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State of Kansas—Officers.

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National Grange—Business Officers:

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Secretary—O. H. Kelly, Georgetown, D. C.

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S. T. Kelsey, Hutchinson.
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Treasurer—F. Wellhouse, Leavenworth.
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President—Levi Wilson, Leavenworth.
Secretary—C. W. Chapin, Leavenworth.
Comprising Leavenworth and part of Jefferson counties.

Kansas and Missouri Fair Association:

President—B. F. Hooper.
Secretary—J. B. Campbell, Fort Scott.
Comprising Bourbon and Crawford counties, Kan. and Barton county, Missouri.

Officers of Kansas State Stock Growers' Association:

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Vice President—O. W. Hill, Manhattan, Riley co.
Secretary—Jacob Turman, Fairbault, Marshall co.
Treasurer—J. F. Wyatt, Fairbault, Marshall co.
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J. E. Hudson, Topeka, Shawnee co.
A. L. Stephens, Circleville, Jackson co.
The President and Secretary ex-officio.

Scientific Miscellany.

For the Kansas Farmer.

WATER SUPPLY OF KANSAS.

BY W. TWEEDDALE, C. E.

Kansas consists, for the most part, of rolling prairie. The soil is usually black loam resting on a substratum of red clay—interposed between these, in many places, is a stratum of strong black clay; the top soil of the unbroken prairie, matted with roots, is nearly impervious to water, but when cultivated it admits of the passage of water through it; The strong black clay is wholly impervious to water, while the underlying red clay, being in strata, admits of the passage of water, to a limited extent and when broken up and mixed with water it forms excellent puddle for the lining of embankments of reservoirs. The rivers and streams which traverse the country appear like depressions in the landscape—the high grounds, valleys, river bottoms and ravines evidently having been formed by the abrasion of water, their form being such as the action of water on strong, tenacious soil would naturally produce, namely, rounded summits, gentle slopes, and wide river bottoms. The soil of the river bottoms of the Kansas and Arkansas rivers is sandy loam. The rocks—of which there is an abundance in most parts of the State—are found in detached masses, usually near the summits, resting upon and covered with earth, from the nature of the soil and the character of the rocks; the absence of springs is particularly noticeable, being in marked contrast with the mountain regions of New England, W. Virginia and Tennessee. The rivers and streams, being lower than the country through which they flow—do not water the country like the Nile in Egypt, the lower Mississippi, or the mountain torrents of Italy, northern India and Colorado; they serve as drains, for which reason swamps are unknown—hence the salubrity of the climate.

The soil, as might be inferred from its alluvial character and being formed for the most part of decomposed limestone, is found to possess to a remarkable degree all the elements of fertility.

Records of rainfall for the past six years—with the exception of the western portion of the State—show an abundance of rain during the growing season of the year. The question then arises, why, with such a combination of favorable circumstances, there should be repeated failure of crops, and that cattle should perish by hundreds, as they did last winter.

For convenience we will consider this subject in the following order:

I. The source and nature of water supply.

II. The nature of soil and the character of a country as affecting the supply of water from streams, springs and wells.

III. The effect of the constituents of the soil on the quality of water as obtained from springs, streams and wells.

IV. Some suggestions on the construction of reservoirs, and the impounding of rain water, not only for domestic and stock use, but also for industrial, manufacturing and irrigating purposes, together with a consideration of the quality of water so impounded and its adaptability to the above mentioned purposes, in connection with the supplying of towns and cities with water.

I. The primary source of all water supply is the ocean, and the atmosphere is the immediate source of our water supply, being the vehicle by which it is transported over and precipitated upon the land. The capacity of air for moisture depends on its temperature; an increase of 70°, Fah., increases the capacity of air for moisture eight times. Air at a temperature of 110°, Fah., saturated with moisture would precipitate seven-eighths of its moisture if the temperature was suddenly reduced to 40°, Fah. To the atmosphere, then, we must refer as the immediate source for the supply of all water, not only that required for the wants of animal and vegetable life, but the still greater quantities required for irrigation, manufactures and internal navigation.

The quantity of water that is precipitated upon any particular district of country depends upon its contiguity to large bodies of water, the direction and extent of its elevated grounds, and the direction, intensity and temperature of its prevailing winds. As a rule,

the amount of precipitation is greatest in the tropics and diminishes towards the poles. Humboldt has assigned the rainfall to vary with the latitude, as follows: 96 inches annually in the equatorial zone; 80 inches to latitude 20°; 20 inches to latitude 45°; and 17 inches to latitude 60°. The winds, in their direction and intensity are governed by fixed laws—the more elevated temperature and the greater velocity of the earth at the equator than at the poles, gives the first general direction to the winds—these currents impinging against the elevations of the land, become deflected and produce eddies and irregularities near the surface of the earth.

The warm atmosphere moving over the ocean absorbs its moisture, and passing over the land, the temperature of which is less than that of the ocean, becomes reduced in temperature and precipitates its excess of moisture on the land in the form of dew, rain and snow—the same is true of the wind passing over bodies of water, large or small.

The rainfall in the tropics is from 150 to 300 inches per annum, most of which falls in a few months. As examples of rainfall in the temperate zone, the annual rainfall of the eastern portion of England is 20 inches; of the middle portion, 22 inches; and of the southern and western portions, 30 inches. In the eastern portion of Ireland it is 25 inches, and in the western portion it is 40 inches. The rainfall of the Eastern and Middle States is about double that of the eastern and middle portions of England. Observations at London, by Dalton, for 40 years, gave an average rainfall of 20.69 inches, while observations for 43 years, at New Bedford, Mass., gave 40.03 inches. Great Britain and Ireland, surrounded by water, and situated in the Gulf Stream, have a very uniform temperature, averaging 50° Fah., with a range of about 80°, and a very moist atmosphere, the average humidity being 83 per cent. of saturation, for which reasons there is comparatively very little evaporation, and as much of the soil is clay, for successful and profitable farming underground drainage is generally practiced. At the same time they have a great number of rainy days. In Oxford, England, in 1857, observations showed that there were 153 rainy days, 73 of which gave but one-twentieth of an inch of rain, and but one day gave one inch. The same year, at Waltham, Mass., rain fell 54 days, on no one of which less than one-twentieth of an inch of rain fell, while more than one-fourth of the whole number of rainy days gave more than one inch, and three days gave each between two and three inches. One inch in 24 hours is regarded as a very heavy rain in the south of England, while in New England a fall of three or four inches in that period of time is not unusual. The mean annual rainfall at Lawrence, Kansas, during a period of six years, from 1868 to 1873 inclusive, was 34.58 inches; in 1873 the mean temperature was 52.7° Fah., with a range of 130° Fah.; the mean humidity was 64.4 per cent. of saturation, ranging from 70.4 per cent., in December, to 40 per cent. in March.

The mean rainfall for the eastern portion of the State of Kansas, (being the settled portion, and comprising one-third of the State,) as per Agricultural Report for 1869, was 35.46 inches. The following table gives the rainfall at the several places mentioned during the growing season of the year.

	Lawrence, Kan.		Topeka, Kan.		Hutchinson, Kan.		Ottawa, Kan.		Atchison, Kan.		St. Paul, Minn.	
	1869	1870	1869	1870	1869	1870	1869	1870	1869	1870	1869	1870
April	3.96	2.17	4.22	4.9	3.7	1.84	1.68					
May	3.71	5.0	6.43	1.92	3.55	3.68	3.46					
June	3.18	5.1	9.13	3.67	4.15	8.15	3.25					
July	3.38	4.8	4.44	2.68	4.14	3.97	3.25					
August	4.5	4.59	8.50	2.94	3.45	4.40	3.18					
Sept.	3.59	2.90	5.15	2.13	3.14	3.69	4.20					
Total	22.35	33.27	23.46	17.64	21.98	18.18	23.56					

From which it will be seen that it is not want of rain which makes Kansas subject to drouth. It lies primarily in the character of its rainfall, which is tropical as compared with England, whose maximum rainfall is one inch in 24 hours, and New England, which has a rainfall of three or four inches during that time while records of rainfall in Kansas show more than two inches in less than one hour.

Secondarily, in the absence of large bodies of water and of forests; the first by supplying

moisture, and the second by preventing evaporation.

(To be continued.)

Agriculture.

For the Kansas Farmer.

FLAX—OIL—PAPER—BARRELS.

BY JOSIAH COBLEY.

There is one crop which chinch bugs won't touch, and which can be grown as a kind of protecting rampart around other crops, and that is flax.

But flax for the seed alone does not pay very well. Some growers have succeeded satisfactorily; others have not. I am speaking of those who have cultivated for the seed alone.

In old times, when the spinning-wheel and the loom were household implements, and shirts, pants, and sheets, and many other things were made of home-made linen, flax was mainly grown for the fibre, the seed being of minor consideration. But those times are passed and never will return; so the culture of flax has been neglected and the old spinning wheels and looms are no longer seen in the dwellings of farmers. So for years the fibre of flax has had little value; and although the seed has greatly risen in price, it alone hardly pays for the culture.

But now we are entering upon another era—paper—strong almost as woven fabrics—is in good demand for many purposes, but especially for making flour sacks strong enough to hold safely fifty pounds, and for other strong bags used by grocers. Vast quantities of both are needed. To make such paper straw and fibre of flax are combined—the first for body, the last for strength. That is one use.

There is a kind of heavy paper board, weighing about one pound to the square yard, which is beginning to be much used to line the inside of cheap frame houses, taking the place at once of plaster and wall paper. It is cheap, warm and durable, and when figured, as some of it is, it is pretty. Flax fibre and straw are the ingredients used in this kind. But there is still another extent of which it is hard to predict.

It is but a short time since the manufacture of barrels of this material was invented; but already it has been brought to great perfection. There is a manufactory of these in Kansas City. I have seen some of these barrels, and half barrels, and for beauty and strength I never saw anything equal to them. So substantial are they that a man can stand upon the middle of an empty one lying on its side without bending it in the least.

For packing flour I regard them as superior to the ordinary cooper's barrel, and for many other purposes they are admirably adapted. Moreover they are much prettier.

Into these flax fibre would enter largely. Out of this form of board cheese boxes, and very pretty ones, are made.

Now, in order to make the culture of flax profitable there ought to be within easy reach of our farmers both oil mills and paper mills. They ought to be near together. Then when the farmer has harvested his flax crop he can thresh off, or crush off, the seed without opening the little sheaves, sell the seed at the oil-mill and the threshed, but unopened, sheaves at the paper mill. Or he can dress his flax himself as hemp is dressed, only with the break, and thus get a better price than he could for the unbroken sheaves.

Such establishments are not expensive, nor do they require much power. We have plenty of streams in Kansas sufficient for such works, and where such power can be had it is folly to resort to steam power.

Let a farmer who has such a water site—or a company of them—erect a substantial dam and flume, and then let the power out to some party or parties who will go into the business, and who understand it. In this way our industries can be diversified, and the culture of flax be made profitable. Such an establishment would do more to starve out and exterminate our worst and most persistent pest, the chinch bug, than anything else we can do.

For the Kansas Farmer.

BLUEMONT FARM PAPERS.

BY W. MARLATT.

Six months have passed since my last 'talk' with the readers of the FARMER. Six months in which I have been trying to practice what I have previously preached. The summer is ended, the harvest is past, and my chief store is some hard earned experience. As food for reflection I find it more abundant than relishing. Corn and potatoes if less valuable would be far more appetizing and palatable to the physical man just now.

As the result of my observation and experience on the farm may benefit others, I hereby proceed to lay some of them before your readers.

The wheat crop though it fell below my expectations previously, gave a yield of eighteen bushels per acre, of tolerable fair quality. Not ripening until the 4th of July it suffered from the combined effects of drouth and heat. Had it ripened ten days earlier the yield would undoubtedly have been one-fifth heavier, and the quality number one.

I have sown this variety (the Bluemont) for eight or ten seasons successively, and have had but two failures, and even these were not completely so. My lowest average, aside from the failures mentioned, has been fifteen bushels per acre. My highest about thirty; with a general average of about twenty. Two small areas of half an acre were heavily mulched with fresh stable manure—hailed and spread on in winter when the earth was covered with snow, at harvesting were found to have escaped the effects of drouth and heat, and as a consequence the yield of straw and grain was fully one-third greater than that alongside not so served.

Other portions mulched more or less heavily with straw and hay gave a like result. Other varieties, as the Early May and White Chaff class, have afforded larger yields in a few instances, but none have proved uniformly so good.

I have sown this fall all of the above named varieties, the two latter more especially, because of their earlier ripening.

In almost every instance the earliest sown has proved the best. Would sow the last of August or as soon thereafter as practicable. My practice has been to let no stock run on it if it could possibly be helped—though with slack neighbors and unruly stock this cannot always be avoided.

My usual mode is to sow broadcast, a bushel and a half or less to the acre, and cultivate or harrow in. One of the very best crops I ever had was a voluntary one, following one of the years of failure. I have now some twelve acres of this sort in addition to the twenty-five sown where I attempted to raise a crop of corn and didn't. Much of this looks better than some I have planted and sown, so that I am in a sad strait, whether to plow it up for corn or let it grow.

