liquid to penetrate through the holes, but not too fast, in order to avoid drowning the bees. As the water rose among the combs the bees found their way up into the empty box, which was then lifted off and placed on the bee-stand. The box, full of water and combs, was then lifted gradually out of the tub, the water escaping by the holes through which it entered. The whole operation occupied but a few minutes, and scarcely any bees were lost. The short time necessarily prevented the honey from becoming dissolved, and, as the greater number of cells are sealed up, there is really little danger of such loss being sustained. After the water was drawn off it was found to be only slightly sweet; the combs soon became dry, and the honey was in no way injured.

Timber for Bee Pastures.

THE Bee Journal advises those wishing to improve their bee pasturage to plant maple, locust, chestnut, and linden trees, and to encourage others to do so. In setting out ornamental trees, it is surely worthy one's attention to have regard to their honey-producing power; and to select, with this end in view, those blooming at different times, rather than all of one kind, or those blooming at the same time. We should like to know the comparative value of these trees for producing honey, and also which varieties of those mentioned are the best.

For timber, the yellow locust is the most valuable. It is extensively planted on the western prairies, where it grows very rapidly, and is chiefly used for railroad sleepers. In Southern Ohio, bees, some years, gather a large portion of their surplus honey from the locust. Their industry during the yield from the locust is surprising. Where the trees grow in great numbers, they almost abandon all other sources of supply.

Rural Spirit of the Press.

The Crops in Iowa.

THE yield of wheat is estimated at 20,000,000 bushels this year, being 1,750,000 bushels more than the crop of 1861. There have been 1,325,000 acres cultivated this season in corn, which will yield 76,250,000 bushels, or an excess over the crop of last year of 16,000,000 bushels. Oats will reach 10,000,000 bushels; hay, 1,000,000 tons; sorghum, 3,000,000 gallons; and potatoes double last year's quantity. The State will be able to export this year 175,000 cattle and 900,000 hogs. The increase of sheep has been about one-third during the past year, making the number in the State 360,000.

Securing Fire-Wood.

SAYS the Boston Cultivator,—"It is nearly as important for the farmer to 'take time by the forelock' in getting his supply of fire-wood as in getting his hay. When there is but little or no snow on the ground, men can cut wood to much better advantage than when there is much snow. It is also much more comfortable working on bare ground. There is then nothing to hinder cutting the trees so closely that but little is lost in the stumps, and every branch can be readily seen and gathered. If the wood is piled up as it is cut, it can be moved with the first snow that is deep enough to make good sledding. It is more convenient to do this with sleds than with wagons or carts.

Preserving Wood by Salt.

J. B. SIMONS, of Brush Valley, Indiana, thus writes to the Scientific American:—"I have used common salt for the preservation of mill-shafts or water-wheel shafts, and it has had a good effect in staying the decayed timber. Take a two-inch auger, bore holes into the stick of timber, and fill up with salt, and then plug up the holes tight. In a large stick of timber, like a water-wheel shaft, bore a hole through the center, like a pump, and fill up with salt and plug up, and there is no telling how long this may last, as it has been tried with us, and has answered very well. No man would believe what effect it will have till he tries it. I have used it in a mill-shaft that was decaying, and it certainly has helped it wonderfully. I have never seen a salt barrel but what was sound, and will stand more wet weather than any other barrel or stave of its kind.

Tobacco Juice for Sheep.

JAS. MOORE, writing to the Wisconsin Farmer, thus tells how he cured sick sheep (instead of making them worse,) by giving them tobacco juice:

Once in a while I have a sheep that will lie down, turn on its side, then get up and stretch itself out as long as possible, and then cramp itself up into a heap, bringing its feet close together under it, then lie down again. I have others that try to get up in the morning, after lying all night, and cannot, the use of their limbs being gone. Their ears lay, their head drops to the ground, and they won't eat anything. I had one lie two days in that way. I did not expect it to live. But, sir, in both cases, a few swallows of strong tobacco juice cured them at once, and the same sheep have not been sick since. This was last winter. I would be very glad to hear from anybody on these subjects, as I am in the sheep-raising business, and need all the information I can possible get.

Starving Young Stock.

A STARVED calf or colt (says the Massachusetts Ploughman) is always a stunted one, and what it loses in that way the first two or three years of its life, it never regains. In our own experience, we have never found any hay too good for young stock, and we should just as soon think of going

without our own coffee, as of permitting any of them to go without a few oats or a little meal every day through the winter. Oats are unquestionably better than any other grain for young stock, as it is the production of muscle, and not the laying on of fat, the owner seeks. A dozen thrifty, sleek, well-to-do calves are worth looking at in any man's barn, but the thin, pinched effigies which are too frequently to be seen nibbling oats on the lee side of a snow-bank—endeavoring to save the life which, if they could reason, they would very soon decide was not worth saving, so far as they were concerned—are always a reproach to the owner, and an evidence that he is either knowingly or ignorantly a cruel man.

Curing Pork.

AN exchange says a French Chemist has lately asserted that scurvy will never arise from the use of salt provisions, unless saltpetre be used in the curing; that salt alone answers all the purposes, provided the animal heat be entirely parted with before salting. He claims that the insertion of pork in pickle alone is not sufficient, but that it should be rubbed thoroughly with dry salt after it has entirely parted with its animal heat, and that then the fluid running from the meat should be poured off before packing the pork in the barrel. This should be done sufficiently close to admit no unnecessary quantity of air, and some dry salt should occupy the space between the pieces, and then pickle, and not water, should be added. Great care must be taken to fill the barrel entirely full, so that no portion of the meat can at any time project above the surface of the fluid; for if this occur, a change of flavor ensues such as is known with rusty pork. The pickle, of course, must be a saturated solution of salt and water, that is, so strong that it is incapable of dissolving more salt. It must be remembered that cold water is capable of dissolving more salt than hot water.

Experiments in Feeding Stock.

THE Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland, after a series of experiments with the view of ascertaining the cheapest cattle food, published the results in the Journal, as follows:

Six bullocks, bred upon the Society's farm, and similar in appearance and aptness to fatten, were divided into three lots of two each. They were fed for 112 days, upon Swedish turnips for the first month, turnips and mangel beets the second, and subsequently mangels. Each bullock had in addition 6 lbs. low meadow hay cut into chaff, and 5 lbs. oil cake, or its equivalent cost in other materials, daily. The result showed that lot No. 1, fed on five pounds oil cake per bullock, together with the chaff and roots, gained 637 lbs. during 112 days. Lot No. 2, fed on the chaff and roots, with wheat and barley, costing the same as the oil cake, gained 669 lbs. Lot No. 3, fed as above, substituting bruised linseed for the oil cake, gained 718 lbs., showing that the linseed was the most valuable, and the oil cake the least so. Again, the average increase in weight for the 112 days, was 337 lbs., and taking the cost of chaff, oil cake and attendance into consideration, it was found that the 90 cwt. roots consumed, realized 40s. 6d., or 11s. per ton. This is quite different from Alderman Meech's opinion of roots, in the crude book, "How to Farm Profitably," in which he says that the profits of twenty acres of roots all went into the manure heap of the "ungrateful bullocks."

Associated Cheese Dairies.

In a late number of the RURAL, (Nov. 8,) our correspondent P., gave an interesting description of a cheese factory in Oneida county. The Oneida Circular describes a similar factory in Vernon, as follows:

Some dairymen in this neighborhood have combined, and bound themselves to Mr. G. B. Weeks, to deliver to him during the term of five years, the milk of a certain number of cows, some more and some less, in all nearly five hundred cows—Mr. Weeks to provide suitable buildings and apparatus for making and curing cheese, and to receive a stipulated sum per cwt. for manufacturing. Each man is to pay his share of the expenses for making, and all the materials that go into the cheese, as salt, bandage-cloth, &c.; and to receive his share of the net proceeds of sales, in proportion to the quantity of milk that he delivers. A committee of three, of which Mr. Weeks is one, is authorized to make purchases and sales.

A visitor to the establishment, if the hour was six or eight in the morning, would probably be attracted to the smaller of two buildings—twenty-six by twenty-six feet—for at this time the milk is delivered. The cans in which the milk is conveyed are made expressly for this purpose, round, of the same size from top to bottom, with covers to fill the inside, so as to be pressed down upon the top of the milk, and a faucet or gate at the bottom, through which the milk is discharged by tin pipes into a similar can inside the building. In this can each man's milk is measured by gauging, and is thence discharged into one of three vats, of a capacity of five hundred gallons each, occupying the center of the building.

These tin vats are standing in plank vats, with a narrow space between the plank and tin, through which a current of cold spring water is made to pass during the night, keeping the milk of the evening's delivery cool through the night. When heat is required, it is raised to any desired temperature by turning off the cold stream, and introducing in its place a current of steam from a boiler like a small locomotive boiler. No other heat is used; and in these three vats the milk is made into curd ready for the press. On one side of the room, across the ends of the vats, is another shallow vat or sink of plank, standing on wheels, on a railroad track extending into a wing of the building used as a press-room. The curd, when ready, is dipped into hoops standing in this shallow vat, and thence passed out to the presses. A simple iron screw, turned by hand, is the form of the press preferred.

From the press-room the cheeses are taken to another building—twenty-six feet by one hundred feet, two stories high—used for storage. Four double tables extend lengthwise through each story, for sixteen rows of cheeses. About three hundred are now to be seen on these tables, and they are adding to the number at the rate of fifty a week; of a diameter of twenty-three inches, by about nine inches thick, weighing about one hundred and fifty pounds.

The advantages claimed for this combination of dairies are many. Among them are the saving of labor—the services of only four or five persons, men and women, being required—a saving in material, the expenses for bandage and boxes being proportionately less for large cheeses than for small. But the greatest advantage is found in the superior quality, and high market value of the article manufactured. This is secured by the employment of persons qualified by exclusive application to this business, and by the superior facilities which can be secured for a large establishment.

Rural Notes and Items.

REDUCTION IN THE SIZE OF NEWSPAPERS.—We hear nothing of the enlargement of newspapers, now-a-days, but their *enormity* (or a material advance in price,) is in order and becoming quite popular, or at least a necessity to continued existence. Many of our exchanges have already been reduced, or their subscription rates increased, and others announce changes on the first proximo. Some have increased their rates, reduced their dimensions, and also commenced using an inferior quality of paper! These changes are necessitated by the enormous advance in the price of paper—such as the RURAL is printed upon (for we have changed neither size nor quality,) now costing nearly double what it did only three months ago. The Agricultural Press is of course affected by this paper crisis—the rain falling upon the just as well as the unjust. Some journals have already been reduced, and others will be next month. The last number of the N. H. Journal of Agriculture appears in quarto form and greatly reduced, so that it is only a little over half the size of the RURAL, while the quality of "print" used, and style of the paper, do not compare favorably with former issues. The N. E. Farmer, one of our very best exchanges, announces that its dimensions will be so reduced as to enable the publishers to furnish the paper at present rates—\$2 per single copy, and less to clubs. The Farmer is now printed on a sheet considerably smaller and lighter than that we use—about the size of the RURAL two years ago, (before its enlargement,) we think.

We have hoped, and still hope, to avoid another change in the RURAL, yet the recent great rise in the price of paper—an advance of nearly \$3 per ream since Nov. 1st, when our club rates for 1863 were announced—may, if maintained, necessitate an increase of price or reduction in size. Certainly, if the present price of paper is maintained for twelve months (and many think it will be higher still,) we cannot furnish the RURAL in its present style and size, at our rates, without *actually losing money*. But we hope for the best, and if obliged to make any change shall probably reduce the size to what it was in 1860, and continue present subscription rates unchanged. It shall (D. V.) be continued in the best style and largest size it can possibly be afforded in any event.

CORN HUSKS FOR PAPER.—We have received from Mr. MATTHIAS HUTCHINSON, of King's Ferry, Cayuga county, several specimens of pressed corn husks, with legible writing upon them, and having the appearance of paper. One is inscribed thus:—"A corn husk written upon in its natural state, except being pressed," and it has the appearance of being a better article of "print" than many of the rebel papers are printed upon. Mr. H. writes:—"Until I am better informed, I shall believe that a cheap and good paper may be produced from corn husks. If the experiment has not already been made, would it not be worth while, in view of the scarcity of cotton, to test it by a thorough trial? Husks do not make the best kind of 'paper,' and millions of pounds might be collected in the Middle and Northern States. Perhaps the above is but an idle speculation of mind; if so, it is not the first one that has been made on paper."—We certainly think corn husks worthy the attention of paper makers, and hope soon to learn the result of experiments in its use as a substitute for rags.

THE DEATH OF JOHN A. TAINOR, Esq., of Hartford, Ct., is announced. He died on the 15th ult., of disease of the heart. Mr. TAINOR has long been known as an ardent lover and promoter of rural pursuits, and as devoting special attention to the importation and breeding of domestic animals. In noticing his decease the Boston Cultivator says:—"Of late years he was engaged extensively in the importation of cattle from the Channel Islands, chiefly from Jersey, and probably introduced more of this stock into this country than any other man. His personal acquaintance with the leading breeders of the islands, from frequent visits, enabled him to secure the best animals. He was also a successful horticulturist, as those who have visited his beautiful garden, comprising one of the finest sites in the valley of the Connecticut, can testify. His liberality in the promotion of agricultural improvement will be long remembered."

THE PRICE OF FLOUR FOR TWENTY YEARS.—Good flour was recently selling in Philadelphia at \$7.75 per barrel, being higher than at any time since 1855. Whereupon the Inquirer gave the rates in that city for the last twenty years, in November of each year, as follows:

Years.	Rates.	Years.	Rates.
1842	\$4.25	1853	\$7.17
1843	4.31	1854	8.74
1844	4.37	1855	9.31
1845	5.91	1856	6.82
1846	5.10	1857	6.31
1847	6.31	1858	5.15
1848	5.25	1859	6.12
1849	6.08	1860	4.94
1850	4.85	1861	5.62
1851	3.91	1862	7.75
1852	4.90		

RENEW OR SUBSCRIBE NOW.—All subscribers who wish the RURAL continued without interruption, or loss of any numbers, should *renew their subscriptions at once*, and those intending to take the new volume, will do well to subscribe *before it commences*, if they desire to secure all the numbers. The price of printing paper is such that we cannot this year afford to publish a large extra edition of early numbers in order to supply back numbers after the volume commences, and hence only those who *subscribe early* can be sure of obtaining the volume complete. Now's the time, Friends, for each of you to remit \$2 to these Headquarters, or join "Company A," of the nearest Recruiting Office for the RURAL BRIGADE.

GET THE RURAL FOR THE BOYS.—A letter from an Agent in Ionia Co., Mich., closes thus:—"I was talking with a man about subscribing for the RURAL. 'Yes,' said he, 'I will subscribe. I had rather pay the publisher \$1.60 than the shoemaker \$2.50—for if the boys are not reading they are running in the woods!' And he was taking six papers at the time." A good many parents would save money, and improve the minds and morals of their children, by subscribing for instructive and entertaining periodicals. For the lack of good books and papers many boys (aye, and men also) run to and in much worse places than the woods.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Our recent appeal to Farmers to write about Farming has been responded to by quite a number of RURAL readers, including several former correspondents from whom we had not heard for months or years. These, and those who have recently written for the first time, will accept our acknowledgments, with the assurance that we shall be glad to hear from them again and often. Several excellent practical articles of recent receipt are on file for early publication. Several inquiries and answers are also necessarily deferred.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.—This able weekly "Journal of Practical Information in Art, Science, Mechanics, Chemistry and Manufactures," published by MUNN & Co., New York, will enter upon a new volume in January. The terms have been advanced from \$2 to \$3—lowest club rate \$2. Though this seems a great advance, it is not when the rise in paper &c., is considered. The Scientific is worth the money asked, and its patrons—liberal and enterprising Inventors, Manufacturers, Mechanics, &c.—will "see it" and sustain the publishers.

NOVEL STUMP EXTRACTOR.—A writer in the Rural Register says he removed a large stump from near his house in this manner:—In the fall, with an inch auger, he bored a hole in the center of the stump ten inches deep, and into it put about half a pound of oil of vitrol, and corked the hole up tight. In the spring, the whole stump and roots, extending through all their ramifications, were so rotten that they were easily eradicated.

