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SECREATRY—J. C. Wilson, of Topeka.
EXT. COM.—John Wheeler, Pardo, Atchison Co.
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The Fire Theory of Drouth.

BY O. W. JENKINS.

In the FARMER of Sept. 23, appears a remarkable theory of drouth, which we are informed emanates from Mr. J. B. Shane. By this theory, it would appear that the distribution of rain does not depend upon the physical geography of the regions compared, but upon the extent to which prairie fires may prevail within those areas. The writer does not tell us the limits of his theory, and we are left in the dark as to whether the burning of the grass on a township of land, a county, or a state, is sufficient to plunge the whole of the great western plains into dire calamity; or whether the limit of drouth is confined to the areas burned.

The writer asserts that years preceding drouth have been characterized by more extensive prairie fires, than years preceding flood. I have already heard his facts in this regard stoutly disputed by gentlemen who seem to have good opportunities of knowing.

I shall not attempt at this time to follow that theory through in detail, and point out all the facts it fails to explain; indeed, it seems to me to be too trivial to merit profound consideration. There are, however, a few pertinent points upon which it seems to me this theory fails.

In the first place, how is it that when large areas, equal to that which lies between the Kansas river and the Platte have been burned, that drouth does not follow in that region? In northern Kansas and southern Nebraska the grass was short for the year 1873; it was burned in some places, in others, amounting to fully half the area of those regions, it was not burned, and yet the drouth was distressing the past season. During the past year severe drouth prevailed in some of the eastern states, where there were no prairie fires; Kentucky is reported as having suffered in this respect to a greater extent than any year of late. Illinois has her prairies nearly all under cultivation, and yet she suffers from drouth worse it is said than in the early settlement of that state, when fires swept over the whole country; her creeks are said to be going dry; streams that were not fordable thirty years ago, are now fordable almost at any place they may be encountered. [See paper of Mr. Sawyer read at the April meeting, 1874, of the St. Louis Academy of Science.]

An examination of the meteorological records kept at Fort Leavenworth since 1836 will show the same alternations of drouth and flood that we have now. Fire swept the unprotected plains then with a fury not witnessed since the settlement of these regions by the whites.

Again, if stripping the earth of its mantle of herbage brings drouth, we should certainly have a worse drouth next year than we have had this. The drouth, the grasshopper and the chinch bug have cleared the country pretty thoroughly, and the scanty growth of grass they have left has been cut by the scythe of man. The drouth series being thus established, how can it ever rain again?

If it be true that our drouths follow extensive fires of the previous autumn, it by no means follows that they are in any sense the cause of the calamity.

A hard winter, with deep snow, generally follows the building of high houses on the low lands by the musk-rats—who would say that the musk-rats' high houses are the cause of the hard winter? This phenomenon has this explanation: The musk-rat feeds in the water, but sleeps and breeds in a nest built in the top of his hillock of grass, out of the water. Heavy rains and a low rate of evaporation cause the rise of the water in the marshes and swamps, and the poor animal adds story after story to his grass house to have a dry nest. But I think it demonstrated inductively and a priori that in the basin of the Mississippi and its tributaries heavy rains in the fall, by securing a large amount of water to be locked up in the frozen ground, and also as snow in high altitudes, affords ample means for winter storms, which we all know are generally followed by cold weather of an intensity proportioned to the snow area and depth. Thus the musk-rat's house becomes a sign but not a cause of hard winters. A wet fall, by keeping

the grass green until late, and wet until after the period when fires are so common, and covering the grass early with snow, as it assuredly will, would certainly diminish the area and frequency of these burnings. If Mr. Shane's facts are reliable, it would seem to me that they become signs rather than causes.

I predicted the drouth of 1874 by the logic of a natural law I shall presently state more fully. By the same logic, I now predict a wet, snowy, stormy, cold winter, likely to be followed by heavy rains next season, reaching so near to—if not passing—the period of maximum summer heat that drouth will not be severely felt next year before July 24. There is more danger of the winter freeze and dry March weather than a lack of water after the wheat crop starts next spring.

Prof. Guyot, in his Physical Geography, locates a sub-arctic region, extending from latitude 66° to the pole, as a region of almost constant summer precipitation. About the tropic of Cancer he locates a region of winter rains. Toward the pole it is too cold to rain, except during the brief summer: the air loses its moisture in winter by condensation, long before reaching the high latitudes. About the tropics the summers are too hot for rain. The heated air has capacity to hold large quantities of water, and about large continental masses it flows off in "polar regions faster" than the earth and masses of water it can make it. Hence the period of greatest heat is the period of greatest drouth.

The interference of these systems of rain in the middle latitudes produces a third, which Mr. Guyot calls the "Region of Variable Rain." Our spring rains are the projection into higher latitudes of the winter rains of the south. Our fall rains are the descent of the northern rains of the summer into lower latitudes.

Let us suppose that the air is always nearly saturated with moisture when the mean daily temperature for a week is below seventy; and that we find on testing that the dew point is steadily at sixty-two. Now as on this hypothesis a fall in temperature of ten degrees would produce rain. Manifestly the chances of such a decline are greater at that temperature than when the temperature is 100 degrees and the dew point still at 62. Let us call the temperature at from 60 to 70; the temperature of precipitation saying it is too hot to rain when it is much above that and too cold to rain when much below that.

We will see this temperature approaching us from the south in the spring and from the north in the fall; in other words the Texans have their spring weather, with its rains and frosts, and corn planting before you do, and we have them before the Minnesotians; and the drouth also begins earlier to the south of us and follows to the north, and finally disappears as a few dry days towards the region of summer rains.

As the sun recedes towards the south this rainy belt is dragged after him, and at length passes us as a period of fall rains. The interval between the passage of these belts is our normal period of drouth; if it is broken in upon by refreshing summer showers their intensity and frequency seem to me to be intimately connected with the following circumstances:

1st. The absolute amount of water left with us by these normal rains; 2d, the condition of our local condensers (the mountains), if these have less than the usual stock of refrigerating material stored up, they will not reduce those fiery blasts to the dew point so readily as they would if stocked with melting snow and ice. I take it, a hot dry wind sliding down from the north-west to encounter and mingle with another hot dry wind blowing up from the south is much less likely to produce a rain on my garden (electricity or no electricity) than they would if the one came down the hill over melting snow, full creeks and a cold wet soil, and the other came up loaded with vapor picked up in traversing a thousand miles of wet land lying to the south of me.

"I allers notice," said Deacon Podgers, "natur is a leetle inclined to overdo herself. When she gits to rainin' she don't know exactly when to quit; and when she stops off she she stops off short. Ef Natur did her dooty she'd wick up these corners on water an' let

it rain in dry time a leetle more an' hold up a leetle more in the big wet spells."

Alas! poor deacon, he little suspects that it is a part of the science of "Natur" that in order that there may be seed time and harvest with abundance of rains in the favored spots of earth, that other regions must go short on water; that "Natur" must have furnaces to be kept red hot, and refrigerators, in her system to keep up that circulation which makes some climates humid and others dry.

If the deacon prefers to locate near the furnace and refrigerator he must expect to be at times scorched by the one and frosted by the other, and at times go loaded and at others short in the water business.

He who gets midway between the desert—where it never rains—and another region where the rains are barely sufficient, ought not to complain of "Natur," if the desert scorches him half the time and leaves him short all the time as to his water supply.

To conclude this article, I say that this practice of supplying one cause for flood and drouth or indeed any other distinguishable phenomena or the reverse is essentially a fallacy. Drouth and flood more in succession with a greater or less cyclic consistency if the elements which stand its causes were few and simple we should be ignorant indeed if we did not calculate for a hundred years to come the loss of rain and the amount to fall in each shower. The elements which affect rainfall and temperature while in the main few, simple and constant have certain "infinitesimal differentiations," which modifying elements capable of producing a considerably increased or diminished "resultant" when the balance of the forces is struck.

The intensity of the solar radiation though nearly constant is not exactly so; the melted masses which circulate in the interior of the earth have paths of traversy nearly constant but still not quite always over the same lines. These differences are comical and essentially depend upon the movements of the heavenly bodies.

A differentiation being thus established from without alight when compared with the general effect, the modification within the earth may become considerable. Currents of air may be thrown into relatively new paths; the velocity and volcanic specific gravity may be thus changed. A region which, before the movement was under the shelter of a mantle of aqueous vapor may suddenly find it withdrawn.

The radiation from the earth, rapidly cools this below the average to such a degree, that a system of circulation intervenes which must forever attempt to restore the equilibrium without quite accomplishing it.

Who will look at the symmetrical figures of the kaleidoscope and say they are caused by a yellow pebble, a blue pebble and a red pebble? Yet there are all the colors needed to make all the combinations of that beautiful toy provided they are moved so as to bring forth certain combinations of light.

By what right does Mr. Shane say that prairie fires are the cause of drouth when it is certain that all he could possibly prove by his hypothesis is that, if you remove the covering of non-conducting material from the earth in one place and leave it on in another you will distribute the thermal equilibrium between these two places as follows: In summer the non-covered region will receive most heat in the day time and radiate most freely at night. The covered region will heat slower by day and cool slower by night; that for all the purposes of this statement summer may be taken as day and winter as night.

But when these influences are conceded how is it possible that they can permanently affect the climate of a region? For who shall say that in the course of the year these local distances do not neutralize each other; that the excessive radiation at night does not fully equalize the excessive absorption of the day.

Agriculture.

The Clover Crop.

Probably no other crop is so badly managed as the clover crop; none is put in the ground in a more careless manner, and none is used so

hardly; for it is pastured in the spring, up to the moment, when cut for hay, and then again for seed, and again pastured in the fall, till winter stops its growth when it is left to be frozen and thawed and exposed to every change of weather until spring comes again; then it is pastured until it is time to plow the sod, or what is left of it, for corn.

It is not at all strange that when this crop is so used its full value is not appreciated, although the fact that it survives all this, and finally, in its last stage, helps to make a crop of corn, is not the least of the many proofs we have that its value is greatly underrated. Again, its mismanagement does not stop here; but when it is cut for hay it is very rarely that it is done in such a way as to secure the full value of the crop.

When clover is in full blossom it is at its point of greatest value for feed. It then contains a much greater amount of nutriment, and much less of indigestible matter than when fully ripe.—N. Y. Times.

Save the Ashes.

Can we persuade our farmers, or one farmer, to be more saving of their or his ashes? Many of us have sown ashes and seen but little effect. It was (and always is) because there was but little sown. There was an effect; and it needs but little effect in a large field, to add quite a number of bushels of grain and a few tons of hay, which can hardly be seen on a large waste. But if applied more plentifully it will become visible, and there will be enough difference to make the ashes pay double and often triple their cost. There is not so much profit as upon plaster; there is upon nothing. But there is a fair proportion as with other manures.

They are generally necessary to the soil, having been taken from it they ought to be returned to it; they are the pure, the needed, the organic elements. In new land it is true there is less need for them; but in all old soils, especially land that has had little manure applied to it—barren manure—and has been dependent upon clover or sod, ashes are just the things wanted.

If ashes have been plentifully used to produce the soil, less are needed afterwards, as the supply is in the soil. Grass then should receive them, clover especially, as this gets much of its strength from the air, and needs the inorganic elements to offset the organic.

Leached or unleached ashes, both are good. The one (leached) contains less of the soluble, contains less potash particularly, but otherwise equally good. Save the ashes; and for a full effect sow them thick—twenty to fifty bushels and more may be applied per acre; and it is not too thick where the soil needs it as it generally does. The effect lasts for years. Particularly on meadows as ashes a benefit.—F. G., in Indiana Farmer.

Sowing Grass Seed.

Permanent meadows have been of late years much dispensed with, and the fields in rotation have been substituted to furnish hay. We think it a better system. The tobacco or corn ground is better prepared for the grain, so that a good set of grass for hay may be secured.

Timothy and all the grasses can be sown this month among the standing corn, or with rye. If the clover fails it can be sown next spring. The other grasses are likely to take better in the fall than when sown in the spring. If a meadow is intended to be sown for hay, the land ought to be fertile, and have an abundance of lime and potash in the soil, or supplied. The ground well pulverized and light, sow one peck or more of timothy seed and roll; if mixed grasses are preferred we should sow orchard, clover and Italian rye grass, as they mature nearly at the same time. Timothy should be by itself in a meadow.

In sowing grass seed for pasture, we strongly recommend the sowing of more seeds per acre than is the present practice with farmers. The grass seeds are so sparingly used that weeds spring up and choke them. It has been supported by reasonable arguments from intelligent observers that weeds exhaust the land more than useful grasses, while the latter are most producing, and the most, while being produced, returns as much or more than its production costs. A grass and hay

farm must be necessarily a profitable institution, if the amount of stock kept be well and wisely adjusted to the size and the capabilities of the same.

We know of no more profitable investment than that of a well ordered and well managed dairy farm near a good sized city. The butter, the milk, the honey and the extra vegetables, etc., besides the annually increasing productiveness and consequent increased value of the land would return a large interest on the investment.—*Maryland Farmer.*

Good and Poor Farmers.

Farmers are too apt to look outside for the cause of their failures. If the crops are poor they curse the weather if the prices are poor they curse the market and the middlemen. Sometimes they are right and sometimes they are wrong. Farming, like every pursuit, requires industry and intellect. Crops won't raise themselves, or sell themselves. If your land is too wet you must drain it; if too dry you must somehow furnish moisture. You can't control the elements, and bring rain by wishing for it, or paying for it; but you can keep the ground stirred. The cultivator is the best substitute for a shower. A field of corn or potatoes cultivated every day will remain moist within an inch of the surface, when your meadow and pastures are as dry as a powder house.

We see farmers every day, working side by side, both of apparent industry, the one always having good crops, and the other poor ones. There is always a reason for the difference, though the parties most interested may not be able to see it. One may be too stingy of his seed, or too stingy to use good seed. One plants and sows just at the right time, and always has his soil in the right condition, while the other is always behind his work, and never half does it. The crops of the latter don't seem to look as they ought to, and he gazes over the fence at his neighbor's fine fields, and wonders at the difference. He attributes the trouble either to his land or his cursed bad luck, and seldom sees his own careless, slipshod ways of doing his work.

When they come to marketing, the difference is still more apparent. The farmer starts out with a big advantage. His crops are first class, well grown and well marketed; and the same pains taking care that raised them is used in harvesting, packing and shipping. While the careless grower is almost sure to be a careless harvester and shipper.