The timothy and clover sown last fall and spring came up, and promised well till the drouth set in, when it withered and died. Even that of two or three years standing yielded in like manner to the force of circumstances and for six weeks or more, not a green spear or leaf was to be seen. But when the rains came in September, it sprang up all right again. I find the clover here, instead of blasting as it usually does in Indiana, matures a full crop of seed in June, and where not pastured too closely or mowed too early, renews itself in both autumn and spring.

I have serious doubts as to whether these grasses can be depended upon for summer pasturage in our exceptionally dry seasons. Our native prairie grasses that have hitherto been our sole dependence, never fail us in this respect. On the other hand a protracted drouth only renders them more nutritive, than when of a ranker growth.

A blue-grass pasture held in reserve for a summer grazing in case of severe drouth, has been suggested by a friend. Anyway the native grasses are fast being subdued in one way or another, and will ere long play out, when something else must be had to supply their places. Soiling will not do with the present high price of labor and low price of stock. Cannot the Department of Agriculture furnish us with the seed of some valuable grass for pasturage, especially calculated to

withstand severe and protracted seasons of drouth?

The oat crop was a fair average and served to supply the general lack of corn with most of the farmers.

Early potatoes where not mulched gave a partial crop, where mulched they were destroyed by an ash or leaden colored bug that hid away in the mulch in the heat of the day and preyed upon the vines in the morning and evening until the potato vines were wholly destroyed by them. The later ones were eaten up by grasshoppers.

The twenty-five acres put in corn where planted in the furrow and properly cultivated, gave promise of a partial crop despite the drouth up to the time of the arrival of the locusts. In less than a week thereafter it stood forth a field of bare poles. At the end of three weeks, when they "got up and dusted," these were reduced to mere stubs that were not found to be at all in the way of putting in wheat with a drill or cultivator. After devouring the corn and vegetable crop they "went for" the orchards and groves, quickly denuding them of their foliage and in most instances eating the wood of the season's growth as well as the fruit that was now from half grown to nearly ripe, giving a special preference for budded peaches and sweet apples, nearly all of which were destroyed. At their final departure, for they were coming and going all the while, about half the native or seedling peach and winter apple crop remained.

The appearance of the orchard was altogether unique and by no means promising.

The trees as bare of foliage as in mid-winter with the unripened fruit at a standstill, and all exposed to the burning rays of the sun with an atmosphere ranging day after day from a hundred to a hundred and ten in the shade.

Thus it went through August, until many feared that all the trees must inevitably perish. But Dame Nature does not so easily succumb in Kansas. The welcome and refreshing showers of the first of September recled the earth and trees with verdure. So complete was the resurrection of nature in new life and beauty that one was continually reminded of spring time in place of autumn. Under these genial influences the fruit that remained, matured some three weeks later than was its wont, and save in size was not much the worse for the severe ordeal through which it had passed.

I find the trunks of many of the apple trees more or less injured by the heat, the bark on the southwest side being in many cases dead a third of the way around. The same is the case with the maple in exposed situations; many of them in fact dying outright.

The grape crop with me was a total loss; and the vines I fear are seriously injured.

The pears withstood the ordeal better than either the peach or the apple, their somewhat tough cuticle in a great measure shielding them from the ravenous tooth of the "voracious hopper."

After all the evil was not wholly an unmixed one, since what was left was possibly worth more than the whole would have been in the market had nothing been taken.

Bloomington Farm, December 14.

Horticulture.

Reported expressly for the Kansas Farmer.

KANSAS STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting.

The eighth annual meeting of the State Horticultural Society convened in Bancroft Hall, in Emporia, on the 15th of December, and was called to order at 10 o'clock, a. m., by Dr. Howley, President of the Society. The meeting was opened by a fervent prayer from Rev. Mr. Lewis.

Judge J. Buck, in an eloquent address, welcomed the Society to the hospitalities of Emporia, and hoped the session now opening would be pleasant to the Society as well as profitable to the people of Emporia.

President Howley responded, thanking the people of Emporia for their very cordial reception—he wanted no better evidence of the interest taken in Horticulture by the people of Emporia than the fruits on exhibition and the tasteful decoration of the hall.

The members then came forward and renewed their membership by paying the usual one dollar.

Samuel Miller, of Bluffton, Mo., on motion was elected an honorary member of the Society; also, on motion, the lady members were excused from the one dollar.

The meeting then adjourned to 1 p. m.

ONE O'CLOCK, P. M.

Treasurer, F. Wellhouse, submitted his annual report, which on motion was received and adopted.

Secretary Geo. C. Brackett read his annual report, which was received and adopted.

A continuation of Prof. Haven's essay on Meteorology, introduced at the June meeting, was read by Mr. VanDeman, showing the close connection between the snows in the Rocky mountains and rainfall in Kansas, stating that so long as the snows were evaporating in the mountains we had an abundance of rain. A general discussion on the above named essay was entered into, participated in by Dr. Stayman, Prof. Gale, Prof. Kelsey, Messrs. Miller, VanDeman and others.

A committee, consisting of Sen. Winter, Dr. Stayman, Prof. Kelsey, Mrs. Skeels and Mrs.

Moore, was appointed to report on the fruits and flowers on exhibition.

On motion, the Secretary was instructed to secure a life membership for the Society in the American Pomological Society.

The Secretary was instructed to distribute the Reports just published.

The reports to the Vice President of the condition of fruits in the different counties were read. Mr. G. P. Ingers report for Woodson co. was read by Mr. VanDeman. Geo. Y. Johnson's report from the eastern part of Douglas co. was read by Secretary Brackett. Mr. Brackett furnished the report for the western part of the county.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock, p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

Robert Milliken, President of the Lyon Co. Horticultural Society, read a beautiful and well prepared essay on the subject of Home Adornments, pointing out the pleasures and necessity of surrounding the sacred place called home with trees, shrubbery and flowers, designating the kinds best calculated to accomplish the desired results. On motion, a vote of thanks was given to Mr. Milliken for his excellent essay.

Harvey Jones reported the condition and prospects of fruit in Wabassaw county.

Dr. Stayman read a lengthy and carefully prepared report of the condition of fruit and fruit trees in Leavenworth county, showing sections of large apple trees in which the center was killed by the severe freezing two winters ago.

Mr. C. W. Murtfeldt criticised somewhat the report of Dr. Stayman, claiming that it should be confined to the condition of our orchards the past season, pointing out the course pursued by the Illinois Horticultural Society as a good example to follow.

A rambling discussion on Protecting Trees from Rabbits was entered into, participated in by many of the members, some advocating washes, others claiming that nothing but wrapping would effectually protect them.

On motion a committee of five was appointed to report and recommend a list of officers for the ensuing year. Adjourned.

SECOND DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

Mr. VanDeman reported a list of apples suitable for cultivation in southern Kansas, for market, consisting of Early Harvest, Caroline Red June, Red Astrachan, Summer Rose, Maiden's Blush, Cayuga Red Streak, Fall Pippin, Randall's Red, Rambo. On motion the Lowell was added to the list. Further consideration of the apple list was postponed.

Mr. Chambers, of Eureka, read an essay on Tree Planting, pointing out the rules to be observed in successful tree planting.

Dr. Stayman objected to cutting off the terminal buds, as advocated in the essay.

Mr. E. Snyder would head in trees that had their roots badly injured in taking up, but trees well taken up, with good roots, as a general thing do not need pruning when transplanted.

Messrs. Tipton, VanDeman and Snyder held an instructive discussion on the Laws of Nature Governing Vegetable Growth.

Prof. Kelsey thought most of our failures in tree planting were caused by carelessness—he would not dig holes, they held too much water; he advocated trenches, cut with the plow. Prof. Gale would throw out a furrow each way, then subsoil. Mr. VanDeman advocated subsoiling the entire ground. Dr. Howley would plant in the fall, and gave at length his views on the proper mode of transplanting. President Howley read his annual address.

On motion the Secretary was instructed to use the funds of the Society for the purpose of distributing reports.

On motion a committee, consisting of Messrs. Chambers, Chinn and Kelsey, was appointed to divide the State into three fruit districts, Southern, Central and Northern.

Adjourned to one o'clock, p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Society proceeded to the election of officers, with the following result:

President—E. GALE, of Manhattan.
Vice President—R. MILLIKEN, of Emporia.
Secretary—G. C. BRACKETT, of Lawrence.
Treasurer—F. WELLHOUSE, of Leavenworth.
Trustees—H. E. VANDERMAN, of Geneva,
DR. J. STAYMAN, of Leavenworth, and
S. T. KELSEY, of Hutchinson.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. VanDeman, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That it is the earnest feeling of this Society that, as our venerated President, Dr. Wm. M. Howley, retires from the duties of the office, we are duty bound to render our hearty thanks for his efficient service; we would remember that he has for four years been a faithful, active servant, and do sincerely acknowledge that it is beyond our power to sufficiently thank him; he shall forever be held in memory by us, and his name associated with our warmest feelings of love and respect; may he long live to shed the light of his genial spirit upon the meetings of this Society.

Dr. Howley feelingly responded, thanking the Society for the resolution just passed, saying that his age required him to retire from the arduous duties of President of the Society, but he should always cheerfully assist the Society in every possible way as a member.

Prof. Gale then came forward and was inaugurated as President of the Society, and in an elegant address thanked the Society for the honor just conferred on him.

On motion it was voted to hold the next semi-annual meeting at Ft. Scott, on condition that the railroads granted the usual reduction of fare. It was also decided to hold the next annual meeting at Manhattan.

Prof. Gale read a very carefully prepared and able essay on Wood Growth in Kansas,

pointing out our successes, our failures, our prospects and encouragements.

Prof. Riley, of St. Louis, gave one of his usually interesting lectures on Entomology, selecting for his subject the flat headed apple tree and locust borers, giving their habits and the remedies, stating that a wash made of lime and soap, with a little Paris green, spread upon the trees was an effectual preventive and a safe remedy. Mr. Snyder endorsed what Prof. Riley says about the flat headed borer, and that immense damage has been done the past season by this grub. His trees, where the bodies were shielded, were not damaged; he uses soap successfully as a preventive. Dr. Howley thought the borer under consideration only attacks unsound wood, and in consequence the proper remedy is to keep the trees healthy. Mr. VanDeman has had perfectly sound trees injured by this borer.

Adjourned to seven o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

The evening session opened with music, after which Prof. Kedzie, of Manhattan, delivered a remarkably interesting and instructive lecture on the Chemist's Duty to Farmers and Fruit Growers, pointing out the terrible rapidity with which our farmers are exhausting their soils by a constant succession of crops, stigmatizing it as highway robbery of the soil. Mr. Bancroft read a very humorous yet instructive paper on the Apple, giving its history and uses.

Mr. VanDeman read an essay on Home Adornments, treating at length on the importance of selecting a proper site for the house on the farm, and judicious arrangement of its surroundings.

After music the Society adjourned to nine o'clock to morrow morning.

THIRD DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

The committee on Fruits on Exhibition report that they found four tables, each fourteen feet long, heavily laden with finely developed fruit. Large, brilliant in color and well flavored, doing no discredit to the State of Kansas.

All the fruits on exhibition have been grown in the five following counties: Lyon, 85 varieties; Allen, 33 varieties; Douglas, 11 varieties; Greenwood, 2 varieties; Leavenworth, 70 varieties, while 40 varieties were present from Ohio. There is no doubt but what this is the finest display of apples the Society has ever made at any of their annual meetings.

The Secretary read a communication from Geo. A. Crawford in regard to making a fruit exhibition at the Centennial Exposition. On motion it was voted to appoint a committee of five to make preparation for said exhibition.

Dr. Howley read a learned essay on Nomenclature, pointing out the want of appropriateness in the names of many of our apples, and the confusion created by the many local names of some of the varieties.

Adjourned to one o'clock, p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

An instructive essay on Forest Tree Culture, was then read by Professor S. T. Kelsey, giving his experience as to the best native trees to plant.

Secretary Brackett offered the following: Resolved, That we have watched with the deepest interest and concern the work and progress of the tree planting experiments conducted under the auspices of the A. T. & S. F. R. on account of the peculiar and variable climatic condition, also on account of the fact that these experiments will have upon the fruit settlement of the State; that Prof. S. T. Kelsey's present energetic and able superintendence of these experiments, deserves the unqualified commendations of the Kansas State Horticultural Society for his perseverance and inimitable spirit in this undertaking.

Dr. Stayman read a paper giving his experience with the new apples lately come into bearing.

The President announced Dr. Wm. M. Howley, Prof. S. T. Kelsey, Geo. C. Brackett, E. Snyder and Robert Milliken as the committee to represent this Society and collect and exhibit fruit at the Centennial Exposition.

On motion Prof. E. Gale, President of this Society, was added to the committee.

Mr. Murtfeldt read a most eloquent and finely prepared paper on Home and its Adornments, which on motion was ordered to be placed on file for the purpose of printing; also thanking the author for his production.