CLOVER HAY FOR COWS.—The N. E. Farmer states that Mr. JOHN DAY, of Boxford, Mass., who cuts large quantities of clover, feeds it out principally to his milk cows, and he finds that when the clover is exhausted and he feeds timothy and red-top, "twenty-one cows immediately shrink two cans of milk per day."

READ THE "RURAL" Letters from the People, last column of next page, and our Premium List, &c., on seventh page.

HORTICULTURAL.

THE CONSERVATORY.

A CORRESPONDENT wishes some hints for the arrangement of a Green House, or Conservatory, for a private establishment, and this we propose to give as briefly as possible, and in doing so will point out what we consider a grave, yet almost general, error in this country. Most of our private green-houses are modeled after those belonging to nurserymen, and are therefore entirely unfit for the purposes for which they were erected. The commercial house is arranged for the growth and display of a great variety of plants, so that the tastes and notions of all purchasers may be suited. The house, like the catalogue, must contain all that will be called for in the trade. The amateur erects his house for his own pleasure, and for the delight of his family and friends. He is not afraid that some one will call for a plant that he cannot supply. If the plants are well grown and tastefully arranged, the general effect such as to give delight to all, the object is accomplished. These facts, it seems to us, indicate very plainly what should be the character of the private conservatory.

Within a week we have visited two private establishments, one owned by a gentleman of wealth, who keeps an excellent gardener, and but for our knowledge of the facts, we would have thought, on entering the house, that we were taking a view of some place where plants were kept for sale, and might have found ourselves asking for a catalogue. The plants were arranged on stagings, with one narrow walk the whole length of the house, scarcely three feet in width, affording very little opportunity for two to pass, and no seat in the place where a visitor could rest. The plants were doing pretty well, just suitable for sale, but not what should be found in a gentleman's conservatory.

If a person should treat his parlors in the same way, and crowd them full of furniture, after the style of a cabinet shop, he would be considered insane. The private conservatory should be arranged with taste, and with a view to the comfort of the owner and his guests, somewhat after the style of a well-kept garden, and it should be, in fact, a winter garden, arranged with graceful walks, beds or groups of fine plants, with seats for half-a-dozen or more, according to the size of the house, &c. Attached to such a house, it may be necessary to have a small place for the propagation and growth of plants, and for storing them after they have served their purpose in the winter garden or conservatory.

The other place to which we refer is very humble in its pretensions, being only a kind of a wooden window garden, very ingeniously attached to the dining room window, somewhat after the style of a bay-window. The owner boasted that he had in this over sixty plants, and yet we saw scarcely one worthy of the place. Half-a-dozen good specimens would have been far more beautiful, and have required infinitely less care. We need a great reform in this respect, and we need it in our gardens as well as in our conservatories. We take our style of gardening from the nurseries, forgetting that the objects sought in the two cases are entirely different. We see, too, the same evil in the arrangements for floral exhibitions—the "Floral Halls" at our State Fairs, &c. We have often given our views on this point, and at the last exhibition in this State we endeavored to give a practical illustration of our opinions.

APPLE CROP IN WESTERN NEW YORK.

We have often called attention to the importance of the apple crop in Western New York, and, in fact, in all sections where this hardy fruit can be grown, and find a ready way to market. The matter has become one of so much importance that the local papers are beginning to give it that attention which it deserves, and in many of our country and city exchanges we frequently find facts stated of the greatest interest and full of encouragement to the fruit growers of the country. In the *Evening Express* of this city, we find the following, showing, as far as can be ascertained, perhaps, the quantity of apples shipped from this city and vicinity:

"The apple crop raised in the region round about Rochester in 1859 was, doubtless, the largest ever before produced, and that of 1862 fell but little short of it. There were, doubtless, a few number of apples; but the fruit was large, fully developed, and very fair. There were no blasting winds in the spring, or they came too early to do harm; the season was moist, especially the latter portion of it, and the frost held off unusually late in the fall, allowing the crop to fully mature and ripen.

"It would be next to impossible to obtain full statistics of the amount of apples sent to market this season from Western New York, but we have taken pains to collect figures, from which we think an approximation may be made. Heavy shipments have been made all along the Erie Canal. Those shipped this way from ports west of this city passed through the Rochester Weighlock, and Weighmaster Howell has taken the pains to collect and publish, with his weekly flour and grain reports, the number of barrels of apples also.

"From these we gather that not less than 175,000 barrels of apples have gone east by the Erie Canal from that part of New York west of Rochester. There has also been an excellent market for the crop westward, especially in the upper lake region. We hear of large shipments going in that direction, and we place the figures at 25,000 barrels, which we believe will not vary greatly from the true amount, making 200,000 barrels furnished from the territory above alluded to. Large quantities have also been shipped by canal east of this port, which it would be safe to estimate at another 25,000 barrels. The number of barrels shipped from the port of Genesee during the three fall months was 20,907. Probably 10,000 barrels more were sent to market from other lake ports, east and west. In the same time 13,800 barrels were shipped by the New York Central Railroad. Several of our citizens have dealt largely in apples this season. We have not the number of barrels each has marketed, but they are not essential here, as they must be included in the amounts before mentioned. These aggregate 260,000 barrels. Probably enough more have been marketed abroad from Western New York to swell the sum to 300,000 barrels.

"The above figures, however, give but a faint idea of the amount of the apple crop. A large home demand has been supplied, which, if added to that from abroad, we believe would increase the amount sold from the orchards of Western New York to 500,000 barrels. The price has been low, not averaging over \$1.00 per barrel, but even at that

price it appears that our farmers must have had distributed among them not less than half a million of dollars for their apples. A great impediment to the trade in apples has been a deficiency in barrels. The scarcity of labor has been especially apparent in the cooper trade, and in many localities the crop of apples have, to a large extent, gone to waste for want of barrels in which to pack them for market. The frost, late as it has held off, found many farmers unprepared to meet it, and their apples, being generally considered among the inferior products of their farms, have been suffered mostly to go to waste ungathered.

"The Warsaw *New-Yorker* is informed by a gentleman who has traveled into Wyoming and two or three adjoining counties, that apples enough hang frozen in the orchards to have kept the army of the Potomac in apple sauce all winter. Many trees have not been gathered from at all, so great was the abundance, and so scarce the help.

"The time is at hand, we believe, when the farmers of Western New York, becoming more enlightened to their true interests, will set a higher value on their orchards, and they will be prepared to avail themselves more fully of the immense advantages granted them by nature as growers of fruit."

WINTER CARE OF TREES.

A LITTLE care of trees at the present time may prevent a great deal of injury and loss. All trees exposed to high winds should be well staked to prevent swaying by the wind, and care must be had that the stakes do not injure the bark. In some cases a little surface drainage will be found of great advantage, by preventing water laying around the roots. Mice every winter do a great deal of mischief by gnawing the bark of the tree near the surface of the ground. The best way to prevent this is as far as possible to remove the cause. Allow no harbor for mice in the fields, in the shape of weeds and grass. And when the snow is deep, stamp it solid around the trees. Some prefer to place a wooden box around the trunks, or a couple of horse-shoe tiles. This is safe, and much better than any preparation of tar, &c., to the bark, which often does great injury. A correspondent says:—"To prevent mice or other vermin from eating the bark of trees, take, in the fall, soil from the privy vault, and thin it with water. Then take a broom and give your trees a good washing, which will not only keep the mice from eating the bark, but will do considerable benefit to the trees by taking off all the moss and rust, and leaving the bark clear and clean when washed off by rain in the spring. If the gases be too strong for the nostrils, do not lose the benefit on that account. Take wood charcoal for a deodorizer. It certainly is a true saying, that prevention is better than cure; and there is another saying equally true, that the cure is sometimes worse than the disease. Tarring trees will prevent mice from eating the bark, but it stops up the pores of the bark, which stunts the trees in growth, and lays the foundation of premature decay. This has always been the result of my experience."

SCHUYLER CO. APPLES.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I have this day shipped to you one barrel of Schuyler County Apples, containing nineteen varieties. I frequently notice inquiries in the *RURAL* if orchards should be cultivated. I will give you my treatment. My orchard contains 90 trees, has been set about 35 years, and all the trees have been grafted since. It has been in my possession over 16 years. Before that it was tilled part of the time, and part of the time it was seeded and kept for meadow; and, invariably, while in grass the apples were inferior, gnarly and wormy. Since I have had it I have plowed it every year except one,—have manured with barn yard manure every other year,—have plowed it myself, being careful not to injure the roots with the plow, or to rake the bodies of the trees with whiffletrees or with the harrow. I plow very shallow under the trees, just enough to keep the top of the ground raw. The trees are nearly all healthy and thrifty; and during the 16 years I have not failed except one year (and at that time they were cut by frost, but I had 60 bushels then,) to have a good crop of apples, and good quality. This fall I have picked 450 bushels; I think there was 800 bushels or over of all kinds in the orchard this year. I always pick my winter apples, handle them with the greatest care, and keep out all bruised ones.

I have not written this with the expectation that it would be worth publishing. Still, if there is any part of it that you think would benefit any one by publishing it, you are at liberty to do so.

I forgot to mention in the proper place, that I have had no hoed crops on the orchard. They have been barley, oats and spring wheat. One year I had buckwheat on it. That is not a good crop for an orchard, for the reason that it does not come off early enough.

D. C. HILLERMAN.

Reading, Schuyler Co., N. Y., 1862.

With the above we received a barrel of splendid apples, consisting of about twenty varieties, every one of which was well grown, free from imperfection, and fit for any exhibition in the world. Among the list of varieties we found some of our best sorts, such as Northern Spy, Tompkins County King, R. I. Greening, Baldwin, Roxbury Russet, Fall Pippin, Twenty Ounce, &c.

GARDENS AND FRUIT GROUNDS.

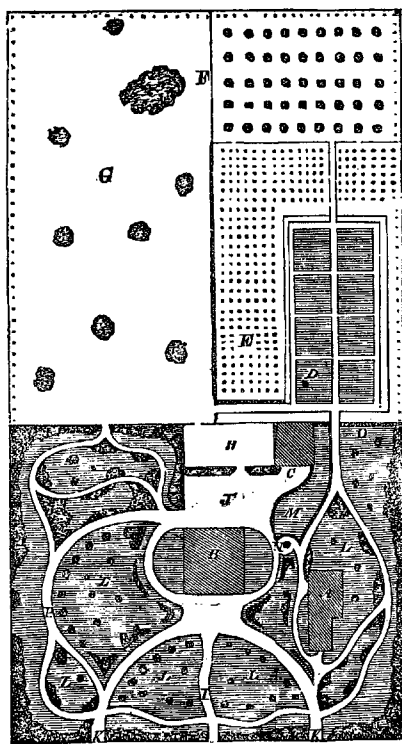
We continue our plans for Gardens and Fruit Grounds, as promised, and in a future number will give some plans for smaller village lots. The first is a plan arranged for a gentleman in Le Roy. B, in the plan, is an old dwelling to be removed. The number of deciduous ornamental and evergreen trees planted is 337,—and these are to serve the double purpose of shelter and ornament. The plan also provides for a large number of the different varieties of shrubs suitable to a place of this description. The trees embrace a large portion of the different varieties of our native forest trees, so blended as to produce at the different seasons of the year the most pleasing effect.

The dwarf pear orchard contains 280 trees of the leading varieties, which can hardly fail in a few years to prove a considerable source of pleasure if not profit. The orchard for standard trees, such as apples, cherries, plums, &c., contains 45 trees, and the kitchen garden, either side of the main walk, is to be planted with gooseberries, currants, &c. The two squares at the south end of the kitchen garden are to be devoted to other kinds of small fruits, such as raspberries, blackberries and strawberries.

It will be observed, by reference to the plan, that the graveled space between the semi-circle and house is sufficiently large to admit of the turning of

carriages. The two semi-circles at each end of the ground plan for house, will, in all probability, have to be somewhat modified, as the plan for the dwelling is not yet complete. In all other respects, the design will be fully carried out according to the plan.

The road marked P, on the plan, is intended to be used exclusively as a means of transit to and from the stables and offices, for carrying hay, wood, coal, or any heavy loads, which by their weight would cut up the roads, or cause litter. I think the necessity of such a side road, both on the score of convenience and cleanliness, must appear obvious to every person of taste.

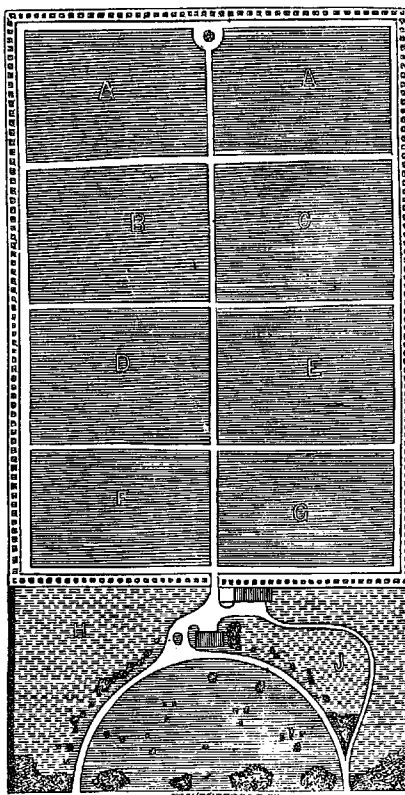


A, Present Dwelling; B, Proposed Dwelling; C, Stables; D, Kitchen Garden; E, Dwarf Pear Orchard; F, Orchard for Standard Fruits; G, Pasture for Cows; H, K, Carriage Entrance; I, Main Walk to Dwelling; J, House Yard; H, Yard; L, Lawn; M, Laundry Ground; N, Pump; O, Hedges; P, Road to Stables and Offices.

It will be seen by reference to the plan, that the kitchen garden and dwarf pear orchard is entirely surrounded by a hedge, in addition to which there is a belt of evergreens and shrubbery ten feet wide the whole length of the west line to shelter the grounds. This is an important matter which I am happy to perceive is attracting general attention among intelligent fruit growers.

The laundry ground is entirely secured from all parts of the ground by a good evergreen hedge and numerous trees, so that the bleaching and drying of clothes can be carried on at all times out of sight of the other portions of the ground. The advantages of this plan, in most cases, seem to be entirely overlooked.

The second plan we arranged for a gentleman who had about forty acres of land that he wished to use almost entirely for orchard and nursery purposes. He forwarded us a plan, which we thought inconvenient and recommended the following:



It is divided into eight plots, containing about four acres each, and the front plot, in which is the house, barn, lawn, &c., contains about eight acres. Through the center is a road connected with each square, and a road is made around each. Opportunity for turning may be had at the crossings of the roads, but a still better chance is given at the back of the lot. A border of standard fruit trees is planted around the whole farm, both for fruit and shelter. These plots, of course, might be divided to suit convenience, or crops. A, A, apple orchard. B, standard pears, cherries and plums. C, peaches and apricots. D, vineyard. E, raspberries, gooseberries and currants. F, strawberries. G, vegetables. H, dwarf pears and quinces. I, nursery stock. Of course, if a person desired to do much in the nursery business, a larger quantity of land than the plan gives, would be needed.

Horticultural Notes.

RURAL WALKS IN ENGLAND.—The chief enjoyment of my several visits to Leamington lay in rural walks about the neighborhood, and in jaunts to places of note and interest, which are particularly abundant in that region. The high roads are made pleasant to the traveler by a border of trees, and often afford him the hospitality of a wayside bench beneath a comfortable shade. But a fresher delight is to be found in the footpaths which go wandering away from stilled to alleys, hedges, and across broad fields, and through wooded parks, leading you to little hamlets of thatched cottages, ancient, solitary farm-houses, picturesque old mills, streamlets, pools, and all those quiet, secret, unexpected, yet strangely familiar features of English scenery that Tennyson shows us in his idyls and eclogues. These various by-paths admit the wayfarer into the very heart of rural life, and yet do not burden him with a sense of intrusiveness. He has a right to go whithersoever they lead him; for, with all their shaded privacy they are as much the property of the public as the dusty high-road itself, and even by an older tenure. Their antiquity probably exceeds that of the Roman ways; the footpaths of the aboriginal Britons first wore away the grass, and the nat-

The Publisher to the Public.

