

# KANSAS FARMER

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## LETTER FROM COLORADO, ON THE GRASS-HOPPER QUESTION.

EDITOR FARMER: I saw a communication in your paper, asking for information as to the best plans and modes in fighting the locust or grasshopper. Hoping to be useful, I will give some of my plans and experience. The least infinitesimal touch of coal oil, coal tar or turpentine will kill them. To use them construct a sheet-iron pan, six, eight, ten or twelve feet long with a slight circular form of three inches to the foot and six inches wide with the front, one and a half to two inches deep. The outside edge of the pan ten inches high, inclined back at an angle of forty-five degrees. At, say every foot, let there be riveted a sheet-iron portion of two inches deep or more, thus making a series of pans.

In these pans put water one half inch deep, then a little coal oil or coal tar or turpentine. Then any convenient means of attachment, so that a man at each end can draw the pan slowly over the ground. The young fry of 'hoppers will hop in and are instantly killed, and they can be emptied out at will. Any plan that will cause coal tar or coal oil or turpentine to touch the 'hoppers is efficient.

Another cheap plan is to take a piece of oil cloth three feet wide and as long as convenient. Tack one edge of the cloth to a strip of board for the front, sew a cord in the back end, and ends or in some way, make the edge turn up a little. Or this, drag with a broom spread coal tar and draw the drag slowly over the ground. The 'hoppers' will leap on, and there by come in contact with the tar and if they leap off they soon die. Alcohol will kill them but it is not convenient.

One man or boy can herd the locusts, into wide pans, or on oil cloth covered with tar, by walking round and round advancing to the center at each circuit about twenty inches. In this way one can gather the locusts together on tar in a pan, or pans, in which coal oil, tar, or turpentine is placed. Water in pans is used to economize oil, tar or turpentine; it has no effect to kill the locusts. Pans two inches wide will answer in place of the first described but are not as good as the water and oil, tar or turpentine will run over the pans in passing over the uneven ground. In countries where ditches are used, coal oil, coal tar or turpentine poured in, or kept dropping in the ditches will kill all the 'hoppers they touch.

W. D. ARNETT.

Morrison, Colorado, Jan. 28, 1877.

## FAMILIAR FARM TOPICS.

JAS. HANWAY.

NO. XXXIII.

### A MORAL PHENOMENON.

A justice of the peace, who has served his country in that capacity for 18 years, was heard to say that his office had become "ornamental," and that the fees during the year would not furnish the postage stamps he used.

Some may attribute the decline of litigation in justice's courts to hard times, the scarcity of money, the technical quibbles of the law or the glorious uncertainty of gaining a verdict. But the most rational explanation may be found in the fact, that the grange organization contains a most excellent Quaker provision in its constitution; that no member is permitted to bring suit against a brother member without first making the attempt to settle by arbitration. This wise and salutary rule has doubtless extended its influence beyond the grange organization. Farmers who are not members have at last seen the folly of forcing every little misunderstanding between neighbors into a justice's court.

I have now an item which should interest every body, preachers, lawyers and doctors, judges, sheriffs and constables, undertakers and grave-diggers. There is living in my township a family, consisting of three young men, now of age, who have never drank a dram of ardent spirits, who for twenty-five years had no occasion to employ a physician; and who have gone through life without ever being in a law suit, consequently no lawyer to fee. Temperance, health and peace.

If all families in Kansas were thus blessed, how many drinking saloons would be needed? how many M. D.'s would supply the wants of the population? how many lawyers could get rich? Court houses would not be ornamented with a dignified judge. Jails would dispense with the services of a sheriff, newspapers would not be filled with so many strange accidents and pugilistic encounters. Items would grow beautifully less. A county justice would

have a dull time of it, save on a marriage occasion and insane asylums would be robbed of half their occupants. Penitentiaries would be more ornamental than necessary. Taxes would be reduced to more than one half. Poor houses would be a curiosity and a thing of the past. Law books would be less interesting and instructive than Dean Swift's "Tale of a Tub." Court decisions would be less amusing than Esop's Fables, and as dry as Scotch Metaphysics and we might all rest and snore; for the Rev. I. Kallack when he edited the *Kansas Spirit*, said "Snoring is the unconscious testimony of a peaceful conscience."

DEVELOPMENT OF DIFFERENT BREEDS. In a former number of the FARMER, there is an excellent article on the relative value of the breeds of cattle and in my opinion gives a fair explanation to the question which is the best breed?

It has long since been a matter of amusement to hear the advocates of the different breeds of cattle, claim for them certain qualities which in former years never entered into the merits of the controversy. We might appeal to those who have for many years past, been well acquainted with the different varieties or breeds of cattle in the old country, whether they have ever seen a contest or claim for their special favorites as we find in this country. The fact is, as the article referred to remarked, that the different varieties are bred to increase certain characteristics or development, peculiar to each variety. If milk and butter is desired, an eye is kept to that object. If beef is the leading object, we certainly do not expect to find it developed in the milk breed.

Each variety has its excellence, there is not and cannot be any rivalry between these different breeds of cattle. Each species has to stand on its own merits. Each fills the bill.

The short-horn breeder, when he insists as we have heard them do on some occasion that Durham short-horn, are excellent milkers, he is only insisting for them special qualities which the breed perhaps formally possessed, but certainly are very rarely met now a days.

When we breed cattle for certain specific qualities, we invariably lose other special qualities which may be valuable and desirable. It is with breeds of cattle as it is with horses. If we desire an active carriage horse, we should not expect to find improvement by breeding to a Percheron stock. If we need a good heavy plow team we would not seek a cross by breeding to a thoroughbred race-horse.

### FOR THE FARMER.

#### THE FARMERS OF SHAWNEE COUNTY ORGANIZING TO FIGHT THE GRASSHOPPER.

At a late meeting of Capital Grange, the grasshopper question was discussed, and the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS, Deeming it important that some systematic effort be made by the farmers of Shawnee county for the destruction of the eggs of the grasshoppers, as well as the young grasshoppers when they are hatched, in order to protect our spring crops; therefore,

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to send a notice to all granges requesting their co-operation in organizing the farmers of Shawnee county for a systematic fight with a common enemy, and request all granges to send a delegate to a meeting to be held at Odd Fellows Hall, on Saturday, February 24th, for the purpose of discussing the means for our protection, and the organization of the townships into districts for the purpose.

The grange had also under discussion house bill No. 4, relating to the proper protection of the fish interests of the state, and to encourage fish culture. The importance of the subject claimed the attention of the members, and the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That we, as farmers, are deeply interested in the protection of fish in our streams and rivers and look with favor upon every measure to encourage and increase their production in the state.

That we regard house bill No. 4, introduced by D. B. Long, of Ellsworth, as a step in the right direction, and respectfully but earnestly request our representatives in the Kansas legislature to use their best endeavors to secure the passage of this or some other well-matured measures for the protection of our fish interests, and the encouragement of fish culture.

The following paper was read by Hugh Cameron in support of the last resolution: SHALL WE LEGISLATE FOR THE PROTECTION OF FISH AS WELL AS BIRDS?