Prof. Gale read an extended account of the experiments on the Agricultural Farm, made by the horticultural department.

Mr. Murtfeldt offered the following: Resolved, That the State Horticultural Society of Kansas enters her most solemn protest against any and every effort to absorb, on the part of our State University, the grant made to the Agricultural College of Kansas for the purpose set forth by the act of Congress in making the grant.

Dr. Howley, Prof. Riley, Messrs. Snyder, and VanDeman each earnestly supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Adjourned to seven o'clock, p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. Winter read a short but spirited essay on the Laws of Labor, which on motion was ordered on file for printing, and the thanks of the Society tendered the essayist.

Prof. Riley delivered a lecture on the Rocky Mountain locust, or grasshopper, in which he claims that there is no danger of their ever penetrating further east than the western counties of Missouri, stating that the moist lowlands were unhealthy for them—they must have an elevated and dry atmosphere to retain their health and vigor. He predicts that the eggs now deposited in western Missouri and eastern Kansas will hatch out in the spring, and when their wings are sufficiently matured will take a southeasterly direction, but will dwindle away and disappear, doing but little

damage, except where they hatch. He thinks prairie fires do not destroy their eggs.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Prof. Riley, when he responded with a short address on the Close Relations between Entomology and Botany, showing illustrations of two carnivorous plants which catch and eat flies.

Prof. Murtfeldt offered the usual resolution of thanks to the people of Emporia for their hospitality; to the railroads for reduction of fare; to the Lyon County Horticultural Society, and to the officers of this Society.

Mr. Milliken thanked the Society, in behalf of the people of Emporia, for the kind expression of the resolution.

After music the meeting adjourned, thus closing one of the grandest meetings the Society ever held.

HORSE DEPARTMENT.

The Useful Horse and a Walking Gait.

There is said to be a utilitarian age—that the first question asked about any new project, or scheme, is: What will it pay? But when we come to estimate the horse, little attention is paid to usefulness or real value. The question is seldom asked: What can he draw? How fast can he walk? What service can he perform daily? but rather, What gait can he trot, and what is his bottom in miles? In this respect a large class of farmers are nearly as crazy as the rest of mankind. They ignore the most useful horse, that does the principal work of the farm and city. We believe in breeding and training for speed, of using the thoroughbred stallion, and that this has done much to improve the blood of our common stock, and may with judicious selection, do much more in perfecting the useful horse, but this wild mania for simple speed is likely to be a material injury to the largest class of useful horses, in which the country has a hundred times more interest than in that of simple speed. The great injury comes from selecting breeding animals wholly on account of supposed trotting or running characteristics. It is true that speed may be accompanied by the necessary weight, muscle and endurance of the useful horse of all work; but as the selection is to breed for the useful qualities, tendency is to breed these out in the effort to accomplish mere trotting speed with light weight. We should as soon think of employing acrobats and circus performers to do our farm work, as the mercurial trotting horse for the plow. We think the tendency of breeding so largely for this one purpose of speed has been to increase the nervous action at the expense of muscular force and endurance.

Now, walking is the most important gait for useful horses, yet so little attention is paid to developing this most valuable quality, that the managers of our fairs seldom include this among their premiums. In fact, the qualities required in the horse that does all our most useful work, are not taken into consideration by these promoters of improvement; but five to ten dollars in premiums on speed are offered to one dollar for all other horse premiums. There are agricultural fairs (so called), organized and sustained by the farmers, yet nearly ignore the horse for the farmer. The fast walking gait is of immensely more importance than the fast trotting gait. An increase of one mile per hour in the walking gait of all the farm horses of the country would represent hundreds of millions in the economy of labor for a single year. Yet this might much more easily be accomplished, than what has already been done in increasing the trotting speed. The ordinary walking gait of a horse on the road is three miles, and on the plow, two and a quarter to two and a half miles. Suppose this could be increased one mile per hour in each case; it would represent thirty-three per cent. extra travel, or ten miles per day on the road, and about the same on the farm. The money value of this for the 2,500,000 working teams would be enormous, but is perfectly capable of accomplishment. If the attention could be turned to this practical improvement as it has been to the pleasurable and fanciful one of trotting, it would in ten years, add more than a hundred millions to the annual productive industry of the country.

We hope the managers of fairs, who are supposed to be made up of advanced farmers, will see the necessity of encouraging real improvements, and of advancing the true interests of agriculture, instead of fretting away their time and money in horse trots. This had much better be given up wholly to the sporting fraternity.

In England, the draft horse is not permitted to be driven faster than a walk on the public road. Heavy draft and steady movement go together; and any attempt to mix up trotting action with work, must result in failure. But the useful horse should be trained with the same care and zeal for the special purposes to which he is to be devoted, as is the trotting or running horse; and could the same enthusiasm be infused into the breeders of these faithful servants, as the sporting fraternity give to the rearing and training of their pets, it would soon produce almost a revolution in the motive power of the farm and local commerce. The walking gait is the working gait, and the work of the world is more important than the pleasure of the world; therefore let not breeders ignore the useful horse, that is connected with the highest progress of mankind.—*Live Stock Journal*—Buffalo.

MANAGEMENT OF CUR TROTTING COURSE.

We feel very much disposed to abandon all hope of ever seeing honesty the rule and rascal-

ity the exception in the management of our trotting courses.

The National Association has done something toward effecting a reform, but they have stopped far short from cleansing the Augean stables. Selling races in the interest of the pool box, pulling to avoid a record, and suppressing the real time, still continue to disgrace the trotting turf, and will continue to do so wherever the tracks are under the control of professional gamblers, proprietors of bawdy houses, and drunken liquor sellers; and where such management prevails, it is idle to expect respectable people to patronize the race course, however much they may love the sports of the turf. To ensure a liberal support from the public, and to command the patronage of respectable people, the management must be of such a character as to be of itself a guarantee that there will be an honest, intelligent and determined effort to prevent fraud; that instead of being a huge gambling machine, with managers, judges, and jockeys, all leagued together for the purpose of defrauding the unsuspecting public, the entertainment will consist of bona fide contests of speed, in which the best horse shall win. The people have become disgusted with the miserable shams that have been palmed off as races, and they demand a reform. This demand must be complied with, or the racing associations may as well close their gates. From all parts of the country comes up an indignant protest against these wholesale swindles, and this protest must be heard. Our trotting as well as our running associations must be managed by men of undoubted integrity, and they must select for the judge's stand, gentlemen who know their duty, and who have the firmness of purpose to discharge that duty honestly and fearlessly—men who would indignantly reject any proposition to announce false time, or wink at the pulling of a horse to avoid a record or influence the pool box. The pool box itself must be banished from the race course, and thus relieve the society from all complicity in this wholesale system of gambling—this Pandora's box of evil, this fountain head of fraud and corruption, this putrid carcass, the scent of which attracts the jackals and vultures of the turf—and then they will command the respect and support of thousands of honorable and upright men—breeders, owners and admirers of fine horses, who now refuse to countenance the sports of the turf on account of the evils connected with their management.

Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester and Utica have done much to popularize trotting contests, because the management of these associations has been in the hands of gentlemen of character and of solid worth; and their great success is all the more gratifying, because it has demonstrated to the world that even in horse racing "honesty is the best policy." But they have not gone far enough. Let them banish the pool box from their grounds, and thus sever their course from all connection with this wholesale system of gambling, and relieve their grounds from the baneful presence of the horde of unprincipled, debauched, drunken wretches who follow the pool seller from city to city, and they will have performed a work for which all breeders, all lovers of the sports of the turf, all honorable men will thank them, and set an example which all race courses that aim at respectability will be constrained to follow.—*National Live Stock Journal*.

SHEEP AND WOOL GROWING.

Profit in sheep.

THE San Francisco Bulletin says: "The fleece of the sheep in this State averages about 6½ lbs., which at 20 cents a lb is \$1.30 per head. The commercial expense of the same, including interest on capital, shepherding, shearing, freight to market, etc., averages about 80 cents, which leaves a clear profit of \$1.00 per head. To this is to be added the increase of the lambs, which, at three months old, weigh 25 pounds each, and sell for 10 cents a pound, making \$3.50 for each lamb. If the lambs are kept longer, the price may fall, but the weight may increase in proportion, and they can be clipped before being sold. The result is, that for every breeding ewe, the sheep farmer has a net profit of \$3.50. Let it be borne in mind that these estimates are all below the actual average. This is a handsome profit for such a small outlay of money, time and labor, and a strong inducement to cultivate and encourage this national industry to its utmost extent and perfection. This cannot but impress New Englanders, engaged in sheep husbandry, that they labor under disadvantages as compared with California."

Spanish Merinos—Sheep and Fertility.

Mr. JAMES S. GOR, a well known Pennsylvania breeder, writes the *American Farmer* relating to sheep husbandry:

The introduction of pure-bred rams will annually increase the fleece of a Maryland flock one half pound per fleece. Could your farmers be induced to reflect on the importance of this increase, then I have not written in vain. I care not where they purchase their rams, so they get them from a good flock. One to three rams annually do not cost much money, and yet an increase annually of one half pound each becomes an important item.

Assume a flock now averages some two and a half pounds; then increase these weights one half pound annually, and in seven years you have an average of six pounds per fleece. We now include washed wool only. If you include a few Spanish Merino ewes from the

same flock, the entire average in that time could be made still more; and in this add the increased value of the flock, and you will have an item worth your attention. The time is coming when Maryland will contain more and better flocks; when less grain and tobacco will be planted; when a beautiful green sward will adorn many a now worn-out field. This change will take place. You are enterprising and have taste for the beautiful; you are as anxious for gain as people elsewhere. Plow fewer acres, and grow more sheep and wool, and thus grow more grain.

Gentlemen, I wish you had seen the shocks of wheat standing on about eight acres of my farm—642 dozen of large sheaves—and owing to the badly tangled and down condition of the straw, the machine was compelled to run over and waste very much, and yet all this grew on land once thought not worth farming. I admit, less fertility would have given a better produce, yet heavier farming and fewer sheep would have remedied that. However, we make the Merinos our object. This fertility follows with other gains, and I think we shall continue. This process is not covered by letters patent; the same way is opened to others; neither shall I contend for a selfish monopoly; and this earth is large, with room for all of us. We have a short time to stay here, and if we do some good, our time will not have been spent in vain. We live in a progressive age, and feel bound to keep on the track. A few Spanish Merino sheep, well cared for, will soon cause your family to take a lively interest therein.

Patrons of Husbandry.

It is requested that all Granges within the state report the names and postoffice address of their Masters and Secretaries, elected for the ensuing year, to the Secretary of the State Grange, G. W. SPRUNSON, of Jacksonville, Neosho county, Kansas.

It is also requested that each delegation from every county report the names and postoffice address of the Masters and Secretaries of the subordinate Granges of their respective counties at the coming meeting of the State Grange, on the third Wednesday of February next.

G. W. SPRUNSON, Sec. State Grange.

To Deputies.

The various Deputies will greatly oblige us by sending lists of Granges, when organized, for publication in this column.

NOTICE TO SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS OF SUBORDINATE GRANGES.

The Secretaries and Treasurers will please bear in mind that their Reports should not be sent to the State Agent at Topeka. We have received a large number of the reports of both Secretary and Treasurer, some of them addressed to State Agent, which, after being opened, costs the agency for remailing.

Secretaries should send their reports to G. W. Sprunson, Jacksonville, Neosho county; and Treasurers, to H. H. Angell, Sherman City.

J. G. ORIS.

For the Kansas Farmer.

PLOWS FOR THE GRANGE.

At a meeting of Peoria and Knox Counties Council, held at Yates City, Ill., August 12, 1874, the following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That a time and place be selected by the Council, for the purpose of intelligently selecting gang riding or sulky plows, and an invitation be given to all manufacturers or their agents to exhibit and try their respective plows, under the supervision of a committee appointed by said Council.

The following plows responded to the call, and the committee reported—

1. The Curtis Gang, manufactured by the Earlville Manufacturing Co., drawn by three horses, cut 22 inches, draft 600 pounds, cost \$100. Work well done for a gang plow.

2. The Pearl, manufactured by the Chicago Plow Co., drawn by three horses, cut 22 inches, draft 500 pounds, work not first rate; mold-board small and share broad; soil not inverted sufficiently; weeds not thoroughly covered; otherwise a desirable plow. Cost \$95.

3. The McKelgan Gang, manufactured by Parlin & Orendorff, Canton, Ill., drawn by four horses, cuts 24 inches, draft 600 pounds, cost \$75. Work well done.

4. The Deffen Gang, manufactured by the St. Joseph Manufacturing Co., Mishawaka, drawn by four horses, cut 24 inches, draft 600 pounds, price \$85. Work well done.

5. The Thompson Gang, manufactured by Parlin & Orendorff, Canton, Ill., cut 24 inches, draft 600 pounds, price \$85. Work well done.

6. The Economical Gang, manufactured by John Deere, Moline, Ill., cut 20 inches, draft about 600 pounds. Work and plow inferior.

The depth of the plowing was six inches.