We are apt to think that any fool is smart enough for a farmer. If our boy isn't intelligent enough to practice law or medicine, or preach, or is too stupid or honest for a merchant, we give him a hoe and set him to scratching for a living; and if he don't succeed we blame the business and not his brains. The fact is, there is no good opening anywhere for fools, and the poorest openings for idiots are "oak openings."—*New Jersey Grange.*

Horticulture.

MISSOURI STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

For the last two or three years there has been a friendly rivalry between Kansas and Missouri in the exhibition of fruits at fairs, and at the winter meetings of the respective State horticultural societies; and each state claims to have had the best exhibition.

I will not decide nor offer an opinion, for circumstances have prevented me from being an eye witness. Neither do I urge that the contest be continued or renewed. But while I have my "Faber" in hand, allow me to say that the annual meeting of the Missouri State Horticultural Society will this year be held in St. Louis, and that I believe I speak the mind of every member when I say that we earnestly desire the presence of as many of the Kansas fruit growers as can possibly make it convenient to come, and let them bring the best products of their orchards along.

The time for the meeting is not definitely fixed, but our worthy secretary resides at Kansas City and he will no doubt give ample notice of the time, railroad inducements, etc.

Let us have a large delegation and a full exhibition of fruits. Fraternaly,
C. W. MUNTZFELDT.

When is the Best Time to Trim Fruit Trees.

This subject was under discussion at a recent meeting of the Experimental Farm Club of Chester County, Pa. from which we condense the following from the *Practical Farmer*, believing it will prove of interest to our readers: Milton E. Conrad said the best time to trim was when the wounds would heal quickest and when the trees were growing most rapidly, about the sixth or seventh month.

Prof. Peck said when to trim was not an important question in orchard culture. He had seen trees trimmed at all seasons of the year. A prominent orchardist said not to do it when sap is flowing and the buds swelling. It does not make much difference as to the time of the year only provided the tree is making wood rapidly and you don't cut large limbs. In olden times old limbs were cut off. A wound will heal more rapidly from the middle of May to the middle of July.—Mineral matter is what the tree depends upon for vigor. Fruit trees require more mineral matter than forest trees because we exact more from them. If wood ashes or potash are put on the roots of trees they will do well. In the forests the leaves fall to the ground and supply the trees with mineral matter but in orchards they blow away. Go to the forest and collect leaves and rotten wood and put about the trees in your orchards. When wood ashes are not to be obtained get potash or lime, especially potash.

Mr. Conrad asked how to supply ashes, &c., to roots? Prof. Peck said, by digging down to the roots or digging down far enough to prevent the grass obtaining any benefit from the ashes or potash.

George Bladerson said there were two general principles involved, over-bearing and barrenness. If the tree is weakly cut off some branches, and after the fruit is set out off some

branches. If some trees which are growing and long be trimmed and checked in their wild career, the effect will be good. If you trim a tree before the sap is run you make a sucker, but if you wait until the sap has run out its course you have no suckers. Abner Garrett said he had cut apple trees when in full bloom only on one side and had reaped a good crop of fruit. Other trees which had been trimmed all over did so well. Prof. Peck said when you trim a tree the remaining branches get more of the mineral matter absorbed by the roots, which is always a constant quantity. Didn't believe in too much trimming but did in feeding the trees with mineral fertilizers—potash and lime. John I. Carter said the Murate of Potash could be obtained for 2½ cents per pound. Marcellus S. Cook said a luxuriantly growing tree produces little fruit, stop that, and fruit will come and continue coming until the tree is exhausted. Putting an elastic band around the tree or belting the bark in the month of June will make the fruit come. He had done it in his orchard in two instances; change the circulation and you will get fruit, checking the tree by turning sap develops the embryo bud. If the tree is pruned in June the wounds are healed more readily. Orchards should be pruned when young and not when old.

The President said he had a tree that was not bearing, and turning his hogs into the orchard, they made the ground about this tree a place in which to sun themselves, it having such a fortunate position. The continual rooting and manuring by the hogs, started the tree to bearing gradually.—Two other trees which had been skinned by the hogs, redeemed their former barrenness by bearing profusely thereafter.

The Codling Moth.

The following letter on this subject was sent by a well-known fruit grower to the Secretary of Michigan Pomological Society:

DEAR SIR:—According to your request I will act as committee to investigate the best mode of exterminating the pest called the codling moth.

My theory is, in short, "Hog vs. Moth." This, my experience in the effort to lessen the ravages of that insect:

In the year 1871 I commenced pasturing my orchard with my hogs, turning them in early, as soon as the windfalls began to drop, and letting them remain until I began to gather apples for use. When the apples first begin to drop they contain more of the larva, and a sufficient number of hogs (about ten to one hundred trees) will keep the ground clean from apples, and also cultivate and fertilize the soil around the trees, thereby producing a double benefit. Late in the fall of 1871 I plowed my orchard, throwing up the soil and exposing it to the influence of the frost, thus destroying, no doubt, thousands of insects. In the spring, after cultivating the ground thoroughly, I sowed it with oats, except around the trees for six feet or more, which ripened and came off in time for the hogs to take the windfall.

In 1872 I had a splendid crop of apples, three quarters of them, I should think, free from worms.

In the fall of 1872 I turned my hogs into my orchard as before, and let them remain there until I commenced gathering my winter fruit. After the oat crop I seeded the orchard to clover, the apples, meanwhile, keeping my hogs in a thriving condition without much additional feed.

I think the plan of putting bandages around the trunk of the tree is a good one, but it will not prove effectual, and is attended with some labor and expense. The hog system pays its own way, and more too.

I will give you the opinion of Messrs. Peck and Perkins of Grand Rapids Town, our best fruit growers.

Mr. Perkins has two orchards on opposite sides of the road, in one of which he pastures his hogs, in the other he does not. The result shows a marked difference in both quantity and quality in favor of the former.

Mr. Peck also endorsed the hog method.

Therefore, my opinion is, that if every fruit grower would adopt this method, in a few years this pest might be exterminated.—*Michigan Farmer.*

Insects on Window Plants.

Those of our Lady readers who are "bothered with the bugs" on their room or window plants, may profit by the following from *London Garden*.

"There are insects that multiply by hundreds, and destroy the labor of months in a very short time, as we know they have often done in many places. Those who have glass-houses can control the various insects which destroy foliage and prevent the plants from flowering, for they have only to close the sashes and doors, and to light a pile of tobacco refuse and the insects forthwith depart.—Ladies, however, who keep plants in windows during winter, and on balconies in summer, are not able to do this; but if they possess a tobacco-loving biped, they might devote his admiration at the shrine of tobacco to some practical purpose, by requesting him to so arrange his morning and evening devotions, that the smoke of his burnt offerings might mingle with the leaves of their pet plants, and thus keep their branches and foliage free from these pests—green fly and red spider. If, however, their possession do not include this species of humanity, they can brush away the aphids with a feather, by placing the pot upon paper, on a stand, and afterwards burning the paper. Red spider is not easily driven from his destructive course; it is of strong tobacco liquor for ten or fifteen minutes, to dislodge him from his winter and summer quarters. This minute insect in one of the most detestable pests which infest house plants, and many a stand of plants is ruined through his agency. His presence is known by plants not having a healthy appearance—when their leaves curl up, and their bright green hue is gradually assuming a dingy look; under such circumstances apply the smallest of microscopes to the under surface of the worst looking leaves, and the disastrous effects will soon be perceived. The leaf will be found covered with red tiny mites, sucking out its strength and vigor. Roses, Carnations, Geraniums, Heliotropes, Fuchsias, and similar plants, are the favorite haunts of these red marauders, and often they take up their abode in foliage for summer and winter, unmolested, because the owner of the plants knows not of their peculiar habits. The flowers are not produced, but the reason is unknown. If badly infested, the something over the top of the pot to keep the earth from falling out, and then immerse the whole plant in soap suds or tobacco-liquid. Then take it out and dip it into pure water, to rinse off the suds or tobacco thoroughly. Perhaps the tenderest shoots may be injured, but that is no matter."

WHEN TO PICK WINTER APPLES.—We think it advisable, in most cases, to suffer the apples to hang upon the tree until they have attained their full growth. In situations, where the orchard is particularly exposed to sweeping winds, it may be politic to pick the fruit before it is full grown, for, as it approaches maturity, its adhesion to the fruit spurs is weakened, and it is liable to be blown off by heavy winds. But where the loss in fallen fruit is not likely to exceed the gain in size by hanging upon the tree, we should prefer to wait, as we believe that a full-grown apple will keep better than one but partially developed.—*Rural Home.*

Farm Stock.

COTSWOLDS.

The following which we find in the *Rochester Rural Home*, gives a good account of this breed of sheep:

"I am so frequently inquired of with regard to my experience with Cotswold sheep, that I am induced to give it in brief, for the benefit of the readers of your paper. In company with my son, Frank D. Ward, I began with them in a small way, some five years since. Our flock now consists of about 300. We have twenty to twenty-five first-class imported Cotswolds and their descendants, with a few thorough-breds from some of the best flocks of Canada. The balance are high grades. We have kept them in lots of fifty to one hundred, summer and winter, without any inconvenience. They are very hardy, and as free from disease as Merinos, and on some accounts more so, as they never have the foot disease.

They fatten much more readily than fine-wool sheep. The same amount of feed will produce more pounds of mutton and wool than in a Merino sheep. They feed and mature much younger, and when mature, weigh about 200 pounds. We have frequently had ewes, twenty months old, weigh this. We have now full-grown sheep that weigh 125 to 300 pounds. Their mutton is worth in market one to two cents per pound more than that of fine-wool sheep.

Our thorough-bred sheep shear ten to twenty pounds, and the grades six to ten pounds. We have sold our wool from five to fifteen cents per pound above the price of fine wool. Have sold it the present year for fifty cents, when fine wool was worth in this market forty cents.

The ewes are good mothers. Last year we raised about ten per cent. more lambs than we had ewes. The present season we are raising ninety lambs from about the same number of ewes. Our lambs, from three to four months old, weigh seventy-five to ninety pounds. Our experience with them is quite satisfactory. Whether they are more profitable than other sheep, every farmer must decide for himself.
C. K. WARD.

DAIRY MAXIMS.

Milk will sour quicker if the cows are fed sour milk. This is not objectionable for butter making, but it is objectionable for cheese making.

Cream from a farrow cow's milk will not all come if churned with cream from new milk cows. The mixed cream will make more butter than the cream from new milk cows alone, but not so much as if the cream is churned separately.

If I were receiving milk from low, swampy grounds, or from pastures filled with weeds, or from prairie, I would scald it. By heating to 150 deg. I would drive away the taint, but the scalding would also drive away the aroma of the timothy, clover, or grass.

Cream can be raised by freezing, but this is not practiced in this country.

If milk is kept at a low temperature, the cream rises slowly.

The effect of a sudden change in milk or cream is to injure the keeping quality of butter.

Whey, as it comes from the factory, invariably has a bad effect when fed to cows. If fed while fresh and sweet, it is not objectionable.

Raising cream by freezing does not expel the animal odor, neither does it destroy germs in milk.

The cream which rises first makes a better quality of butter than that which rises last.

The more aroma in butter, the less time it will keep.

So with cheese.

In the spring I would work all the cream in to cheese, to ripen it sooner and make it better, and work it off at spring prices. Later in the season I would skim more.

The cream from ordinary cows can nearly all be worked into cheese. It could not be done with milk from Jerseys or other cows whose cream rises slowly.

To avoid greasy butter, churn with pressure instead of friction. The dash churn brings butter by pressure, and makes better butter than most other kinds of churns. Butters should also be packed by pressure instead of friction.

The ladle or worker should not be drawn across the butter but pressed down upon it.

Milk, while being scalded for taint, should be stirred.

Results favor shallow setting instead of deep setting. The amount of cream seems larger sometimes from deep setting, but it is owing to the fact that in deep setting the large globules carry with them considerable milk. The amount of butter from deep setting will be less than from shallow setting.—*Prof. L. B. Arnold.*

The Check-rein.

Why is it so many of our farmers, and nearly all of our city carters, insist upon using a tight rein on working horses? When the horse, left to his natural inclination, has a heavy load to pull, he can best exert his backbone in one continuous line, and this he will invariably do if not prevented by a tight check-rein. Some claim that it prevents the horse from falling down, and when a man can raise himself over a fence by a lift on his suspenders we believe it. When a horse falls, a tight rein will most effectually prevent him from getting on to his feet again. Try it without the rein, and see if we are not correct in our practice and theory both.—*California Farmer.*

Spavin—Is it Curable?

Is a question asked in the *Western Farmer* and answered by its veterinary editor, William Horne, as follows:

None; spavin is not curable; never was, never will be—the many quick assertions contrary notwithstanding. At this advanced period of information and knowledge in all such and similar matters a man shows himself behind the times when the question of curability of spavin is not with him a settled fact, as an incurable disease. I have been so often asked if spavin or ring bone can be taken off, that I am impatient now the moment such a question is asked. Neither can it be cured, but may be so mitigated that the horse may be just as useful as though the exostosis of spavin or ring bone did not exist.

The surest, and with me the best remedy is the actual cautery (hot iron) in the hands of a qualified man; none other. Next remedy is active blistering with the common cantharides blister ointment, or strong tincture of iodine, applied for several weeks, but firing is the best by far, and most effective.

BRUTALITY TO COWS.—A correspondent sends us the particulars of the loss of a valuable cow from a large tumor upon the udder, the cause of the tumor—which was really what is known as a neutral hernia rupture of the abdominal sac—was a kick by a brutal attendant. I have seen thoughtless persons angered by what they were led to regard as stubbornness or viciousness of a cow, and forgetting the serious danger of a kick or a heavy blow, thus abuse the poor animal whose only fault was really bewilderment at the violent and unreasonable treatment to which she was subjected. Nothing could be more cruel and injurious, or more foolish, for in this way a man destroys his own valuable property. Repeatedly I have applications for advice about swellings, tumors, and inflammatory disorders of cows and oxen, which are more than probable, in great part due to ill treatment of this character, which might have been avoided by care and watchfulness. My correspondent suggested that women should be employed instead of men about the cow houses. This is a serious reflection upon the character of the men and the comparative justice of the suggestion is fruitful of regret and sympathy for the poor patient ill-used cows. But I could not therefore endorse the suggestion. The proper department of the woman is the household, and the cow-house has no claim on her. With equal justice might women be called upon to drive oxen and horses, because men are often equally unkind to them. On the contrary I would enforce upon the men the extreme duty of beating or kicking a cow, and in addition its worse than uselessness; for the cow, a naturally gentle animal—is rendered fearful, apprehensive, wild and rebellious by it, and her management is made infinitely more difficult. No animal is brought, by kind, considerate treatment from calfhood up, nearer to a well regulated, smoothly running and perfectly manageable machine than a cow.—*A Dairyman and Doctor.*

THE BEST MILKER.—Mike Walsh has been recommended to Simpson as a fit man to assist in taking care of horses and cows; so Mike was hired and placed in charge of this department. One morning, after Mike had been a month at the place, Simpson, who had made ready to start off with his milk cart, said to him: "Mike, you may give the cows some oatmeal this morning; and be sure to give my best milker an extra quantity." "The best milker, is it, sir?" "Yes; you know the old cow that gives the most milk?" "I think I do, sir." "Well, you give her four quarts of the mash." "All right, sir, I'll do the same." On the evening of that day Simpson had occasion to go to the old wooden pump in the yard. He tried the handle, but it wouldn't work. The pump seemed to be entirely choked up. Finally he discovered that all the upper part was loaded with something very nearly resembling oatmeal mash. He called his man, "Mike," said he, "what is the matter with the pump?" "The pump, is it, sir?" "Yes; how came the oatmeal mash in here?" "Sure, sir, I put it in myself." "You stupid blockhead, why did you do that?" "It was yerself that told me, sir." "I—I told you to put it in here?" "Indade ye did, sir." "Why, you thick-headed rascal, what do you mean?" "Don't be in a passion, master. Did ye not tell me to give yer best milker an extra quantity of mash? And where in all the world, I'd like to know, is the cratur that gives so much milk in your cans as does this old pump?"