"RURAL" LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

SINCE issuing our Prospectus for 1863, we have received a host of the most encouraging letters from readers of the *RURAL*, testifying as to its value and usefulness. These testimonials come from all parts of the Loyal States, Canada, &c., and are very encouraging at the present juncture. We give extracts from a few of recent date:

FROM VERMONT.—Our first club of over 10 for 1863, comes from Rutland Co., Vt. An excellent letter, (with draft on New York, payable to our order,) and closing thus:—"I expect to send you several names more before the volume commences."

FROM NEW JERSEY.—I enclose one dollar, almost my last penny. Would get up a club if able, but am confined to my room with the consumption. I took the *Rural* for some years while residing in Seneca Co., N. Y., and it is a comfort to read it. I hope you will send it for six months; then, if I live and can get a dollar, I will send again."

FROM NEW YORK.—We have many cheering and substantially-lined letters from this and other States, but can only make brief extracts. A Schuyler Co. Agent-Friend remits \$30 for a new club of 20, and says:—"You may expect additions to the above club in due time. The *RURAL* must live."

—In sending a club of 34 for 1863, a Niagara Co. recruiting officer says:—"You will doubtless be glad to know that all of your friends are not working for Uncle SAM. I conclude it will be quite as safe fighting under Col. MOORE, and therefore fall in line and take no risks. These subscribers are all sound to the core. Shall remit for many more before Jan. 1st. Send these to accommodate you with an early list." [Right, friend! If others will send advance guards, (parts of their lists), it will enable us to put them in type early, and thus facilitate matters.]

—A young lady in Orleans Co., remits for 16 subscribers, and closes her letter in this wise:—"Hoping you will receive 'three hundred thousand more,' I remain Yours for the War."

FROM PENNSYLVANIA.—From a subscriber in Erie Co., Pa., we have this encouraging note:—"As the year draws to a close, I find I cannot afford to do without your paper, and as no one else seems to have time to attend to procuring subscribers for the ensuing year, I think I will. I am very anxious to place a copy in every Farm House in the town, believing that in no way can I so easily and permanently benefit my neighbors. Please send me a circular for procuring names, and also, (if you can afford it) two or three papers, as I file mine for binding, and they get soiled by too much handling, when left in families for examination. I have ten names now, got in two hours, and I think I can add ninety to it in a week,—if not ninety, surely forty."

—A young lady in Crawford Co., Pa., remits for a club of six, and writes:—"Most of these copies, after being read in the home circle, will be sent to brothers in camp or on the field. What more welcome visitor to the camp of the true soldier than the *RURAL*? May our sisters all over the Loyal North go and do likewise." [Many sisters and mothers, and fathers and brothers, have ordered the *RURAL* to their friends in the army. In such cases we only charge the lowest club rate.]

FROM OHIO.—A letter from Coshocton Co., requesting specimens, &c., for getting up a club, says:—"There are individuals here who have tested its merits for a year or more, eager to subscribe for it again, and who do not hesitate to say the *RURAL* is the best Family Paper within their knowledge, especially for its high moral standard, and as a general newspaper. I observe that those who are the most intelligent, and have the widest range of thought, are the most ardent admirers of the *RURAL*."

FROM MICHIGAN.—In remitting for a club of 16, an Agent in Shiawassee Co., writes:—"I am at work for the *RURAL* again. Have obtained a few subscribers. Some complain of hard times, and some talk of not subscribing for the simple reason that 25 cents has been added to the club price of your valuable paper—an advance that is right and just, as you have to pay more for your paper, as all must acknowledge." [Yes, we reckon we do pay more—for we are now paying \$9.24 per year for *RURAL* print of the same quality and weight which cost only \$5.63 per year four months ago! And if the present price of paper continues we shall lose money on every copy of the *RURAL* furnished at \$1.00—so don't urge such friends of the paper as object to the 25 cent advance.—Ed.] "Why should not all *RURAL* friends put their shoulders to the wheel and keep the car moving? I know it to be a valuable paper for both old and young, and try to induce all to take it within my reach," &c.

FROM WISCONSIN.—In a letter containing a remittance, a Buffalo county editor writes:—"In every case where I can assist in circulating the *RURAL*, you may rely upon its being done. I consider it the best Family Journal I ever read, and take great pleasure in introducing it more extensively to the public."

—A Wisconsin subscriber requests specimens, &c., adding:—"I have taken the *RURAL* ever since I was 21, and I intend to continue to take it as long as it is published, no matter what the price may be. I also intend to induce as many of my neighbors to take it as I can."

FROM MISSOURI.—A former subscriber writes:—"I wish to get up a club for the *RURAL* in this place for the coming year, but have no specimen copies for this year. If you will send me some I will try what I can do for what my wife declares is 'the best paper she is acquainted with.'"

FROM CANADA WEST.—We have frequent encouraging letters from Agents and Subscribers in Canada. One just received from Welland Co., says:—"I wish you to send me, by return mail, full instructions and equipments for a *RURAL* Brigadier in Canada. You will recollect that I sent you a list of 24 val recruits the 1st of Oct., the most of whom I expect to enlist for next year." [The equipments have been furnished—yet any of our readers, in Canada or elsewhere, who wish to recruit for the *RURAL* BRIGADE, can "pitch right in," without waiting for any other equipment than a number of the *RURAL* to show as a specimen.]

FROM THE ARMY.—An officer in the 4th Indiana Cavalry, stationed at Camp Guthrie, Ky., writes:—"Our men are about to be paid off, and as they are nearly all farmers I know I can get quite a number of subscribers for your truly invaluable paper, THE *RURAL*, and thus render the men a real service, and, besides, aid in increasing your circulation. If you will send a few copies as specimens, I will go to work at once."

—The Chaplain of the U. S. Gen. Hospital at Annapolis, Md., writes us as follows:—"I take this occasion, in behalf of the soldiers in this hospital, to thank you for the liberality and generosity displayed by you in furnishing us, gratuitously, for so long a period, your valuable paper. It has been perused by hundreds of soldiers from all the Loyal States, and has undoubtedly soothed many a weary heart. While expressing our thanks for your benevolence so freely manifested toward us, we, at the same time, hope that, (notwithstanding the largely increased expenses which you must necessarily incur, consequent upon the long continuance of the war,) you will be governed in the future, as in the past, by that comprehensiveness of mind which includes other's interests with its own, and that we shall continue to find your journal upon our tables."

—Writing us from Aquia Creek, Va., a Soldier says:—"Thinking of home, and things as they used to be, I could not forget the *RURAL* NEW-YORKER; and it is to request you to forward me a copy weekly that I address you this letter. Before entering the army I was an admiring and constant reader of your journal, and from its interesting and instructive pages have learned many a lesson which has given me strength and moral courage when surrounded by the dangers of camp life. I am firm in the belief that your paper, placed in the hands of the soldiers, from week to week, would have a more lasting and elevating influence than all other papers with which the soldiers are supplied."

ABOUT OUR CLUB RATES.—Briefly.—Two or three persons have written us, objecting to our increase of club rates, and others offering us \$1.25 per copy for 20 to 50 copies. To such and all similar objections and proposals, we have only to say we are now losing money on every copy furnished at said rate, (and we are supplying between 15,000 and 30,000 copies at the losing price); hence have no desire to make further investments of that character. If we can supply the *RURAL* to clubs at \$1.00 per copy, without losing money, we shall be agreeably disappointed. It is useless to write us about lower rates—a waste of time and stationery. Better send us \$3 per copy for next year to aid us in making up losses on papers furnished.

Domestic Economy.

RECIPES FOR HOUSEWIVES.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Having received much useful information from the numerous recipes contained in your valuable paper, I thought I would send a few which I know to be good, hoping to benefit others:

CAROLINA CAKE.—Two coffee cups sugar, two do. of flour, 1 do. of cream, 1 large tablespoonful butter, the whites of five eggs, one-half a teaspoonful cream tartar, one-quarter teaspoonful soda. Flavor with lemon extract. Excellent.

ROLLED JELLY CAKE.—One cup sugar, 1 cup flour, 3 eggs, 2 teaspoons cream tartar, 1 do. of soda. Bake in two parts. Spread with jelly and roll very soon after it is baked.

LOAF JELLY CAKE.—One cup sugar, 1 do. sour cream, three-fourths cup of butter, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoonful saleratus dissolved in hot water; spice to taste. Bake in three parts. Spread with jelly, and put together in the form of a loaf.

BIRD'S-NEST PUDDING.—Pare and quarter sour apples, place them as loosely as possible in a deep baking dish, adding a little water. Pour over them a batter made in the following manner:—One cup sour cream, 2 cups butter-milk, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoonful saleratus. Eat with butter and sugar or sauce.

Will some one inform me through the columns of the *RURAL* how to make good vinegar? I would also be much obliged for a recipe for making crackers, and perhaps others as well as myself may be benefited. Mrs. W. E. SMITH. West Point, Col. Co., Wis., 1862.

ABOUT COOKING POTATOES.

POTATOES BOILED.—Wash them, but do not pare or cut them, unless they are very large. Fill a sauce-pan half full of potatoes of equal size, or the small ones will be done to pieces before the large ones are boiled enough, (or make them so by dividing the larger ones;) put to them as much cold water as will cover them about an inch; they are sooner boiled, and more savory than when drowned in water. Most boiled things are spoiled by having too little water, but potatoes are often spoiled by having too much; they must merely be covered, and a little allowed for waste in boiling, so that they may be just covered at the finish.

Set them on a moderate fire till they boil; then take them off, and put them by the side of the fire to simmer slowly till they are soft enough to admit a fork, (place no dependence on the usual test of their skins cracking, which, if they are boiled fast, will happen to some potatoes when they are not half done, and the inside quite hard.) Then pour the water off, (if you let the potatoes remain in the water a moment after they are done enough, they will become waxy and watery), uncover the sauce-pan, and set it at such a distance from the fire as will secure it from burning; their superfluous moisture will evaporate, and the potatoes will be perfectly dry and mealy.

You may afterwards place a napkin, folded up to the size of the sauce-pan's diameter, over the potatoes, to keep them hot and mealy till wanted.

This method of managing potatoes is in every respect equal to steaming them; and they are dressed in half the time.

There is such an infinite variety of sorts and sizes of potatoes, that it is impossible to say how long they will take doing; the best way is to try with a fork. Moderate-sized potatoes will generally be done enough in fifteen or twenty minutes.

COLD POTATOES FRIED.—Put a bit of clean dripping into a frying pan; when it is melted slice in your potatoes, with a little pepper and salt; put them on the fire; keep stirring them; when they are quite hot they are ready.

POTATOES MASHED.—When your potatoes are thoroughly boiled, drain them quite dry, pick out every speck, &c., and while hot, rub them through a colander into a clean stew-pan. To a pound of potatoes put half an ounce of butter and a tablespoonful of milk; do not make them too moist; mix them well together.

POTATOES MASHED WITH ONIONS.—Prepare some boiled onions by putting them through a sieve, and mix them with potatoes. In proportioning the onions to the potatoes, you will be guided by your wish for more or less of their flavor.—*German-ton Telegraph*.

PROCRASTINATION in cooking is the thief of all goodness in the potato. Cook quickly.

Ladies' Department.

BABY BUNN.

[N. P. WILLIS says of this poem:—"It is addressed to an idolized child, by its pet name, and though beautiful throughout, it has some two or three passages of a very rare originality. The writer of it was a factory girl, who, by the labor of her own hands, secured the money for her education. She is now twenty-four years of age, and supporting herself by various uses of her pen. She (Josie H.) is yet to be famous, I am very sure."]

Winsome baby Bunn!
Brighter than the stars that rise
In the dusky evening skies,
Browner than the raven's wing,
Clearer than the woodland spring,
Are the eyes of baby Bunn!

Winsome baby Bunn!
Smile, mother, smile,
Thinking softly all the while
Of a tender, blissful day.
When the dark eyes, so like those
Of the cherub on your knees,
Stole your girlish heart away.
Oh! the eyes of baby Bunn!
Rarest mischief will they do,
When once old enough to steal
What their father stole from you!

Smile, mother, smile!
Winsome baby Bunn!
Milk-white lilies half unrolled,
Set in calyxes of gold,
Cannot make his forehead fair,
With its rings of yellow hair!
Scarlet berry cleft in twain,
By a wedge of pearly grain,
Is the mouth of baby Bunn!

Winsome baby Bunn!
Weep, mother, weep
For the little one asleep
With his head against your breast!
Never in the coming years,
Though he seeks for it with tears,
Will he find so sweet a rest.
Oh, the brow of baby Bunn!
Oh, the scarlet mouth of Bunn!
One must wear his crown of thorns,
Drink its cup of gall must one!
Though the trembling lips shall shrink,
White with anguish as they drink,
And the temple sweat with pain—
Drops of blood like purple rain—
Weep, mother, weep.

Winsome baby Bunn!
Not the sea-shell's palest tinge,
Not the daisy's rose-white fringe,
Not the softest, faintest glow
Of the sunset on the snow,
Is more beautiful and sweet
Than the wee pink hands and feet
Of the little baby Bunn—
Winsome baby Bunn!
Feet like these may lose the way,
Wandering blindly from the right,
Pray, and sometime will your prayers
Be to him like golden stairs
Built through darkness into light.
Oh, the dimpled feet of Bunn,
In their alien stockings dressed;
Oh, the dainty hands of Bunn,
Hid like rose leaves in your breast!
These will grasp at jewels rare,
But to find them empty air;
Those shall falter many a day,
Bruised and bleeding by the way,
Ere they reach the land of rest!
Pray, mother, pray!

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]
THANKSGIVING.

"It is the Puritan's Thanksgiving Eve;
And gathered home from fresher homes around,
The old man's children keep the holiday—
In dear New England, since the father's sleep,
The sweetest holiday in all the year."

Thanksgiving in New England! What a host of memories cluster around the words! How the children's eyes sparkle at the announcement that Thanksgiving is close at hand! To them it suggests pleasant sleigh-rides and warm greetings, and the more substantial blessings of roast turkey and mince pie, with nuts and apples in unlimited quantities.

How vividly I remember those Thanksgivings at Grandfather's long ago, especially the one when WILL and I were so busy playing that I sat down, or rather fell into the huge chicken pie, destined to grace, or at least to occupy a conspicuous place on the supper table. I distinctly remember the doleful expression of Grandmother's face as she surveyed the wreck of her beautifully flowered pastry, now reduced to a fit representation of chaos. How she mourned over it, while Grandfather only laughed and said that I had carved it quicker than he could; so we had a merry time at supper after all. But Grandmother, dear soul, could not forget my unlucky fall so easily, for didn't she remember perfectly well, how I sailed in a similar way only the year before, into a large earthen pan of strained honey, causing a compound fracture of the pan, and a general upsetting of its contents? I heard her after supper, relating the whole story to a sour-visaged aunt, and prophesying that "such a child never'd come to no good," so I embraced the opportunity to coax the hired man to put me on the horse's back for a ride, where she found me a while after, to her great dismay.

It is not my purpose to tell you of all those Thanksgivings, for you who have lived to mature years will remember all about the wide old-fashioned fire-place, and understand the pleasure with which we used to watch the troops of sparks go soaring up the chimney, and out into the darkness beyond. Now those bright jets of flame have died away to glowing coals, and the coals long since smoldered into ashes. The fire is out on the hearth never to be kindled more. Now we do not gather around the old fire-place, but go home where we were cradled and rocked to sleep in childhood. Home—where we watched our baby-brother go out alone, one Sabbath morning, into "The Silent Land."

And, "Over the river the boatman pelt,
Carried another, the household pet;
Her brown curls waved in the gentle gale,
Darling MINNIE, I see her yet."
She crossed on her bosom her dimpled hands,
And fearlessly entered the phantom bark;
We felt it glide from the silver sands,
And all our sunshine grew strangely dark.
We know she is safe on the further side,
Where all the ransomed angels be,
And over the river, the mystic river,
My childhood's idol is waiting for me."