The following sulky or riding single plows were exhibited:

1. The McKelgan Sulky, manufactured by Parlin & Orendorff, Canton, Ill., drawn by two horses, draft not tested, (owner of dynamometer refused its use on sulky plows). Quality of work tip top. Cost \$32.

2. Thompson's Sulky, manufactured by Parlin & Orendorff, drawn by two horses, cut 16 inches. Quality of work good. Did not learn the cost.

The merits of the different gang plows are in our judgment about as they appear upon the list. The prices and plows made by members of the plow ring were not taken into consideration. By far the best work done in the field was by McKelgan's sulky plow, and in our judgment a sulky plow will do better work with less team and cost, cover up insects, weed seeds and trash far better than it is possible for a gang plow to do, and we would recommend that farmers carefully examine the merits

of the sulky plow before purchasing a gang plow. Respectfully submitted:

W. P. PARKER, Yates City, Ill.

JOHN SLOAN, " "

ELIAS FLETCHER, " "

H. H. WOODS, Knoxville, Ill.

P. F. FORD, Moneka, Ill.

JOS. KNOX, Brimfield, Ill.

J. H. NICHOLSON, Elmwood, Ill.

Committee.

None of the committee was in any way interested in the make or sale of any plow.

We, the undersigned, a committee duly appointed and authorized to represent the destitution existing in our respective counties, do respectfully say:

That, the five northwestern frontier counties in Kansas, to wit: Osborn, Smith, Phillips, Norton and Rooks, constituting a natural geographical unit, on the upper Solomon and away from railroads, suffered a loss from grasshoppers last summer, almost if not quite equal to the taxable property, as indicated by the last general assessment:

Corn is the pioneer's first crop, it was our principal dependence for bread, and meat and clothing, and our corn was entirely destroyed, our gardens were spoiled, our nurseries, both of forest and fruit trees were almost entirely ruined, our young orchards and groves were defoliated and the tender twigs barked. A majority of the trees succumbed, though a few revived after the grasshoppers left.

A small portion of our people have a very light crop of wheat to live on and that is all. Calculating it only for a part of their bread, it must furnish all of the feed for their teams, a surplus to sell for clothing and other necessities, or they must ask help or they must go without. In the nature of the case there could be no insurance to cover a part of the loss, as in the case of great fires in cities.

Most of our homesteaders are poor men with no resources to fall back upon.

We are full of courage and faith in the ultimate prosperity of our country. Give us five years to diversify our industry, and not even grasshoppers can make us beg.

But in the present emergency, to avoid actual suffering, to avoid as we believe the danger of death to some, from starvation and exposure, we ask a generous public to give us back a small portion of our loss. The aggregate population of these five counties is about twelve thousand, and the destitution is greater than we supposed before making investigation. On the surface things look much as usual. But penetrate beneath the surface and you will find a great many families lying cold nights for want of sufficient bedding; hundreds, if not thousands of women and children barefoot, and the ground covered with snow; many men homeless, hundreds of families with their last wheat ground, flour to last a few weeks or days, and then—nothing; and some families already living on bran.

The majority of our men and women would be glad to sell their labor, for the necessities of life, at any price. But the minority, who have enough for themselves, have only enough and cannot buy the labor of their more unfortunate neighbors.

We desire by this appeal, to prevent the extremity of suffering which we know will be upon many of our people by New Years, and upon a majority of them by spring, if relief does not come. To carry us to harvest we need from outside in provisions alone \$10,000 in Osborn county, \$12,000 in Smith, \$10,000 in Phillips, \$5,000 in Norton and the unorganized county of Decatur, and \$5,000 in Rooks and the unorganized county of Graham. We need as much more in clothing and bedding.

Second-hand clothing if serviceable and warm will be gratefully received. Shoes especially are needed.

We greatly desire that sufficient supplies should be sent without employing traveling agents. At the best, the traveling expenses must come out of their collections, and that will sometimes absorb all they get.

But the worst of it is that a crowd of imposters under that cover palm themselves off on the public at our expense. We earnestly urge the public to scrutinize carefully the credentials of every solicitor and give nothing to the smooth-tongued stranger whose papers are coming by the next mail.

We sincerely hope this appeal will not be thrown to one side unnoticed and that it will not only enlist the sympathy of our eastern friends, but that they may receive it as truth and send us immediately as liberally as their generosity will permit, the substantial articles of food and clothing that shall make discouraged hearts rejoice.

Any thing sent to alleviate the sufferings of this district may be sent to the State Central Committee, Topeka, or to Col. W. L. Bear, Russell, Kansas, who is our designated agent to receive and distribute relief.

JOHN BISSELL, Phillips Co.

LAF. C. SMITH, Rooks,

R. B. FOSTER, Osborn,

J. G. FOLSOM, Norton,

W. M. WELLMAN, Smith,

Committee.

HOMESTEAD AND PRE-EMPTION LAWS.

Commissioner Burdett of the General Land Office, in his annual report, submitted to the Secretary of the Interior, concurs heartily with the recommendations made by his predecessors for a consolidation of the existing homestead and pre-emption laws. He says the experience of every year confirms the conclusion that the

machinery of the pre-emption laws furnishes ready means of fraud. He calls the attention of Congress to the necessity of repealing the law requiring claimants of confirmed private land claims to defray the cost of the survey of their claims. Such legislation, he says, is now urgently needed, as it would enable this office at once to cause the segregation of the private from the public lands, and thereby bring into market a region of country now unlawfully monopolized under undefined grants from foreign Governments. Legislation is also recommended, having in view the abolishing of the present very unsatisfactory system of adjudicating private land claims in the Territories of New-Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona, and adopting a system something similar to that which was established for California.

Commissioner Burdett, in this report, discusses the question of the right of Indians to acquire title to public lands after they have abandoned tribal relations. He quotes from a decision of the Hon. J. D. Cox, when Secretary of the Interior, in February, 1870, in accordance with which the General Land Office issued a circular of instructions to registers and receivers, extending the right of homestead entry to Indians who brought themselves within the conditions laid down in that decision. Under this authority, a number of this class of persons have availed themselves of the privilege offered, and their entries are awaiting the final proof. It is now learned that the question of the status of such individual Indians as may elect to abandon their tribal relationship to the question of citizenship has, though not in any manner having connection with the administration of the affairs of this office, been again brought to the attention of the Department, and that a decision has been reached by Secretary Delano, in all respects opposite to that on which the present practice is based. Entertaining no doubt whatever of the correctness of the later decision, Commissioner Burdett says he shall feel compelled to revoke the circular of April 1, 1870, and to hold for cancellation all entries of this class now pending unless Congress shall, by appropriate legislation, give them validity. He further says that on the invitation of this office, these persons having been induced to renounce their tribal relations with all attendant privileges and benefits, they should not now be deprived of the equivalent offered.—*New York Tribune.*

FARMERS PAPERS.

Samuel Slinnett, of Iowa, a prominent agricultural writer of that State in speaking of the importance of farmers supporting their own papers says:

"The farmer should support his own paper first, and if he must have a political sheet it should come second. There should be unity of action amongst the farmers, and to accomplish that object farmers clubs should be established in every school district where the farmers and their wives could come together and discuss and decide on the course of action to be pursued to promote their interests. The questions of political economy should be better understood, and the relative bearing of the great questions of the day on the interests of agriculture. All questions of a partisan nature should be strictly excluded, but such questions as taxation, judicial reform, tariff, and their relation to agriculture, the financial question, and its bearing on society in general, ought to be thoroughly investigated."

Don't Go to Law.

Every Patron, who calls his fellow farmer "brother," must, before going to law, go to his Grange and there try to settle amicably with his brother. Of all the various classes of middle men there is none in which there is found such a superabundance as in the profession of law. Were the principles of the Grange carried out by the community generally, there would not be found more than one lawyer where there are now one hundred. The saving to the people, in such an event, would be almost beyond computation.—*Ex.*

I see in your issue of Nov. 25th, an extract from the *Junction City Union* in regard to drawing party lines in choosing pages (or electing them). Now, sir, we are in for reform and cannot we do a little in regard to pages?

What is the need of them or what good do they do, and what was their origin? I suppose we got the practice from the House of Lords of England, who needed some waiters. But do our legislators need waiters? Are we to hire servants to wait on our servants? I opine not. In these hard times let us save all we can. And now, sir, I rise to make a motion, that we dispense with pages this next session of our legislature. R. A. GRANGER. Salina, Kan., Nov. 30.

The Arkansas Grange warns the negroes against an impostor who is driving a thriving trade in the way of organizing new granges among the colored people. He makes no restrictions as to the number of charter members and, in consideration of the hard times, has reduced the fee to fifty cents a head.

The committee of Columbia (Tenn.) Grange, appointed to make suggestions relative to the wintering of stock, etc., in view of the short crop caused by the drought, recommended all to prepare at once for the sowing of wheat oats, rye and barley on every acre that can be spared from their other crops. They also emphatically advise every Patron to practice what he preaches, by making an earnest effort, if in debt, get out of debt, and in no event go in debt for anything, but practice the theory, "pay as you go."

Educational.

EDITED BY PROF. J. B. HOLBROOK.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

The undersigned severed his connection with the *Kansas School Journal* with issue No. 2, dated September, 1874. He is in no way connected with any educational publication except the *KANSAS FARMER*. J. B. HOLBROOK.

THE LAISSEZ FAIRE PRINCIPLE.

The doctrine of love of knowledge innate in the human mind is exemplified and proven daily; but that all children love to learn by our imperfect methods of instruction, is not a corollary to the doctrine. Had the teacher such intimate knowledge of nature's laws that the natural mode of imparting instruction and training the mind was intuitively present, most children would love to sit under his instruction. Some, however, would not; for many children love only particular departments of knowledge. They came into the world one-sided and narrow-minded, and would leave it more so if permitted to follow their bent. They do not learn willingly under the tuition of nature herself. How many of us do? Now and then a broad mind takes kindly to her instruction, and with indefatigable industry learns the lessons which nature renders lucid, but which even the scientific world calls her secrets. Such a student is very soon known as a naturalist, placed upon society's retired list, and permitted to study without interruption—the way society has of ridding itself of a natural member. Some children come honestly by a natural predominating love of evil rather than good, of vice rather than virtue; they are one extreme. Some love the useful, the good, the beautiful, the true, and are only happy when their minds are dwelling on them; they are the other extreme. The large majority comes between, they who must exercise moral power, and self control, and self restraint at times, if not continually, to keep themselves in virtue's service. Some, even, and they are not as few as either extreme, stand till they die, like a ass between two stacks, neither actively good or bad, with virtue drawing one way, vice the other.

Teachers have all these classes to teach. The question arises—How far shall they apply the *let alone principle*? How far should children be permitted to follow ways natural to them, whether they be roads to happiness or misery? The *laissez-faire* teacher answers these questions practically by a broad application of his *let alone principle*, letting those naturally good, industrious and quick, be good, industrious and quick, with encouragement; letting those naturally bad, lazy and dull be bad, lazy and dull, with discouragement. The treatment of the first is good. It is a pity all of us could not be *laissez-faire* teachers so far; wasted and perverted intellects would be less frequent. But the application of their principle to the second, the bad, is ruinous to the pupils, the school, and to the teacher.

It ruins the pupil because he is not acquiring that fund of useful information to be got in school or nowhere. His mind is not strengthened by healthful exercise, not trained into habits of observing, memorizing, judging, investigating, thinking. His moral parts left to themselves grow unsymmetrical. Strict honor and truthfulness are not inculcated; self control and manliness are not cultivated, nor habits of punctuality, regularity and industry. The pupil is not being formed into a man of whom the world will be proud. Negatively it may be, but none the less surely, he is learning to be lazy—systematically lazy, just as that teacher is, who remarked the other day she didn't pretend to keep order, she balanced that off against the reduction of salary. He is getting all those habits which make a worthless citizen, a bad man. Pupils should not be permitted to be lazy and bad, to learn lessons of disrespect and disobedience and deceit and vice.

But, asks *laissez-faire* pedagogy, Shall we whip learning into children? must manliness be taught them by exhibitions of brutishness? To which the answer is, not dictatorially but entreatingly: If you know of no other way of imparting knowledge than whipping it in, then impart the learning or resign. Do not even be a party to foisting an ignorant bad member upon society. Children already have enough influences bearing them in the wrong direction without a teacher virtually conniving at their weaknessness.

The school is ruined by the *let-alone principle* because one pupil not fulfilling the duties of a pupil is a leaven of disorder. His example is pernicious. He breeds confusion. He teaches more hatred of work in a week than the teacher can counteract in a month. With such pupils mere idleness and quiet fun lose their attractions; the ordinary pastimes of whispering, throwing paper balls, notes and kisses, the sickly shams of reading translations and copying examples, give way to squeaking mice, parlor matches and *laissez-faire* teachers. Of course a temple of learning where such things are occurring is perverted. No people wish to send their children there if they know its character; and they will find it out in time. Sentimental professions of regard and attachment and respect on the part of the pupil for the teacher, are too thin a veil to hide truth very long.