The denizens of our waters and forests under the merciless and barbarian rule of poacher and pot-hunter have decreased to such an extent as to create a wide-spread feeling of alarm lest entire species and genus become extinct. Hence within the last few years the subject of national organization and co-operation and uniform laws, relating the protection of stream and forest, has been discussed with every indication of popular favor.

Not only are the coast States, and then bordering on the great lakes, alive to the importance of protecting and increasing fish production, but the whole country is waking up and moving as a unit in the conviction that some action is eminently proper, if not imperatively necessary to arrest the wanton waste and destruction that have followed in the wake of increasing population and wealth.

Important laws and regulations for the protection of birds are not, now, beneath the nation of the average Kansas Legislature. Bounty Laws for the protection of sheep growers from the ravages of dogs and wolves, the poultry yard from wild cats and foxes, the orchardist and nursery men from rabbits and t - farmers from grasshoppers are now in the hands of appropriate committees and will in due time receive the attention and action due to the important subjects to which they respectively refer.

A bill by Hon. D. B. Long, for the protection and encouragement of fish culture, also has been introduced and is soon to be considered in the committee of the whole House. This industry should be encouraged and protected as other industries are. A law declaring the capture and appropriation of fish from any private stream, pond or fish preserve of any sort, without the owners consent, larceny is of paramount necessity.

Let us have a law not of equivocal import denouncing such maleficence larceny and requiring officers of the law to prosecute, juries to try, and courts, on conviction, to sentence, as in similar or other cases of larceny. Thus protected, this industry would attract the necessary capital and labor for its perfect development. Such a law we might claim as one of clear naked right. One which inheres to good neighborhood and law-abiding citizenship everywhere and which cannot be denied, except by a discrimination not warranted by law, reason, or common sense. The doctrine must obtain, that any citizen shall have a free and indisputable right or privilege to put his brain, his muscle, his time, or his capital, into any species or form of property he may select, whether fish or cattle, sheep, hogs, grain, fruit or flowers and all and each interest or industry must be equally protected and encouraged by the imperial rule of one equal law. To this it must finally come and the sooner the better.

The law governing fish ways or fish ladders, as they are sometimes styled, is now so well settled that no honest opposition can ever again arise. A moment's consideration of the subject must render the reasons of the law and the propriety and justice of the decisions thereon obvious to all. Any fair minded person cannot fail to see that a dam which prevents anadromous fish from going in their seasons to such parts and sources of streams and rivers as instinct prompts for the purpose of spawning is, at least, an abatement of the fishing interests below as well as above said dam. For it is a clearly established principle that fish of a migratory habit, when defeated in their attempts to obey every instinct in the disposition of their spawn, becomes careless and wasteful in the work of reproduction and being foiled and discouraged, they seek other waters where there is no impediment to the accomplishment of their pre-ordained task and so streams and rivers in consequence of one obstruction are very likely to become unfruitful and barren below as well as above the obstruction. In a decision of the Supreme Court of U. S. in the case of Holyoke Water-power Co., vs. Lyman and others, I find the following upon this subject: "Persons owning the whole of the soil constituting the bed and banks of the stream, are entitled to the whole use and profit of the water opposite their land, whether it is used as a power to operate mills and machinery, or a fishery, subject to the implied condition they shall so use their own right is not to injure the concomitant right of another sepaian owner and to such regulations as the Legislature of the state may prescribe. Again—ownership of the banks and bed of a stream gives to the proprietor the exclusive right of fishing opposite his land as well as the right to use the water to operate the mills, but neither the one nor the other, nor both combined, confer any right to erect obstructions on the river to prevent the free passage of fish up and down the river at their accustomed seasons, as such obstruction would impair and ultimately destroy all such rights owned by other proprietors both above and below the obstruction on the stream."

The Supreme Court of Massachusetts say on this subject that "All persons who may build

a dam for mill purposes do so under the implied obligation to keep sufficient sluice and fish-ways for the passage of fish at proper seasons."

The Law of Prussia on this subject is that "Any one who places weirs, sluices, dams or other obstructions in water when the passage of fish was hitherto unobstructed is obliged to keep open at his own expense passages for the fish, and to keep them in good repair." Also, "All fishing in fish-passes, either with nets or hooks, or other apparatus, is strictly prohibited and as long as the passages remain open all fishing is strictly prohibited for some distance above and below the passages, the extent of distance to be determined by the local authorities."

There are other questions of equal interest, with those mentioned herein, to all who are engaged in rural pursuits and which deserve the earnest consideration of this Grange. Permit me in conclusion to express the hope that you will give the fence question, also the question of irrigation the attention they respectively deserve at an early day.

### GRASSES.

[A Lecture delivered before the Kansas State Horticultural Society, by Prof. J. E. M. Shelton, at its Winter Meeting, held in Manhattan, Dec. 14, 15, and 16, 1876.]

I am satisfied that success can rarely be depended on where the seed-bed is not properly prepared. The tilth should be fine, if not deep, and if beneath the soil can be left firm and even hard, it retains the moisture better, and the plant will make a more vigorous growth. After seeding, harrow thoroughly both ways, and follow with the roller. We have had a very satisfactory experience with this method of seeding. Last spring we seeded seven acres of ground to timothy, and with the timothy seed mixed a single bushel of blue-grass seed—enough of itself to seed about three-quarters of an acre. To-day I can show on every five or six feet all over this piece of ground—in short, wherever a seed dropped—a living healthy plant of blue-grass. The proofing of the seed is another matter well worth more attention than is usually given it. I should consider all seed worse than worthless that is not procured from an exclusively blue-grass region. Fully one-fourth of the blue-grass lawn (so called), that I have ever observed in this State, are not composed of blue-grass at all, but are made up of one of the half-dozen worthless weeds grasses that are the pests of the eastern farmers' fields.

These are by no means all the facts that go to make up blue-grass culture, but they are essentials in which, if ordinary care and good sense be exercised, success with this most beautiful and useful of grasses may be reasonably expected.

Timothy or Herd's Grass is a name that calls up a hundred pleasant recollections of eastern farm life. Flint tells us that "the name of Timothy, by which it is most generally known over the country was obtained from Timothy Hanson, who is said to have cultivated it extensively, and to have taken the seed from New York to Carolina. It is frequently called Herd's Grass in New England and New York, and this was the original name under which it was cultivated. It was derived from a man of that name, who according to Jared Elliot, found it growing wild in the swamp in New Hampshire, more than a century and a half ago, and began to cultivate it." Be this as it may, timothy is the most valuable of all American contributions to the grasses, for of all these it is the most valuable as a crop to cut for hay as a lawn or pasture grass, however, it has little value in comparison with blue-grass. This is especially true in our own State, where its weak traits seem to develop; for here, so far as my experience has gone, it fails to make a uniform sod, but grows in coarse bunches, amounting almost to clumps, about the meadow. Nevertheless, timothy has many excellent qualities that commend it to the cultivator of this State. From the large stores of nutriment contained in the seed, it takes root very readily; upon a clay subsoil it withstands drought excellently; it is one of the earliest grasses in the spring, and in this locality it is ready for the scythe by the middle of June. The proper place for timothy for lawns, is in a mixture with blue-grass. From the ease with which the stand is obtained in this climate, this plant is really valuable in this place, for in course of time the blue-grass will drive out the timothy, or if not, it will fully occupy the space between the bunches of timothy, and in this way remove its objectionable features.