Ah! we are not all there that were wont to gather around the Thanksgiving board, and this year WILL's place is vacant. He was our eldest brother, and when the first gun boomed from Sumter, college

halls had no charms for him. Books and pen were laid aside to grasp the rifle, and he was off to fight for the "dear old Flag." Now, when we think of him, we think of that Sabbath of fearful fighting at South Mountain, of Manassas and Bull Run, and of the dreadful carnage at Antietam, and thank God that he is yet alive. Yet another one has gone forth from our fireside to battle for the right. But why do we mourn? There are vacant places in all our homes. There are tears that will not be dried, and hearts that will not be comforted, for "they are not." Many a Thanksgiving board has been spread this year, where those who have taken their "life in their hand," and gone forth to battle, have been prayerfully remembered. And though the sight of these vacant places around our hearth-stones almost crushes the life from out our heart, yet have we no cause for thankfulness or praise? Is the appointment of Thanksgiving but a mockery? No, let us give thanks that 300,000 more brave souls were ready to go at their country's call. Let us give thanks that these heroes were ours, linked to us by a thousand ties, and endeared by a thousand memories. And let us pray, fervently and earnestly, that the sacrifices they are making may not be made in vain. Let no murmurings or repinings darken our hearts this day, but if the "iron has entered our souls," let us rejoice that we were counted worthy to suffer for the Truth's sake. ELSIE CRAIG.
Nov., 1862.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

HOME DUTIES OF WIVES AND MOTHERS.

I, FOR one, am truly grateful to Mrs. OVERTON for "freeing her mind." Old maids and old bachelors have surely had as many broad hints and plain words as will be of use for a season, and now why cannot there be something for the help of wives and mothers?—we of moderate means and many cares?

First are our homes. Parlor and sitting room, of course, must always be in order, with an inviting air for the guests that are liable to come at any hour. Then the kitchen—that must be the perfection of neatness, for what more repulsive than a slovenly cook-room? Our pantry must never fail in its store of good things. Our children must be comfortably and seasonably clad, with a sharp eye to the economies, in these times of rising prices. Their studies also are to be looked after. The satisfaction of a perfect lesson is doubled by being repeated to mamma at home, while an extra severe one loses half its terrors by a little judicious help or encouragement from the same source. Aid Society meetings every Thursday P. M. Farm emergencies often arise. Hired man gone to the war. Husband in great want of nails, paint, rope, &c.,—write must drive down to the village to supply the want, whatever it may be. It's necessary, and done willingly, but takes two hours of time.

There are yet other calls. Must our minds starve, that our bodies be fed? How grievous when wishing to recall some particular subject, to be under the necessity of hunting up that old text-book which was thoroughly mastered years ago!—to find that our knowledge of this or that science is rusting out, or being swallowed up in the whirl of more immediate necessities! There are also social duties which must not be neglected, and duties to our own hearts and souls. Won't somebody who has happily passed over and beyond such an experience tell us how it may best be done? ONE OF MANY.
Hudson, Mich., 1862.

UNCLE AND NIECE.

I CANNOT conclude the present letter, (says a Berlin correspondent,) without mentioning a little incident that occurred here in the course of the present week, and in which some ingenious rogue has verily out-Barnumed Barnum. A member of the company of players at Kallenbach's theatre was to have a benefit night; and the question was how to get together a good audience, as the usual attendance at that place of amusement, even if doubled, would produce far too slender a sum to satisfy the expectations of a benefit night. Accordingly, some days before the memorable evening, there appeared in all the Berlin papers an advertisement to the following effect:—"A gentleman, who has a niece and ward possessing a disposable property of fifteen thousand thalers, together with a mercantile establishment, desires to find a young man who would be able to manage the business and become the husband of the young lady. The possession of property or other qualifications is no object. Apply to—" Hundreds and hundreds of letters poured in in reply to this advertisement. On the morning of benefit day each person who had sent a reply received the following note:—"The most important point is, of course, that you should like one another. I and my niece are going to Kallenbach's theatre this evening, and you can just drop in upon us at Box No. 1." Of course, the theatre was crammed. All the boxes, all the best paying places in the house were filled early in the evening with a mostly male public, got up in a style which is seldom seen at the royal opera itself. Glasses were levelled on all sides in the direction of Box No. 1, and eyes were strained to catch the first glimpse of the niece, when she should appear in company with the uncle. But uncles are proverbially "wicked old men;" and in the present case neither uncle nor niece was to be found, and the disappointed lovers—of a fortune—were left to clear up the mystery as best they could. The theatre has not had such an audience for years, and, of course, the chief person concerned reaped a rich harvest by the trick.

WHAT CATO said above his boy fallen in battle may be said by thousands:

Thanks to the gods! my boy has done his duty.
Welcome, my son! There set him down, my friends,
Full in my sight, that I may view at leisure
The bloody corpse, and count those glorious wounds.
How beautiful is death when earned by virtue!
Who would not be that youth? What pity 'tis
That we can die but once to save our country!
Why sits that sadness on your brow, my friend?
I should have blushed if Cato's house had stood
Secure, and flourished in a civil war.

SITTING BESIDE KATY.—A little girl lost a friend by death—her name was Katy. "I'm so sorry Katy is dead," said she to one of the members of the family, "for now I can't play with her any more. Yes I can, too," she continued, looking up with animation, "when I get to heaven, though they don't play on anything but harps there. At any rate, I'll go and sit right down by her side the first thing after I get there. Oh, no, I can't," and she lowered her voice to a regretful tone,—"I shall have to sit down side of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob first."

NEVER be troubled with trifles, and soon all trouble will appear as trifling.

Choice Miscellany.

SUMMER EVENING LONG AGO.

I sat behind my window sill,
In the hot and dusty town,
The sun behind the sultry walls
Was slowly sinking down.
The breeze across my mignonette
Came breathing sweet and low,
To wake the sleeping memories
Of Evenings long ago!

I thought that I had driven back
Such memories as these,
But now they all return again
On a whispering summer breeze.
Fond words come ringing through my brain,
That fill my heart with woe—
Oh, God! what brought them back to-night,
Evenings of long ago?

I see the green lanes where we strayed,
Thy dear hand clasping mine;
The same blest breeze that fans my cheek
Sweeps softly over thine;
And words of love pour from thy lips,
Not measured, cold, and slow
As those I now hear. Oh! I pine
For the evenings long ago!

I thought I had forgotten thee;
Had schooled my aching heart
To pass through life as best I may,
And act my weary part.
Alas! the mocking vision's o'er,
Too soon, alas! I know
'Twas but my loneliness that dreamed
Of evenings long ago?

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

TRUE HEROISM.

We are called almost daily to notice the heroic acts performed by our countrymen in the present contest. We admire, and who would not? the valor of the soldier, who can deliberately face the enemies of our country, and die in her defense.

But true heroism is by no means confined to the battle field. It may be displayed in common life, in greater purity, under severer trials and to an infinitely wider extent, than amid scenes of carnage and bloodshed. It is often easier for a man to face death unflinchingly at the mouth of the cannon, when impelled by the mingled incentives of ambition and revenge, than it would be to endure without murmuring, the insidious ravages of disease, the iron grasp of poverty, or the blight of bitter disappointment. We see many instances of such men, who have lived in modern, as well as ancient times. Few instances are more striking than that of NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, who, stimulated by ambition and the love of military glory, could lead his hosts over Alpine heights and through polar snows, could endure disease, hunger and cold, could carry war and desolation through all the nations of the earth, but who, when chained in seclusion on a desolate island, away from the grand scenes and high excitements in which his life had been absorbed, was almost instantly crushed. NAPOLEON could cause all Europe to tremble; he could conquer it, but he could not subdue that spirit of discontent within his own breast; he could not conquer himself. Hence we see that a man may have within his own heart a more implacable and relentless foe, than he could face on the field of battle, and in facing it, may be called to exhibit a higher than military heroism.

Enemies like these are no less formidable, when we consider that they through the most common walks of life. Had we the power to examine the hearts of our fellow men, doubtless, we would discern the fact that many of those who have appeared to us gloomy and forsaken, have been struggling against unseen enemies, and whose sad hearts the joys of this life have rarely penetrated. An individual who can for a term of years, or for a lifetime, steadily resist and combat these internal foes, is a hero in the broadest sense of the word. Obscure and unknown, he may be a stranger both to wealth and fame, but he is a hero notwithstanding. A conquest of this description is the sublimest achievement of which the human mind is capable. The triumphs of a CESAR or a NAPOLEON fade into dimness when contrasted with such a victory. A man may astonish the world by his bravery and his heroic deeds, without possessing the requisite moral heroism that will enable him to stand up in defense of right and truth. Many occupying high positions in the world, would shrink from being called Christians, and would not even raise their hand to protect the truth.

In earthly conflicts, few, comparatively, attain distinction, but in the spiritual warfare it is possible for all. Earthly honors fade away like the mists of the morning, but the conquests of the righteous are eternal.

South Gilboa, Scho. Co., Nov. 25, 1862.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]
FIRST FAMILIES.

OFTEN I hear the expression, "First Families," but am sometimes at a loss to know what sort of people it implies—whether the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers, or those foremost in the land in intelligence; or, as money makes the man now-a-days, the most probable solution is, those possessed of the greatest amount of money; which will buy influence, friends and admirers. How the ideas and customs of the *Old World* are creeping upon us! I had fondly hoped that Americans and Britons in America would build up a new aristocracy of intellect.

If my last interpretation of the phrase "first families" be the generally received one, then I protest against its fitness in most cases, for seldom do we see children of wealthy parents accomplish anything beyond their own selfish indulgences. My acquaintance with the history of many of our would-be "first families" convinces me that the name does not properly belong to those who generally appropriate it. There's Mr. A. made a fortune some years ago; we don't much like to review the history of that fortune, nor tell how knavery succeeded knavery, (all in the way of trade; of course if a person is fool enough to make bad bargains let him suffer; he ought to be sharper and look out for himself,) until the fortune was amassed, and he had the name of being the most respectable, influential member of the community! Not many years ago this man died and left a small family of grown-up sons and daughters, with all the *prestige* of wealth and respectability attached to their names. Who are they now? Echo answers, *who?* Some of them indeed try to keep up appearances. One, a confirmed roue, now ekes out an existence in California. One other, impelled, perhaps, by the power of *acquisitiveness*, transmitted by the father, has been detected in the

"sma' hours," in abstracting from the premises of a neighbor, the where withal to keep up his respectability. Alas! for this "first family." Another, Capt. B., some years ago had honors, wealth and influence, was accounted the "first family" in the county, but as the Poet MIDDLETON, hath it—

"The fame that a man wins himself is best,
That he may call his own; honors put on him
Make him no more a man than his clothes do,
Which are as soon taken off, for in the warmth
The heat comes from the body, not the weeds;
So man's true fame must strike from his own deeds."

So of our Capt. B., but we never heard of his being famed for anything in his advanced age, except for late hours, long suppers, and a very red nose, which I think ought to have been as a light house to warn his worthy and respectable son of the shoals of drunkenness, on which he has long been wrecked. A daughter of his married a respectable farmer (who no doubt thought he was marrying into a "first family,") and who has made such an extravagant and idle wife that her *ambitious* husband is nearly penniless.

I might multiply such instances indefinitely, but it would be superfluous since all parts of the world are fairly represented with such cases. In my humble opinion the children are not properly educated; they so much depend on their family name, and are so blinded by the flattery of their associates, that they pay but little attention to the cultivation of their minds, except what will fit them to shine at parties and fetes, while their morals are daily being weakened and corrupted.

On the other hand, who is he that, in pursuit of knowledge, labors on, with a determination to do something for himself and humanity, acting on the conviction that though he have but one talent it must be well improved to have the approval of the *Master*, and that though he may never arrive to the distinction of a "first family," mankind will be the better for his having lived? Or, who is he that, with patient industry, and untiring energy, toils on through long years—whose hand, perhaps, has wielded the axe or guided the plow—who would much rather wait years in reaching the goal of his happiness, than to debase a fellow-being—and who has the satisfaction of seeing his family grow up around him, actuated by the same motives for exertion as himself, possessed of the same self-reliance and independence of character, being both useful members and ornaments to society. Such are Nature's noblemen—the salt of the earth. Give me the respect and friendship of such, and you are welcome to the self-sufficient branches of most "first families" of my acquaintance.
Saltfleet, C. W., 1862. MRS. SENECA SIMON.

THE YARD-STICK AND THE RIFLE.

Dry goods clerks have not generally been supposed to occupy positions of special benefit to themselves or value to the world. They have rather had the reputation of being effeminate and narrow, and of filling places which more properly belong to women than to energetic, courageous young men. During the war they have retrieved themselves not a little, however, by joining the ranks for the Union in goodly numbers. In the large cities it is said that the number of this class who have enlisted is very large. We are glad of it, and shall rejoice to have our opinion of their valor essentially modified by their patriotism. But that the yard-stick is not the weapon of labor for strong and healthy men, is being most satisfactorily demonstrated by the results of this same devotion to country. We hear of a number of instances where clerks from such establishments have been absent with the army but a short time when they were obliged to give it up on account of the lack of that strength and vigor which life behind the counter tends to deprive one of. In several cases, though they have been compelled to quit the service, their brief out-door experience with the rifle and knapsack has alienated them from indoor employments, and given them a taste of a truer and more energetic life which they have resolved to continue. If this result could be general it would be most assuredly encouraging. Let them forsake the pins and calicoes and ribbons, and use life to better advantage, to farmers and mechanics, and who will say that the war has not been productive of some real good to the race. There is not a retail dry goods establishment in the land where women could not perform all the work that is now done by young men, and that there are women enough who need such places, is too fearfully evident. On the other hand there are noble occupations enough for every man, and all the strengthening manhood of the land is demanded to meet the exigencies of the hour. It will be a happy hour—happy for man and doubly so for woman—when the matter of the division of labor shall be fairly and rightly adjusted. The young men must not be thrown away in the effeminate labors of the retail dry goods store. Let them but try their hand at sterner employments and they will not desire to return to the tape and yard-stick.—*Springfield Republican.*

GEN. ROSECRANS' GALLANTRY.—W. D. B. is Assistant Provost-Marshal General at Gen. Rosecrans' headquarters, and has charge of the female department. Occasionally a refractory female breaks away from Capt. B., and insists on seeing the General. One of these yesterday rushed up to Gen. Rosecrans, intruding herself between Gen. R. and Gen. Hamilton, saying:—

"Is this Gen. Rosecrans?"
"Yes, Madam."
"Well, General, can't I have a pass?"
"Madam," (with a low bow), "it is not my business to give you a pass; it is my duty to refuse it."
Another lady approached on another occasion, and began with a piffling story in regard to her "poor, dear, sick uncle."

"I condole with you, madam," said the General, in that quiet way of his. "It is unfortunate that uncles will sometimes get seriously indisposed. I, too, have a dear afflicted uncle."
"Then you can sympathize with me," she said.
"Yes, madam, I do, and when my Uncle Sam gets over his present serious indisposition, I will give you a pass."

It would of course be an anti-climax which would ruin the story to relate what the lady did.—*Cor. Cincinnati Gazette.*

LIFE AND LITERATURE.—Literature mirrors life, not only more comprehensively, but more clearly than any other monument, because no other representation furnishes the compass and depth of speech. Yet speech has its limits, and life only has none. The abyss of life no book has yet closed up. It is only single chords that are struck in you when you read a book; the infinite harmony which slumbers in your life, as in the life of all, no book has yet entirely caught.—*Menzel.*

Sabbath Musings.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]
A FEW THOUGHTS ON PRAYER.

We are exhorted to pray for one another, to pray without ceasing, and in everything to give thanks, for this is the will of God in CHRIST JESUS concerning us. Let us observe, then, the nature and efficacy of prayer.

To represent the nature of prayer—it is called asking, seeking, a lifting up of the soul; pouring out of the heart, a looking up to and talking with God. It is said that the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much—that is, we must pray in faith. All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive; and we pray in faith when we offer our requests to God, believing that in correspondence to his relations and promises he will, for the righteousness and intercession of his Son, grant them. We have the promise in his precious word that he will hear and answer prayer. Then why should we go mourning in darkness and doubt, when we have the key in our own bosom which unlocks the gate of heaven?

"Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air;
His watch-word at the gate of death,
He enters heaven with prayer."

How then can those who profess to be the children of God neglect so important a duty?—thereby alienating themselves from the great Fountain from which all the good that is in them flows, exposing themselves to the snares and temptations of the world, and the false and alluring pleasures which Satan is constantly presenting to their minds, in order to turn their unwary feet from the true and living way. By living in constant communion with our greatest and best friend is the only sure way of repelling the assaults of the great enemy of mankind, for we are assured that even

"Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees."