The Position of Windows in Horse Stables.

We find in a German exchange some curious observations on the manner in which the position of the windows in the stable affects the eyes of a horse. In one instance the horses of a farmer, fine animals, celebrated for their excellent condition, were kept in a stable lighted only by a small window at one side. When light was needed for work, the door was temporarily left open; the result was that nearly all of these animals had eyes of unequal strength, and in time a number of them became blind on the side toward the window. A strong light directly in the horses' faces has been found to weaken the sight. The worst position of all for a stable window is in front of the horses and much higher than their heads. An officer had bought a perfectly sound mare from a gentleman whose stable was lighted by windows at the rear of the stalls. The animal was sound and perfectly satisfactory. After three months she became suddenly "ground-sight" on examining her eyes they were explained by the fact that the windows of the officer's stable were situated above the head of the stalls, the eyes being generally drawn in that direction.

She was removed to another stable, where the light was admitted from all sides, and in three months the difficulty had disappeared.

Another officer reports that during the campaign of 1873, in France, he rode a horse that was a capital jumper. On his return from the war, he placed the animal in his stable, the windows of which were above the front of the stalls, and in a short time the horse became so shy of the ground that he had to sell it. He had had a similar experience with other saddle horses, all of which became ground-shy in his stall. One animal in particular, a thoroughbred mare, renowned for her jumping qualities, refused in a short time to cross the smallest obstacle, and when forced to cross a foot wide gully, made a leap that would have cleared a ditch fourteen feet wide. Owners of horses who find that their animals shy at objects on the ground, or at their side, would do well to look to the windows of their stables for an explanation of the evil.

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. SPRAGGON, 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. SPRAGGON, Sec. State Grange. Topeka, Jan. 14, 1874.

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 the State Agent, which, after being opened, costs the agency for remailing. Secretaries should send their reports to G. W. SPRAGGON, Jacksonville, Neosho county; and Treasurers, to H. H. ANGELL, Sherman City. J. G. OTIS.

CHATS WITH PATRONS AND REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BY W. P. POPPENE.

Communications for this Department must be accompanied by full name and postoffice address. Questions are often asked which it would be improper to answer in this column. We shall not publish names—only initials.

We notice an article in the *Western Rural*, Chicago, written by a certain Land Agent in western Kansas, abusing a correspondent of the *Rural* for stating facts in regard to crops in one of the western counties of the State. Now this all wrong. It is well known at home and abroad that the west is almost destitute of corn and potatoes.

We see no reason why we should attempt to hide or cover up the facts in the case, we do not want to misrepresent our condition, to induce emigration. Other states have their times of plenty, and their failures.

A lady friend from McLean county, Illinois, in the midst of the great corn growing district, informs us that they will not crib more than one-third of a corn crop, and it will be inferior. Cause, chinch bugs and drouth.

Six or seven years ago in the same portion of Illinois we recollect that many farmers did not realize ten bushels per acre, on account of continued wet weather. See reports also, from parts of Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Nebraska and Minnesota. As misery loves company, you will be pleased to find that we are not alone in our poverty.

The display of farm products at the State Fair did not look much like starvation. We have never seen a better display of grain, fruits, etc., at any of our western fairs. It is true this display was made up principally from eastern counties of the State, and they have plenty to spare to our western brethren. Wheat is plenty over the State. Cattle plenty and in good condition.

So, we think with bread and beef, we can winter through without much suffering, with the additional help promised us by the Legislature and the benevolent societies.

J. S.—You have received a circular by this addressed to your Grange informing you what the Executive Committee have done and are trying to do to assist in relieving the wants of the brethren in the west. Also, notice what is agreed upon in the matter of dues.

Brother W. Clift, of Smith county, writes us, "There will be actual suffering in some cases in this county unless they receive aid from some source." There is no doubt but this is true, and if the Councils would find out how many are actually in need of help and who they are, aid could be furnished them.

What little means the Executive Committee have under their control must not be squandered, but must reach those in actual need. Now let each Council find out the facts in the case and report immediately to the office of the State Agent, so he can know what to do. There must be system in this matter, you know, brethren, we cannot do anything unless we know what to do, so go to work and assist us.

Bro. Wells, County Agent, asks the Executive Committee to make arrangements about State dues, etc. We are trying to arrange this matter now, by correspondence. We may have to call them together, but do not want to if we can help it, on account of the expense. Some brothers have asked us to call a meeting of the State Grange but we do not think it would be advisable, as it would necessarily cost considerable to bring the members together, and we think this fund can be used to better advantage by careful distribution.

In a letter received from Master Hudson, he agrees fully with the Executive Committee, that when charges are preferred against a member the Secretary shall furnish a copy of said charges to the accused, and at least one week shall elapse before trial, to give the party accused a chance for defence. This is only fair and just and we hope the brethren will not be too hasty in such cases, but be willing to give all an impartial trial.

TO EX. COM., KANSAS STATE GRANGE:

By previous appointment we met with the Patrons at Carbondale, Osage county, on the 5th of October. The meeting was not very large, but quite enthusiastic.

They seemed very anxious to form a Council agency, and quite a number of shares of stock

were subscribed before the meeting broke up. Bro. Wise is working up the insurance interest and presented the merits of both Fire and Life Insurance to the meeting, and believes it will be favorably considered.

Osage county reports members in a condition to take care of themselves, all except one family, of Hurricane Grange, which owing to the loss of their team, etc., will probably need some aid.

We staid over night with Bro. Ward, on Dragoon creek and took out an application of insurance upon his house and forwarded it to the central office at Topeka.

We met with several of the brethren at Lyndon on the 6th, but owing to rain in the morning none of the sisters were out.

Things around Lyndon are a little dull. The county seat question and local issues are working against the interests of the Grange in this vicinity.

We stayed over night with Bro. Dole, on Maries des Cygne—the river of Swans. The cotton lands along this stream are very fine.

Melvern in the southern part of Osage county is a live little place; has a cheese factory doing a fine business, but some of the Patrons think it does not allow them enough for their milk (80 cents per hundred).

Fall Grain in this vicinity is looking splendid, and there is but one drawback or cloud hanging over this beautiful part of our State, and that is, nearly all the land is burdened with a mortgage. It came into market last fall and the parties were obliged to hire money in time of the panic and in some instances at most ruinous rates.

On the 7th, after taking an application for insurance on Bro. Dole's house and barn and grain house, we drove 35 miles to speak in Coffey county, where we found a large number of brothers and sisters awaiting our arrival at the depot building on the M., K. and T. railroad. At this place we discussed the business features of our Order until nearly dark and staid over night with Bro. Jones on the Neosho, about three miles above Strawn. Bro. Jones has a fine place and is an enterprising and live farmer.

On the 8th we met members of the Order at Burlington. Strong opposition is felt in this county seat of Coffey county. The Council seems to have some difficulty in securing a place to meet, but will hold a session on Saturday the 10th and designate some person to act as insurance Agent for Coffey county. We attended a public meeting at the ward school house in the evening. We staid over night with Bro. Stoltzing, about three miles from Lerry. He keeps about 1,000 head of sheep and manages them after the style of the German shepherds. He never turns them out until after the dew is off in the morning, and changes his herd every day, and never corrals them but one night in the same place. He prefers sheep three-fourths Merino and one-fourth common stock. He has met with most excellent success. Sheep husbandry is certainly well adapted to this portion of Coffey county and a large portion of Woodson county. Much of the land is thin and needs improving. Sheep are well adapted to this purpose, and when rightly managed sheep husbandry is certainly one of the much needed and most profitable of our industries.

We found the Grange interest rather dull in Woodson county, but have done all we could to revive and stimulate it, and especially to urge forward the fire insurance interest.

Many of our Woodson county Patrons are leaving, and in some instances to such an extent that it is actually crippling the Granges to which they belong.

Woodson county is suffering from county seat difficulties the same as Osage county. Bro. M. C. Smith, our County Agent of that county, is talking of going to California; Bro. Hamilton and wife are among the energetic Patrons of this vicinity. Bro. Hamilton is Master of Dew Drop Grange.

We staid over night with Bro. Challace at Kalida, and next week shall go on through Wilson, Montgomery and Howard counties, and will continue our report from there.

JOHN G. OTIS.

The Grange vs. Legislation.

It comes within observation, that much of the time and patience of the courts is exhausted in the trial of petty suits, or those that simply express the malice of the parties. It is not unusual for those who are especially impudent to bring an action in the name of the State, and thus save costs, if beaten. There ought to be some means of punishing such conduct, and attorneys that bring such suits should be held up to general execration. In the courts of many counties, such cases occur, as one we noted recently. Two days were consumed in the trial; other litigants that had meritorious cases were hindered and put to expense; jurors and witnesses lost time and money; the court, the bar, the cause of justice, all were brought into contempt by the trial of a case in which the case, the plaintiff and his attorney, should have been kicked out of court, instead of being permitted to retire with a verdict of less than two dollars, obtained on technical grounds.

The amount of litigation which is carried on about trivial sums, and in which sometimes a hundred times the amount at stake is expended, is a fit subject for serious consideration.

No man has a moral right for a trivial grievance to cause the State the expense of a protracted lawsuit.

If two parties disagree we suppose they

have a right to "fight out" their difficulty at any expense of time and money, but when, as is commonly the case, they not only waste their own property but that of others, by employing the courts with their petty spite, thus increasing the burden of taxation, every taxpayer has a right to cry out against it, as an unjust oppression to private individuals, for the mere gratification of a feeling of spite against a neighbor, to indirectly cause an increase of taxation. We sincerely hope that the late resolutions of the Patrons of Husbandry in favor of arbitration for the settlement of all petty difficulties by arbitrators may take practical form, and that the doctrine will be heeded and accepted, until the judicial machinery of our State shall become perceptibly less expensive.

We have sufficient faith in humanity and in the onward march of civilization and reform to believe the day is coming when the country will support fewer lawyers—and perhaps better—and there will be less litigation and strife. The time has been when each man's protection was the weapon in his hand. Civilization has taken a long stride forward since then but she has no need yet to stop in her march.

Give us more healthy doctrine from the council chambers of the Grange.—*Farmer's Journal.*

How Farmers Help Themselves through Organization.

The great triumph of the Grangers in California, at least, promises to be in the direct line of business. In this direction they have already helped each other, in the aggregate, many millions of dollars, though it is little over a year since the organization of the order was perfected by the establishment of the State Grange. We think \$10,000,000 would be a low estimate of the financial benefits already realized by the farmers of the State, through the direct instrumentality of the order; and when we look into the future for benefits, the plans for securing which are already being arranged and perfected, words and figures will hardly express what may reasonably be anticipated.

The time will soon come when the Grangers will control, through a system of Grange banks, the largest amount of the money of the State, and direct its employment in the building up of a large circle of material industries heretofore almost entirely neglected. The great number of grain warehouses going up this year, and the rapidly with which they are being filled, show that the farmers are helping each other in a way that staggers those who heretofore made immense fortunes out of the necessities of this now vigorous class. The fruit-drying establishments being erected and operated all over the State, show that the order is assisting the fruit growers as well as the wheat-producers.

The cheese factories will be next in order, and the dairy interest will be assisted and encouraged; and so with all other specialties in the agricultural field.

One million people in a country like the United States, engaged in the cultivation of the soil, and owning the soil they cultivate, associated together for mutual protection and assistance, is a grand achievement of itself, and with proper management they can hardly fail to pretty effectually help each other.—*Sacramento Record.*

The Composition of the State Granges.

The following circular was recently issued by Grand Master Adams and the Executive Committee of the National Grange:

"TO STATE GRANGES:—In many of the States the number of members of the State Grange is so great that for all to meet would not only form a body so large as to render proper transaction of business impossible, but entail upon the treasury a ruinous expense. The Masters of many State Granges have inquired by what means such a calamity may be lawfully averted.

The National Grange having adopted the following resolution, viz: "The National Grange recognizes the right of State Granges to have the legislative department of their body vested in representatives elected by Masters of Granges in the various counties," we are of the opinion that, as the Masters and Executive Committee of a State Grange have power to do all acts for the good of the Order, between the meetings of the State Grange, they would be justified and have lawful authority to issue an order to the members of the State Grange fixing the ratio of representation, and appointing the time and place at which they shall meet and elect representatives to the legislative department of the State Grange."

Letters from the Farm.

"What is the best feed for soiling?" is a frequent inquiry. That subject has troubled my brains—if I have any—and with considerable experience in soiling, I am still somewhat at a loss, but I will give my views, in hopes it may draw out others, for sooner or later all the small farmers must adopt some system of soiling.

RYE

I would mention first, for now is the time to put it in. Two years since a neighbor suggested sowing rye and buckwheat together, in July. I tried the plan, and also added clover. They all made a good stand, and yielded good

crops of rye, buckwheat and clover in their season. The buckwheat was the first up, and shielded the other crops from the hot sun of August. I tried the same plan this year, but it was too dry, and neither sprouted. I still have faith in the plan, and shall try it again.

After my failure I replowed the ground and sowed it with rye and oats, still hoping to have some fall feed from my oats, and in spring from the rye. Both came up with good promise, but the grasshoppers were then in their glory, and my rye and oats were a tit-bit for them. But the rye and oats went, and so did the grasshoppers.