Our own experience with this grass may be briefly stated: We have upon the College farm all told, sixteen acres of timothy, nine acres of which were seeded in the spring of 1873, and the remainder in the spring of 1875. Of the nine acres first seeded, seven acres in 1874 gave a ton and a half of excellent hay per acre; and two acres reserved for seed yielded fully four and one-half bushels of clean seed per acre. The past year this crop promised even better results than were obtained the year previous, up to the time the whole was destroyed by grasshoppers.

So much for our experience with the grasses proper upon the College farm. I think you will agree with me, that while we have some facts that give this question an ugly look, we have some reasons for encouragement. The thought that gives me most encouragement is this; if through season of overwhelming disaster, such as 1874-5 have been in this locality,

these grasses not only live but make crops, the average Kansas season may be safely counted upon, so far as grasses are concerned.

The plant Alfalfa about which so much has been said and written in this State during the past year or two, it seems to me, viewing the matter from an outside standpoint, deserves a good deal of attention from the horticulturists of the State. Both blue grass and timothy are open to serious criticism as grasses to be cultivated in the orchard, whatever may be said of them for lawn purposes. As before mentioned, the blue-grass is slow and diffident in germinating; moreover, when once in possession of the ground, this plant occupies it so thoroughly with its dense mass of roots as to often seriously injure the trees. Timothy, again, makes an indifferent growth on ground partly shaded, and when the crop of hay or seed is removed, it notoriously exhausts the soil, thus defeating the prime aim of the orchardist. To the alfalfa, few of these objections apply. It germinates as easily and takes root as vigorously as corn; it tillers but slightly, and during a large portion of the year interposes almost nothing between the rainfall and the roots of the trees; and although not averse to a partial shade, it withstands the effects of drought as perhaps no other cultivated plant can. When to all this is added the fact that it sends its roots to enormous depths (frequently twelve or thirteen feet), and makes two or three large crops of hay each season, its value to the orchardist as a fertilizing agency will be appreciated by all.

From its habit of sending its roots to great depth, the question of subsoil is of even greater importance to the cultivation of alfalfa than to the plants I have discussed before. A permeable, well-drained subsoil is one of the imperative demands of this plant; and if to this we can add a fine, mellow tilth, so far as soil and subsoil are concerned we have supplied the most important conditions.

The question of seed can hardly be overlooked in discussing matters pertaining to the cultivation of alfalfa. Many years ago the Spanish settlers of Chilli and other South American States transported to their new homes the seeds of this plant, called in Europe "incense." Here the plant became acclimated, and assumed characteristics well calculated to endure the arid climate of these States. From thence it was carried north to California, whose enterprising farmers were not slow to avail themselves of this invaluable forage plant. The success of this plant in California has been very marked indeed, it has well-nigh superseded all other forage plants along the Pacific coast. It has been very fortunate for the cultivation of this in Kansas, that the seed hitherto sowed has been obtained from California instead of the eastern States, for there is a marked difference in the plants obtained from the two points.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me ask to this subject the earnest attention of the horticulturists of the State, believing, as I do, that this is one of the vital matters connected with your art and mine, and one that we can only neglect to our great peril. In an experiment work of this kind, you have many advantages not possessed by the general farmer; you are better organized—I have nearly said you are more intelligent—you are more painstaking; your methods are more perfect, because from the nature of your business you are compelled to "cultivate well, not much." For all these reasons, it seems to me a great responsibility rests upon your shoulders. But do not suppose that a work of this kind, even on the small scale that you may attempt, can be carried on without cost of money and what is worth more than money, labor and time. Above all, do not commit the vulgar error of supposing that anything of this kind is an easy, simple undertaking, and one that is only to be commenced to be successful. This art, my friends, of yours and mine, is the oldest of all arts; it is older than science—aye, older than religion; and so long has the very life of nations hung upon the rough methods of the tillers of the soil, that it is safe to say that no results that you or I may arrive at will materially change or influence them. Dr. Clark, of Massachusetts, says that it requires at least ten years of careful experiment to establish an agricultural truth. Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert have been at their work for upwards of thirty-six years, and have expended annually from \$15,000 to \$20,000 in it, but I doubt much whether their most enthusiastic disciple can present a single new principle from all the chaos of facts with which they have enriched agricultural literature. The new facts of agriculture—facts which we suppose are our peculiar property—if we inquire carefully into their antecedents will generally be found to be matters forgotten long since by our Anglo-Saxon forefathers, by the Romans, and possibly by the Greek husbandmen. Every glimpse that we obtain of the remote past, but proves more clearly the half-guessed truth, that all progress is in cycles, and that the amazing stories of the "lost arts" is something besides the chimera of an enthusiast. But all this need not deter you and I from attempting something for our own farms and orchards. Yet of this we may rest assured: that whether we succeed or whether we fail, we shall be paid, and paid with no niggard hand.

Mr. Ellsworth reports an experiment with grasshoppers as follows: "He placed a lot of 'hoppers in an ice house for three days and froze them stiff as glass, but when exposed to the sun every individual nuisance of them was on the jump instantly. They were a second time jumped on a three days freeze, and when brought out in the sun about one half came to time. They were again frozen for three days which disgusted unto death all but about one dozen."—Interior.

## WHEN SHALL I PRUNE.

**RAMBLING THOUGHTS ON SMALL FRUIT  
CULTURE, &c.**

In such States as Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, and in favored localities North, where the peach thrives, the blackberry crop is exceedingly profitable, and black and red raspberries too, if grown in the States named, for northern markets, pay.

Currents do not seem to succeed well south of a certain latitude, only in particular sections. We would advise none to plant large tracts of these before first looking around and en-