It has been said that he who abounds most in prayer will be found the most established and steadfast believer. Those who are taught by the Divine Spirit, know that prayer, to the believing soul, is what the air of heaven is to the body, sunshine to the eye, or spring to the growth of vegetation. Without those vivifying influences everything would wither and decay; so the soul without the enlivening influences of prayer, would almost seem to lose its vitality. Thus we see that prayer is the means of increasing our faith, drawing forth our affections, and of purifying our hearts; then may we not feel that every new visit to the throne of Grace becomes a means of augmenting our stability, and that each new petition sent up from the heart to the Hearer of prayer brings increase of strength, thereby causing the soul gradually to attain to its appointed stature—the stature of a perfect man in CHRIST.

Wayne, N. Y., Dec. 1862. J. M. R.

DIVIDING UP A SERMON.

It has always appeared to me extremely bad policy, in any preacher who desires to keep up the interest of his congregation, to announce at the beginning of his sermon that in the first place he will do so; and in the second place, such another thing; and in the third place, something else, and finally close with some practical remarks. I can say for myself, that whenever I hear any preacher say anything like that, an instant feeling of irksomeness and weariness possesses me. You cannot help thinking of the long, tiresome way that is to be got over before happily reaching the end. You choke off each head of the sermon as it closes; but your relief at thinking it is done, is dashed by the thought of what a deal more is yet to come. No; the skillful preacher will not thus map out his subject, telling his hearers so exactly what a long way they have to go. He will while them along step by step. He will never let them have a long look out. Let each head of the discourse be announced as it is arrived at. People can hear one at a time, who would break down in the simultaneous prospect of three, not to say of seven or eight. And then, when the sermon is nearly done, you may, in a sentence, give a connected view of all you have said, and your skill will be shown if people think to themselves what a long way they have been brought, without the least sense of weariness. I lately heard a sermon which was divided into seven heads. If the preacher had named them all in the beginning, the congregation would have ceased to listen; or would have listened under the oppressive thought of what a deal awaited them before they would be free. But each head was announced just as it was arrived at; the congregation was whiled along insensibly; and the sermon was listened to with breathless attention, from the first sentence to the last.—*Country Parson.*

HOW TO HEAR THE GOSPEL.—Rowland Hill paid a visit to an old friend, a few years before his death, who said to him, "Mr. Hill, it is just sixty-five years since I first heard you preach, and I remember your text and a part of your sermon. You told us that some people were very squeamish about the delivery of different ministers who preached the Gospel. You said, 'Supposing you were attending to hear a will read where you expected a legacy to be left you, would you employ the time when it was reading in criticising the manner in which the lawyer read it? No, you would not: you would be giving all ear to hear if anything was left you, and how much it was. That is the way I would advise you to hear the Gospel.' This was excellent advice, and well worth remembering sixty-five years.

THE CHURCH'S ARTILLERY.—Prayers are the Church's artillery. As long as Moses continued in prayer, Israel prevailed over Amalek. The supplication of Hezekiah was the means of withering the mighty host of Sennacherib. Praying believers, it has been truly said, are of more service to a place than walls of brass and ramparts of iron.

The last, best fruit which comes to late perfection, even in the kindest soul, is tenderness towards the dead, forbearance toward the unforgiving, warmth of heart toward the cold, philanthropy toward the misanthropic.

DR. JOHNSON wisely said: "He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do anything." Take the hint; take it home and work. Whatsoever your hands find to do, do it.

We should round every day of stirring action with an evening of thought. We learn nothing from our experience unless we muse upon it.

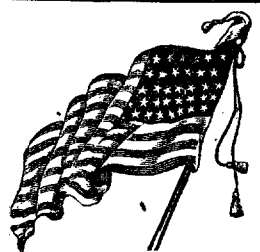
DEC. 13.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

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Rural New-Yorker.

NEWS DEPARTMENT.



Glorious flag! thy folds shall shelter
All that tread this hallowed shore,
Till "sun shall rise and set" no longer,
And "till time shall be no more."
Shout, ye people—let the echoes
Ring far over land and sea—
For the flag that never was conquered,
For the banner of the free!

ROCHESTER, N. Y., DECEMBER 13, 1862.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

SINCE your last annual assembling, another year of health and bountiful harvests has passed; and while it has not pleased the Almighty to bless us with a return of peace, we can but press on, guided by the best light He gives us, trusting that in His own good time and wise way, all will yet be well.

The correspondence touching foreign affairs, which has taken place during the last year, is herewith submitted, in virtual compliance with a request to that effect, made by the House of Representatives, near the close of its last session of Congress. If the condition of our relations with other nations is less gratifying than it has usually been at former periods, it is certainly more satisfactory than a nation so unhappily distracted as we are might reasonably have apprehended. In the month of June last, there were some grounds to expect that the maritime powers, which, at the beginning of our domestic difficulties, so unwisely and unnecessarily, as we think, recognized the insurgents as a belligerent, would soon recede from that position, which has proved only less injurious to themselves than to our own country; but the temporary reverses which afterwards befell the national arms, and which were exaggerated by our own disloyal citizens abroad, have hitherto delayed that act of simple justice.

The civil war which has so radically changed for the moment the occupations and habits of the American people, has necessarily disturbed the social condition and affected very deeply the prosperity of the nations with which we have carried on a commerce, that has been steadily increasing throughout a period of half a century. It has at the same time excited political ambitions and apprehensions, which have produced a profound agitation throughout the civilized world. In this unusual agitation, we have forborne from taking part in any controversy between foreign States and between parties or factions in such States. We have attempted no propaganda and acknowledged no revolution. But we have left to every nation the exclusive conduct and management of its own affairs. Our struggle has been, of course, contemplated by foreign nations with reference less to its own merits than to its supposed and often exaggerated effects and consequences resulting to those nations themselves. Nevertheless, complaint on the part of this government, even if it were just, would certainly be unwise.

The treaty with Great Britain for the suppression of the slave trade has been put into operation, with a good prospect of complete success. It is an occasion of special pleasure to acknowledge that the execution of it on the part of Her Majesty's Government has been marked with a jealous respect for the authority of the United States and the rights of their moral and loyal citizens.

The convention with Hanover for the abolition of the slave dues has been carried into full effect under the act of Congress for that purpose.

A blockade of three thousand miles of sea coast could not be established and vigorously enforced in a season of great commercial activity like the present without committing considerable mistakes and incurring unintentional injuries upon foreign nations and their subjects. A civil war occurring in a country where foreigners reside and carry on trade, under treaty stipulations, is necessarily fruitful of complaints of the violation of neutral rights. All such collisions tend to excite misapprehensions, and, possibly, to produce mutual reclamations between nations which have a common interest in preserving peace and friendship. In clear cases of these kinds, I have, so far as possible, heard and redressed complaints which have been presented by friendly powers. There is still, however, a large and augmenting number of cases, upon which the government is unable to act in behalf of the government whose protection is demanded by the claimants. There are, moreover, many cases in which the United States or their citizens suffer wrongs from the naval or military authorities of foreign nations, which the governments of those States are not at once prepared to redress. I have proposed to some of the foreign States thus interested, mutual conventions to examine and adjust such complaints. This proposition has been made especially to Great Britain, to France, to Spain, and to Prussia. In each case, it has been kindly received, but has not yet been formally accepted. I deem it my duty to recommend an appropriation in behalf of the owners of the Norwegian bark *Admiral P. Tordenskjold*, which vessel was, in May, 1861, prevented by the commander of the blockading force of Charleston from leaving that port with cargo, notwithstanding a similar privilege had shortly before been granted to an English vessel. I have directed the Secretary of State to cause the papers in the case to be communicated to the proper committees.

Applications have been made to me by many free Americans of African descent to favor their emigration, with a view to such colonization as was contemplated in recent acts of Congress. Other parties, at home and abroad, so far from interested in the free others upon patriotic considerations and still others influenced by philanthropic sentiments, have suggested similar measures; while, on the other hand, several of the Spanish American Republics have protested against the sending of such colonies to their respective territories. Under these circumstances, I have declined to move any such colony to any State without first obtaining the consent of its government, with an agreement on its part to receive and protect such emigrants in all the rights of freemen, and I have at the same time offered to the several States situated within the tropics, or having colonies there, to negotiate with them, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, to favor the voluntary emigration of persons of that class to their respective territories upon conditions which shall be equal, just, and humane. Liberia and Hayti are as yet the only countries to which colonies of African descent from here could go with certainty of being received and adopted as citizens, and I regret to say such persons contemplating colonization do not seem so willing to migrate to those countries as to some others, nor so willing, as I think their interest demands. I believe, however, opinion among them is improving, and that ere long there will be an augmented and considerable emigration to both these countries from the United States.

The new commercial treaty between the United States and the Sultan of Turkey has been carried into execution. A commercial and consular treaty has been negotiated, subject to the Senate's consent, with Liberia, and a similar negotiation is now pending with the Republic of Hayti. A considerable improvement of the national commerce is expected to result from these measures. Our relations with Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Prussia, Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, the Netherlands, Italy, Rome, and the other European States, remain undisturbed. Very favorable relations also continue to be maintained with Turkey, Morocco, China, and Japan. During the last year, there has not only been no change of our previous relations with

the independent States of our own continent, but more friendly sentiments than have heretofore existed are believed to be entertained by these neighbors, whose safety and progress are so intimately connected with our own. This statement especially applies to Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Peru, and Chili. The Commission under the Convention with the Republic of New Granada closed its session without having audited and passed upon all the claims which were submitted to it. A proposition is pending to revive the convention, that it may be able to do more complete justice. The joint commission between the United States and the Republic of Costa Rica has completed its labors and submitted its report.

I have favored the project for connecting the United States with Europe by an Atlantic telegraph, and a similar project to extend the telegraph from San Francisco to connect by a Pacific telegraph with the line which is being extended across the Russian empire.

The Territories of the United States, with unimportant exceptions, have remained undisturbed by the civil war; and they are exhibiting such evidence of prosperity as justifies an expectation that some of them will soon be in a condition to be organized as States and be constitutionally admitted into the Federal Union. The immense mineral resources of some of these Territories ought to be developed as rapidly as possible. Every step in that direction would have a tendency to improve the revenues of the government and diminish the burdens of the people. It is worthy of your serious consideration whether some extraordinary measures to promote that end cannot be adopted. The means which suggests itself as most likely to be effective, is a scientific exploration of the mineral regions in those Territories, with a view to the publication of its results at home and in foreign countries—results which cannot fail to be auspicious.

The condition of the finances will claim your most diligent consideration. The vast expenditures incident to the military and naval operations required for the suppression of the rebellion have been hitherto met with a promptitude and certainty unusual in similar circumstances; and the public credit has been fully maintained. The continuance of the war, however, and the increased disbursements made necessary by the augmented forces now in the field, demand your best reflections as to the best modes of providing the necessary revenue, without injury to business, and with the least possible burdens upon labor.

The suspension of specie payments by the Banks, soon after the commencement of your last session, made large issues of United States notes unavoidable. In no other way could the payment of the troops, and the satisfaction of other just demands, be so economically or so well provided for. The judicious legislation of Congress, securing the reconvertibility of these notes for loans and internal duties, and making them a legal tender for other debts, has made them a universal currency, and has satisfied partially at least, and for the time, the long felt want of a uniform circulating medium, saving thereby to the people immense sums in discounts and exchanges. As a return to specie payments, however, at the earliest period compatible with due regard to all interests concerned, should ever be kept in view. Fluctuations in the value of currency are always injurious, and to reduce these fluctuations to the lowest possible point will always be a leading purpose in wise legislation. Convertibility, prompt and certain convertibility into coin, is generally acknowledged to be the best and surest safeguard against them; and it is extremely doubtful whether a circulation of United States notes, payable in coin, and sufficiently large for the wants of the people, can be permanently, usefully, and safely maintained. There is, therefore, an imperative need in which the necessary provision for the public wants can be made, and the great advantages of a safe and uniform currency secured?

I know of none which promises so certain results, and is, at the same time, so unobjectionable as the organization of banking associations, under a general act of Congress, well guarded in its provisions. To such associations the government might furnish circulating notes, on the security of United States bonds deposited in the Treasury. These notes, prepared under the supervision of proper officers, being uniform in appearance and security, and convertible always into coin, would at once protect labor against the evils of a vicious currency, and facilitate commerce by cheap and safe exchanges.

A moderate reservation from the interest on the bonds would compensate the United States for the preparation and distribution of the notes, and a general supervision of the system, and would lighten the burden of that part of the public debt employed as securities. The public credit, moreover, would be greatly improved, and the negotiation of new loans greatly facilitated by the steady market demand for government bonds, and the adoption of the proposed system would confer the advantages of a moderate reservation from the interest on the bonds, of considerable weight, in my judgment, that it would reconcile as far as possible all existing interests, by the opportunity offered to existing institutions to reorganize under the act, substituting only the secured uniform national circulation for the local and various circulation, secured and unsecured, now issued by them.

The receipts into the Treasury, from all sources, including loans, and balance from the preceding year, for the fiscal year ending on the 30th of June, 1862, were \$583,827,000, of which sum \$49,066,331.10 were derived from customs; \$1,739,331.73 from the direct tax; from public lands, \$152,203.77; from miscellaneous sources, \$931,787.64; from loans in all forms, \$529,692,460.50. The remainder, \$2,257,065.80, was the balance from last year.

The disbursements during the same period were for Congressional, Executive and Judicial purposes, \$6,939,009.29; for foreign intercourse, \$1,339,710.35; for miscellaneous expenses, including the mint, loans, post office deficiencies, collection of revenue, and other like charges, \$14,129,771.50; for expenses under the Interior Department, \$6,102,935.52; under the War Department, \$394,347.36; under the Navy Department, \$42,674,569.69; for interest on public debt, \$13,190,324.45; and for payment of the public debt, including reimbursement of temporary loans, and redemptions, \$96,096,922.09; making an aggregate of \$570,841,700.25, and leaving a balance in the Treasury on the 1st day of July, 1862, of \$13,043,546.81.

It should be observed that the sum of \$96,096,922.09, expended for reimbursements and redemption of public debt, being included also in the loans made, may be properly deducted, both from receipts and expenditures, leaving the actual receipts for the year \$437,735,394.97, and the expenditures, \$474,744,775.15.

Other information on the subject of the finances will be found in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, to whose statements and views I invite your most candid and considerate attention.

The reports of the Secretaries of War and of the Navy are herewith transmitted. These reports, though lengthy, are scarcely more than brief abstracts of the very numerous and extensive transactions and operations conducted through those Departments. Nor could I give a summary of them here, upon any principle which would admit of its being much shorter than the reports themselves. I therefore content myself with laying the reports before you, and asking your attention to them.

It gives me pleasure to report a decided improvement in the financial condition of the Post Office Department, as compared with several preceding years. The receipts for the fiscal year 1861 amounted to \$8,349,296.40, which embraced the revenue from all the States of the Union for three-quarters of that year. Notwithstanding the cessation of revenue from the so-called seceded States during the last fiscal year, the increase of the correspondence of the loyal States has been sufficient to produce a revenue during the same year of \$8,299,820.90, being only \$50,000 less than was derived from all the States of the Union during the previous year. The expenditures show a still more favorable result. The amount expended in 1861 was \$13,606,759.11. For the last year the amount has been reduced to \$11,125,364.13, showing a decrease of about \$2,481,000 in the expenditures as compared with the preceding year, and about \$3,750,000 as compared with the fiscal year 1860. The deficiency in the Department for the previous year was \$4,551,966.99, and for the last year it was reduced to \$2,112,814.57. These favorable results are in part owing to the cessation of mail service in the insurrectionary States, and in part to a careful review of all expenditures in that department in the interest of economy. The efficiency of the postal service, it

is believed, has also been much improved. The Postmaster General has also opened a correspondence, through the Department of State, with foreign governments, proposing a convention of postal representatives for the purpose of simplifying the rates of foreign postage, and to expedite the foreign mails. This proposition, equally important to our adopted citizens and to the commercial interests of this country, has been favorably entertained and agreed to by all the governments from whom replies have been received.

I ask the attention of Congress to the suggestions of the Postmaster General in his report respecting the further legislation required, in his opinion, for the benefit of the postal service.

The Secretary of the Interior reports as follows in regard to the public lands:—"The public lands have ceased to be a source of revenue. From the 1st July, 1861, to the 30th September, 1862, the entire cash receipts from the sale of lands were \$137,476.26—a sum much less than the expenses of our land system during the same period. The homestead law, which will take effect on the 1st of January next, offers such inducements to settlers that sales for cash cannot be expected, to an extent sufficient to meet the expense of the General Land Office and the cost of surveying and bringing the land into market."