I again, October 1, sowed it with rye alone, and if we get seasonable rains hope to have a good crop for soiling in early spring.

The plan I propose to pursue is: as soon in spring as it will do to cut, begin on it; go over the whole piece as it is wanted for daily feed, then about the first of June put in the plow and turn all the green under, and plant it with

SORGHUM,

which is my next in the soiling system. Have another plat of ground well prepared by deep fall plowing, and as soon as possible in spring replow. Strike furrows 18 to 20 inches apart, with a shovel plow, and then drill in quite thickly, sorghum. In due time it will come up; then run your shovel plow weekly through it to facilitate growth. As soon as knee high cut it close to the ground with a scythe, and continue the plowing and cutting every two weeks until

Chill November's early blasts
Make fields and forests bare.

I think that plan will yield a larger amount of feed than anything else you can put in the ground. I have now a small patch of sorghum from which I am feeding, that was planted as a second crop, and did not come up until the last of August, that is now four feet high and topping out.

Calling a few days since on a neighbor who makes sorghum syrup a business, he pointed to a field where he had raised sorghum, cut and made his syrup in August, and now has a full crop ready for cutting for feed, from four to five feet high. He says neither drouth nor grasshoppers impede its growth.

Now, as to its quality. When I first began to feed it, my cows, horses and hogs touched it rather daintily, but after a week or so I find they "go for it" greedily. I know that when it is ripe or mature it has fattening qualities for all stock.

FODDER CORN

In my next article. My brother, who made me a visit last summer, said I had fodder corn on the brain. I look upon it as a very valuable crop for soiling. My notion—yankers have notions by right—is that it should be sown in rows 18 or 20 inches apart, and drilled in thick and keep the shovel plow running, with a short single-tree, until it hides the land.

PEASE

also make a good soiling crop, sown either alone or with oats. The little Canada creeper is probably the most economical for soiling purposes. It ripens early, and is off in time for fodder corn or sorghum as second crops.

Lastly, I will mention

ARTICHOKES.

They yield a large amount of soiling feed if cut with a scythe, and if left in the ground until spring, make good feed for cows or hogs. I omitted in its proper place clover as one of the valuable products for soiling.

Now, 1, Rye; 2, Clover; 3, Pease; then Fodder Corn or Sorghum in succession. I have little faith in roots—except it may be turnips. They all require to much hand work while young. With the others all can be done with a plow.

Now, my brother farmers! I am open to criticism; cut and slash as deep as you please. I have much to learn, and you are most of you able to instruct me. We must be mutual instructors.

KAW HILLS.

Your visits are looked forward to with eagerness, and we feel proud that the farming community is represented so well in your weekly issues.

We, as a class, have made some grave errors this year, and have also met with many embarrassments and failures, but we don't feel like grumbling or "giving up the ship." We have great hopes for the future of Kansas, and have every indication of a fruitful return for seventy-five.

This fall has been a very favorable one for wheat, rye and timothy, and a large acreage has been sown. Wheat is far in advance of any former year, for six years past, and we are taking more interest in the way of putting it in the ground, as to time of sowing and the amount of seed per acre.

Corn, in this immediate neighborhood is almost a failure, except on bottom ground, where the yield was half an average crop.

Flax was a sure and paying crop this year, but it requires a dry season—we fear we may make a mistake next season—many will sow from twenty to eighty acres.

Oats proved a fair investment, as some went as high as forty-six bushels per acre in this neighborhood.

Clover did first rate, but the chinch bugs destroyed a great deal of our timothy.

The Grangers are busy, and are very strong in our township. We have had several open feasts, and will have one at Pearl Grange, No. 909, the latter part of this month or the first of next.

Hoping the FARMER will be able to save a

good amount of bacon this winter, we remain
Yours, J. W. FISHER.
Prairie View Farm, Atchison Co.

Will some one tell me, through the columns of the FARMER, the average per cent. of increase from good healthy ewes?

What number of ordinary sheep can subside on one acre of ordinary prairie land?

How many ordinary sheep of an ordinary winter will one ton of good upland prairie hay feed?

Will they commonly need corn; if so, how much?

Is not Cotswold the best mutton sheep?

What sheep has the largest carcass?

What breed the heaviest clean fleece, commonly?

By answering my questions you will greatly oblige,
C. F. GAR.
Iola, Allen County.

Hygiene.

Tobacco.

Softening of the brain is a disease always connected with the use of narcotics in some shape. Tobacco is a powerful agent in its production. Trembling is one of the usual symptoms of acute, and a common result of chronic nicotine. The Minister of Public Instruction in France issued a circular to the directors of colleges and schools, forbidding tobacco to students, as injurious to physical and intellectual development. Tobacco and insanity are closely connected. It is stated upon the best authority that of those who become insane from the supposed use of spirituous liquors, eighty-seven per cent. also use tobacco.

WRITER'S CRAMP.—P. W. Sheaffer, Esq., of Pottsville, Pa., writes us as follows: "Noticing the article on 'Writer's Cramp' in your excellent journal for July, I beg to say, since I abandoned the use of metallic pen-holders and adapted those of gutta percha I am no longer troubled with cramp. Formerly the galvanic effect of the metal, as I believe, extended from the fingers to the shoulder, almost disabling me from use of the pen. Some four years since I began the use of gutta percha holders, and now write with ease, though never well. Hoping my experience may benefit others similarly afflicted, I send you this."—*Journal of Chemistry.*

ALCOHOL IN POPULAR "BITTERS."—We need not inform our readers that the various "Bitters" sold so extensively owe their popularity in no small degree to the alcohol they contain. Thousands of people who would never touch ardent spirits in their ordinary forms take these disguised drinks habitually. Mr. Henry Vaughan, State Assayer of Rhode Island, has lately made an analysis of thirty-five varieties of these "bitters," including all the favorite "brands" in the market. He finds that the amount of alcohol in them varies from 6.36 to 59.14 per cent. Twenty-three out of the whole number contain more than 30 per cent., while only six fall below 20 per cent.—*Journal of Chemistry.*

Separate Towels.

Health follows neatness, and disease the departure from it. The use of the same towel by many common in a public place though more allowable than the use of the same toothbrush is, nevertheless, a not much healthier practice. A prominent oculist says that the contagious Egyptian or granular inflammation of the eyes is spreading rapidly throughout the country, and adds, I have in many, and I may say in the majority of cases, been able to trace the disease to the use of the so-called rolling towels. Such towels are generally found in our country hotels and the sleeping apartments of the working-classes; and being thus used by nearly every one, are made the carriers of one of the most dangerous, and, as regards its symptoms, most troublesome diseases of the eye. I would strongly recommend that the using of the rolling towel be abolished, for thereby we will discard one of the great instruments for the spread of such a dangerous disease of the eye, by which thousands of working men are annually deprived of their means of support.—*Ec.*

Mass Meetings.

CAMPAIGN OF THE

Independent Reform

PARTY.

For the 3d Congressional Dist.let.

Hon. J. K. Hudson, nominee of the Independent Reform Party of the Third Congressional District, will be present and address the people at the times and places herein named.

The following well known gentlemen have consented to be present and will assist in various localities:

Hon. J. C. Cusey, Col. J. R. Hallawell, Col. G. P. Smith, Hon. W. B. Christopher, Hon. Thaddeus Walker, Gov. S. J. Crawford, Hon. M. J. Fiery, Hon. P. B. Maxson, Col. John Ritchie, Hon. J. R. Dean; Col. S. N. Wood, Hon. F. W. Potter, and many other will lend their voice and presence through out the District.	Emporia, Thursday, Oct. 22d 2 p. m.
Americus, Friday, " 23d 2 "	
Council Grove, Saturday, " 24th 2 "	
Parkerville, Monday, " 26th 2 "	
Wabunsee, Tuesday, " 27th 7 "	
Alma, Wednesday, " 28th 2 "	
Burlingame, Saturday, " 31st 2 "	
Lyndon, Monday, November 2d 2 "	

The Reform State Executive Committee would urge upon the friends of this movement the necessity of a thorough and early organi-

zation. A full vote in every precinct guarantees success. For this purpose we advise the friends of Reform in every county where they are unorganized, to meet at their respective county seats on Saturday, 3d day of October, in Mass Convention, for the purpose of placing a full county ticket in the field, or appointing an early day for that purpose; as may seem best in their judgment. Also, to organize a thorough canvass of every School District, which local and other speakers that can be engaged, should attend. We regard this local organization and local canvass, as equal in importance to any work in the Campaign. If heartily and enthusiastically prosecuted, it will secure results that will redound to the honor and prosperity of the State.

The Committee urges that the county organizations assist in advertising these meetings, and that the County Executive Committees secure such places for holding meetings as they deem best, and make all necessary preliminary arrangements to secure successful meetings.

By order of the State Central Committee.

THE KANSAS FARMER.

GRASSHOPPER CLUB OFFER.

While we understand that people must read and in times of trouble that a paper such as the KANSAS FARMER can be of great value to its readers, gathering as it does from wide and numerous sources, information, news and suggestions, we propose to divide as nearly as possible the burthen of the present season.

To accommodate the smaller post offices and place the FARMER within everybody's reach we have determined to receive clubs of 10 or more, to be sent at one time, for one or more post offices, at \$1.25 per copy for one year. This, it must be remembered, includes the prepayment of postage after January 1st.

Farmers, this is your paper. It is independent, fearless and reliable. It is a family paper, a farm paper, containing a wide range of useful, valuable and interesting reading for every member of your household. Will you give your support to your own journal? To print a paper like the KANSAS FARMER, in a new State, requires a strong and liberal support. The people of Kansas and the west can give this, and if every subscriber will put his shoulder to the wheel and give us another new subscription besides his own for the coming year we will in return give you a paper which will favorably compare with any or its kind published in the country.

PATRONS' HAND-BOOK.

We received a copy of the "Patrons' Hand-Book," published by J. K. Hudson, of Topeka, which contains a large amount of useful information to the Patrons. Every member of the Grange should procure a copy.—*Smith Co. Pioneer.*

We are indebted to J. K. Hudson, editor of the Kansas Farmer, for a copy of the "Patrons' Hand-Book," printed in his office, which is a neatly printed octavo, of forty pages, bound in cloth.—*Wilson County Citizen.*

We are indebted to Hon. J. K. Hudson for a copy of the "Patrons' Hand-Book." It is a neatly gotten up book, and should be in the hands of every Patron.—*Garnett Plaindealer.*

Mr. J. K. Hudson, of the Kansas Farmer, sends us a handy little volume, the "Patrons' Hand-Book," containing the Constitution, By-Laws, Decisions, Directions, etc., of value to Patrons or those wishing to be informed on Grange subjects.—*Western Rural.*

From J. K. Hudson, Topeka, Kansas, the "Patrons' Hand-Book," for the use and benefit of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. It contains much useful matter to the members of the Order.—*Maryland Farmer.*

This little book will be found indispensable by the Grangers who desire to be posted in regard to the constitution and history of their Order. The manual of parliamentary usage is alone worth the price of the book.—*Sumner County Press.*

WM. McC. 10, State Agent of the Patrons of Husbandry for Nebraska, says of the "Patrons' Hand-Book," "It is a neat and convenient work, and a very valuable acquisition to the Patron's library."

THE PATRONS' HAND-BOOK.—From J. K. Hudson, of the Kansas Farmer, we have received a copy of the "Patrons' Hand-Book." It is a compilation of all the material pertaining to the Order, and should be in the hands of every member.—*Garnett Weekly Journal.*

This sheet is well filled with matters of interest to every farmer in the state, being devoted exclusively to agricultural and general information on the "sons of toil," and will also contain valuable contributions and discussions upon the great farmers' movement.—*Fl. Scott Pioneer.*

From J. E. Barnes, Sec. Kentucky State Grange.

I find in the Hand-Book much of value to the Grange. It will fill a void in our necessities long felt. Would like to see the Hand-Book in every Grange in the State.

From W. W. Armaworthy, Council Agent, Crawford County, Kansas.

I find it covers a want long felt by every Patron of Husbandry, and should be in the hands of every Patron.

From D. M. Stewart, Sec. Ohio State Grange.

I think it is the best I have seen, and containing just such information as I daily need, and every Secretary should have one.

Bro. J. K. Hudson, editor of the Kansas Farmer, Topeka, Kan., publishes a very useful little work for Patrons, entitled "The Patrons' Hand-Book," for instruction in the Constitution, By-Laws, Manual and General Working of the Grange. It is recommended by the Worthy Master of the State Grange of South Carolina, who desires to see it introduced into every Grange in the state. Price, 25 cents.—*Rural South Carolinian.*

Mr. J. P. Davis, County Agent of Brown county, says: "I think it a useful book for our Order, and should be in every Grange in the State."

We have just received from Bro. J. K. Hudson, editor of the Kansas Farmer, a copy of the "Patrons' Hand-Book," a very valuable forty page volume compiled with great care by Bro. Hudson, and containing, besides the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Grange and of the Kansas State Grange, by-laws for county and subordinate granges, rules of order, manual of practice, parliamentary law, etc. It is a very convenient and valuable hand-book, and would assist every Patron very materially in comprehending all the workings of the Order. The Hand-Book is sold at the very low price of 25 cents.—*Michigan Northern Granger.*

PATRONS' HAND-BOOK.—We have received from the publisher, J. K. Hudson, of the Kansas Farmer, Topeka, a copy of the above useful book. Its list of national and state granges seems to be complete, besides containing the national and state constitutions, with decisions and much other interesting matter. It should be in the hands of every Patron.—*Lanark.*

The "Patrons' Hand-Book," published by Brother J. K. Hudson, of the Kansas Farmer, has been received, and is a complete and accurate work, though necessarily composed in a great measure of local information and advice.—*New York World.*

Permit me to congratulate you on your success in compiling so valuable a work. I rejoice too that we are getting a fine farmers' paper in Kansas.
E. A. HUGHES, Deputy, Monroe Co.

I received the "Patrons' Hand-Book" sent, and expect to send you orders for several soon. The contents are just what every Patron should know. I can see no reason why it should not be in every Patron's library in the land. It will be a success.
W. J. F. HARDEN.

Please accept my thanks for the "Hand-Book" just received. I think the book a perfect success, and do not see how Patrons, for the small sum of 25 cents, can afford to do without it.
J. L. HUGHES, Deputy, DeWitt Co.