Why the *laissez-faire* principle ruins the teacher professionally, it is not necessary to state further. We hope enough has been said to induce every teacher, who has read, not to let any pupil alone who is not doing his whole duty in school.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

In answering an Advertisement found in these columns you will confer a favor by stating you saw it in the *KANSAS FARMER*.

THE KANSAS STATE Agricultural College

NOW furnishes a THOROUGH and DIRECT EDUCATION to those who intend to be FARMERS, MECHANICS, or to follow other Industrial Pursuits. THE FOUR COURSES OF INSTRUCTION, FARMERS, MECHANICS, BUSINESS and WOMEN, are prepared with express reference to these things:

1. What the student knows when received;
 2. The time he will remain;
 3. The use which is really made of a given science in his proposed occupation, the studies being so arranged that, at the close of each year, he will have gained that knowledge which is of most value in his business.
- The FIRST OBJECT in each course is to make every student a Master of the English Language, and an Expert in its use; and also, skillful in Mathematics as employed in every day life, including Book Keeping, Business Law and Industrial Drawing.

In addition the special object of the FARMERS COURSE is to give him a practical knowledge of the Structure, Growth and value of Plants; of Light, Heat and Moisture, and of Inorganic, Organic, Analytical and Agricultural Chemistry, as these are related to Plant and Animal Growth; of Economic Zoology, and particularly of Practical Agriculture.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE, including such instruction and Drill in the field, in the Handling of Stock, in the Nursery, and in the Wood and Iron Shops as will enable the graduate to perform readily each of the varied operations of Actual Farm Life.

In the other courses, the special studies are equally determined by the requirements of the proposed vocation. To MECHANICS, applied mathematics and industrial drawing are given instead of botany, chemistry and zoology, as above; and Shop Practice in place of Practical Agriculture.

The instruction in CHEMISTRY and PHYSICS is fully equal to that of the best eastern institutions, including Practice in Laboratories, and

SUPERIOR ADVANTAGES

are offered to students of Higher Chemistry, to Mineralogists, Druggists, Operators and Workers in Metals. Full collections of the Plants, Insects and Birds of Kansas are being made as rapidly as possible.

THE MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT gives Daily Practice in the following well equipped Shops and Offices:

1. CARPENTRY;
2. CABINET;
3. WAGON;
4. BLACKSMITH;
5. PAINT;
6. SEWING;
7. PRINTING;
8. TELEGRAPH.

THE COURSE FOR WOMEN is Liberal and Practical, including Instrumental Music. Each student is required to take not less than one Industrial and three Literary studies.

TUITION ABSOLUTELY FREE, and no contingent fees, except for use of pianos and organs.

Boarding ranges from \$3.75 to \$4 per week. Students PAID FOR LABOR on the Farm and in the Shops, which is not educational, and which the institution needs performed.

The NEXT TERM begins August 30, 1874, when New Classes will be formed. For further information apply to J. A. ANDERSON, President, Manhattan, Kansas.

The Patrons Mutual Insurance Association.

OFFICERS.—BOARD OF DIRECTORS: M. E. Hudson, Master of State Grange; Wm Sims, Overseer; W. F. Popence, J. H. Drummond, J. B. Shaffer, Executive Committee; A. Washburn, Treasurer; S. H. Downs, Secretary.

PAID UP.—The printed by laws and articles of association give the plan and rates. Our plan is to insure farm property belonging to Patrons. Our rates are based upon the experience of the Michigan Farmers' Mutual Insurance Association.

In order to be safe, the Association fixes the rate at one-fifth higher than the average rate of all the companies in Michigan. The difference in the construction of buildings, and danger from prairie fires, adds something to risks in Kansas as compared with Michigan.

We give the following as an illustration of the difference between our rates and joint stock companies. Joint stock company lowest cash rate, per annum on \$1,000 for three years.....\$15 00

On each \$1,000, for.....\$5 00

A policy fee of.....\$15 00

which amount is paid in advance.

The Patrons Association rates are,

On policy of \$1,000, first year premium, 25

cents on each \$100.....\$ 25

Total cash paid.....\$ 25

A policy is then issued for 3 years, and a premium note taken for the remaining 2 years of.....\$5 00

Total cost of insurance for 3 years.....\$5 00

The premium note is liable to assessment at any time to pay expenses and losses. On a policy of \$500 the cost is as follows:

Membership fee.....\$1 50

Premium for first year.....\$ 25

Total cash payment.....\$ 26 50

Note for remaining two years.....\$ 5 00

Total cost for three years.....\$ 31 50

Our rates are about one-half of the joint stock company rates, and only a small part of the premium required to be paid in cash.

Address S. H. DOWNS, Secretary, Topeka, Kan.

LOST! LOST! \$5.00 Reward!

STRAYED away, in early spring, from the subscriber, living in Lynn Creek, Shawnee county, Kan., two yearling and one three year old colts. One yearling is a mare colt, light bay, small, spot in forehead one hind foot white. The other a horse colt, was a dark color—may have shed—from grey, white spot in forehead. Three year old is a brown filly, no white, on one ham is a black spot size of a half dollar. No marks or brands. Five dollars for their return, or information of them liberally rewarded. C. A. THRESHER, Topeka, Kan.

STRAYED.

FROM the subscriber, at Harveyville postoffice, Wabancose county, one three year old brown mare, has a little white on one hind foot (the left, I believe). A liberal reward will be given for any information that will lead to her recovery. JAMES E. JOHNSON. Harveyville, Wabancose co., Kan.

PATRONS' HAND-BOOK.

Price Reduced.

That every Patron in the State may have the benefit of a copy of the Patron's Hand-Book, we have determined to reduce the price within the reach of every grange in the State. It will be sent to any address, postage paid, for

\$2.00 PER DOZEN. J. K. HUDSON, TOPEKA, KANSAS.

The Kansas Farmer.

J. K. HUDSON, Editor & Proprietor, Topeka, Kan.

TERMS: CASH IN ADVANCE.
 One Copy, Weekly, for one year, \$2.00
 One Copy, Weekly, for six months, \$1.00
 One Copy, Weekly, for three months, \$0.50
 One Copy, Weekly, for one month, \$0.15
 Five Copies, Weekly, for one year, \$10.00
 Ten Copies, Weekly, for one year, \$20.00

ADVERTISING RATES:
 One Insertion, 20 cents per Line, nonpareil type.
 One Month, 15 cents per Line, nonpareil, each insertion.
 Three Months, 12 cents per Line, nonpareil, each insertion.
 One Year, 10 cents per Line, nonpareil, each insertion.
 Special Notices, 25 cents per Line. No advertisement taken for less than one dollar.

SPECIAL RATES FOR LARGE CONTRACTS.
 In the Breeder's, Nurseryman's and Seedmen's Directories we will print a card of three lines for one year, for \$2.00. This will give a circulation to the card of nearly 500,000 copies during the year, the best offer ever made by a first-class weekly paper.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

DR. JOHN A. WARDER, Ohio.
 GEO. T. ANTHONY, Leavenworth, Kan.
 DR. CHAS. H. BRYNOLDS, Fort Riley, Kan.
 S. T. KELSEY, Hutchinson, Kan.
 MRS. CORA M. DOWNS, Wyandotte, Kan.
 "JUNEBERRY," Wyandotte County.
 MRS. M. S. BEERS, Shawnee County.
 MRS. R. H. RAY, Leavenworth, Kan.
 "BETTY BADGER," Freeport, Pa.
 DR. A. G. CHASE, Leavenworth, Kan.
 JOHN DAVIS, Davis county.
 JUDGE JAMES HANWAY, Lane, Kan.
 P. J. LOWE, Leavenworth, Kan.
 R. S. ELLIOTT, Kirkwood, Mo.
 W. MARLATT, Manhattan, Kan.
 NOAH CAMERON, Lawrence, Kan.
 C. W. JOHNSON, Atchison, Kan.
 "OLD CENTRE," "COUNTRY LAD," "HOOSIER GIRL," W. P. POPPENOE, ALFRED GRAY, Prof. SNOW, Prof. KEDZIE, Prof. MUDGE, and host of other valuable contributors, who will assist in giving the farmers of Kansas a paper not equalled in the country for originality and merit.

A special and interesting department of the paper will be the short letters from farmers and breeders, fruit-growers and others interested in the various branches of agriculture. The live discussions upon the topics of the day, embracing full and complete information upon every phase of the farmer's movement, will also be a prominent feature of the paper. Specimen copies will be sent free to any address.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

We wish the Farmer family both great and small, old and young, a merry Christmas. Among all the holidays and merry makings none are so dear to our memory as Christmas. Years have taken us out of the veritable belief in old Santa Claus stopping with his reindeer on the roof while he came down the chimney to fill the table with toys and candies. Our own wee toddlers now wait and watch for the coming of the day as children have for centuries past. To some of our readers on the frontier, where drought and grasshoppers have scourged them, there may be less of toys and merry making, and yet from the car loads of clothing and provisions going forward to every frontier county we express the hope and belief that none will want for clothing or food on Christmas. Another year with its bountiful harvest, which we have every reason to hope for, will bring better times and a merry Christmas for all.

A TALK ABOUT PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR.

Farmers should not wait for spring to come with its multitude of cares and all the labor that is to be done during the first months warm weather to make their plans for the season. Now is the time to do it. Take an inventory of what you have, what it is worth, what you owe, and when it is due, and what is due you.

Begin the year with a knowledge of what you have to meet in the way of payments, what your needs are in implements, seed and stock that is within your reach. Put this all down in your account book where you keep your accounts for the year. It helps a great deal to have down in black and white, what we have and what we owe. No intelligent plan for the years, operations can be matured without a knowledge of the above points.

The crops to be put in, the stock to be bred and raised, may now be planned with a view to what we want to accomplish this coming year. The year's work before us is a business problem which must be solved by adapting to it intelligent means for the ends desired. The best farmers we know, look ahead, plan not only for this year but for the out come of five or ten years hence. They intelligently crop their lands and breed their stock with a well matured plan in view, that the outcome in five or ten years will bring profit and satisfaction. To blindly go on raising a little corn, hay and stock, selling the surplus of stock, if they find they have not feed enough for the winter, or going into the winter trusting to luck to get through more stock than they have feed for, and coming out in the spring with a drove of skeletons, is not farming. Raising a little hog and hominy is no more farming than shovelling dirt on a bank without guide or plan or survey is building a railroad.

While it is true that profit in farming very much depends upon the season and markets, over which farmers have too little control, it is certainly patent that equally as much depends upon the farmer having a well defined plan of operations to work up to. To know distinctly when he starts in the spring what he is trying to accomplish. If he is trying to raise \$500 over and above taxes and living expenses, and raise feed for ten head of stock for the winter as a business man and an intelligent farmer, he ought to know upon what crops he can depend for such a return, and what he will have to do to raise such crops. Trusting to luck won't do. In this day and age of the world with steam bringing to our doors the competing crops of every state, with grinding exactions of every kind taking off the profits, nothing but intelligent systematic and thorough

work within the means of the farmer will win a success. To make an intelligent plan for the years work is the first step towards success in farming operations.

EXPEDITED ASSISTANCE FROM THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

There is an expectation among the Patrons throughout Kansas and Nebraska, that the National Grange will make a liberal donation towards relieving the suffering Patrons on the frontiers of both states. The importance of this action is so apparent that it has been anticipated and looked for some weeks past. It should be prompt, immediate and liberal. The organization can in no way more certainly challenge the admiration and respect of the country than by improving the present opportunity and sending to each of the State Granges of Kansas and Nebraska fifteen or twenty thousand dollars to be expended as the officers of the State Granges of these States believe would be for the best interests of Patrons needing help.

There are ample funds now in the National Grange treasury invested in bonds, which could be well serving the live and fundamental principles upon which the organization rests, in relieving the suffering and needy of the order.

The West has created three-fourths of the fund now in the treasury, and an expenditure of this kind on the part of the officers of the National Grange will meet a hearty and cordial support among the patrons of the West. The help is needed by the Patrons in both States, and it should come promptly and generously without further delay.

MEEHAN ON CHROMOS.

The genial Meehan, in last *Gardner's Monthly*, makes a little confidential talk with the readers of that sterling periodical. In the talk he alludes to his good natured publisher and the just pride the latter takes in his publication. Mr. Meehan says that this publisher "is usually a remarkably meek and mild mannered man. But like Moses, he can get mad sometimes. We never saw him this way but once, and that was when some innocent sight asked him if he were not going to get out a chromo, give away a watch, or some other thing 'worth twenty dollars,' in order to get a two dollar subscriber. It was then that the color rose in his majestic on his candid cheeks. 'Young man,' says he, 'when I go round with a hand organ I intend to make the music worth the money, without being bothered with a monkey.' After that terrible scene our duty was plain. We knew that the little red jacket, just extending to the caudal appendages, and those delicate little fingers holding out the dear little hat for the pennies, would never be exhibited in behalf of the *Gardner's Monthly*, and that it rested with us alone to make it worth all it brought."