The discrepancy between the sum here stated as arising from the sales of the public lands, and the sum derived from the same source as reported from the Treasury Department, arises, as I understand, from the fact that the periods of time, though apparently, were not really coincident at the beginning point—the Treasury report including a considerable sum now which had previously been reported from the Interior—sufficiently large to greatly overreach the sum derived from the three months now reported upon by the Interior, and not by the Treasury.

The Indian tribes upon our frontiers have, during the past year, manifested a spirit of insubordination, and at several points, have engaged in open hostilities against the white settlements in their vicinity. The tribes occupying the Indian country south of Kansas renounced their allegiance to the United States, and entered into treaties with the insurgents. Those who remained loyal to the United States were driven from the country. The chief of the Cherokees has visited this city for the purpose of restoring the former relations of the tribe with the United States. He alleges that the United States, by superior force, to enter into treaties constrained, by the insurgents, and that the United States neglect to furnish the protection which their treaty stipulations required.

In the month of August last the Sioux Indians, in Minnesota, attacked the settlements in their vicinity with extreme ferocity, killing indiscriminately men, women, and children. This attack was wholly unexpected, and therefore no means of defense had been provided. It is estimated that not less than eight hundred persons were killed by the Indians, and a large amount of property was destroyed. How this outbreak was induced is not definitely known, and suspicion is which may be unjustly need not be to be. Information was received by the Indian Bureau from different sources, about the time hostilities were commenced, that a simultaneous attack was to be made upon the white settlements by all the tribes between the Mississippi river and the Rocky Mountains. The State of Minnesota has suffered great injury from this Indian war. A large portion of her territory has been depopulated, and a severe loss has been sustained by the destruction of property. The people of that State manifest much anxiety for the removal of the tribes beyond the limits of the State, as a guarantee against future hostilities. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has, in this connection, submitted for your consideration whether our Indian system shall not be remodeled. Many wise and good men have impressed me with the belief that this can be profitably done.

I submit a statement of the proceedings of commissioners, which shows the progress that has been made in the enterprise of constructing the Pacific railroad. And this suggests the earliest completion of this road, and also the favorable action of Congress upon the projects now pending before them for enlarging the capacities of the great canals in New York and Illinois, as being of vital and rapidly increasing importance to the whole nation, and especially to the vast interior region hereafter to be noticed at some greater length. I purpose having prepared and laid before you at an early day some interesting and valuable statistical information upon this subject. The military and commercial importance of enlarging the Illinois and Michigan canal, and improving the Illinois river, is presented in the report of Col. Webster to the Secretary of War, and now transmitted to Congress. I respectfully ask attention to it.

To carry out the provisions of the act of Congress of the 15th of May last, I have caused the Department of Agriculture of the United States to be organized.

The Commissioner informs me that within the period of a few months this department has established an extensive system of correspondence and exchanges, both at home and abroad, which promises to effect highly beneficial results in the development of a correct knowledge of recent improvements in agriculture, in the introduction of new products, and in the collection of the agricultural statistics of the different States. Also, that it will be prepared to distribute largely seeds, cereals, plants and fruiting, and has already published a liberally diffused much valuable information, in anticipation of a more elaborate report, which will in due time be furnished, embracing some valuable tests in chemical science, now in progress in the laboratory.

The creation of this department was for the more immediate benefit of a large class of our most valuable citizens; and I trust that the liberal basis upon which it has been organized will not only meet your approbation, but that it will realize, at no distant day, all the fondest anticipations of its most sanguine friends, and be the fruitful source of advantage to all our people.

On the 22d day of September last a proclamation was issued by the Executive, a copy of which is herewith submitted. In accordance with the purpose expressed in the second paragraph of that paper, I now respectfully recall your attention to what may be called "compensated emancipation."

A nation may be said to consist of its territory, its people, and its laws. The territory is the only part which is of certain durability. "One generation passeth away and another generation cometh, but the earth abideth forever." It is the first importance to consider and estimate this ever-enduring part. That portion of the earth's surface which is owned and inhabited by the people of the United States is well adapted to the home of one national family; and it is not well adapted for two or more. Its vast extent and its variety of climate and productions are of advantage in this age for one people, whatever they might have been in former ages. Steam, telegraphs, and intelligence have brought these to be an advantageous combination for one united people.

In the Inaugural Address I briefly pointed out the total inadequacy of disunion as a remedy for the differences between the people of the two sections. I did so in language which I cannot improve, and which, therefore, I beg to repeat:

"One section of our country believes slavery is right, and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong, and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute. The fugitive slave clause of the Constitution, and the law for the suppression of the foreign slave trade, are each as well enforced, perhaps, as any law can ever be in a community where the moral sense of the people imperfectly supports the law itself. The great body of the people abide by the legal obligation in both cases, and a few break over in each. This, I think, cannot be perfectly cured; and it would be worse in both cases after the separation of the sections than before. The foreign slave trade, now imperfectly suppressed, would be ultimately revived without restriction in one section; while fugitive slaves, now only partially surrendered, would not be surrendered at all by the other.

"Physically speaking, we cannot separate. We cannot remove our respective sections from each other, nor build an impassable wall between them. A husband and wife may be divorced, and go out of the presence and beyond the reach of each other; but the different parts of our country cannot do this. They cannot but remain face to face; and intercourse, either amiable or hostile, must continue between them. Is it possible, then, to make that intercourse

more advantageous or more satisfactory after separation than before? Can aliens make treaties easier than friends can make laws? Can treaties be more faithfully enforced between aliens than laws can among friends? Suppose you go to war; you cannot fight always; and when, after much loss on both sides, and no gain on the other, you cease fighting, the identical old questions, as to terms of intercourse, are again upon you."

There is no line, straight or crooked, suitable for a national boundary upon which to divide. Trace through, from east to west, the line between the free and slave country, and we shall find a little more than one-third of its length are rivers, easy to be crossed, and populated, or soon to be populated, thickly upon both sides; while nearly all its remaining length are merely surveyors' lines, over which people may walk back and forth without any consciousness of their presence. No part of this line can be made any more difficult to pass by writing it down on paper, or parchment, as a national boundary. The fact of separation, if it comes, gives up, on the part of the seceding section, the fugitive slave clause, along with all other constitutional obligations of the section seceded from, while I should expect no treaty stipulation would ever be made to take its place.

But there is another difficulty. The great interior region, bounded east by the Alleghenies, north by the British dominions, west by the Rocky Mountains, and south by the line along which the culture of corn and cotton meets, and which includes part of Virginia, part of Tennessee, all of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, and the Territories of Dakota, Nebraska, and part of Colorado, already has above ten millions of people, and will have fifty millions within fifty years if not prevented by any political folly or mistake. It contains more than one-third of the country owned by the United States; certainly more than one million of square miles. Once half as populous as Massachusetts already is, it would have more than seventy-five millions of people. A glance at the map shows that territorially speaking, it is the great body of the Republic. The other parts are but marginal borders to it, the magnificent region sloping west from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific being the deepest and also the richest in undeveloped resources. In the production of provisions, grains, grasses, and all which proceed from them, this great interior region is naturally one of the most important in the world. Ascertain from the statistics the small proportion of the region which has as yet been brought into cultivation, and also the large and rapidly increasing amount of its products, and the shall be overwhelmed with the magnitude of the prospect presented. And yet this region has no second ocean touches no ocean anywhere. As part of one nation, its people now find, and may forever find, their way to Europe by New York, to South America and Africa by New Orleans, and to Asia by San Francisco. But separate our common country into two nations, as designed by the present rebellion, and every man of this great interior region is thereby cut off from some one or more of these outlets, not perhaps by a physical barrier, but by embarrassing and onerous trade regulations.

And this is true, wherever a dividing or boundary line may be traced. Place it between the new free and slave country, or it south of Kentucky or north of Ohio, and still the truth remains that none south of it can trade to any port or place north of it, and none north of it can trade to any port or place south of it, except upon terms dictated by a government foreign to them. These outlets, East, West, and South, are indispensable to the well-being of the people inhabiting and to inhabit this vast interior region. Which of the three may be the best is no proper question. All are better than either, and all of right belong to that people and to their successors forever. True to themselves, they will not ask where a line of separation shall be, but will vow rather that there shall be no such line. Nor are the marginal regions less interested in these common outlets and through them to the great outside world. They, too, and each of them, must have access to this Egypt of the West, without paying toll at the crossing of our national boundary.

Our national strife springs not from our permanent part; not from the land we inhabit; not from our national homestead. There is no possible severing of this, but would multiply and not mitigate evils among us. In all its adaptations and aptitudes, it demands union and abhors separation. In fact it would be long force re-union, however much blood and treasure the separation might have cost.

Our strife pertains to ourselves—to the passing generations of men; and can without convulsion be hushed forever with the passing of one generation. In this view, I recommend the adoption of the following resolution and articles amendatory to the Constitution of the United States:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two-thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures or Conventions of the several States, as Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all or any of which Articles, when ratified by three-fourths of the said Legislatures or Conventions, to be valid as a part or parts of the said Constitution, viz.:

ARTICLE—Every State wherein slavery now exists which shall abolish the same therein at any time or times before the first day of January in the year of our Lord that amount nine hundred, shall receive compensation from the United States, as follows, to wit:

The President of the United States shall deliver to every such State a sum of money bearing interest at the rate of six per cent, for each slave shown to have been held by the United States Census of the United States, said bonds to be delivered to such State by instalments, or in one parcel, at the completion of the abolition, according as the same shall have been gradual or instantaneous; and interest shall be paid on the sum to run upon any such bond only from the proper time of its delivery as aforesaid. Any State having received bonds as aforesaid, and afterwards re-introducing or tolerating slavery therein, shall forfeit the bonds so received, or the value thereof, and all interest paid thereon.

ARTICLE—All slaves who shall have enjoyed actual freedom by the chances of war, at any time before the end of the rebellion, shall be forever free; but all owners of such who shall not have been disloyal shall be compensated for them, at the same rate as provided in this article, and the said owners of slaves, but in such way that no slave shall be twice accounted for.

ARTICLE—Congress may appropriate money, and otherwise provide, for colonizing free colored persons, with their own consent, at any place or places without the United States.

I beg indulgence to discuss these proposed articles at some length. Without slavery the rebellion could never have existed; without slavery it could not continue.

Among the friends of the Union there is great diversity of opinion as to the policy in regard to slavery and the African race amongst us. Some would perpetuate slavery; some would abolish it suddenly and without compensation; some would abolish it gradually and with compensation; some would remain the freed people from us, and some would retain them with us; and there are yet other minor diversities. Because of these diversities we waste much strength in struggles among ourselves. By mutual concession we should harmonize and act together. This would be compromise; but it would be compromise among the friends and not with the enemies of the Union. These articles are intended to embody a plan of such mutual concessions. If the plan shall be adopted it is assumed that emancipation will follow at least in several of the States.

As to the first article the main points are: first, the emancipation; secondly, the length of time for consummating it—thirty-seven years; and, thirdly, the compensation.

The emancipation will be unsatisfactory to the advocates of perpetual slavery; but the length of time should greatly mitigate their dissatisfaction. The time spaces both races from the evils of sudden derangement—in fact from the necessity of any derangement—while most of those whose habitual course of thought will be disturbed by the measure will have passed away before its consummation. They will never see it. Another class will hail the prospect of emancipation, but will deprecate the length of time. They will feel that it gives too little to the now living slaves. But it really gives them much. It saves them from the vagrant destitution which must largely attend immediate emancipation in localities where their numbers are very great; and it gives the inspiring assurance that their posterity shall be free forever. The plan leaves to each State choosing to act under it to abolish slavery now or at the end of the century, or at any intermediate time, or by degrees, extending over the whole or any part of the period; and it obliges no two States to proceed alike. It also provides for compensation, and generally the mode of making it. This, it would seem, must further mitigate the dissatisfaction of those who favor perpetual slavery,

and especially of those who are to receive the compensation. Doubtless some of those who are to pay and not to receive will object. Yet the measure is both just and economical. In a certain sense, the liberation of slaves is the destruction of property—property acquired by descent or by purchase, the same as any other property. It is no less true for having been often said, that the people of the South are not more responsible for the original introduction of this property than are the people of the North; and when it is remembered how unhesitatingly we all use cotton and sugar, and share the profits of dealing in them, may not it be quite safe to say that the South has been more responsible than the North for its continuance. If, then, for a common object this property is to be sacrificed, is it not just that it be done at a common charge?

And if with less money, or money more easily paid, we can preserve the benefits of the Union by this means than we can by the war alone, is it not also economical to do it? Let us consider it then. Let us ascertain the sum we have expended in the war since compensated emancipation was proposed last March, and consider whether, if that measure had been promptly accepted by even some of the seceded States, the same sum would not have done more for the war than it would otherwise do. If so, the measure would save money, and, in that view, would be a prudent and economical measure. Certainly it is not so easy to pay something as it is to pay nothing; and it is easier to pay a large sum than it is to pay a larger one. And it is easier to pay any sum when we are able than it is to pay it before we are able. The war requires large sums, and requires them at once. The aggregate sum necessary for compensated emancipation of course would be large. But it would require no ready cash, nor the bonds even, any faster than the emancipation progresses. This might not, and probably would not, close before the end of the thirty-seven years. At that time we shall probably have a hundred millions of people to share the burden instead of thirty-one millions, as now. And not only so, but the increase of our population may be expected to continue for a long time after that period as rapidly as before; because our territory will not have become full. I do not state this inconspicuously.

At the same ratio of increase which we have maintained, on an average, from our first national census in 1790, until that of 1860, we should in 1900 have a population of 103,208,415. And why may we not continue that ratio far beyond that period? Our abundant room for our head national homestead—our abundant resource. Were our territory so limited as are the British Isles, very certainly our population could not expand as stated. Instead of receiving the foreign born as now, we should be compelled to send part of the native born away. But such is not our condition. We have two millions nine hundred and sixty-three thousand square miles. Europe has three millions and eight hundred thousand, with a population averaging seventy-three and one-third persons to the square mile. Why may not our country at some time average as many? Is it less fertile? Has it more waste surface, by mountains, rivers, lakes, deserts, or other causes? Is it less fertile than Europe in any natural advantage? If then we are, at some time, to be as populous as Europe, how soon? As to when this may be, we can judge by the past and the present; as to when it will be, it ever depends much on whether we maintain the Union. Several of our States are already above the average of Europe—seventy-three and a third to the square mile. Massachusetts has 157; Rhode Island, 133; Connecticut, 99; New York and New Jersey, each 80. Also two other great States, Pennsylvania and Ohio, are not far below, the former having 63 and the latter 59. The States already above the European average, except New York, have increased in area, and have increased in population, since ever before; while none of the others equal to some other parts of our country in natural capacity for sustaining a dense population.

Taking the nation in the aggregate, and we find its population and ratio of increase, for the several decennial periods, to be as follows:

Year	Population	Ratio of increase
1790	3,929,827	
1800	5,305,937	35.02 per cent.
1810	7,239,914	35.45 " "
1820	9,638,181	33.12 " "
1830	12,866,020	33.49 " "
1840	17,069,453	32.67 " "
1850	23,191,876	35.87 " "
1860	31,443,793	35.68 " "

This shows an average decennial increase of 34.60 per cent in population through the seventy years, from our first to our last census yet taken. It is seen that the ratio of increase at no one of these two periods, is either two per cent. below or two per cent. above the average of the whole period, and consequently how reliable a basis of increase in our case is. Assuming that it will continue, gives the following results:

Year	Population
1870	42,323,841
1880	56,967,216
1890	76,677,872
1900	103,208,415
1910	138,018,626
1920	184,984,305
1930	251,650,914

These figures show that our country may be as populous as Europe now at some point between 1920 and 1930—say about 1925—our territory, at seventy-three and a third persons to the square mile, being of capacity to contain 217,136,000.

And we will reach this, too, if we do not ourselves relinquish the chance, by the folly and evils of disunion, or by long and exhausting wars springing from the only great element of national discord among us. While it cannot be foreseen exactly how much one huge example of secession, breeding lesser ones indefinitely, would retard population, civilization, and prosperity, no one can doubt that the extent of it would be very great and injurious.