**TIME THAT PLANTS, FLOWERS AND  
MIGRATORY BIRDS RETURN.**

	Year	Latitudes	Average
April	1872	April 27	27
May	1873	May 27	27
June	1874	June 27	27
July	1875	July 27	27
August	1876	August 27	27
September	1877	September 27	27
October	1878	October 27	27
November	1879	November 27	27
December	1880	December 27	27
January	1881	January 27	27
February	1882	February 27	27
March	1883	March 27	27
April	1884	April 27	27
May	1885	May 27	27
June	1886	June 27	27
July	1887	July 27	27
August	1888	August 27	27
September	1889	September 27	27
October	1890	October 27	27
November	1891	November 27	27
December	1892	December 27	27
January	1893	January 27	27
February	1894	February 27	27
March	1895	March 27	27
April	1896	April 27	27
May	1897	May 27	27
June	1898	June 27	27
July	1899	July 27	27
August	1900	August 27	27
September	1901	September 27	27
October	1902	October 27	27
November	1903	November 27	27
December	1904	December 27	27
January	1905	January 27	27
February	1906	February 27	27
March	1907	March 27	27
April	1908	April 27	27
May	1909	May 27	27
June	1910	June 27	27
July	1911	July 27	27
August	1912	August 27	27
September	1913	September 27	27
October	1914	October 27	27
November	1915	November 27	27
December	1916	December 27	27
January	1917	January 27	27
February	1918	February 27	27
March	1919	March 27	27
April	1920	April 27	27
May	1921	May 27	27
June	1922	June 27	27
July	1923	July 27	27
August	1924	August 27	27
September	1925	September 27	27
October	1926	October 27	27
November	1927	November 27	27
December	1928	December 27	27
January	1929	January 27	27
February	1930	February 27	27
March	1931	March 27	27
April	1932	April 27	27
May	1933	May 27	27
June	1934	June 27	27
July	1935	July 27	27
August	1936	August 27	27
September	1937	September 27	27
October	1938	October 27	27
November	1939	November 27	27
December	1940	December 27	27
January	1941	January 27	27
February	1942	February 27	27
March	1943	March 27	27
April	1944	April 27	27
May	1945	May 27	27
June	1946	June 27	27
July	1947	July 27	27
August	1948	August 27	27
September	1949	September 27	27
October	1950	October 27	27
November	1951	November 27	27
December	1952	December 27	27
January	1953	January 27	27
February	1954	February 27	27
March	1955	March 27	27
April	1956	April 27	27
May	1957	May 27	27
June	1958	June 27	27
July	1959	July 27	27
August	1960	August 27	27
September	1961	September 27	27
October	1962	October 27	27
November	1963	November 27	27
December	1964	December 27	27
January	1965	January 27	27
February	1966	February 27	27
March	1967	March 27	27
April	1968	April 27	27
May	1969	May 27	27
June	1970	June 27	27
July	1971	July 27	27
August	1972	August 27	27
September	1973	September 27	27
October	1974	October 27	27
November	1975	November 27	27
December	1976	December 27	27
January	1977	January 27	27
February	1978	February 27	27
March	1979	March 27	27
April	1980	April 27	27
May	1981		

## THE DRAFT HORSE AND THE FARMER'S HORSE.

The only man who uses the same horse for a great variety of purposes is the general farmer, and even here the range is not very great. Those who are in easy circumstances usually keep a single horse or a pair especially for driving on the road, while their other horses

As to the question of wool our manufacturers tell me that the Shrophire-Downs wool will make more different goods than any other wool they ever had. It is fine and of a tolerable good length and a remarkable strong staple, which corresponds with the constitution of the sheep. I always have made from five to eight cents per pound more than the Merinos. My ewes cut 16½ lbs. per head. The Shrophire-Downs running on the same pastures as the Merinos, the Merinos will be poor and the Shrophire-Downs will be hog fat, because they are like the Berkshire hog—when they have fed they will go and lie down contented; the Merinos will roam and from morning till night and never be satisfied. You can keep more Merinos on the same ground—that I will admit; but put the same amount of capital in, and the Shrophire-Downs shall make a considerable amount per year. They will raise more lambs than any other breed and will stand the Kansas storms better than any sheep I have ever seen. Sheep are the main paying stock in Kansas.—Ed. Jones in *Western Agriculturist*.

## KANSAS CHALK.

To believe that these shells were originally in the chalk, during its formation and subsidence, and that by water action they have become so completely disintegrated as not to leave a trace, involves too great an assumption; hence it is my opinion that our chalk was not formed like that of England and France, by the aggregation of myriads of Rhizopod skeletons—that it is not in any way the product of animal life—but that its origin was purely chemical. The absence of flint, so far as observed, seems also to add weight to this view.

\* Professional Papers of Corps of Engineers of U S A., Number 19.—in *Kansas Collegiate*.

### NOTICES TO GRANGES

hisel; Treasurer, W. H. Prouty; Secretary, J.

S | proper training in early youth; the impossibility

breaks for sheltering buildings, farm crops and orchards, and live-stock.  
Tree, Fruit, Shrub, and Garden Seeds  
Send for Price Lists  
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Wanted in exchange for 240 Acres of Land in Missouri. Address  
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25 FANCY CARDS, 15 styles, with name, 10c.; 13 Prange's Chromos, 10 designs, with name 25c.; 30 Ladies' Favorites, 5 designs, with name, 10c. postpaid. J. B. HUSTED,  
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**SHEEP LABEL** Centennial Medal awarded. Sizes suitable for marking Cattle, Sheep and Swine. Samples free. Agents wanted. Address  
C. H. DANA, West Lebanon, N. H.

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1,000,000 of Concord, 1 year, \$15 to \$30 per 1,000; 2 years, \$25 to \$30. All other varieties cheap. DR. H. SCHROEDER,  
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We offer for the Spring trade 300,000 Fruit trees, assorted; 300,000 Grape vines, and small fruits, 200,000 Evergreens, 1 to 3 ft. high, cheap; 2,000,000 No. 1 Orange plants; 50,000 Ornamental trees, Roses, Plants, Shrubs, also Stocks, Grafts, Cuttings, etc. Agents for Louis Leroy, Angers, France. Nurserymen and dealers can have their orders filled complete. Address  
HARGIS & SOMMER,  
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ROBERT GRASS  
Kentucky Blue Grass  
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With prices and directions for growing,  
FREE to ALL.

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of good pedigree, sired by the premium bull Lane Elm Prince, from Meadon Lark, Prairie Flower, Nells and other hard-book and premium animals. Prices reasonable. Address  
Fairfax P. O., Osage Co., Kansas.

**Devon Bull for Sale.**  
Two years old, price \$50. Will trade for young stock. Also, Partridge Cochins, Light Brahms and Berkshire Pigs.  
W. P. FOREMAN, Topeka, Kan.

## Farm Stock Advertisements.



**PERCHERON-NORMAN HORSES FOR SALE.**  
Eight splendid stallions of this celebrated breed arrived at my stable Sept. 28th, direct from France. I selected them myself, and they are good ones: all stylish animals, with extraordinary action for such large horses. Send for descriptive catalogue, prices, terms, etc.  
Proprietor of Spring Valley Stock Farm.  
Oct. 20, 1876. Charles City, Floyd Co., Iowa.  
A. W. COOK.

## Literary and Domestic.

EDITED BY MRS. M. W. HUDSON.

## THE GOLDEN SIDE.

BY CHARLES MACKAY.  
There is many a rest in the road of life,  
If we only would stop to take it;  
And many a tone from the better land,  
If the querulous heart would make it.  
To the soul that is full of hope,  
And whose beautiful trust ne'er falters,  
The grass is green and the flowers are bright,  
Though the winter's storm prevaileth.

Better hope, though the clouds hang low,  
And keep the eyes still lifted;  
For the sweet blue sky will soon peep through,  
When the ominous clouds are rifted.  
There was never a night without a day,  
Or an evening without a morning;  
And the darkest hour, as the proverb goes,  
Is the hour before the dawning.

There is many a gem in the path of life,  
Which we pass in our idle pleasure,  
That is richer far than the jeweled crown,  
Or the miser's hoarded treasure.  
It may be the love of a little child,  
Or a mother's prayer to heaven,  
Or only a beggar's grateful thanks  
For a cup of water given.

Better to weave in the web of life  
A bright and golden filling,  
And do God's will with a cheerful heart,  
And hands that are ready and willing,  
Than to snap the delicate, minute thread  
Of our curious lives asunder,  
And then blame Heaven for tangled ends,  
And sit, and grieve, and wonder.

## BLUE GLASS.

Gen. A. J. Pleasanton, Personal Experience as  
to the Curative Powers of Blue and Sun-  
Light Baths.