That is a capital hit at the whole premium business. But it is still true that a great many people would rather see the money than listen to the music. So there are many who would rather have a gaudy dandy of a chromo, worth ten cents, or a bogus piece of jewelry, than 500 pages of the choicest and most valuable literature pertaining to their profession and interests. Still we see indications that the monkey period in agricultural and horticultural literature is on the decline.—*Prairie Farmer*.

That's good, but if Meehan's publisher had never rested his vision on our chromo, he would never have said anything so crushing to artistic taste and talent. We send it regardless of expense to all persons without regard to color or previous condition of servitude upon receipt of a one cent stamp.

ADVERTISING HUMBUGS.

We have received a great many singular propositions to pay for advertising. It is common to be asked to publish a hundred dollar advertisement for the year to secure a four dollar magazine, to advertise a piano, to secure the privilege of purchasing one of that particular make, to advertise bitters, and take our pay in the villainous compound, but of all these various methods, adopted by Eastern chaps to secure gratuitous advertising a Patent Medicine Co., of New York exports them all; their advertising agent sends a hundred dollar contract for advertising these nostrums and offers to send in pay a share in the company's stock. For doing this gracious favor, the agent charges us \$25 which he is willing to take in advertising, or to make it plain, he proposes to secure \$125.00 worth of advertising for a share in a humbug patent medicine company. We think it about time that publishers come down to a strictly cash basis giving all advertisers the lowest possible cash rates and doing away entirely with all trading or dickering advertisements. For the FARMER we shall continue to give the lowest living rates for advertisements to be paid in cash, and give no place to dead head or complimentary advertisements. No name will be placed upon the subscription books unless the subscription has been paid.—This is business, and it is the only system that will enable a publisher to meet his bills. Until this system is adopted we shall continue to see the everlasting dun for the delinquent to pay up his \$3 long past due. The cash system enables a publisher to give his patrons the paper at the lowest possible figure, and to publish a better, more independent and reliable journal.

STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We present a report of the State Horticultural Society, reported expressly for the FARMER by the treasurer, Mr. Wellhouse.

We begin the publication next week of Prof. Kedzie's address. This is one of the best scientific, and at the same time practical papers ever offered the farmers and fruit growers of Kansas. It will be found worth to every reader a dozen times the subscription price of the FARMER.

Minor Mention.

We have received from C. F. Porter, Secretary of Pleasant Hill Grange, Sumner County, a specimen of green grass, six to eight inches in length, that was gathered in December, and which our correspondent says is quite plentiful, and protected by the earlier growth of the season which has dried up during the drought. Stock in many places are still subsisting wholly upon this autumn grass and doing well, and if we are favored with a mild winter it will in a great measure make up for the want of grain.

EDITOR FARMER: Under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Kansas State Grange, we shall be absent from home much of the time for the next month or two on matters of relief and other business affairs of the Grange, and Bro. W. P. Popenoe was authorized by the Executive committee to act in my absence and attend to forwarding donated goods to the different counties needing aid. All parties will take notice that he represents the Executive Committee in the premises.

JOHN G. OTIS,
 State Agent K. S. G. P. of H.

Worthy of Note.—The original papers upon Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock raising, Forest Tree Growing, Meteorology, Education, etc. which have appeared in the FARMER the past year will compare favorably with those of any magazine, scientific or educational journal in the country. They prove, coming from the citizens of Kansas, that we have an intelligent reading and thinking people.

Hints upon Swine Breeding in Kansas.—The editor of the FARMER prepared for publication in pamphlet form, a year or more since a treatise embodying practical experience upon the breeding and care of swine in Kansas. A number of circumstances prevented the publication of the work at the time.

At the solicitation of some friends we have concluded to publish it in the FARMER during the next year, commencing in February giving about one column each week, running through a dozen numbers of the paper.

Flax Culture.—A large number of the farmers of the State will be coming year after year for the first time, and we shall give a number of upon this subject, beginning with Mr. Copley this week. We request of our readers who have had practical experience with this crop in Kansas to send it to us for publication that it may assist those who grow the crop this coming year for the first time. The FARMER is the medium for reaching the farmers of every part of the State and has an earnest desire to contribute to the profit and prosperity of its readers.

Briggs Brothers of Rochester, N. Y.—To give our readers an idea of the extent of the business of the house, we may say that between 19,000 and 20,000 dealers in the United States, receive BRIGGS BROTHERS' seeds to sell again. The estimate for the number of paper bags required for the coming year's business, is *seven million*. Surely this is a wonderful business, and it is something to reflect that BRIGGS & BROTHER are the medium of conveying through their flowers, much of happiness, contentment and refinement throughout the land. It is pretty generally known that so great has their Western, Northwestern and Southwestern trade increased, that it has been found necessary to open a distributing house in Chicago. The firm occupy also the position of publishers, issuing quarterly to subscribers, an illustrated Floral Work, surpassing in elegance anything of the kind ever before attempted. It only costs 25 cents to become a yearly subscriber, and we confess to an itching to get hold of their January number, which will be issued in December.—*Chicago Standard*.

To Getters up of Clubs.—In answer to many enquiries, we would say that no commission can be given to those getting up clubs on our hard pan rate. We will however, where a party sends a club of 25 at \$1.25 per copy, send an additional copy free. No less than 10 can be received at one time at club rates. Write the names plainly.

A. C. Brown Co.—In making up clubs you can take names for any post-office. Also, if A. or B's subscription does not expire until February, March or any other month, and they wish to join the club they will be entitled to the FARMER for one year from the expiration of their subscription.

WILL Thomas Gist let us know his post office?

We have had quite enough of the sawdust reports in past years, and it is decidedly refreshing to have those with some meat and juice in them, as have the reports of Auditor Wilder and Treasurer Francis.—*Atchison Champion*.

To the above sentiment the FARMER responds amen.

Missouri State Horticultural Society.—The sixth annual meeting of the Missouri State Horticultural Society, will be held at St. Louis on the 12th 13th 14th and 15th of January 1875. The following subjects will be discussed.

1. On what fruits and under what circumstances may root pruning be recommended.
2. What fruits may we recommend for planting without danger of over-production.
3. Can we recommend in Missouri the covering of strawberries, raspberries and grapes in winter.
4. Should not all fruits and vegetables be sold by weight? and how can this be brought about?

The leading Horticulturists of the West will be present and papers of value and interest upon subjects relating to horticulture will be presented.

State News Items.

Wheat continues to pour into our granaries, regardless of the prognostications of habitual grumblers and prophets of famine and pestilence. There is not a house or shanty in town that will hold shucks, but what has been converted into a wheat or flour bin, and still thousands of bushels of wheat remain in the hands of farmers that are holding off for better prices.—*Osgood Register*.

We are informed that arrangements are about completed whereby a first class flax mill will be established in this place soon. A Committee has been in correspondence with Mr. E. A. Smith, now owning and operating in Missouri, and the result is that he proposes to locate his mill here upon the payment of a donation of fifteen hundred dollars, \$1,000 in cash, and \$500 in flax straw delivered as soon as thrashed. He proposes to pay four dollars a ton for all the straw the farmers have, and will give ten dollars a ton for it if the straw is in neat bundles, and two hundred dollars a ton is offered ready dressed, this being the fibers alone.—*Chanute (Neosho Co) Times*.

Four women were elected to the office of County Superintendent in this State at the last election. Miss Mary P. Wright of Coffey, Miss U. Hebron, of Shawnee; Miss Mary A. Higby, of Labette; and Miss Phinias of Ellis.—*Ida Register*.

The Wichita Eagle says Mr. Montgomery foots up the number of cattle being wintered on the range south of the railroad in Sedgewick and adjoining counties at 25,595 head.

The Postmaster General has ordered mail service with the Kansas Midland Railroad from Topeka, to Kansas City, to commence January 1, 1875.

From present indications, all over the country, the prospects of the coming wheat crop is beyond any parallel in the history of this country. Taking dry weather, chinch-bugs, and grasshoppers into consideration, it is a positive fact that LeBette county is proof against pest, and empowered with a marvelous fertility. Our fields are as green and luxuriant now as the fields of old were in the balmiest month of May in our far distant home at sun rise.—*South-east Kansas Advance*.

We visited the Bridge sight yesterday, and found every man at his post and hard at work. Everything is progressing finely, and work is being pushed to its utmost. The contractors have had fine weather for their operations, and should it continue for a short time yet, we will have the pleasures of crossing the Republican on a first class Iron Bridge.—*Clay County Dispatch*.

SINCE the Muncie robbery all the traveling employees of the Kansas Pacific go armed. Engineers, firemen and brakemen are simply perambulating arsenals. Expressmen carry Harper's Ferry muskets marked "C. O. D." Johnny Phelps has two rows of derringers on a side; Brinkerhoff goes around after tickets with a revolver between his teeth, while Cheney collects fare at the muzzle of an ancient horse pistol, which yawns on the traveler like a dead hog, and besides he drags after him through the cars a mountain "how-is-it air."

It is stated that J. Clarke Swayze is about to revise the Topeka Blade. It is to be an evening paper, it will be smaller than the old Blade, and will be sold at the low price of one cent. Mr. Swayze made the Blade a live paper while he published it, and if he starts it again will undoubtedly give the new paper the same wide-awake characteristics he did the old one.—*Wyandotte Gazette*.

THE Dodge City Messenger says: "The population of Ford county is about 800 in the next place, there are not 150 destitute people in the country. There is not a single person here that has been made destitute by grasshoppers. There is but one family in the county that requires aid, and their wants will be attended to by our own citizens. The citizens of this city are not of that class who would sit quietly with their arms folded, and permit worthy families in the neighborhood to suffer for bread stuffs or clothing. A more liberal class of men cannot be found than those which represent the business portion of this city, and it is not likely they will permit people to starve. They are amply able to feed their own poor, and will do it."

We give place to an article from the *Kansas Farmer* on our stray law, in to-day's paper, and give a hearty endorsement of the views therein expressed. We shall, however, commencing with this issue, copy such notices found in the *Farmer* of all strays taken up in Neosho county.—*Neosho County Journal*.

A two inch vein of coal has been discovered on the farm of John Burns, three miles north of this place.—*Jewell County Monitor*.

Mr. J. A. Kennel shipped two car loads of fat cattle from this place on the 5th; and returned yesterday from his trip. He reports the market dull and says Mr. W. Crandall has just disposed of four car loads of cattle shipped by Messrs. Crandall & Baldwin.

Frank Butler also returned at the same time, having been down to dispose of six or seven car loads of fat hogs, and reports he made \$1,100 by this single operation.

Mr. Haddin McMahon and H. E. Cowgill, will ship this week two car loads of fat cattle to St. Louis.—*Burlington Patriot*.

We were shown a specimen of coal a few days ago that was taken from the coal mines lying eighteen miles southwest of Beloit. The report is, that the coal shown to us was taken out near the top of the ground, and that the vein is about four feet thick. We pronounced it good for surface coal.—*Beloit Index*.

STILL THEY COME.—The other day, a bundle was landed up, which had arrived in some mysterious way, which upon prying into, we found to contain a handsome piece of cloth for winter wear, together with a quantity of the finest quality of white yarn; and we further discovered, that the articles came from the Woolen Mills of Cook & Chandler, at Blue Rapids. We have frequently been placed under similar obligations by those whole-saled gentlemen. The superior quality of their goods and their large liberality certainly ought to entitle them to a profitable business.—*The Kansas Chief*.

The Stray Law.—One of the papers of the State making objections to the provisions of the stray law which provides for the publication of the strays in the FARMER, says that it is patronage that rightly belongs to the county papers. In answer to this we would say, if the present stray law or any other one is created simply to give patronage to one or more papers, then his position is correct; but if on the other hand, the law was created for the purpose of finding stray stock at the least possible expense, then the present law is not only practically successful but accomplishes the purpose for which it was created, and for the least possible expense.

First—A territorial government whose executive shall be appointed by the President, and whose legislative body shall be elected by the people of the territory.

Two—Establishment of United States courts in the territory.

Three—A delegate in congress.

St. Joseph Dec. 19.—The Patee house in this city, the largest and finest hotel building in the Missouri valley, which cost one hundred and twenty thousand dollars in gold in 1860, was purchased to-day by the Western Baptist Educational Union, a corporation composed of leading citizens from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Colorado. Rev. I. S. Kellogg is president of this organization, Rev. S. M. Breaker, vice president, Geo. C. Hall, treasurer, Geo. Reer secretary. The object of the corporation is to establish here a first class university of the highest grade under the conduct of the Baptist denomination. Some of the wealthiest citizens of St. Joseph are members of the board of trustees. The articles of incorporation place the endowment fund at three hundred thousand dollars, with the power to increase it to one million. This is the first instance on record of that denomination establishing a first class university, over stepping state lines in its organization and control.

Beef packing closes in Kansas City this week. The season has been very successful, being far in excess of last year. Total number packed about 48,000; an increase over last year of 16,000.

Meteorology.

RAIN.