The proposed emancipation would shorten the war, perpetuate peace, insure this increase of population, and proportionately the wealth of the country. With these, we should pay all the emancipation would cost, together with our other debt, easier than we should pay our other debt without it. If we had allowed our old national debt to run at six per cent per annum, simple interest, from the end of our Revolutionary struggle until to-day, without paying anything on either principal or interest, each man of us would owe less upon that debt now than each man owed upon it then; and this because our increase of men, through the whole period, has been greater than the interest has run upon the interest upon the debt. Thus, time alone relieves a debtor nation, so long as its population increases faster than unpaid interest accumulates on its debt.

This fact would be no excuse for delaying payment of what is justly due; but it shows the great importance of time in this connection—the great advantage of a policy by which we shall not have to pay until we number a hundred millions, what, by a different policy, we would have to pay now, when we number but thirty-one millions. In a word, it shows that a dollar will be a dollar for emancipation on the proposed plan. And then the latter will cost no blood, no precious life. It will be a saving of both.

As to the second article, I think it would be impracticable to return to bondage the class of persons therein contemplated. Some of them, doubtless, in the property sense, belong to loyal owners; and hence provision is made in this article for compensating such.

The third article relates to the future of the freed people. It does not oblige, but merely authorizes Congress to aid in colonizing such as may consent. This ought not to be regarded as objectionable, for the one hand, or on the other in so much as it comes to nothing unless by the mutual consent of the people to be deported, and the American voters, through their representatives in Congress.

I can not make it better known than it already is that I strongly favor colonization. And yet I wish to say there is an objection urged against free colored persons remaining in the country which is largely imaginary, if not sometimes malicious.

It is insisted that their presence would injure and displace white labor and white laborers. If there ever could be a proper time for mere catch arguments, that time surely is not now. In times like the present men should utter nothing for which they would not willingly be responsible, and which they could in eternities find it true, that colored people can displace any more white labor by being free than by remaining slaves. If they stay in their old places they jostle no white laborers; if they leave their old places they leave them open to white laborers. Logically, there is neither more nor less of it. Emancipation, even without deportation, would

— The dog tax in Cortland county N. Y., amounts to \$1.-195 50.

— Gen. Wool is lying seriously ill at the Eutaw House, Baltimore.

— The number of students in all the departments of Yale College is 617.

— The Territory of Colorado is about to send her third regiment to the war.

— The New York subscription in aid of the English operatives has reached \$61,800.

— The St. Louis Republican, heretofore semi-secesh, comes out for emancipation in Missouri.

— A London publisher has issued a Latin translation of Longfellow's poem, "Hiawatha."

— The Empress of France pays her pet editor \$5,000 per annum and permits him perquisites.

— Florence Nightingale has suffered a relapse, and but little hope is now entertained of her recovery.

— About three thousand barrels of apples have been purchased and shipped from Brockport, N. Y.

— Mrs. Sophia Stewart, the last of the ancient royal family of Scotland, has just died in her 91st year.

— A very fine quality of cotton was successfully grown, the past season, on Kelly's Island, Lake Erie.

— Elihu Burritt intends to visit England in the course of a few weeks, to remain, perhaps, a twelvemonth.

— Lockwood L. Doty, Esq., Private Secretary to Governor Morgan, has been appointed Consul at Nassau.

— The Vanderbilt, after a cruise of 4,000 miles for the pirate Alabama, returned unsuccessful on Saturday week.

— Twelve members of the Sophomore Class in Yale College have been "suspended" for abusing a freshman.

— The whole number of deaths at Hilton Head and Key West from yellow fever during the season was only 95.

— The President's Message was telegraphed from Washington to New York in one hour and thirty-three minutes.

— The Boston Bee says the new Richmond correspondent of the London Times is no other than Wm. L. Yancey.

— There are now eleven thousand Massachusetts troops at Newbern, N. C., and regiments are constantly arriving.

— Ludwig Uhland, the famous German poet and patriot, is dead. Among hardy he held a high and honored rank.

— It is asserted that five thousand of the teachers of Ohio have entered the army within the last eighteen months.

— Fifty of the persons arrested in Wisconsin for resisting the draft have offered to enlist for three years or the war.

— Deserters represent many of the Rebels as shoeless; and Lee has ordered them to make moccasins out of raw hides.

— The steamship May Queen, bound south with supplies, was lost on the North Carolina Coast. The crew was saved.

— Parson Brownlow, in a letter from Nashville, says Tennessee is to all intents and purposes brought back into the Union.

— Revenue stamps continue to be used for postage stamps by careless persons. All letters thus stamped are treated as unpaid.

— Hon. Caleb B. Smith, Secretary of the Interior, will, it is said, soon be sent to take the vacant District Judgeship in Indiana.

— The Garibaldians who were recently amnestied are to be sent home to their families at the expense of the Italian government.

— Small gold coin has not been made at the mint for a long time past. The coinage now consists mainly of twenty dollar gold pieces.

— Macaulay's prophecy of a university at Timbuctoo has been nearly realized by the establishment of a college at Monrovia, Africa.

— The Newfoundland fisheries this year have not only proved very unsuccessful as to numbers, but the fish are poor and meagre.

— In the Austrian War Budget, now under consideration, there is an item of 2,600*l*. for feeding cats kept in the victualing-magazines.

— In the Auburn Advertiser is recorded the death of four children, being the entire family of Parker L. and Maria Atwood, of Venice.

— "Chopping bees," to prepare and deliver to the families of soldiers in the field a supply of wood for this winter, are all the rage in Iowa.

— It is not Kossuth who is dying of consumption, but his wife. The patriot exile is now in Turin attending her with the deepest solatidude.

— Rhode Island's credit is good. She has just sold six hundred thousand dollars' worth of her bonds at a premium of over eight per cent.

— It is stated on good authority that no less than 180,000 of the soldiers whose names now fill the muster-rolls are absent, with or without leave!

— The Rebel Congress will not convene, unless called together by Jeff Davis, until the 12th of January. It adjourned on the 13th of October.

— The family of Mr. John A. Hutchinson, of Trenton, N. J., to the number of eighty persons, sat down to a Thanksgiving dinner in Trenton.

— Two immense columbiads, weighing 14,822 pounds, are on their way to New York, and intended for one of the forts commanding the harbor.

— Both Houses of the New South Wales Legislature have passed bills granting five thousand acres of land for experiments in cotton growing.

— The expedition which left Helena last week, said to have numbered 20,000 men, headed 12 miles below, and moved overland toward Gretna.

— A Washington dispatch to the New York Times says one hundred officers, absent without leave, were on Thursday week stricken from the rolls.

— Mr. Smith O'Brien is going abroad for some years, in consequence of having been deprived of his property by those to whom he entrusted it in 1848.

— The Utica Telegraph says it knows that 365 officers of the Army of the Potomac have sent in their resignations since the removal of Gen. McClellan.

— The demands upon the treasury outstanding are less than \$14,000,000. These it is thought will be absorbed in revenue payments by the 1st of February.

— Nearly five columns of the Cincinnati Gazette are filled with names of soldiers of the Federal army who died in the Nashville hospitals since last spring.

— Mr. H. Jacobs, of Rome, has just realized on a Newark, N. J., shingle-plot, issued 27 years ago, which was honored by the city corporation on presentation.

— The N. Y. Allotment Commissioners state the fact that nearly five million and a half of dollars have been allotted to their friends by New York regiments.

— The life of Garibaldi is said to be in imminent danger from his wound in the instep, which is showing alarming symptoms, the effects of bad surgery.

— The weekly statement of the New York Commissioners of Emigration shows that 69,499 emigrants have landed upon our shores since the 1st of last January.

— Nine thousand Italian priests have just presented a petition to the Pope, in which they entreat of him, in the name of religion, to abandon the temporal power.

— The Nationalities of Turin announce the arrival of M. M. Klappa, Kossuth and Teleki, who, it adds, are preparing to start for Greece with a number of Hungarians.

— Prussia is in peril of a revolution. In Berlin the people are highly incensed, and the unconstitutional conduct of the sovereign is discussed with great fury.

THE CUMBERLAND.

[THE following fine poem by Professor LONGFELLOW appears in the December number of the *Atlantic*. It is the first published by him since the sad accident which brought such mourning to his house.]

At anchor in Hampton Roads we lay,
On board of the Cumberland sloop of war;
And at times from the fortress across the bay
The alarm of drums swept past,
Or a bugle-blast
From the camp on shore.

Then far away in the South arose
A little feather of snow-white smoke,
And we knew that the iron ship of our foes
Was steadily steering its course
To try the force
Of our ribs of oak.

Down upon us heavily rained,
Silent and sullen, the floating fort;
Then comes a puff of smoke from her guns,
And leaps the terrible death,
With fiery breath,
From each open port.

We are not idle, but send her straight
Defiance back in a full broadside!
As hail rebounds from a roof of slate,
Rebounds our heavier hail
From each iron scale
Of the monster's hide.

"Strike your flag!" the rebel cries,
In his arrogant old plantation strain,
"Never!" our gallant Morris replies;
"It is better to sink than to yield!"
And the whole air pealed
With the cheers of our men.

Then, like a kraken huge and black,
She crushed our ribs in her iron grasp!
Down went the Cumberland all a wreck,
With a sudden shudder of death,
And the cannon's breath
For her dying gasp.

Next morn, as sun rose over the bay,
Still floated our flag at the mainmast-head.
Loon, how beautiful was thy day!
Every waft of the air
Was a whisper of prayer,
Or a dirge for the dead.

Ho! brave hearts that went down in the seas!
Ye are at peace in the troubled stream,
Ho! brave land! with hearts like these,
Thy flag, that is rent in twain,
Shall be one again,
And without a seam!

The Story-Teller.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

THE ORPHAN NIECE.

BY J. W. VAN NAMEE.

"YOUR Aunt MARIA is dead, and your father has gone to Mayville to attend the funeral and arrange matters. I suppose she will leave nothing for her child, save that old red house, and that is worth but a hundred or two."

"What is to become of AMY? what is father going to do with her?"

"Bring her here, I suppose, and make a lady of her. She will doubtless expect to assist you in entertaining your gentlemen friends in the drawing room."

"And she may expect, but it will amount to nothing. I won't have the country thing in the parlor. I do think father is crazy if he intends to bring her here."

"Ah, that is one of the pleasures of having poor relations; but I hope when you marry, you will choose a man whose family is, at least, equal to your own."

I wonder if Mrs. STANHOPE forgot what her family was. I wonder if she forgot how she used to work, when a girl, in her father's tailor shop, making vests and pantaloonas. But, pardon me, gentle reader. I have not yet introduced you to the two ladies, whose interesting (?) conversation I have transcribed above.

Mrs. STANHOPE was the wife of a wealthy merchant, living in style, in the gay metropolis. He had been attracted by her pretty face, when she was a mere girl. Her father was his tailor, and when Mr. HARVEY died, leaving his child an orphan, Mr. STANHOPE had married her, and steadily they had climbed the ladder of prosperity, and now stood upon its top-most rounds. Mrs. STANHOPE, naturally weak minded and frivolous, was much elated by the improvement in her husband's circumstances, and assumed the affectation and airs so common among vulgar women of wealth. Mr. STANHOPE was a kind-hearted, noble-minded, generous man, and loved to make others happy around him. Two children had blessed their union. One, a daughter, whose conversation with her mother the reader has listened to. AMANDA, at the time of her introduction to the reader, was seventeen years old. She was a large, showy, dashing-looking girl, much like her mother in disposition. HARRY, a boy of some four years of age, delicate, and of a gentle, loving nature, was his father's pet and comfort.

Mr. STANHOPE's sister, whose funeral he had left home to attend, had one child, a beautiful girl of sixteen summers. AMY ALLEN was all that was lovely and interesting, and when she entered her uncle's stately dwelling, robed in the deepest mourning, AMANDA felt that she had to cope with a formidable rival. Mrs. STANHOPE and daughter treated the poor orphan with the most chilling formality, and as she sat in the room, three days after her arrival, she felt sad-hearted and lonely. The tears were coursing down her cheeks, as she murmured—"Alas, now that thou art gone, my mother, I have no one to love me."

"I love you," said a sweet, childish voice at her elbow, and turning around, AMY saw little HARRY standing gazing upon her in surprise.

"Dear little fellow," she said, lifting him into her lap, and half-smothering him with kisses; "there," she added, as she stroked the wavy ringlets of his flaxen hair, "why do you love me?"

"Cause you ain't cross to me like ma and MANDY. I loves you, and I loves pa."

It was pleasant to be loved by that innocent little child; it was like balm to the wounded heart of the orphan girl. She was lonely no more, for little HARRY was ever her companion, and she cared not to see the lively visitors in the drawing room; she preferred to sit in the library and read aloud to her uncle, while little HARRY slept soundly upon her breast, and Mrs. STANHOPE was content, so long as she did not interfere with the company of her daughter.

Thus week after week, month after month, passed by. A confidence and friendship had gradually grown up between herself and her uncle, as beautiful

ful as it was sacred. When they were cozily seated in the library, after supper, she would relate all that had transpired during the day, repeat every cunning speech that HARRY had uttered, and he, in turn, would tell her of his trials and vexations. Oh, how much she enjoyed those quiet evenings, and with what feelings of pleasure Mr. STANHOPE looked forward to the evening's quiet enjoyment during the busy hours of the day. Home had never before possessed so many charms for him.

"Blessings brighten as they take their flight."

Little HARRY was suddenly taken very ill, and AMY watched by his sick couch night and day. The evenings in the library were at an end, for a time, at least, for Mrs. STANHOPE and AMANDA were so much engaged with receiving company and attending parties, that they had no time to spend in the sick room. Every morning Dr. LEE came to visit his little patient, but he grew no better, as day after day rolled by, and then the Doctor came twice a day, and each visit he made to the sick chamber was a few moments longer than the last.

HARRY had been ill some two weeks, when Miss AMANDA suddenly became aware of the fact that Dr. LEE, a wealthy, unmarried man, and an "excellent catch," was daily in the society of AMY.

"Mother, what if that huzzy should use her powers of attraction and secure the Doctor?"

"I never thought of that before. Let me see; the Doctor usually comes at ten; you had better be dressed in a morning wrapper, and seated in the sick chamber when he arrives. And speak of the poor child's restlessness during the night, giving him to understand that you have been sitting up all night with him. Use every means in your power to secure his good opinion, and draw his attention from AMY. If it is not too late, you may be able to secure him."

"Trust me; I'll use every means in my power. I wish I had thought of it before."

This conversation was held in the breakfast room, as the two ladies were sipping their coffee. The evening previous Dr. LEE had called, and finding little HARRY so much worse, had remained in the sick room all night. AMY had never left her post by the little sufferer's couch for a moment during the whole long night. Dr. LEE left the house before the family had arisen, and as a matter of course, they were perfectly ignorant of his stay. He had told AMY he would call again about ten o'clock.

A few moments before the clock struck ten, AMANDA entered the chamber, arrayed in a gaudy silk morning wrapper, and flung herself into an arm-chair. She had been seated but a few moments before Dr. LEE entered.

"Ah, good morning Miss STANHOPE, you look weary this morning; you danced too much last night."

"No, I have been up all night with my little brother."

No blush stole over her cheeks as she uttered this falsehood, but the Doctor could not repress a smile as he inquired of AMY how HARRY had rested.

After many days of intense suffering, little HARRY went away to the angels.

"Like an ideal thought he came
A star upon Love's crest,
Then vanished like the sunset flame,
That warmed the ardent west;
And like a thought of priceless worth,
Filled with ambrosial leaven,
He passed up to his second birth,
Above the Pleiads seven—
One angel less upon the earth,
One spirit more in Heaven."

Until little HARRY's dying hour, AMANDA exerted herself to secure the good opinion of Dr. LEE; and she really flattered herself that she had made an impression, and was even heartless enough to say to her mother, the morning of the funeral—

"Mother, I'm afraid mourning will not be becoming to me. I do wish Dr. LEE had proposed before HARRY died."

About two weeks after little HARRY had been laid to rest, AMY sat in the library with her uncle. They had been conversing for some time—the reader can judge upon what subject from the following reply Mr. STANHOPE made to the last question AMY had put to him:

Certainly, you have my consent. Dr. LEE is a noble man, and will doubtless make you a good husband; but I shall miss you sadly. You have been a great comfort to me, AMY, and you deserve to be very happy.