We have received a copy of the "Patrons' Hand-Book," which contains the Constitution, By-Laws of National, State, County and Subordinate Granges, Declaration of Principles, Manual of Practice, Parliamentary Rules and Usages, History, Decisions, Directions, etc., of value to members or those wishing to become informed upon the subject.—*Kansas New Era.*

It is a valuable compilation of information concerning the names and addresses of officers, constitutions and aims of the organization, and much other valuable information. It seems to be a work which all Patrons who desire to be posted in their Order should at once obtain. Much care has been bestowed upon the book to make it reliable in all its statements.—*Chanute Times.*

The work contains what is usually spread over a two hundred page book.—*Arkansas City Traveler.*

The Kansas Farmer.

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

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In the Breeder's, Nurserymen's and Seedmen's Directories we will print a card of three lines for one year, for \$5. 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.

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 GEO. T. ANTHONY, Leavenworth, Kan.
 DR. CHARLES REYNOLDS, Fort Riley, Kan.
 S. T. KELSBY, Hutchinson, Kan.
 MRS. CORA M. DOWNS, Wyandotte, Kan.
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 R. S. ELLIOTT, Kirkwood, Mo.
 W. MARLATT, Manhattan, Kan.
 NOAH CAMERON, Lawrence, Kan.
 C. W. JOHNSON, Leavenworth, Kan.
 "OLD CENTRE," "COUNTRY LAD," "HOOSIER GIRL," W. P. POPPENO, ALFRED GRAY, Prof. SNOW, Prof. KEDZIE, Prof. MILLER, 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. To give 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.

To Advertisers.

Advertisers will find the *Kansas Farmer* on file for reference at the Advertising Agency of Geo. P. Howell & Co., New York; S. M. Pettengill & Co., New York; Bates & Locke, New York; N. S. Sower & Co., New York; Wm. J. Carlton, New York; S. M. Pettengill & Co., Boston; T. C. Evans, Boston; N. W. Ayer & Son, Philadelphia; Franklin Hall, Philadelphia; C. Wetherill & Co., Philadelphia; M. H. Deabrow, New York; Cook, Coburn & Co., Chicago; Geo. W. Rust & Co., Chicago; Chas. G. Foster, Chicago; Sharp & Lord, Chicago; Edwin Alden, Cincinnati; E. N. Freshman, Cincinnati; S. H. Parvin, Cincinnati; Sheffield & Stone, St. Louis.

The Movement of Wheat.

The policy of the Western wheat-growers in holding back their crop for higher prices, however advantageous it may possibly prove some one or two years hence for them, is certainly a very unfortunate one for the immediate general prosperity of the country. The steadily declining price of wheat at London and Liverpool, together with the small shipments from here, evidences that the only foreign market is slipping away from us and being supplied from other sources—not unlikely by the same nations which were last year its competitors in the buying from.

There are in store at New York at this time some 1,800,000 bushels of wheat, against only 160,000 bushels one year ago; and, if shipments do not soon increase, there is a probability that by the close of navigation New York will hold the extraordinary stock of over 3,000,000 bushels, against the average of less than 1,500,000 bushels.

This state of affairs does not indicate any permanent improvement in the price of wheat for the balance of this season, but rather tends toward even lower prices for such as will find its way to market at any price; this in turn, will only tighten the grip of the "holding on class." So that depression and prostration of all the interest depending on and connected with the wheat-growing section may as well be accepted as the rule of another twelve months. It is certainly a pleasant thing to be assured of cheap bread, but is not the 10-cent loaf cheaper to the man seeking in vain for employment? Has this crop of wheat been promptly marketed until Great Britain would take no more? It would have infused new life into all the industries and trades of the country, and have contributed towards the liquidation of our foreign debt; as it is, except for our own needs, the whole crop might as well have been grass hopped, so far as it is of any benefit to the country.

The New York *Tribune* takes the above extraordinary view of the abundant wheat crop:

It is a sample of how a biased mind, even though that mind belong to a statistician may make statements exactly contrary to the facts set forth. The writer of the above first exhibits by undeniable figures that wheat has recently been rushed in the New York market with a greater freedom than for a long time previous, and then turns upon the farmers and complains that they are holding their wheat! In conclusion, the writer declares that the wheat crop of the West might just as well have been all grasshopped for all the good done to the country by its production! It is hard to know what the *Tribune* writer is attempting to prove. First he asserts that wheat is rushing to market with so much rapidity that the 10-cent loaf is apt to become a 5-cent loaf, and in the next breath declares that the farmers are holding their wheat with unrelaxing grip, and are responsible for the hard times that exist. For if the farmers had only pushed their wheat to England in vast volume, and sold it for about enough to pay the railway and ocean freight, the condition of our foreign trade would have been greatly improved. Truly the mantle of the great founder of the *Tribune*, who knew so much about farming, must still adorn some peg in the *Tribune* office. A large amount of the wheat of 1874 has already been rushed to market, and it has been sold at prices which left no profit to the grower. Very naturally the producer of the grain desires to receive some small compensation for his labor, and all who can do so are holding their wheat for better prices. They are perfectly right in this. They have produced the wheat; it is their property, and if they are able to hold it who

authorised to question their right to do so or a wisdom of their decision? Go back through a grain statistics of the past and it will be seen that whenever a crop is so abundant as to drop a price below the cost of production, or to approximate so near the cost of production as to leave no profit to the grower, its production is largely abandoned, and the price is sure to rally again. The sowing of winter wheat in the United States for the crop of 1875 is over and reliable information places the falling off in area at a figure which will leave but little surplus for export even though the crop were ever so good a one. Last year corn was worth next to nothing upon Western farms, and wheat paid a fair profit. The cultivation of corn was largely abandoned. The result is that, this year, one acre of corn brings the farmer more money than three acres of wheat does, and in twelve months more it is very probable that corn and wheat will again have shifted positions in the market reports.—*New York Tribune*

The above extracts represent the opinions of two leading journals, one eastern and the other western, on the important question of selling wheat; of course our opinion cannot be worth much in comparison, but we venture to express a few thoughts in connection with it. We agree with the commercial editor of the *St. Louis Democrat*, just quoted, that the *Tribune* has got things a little mixed, but it seems to us also, that the *Democrat* takes a questionable position when it insinuates that no one has a right to question the wisdom of the farmer in holding his wheat for high prices.

Assuming that it is the staple crop of any state or season, as it is this year in Kansas, how is the stagnation in business to be overcome except by putting the wheat crop in circulation? How can our farmers pay their debts otherwise than by selling their wheat? How can our merchants pay their debts before the farmers pay them?

We believe that for the true prosperity of any country its productions should be in the market, ready for sale to the highest bidder from the time they are harvested, just as the productions of manufactures are from the time they are made.

The mistake of the west is not in selling grain as soon as it is harvested but in sending it east to be manufactured; in paying railroads a high rate for carrying the profit to New York and Pennsylvania. It does not make much difference to Kansas how much wheat England wants from the United States, if we are going to send it out of the State for just what it cost to raise it and let the Eastern States grow rich in grinding and handling it. The facts, in regard to holding wheat in the west, are that once in several years, the principal wheat growing states, Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan, are able to hold their wheat, and many farmers do hold it until they cannot hold it any longer, then they all rush to market to secure the high price which the have forced, and the result is, that by the time the poorest farmers, which are those living farthest from market always, have reached the shipping points, the price is down as low and perhaps lower, than it was at harvest. A very few have secured large prices and a great many have lost in shrinkage, time and money. If Kansas farmers have ever been beforehand enough to be able to hold their wheat it was before we migrated, we know they are not this year. We seldom pick up a county paper that we do not read of wheat selling at from 65 to 85 cents per bushel, and in many places farmers are feeding it to stock because they cannot get the cost of production.

They are forced to sell it or put it into meat that will sell; it is the only dependence in Kansas this year, and from reliable reports there is enough of it to feed all of our citizens and employ a great many of those out of employment if we had facilities for manufacturing it.

Why don't we induce somebody to build mills, instead of granting a license to levy a tax on a destitute people with which to feed their starving children? If there are any capitalists in Kansas who are able to make a corner on anything we would like to see them corner the wheat crop of this State and give our suffering people a chance to make it into flour. We are enterprising enough in sending out inducements for emigration, but when we get the people here we do not offer them sufficient inducements to make something; we do not know what the Patrons of Husbandry could do that would enhance their own interests more than to pledge themselves to sell their grain to millers who will manufacture it in the State.

Rev. Richard Cordley of Lawrence, said in his sermon of a few Sundays ago, on "The Situation in Kansas," that our main dependence heretofore had been the money which the new comers bring into the State each year. If this is true it is time it was abandoned, it is a ruinous dependence. The new comers are not half enough to consume our surplus and the balance is sold to eastern speculators and middlemen. The sermon referred to is full of good things, but we take issue with the assertion that the people of Kansas need "heart more than harvest, and courage more than corn." It is proverbial that ministers and editors never grow rich, and whether Mr. Cordley is an exception to this rule or not we do not know, we know we are not, but we feel confident that neither of us realize the actual destitution that exists in the regions of Kansas devastated by the locusts and drought. We think the people of those counties have very stout hearts and a wonderful amount of courage, that is not what they lack; it is the material necessities of life—food, clothing and fuel, and what they want is something to do. And if Kansas does not provide it for them, after publishing to the world

that they do not need aid from abroad, we think the western pioneers of Kansas will have a right to severely criticize the action of the authorities.

The press of the whole State, the state societies and government officials have used almost every means to bring settlers to western Kansas and it will be very unfair, if, now in the time of their calamity, they are not given the aid required to enable them to live through the coming winter.

To be sure they cannot all be employed in mills and mills cannot be built immediately, but they can all be assisted by keeping our productions in the state until they are ready for the consumer.

Dudley W. Adams, Master of the National Grange, says: "The history of the world and its present condition has established this fact—that all countries are poor which export crude, raw material, and import the manufactured article; and the tendency of the people is all the time towards a condition of dependence. To this there have been no exceptions, and we would do well to heed the warning and escape the doom." Where the great industries—agriculture and manufactures—are equally developed, the general prosperity is assured.

This will apply to a state as well as a nation and Kansas would indeed do well to heed the warning and avoid another year of such general poverty, which will surely come if we depend wholly upon agriculture as an industry.

No country can prosper unless agriculture is well developed, we cannot have too much grain, but unless we have a population large enough to consume it at home, we must manufacture it before we send it abroad.

THE POLITICAL EVILS TO BE CORRECTED BY INDEPENDENT VOTING.

The following extract from the Platform of the Reform party states in a few words, nearly all there is at issue in our present political campaign:

"The highest consideration of duty requires the American people in the exercise of their inherent sovereignty to correct the accumulations of evil and bring the government back to its ancient landmarks of patriotism and economy."

There never was a time in the history of the nation when we more needed the correction of national evils than now. Frauds, defalcations and wasteful extravagance in the administration of our public affairs, have burdened the people with debt and taxation. From all over the land the cry comes up from the people that corporations and capitalists and political rings are tightening their grasp.

Within the past few years the country has suffered much from being controlled by strong political rings, and these rings are braced and made strong by inner rings composed of railroad subsidy, and land grant, and banking, and manufacturing, and patent seeking rings, who, by bribery and corrupt practice, have fastened themselves upon our political framework, and well nigh destroyed the just balance of action in the administration of our public affairs.

Now, it behooves the people to correct these evils and restore our political system to a healthier condition.

During the last few months considerable advancement has been made in the work of reforming political abuses. Salary grabs and Credit Mobilier transactions have received severe rebukes. But there is very much left yet to be done, and no amount of opportunities should stay the purposes of those who are engaged in the work of reform. We cannot any longer afford to blindly follow the leadership of old politicians, and pay heed to party slogan and follow after the uplifted banner, and the rein of reveling marauding adherents of an old and reckless party, who are fighting only for place and power and plunder.

We cannot afford any longer to sink manly independence of thought and action and subordinate the best interests of the people to a partisan spirit, by voting for incapable, dishonest and unfit men for office. It is the duty of every citizen who would bring about political purification to vote for honest and capable men in whatever party they may be found. Untrammelled by party ties and uninfluenced by party whip or party promises we can accomplish reform, but a blind adherence to party nominees will continue the thralldom to corrupt political rings.

A glorious record is tinsel flashing in the glare of gaslight. But the people are not to be satisfied with such tawdry display. By hard toil they must earn the money to support an army of high salaried officers, who flaunt the banner of the glorious record of the party, and with unctious declare that, "we, as a party, can reform all abuses of which you people complain."

These promises of reform coming from men who have all the power and patronage of office, which puts party machinery in motion and controls to a great extent our primaries and conventions, is as sounding brass, and as meaningless. When the people are stirred for reform, solemn promises are made and protestations of intention to do right are plenty, but when the purpose is removed the old course of policy ensues.

"When the devil was sick, the devil a monk would be;
 When the devil got well, never a monk was he."

No, the time has come when all men should cut loose from party and be no longer controlled by it alone. We want men of independent thought and action. We need now to cast our votes for men. We want honest capable men who are not under the influence of any political ring.

Let us hope that the reform movement going forward among the people will change these things and triumph over the whole brood of evils that assail our political system. To do this we ought no longer to weigh fealty to party against the welfare of the people. We ought no longer to pay heed to the arts of men who flatter our party prejudices to be tray our interests.

We are told of the glorious history of the Republican party, and that we ought to remember what it has done for the country. So we ought, and give it full credit for all its good deeds and debit it with all its bad deeds.

The glorious record of a party will not satisfy a people for the evils with which they are surrounded. A glorious record will not compensate for Credit Mobilier transactions, where millions of money in the shape of government credit is taken from the people and squandered. A glorious record will not compensate for a salary grab, nor for the railroad land grants, nor for our custom house frauds and its enormous expenses, nor for compromise with defaulting revenue collectors—nor for the thousand official defalcations, every dollar of which is taken from the pockets of the people.

The work of reform should go persistently forward until political purification is accomplished, until legislation can be had in the interest of the people instead of in the interest of great monopolies and scheming rings; until Justice shall be reestablished in all our courts and the scales kick the beam in the interest of equity and just rights.

To carry forward this work of reform and make it efficient and serviceable the reformatory element must be organized, and use its power to break up political rings and remove from offices of public trust, corrupt and unworthy men and place in their stead men of integrity and honor.

It is urged by the adherents of the old parties that there is no necessity for the formation of any new organization. That the people have only to exercise their power and they can reform all abuses of party power within the party. That sort of reasoning sounds plausible enough, but it fails to convince.

The history of all great movements for reform tells us of the formation of new parties and organizations for the special purpose.

The history of our own country tells us that the greatest reform of modern times, the correction of a great evil and abuse of power, was made by the Republican party, and the Republican party was made up of those who came out of the old parties, left the old party organizations, and untrammelled with the influences of the old party machinery and government, came forth to organize the reformatory elements of the country to accomplish a great good. The great result has been reached and we now have four million of Freedmen. Their freedom is now assured.