## GLASS PAINTED BLUE.

First.—In regard to an incident mentioned  
in my book, in which Mr. Robert Balst, Sr., a  
distinguished florist here, is represented as hav-  
ing been very successful in restoring to  
healthful vigor numerous geranium-plants  
that were apparently dying, by placing  
them in one of his glass houses in which  
the inner surfaces of the panes of glass  
were painted with a light blue tint, leaving  
a margin of one and a quarter inches  
plain, transparent glass unpainted on each  
pane of glass.

Second.—The blue glass that I use is of  
A DARK MAZARINE BLUE COLOR;  
Is imported from France, where it is made.  
The color is derived from a preparation of the  
metal cobalt, which is fused in the pot with  
the ingredients composing the glass. Its  
cost in Philadelphia is about four times the  
cost of American window glass of similar  
quality. This difference of price is largely due  
to the duty on its importation imposed by con-  
gress, as well as to the difference of exchange,  
etc.

Third.—As to the point of the compass,  
which I suppose to mean from what direction  
the sunlight and blue light of the firmament  
should pass through the glass, I have to say  
that the direction of the magnetic currents  
that are evolved is according to the laws of  
magnetism, to the North or South pole; and  
that they are developed in greater force when  
the blue and sun lights pass through the  
glass that is

## EXPOSED TOWARDS THE SOUTH POLE;

But there are currents of dia-magnetism that  
are perpendicular to the magnetic meridian,  
and which flow from the east towards the  
west. Great benefit has been derived to pa-  
tients from using eastern and western as well  
as southern light.

From my observation I have developed the  
most electro-magnetism when the atmosphere  
was clearest and freest from cloudy or watery  
vapor, the sun most brilliant, and the tempera-  
ture below 32 deg. of Fahrenheit. The reason  
of this is obvious; in such conditions of  
a cold dry atmosphere, with strong, brilliant  
sunlight, more electricity is evolved than un-  
der any other conditions, and there is less  
conducting power to carry it off than when  
the air is moist and warm; consequently more  
heat and magnetism are developed than un-  
der any other circumstances. Patients suffer-  
ing from any disease should not neglect the  
occurrence of these favorable conditions.

Fourth.—The best application of the associ-  
ated blue and sun lights is to

THE GLASSES IN THE WINDOWS THEMSELVES,  
For then the blue glass receives the unmiti-  
gated force of the impact of the six primary  
rays of light, travelling with the inconceiv-  
able velocity of 186,000 miles per second of  
time, which are estopped by it—producing  
more friction, and evolving more electricity,  
and, consequently, more heat and magnetism  
than would be the case if the velocity of those  
rays of light was retarded by passing through  
successive media of transparent glass or trans-  
lucent glass of varied densities, thus reducing  
the force of their impact.

In the case of windows being glazed  
with plate-glass of large dimensions, I have  
recommended to some of my friends to have  
one or two sashes made of the size of their  
window-frames, have them glazed with plain,  
transparent glass and blue glass, in panes of  
the sizes of eight by ten inches or ten by  
twelve inches, and either to substitute them  
for the sashes containing the plate-glass  
(which is the better plan), or to attach them  
to the inside of such sashes, and allow the sun  
light and the blue light to pass through both  
sashes into the apartment.

You have expressed surprise that the medi-  
cal men

HAVE NOT TAKEN HOLD OF THESE DISCOV-  
ERIES.  
The reasons are obvious: In the first place,  
for the most part medical men are not scien-  
tists. Science very rarely compensates those  
who pursue it, while the practice of medicine  
enriches; and, the greater the practice of a  
physician, the less time he has to devote to  
science, whatever may be his inclination to  
do so. Again: Can't you imagine that a  
physician would scarcely be in haste to re-  
commend a curative agent of such transcen-  
dent power as is claimed for the associated  
blue and sun light, when the effect of his  
recommendation might be to deprive him of  
his patients, who could cure themselves with-  
out his intervention, by the adoption of this  
simple and inexpensive process?

Among the most remarkable cases of relief  
obtained from the associated blue and sun-  
lights in their application to injuries to the  
person, I may state to you

## WHAT HAS OCCURRED TO MYSELF.

In the latter part of October last I met, with

a very serious accident in alighting from my  
vehicle in this city. In leaving my wagon by  
the front, I incautiously placed my foot on  
the movable crossbar to which the swing-  
trees are attached, instead of the fixed bar.  
When I lifted my other foot from the bed of  
the wagon the crossbar moved, I lost my bal-  
ance, and in endeavoring to recover threw  
myself into the arms of my coachman, who  
was on the footwalk to receive me as I might  
alight. My weight, which is not less than  
180 pounds, was too much for him, and he was  
thrown to the pavement. In some manner  
which I do not understand I was turned  
around, and fell with all my weight upon the  
pavement from a height of about three feet.  
My right shoulder, right dorsal muscles, and  
right lumbar region received the shock of the  
fall. Fortunately my head did not strike the  
pavement. The concussion knocked the  
breath out of my body, and it was a consid-  
erable fraction of a second before I could have  
an inspiration of air. Some gentlemen kind-  
ly picked me up and assisted me into the near-  
est store. At the expiration of an hour I was  
sufficiently recovered to be enabled to call  
upon my family physician, who lived about a  
square distant, by whom my body was care-  
fully examined. He said that there had been  
no fracture of ribs or bones, but that I had  
received a very severe contusion, the effects of  
which I would feel for some time, at my age.  
I knew that such an opinion meant

## LONG-PROTRACTED SUFFERING,

With very little hope of relief from any pro-  
cess *secundum artem*. He prescribed soap-line-  
ament to soften the muscles of the injured  
parts; it afforded no relief. The pains were  
very great and constant, and in a paroxysm of  
coughing, I experienced the most intense  
pain in the back part of my right lung, which  
I thought had been brought into contact with  
the inside of the ribs when I fell. Inflamma-  
tion of the lung, with its consequent attach-  
ment to the inside of the ribs, immediately  
recurred to my imagination, and the doctor  
was again invoked. He prescribed a porous  
plaster to confine the muscles, so that, in the  
act of coughing or sneezing, the pain might  
be mitigated; but it afforded no relief. The  
next day there was a bright sunshine and a  
clear atmosphere. In my bath room I have a  
window with a southern exposure, arranged  
with alternate panes of blue and plain, trans-  
parent glass. I determined to try the effec-  
acy of a sun-bath with blue light. Accord-  
ingly, uncovering my back, I sat with my back  
to the blue and sun lights, which were stream-  
ing through the window into the bath room.  
As soon as these lights began to fall upon my  
back, the pains began to diminish, and at the  
end of half an hour,

## THEY HAD CEASED ALTOGETHER.

Towards evening the pains returned; but  
they were much less than before I had taken  
the blue-light bath, and during the night I  
was much easier than I had been previously.  
The next day we had again a brilliant sun-  
shine, clear atmosphere, and low temperature;  
and, intending to take another bath of blue  
sunlight, I sent for my physician, that he  
might witness the effect for himself. He is  
the very eminent surgeon, Dr. D. Hays Ag-  
new, professor of surgery and anatomy in the  
University of Pennsylvania.