In three months AMY became the bride of Dr. LEE. Mrs. STANHOPE and AMANDA were surprised and disappointed at the turn affairs had taken, but very wisely concluded to hide their real feelings, as Dr. LEE was wealthy and influential, and it was something of an honor to be even distantly related to so popular a man, and one so distinguished in refined society. AMY was very happy in her new home. AMANDA, soon after her cousin's marriage, was united to the son of a retired pork merchant, thinking it better to take up with what she could get, after so great a disappointment. Dr. LEE and his wife often laugh over the maneuvers of the foolish girl, and he blesses the day he took to his heart and home his "darling little AMY," as he calls her.

A BRAVE BOY.

NEAR Lake Shetek, sixty miles southwest of New Ulm, Minn., a family was surprised by Indians, the father killed, and the mother seized as a prisoner; but two children, one twelve years, and the other two years of age, were concealed from the savages in a neighboring thicket of grass and weeds. After the alarm, the mother thus concealed her children, her last words to the older boy being, "save his little brother, and never leave him."

On disappearing with their captives and plunder, the brave lad, with his baby brother on his back, started for the nearest settlement, subsisting on wild fruits and roots, and reaching New Ulm in fourteen days. About half way on this journey of sixty miles, he overtook a neighbor named Ireland, who had lain down to die, having been struck by no less than eight bullets, and who insisted that it was hopeless to escape.

"But," was the heroic reply of the boy, "my mother's last words were to save my little brother, and I am going to do it." This devoted courage gave new life to Ireland, who struggled forward, and all reached New Ulm without accident. Ireland is now recovering.

On the next day after the arrival at New Ulm, the mother of the children was brought in by a scouting party. The Indians, finding her an incubance to their retreat, and not being at the moment disposed to kill her, had left the woman on the prairie, and after wandering many days, she was reunited to her children.—*St. Paul Press*.

Useful, Scientific, &c.

ASTRONOMICAL.

RECENT investigations have led some of our most eminent astronomers to the following important conclusions in regard to the planet and asteroids:

First. That besides the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, there exists between the sun and Mercury a ring of asteroids, whose mass is comparable with the mass of Mercury itself.

Second. That at the distance of the earth from the sun is found a second ring of asteroids, whose mass is demonstrated not to be greater than the tenth part of the mass of the earth.

Third. That the total mass of the group of small planets, situated between Mars and Jupiter, is not greater than the third part of the mass of the earth.

Fourth. That the masses of the last two groups are complementary to each other. Ten times the mass of the group situated at the distance of the earth, plus three times the total mass of the small planets between Mars and Jupiter, form a sum equal to the mass of the earth. The last conclusion depends upon the determination of the distance of the earth from the sun by observations of the transits of Venus, a determination which astronomers agree in considering as very accurate.

WHY A LAMP WICK DOES NOT BURN.

If we take a piece of lamp wicking and place it in the flame of a lamp it is immediately consumed, but the same kind of wicking placed in the lamp and lighted at the top, lasts the whole evening, and if the lamp is supplied with alcohol, the wick is not even charred. The cause of this was a perfect mystery until a hundred years ago, when Dr. Black, of Glasgow, discovered the principle of latent heat. As the oil or the alcohol comes near the flame it is evaporated, and by this change in its form a large quantity of heat is destroyed, or rather is rendered latent, so that it does not manifest itself in any way. It requires a great quantity of heat to change a liquid into vapor, so that evaporation always cools surrounding objects. The wick is cooled by the evaporation of the oil or alcohol below the temperature at which it will combine with oxygen—in other words below the temperature at which it will burn. Dr. Black's discovery suggested to Watt his great improvement in the steam engine; condensing the steam in a separate vessel from the cylinder. Watt attended Dr. Black's lectures.—*Scientific American*.

WHO TO WRITE TO.

As there are many persons who may desire to communicate with the different bureaus of the War Department, a memorandum of the proper persons to address may be useful:

All letters relating to pay of soldiers on furlough or in hospitals should be addressed to General B. F. Larned, Paymaster-General.

Applications for back pay and the \$100 bounty of deceased soldiers should be addressed to Hon. B. B. French, Second Auditor.

Applications for pay of teamsters, employees of the Quartermaster's Department, or for horses killed in service, should be addressed to Hon. R. I. Atkinson, Third Auditor.

Applications relating to pay and bounty in the marine or naval service, should be addressed to Hon. Hobart Berrien, Fourth Auditor.

Letters concerning soldiers in the army should be addressed to Adjutant-General Lorenzo Thomas.

A CURIOUS EXPERIMENT.—Take a piece of paste-board about five inches square, roll it into a tube with one end just large enough to fit around the eye, and the other rather smaller. Hold the tube between the thumb and finger of the right hand, (do not grasp it with the whole hand,) put the large end close against the right eye, and with the left hand hold a book against the side of the tube. Be sure and keep both eyes open, and there will appear to be a hole through the book, and objects seen as if through the hole instead of through the tube. The right eye sees through the tube, and the left eye the book, and the two appearances are so confounded together that they cannot be separated. The left hand can be held against the tube instead of the book, and the hole will seem to be seen through the hand.

THE TALLOW TREE.—Among the trees which have of late been extensively distributed in the Northwestern Provinces of India and Punjab, is the tallow tree of China, *Stillingia sebifera*. In China it is largely cultivated, and it is said that by its produce along the road the taxes are paid in the district of Hong Kong. It grows equally well on low alluvial plains, on the rich mould of canals, in sandy soils, and on the declivities of mountains. From its seeds tallow and oil are procured, which are extensively used in China. Its wood is hard and durable, and its leaves yield a black dye. It is now thriving well in India. The tallow and oil are easily procured from the seeds. The tree, therefore, is well worthy of attention.

OIL REGION RAILROAD.—As an instance of the rapid progress of all works of improvement in these times, we may mention that the Oil Creek railroad, which was only projected in the middle of last spring, has been already finished and put in working order. It is twenty-seven miles long, running from Corry, at the intersection of the Philadelphia and Erie railroad with the Atlantic and Great Western, to Titusville, the focus of the oil region. This puts the oil wells and dealers in direct connection by railroad with Erie and all the other ports on the lakes, and with Boston, New York, and other seaports.—*Scientific American*.

AMERICAN STEEL.—The Pittsburgh *Chronicle* states that Messrs. J. Parker & Brothers, of that city, are erecting extensive works for manufacturing steel. The lot on which the factory and its adjuncts stand covers some three acres, and has a river front of several hundred feet. The works are being erected under the superintendency of Mr. Blair, a gentleman of great experience, and they have advanced so far towards completion that they will soon be in operation. It is perhaps not generally known that large quantities of the cheaper qualities of steel are now manufactured at Pittsburgh.

The first step toward self-improvement is to leave off whining over the past. Let the past go, and bend every energy to the improvement of the present. That is the only way.

Reading for the Young.

THE TRUNDLE-BED.

As I rummaged through the attic,
Listening to the falling rain,
As it pattered on the shingles,
And against the window-pane—
Peeping over chests and boxes,
Which with dust were thickly spread,
Saw I in the farthest corner
What was once my trundle-bed.

So I drew it from the recess
Where it had remained so long,
Hearing all the while the music
Of my mother's voice in song,
As she sung in sweetest accents,
What I since have often read:
"Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber,
Holy angels guard thy bed."

TRUE COURAGE.

DEAR young readers, we wish to tell you a little story—an original story—one that you never read or heard, for it was never published in book, pamphlet, or paper. It is more particularly for girls that we relate this incident; but then, if it will do the boys any good, we wish them also to be benefited by it. Last summer, as we were going to tea, we saw two little girls a few rods in front of us. They were drawing a baby wagon, and were busily chatting away together on the great events of their little life. Our attention was deeply riveted upon them, for—the truth must be known—we confess to a liking for little girls who appear well, to say nothing of those more mature in years. So we watched our two little friends very closely, as they trudged along together, neatly dressed, of about the same age, and cozily engaged in conversation. Of course, we had no particular opinion of either, until they came to a street-crossing. Here, however, we formed two very distinct and very different opinions of them. When about midway across the walk, a team came dashing along at a furious rate. One of the little girls saw them, and hastily exclaiming "Hurry!" ran out of harm's way herself, leaving her companion exposed to the same danger, with the heavy wagon to draw—made all the heavier by the loss of assistance. But she tugged away at it, and soon got beyond the reach of the team, when she was rejoined by her frightened—not to say cowardly—little companion. Now, which of these two little girls was the bravest—the one who was just selfish enough to take care of herself, or the one who was just unselfish enough to take care of any who could not take care of itself? We know one thing, and that is, if we were going to choose either of those little girls for "our girl," as the boys say, we know just which one it would be.—*Gospel Messenger*.

WHAT SUSY SAYS.

I AM a very little girl, but I am growing larger every year, and by and by I hope to be more useful than I am now. Father works hard out in the fields, and mother works hard at home; for she has a great deal to do among so many of us. What a great many pennies it must take to buy all our clothes, and bonnets, and shoes! and then our breakfasts and dinners—Father had need work, and mother too.

I cannot work and get money to buy a loaf, but I take care not to waste a single crumb; let the crust be as hard as it will, I eat it all up. If I can't buy wood and candles, I take care not to waste them. I am too little to poke the fire and snuff the candle; mother says I might set my clothes all in a blaze. I don't know how much mother paid for my last shoes; it took all the money at the corner of the cupboard; so that I take care not to get into the wet and dirt, that my shoes may last the longer.

I have had my bonnet a long while now; I never swing it about by the strings, nor crush it up together, nor leave it lying about, and mother says that is the reason it has lasted so long. I have not got many playthings, for they would cost money and wear out; so I play with the kitten, and pussy never costs anything, and never wears out.—*Home Monthly*.

IT'S VERY HARD.

"It's very hard to have nothing to eat but bread and milk, when others have every sort of nice things," muttered Charlie, as he sat with his wooden bowl before him. "It's very hard to have to get up so early in these cold mornings, and work hard all day, when others can enjoy themselves without an hour of labor. It's very hard to have to trudge along through the snow, while others roll about in their coaches."

"It's a great blessing," said his grandmother, as she sat at her knitting, "it's a great blessing to have food, when so many are hungry; to have a roof over one's head, when so many are homeless. It's a great blessing to have sight, and hearing, and strength for daily labor, when so many are blind, deaf, or suffering."

"Why, grandmother, you seem to think that nothing is hard," said the boy, still in a grumbling tone.

"No, Charlie, there is one thing that I think very hard."

"What's that?" cried Charlie, who thought that at last his grandmother had found some cause for complaint.

"Why, boy, I think that heart is very hard that is not thankful for so many blessings."

A BABY IN "OUR HOME."—Not a borrowed baby either—not a sick baby come to be cured, and then to go away again. Neither is it a make-believe baby, made of rags stuffed with bran, or of wax, or India rubber. But it is a true baby, just as much alive as a little young kitten, or a little calf is alive. It can double up its little fists and scratch its chin as well as anybody in the world; and it can wink and cry and kick. It has some little brown hair, and some little blue eyes, and a little white frock, and a darling little worsted sack, and every way it is a nice little creature. And it is our own, to keep. We can watch it as it grows, and be glad when it learns to laugh, and to sit on the floor, and to tumble over on its back and put its big toe in its mouth, and to stand alone, and to walk, and to climb up on the table, and to cut holes with the scissors in its mother's dresses.

I KNEW a sick boy, not two years old, who looked at his father and said, "By hy, pa; baby is going to sleep," and he shut his eyes, and never opened them any more.

Wit and Humor.

WIT AND WISDOM.

WHAT joint of meat is most appropriate for an empty larber?—A fillet (fill it.)

DON'T take too much interest in the affairs of your neighbors. Six per cent. will do.

NEVER take a nap in the railroad carriage. Cos why? the train always runs over sleepers.

THERE are times and circumstances in which not to speak out is at least to connive.

It is unfortunate for a country when its men of principle are not its principal men.

THE most authentic type of human depravity is a thoroughly unprincipled politician.

Woe and weal—The cow lamenting for the calf just carted away by the butcher.

Few ladies are so modest as to be unwilling to sit in the lap of ease and luxury.

SPEAKING of cheap things—it costs but a trifle to get a wife, but doesn't she sometimes turn out a little dear?

A CERTAIN mercantile house down town being reported to be in a "shaky" condition, Popkins don't think it can be called a firm.

IF wounded soldiers haven't had enough of grape and canister, send them the pure juice of the grape and canisters of preserves.

CHARACTER is like money: when you have a great deal, you may risk some; for, if you lose it, folks will still believe you have plenty to spare.

GENTLEMAN—"Two cents! Oh, then, I won't have an extra. I've only got a penny." Newsboy—"Pray, don't mention it, sir. Never mind the hextra penny; I respects genteel poverty."

LAWYER W., while entering his cold bed in a cold winter night, exclaimed, "Of all the ways of getting a living, the worst a man could follow would be going about town such nights as this, and getting into bed for folks."

Corner for the Young.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 102 letters.
My 12, 17, 8, 22, 14, 33 is a city in Europe.
My 72, 4, 16, 67, 9 is a capital in Europe.
My 65, 11, 21, 95, 2, 6, 23, 25 is a river in America.
My 16, 23, 19, 3, 52, 20, 66 is one of the Confederate States.
My 19, 44, 36, 7, 50 is a river in Spain.
My 64, 54, 28, 82, 30 is a river in Europe.
My 20, 57, 60 is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean.
My 45, 41, 10, 39, 51 flows in every State in the Union.
My 13, 53, 58, 1, 21, 73, 65, 6, 45, 77 figures largely in the history of the present war.
My 37, 102, 48, 29, 66, 24, 69, 70 is a town on an island.
My 27, 71, 92, 8, 64, 31, 78, 89 is a province in Ireland.
My 35, 90, 81, 3, 66, 55, 9, 43, 43, 80, 59, 76 is an island in the southern part of the Western Hemisphere.
My 40, 54, 43, 83, 66 is a large river in Europe.
My 62, 84, 47, 102, 15 is a town in England.
My 74, 61, 33, 85, 38, 79, 88 is a city in Canada.
My 104, 100, 99, 98, 66, 37, 4 is a county in Ireland.
My 93, 97, 6, 94, 64, 91, 63, 68, 26, 9 is a city in Kentucky.
My 88, 36, 65, 56, 45, 11, 23, 95 is a town in Scotland.
My 87, 97, 21, 75, 34, 51 is a town on the Ohio river.
My 58, 61, 63, 93, 92, 55 is one of the Zones.
My whole is a quotation from one of the "Fathers" which I heard used in a sermon recently.
Cross Creek, Penn., 1862. JOHN MORROW.

Answer in two weeks.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 13 letters.
My 1, 2, 6, 11, 9, 6 was one of the nine muses.
My 3, 4, 8, 12 is a small Eastern Kingdom.
My 4, 11, and my 9, 7, 5, 1 are familiar contractions of time.
My 7, 9, 11, 12 and my 9, 7, 8, 4, 13 are oriental rivers.
My 10, 6, 4, 11 was a noted man mentioned in the New Testament.
My 12, 11, 10, 9, 12 is a girl's name.
My whole is an interesting locality in the St. Lawrence.
W. Hamburg, N. Y., 1862. CHARLES L. PRINSCOTT.

Answer in two weeks.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

ANAGRAM.

I AM a misbegotten layd dimrgens
Poet right dan payph rhinos
Hewn hyt lines a wterign reo em
Kiel etht loushtig reo eth lowfrens.
Eagle, N. Y., 1862. FRANCES E. WILCOX.

Answer in two weeks.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

ALGEBRAICAL PROBLEM.

DIVIDE 216 into three such parts that the sum of these cube roots shall be 12. ALBERT B. NORTON.
Albama, Gen. Co., N. Y., 1862.

Answer in two weeks.

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS, &c., IN NO. 672.

Answer to Miscellaneous Enigma—John Brown's body lies mouldering in the grave.

Answer to Biographical Enigma—Go to the ant thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise.

Answer to Arithmetical problem—78 feet.

Answer to Bouquet of Flowers—1. Bachelor buttons. 2. Tiger lily. 3. Sun dial. 4. Prince's feather. 5. Satin leaf. 6. Sugar peas. 7. Marigold. 8. Dandelion. 9. Rose moss. 10. Blue harebell. 11. Forget-me-not. 12. Ragged lady. 13. Artemisia. 14. Flowering almond.

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