We have seen that the amount of watery vapor that the air can hold depends upon its temperature. When saturated with moisture it must give up a portion of it if the temperature falls. Whatever cools the air may therefore be considered as a cause of rain. It is chiefly due to the ascent of air into the higher regions of the atmosphere. Moist air-currents are forced up into the higher parts of the atmosphere by colder, drier, and therefore heavier wind-currents which get beneath them. Ranges of mountains also oppose their masses to the winds, so that the air forced up their slopes is cooled, and its vapor condensed into showers of rain or snow. The air as it rises is chilled by its expansion as well as by the lower temperature of the region into which it ascends. The deposition of vapor on the sides of a glass receiver which is being exhausted by an air-pump is a familiar illustration of this fact. The air is cooled as it becomes rarefied, and has to yield up a part of its vapor.

The temperature of the air is also lowered, and the rainfall increased, by winds that convey the air to higher and colder latitudes. This occurs in temperate regions, or in those traversed by the return trade winds, which north of the equator blow from the south-west, and south of it from the north-west. The meeting and mixing of winds of different temperatures is also a cause of rain, since the several portions when combined cannot hold as much vapor as before. The rainfall is also increased if the prevailing winds are directly from the sea and therefore moist; but it is diminished if they have passed over large tracts of land, particularly mountain ranges, and are therefore dry.

The quantity of rain is likewise influenced by sandy deserts, which allow radiation; by day or night, to take immediate effect in raising or depressing the temperature; and also by forests, which retard or counteract radiation.

Of the agencies that affect the distribution of the rainfall, the most important are mountains. These, as we have remarked act as condensers of the atmospheric vapor, and air-currents that reach them heavy with moisture are plundered of their watery treasures as they climb the rocky slopes, and have little or nothing left for refreshing the thirsty plains on the further side.—*Journal of Chemistry*.

Extracts from the Monthly Weather Review November, 1874.

War Department, office of the Chief Signal Officer, division of Telegrams and Reports for the Benefit of Commerce and Agriculture. The winds were of the most dangerous velocities, and but for the timely forewarning and the lateness of the season—many vessels having been laid up for the winter—the Lake disasters, numerous as they were, must have been largely augmented. Among the high wind velocities reported were the following: At Chicago, 35 miles an hour; Milwaukee, 46; Port Huron, 45; Toledo, 48; Grand Haven, 52; Buffalo, 52; Cleveland, 52; Cape Hatteras, 62; Knoxville, 60.

The lowest barometers recorded were: At Buffalo, 28.93 inches—considerably below the lowest record of the past two years at this station; at Alpena, an uncorrected barometer read 28.20—the lowest reading ever taken at this station; at Dubuque, 29.07—the lowest record of the station; at Milwaukee, 28.84 inches.

Closes of Navigation.—On the 18th, Lake Superior was frozen over between Duluth and Superior, and the steam ferry boat cut down and sunk in shoal water on Minnesota Point. The river froze at La Crosse, Wisconsin, and St. Paul, Minnesota, on the 29th; at Omaha, on the 25th; at Yankton, on the 28th, and Fort Sully on the 18th. Navigation closed at Dubuque, Iowa, on the 21st, and at Keokuk, was seriously impeded on the 30th.

A Man of a Thousand.

A CONSUMPTIVE CURED.—When death was hourly expected from Consumption, all remedies having failed, accident led to a discovery whereby Dr. H. James cured his only child with a preparation of Canabals Indica. He now gives this recipe free on receipt of two stamps to pay expenses. There is not a single symptom of consumption that it does not disperse: Night Sweats, Irritation of the Nerves, Difficulty of expectoration, Sharp Pains in the Lungs, Nausea at the Stomach, Inaction of the Bowels, and Wasting of the Muscles. Address Craddock & Co., 1038 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa., giving name of this paper.

Literary and Domestic.

EDITED BY MRS. M. W. HUDSON.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Old Christmas comes but once a year,
"Let every man be jolly,
Each room with yule leaves is dressed,
And every post with holly."

A merry Christmas to every reader of the FARMER, father and mother, youth and maid and the little ones, bless them, every one.

May the larders be well stocked, hearts overflowing with content, the stockings full of goodies and the goose done to a turn.

In the good old times, in the old countries, of which we read and aged grandmothers tell us, every house, both great and small, the lowly cottage as well as the Hall and Castle, were decked for this happy day; it was a beautiful custom and one which we wish could be revived; it would make us all feel young again to have one green day in the long winter, and it would make the day a brighter one for the sons and daughters to look back to, after the little feet now toddling beside us have strayed from the fold.

What grand old days those must have been, when the yule log was lighted with great ceremony by a brand preserved from the year before; when the boar's head was carried in, in state, by the young men, and decorated by the maidens, and when feasting and merry making was kept up for many days together. In some parts of Europe great festivities are still held at Christmas time, but the holidays of Merrie England are not what they were when our forefathers came over in the May flower; only in the cold countries where winter lasts three-fourths of the year do they hold these long carnivals and cling to the ancient customs, and indeed they must need them there if anywhere, to break the monotony of the long cold winters. There they give all kinds of domestic animals holiday rations, and treat even the birds, by placing a sheaf of grain over the door or on the eaves.

But this is the nineteenth century, and we live in America and are in too much of a hurry, too poor, too busy getting rich, to have a very jolly time; but life would be more satisfactory as well as more profitable, we believe, if we would go a little slower and cease hurrying so much. If we can't take a week of Christmas, let us take a day anyhow, and for once a year at least

"All grow wise, and all lay down
Strife, and jealousy and frown,
And, like the sons of one great mother,
Share, and be blest, with one another."

DON'T FORGET THE POOR.

Nothing will give so good a relief to a Christmas dinner as the knowledge that it has been shared with the needy; those who have an abundance and forget, or neglect, to share it with the poor this year, must have very little sympathy with suffering, and we trust there are few households in Kansas, where plenty abounds, that will not send a portion to some unfortunate family. If it is ever so little, it may bring more joy than we know; let none feel that they are excused because no committee comes and asks a contribution from them, but let every man and woman constitute a self-appointed committee to see that one little flock, one sick mother, or one disheartened father is made to rejoice for this holy day.

Fortune is a fickle friend at best and none of us know how soon we may see want standing at our own doors. Let not the sad cry that has come only with the biting cold, and after all has been consumed, be in vain.

"But let us on the waters cast
The bread of our reprieve.
Give! give! when Kansas' proud sons beg,
O, Heaven, who would not give?"

From Harper's Bazar.

MRS. DUNN'S CHRISTMAS.

It was Christmas-eve in Mrs. Dunn's cozy parlor; the back-log blazed and snapped with a good will, as if it remembered the days when the sunshine crept into its heart; the candles burned with a clear radiance on the mantle. Outside the snow fell, and drifted against the pane, the wind whistled loudly, as if to drown the Christmas bells, that now seemed far away, and anon rang out like clarion calls. Mrs. Dunn herself sat before the high polished fender with her knitting—a woman who had been pretty once, but no longer young now, with hair quite gray, and the traces of the tears that time had dried upon her pale cheeks, one might have said, just as the showers of long-past ages have left their prints on the stiffened soil. Mrs. Dunn's tears had, indeed, been shed long ago, but they burned yet so surely as the twilight of Christmas-eve fell about her. To night her household of boarders had all betaken themselves their several ways, this one to spend the holiday with his partner's family, that one with his mother in the country, the other with his sweetheart, till nobody was left but Mr. Royburne—a man as gray and worn as herself—who had only his violin with which to keep Christmas. He sat now in the chimney-corner drawing the bow across his violin, and bringing up long-past and long-forgotten scenes by the necromancy of his chords and melodies.

"One feels the need of a home on Christmas eve, Mrs. Dunn," he said, presently, breaking off the air of "Auld Lang Syne" suddenly. "Not but this chimney-corner is as much a

home as ever I've known, and no bad substitute; yet—perhaps it's only a sentimentality, but when a man reaches my time of life it goes hard with him to remember that he has found as the poet says, his warmest welcome at an inn."

"No doubt, no doubt!" sighed Mrs. Dunn. "It seems as if a boarding-house were only a way-station to something more permanent. That's the way it used to seem to me when I was twenty-five. Do you know I've got to kind of dread Christmas-eve as much as I used to love it; it's a sort of landmark mark that shows how far we've wandered from the hopes and promises of youth. As you say, it's a night when one needs a fireside, in its true sense, and love and friends, and all they expected to have when life was young;" and Mrs. Dunn's voice trembled and broke, and Mr. Royburne drew out a chord that sounded like an "amen." "You may laugh if you will at an old woman like me," she said, when she had recovered herself; "but I had a blow in my young days that I've never got the better of—a love affair—"

"Yes! Let those laugh who win. We all keep a corner of our hearts where no one enters."

"And every Christmas-time the pain bites deeper, till it seems as if I could not bear it, just as an old wound is said to throb and ache at its anniversary." Mr. Royburne tapped his violin gently, as much as to say, "We know what that is," but he looked curiously at his landlady. Having lived two years under her roof, and found her efficient in all the practical affairs of life, and always cheerful, it had hardly occurred to him that she had a more tender or romantic side, though he knew her to be companionable and even sympathetic, and with something in her air, a tone in her voice, that brought up the image of a fair woman he had loved long ago.

"It was when I was barely twenty-five," she continued. "I ought to have outgrown it and him by this time, but I'm afraid I'm not so strong minded. There! I shall bore you to death, Mr. Royburne—There are some folks who have no mercy on a listener; but somehow I feel like talking about myself to-night."

"And I feel like hearing about yourself to-night. Pray go on; a love affair's like an air of Mozart's, always sweet to listen to."

"Mine wasn't sweet to live through, I promise you. You see I'd been left alone in the world, with a trifle of money, not enough to keep me without work; that is to say, there was Aunt Huldah, rich and alive, but I'd no expectations from her, and would to Heaven I'd no realizations! Well, I wasn't quick enough to teach, and had no knack for millinery or mantua-making, and the hundred other employments women turn their hands to nowadays were unknown and untried by them then; so I put the little I had into a boarding-house. I didn't live about here at that time—you see, it's an old craft with me—I lived in the western part of the State, at Croftford."

"Croftford!" echoed Mr. Royburne, stooping to pick up the bow he had left fall.

"Yes, You have been there? It's thought a pretty place of its size. The house I kept looked out on the Mall, where young folks went walking arm in arm in the long summer evenings, and sometimes the band played—such tunes! They don't seem like the same thing nowadays. Oh, don't you feel well to-night, Mr. Royburne?" she asked, picking up a stitch in her knitting.

"As usual, thank you, Mrs. Dunn."

"Things come on so suddenly at times," she apologized. "I thought you must be going to have an ill turn just now. You looked quite ghastly, upon my word. Are you quite sure that you feel all right?"

"It was nothing, believe me—nothing more than a twinge of rheumatism, that one must expect at my age."

"Oh! where was I? You gave me such a start, I assure you."

"The young people were walking arm in arm on the Mall, and the band was playing; giving her the cue."

"Oh yes, thanks. I'd been in the business about a year when he came across my path. I dare say it's silly for me, with my gray hairs and crow's-feet, but some times of a spring morning, when I open my window and the fresh fragrance steals upon me, I find myself forgetting my years and expecting him, just as I used to; and when I come to my senses presently, all the day seems vacant and dark, and I go about with weights at my heels, and the spring sun is behind a cloud. I don't suppose you can understand nonsense."

"You don't know me," said the listener, turning his back upon her to snuff the candles.

"He wasn't one of my boarders, you know," she continued, "but he was intimate with some of them, and as familiar in the house as need be, coming to dine and to lunch when it pleased him, till he knew the lay of the land as well as if it belonged to him. That was long before I knew that he cared or thought of me, for though my glass told me I wasn't ill-looking—it has given over telling flattering tales now-a-days—yet I'd never thought much about love and that sort of thing, being a practical body, and too busy to meddle with things I wasn't called on to worry about. He got into the way, when his friends were out, of knocking at the door of my private parlor, and dropping in till they came home, as a matter of convenience, I naturally supposed, because public parlors are dreary places to wait in at the best, and he was one of those men, I'd noticed, who love luxury and pretences desperately. But one night when the moon was up, and the band was playing out on the Mall

"The girl I left behind me," and I was leaning out the window, after casting up my accounts for the day and giving orders for breakfast, watching the love-sick people strolling about by twos and stoppings to kiss each other in the shadow of the elms—somebody tossed a handful of cinnamon roses up to my window. Of all the roses that June blows that little old-fashioned cinnamon rose is the most fragrant to me; and it was he, calling to me to come down and walk; and I went down, too readily perhaps, and we walked through half a dozen tunes—such tunes as seemed like the music of the spheres with variations. Sometimes when I've been passing your room, Mr. Royburne, you've drawn out a strain or two of those airs on your violin, and it has seemed as if I smelled rose leaves, and I've had to sit down on the stairs to recover myself. However, when I reached home that night and locked up I'd found out something I hadn't known when I went out—I had found out that I loved Jules Adderley, whether he loved me or not. It was an embarrassing piece of news to me; it was both pain and pleasure curiously twisted together. It made me start at every step and get nervous at every knock, and I began to look in the glass with more attention, and worry about my face, and grow absent-minded about the bills and the housekeeping, till one night I met him on the stairs; he was going up and I was coming down, and we didn't do either, and—dear, dear, what an old fool I am! I can't think of that time without tears—and the band outside in the moonlight playing 'My love is like the red, red rose.' And yet he couldn't really have loved me, you know."