He arrived while I was taking this bath,  
and was shown into my bath room. On com-  
ing into the room, I said to him, "Doctor I am  
glad you have come at this time. I am tak-  
ing a bath of blue and sun lights." He re-  
plied, with a smile of incredulity as to its  
effect, "I see you are;" and I said, "It is do-  
ing the great good; it is relieving all my  
pains; and I wish to give you some informa-  
tion that you should know. Will you be good  
enough to place your naked hand on that  
pane of transparent glass, through which the  
sunlight is streaming into the room. You  
will find it as cold as the outer atmosphere,  
which is at freezing temperature." He placed  
his hand on it, and said, "Yes, it is very cold."  
"Now," said I to him, "put the same hand on  
the next pane of glass, which is blue; you  
will find it hot." He did so, and, in the great  
surprise, said, "Why, I never knew that!"  
"Of course, you did not," I replied; "that is  
one of my discoveries, that I have been trying  
to pump into you doctors for the last fifteen  
years, but without effect." He then said:

## THIS IS VERY WONDERFUL,

I had no idea of it before." Then he said:  
"This room is very warm; have you any fire  
to heat it?" I answered: No. The windows  
and the southern and western walls are in  
contact with the outer air. The adjoining  
chamber on one side and the staircase on the  
other are each without artificial heat."

"Then," said he, "How do you make it so  
warm?" "That," I said "is another of my  
discoveries, and is produced by the conjunc-  
tion of the opposite electricities of sunlight  
and blue glass!" And I then explained to  
him my theory, when he said, "That's philo-  
sophical, and very simple; any one can un-  
derstand that." He then asked me where he  
could procure the blue glass, and on being in-  
formed, he said, "I have an invalid wife, and  
I will put it in my house this afternoon for  
her treatment." This he has since done.

The next day I took another bath of blue  
and sun lights, which effectually relieved me  
of every pain; and since then, now about three  
months, I have not had the slightest pain or  
sensitiveness in the parts affected—three con-  
secutive sun-and-blue-light baths having

## COMPLETELY REMOVED EVERY ILL EFFECT

Of my most serious accident.  
It may not be out of place to append here  
a copy of a letter that I received a few days  
since from Dr. John Biddle, a distinguished d  
physician and author, and professor of ma-  
teria medica in the Jefferson Medical college  
of this city. It is as follows, viz.:

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 16.

MY DEAR GENERAL—I beg leave to thank  
you very much for the copy of your work on  
"Blue and Sun Lights," which you were so  
good as to send me. I had already some  
knowledge of your valuable discovery, and  
have now read with much pleasure and profit  
your discussion of the subject in *extenso*. I am  
quite satisfied that you have added an im-  
portant fact to the sum of scientific knowl-  
edge.

I am truly yours, J. B. BIDDLE.

As the subjects treated of in this letter are  
interesting to your community at this time  
you are at liberty to use this letter according  
to your own discretion. Very respectfully  
yours, A. J. PLEASANTON.

## LOVE IS LIKE A ROSE.

BY CHRISTINA ROBERTS.

Hope is like a harebell trembling from its birth.  
Love is like a rose, the joy of all the earth;  
Faith is like a lily lifted high and white,  
Love is like a lovely rose, the world's delight;  
Harebell and sweet lilies show a thornless growth,  
But the rose with all its thorns excels them both.

## GENERAL FASHION GOSSIP.

Nearly all dresses, whether for day or even-  
ing wear, are made in the severe undraped  
style, which is such a strong contrast to the  
dressed and intricate drapery and elaborate  
trimmings which have been in use so long.  
For short ladies the present style is a very fa-  
vorable one, because it appears to increase their  
height and slenderness; but ladies who are tall  
enough without adding an appearance of ad-  
ditional inches, must deplore the fashion  
which gives them the look of walking stee-  
ples.

A very handsome street costume, that can  
be worn without a cloak; is made of black  
basket cloth, in fine soft quality of wool, with  
trimmings of black silk. The underskirt has a  
box plaiting of the material upon the bottom,  
and two narrow side plaitings of silk are placed  
above it. The overskirt is very long, and  
drawn plainly to the back, where it is draped  
very low down; it is finished on the bottom  
with a silk fringe, headed by a narrow, upright  
side-plaiting of silk. The front of the basque  
and overskirt has the appearance of being  
opened over black silk, and laced with heavy  
cord tied at the bottom with falling ends fin-  
ished with tassels. A dolman of the same  
material as the dress, is thickly padded and  
lined with farmer's satin; fringe, like that on  
the overskirt, edges the garment, and passe-  
menterie ornaments follow the seams, which  
curve to the shoulder.

Basques are made, in some cases, to button  
across the bust diagonally. Sometimes a strip  
of velvet or silk extends down the entire  
length of a basque, and straps made of milli-  
ner's fold, like the trimmings, cross it at equal  
distances, each end of the strap being covered  
by a button. The real fastening of the dress  
is upon a fly beneath this decoration.

As we have said before much license is given  
in following the fashions. People may be  
governed by their own taste and inclinations,  
and need not be governed by any prescribed  
style, if they keep sufficiently near the mode  
to avoid being conspicuous. People should  
study their own good points, as well as their  
defects, and dress in a way to heighten the  
former and conceal the latter.

The same liberty of choice is allowed in  
children's fashions as in their mamma's. The  
styles for this season are warm, comfortable  
and becoming, and nothing better can be asked  
of the fickle deity who dictates the fashions  
of the day than styles that include these three  
great essentials.

It is pleasant to record that shoemakers sup-  
ply little girls with as heavy shoes as those  
made for boys. The need of keeping the feet  
dry and warm is as great in one case as the  
other; but kid shoes have been too often  
bought for girls by those parents who thought-  
lessly sacrificed health to looks. Woolen hosie-  
ry, in dark colors, is another sensible fashion  
that every winter ought to recall. The clocks  
that brighten them up are a great addition to  
their appearance, and many mothers amuse  
themselves embroidering them upon plain  
stockings that can be bought cheaper because  
of their absence.

## SOMEBODY'S HINTS AS TO BEAUTY.

There is nothing more unfavorable to female  
beauty than late hours. Women who, either  
from necessity or choice, spend most of the  
day in bed and the night in work or disipa-  
tion, have always a pale faded complexion and  
dark-rimmed weary eyes. Too much sleep  
is almost as harmful as too little, and is sure  
to give the person an unwholesome fat. Diet also  
has a marked influence upon personal beauty.  
A gross and excessive indulgence in eating  
and drinking is fatal to the female charms,  
especially when there is a great tendency to  
"making flesh." Regularity of time in the  
daily repast and good cooking are the best  
means of securing not only good health, but  
good looks. The appetite should never be  
sated during the intervals between meals on  
pastry, confectionery, or any other tickler of  
the appetite which gratifies the taste but does  
not support the system. Exercise is, of course  
essential to female beauty. It animates the  
whole physical life, quickens the circulation  
of the blood, heightens the color, develops the  
growth, and perfects the form of each limb  
and the entire body. It also gives beauty and  
grace to each movement.