The result of the "irrepressible conflict" is fully and safely fortified. The Republican party accomplished its mission and glorying in its success and strength has been for the past few years rioting upon the spoils of office and fattening under the control of designing politicians who have built up a system of political machinery with which to perpetuate their power.

The great life giving and moving principle is gone, and in its stead we have only scramble for office and place and power and privilege, and a prostitution of party machinery and power to the base uses of monopolies.

S. H. DOWNS.

Editorial Notes.

REFORM CAMPAIGN MEETINGS.

Hon. J. K. Hudson, nominee of the Independent Reform party of the Third Congressional District, and the following well known gentlemen will address the people at the times and places herein named:

Hon. J. C. Cusey, Hon. G. T. Smith, Col. John Ritchie, Hon. Thaddeus Walker and others:

Wabunsee, Tuesday, October, 27th, 7 P. M.	
Alma, Wednesday, " 28th, 2 " "	
Grant, Wednesday, " 28th, 7 " "	
Auburn, Thursday, " 29th, 2 " "	
Carbondale, " 29th, 7 " "	
Osga City, Friday, " 30th, 2 " "	
Lyndon, " 30th, 7 " "	
Burlingame, Saturday, " 31st, 2 " "	

And a Grand Rally at Topeka on Monday, November 2d, at 7 o'clock P. M.

Take notice that the time for the meeting at Lyndon has been changed from Monday, Nov. 2d, to Friday Oct. 30th.

The Committee urges that the county organizations assist in advertising these meetings and make all necessary preliminary arrangements to secure successful meetings. By order of State Central Committee.

Apples at Fort Scott.

The Ft. Scott *Monitor* says there are thousands of bushels of apples in Bourbon county which are so cheap that they will be suffered to rot.

How does such a statement as that sound alongside of these, that citizens in the western

part of the state are starving, and that the fruit crop in three fourths of the state was a failure? Have not the citizens of Bourbon county enterprise enough to send their surplus fruit to other parts of the state for sale? Are railroad rates so high that it won't pay to ship apples that are worth nothing at home? Can they not build dry-houses and save it in that way? It is a disgrace to the state for such an item to be in circulation, and we hope that if the *Monitor* is correct somebody from the destitute counties will go down there and help them take care of their apples.

County Superintendency of Public Instruction.

We notice in our exchanges quite a number of lady candidates and nominees for the position of County Superintendent. There certainly is no good reason why a capable woman not otherwise employed, should not fill this office, and we are glad that Kansas allows them the privilege. We hope every one of them will be elected if they are capable, but we hope the friends of woman's advancement will appreciate that nothing will so much retard her acquirement of "equal rights" as the putting in responsible positions of unqualified women.

We are not personally acquainted with a single one of these ladies but we hope they are all fitted for the places they seek. If they are elected and fail to do their duty they will be censured much more severely than a man would be under the same circumstances; and the "conservatives" will say "I told you so—that woman is out of her sphere," forgetting or ignoring the fact that thousands of good women have no home sphere, and that they are obliged to earn their living and perhaps support a family of fatherless children, a widowed mother or invalid sister. The right that women need more than any other is the right to engage in any honorable employment for equal compensation with men. Nothing will secure them this right but proving themselves equally competent with men.

If we had a vote we should not cast it for any woman because she was a woman; we should not cast it for a man if he held a third grade certificate and was known to be afraid to decide a question of trouble in a district for next election. We don't know that a certificate of any kind is required to make a man or woman eligible to that office, but it ought to be we are quite sure. The office can only be valuable to the people of a county when it is filled by a person of honor, intelligence and executive ability and we hope only such will be voted for, whether men or women.

Minor Mention.

Shawnee County S. S. Association.

The Third Annual Meeting of the Shawnee County S. S. Association will be held in the Methodist church in Topeka, on Saturday, the 24th inst., at 2 p. m.

The object of the meeting will be the election of officers for the ensuing year, the appointment of delegates to the State Association and the perfection of arrangements for holding a series of mass S. S. meetings in each township during the month of November.

It is important that every S. S. worker in the county should be present at the meeting next Saturday.

Each school in the county should send a statistical report as soon as possible to H. CLARKSON.

EDITOR FARMER: The Leghorns offered by Geo. H. Hughes for the largest list of subscribers to the FARMER, in July, were this day received in fine condition. We prize the chicks very highly and appreciate greatly the liberality of the breeder in offering such a valuable gift to the readers of your paper and in shipping what must have been one of the most desirable pair in his park. Mr. Hughes writes that the delay in shipping was owing to his fowls being on exhibition at the different fairs during the last six weeks, where they were awarded over thirty first premiums.

Very truly, JAS. P. SHANNON.
 Bellefonte, Pottawatomie co.

EDITOR KANSAS FARMER: The Reform County Convention met in Oskaloosa to-day, with 149 delegates present. A. McLouth was called to the chair, and E. M. Coldren elected Secretary.

The following ticket was put in nomination. Senator; J. B. Schaeffer; Probate Judge, J. L. Williams; County Attorney, J. C. Foster; District Clerk, S. P. Henderson; Superintendent of Public Instruction, Charles Smith.

The nominations for Representatives are as follows: 16th District, N. Simmons; 17th District, E. D. Russell; 18th District, H. C. Raines.

The Reform ticket will carry Jefferson county by an overwhelming majority. I only wish we had an opportunity to give you a good hearty lift in November. Keep the ball rolling and all will be well.

J. N. I.
 Oskaloosa, October 13.

State News Items.

"Cattle are dying off in Howard county from a disease supposed to be the result of scarcity of water.—*Jewell Co. Monitor*."

The Topeka rolling mills are again in opera-

tion, and now being worked under an arrangement made with the Kansas Pacific Railway company. The mill is now under the immediate supervision of Col. E. S. Snead, chief engineer of the K. P. road.

The Quakers have been holding their yearly meetings in this city for the past few days. The meetings have been largely attended and unusually interesting.—*Spirit of Kansas.*

LIBERAL GRANGE, on Otter creek, had a harvest feast last Saturday night. A good time was had.

The farmers of Reno county were still making hay last week.

Wilson county rolls in luxury. Two parties down there have made 1,500 gallons of sorghum.—*Emporia News.*

Will our exchanges be so kind as to mention Miss Nellie Blake formerly of Emporia is the nominee of Reformers for school Superintendent, in Chase county.

Cottonwood Falls is to have another paper. The Seneca cheese factory has shipped 503 cheeses the past month—all of them first-class.

The people of Fort Scott are suffering for water.—*Voice of the people.*

The Wyandotte Gazette has completed its fifteenth volume, and starts out on its sixteenth, with a good look for prosperity.

The Baxter Springs Republican has a "Female Gossip" column. We predict that before Christmas one of the members of the Republican staff will be wearing a wig.—*Coffeyville Courier.*

WHEAT.—Mr. Taylor, of Chelsea Township, brought some May wheat to town last week that weighed 80 bushels, 85½ pounds to the bushel. Mr. McWhorter informs us that he brought 80 measured bushels of this wheat and weighed it at the Eureka Mills and it weighed 83 bushels. This certainly is an excellent quality of wheat.—*Walnut Valley Times.*

—We learn that the measles have been quite prevalent and fatal among the Mennonite families who have lately arrived in Peabody. They brought the disease with them, and sixteen of their children are said to have died with it.—*Atchison Champion.*

SAMUEL BENDER, of Flat Rock raised six acres of castor beans this season, which yielded seventy two bushels. This, at \$1.75 per bushel, is much better than raising wheat or corn, especially as this crop is free from attacks from bugs and grasshoppers.

At the Jackson County Fair held at Holton last week, Mr. Chapman exhibited a limb three feet long, containing thirty-eight large apples, and another two feet long containing twenty-five.

It is estimated that over 200,000 bushels of wheat will be shipped from the little town of Cherokee, Crawford county during the present season.—*Wabunsee County News.*

General News.

Arctic Expedition.

The *Public Ledger* has the following. The most melancholy of all the expeditions to discover the open Polar sea, it seems to us, will be the one to get inside, if it is proved to be possible.

"Arctic expeditions are said to be made up of three distinct stages, all of which are necessary to form a complete expedition. At first a vessel is sent to make explorations; after an indefinite interval of time a second ship is sent to find the first, and after another interval a third vessel is dispatched to complete the exploration and bring back information of the survivors, if any, of the two preceding ships. The return of the third vessel usually completes an Arctic expedition, and after another interval of time a new expedition is sent out. The Russians have reached the second stage of the last expedition to the Arctic regions, having decided to send out an expedition in search of the Austrian ship *Tegethoff*, which sailed for Nova Zembla in 1872, and has not since been heard from.

The working men's convention have nominated Charles A. Dana, of the *Sun* for mayor of New York.

The democrats have carried Ohio and Indiana by decided majority. They elected fourteen out of twenty congressmen. Iowa and Nebraska have gone largely republican. Dakota Territory has also elected the republican ticket.

The statue of President Lincoln was unveiled at Springfield, Ill., Thursday amidst the most imposing ceremonies. President Grant and Gen. Sherman participated in the exercises, as also the members of the society of the army of the Tennessee. The oration was delivered by Senator Oglesby.

For the Kansas Farmer.

FAIRS.

The season for Agricultural Fairs for 1874 is over, and we may well ask what has been accomplished in furtherance of the great agricultural interests? If we read the leading daily papers—with very few exceptions—about all the reports we get are those of the races, the time made by the horses and the names of their owners. No doubt some of the local papers make fuller reports, but even these are quite unsatisfactory.

If we could get with the decisions, also the reasons of the committees for making certain awards, that would give us points upon which to base an opinion and possibly future action, and then it we could get the statement of how the premium wheat, corn, oats, butter, cheese, etc., were produced, and how many bushels of grain were raised per acre, or how many cows there were in the dairy that produced the best butter or the best cheese, that would be profitable reading, and possibly study, for the progressive farmers.

Again, if more farmers attended the Fair with the view to purchasing improved stock if needed, they would enjoy a fine opportunity to compare the different breeds and the different animals on the Fair grounds, a n advantage which every thorough farmer would prize highly.

Such information as has been briefly indicated above, if published abroad, would lead those seeking new homes to fix upon localities where premium crops were raised and where intelligent farmers live, and this would prove advantageous from a local stand point.

But, to come nearer home, all I have been able to learn of the Kansas State Fair was that it was a success, as an exhibition, and that horse racing and pool selling has been abandoned, all of which gives me sincere pleasure, and the last move is in the right direction. It was once stated that the State of Illinois could not hold an annual fair without racing that would pay expenses. I am glad to state that that assertion has proven a fallacy, for since under the presidency of my friend, Dr. Kyle, racing was by special rule of the Board prohibited, the fairs have increased in interest and the cash receipts have been augmented; and so it will prove in Kansas if they persevere.

I am not opposed to speeding horses, for I love to see a horse go if he feels like it—but not under the whip and spur—and in this respect most people are pleased with the sight and admire a fine horse; besides, it is necessary in order that the committee may safely judge of a horse as a roadster or carriage horse. It is equally entertaining, also, to farmers, to see draft horses tested, and there are many other legitimate ways besides to draw and entertain a crowd, and it should be the study of the proper officers of state and county agricultural societies to make these occasions profitable and interesting.

I am sorry to say that while we of St. Louis have in many respects the Fair of the Great Mississippi Valley, the managers have not yet learned that they insult the common sense of decent humanity when they keep 25,000 people in the amphitheatre for over two hours to witness the running of four slow mules, whose sides are bleeding from the cruel spurs, and whose withers are welts all over by the lash, yet such was all the entertainment offered for the best part of the best day of the Fair, (Thursday), and a Police Commissioner of the city—though I fear not a member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals—one of the awarding committee. Out upon such conduct!

But I must bring my Fair talk to a close and will stop right short by signing

Yours truly,

CHAS. W. MURTFELDT.

Kirkwood, Mo., Oct. 15, 1874.

SUPREME COURT SYLLABI.

STATE OF KANSAS, ss.

G. W. YNADLE vs. S. A. CRANE and A. J. CRANE.

Error from Labette County.

REVERSED.

By the Court. VALENTINE, J.
I. In an action of replevin where the defendant files an answer containing a "general denial," and six subsequent counts, in which subsequent counts the defendant admits that the plaintiff is the owner of the property replevied, and that the defendant detains the same from the plaintiff: HELD, That on the trial of the action said "general denial" can be considered only as a denial that the plaintiff is entitled to the immediate possession of the property, and that the defendant wrongfully detains the same from the plaintiff (Wiley vs. Keokuk, 6 Kas. 94; Butler vs. Kauback, 8 Kas. 698).

II. HELD, Also, in said action that the defendant, under said "general denial" will be entitled to prove on the trial that he does not wrongfully detain said property, by introducing evidence tending to show that his detention of the same is rightful. (Tuller of Leroy vs. McConnell, 8 Kas. 273; Wilson vs. Fowler, 9 Kas. 177, 190 et seq., and cases there cited.)

All the Justices concurring.

By the Court. VALENTINE, J.

I. Where a minor son who lives with his father and is under his father's control commits certain wrongful acts; but where the said acts have not been authorized by the father, are not done in his presence, have no connection with the father's business, are not ratified by the father, and from which the father receives no benefit: HELD, That the father is not liable in a civil action for damages for such wrongful acts.

II. Where a demurrer to the evidence is interposed by the defendant in a civil action, under section 275 of the code as amended, (Laws of 1873, page 329), and neither the petition nor the evidence, have no connection with the father's business, are not ratified by the father, and from which the father receives no benefit: HELD, That the court does not err in sustaining said demurrer.

All the Justices concurring.

By the Court. VALENTINE, J.

I. On the 10th day of April 1873 the Governor having received the requisite preliminary papers preparatory to the organization of the county of Harvey appointed commissioners and clerk for that purpose as the statute requires. On the 30th of May thereafter an election was held at which all the county officers were elected. At the succeeding general election all the county officers were elected and among them C. A. Tracy was elected sheriff. At the general election in 1873 the plaintiff was elected sheriff. HELD, That Tracy was elected to fill the unexpired term until the time provided by the general law for the election of sheriff should arrive.

II. The provisions of sec. 3, art. 9 of the constitution that "All county officers shall hold their offices for the term of two years, and until their successors shall be qualified" applies only to the regular term of the office and not to vacancies or exceptional cases.

III. The legislature has the power to say how county officers shall be elected and when their terms shall commence and to make that commencement uniform throughout the state, and to provide how vacancies shall be filled and how the officers of a newly organized county shall be selected until the time when such officers are filled according to the provisions of the general law.