"I don't know any thing of the kind," broke in Mr. Royburne, almost angrily; "I'm sure that he loved you."

"I like to think so," she said, smiling to herself and looking into the fire; "but you haven't heard all. We weren't going to be married for a year or so, because he was only cashier in a bank at Croftford, the Pacolus Bank—I hate the very sound of it; The words burn my tongue—and his salary wasn't big enough to please him; and then I was in no hurry. I wanted to make money myself, and life had grown so sweet, I was almost afraid of my good fortune; and perhaps I was almost punished for my want of faith in God's providence. Well, one day I had a great surprise. Aunt Huldah died, and I went away to the funeral; and when the lawyer read out the will, she had left me five thousand dollars—in a stocking! The night I reached home Jules came to welcome me, and I showed him the stocking and asked him to guess; and then I threw the whole, part of which was shining gold and silver, on the table, and it rung with a pleasant sound. But it seemed to me that Jules had something on his mind that night, and I rallied him about it; but that made him put out. And then I put the money back into the stocking and locked it into my desk, while he held the lamp; and I remember that when I opened the desk he caught sight of the dagger-type I'd had taken to give him on Christmas, and begged it; and I wouldn't let him have it, because it wasn't good, and I meant to sit again, and after he had gone I put it into the fire and said nothing. But when he said good-night, there was something odd about him; he looked at me long and searchingly, as if he'd like to see my thoughts themselves; and once or twice he began to speak, and broke off with a kiss, and finally he told me I shouldn't see him for a few days, as he was going out of town on bank business." Mrs. Dunn paused, and sighed profoundly; Mr. Royburne walked to the window, and shivered as he looked out on the wild night.

"It was only a few days later when Langton, the assistant cashier, who boarded with me, came into my private parlor and said he wanted to speak with me confidentially about Jules. You can't tell what a chill it gave me. I thought nothing but he had dropped dead—and I'd rather it had been so! It seems Jules had been using the bank's money to speculate on. He had lost, of course, and Langton had been the first to discover it, and he came to me, he said, in order that I might warn Jules that it couldn't be kept long from the board of directors, as they'd already got wind of something wrong, unless he could replace the money immediately by begging or borrowing. You may guess my feelings! I made no question but Jules had gone out of town with a view to raising the money somehow, too much ashamed to ask me for it and tell me his fault; but he had left no address, and all I could do was to wait his return in a fever of impatience, and it was Christmas-week, too, when everybody's expected to be cheerful, and there's no end of work to be done. Some of my boarders had gone to keep the season among their friends, but there were a few left who, like you, Mr. Royburne, had nowhere to go; and while we were sitting at tea on Christmas-eve it suddenly seemed to me as if I heard somebody going over the front stairs and the thought passed through my mind, 'Who can it be?' and then I reflected, 'Oh, it's probably Nancy carrying up the clean clothes from the wash,' and I rang the bell for Tildy, the table girl, to bring up the toast, and asked her, aside, where Nancy was."

"In the kitchen, marm," said she, "a folding off the clean clothes from the bars."

"And Bridget, is she there too?" I said.

"Yes, marm, a stoning the raisins."

"And isn't Mary (the chamber-maid) helping her?" I asked.

"Not she," said Tildy; "she's shivering out at the pump, sure, a-blathering along of Barney."

"I don't know what possessed me, but I just

asked Miss Gruder to take my place at the urn and I went up stairs alone. I'd left a light burning in my parlor, but the hair of my flesh stood up when I saw that it was burning in my bed-room instead, which opened out of the parlor. However, after a little reflection, I considered that I might have been mistaken in my absence of mind, and I stepped into the parlor, which was just light enough to show me my desk with the lid open and the papers scattered about. I thought of my stocking in a minute, and you could have knocked me down with a feather, though I had taken the precaution to sew it into my mattress that very day, till I could get ready to use it. I felt certain that whoever it was must be well acquainted with my ways, and had observed where I put my keys. And who but one of the servants could that be? And just as I was wondering if Tildy could be in conspiracy with the thief, I saw the door of the closet, that was ajar, tremble. Without a second thought, I flew to it and wrenched it open, and—it was Jules Adderley who stepped out! We looked at each other a full minute in the half-light, but we never exchanged a word. He had been too faint-hearted to confess his sin and ask my help, and craven enough to steal into my house for my money. Do you think I could forgive him? I just motioned toward the door, and his head fell upon his breast, and he walked slowly out and down stairs, I following, and out into the wide lonely night. The Christmas bells were just beginning to vibrate upon the air as I closed the door upon him; and they found me at the foot of the stairs in a dead faint."

"I had meant all along to give him the five thousand. With that and what I could have raised on my house we could have made good the bank's loss, and he would only have forfeited his situation."

"By the next week the affair was town talk, and every body knew he had decamped. He dropped a letter into the mail for me, to be sure, but I never opened it. I didn't care to read his lame excuses; he couldn't say anything I didn't know already. I didn't want to keep alive any spark of regret or affection for him. I wanted to tread on it, as I would on a serpent that had stung me. But nature is sometimes stronger than resolve; I couldn't bring myself to burn the letter. I've kept it with the seal unbroken, and I've written it in my will that it shall be buried with me."

"Well, it was ten years later before I married Mr. Dunn—not for love, of course; that was all over with me. But he was going to the bad, and needed a helping hand, and vowed it would be the same thing as giving him over to damnation if I refused. But I was served rightly. He led me a hard life and spent my money, and here I am a widow, not so well off as I was at twenty-five, with the world before me where to choose, and a belief in happiness this side of heaven. Ah, we've let the fire get low. I'm all of a shiver. How garrulous I've been! Save us, it's twelve o'clock!"

"It is Christmas-day," said Mr. Royburne. "You leave your story unfinished unless you read the letter of Jules. Why not celebrate the day thus, if I may be so bold?"

"Do you know, I've been tempted to do that very thing. I've been fighting against it all yesterday," she answered.

"It never occurred to you, perhaps, that it may not have been the money—the stocking—that he meant to rob you of?"

"What else could it have been pray? He knew the money was there; he had urgent need of it. He did not know that I loved him well enough to overlook his offense, and give him all I had for the asking. I would have followed to the ends of the earth but, for that, for better or worse. Not that I cared a fig for the money—I could wish it had all been sunk in the Red Sea before it fell to me. If it was not that, why should he have blushed and hung his head, and left me without a word of extenuation?"

"Was not the other fault grave enough to make a man blush and hang his head before his sweetheart?—enough to render him speechless? Ye gods! But the letter! Shall we hear it? Remember this is the dawning of peace and good-will toward men!"

"I almost dread it," she said, taking the yellowed letter from its hiding-place. "It is like a resurrection of the past; it will all seem as if it happened yesterday. There, do you read for me; my eyes are full of tears; the lines run together." And Mr. Royburne read:

"I can not hope, dear Jennie, that you could forgive me; I saw that there was no mercy for me in your face last night when I had crept into your house, hoping to carry off your picture as a remembrance of all I had lost by my folly and sin, not daring to meet you face to face and hear your upbraidings and see the contempt in your eyes, and beg of you that last favor. But I ask that you will not utterly despise me, that you will think as kindly of me as you may, believing that my temptation was great, and my punishment almost more than I can bear; that, like many a poor sinner, my intentions were better than my deed. Should you have one tender word for me, one consoling thought to cheer my exile, write it to London, not to Jules Adderley, but"—and here Mr. Royburne paused and bent towards Mrs. Dunn, and took her hand in his, carelessly. "Do you follow me, Jennie? 'Not to Jules Adderley, but to John Royburne' Christ's blessing on the newly born!"

And the Christmas stars shone in brightly, for the candles had burned out, and the two long-parted lovers knelt together in the first hour of the Christmas day!

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LET US SMILE.

PLAYING IT ON DOUGHERTY.

The Detroit Free Press must vouch for the following:

One day last week, four or five Detroiters went into Macomb county to shoot squirrels and kick their shins against logs and fence rails. They had just eaten a cold lunch in the woods one noon, when one of the party, a young man, named Dougherty, stretched out on his back, pulled his hat over his eyes, and gave his mind up to the work of assisting his body to catch a little rest. The remainder of the party having an understanding before, quietly withdrew, one by one. One of them passed around to a bush, near Dougherty's feet, and took a tin rattle box from his pocket. Another stood close to the young man's legs, and in a suppressed voice, when the signal was given, whispered:

"For heaven's sake, Dougherty, don't move so much as a finger! A big rattle snake is right over your leg!"

Dougherty was flat on his back, eyes covered, arms sprawled out, and his voice trembled as he replied:

"My God! what shall I do?"

"Keep perfectly quiet! It is your only hope! If you even raise a finger, he will dart his fangs into you!"

The man with the rattle box gave it a shake, and reached out and laid a club across Dougherty's legs, while the other man moved off about twenty feet, and exclaimed:

"Heaven! what can we do? If we shoot, we may kill Dougherty!"

The club was rolled off on the ground, and the victim whispered:

"For mercy's sake, kill it!"

The club was rolled over his legs again, the box shaken, and the man whispered back:

"Be quiet, or it's instant death! I think the snake wants to go to sleep, and if you keep still you will be all right."

The box was shaken, the club moved around, and finally the "snake" seemed to Dougherty to settle down on his breast. He dared not whisper for fear of rousing it, but one of the men called out:

"There! it is asleep! We'll move away, and wait for it to glide off."

The whole crowd moved over behind a bank, and rolled and laughed and tore up the dirt until they were exhausted, while poor Dougherty lay there like a log, not daring to draw an ordinary breath. The sweat ran down his face, and started out from his body until his shirt was wringing wet. The fellow took their guns and tramped away, leaving him thus, and were gone an hour and a half. When they returned, Dougherty was sitting up, having discovered the joke about five minutes previously. He didn't have a word to say, but there was a whole unabridged dictionary in his eye. They spoke to him, but for an answer he rose up, shouldered his gun, and made a bee-line for the highway, and none of the party has met him since.

A little Danbury darkey refused to go to church "Kase he didn't want to look like a huckleberry in a pan of milk."

"Sir," said an astonished landlady to a traveler who had sent his cup forward for the seventh time, "you must be very fond of coffee."

"Yes, madam, I am," he replied, "or I should never have drank so much water to get a little."

A man went home, the other evening, and found his house locked up. Getting in at the window with considerable difficulty, he found on a table a note from his wife: "I have gone out; you will find the door-key on one side the door step."

"Is Mike McCloskey in the ranks?" asked the Commander-in-Chief, as the army stood in line of battle. "Here Ginal," said Mike, stepping to the front. "Then let the engagement begin," said the General. This is the way Mike tells the story.

"Sixty dollars for a threshing machine!" exclaimed a young Milwaukee boy, when he saw the mark on one for sale. "Why, mother pays only \$2 a pair for her slippers."

A schoolboy spelled "sob" when asked to define it, blurted out: "It means when a fellow don't want to cry, and it bursts out at itself." Another defined a comma as "a period with a tail."

A couple of fellows who were pretty thoroughly soaked with whiskey got into the gutter. After floundering for some time, one of them said: "Let's go to another house, this hotel leaks."

"Mamma, where do the cows get the milk?" asked Willie, looking up from the foaming pan of milk which he had been intently regarding. "Where do you get your tears?" was the answer. After a thoughtful silence he again broke out: "Mamma, do cows have to be spanked?"

MODERN WOMEN.

It is a sad commentary upon our boasted civilization that the women of our times have degenerated in health and physique until they are literally a race of invalids—pale, nervous, feeble and back-achy, with only here and there a few noble exceptions in the persons of the robust, burly ladies characteristics of the sex in days gone by. By a very large experience, covering a period of years, and embracing the treatment of many thousands of cases of those ailments peculiar to Woman, Dr. Pierce, of the World's Dispensary, Buffalo, N. Y., has perfected, by the combination of certain vegetable extracts, a natural specific, which he does not extol as a cure all, but one which admirably fulfills a singleness of purpose, being a most positive and reliable remedy for those weaknesses and complaints that afflict the women of the present day. This natural specific compound is Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. The following are among those diseases in which this wonderful medicine has worked cures as if by magic and with a certainty never before attained by any medicines: Weak back, nervous and general debility, falling and other displacements of internal organs, resulting from debility and lack of strength in natural supports, internal fever, congestion, inflammation and morbid and very many other chronic diseases incident to women, not proper to mention here, in which, as well as in the cases that have been enumerated, the Favorite Prescription effects cures—the marvel of the world. It will not do harm in any state or condition of the system, and by adopting its use the invalid lady may avoid that severest of ordeals—the consulting of a family physician. Favorite Prescription is sold by dealers in medicines generally.

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