## CONTRIBUTED RECEIPTS.

BILL OF FARE, FOR COMPANY BREAKFAST.  
—Fine Hominy, Buttered Toast, Beefsteak,  
French Rolls, Potatoes a la Creme, Buckwheat  
Cakes, Tea, Coffee, Chocolate.

LEMON JELLY.—One paper of gelatine; let  
it stand one hour in warm water; then add  
one quart of boiling water, the juice of three  
or four lemons, and a pint and a half of sug-  
ar.

CLEANING WHITE PAINT.—Spirits of am-  
monia, used in sufficient quantity to soften the  
water, and ordinary hard soap will make the  
paint look white and clean with half the effort  
of any other method I have ever tried. Care  
should be taken not to have too much ammo-  
nia, or the paint will be injured.

WATER COOKIES.—One cup of sugar, one-  
half of butter, one-half of water, caraway seed,  
wet hard and roll very thin, indeed; sprinkle  
with sugar after putting them into the tins.

DEAR FARMER FAMILY, in answer to a cor-  
respondent, I forward two receipts for polish-  
ing zinc, which I have since then accidentally  
found. Many a mental inquiry of my own  
have been answered in your columns, before I  
found time to write it, and I am quite sure we  
could do each other great mutual benefit by  
even a little experience given now and then—

TO CLEAN ZINC.—The following is a zinc  
polishing secret worth knowing:—Oil of blue  
vitriol, rubbed on with any old rag, taking  
great care not to spill on the carpet or come  
in contact with the hands, the rag being first  
wet, and have a basin of cold water handy to  
immerse in case of need. The vitriol can be  
procured at any of the drug stores.

POLISH FOR ZINC OR TIN.—To three pints  
of water add one ounce of nitric acid, two  
ounces of emery, and eight ounces of pumice  
stone; shake well together. Any druggist  
will fill it for fifteen cents.

SOMEBODY said to Robert Hall, "How many  
discourses do you think Mr. Hall may min-  
ister get up each week?" Answered Hall; "If  
he is a deep thinker and a great con-  
dancer, he may get up one, if he is an ordinary  
man, two; but if he is an ass, sir, he will  
produce half a dozen."

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sons desiring to test the ar-  
ticle of our "FREE" system.  
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Simmons' Liver Regulator,  
has saved me many Doctors  
bills. I use it for everything  
it is recommended and never  
knew it to fail. I have used  
it in Colic and Grubbs,  
with my Mules and Horses,  
giving them about half bot-  
tle at a time. I have not  
lost one that I gave it to,  
you can recommend it to  
every one that has Stock as  
knows the best medicine  
known for all complaints that Horse flesh is heir to.  
E. T. TAYLOR, Agent for Grangers of Georgia.  
**For Horses, Mules, Cattle and all Dis-  
eases of Fowls.**

We were told, a few days ago, that a lady who had  
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for the prevention and cure of Chicken Cholera, and  
all of which failed, in a happy fit of inspiration admin-  
istered a dose of "Simmons' Liver Regulator." The  
result was a success. As our experience in Chicken  
raising during the last two or three years has been a  
looming one every means adopted failing to stop the  
ravages of the dread Cholera we also tried Simmons'  
and are gratified to add testimony to that of the old  
lady. One given over duck is now running about,  
two desperately sick chicks are convalescing, and the bal-  
ance yet show no signs of being sick. Dose, to very  
small Chickens, about twenty drops, poured down the  
throat. For others, mix the "Regulator" in meal  
and feed. Try it.

The Newberry South Carolina Herald.  
"It is a very valuable remedy for dyspepsia, sick  
headache, torpid liver and such like diseases."  
W. S. HOLT, President of S. W. R. Co., of Ga."

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dress for \$1.00. Two cases containing 50  
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## —OF—

## PLANTS BY MAIL,



## Let us Smile.

## OLD PILOT'S O' POSSUM HUNT.

"Golly! hit was cold 'nuff las' night ter freeze up a blas' furnace!" said Amos yestern day morning.

"Yes, but I like ter 'laff myself inter a ragin' feber, fer de bo's true!" said old St.

"How was dat?"

"Well, some ob dese town gen'lmen, dey come arter me to go wid dem ter hunt 'possum an' I went."

"Dey moughter 'akused me!" put in Amos.

"Nebber mine, nigger, mebbe you kin be satisfide wid er or'nary cirks, but ef yer want ter see de gran' hipperdrummary an moril caravangerie, youse got ter go 'possum huntin' wid dat squad dat I was in las' night!"

"What did dey do?"

"Dey went out in de woods an' p'trowled 'round dar whar de 'possums gin'rully githers an' dey hunted! Dey 'akivered mo' 'possum tracks an' seed mo' 'possum h'ar on de bark ob trees dan's bin in Georgy sence Stone Mountain was planted to mark de nor'-wes' corner ob de big survey!"

"Did dey ketch any, tho'?"

"Hol' on! De fust one dat dey treed wuz one dat dey foun' creepin' long de side ob a fence. When dey sicked de dog on hit an' hit cl'ared de fence at de fust bound dey let out arter hit an' purty soon dey had hit up a tree. When de 'possum got up ter de fork hit tum'd 'round and say: 'Sp'it! me-ow-ow!' Good master, I jess tho't dat I would bus' right dar, fer dem boys hed done gone an' treed de big-gee's ole gray cat dat ebber you see in yo' bo'n days!"

"Dey moughter kno'd dat warn't no 'possum when hit riz ober dat fence, es you prescribe!" said Amos.

"But sho'tly dey struck anudder trail an' when de dog—one ob dese heah patent-breed fices—bark'd, one ob de boys says: 'By jings, fellers, we's got de re-prehensible trail wetch in de foallidge, at las'!' an' dey all helt a wair dance onder de tree, but when dey flash'd de bull's-eye onder de right limb, a stray rooster shuck himself an' says: 'tuck'aw'k'aw'k'aw'k' den yer cood ahead dem boys cussin' ober in de next county."

"Didn't dey ketch no 'possum at all de whole night?"

"When I gits to de 'possums I'll speak 'bout dem, but I wuz gwine on ter say dat dey fizzle out on de fols' 'larms ob dat patent pup tell dey run agin a polecat, den dey all holler'd 'possum, and hit wuz wuss dan holdin' a team of young mules ober a ho'nets nes' ter keep dem boys from boundin' onder dat old time centennil critter. But de dog went in—an come out—but he warnt shuck hands wid fur his bravery, you bet! Arter dat skirmlsh dem boys opened de throtilles ob dere canteens wide an' 'faum'd pe reserves inter er returnin' board respired wid de spirit ob sobent'yax!"

"An' no 'possum at las'!"

"Narry flicker ob a tail, but dar wuz laffin' 'nuff on my side ter mek a man fatter dan fo'ty 'possums briled!"

## "IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN."

Burlington Hawk-Eye: Sometimes whata dreamy, far-away picture of the beautiful Had Been it calls up in your memory, when you have loved a fair young girl with all the fervor and passionate ardor of a manly nature, when your very soul has caught the inspiration of her presence, and her face has been for you the realization of all that was tender and fair and pure, and when the loss of this prize has swept over your heart like a si-

rocco of agony, and left it dry and bitter and hard, ten years after, to look over an alley fence when hunting for your runaway boy and see her in the back yard of a corner grocery, with a draggled calico dress pinned up over a red flannel petticoat, a man's hat perched on her head and stretching a flapping shirt over a line, while she holds two clothes pins between her teeth.