All the Justices concurring.

By the Court. VALENTINE, J.

I. In an action on two promissory notes and a mortgage, where the petition and answer contain either of the notes or the mortgage, and no copy of either was attached to or filed with the petition, and no reason was given why such copies were not furnished: HELD, That such question can be raised in the court below as to the necessity for such copies, and no ruling of the court below upon any such question has been assigned for error in the supreme court: HELD, That such question can be raised in the supreme court merely by a discussion of the questions in the briefs of counsel. No such question can be raised in the district court on demurrer.

II. In a petition for relief, where the plaintiff is a party to the action, and the prayer for relief, is to divide

ed into three counts, the first of which states a cause of action and the other two do not, but which, if taken in connection with the first count, modify and enlarge the cause of action stated in the first count, and these three counts are headed respectively as follows: "1st cause of action," "2nd cause of action," and "3rd cause of action," and the defendant moves the court to compel the plaintiff to elect upon which cause of action he will proceed, and also demurs to the petition on the ground "that there are not facts sufficient stated in either of said counts to constitute a cause of action," and the court overrules said motion and said demurrer, and afterwards a judgment is rendered in accordance with the prayer of the petition, and just such a judgment as would be proper if the words "1st cause of action," "2nd cause of action," and "3rd cause of action," were stricken out of said petition: HELD, That although the district court may have erred in disregarding said words, still the error is not of such an ambulatory character as will require a reversal of the judgment by the supreme court.

IV. Where a wife purchases a piece of land and takes the title in her own name, and at the same time executes two promissory notes for the unpaid purchase money, and also executes a mortgage on the property to secure the payment of said notes, and said wife, at the time the purchases said property, intends to make the same her homestead, and afterwards dies, with her husband, occupying the same as her homestead: HELD, That notwithstanding said intention and said occupancy the mortgage may be foreclosed, and the land sold to pay the unpaid purchase money for which said notes and mortgage were given.

V. The husband did not execute said notes or said mortgage, but HELD, nevertheless, that the mortgage may be foreclosed and the land ordered to be sold free and clear from all right, title and interest of the husband in or to said property—he being a party to the suit on his own motion.

All the Justices concurring.

LEMUEL BASSETT vs. Z. A. WOODWARD.

Error from Labette County.

AFFIRMED.

By the Court. BREWER, J.

I. Where the allegations in the petition and the findings of fact sustain the judgment, a variance between the prayer for relief in the petition and the judgment will not, when noticed first in this court, ordinarily justify a reversal.

II. Parties, whether plaintiffs or defendants in the district court, who are affected by errors alleged in the proceedings in that court must be parties to proceedings in this court before those errors can be inquired into.

All the Justices concurring.

SURAN J. SMITH vs. HELEN M. PAYTON.

Error from Labette County.

REVERSED.

By the Court. VALENTINE, J.

Where an order of attachment is issued at the commencement of an action and the clerk fixes the return day thereof at twenty days from its date instead of within ten days as prescribed by law, (Gen. Stat. 666, sec. 195, 1d, page 61, sec. 61) HELD, That the order of attachment is not void for that reason, and that the sheriff may serve the same at any time within ten days from its date and when so served it is error for the court to set aside and vacate said order merely because of such mistake of the clerk in fixing the return day.

All the Justices concurring.

STATE OF KANSAS, ss.

SUPREME COURT.

I. Abram Hamatt, Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Syllabi in each of the above entitled cases, as the same appear on file in my office.

Witness my hand and official seal hereto at [SEAL] fixed, at my office in Topeka, this 10th day of September, A. D. 1874.

Clerk Supreme Court.

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Published by G. & C. MERRIAM, Springfield, Mass. Sold by all Booksellers.

STRAYED.

FROM the subscriber, at Harveyville postoffice, Wabunsee county, one three year old brown mare, has a little white on one hind foot (the left, I believe), is branded J on left shoulder, large size, smooth built. A liberal reward will be given for any information that will lead to her recovery.

JAMES E. JOHNSON.

Harveyville, Wabunsee co., Kan.

JOHN T. & E. S. NICCOLLS,

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Commission Merchants,

Union Stock Yards, CHICAGO, ILL.

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Hon. W. H. Smallwood, Secretary of State, Topeka, Kas.

J. K. Hudson, Editor Kansas Farmer, Topeka, Kas.

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Market Review.

OFFICE OF THE KANSAS FARMER, TOPEKA, KAN., Oct. 14 1874.

Topeka Money Market.

BONDS.

Kansas Pacific Gold Bonds, May and Nov. 80 80

Kansas Pacific Gold Bonds, L'd Gr. Jan'y, June 80 80

Kansas Pacific Gold Bonds, June and Dec. 80 80

Kansas Pacific Gold Bonds, Feb. and August 80 80

Kansas Pacific Income Bonds, No. 11, 80 80

Kansas Pacific Income Bonds, No. 16, 80 80

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe First Mortgage Road Bonds 80 80

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe L'd Gr. Bonds 80 80

LOCAL SECURITIES.

Kansas 1 per cent Bonds 98 City Script 98

Kansas 5 per cent Bonds 98 Dist. School Bonds 98 98

State Warrants 98 Money on 30 day sec. 98

County Warrants 98 per month 100

County 1 per cent rail- 100 100

road Bonds 100 Improvement B'ds. 92 1/2

GRAIN MARKET.

WHEAT—Fall No. 1 \$1.00—No. 2 90c—No. 3 90c—No. 4 70c—Spring, Red, No. 2, 80c.

CORN—White, No. 1, 80c in bulk; Yellow and Mixed, 75c in bulk; 1 1/2c in bulk.

RYE—60c.

BARLEY—90c.

Flour—Wholemeal Millers' rates—No. 1 Fall, 80c; No. 2, 75c; No. 3, 70c; Low Grades, 65c.

CORN MEAL—Polished, in sacks, 50c; Bulk, 45c.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

Beans—White Navy, extra choice, 25c; Medium, 20c; Common, 15c; Castor, 10c.

BRUSK—Nominal at 2c.

Choice—Choice, 2c; Common Table, 1 1/2c; Medium, 1c.

80c; Fresh, 10c.

HOMINY—4 1/2c; 25 per barrel—200 pounds net.

LAND—Rattle rendered, 12c; 10c; per bushel; Peach-blooms—6c.

SUNDRIES—Cabbage, 5c per head; Beets, 40c per doz. bunches; Onions, 15c per bu.; Blackberries, 25c; 3d and 4th, 10c; Apples, 10c; 2c; 3c; 4c; 5c; 6c; 7c; 8c; 9c; 10c; 11c; 12c; 13c; 14c; 15c; 16c; 17c; 18c; 19c; 20c; 21c; 22c; 23c; 24c; 25c; 26c; 27c; 28c; 29c; 30c; 31c; 32c; 33c; 34c; 35c; 36c; 37c; 38c; 39c; 40c; 41c; 42c; 43c; 44c; 45c; 46c; 47c; 48c; 49c; 50c; 51c; 52c; 53c; 54c; 55c; 56c; 57c; 58c; 59c; 60c; 61c; 62c; 63c; 64c; 65c; 66c; 67c; 68c; 69c; 70c; 71c; 72c; 73c; 74c; 75c; 76c; 77c; 78c; 79c; 80c; 81c; 82c; 83c; 84c; 85c; 86c; 87c; 88c; 89c; 90c; 91c; 92c; 93c; 94c; 95c; 96c; 97c; 98c; 99c; 100c.

POULTRY—Turkeys, 80c per doz.; Dressing, 60c per pound; Geese, 40c; 50c; 60c; 70c; 80c; 90c; 100c.

PROVISIONS—Bacon, Clear Sides, 14c; Shoulders, 10c; Hams, sugar-cured, plain, 14c; Pork, Clear, 17c; Mess, 16c; Bacon, sugar-cured breakfast, 14c.

SEEDS—Hemp, 10c; Blue Grass, 10c; Timothy, prime 30c; common, 20c; Clover, 10c; 15c; 20c.

TALLOW—50c.

VINEGAR—20c per gallon.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

WHEAT—No. 1 Spring, 90c; No. 2, 80c; No. 3, 70c; No. 4, 60c.

CORN—No. 2, mixed, 65c; 60c; 55c; 50c; 45c; 40c; 35c; 30c; 25c; 20c

Literary and Domestic.

EDITED BY MRS. M. W. HUDSON.

THE FUCHSIA.

Within the mountain ledge we sat
At night and watched the slanted snow
Blown headlong over hill and moor
And heard, from dell and tarn below,
The loosened torrents thundering slow.

'Twas such a night as drowns the stars,
And blots the moon from out the sky;
We could not see our favorite larch,
Yet heard it rave incessantly,
As the white whirlwinds drifted by.

Sad thoughts were near; we might not bar
Their stern intrusion from the door;
Till you rose meekly, lamp in hand,
And, from an inner chamber, bore
A book renowned by sea and shore.

And, as you flung it open, lo!
Between the pictured leaflets lay—
Enbathed by processes of Time—
A gift of mine, a fuchsia spray,
I gathered one glad holiday.

Then, suddenly the chamber changed,
And we forgot the snow and wind;
Once more we paced a garden path,
With even feet and even mind—
That red spray in your hair confined.

The cistus trembled by the porch,
The shadow round the dial moved;
I knew this, though I marked them not,
For I had spoken, unreprieved,
And, dreamlike, knew that I was loved.

Sweet wife! when falls a darker night,
May some pure flower of memory,
Hid in the volume of the soul,
Bring back, O'er life's tormented sea,
As dear a peace to you and me.

—Chambers' Journal.

For the Kansas Farmer.

SHEAVES OF GOLDEN GRAIN:
OR
Mrs. Daille and Her Neighbors.

BY MRS. M. STRATTON BEERS.

CHAPTER XXII.

We are going to take you back, now, dear readers, and just give you a glimpse of a few characters, whom, had it not been for our limited time, and quite as limited space, we would long ago have permitted you to become quite intimately acquainted with. Now it appears that we need them particularly, and that without their assistance our story cannot progress.

We go back to the time when Johnnie White sat in his little bit of a shanty, which stood on one of the Illinois prairies, and looked to the passer by quite as much like a pig-sty as anything else one could imagine, it was so low and small. Johnnie had built it when he pre-empted his land, sleeping in the shanty and boiling water for his coffee and eggs over a fire he built outside. He broiled his bacon on the coals and smoked his pipe with satisfaction as he ate his plain hoe-cake baked on a board, or sometimes covered with ashes upon which he heaped the coals.

He passed his springs and summers and autumns here three years; the winters he passed in some town, sawing wood, hauling coal, anything that turned up to make an odd cent. Johnnie was not particular what it was only so that it was honest; he had no foolish pride that objected to his wheeling rubbish out of back yards, or clearing off sidewalks, it did not matter what it was, only something that would keep him busy and give him something to think about. So it was it came about that Johnnie went to Chicago to spend one winter, thinking that in that young city that was growing so fast, there would be no lack of odd jobs, and in this he was right.

One day he engaged to clear out a yard for a lady, that finished, she wished him to carry some rubbish out of the garret and an old lumber room, among other things were some barrels of rags which she did not know what to do with, and finally suggested to him to get a cart and take them to the paper-mill, telling him that if he would do so she would pay the expense of the cart and give him all he could make out of the rags. More to accommodate the lady than anything else, he agreed, and was astonished to find his purse heavier with silver by some three or four dollars when done.

This affair kept him awake nearly the whole night, and brought about an entire change in Johnnie's business.

The next morning he provided himself with gunny sacks and set out. Very modestly he tapped at the doors and timidly inquired for "rags." When night came and he counted his silver, Johnnie chuckled—

"Better'n farming! get my grub cooked, have white bread to eat; will try it to-morrow."

He tried it a great many to-morrows, and laughed over his silver, mumbling to himself and smiling until he acquired the habit of smiling continually.

When cold weather commenced in good earnest he found the city full of poor half-clothed people; his smiles grew less, and shaking his head as he counted over his money, he would hold dialogues with himself:

"Johnnie White, you have no one to work for but the Lord. You are making money tolerable fast. Can't you now do something for these little bare legs you found shaking and purple down by the wharf to-day? He didn't show them to you for nothing but them biscuits you gave them. Biscuits don't take the purple out of children's legs, it takes clothes to do that."

"Tell you what you do, Johnnie; just sort over them rags you hadn't time to take to the mill to-night, like enough you can find something that would do to wrap them blue feet up in—don't get stingy, now, 'cause He took her away from you, 'tain't 'cause He didn't leave any work for you to do—go to work on a different plan."

The tallow candle flashed out a brilliant approval of this, and snapped out "do it—do it." And Johnnie sat down and sorted over the

rags, was astonished to find so many things that seemed to him too good to be thrown in the rags.

"Spect though He knew that I was to think to give them to them children, so made them rich folks put them in."

After this, many a shivering child was warmed with the clothing Johnnie found among his rags, "too good for to be made up into paper," and many a child, as well as its mother, came to look on the small shaggy whiskered man as an angel in disguise.

But Johnnie, when his days work was done, the tallow candle flickering in its tin holder, and the coal burning brightly in the little stove, would cease to smile, and leaning back his chair against the wall would sit thinking, often quite aloud.

"Queer that young one's eyes was so like hers. I can't forget her for thinking of her. 'Tain't no ways likely I shall ever see her again, though. B'lieve when spring comes I'll jest let my claim go, and hire out to the young un's father."

But when spring came Johnnie concluded best not to leave his business in Chicago. He bought a horse, and finally an old cart, and drove his business instead of carrying it on his back. When spring came again he went back to the country and inquired at Hampton Prairie for a man named Stearns, but they told him he had moved away during the winter to Pennsylvania. Johnnie went out feeling a greater disappointment than his small body looked capable of carrying. In three or four days he screamed "rage—rage," with more zest than ever through the muddy, rutty streets of Chicago, and continued to scream thus through years to come.

CHAPTER XXIII.

It was one of those great, old fashioned houses built by some of our forefathers that came over in the Mayflower, or some other of the first coming ships from the mother country; and that stand silent and grim and grey, seeming to be able to withstand the shocks of wind and weather which do their best to weaken the foundations and shake it from its fastenings, and which appear determined in its own might to remain until the archangel shall sound the trumpet which shall waken from their graves the men, women and children who were born, lived out their appointed days and died within its walls.

Such a house as those who had delighted in titles in old England, felt a thrill of delight and a glow of aristocratic pride in seeing reared upon the soil of the new America. The family occupying and owning this house had been for years, back in England, renewing the family ties which had been broken entirely asunder years before by the feud which had existed between the motherland and her rebel children of America; but time had wiped away in a great measure the remembrance of the bitterness then existing, and many rebel cousins found in England kindred who rejoiced to receive their own flesh and blood, and even to divide with them, in some cases, the rich possessions which were theirs by birthright.

The family of which we now write were without doubt some of the old-bloods, having about them lingering shadows of the old pomp and splendor of which we Americans can only read and wonder, think and dream, but never even wish to see reproduced upon our republican shores.

The family consisted, first, of a woman probably not much above sixty, but showing that her race was almost run, by the sunken cheeks and thin, white hands, which generally lay listlessly and idly upon the silken folds of her gown; secondly, was a tall, fair woman, showing plainly in the general contour of her figure and the expression of her features that she was daughter of the first; then there was a boy almost a young man, or quite, and a girl still younger, who called the younger woman "mamma," and who were unusually attentive to the caprices and wants of the elder one.

Below, in the kitchen, were three female servants and two male, who seemed for the most part to have little to do but gossip with each other. At the time we find them three of them are conversing with evident interest.

"I tell you, Polly, old mistress can't stand it much longer, that is plain to be seen, she looks whiter and more miserable every day now. I wish we had stayed in England, 'stead of coming here in this lonesome place where there is nothing but trees and mountains."

"Some hollers, I reckon, Jane; I like it here better 'I did there, but Ray says they're talking of traveling again, that his granny thinks travelin' will cure her."

Another of the servants seemed interested now.

"The first again, 'Where are they going?'"

"Anywheres, Ray said, so 'as to keep moving, that his granny said it was keeping still what was killing her."

"When will they go?"

"Next month, if she don't get too bad to travel."

"Who will go?—you and I and Tom, I reckon."

"No, Ray said Esther and Gray were going, and Tom and us must stay to keep the house."

The third servant's eyes gleamed with pleasure and a smile lit up her old wrinkled cheeks until really they looked a pleasant sight to behold.

"Do you hear that, granny? you're going to travel. I'm glad for you, but I, I wish 'twas us, I hate to stay here worse when the folks are gone than even now."

"Ray says his grandmother can't never give up hoping to find Ellen somewhere, but she

won't; she died, I am sure, long 'nough ago."

The old servant stooped down and untied her shoe, and then tied it up again. A bell rang and she went out to answer it. It was Mrs. Wynman who rung, and she said—

"Hetty, we are going to set out again, gypsy fashion; this time I have determined to take you and Gray. I think you would be more reliable if—, you understand?" and the lady nodded her head toward the great drawing room which opened out of the one in which she stood sorting over the weeks linen, and in which sat her mother and the children.

Hetty nodded her snow grey head in token that she understood in case grandmother Brattle's should die she and her husband would be of more service than would Polly and her's.

"I thought better not to go for a month, but mother insisted on setting off at once, so you see to everything below, so that Polly can manage it in case we do not come back for a year or so. Jane must go along to take care of the children, as usual."

Hetty nodded her head again and started out.

"Hetty, see here. I want you in an hour to help me look over the linen and wardrobe and pack away all we do not take."

"Yes, ma'am, I'll be up."

CHAPTER XXIV.

"Hetty, in case anything should happen to me, I want you to know where everything is. No, I do not anticipate that there will, but it is always best to be prepared, you know, Hetty."

"This box contains all my own jewelry, which I never wear any more, but which will be Edith's you know, when she is grown. This contains some valuable papers, and this has mother's jewelry and her last will—I wish you to take particular notice of each."

Hetty nodded again, and when her mistress turned her back she took the last box in her hand and tried the fastening, it was tight and refused to open. A strange light came into the old creature's eyes as she set it down again and she mumbled half audibly, "so unnatural and cruel like thoughts likely there is plenty without."

"What did you say, Hetty?" Mrs. Wynman asked.

"I'm trying to remember all you tell me; that is your jewelry, that valuable papers and that grandmother Brattle's jewelry," pointing to each one in particular as the itemized it. "I'll not likely forget."

The day was done and part of the night, when the mistress and servant had finished their packing, the servant had done the most of it as usual.

Two days remained before they were to start, and their destination was uncertain. Mother Brattle said "to Boston first, and then—they would see."

Of Boston they soon tired, of New York the same; then they found themselves in Cincinnati, talking of Chicago.

There was something bracing in the lake breezes grandmother thought, in fact she felt inclined she said to end her days where she could look out on to the blue sparkling waters of the lake.

This decided the whole party, a house was rented and comfortably furnished for an indefinite stay in the Garden City; the old lady grew better, a teacher was provided for the young Edith and Ray was sent back to New England to one of its universities, and spent his vacations between the old house among the mountains, and the rented one in Chicago. Time passed on.

The old lady Brattle was failing again, and had a whim to look over her papers and jewelry. Ray was home and brought her the box, unlocked it with a key attached to the old lady's watch chain, and then left her to rummage. Edith sat near ripping up some old dresses, saving some of the best of the trimmings, for the glory of the "old blood" did not provide an income into her mother's treasury sufficient to permit of any great extravagances; in fact it grew less every year as the expenses of Ray's and Edith's education increased with their advancement up the hill of knowledge, hence the lady-born was compelled to teach her daughter some few simple lessons of economy.

Occasionally she would stop her ripping to wonder at the treasures her grandmother brought forth from the box before her, and once she begged to take in her own hands a small locket and a bracelet whose beauty especially attracted her; her relative gave them to her for inspection with a sigh and continued to examine a paper she held in her hand.

Suddenly the paper fell to the floor, causing Edith to look up, wondering at her grandmother, whose face presented a frightful appearance. Edith jumped and ran screaming for her mother; when she came, with old Hetty and Ray closely following, the latter raised the limp form of the small old lady and carried her across to her own bed in the adjoining room, where with tears and moans her daughter bent over her trying by every means available to restore her mother. Ray had gone for a physician who only shook his head and said, "Can live but a short time."

Hetty was left to gather up the work Edith had left so suddenly, and who had given the servant the order to put them away with the rags. This Hetty proceeded to do, scraping them all up in her arms together and hustling them away to a barrel in the store room; she closed the box she recognized as the one containing Granny Brattle's last will, after turning one of the papers over several times and

once taking it entirely out; but in a moment she dropped it in again with a scared look and went to her mistress and asked for the key to lock the box with.

In an hour or so a queer little man in a green wagon went slowly down the street singing "Rags! rags!"

"I'll sell them lot o' rags in the chamber," Hetty said, "they're no good a cluttering up forever. Here Gray, call that man to stop, there's a lot o' rags up in the lumber room you can take to him."

Gray called to the funny little man, who took the rags and drove home; backed the end of his wagon up to the window in the back end of the low wooden house he rented, opened it and then shoveled out the rags that filled his wagon, all into one great heap.

There was a strange stillness in the great house for a few days, and then a hearse drove away with a coffin, followed by a carriage containing a few mourners.

After a few days Hester was sent back with Ray to the house among the mountains, as there was no longer necessity for them to remain in their rented home; the mother and daughter remained yet a little longer to oversee Gray at the packing, and then they went too.

A month or so on, the bereaved daughter remembered her mother had made a will, written the year before, and thought to look and see what it was. She brought the key from her own jewelry box where with the watch and chain it had lain since the day her mother so suddenly died. She unlocked the box and found—the last will had disappeared, only the one remained which her mother had made many years before (upon her daughter's marrying a man by the name of Wynman, whom she considered far beneath her daughter's station in life, but who proved most an excellent husband, and to whom the mother subsequently became most only reconciled but considerably attached,) and in which she gave her whole fortune to the youngest child without any exceptions in favor of the eldest.

Some years after, Ellen, the younger, mysteriously disappeared from the boarding school at which she was placed, and it was supposed (though nothing could be proved) that she had eloped with the French music teacher, and gone either to France or America, as he left at the same time.

The trouble had told heavily upon the health of the widowed mother, who spared no pains to discover the child, and it was the disinterested zeal displayed in aiding her in this search that first overcame her prejudices against her son-in-law, with whose family she was finally induced to take up her abode.

As year after year passed away and no tidings came from her they all began to think of Ellen as one dead—and little less than a year before her death the old lady had called in her lawyer and made out a second will in which she gave her all to her daughter Emma and her two children, reserving in this instance nothing for Ellen, merely recommending her to the care of her sister should she ever be found. This had for witnesses a gentleman and his wife who chanced to be visiting her daughter at the time the will was drawn up.

Mrs. Wynman never had known the contents of this last will of her mother's, although from remarks her mother had several times made she understood there had been a change made in her benefit.

But here was but the one will, a further examination showed her that a very valuable ring which had belonged to her grandmother and been handed down to her mother, together with a small locket, and a bracelet of peculiar design had disappeared also. She set her wits to work trying to make out the mystery. She rang the bell. Hetty came.

"Hester, do you know anything about some jewelry which mother always kept in this box and her last will?"

Hester's face suddenly grew red as she remembered how she had been tempted to destroy the will she so well remembered having witnessed, she and her husband, so many years ago in old England, but she had resisted the temptation, so she answered honestly enough:

"No, Ma'am! I don't know, the will was there sure 'nough the day the missus died. I saw it with my own eyes."

"Are you sure, Hester, that it was there then?"

"Sure, Miss Emma," then noticing for the first time the yellow document in her mistress' lap she exclaimed:

"There it is! I would know it if I'd see it in the New Jerusalem, 'cause I hates so to sign it; never thought in did you justice."

"No, Hester Gray, this is not the last will, there was another one made within a year, in which mother made me understand I was remembered."

Hetty's face changed in a moment to a paleness so ghastly that Mrs. Wynman was frightened. It was now Hetty's turn to be astonished; she had never heard of such a document, and wished in her dear old heart she had stolen it that she might now return it to one whom she loved almost as her own daughter; but she said nothing only stared vacantly.

Ray and Edith were interviewed but both were found totally ignorant of the whole matter. Edith remembered of seeing the ring, the locket and the bracelet the day her grandmother died, but the fright that had taken possession of her senses would not admit of her remembering how they all three had fallen from her lap into the soft woolen dresses which she had been ripping, and which she

had ordered thrown with the rags. So, that only still greater mystery hung around the whole affair.

They could think of no one having been in the room but the chance physician who had been called in, but whose name and locality were both alike forgotten.

The servant Jane was interrogated closely, but knew nothing; and after several fruitless attempts to ferret out the mystery, they were forced to let the matter drop.

Until they were certain that Ellen was dead Mrs. Wynman felt they had no right to use the property which under existing circumstances belonged entirely to her. Thus matters stood for years. Ray alone ever watching for some clue to the mystery, with faith that some day he would find one.

And now we come again to the point where he feels that he has at last between his fingers one end of the thread which if followed closely must inevitably lead to the disclosure of the whole mystery.

He had gone to Chicago, seen Mr. Stearns and given him the whole story, with as perfect a description as he was able to give of the ring and bracelet; and unlimited authority to push the affair to as early and speedy a consummation as was possible.

George instantly concluded that this Johnnie White was a housebreaker and had robbed the box of the jewelry, and congratulated himself considerably upon his insight into the man's real character simply from what his mother and Katie had told him about the fellow.

He thought how he would laugh at Katie about wearing the ring and losing it, for of course she must immediately relinquish it to Ray Wynman and his sisters, as the rightful owners.

He thought about the affair by night and day, and determined as soon as Katie's description of the man with that of his wagon, came he should set the detectives at work to hunt him out.

One afternoon some business or other led him down to the poorer part of the city; the miserable low tenement rooms that were filled to overflowing almost, situated near the sluggish black waters of the Chicago river, which haply were nearly frozen now, when beyond him a little way trotted a small fat horse drawing a green wagon, and being driven by a man with shaggy black whiskers.

George's attention was immediately arrested, that it was Johnnie White, the purloiner of rings, bracelets, wills, &c., &c., he had no doubt; he followed as fast as he could, and had the pleasure soon of seeing him stop before a low filthy looking house, he jumped down from his wagon, and took there from a large basket, which George thought looked as if filled with coal, then he took down another one in which George could plainly see potatoes, and upon these lay several paper packages.

HOW TO ENTERTAIN.

Mrs. Laura E. Lyman, in the N. Y. Tribune, says on this subject—most visitors are best entertained when permitted to do about what they please. To sit up primly and be obliged to talk when one feels like being silent is a bore, and makes visiting the hardest kind of work. The first thing for a host or hostess to do is, if possible, to make their guests feel perfectly easy and at home, to permit them to lounge in the library, walk in the garden, sit under the trees, and be talkative or silent as the humor takes them. An appreciative guest enjoys looking over the family pictures, ranging through the book-shelves, and becoming acquainted with the elements of happiness in the household where he is for the time domesticated; then he knows how to adapt himself to the family he is in, and make his stay a pleasure to them no less than to himself.

If one merely goes to spend all day with a friend, even then a full conversation, a ray after dinner of a hot day, a quiet looking over the newspaper is a great relief. Everybody knows, who has tried it, how fatiguing it is to talk six or seven hours without intermission, or to be talked to that length of time. Those who understand the art of entertaining break up the time pleasantly with a ride, or a boat row, or a ramble, so as to vary the mental activity of their guests. And those who understand visiting without weariness contrive little ways of relief when they find their minds growing dull. When the sole object of visiting is enjoyment, the more all concerned can simply consult their own and each other's inclinations and simply seek to "have a good time," the more certainly will the end desired be obtained. Perfect simplicity of manner, unaffected sincerity of expression, and a genuine desire on the part of host and guest to make the time pass pleasantly, are sure to give to both the happiness they seek in each other's society; or perhaps to satisfy them that they must find elsewhere what they fail to find in each other. All people are not congenial; we have sympathies and antipathies for which we cannot be held responsible, and if we find the latter called out, courtesy will dictate their concealment, and good sense will prevent their being awakened unnecessarily. There should always be exercised great discrimination on the part of the host in bringing together those who will be likely to find mutual pleasure and profit in each other's society. To avoid errors of this sort a friend of ours fixes the number of visitors she can receive at one time, and the date of their coming and going; in this way making sure that her guests are entirely homogeneous, and thus insuring their harmony, while herself enjoying to the utmost the administration of her hospitalities. She says to them, though not precisely in this language, "Here are your resources—the library, the billiard room, the croquet ground, the boat, the horses and carriage; we breakfast at eight we lunch at one, we dine at six. From breakfast till luncheon my various domestic and private engagements occupy me; after that I can be with you; amuse your selves as you choose—everything is at your disposal." No wonder the invitations to spend a week at her delightful country seat are eagerly sought. The mistress of the house reserving ample time to herself, and providing abundantly for the entertainment of her guests, passes the summer as happy as her visitors.