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## The Kansas Farmer. SUPPLEMENT.

### VARIOUS BREEDS OF PIGEONS.

Less ample provisions are probably now made for doves by farmers over New England, than formerly; the same is true, also, of Old England, as pigeon-cotes are less common there, as here, than formerly. As a part of, or an annex to, the farm, wood, on boxes were and are still sometimes placed inside of the gable ends of barns or stables and in sheds, to furnish a dwelling place for the doves. They are regarded as a source of much pleasure, though it may sometimes prove an expensive luxury, as they are gross feeders. They feed on peas, tares, seeds, grains, and, when numerous, they may cause much damage to crops, at both seed-time and harvest, as they are great pickers during both seasons. No evil need be feared while their numbers are small. A few of them about a farm, with the other fowls, give a pleasant and cheerful aspect to a rural homestead.

Darwin, who for a long time made pigeons a special study, did so because they were descended from one known source that is clearer than that of any other anciently domesticated animal; secondly, because there are many old treatises, in several languages, on pigeons, so that the several breeds may be accurately traced; and thirdly, because variation has been very great during the time that has elapsed since this historic period. Notwithstanding the clear evidence that all the breeds have descended from a single species, it was not until some years had passed after he began his investigation, that he could persuade himself that the whole amount of difference in this family could be traced to the wild rock-pigeon, domesticated by man. He kept alive for a time all the most distinct breeds he could procure in England or on the Continent, and prepared skeletons of all. He also received skins from Persia, India and other quarters of the globe. He became a member of two of the pigeon clubs of London, where he received much assistance in his work of investigation, from some of the most eminent amateurs. The permanent varieties that breed true are very numerous. MM. Bistard and Corbie describe, in detail, 123 kinds, and Darwin says he could name several kinds unknown to them. Hence, he adds, that there probably exist considerably above 150 kinds which breed true and are named. The small, conical beak of the short-faced tumbler; the short and broad beak of the barb; the long, straight and narrow beak with enormous wattles of the English carrier; the expanded, up-raised tail of the fan-tail; the oesophagus of the pouter, are all very noteworthy, because striking characteristics of the marked varieties of the great pigeon-family.

The most distinct pigeon-breeds are arranged by Darwin into four groups, as follows: The first group comprises the English Pouter; the second, the English Carrier, the Runt, the Barb; the third, the Fantail, African Owl, Short-faced Tumbler, Indian Frill-back and Jacobin; the fourth, Dove-cote pigeon, Swallow, Spot, English Frill-back, Laughing and Trumpeter. This classification comprises many sub-groups and varieties that we deem it quite unnecessary to name here. A large and fine show of the choice varieties of the pigeon family was seen at "The Massachusetts Poultry Association's Exhibition," in the Music Hall in Boston. This has ever been to us one of the most attractive departments of this exceedingly well-arranged and most pleasantly conducted annual entertainment, well calculated to amuse not only, but to instruct and instruct the urban into a knowledge and foretaste of the pleasures of suburban, pastoral and farm life. We cannot go into a description of the numerous and extraordinary number of breeds, so wonderfully distinct from one another and from the aboriginal rock-pigeon, as may be seen at every pigeon-show, whether in the Music Hall or in Birmingham, England. When the reader is informed that pigeon breeders talk of \$500 to \$1,000 a pair for the rarest and choicest of the fancy varieties, he may cease to wonder at \$40,000 for a stallion and \$40,600 for a Shorthorn cow of the Duchess family.

The common dove-house pigeons of the farm do not unfrequently fly long distances for their food, they preferring to feed on the smaller grains and the seeds of legumes when they can be had. When very numerous, they become pests of the farms for nearly three-fourths of the year, as was formerly the case in Great Britain. Their wonderful prolificacy is manifest in a statement of Dr. Gregory, who computed that, in four years, 14,760 pigeons may come from a single pair. It is somewhere estimated that there are in England and Wales 20,000 dove houses, averaging 100 pairs of old pigeons. Taking three-fourths of this number, and it will give some 1,125,000 pairs of dove-house pigeons in England and Wales. These will consume one pint of grain per pair daily, with what they carry home to feed their young, and this for 140 days—about half the time they are allowed to subsist on grain—would amount to 157,500,000 pints consumed, in England and Wales, by these voracious feeders; reduced to bushels the amount is 4,621,875 Winchester bushels, which at six shillings per bushel (the price when this calculation was made) would equal £1,476,562 10s., as the annual consumption of dove-house pigeons. This statement was submitted for the consideration of the Honorable Board of Agriculture, in comparison with the use of these birds as a luxury for the tables, and their expenditures for manorial purposes. This statement did not include their pickings at seed-time, where grain and legume seeds were sown. Such is a brief allusion to the cost of this dove-house pigeon luxury of the farmer under specific conditions. The evil has never become so manifest in New England.—*American Cultivator.*

We are informed that a few days since, a young man "batching" in a house—on a tract of land in Fawn Creek township near the State road—like, unhappily, many thousands more—although scarcely out of his teens—was indulging in his pipe and the vile weed, and when fully narcotized so as to be probably oblivious to duty, emptied the ashes from his pipe, set fire to the prairie, burnt his house and its contents, while the fire extended miles around, doing more damage than his labor in half his lifetime is likely to restore to the community.

The case illustrates the evil complained of. Carelessness or stupid indifference is often the starting point of serious disasters. Every farmer is now interested in saving the dry grass till the proper time arrives.—*Independence Kansan.*

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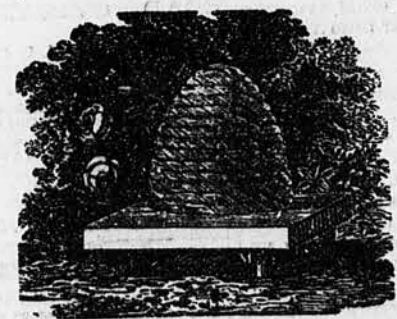
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## The Kansas Farmer. SUPPLEMENT.

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

### MANAGING POULTRY.

The three breeds which we consider best are the Light Brahmas, Leghorns and Plymouth Rocks. If chickens are to be chief source of income, the Light Brahmas will succeed best. They will be fit for broilers at a very early age, excellent roasters at six or eight months, and juicy and tender at a year old.

Leghorns will produce the greatest number of eggs especially in warm weather, but they are too small for poultry, and their flesh is inferior. They are very precocious, laying at four months old. They can be raised after it is too late to hatch Brahmas. The Plymouth Rocks hold a place between the Brahma and Leghorn and are profitable for producing either eggs or poultry. Raising chickens should pay a profit of nearly 100 per cent, but if neglected they will run one in debt.

The smaller the flock, the greater the individual yield; fifty hens are the largest number that should be allowed to run in one flock. The roosts should be low and level, and not one above another like the round of a ladder. The chickens will all seek the highest roost, and many will be crowded off, and probably injured by falling. Hens that are accustomed to low roosts are less inclined to seek fences, and may be kept in pens with less trouble. The ground under the roosts should be of loose gravel mixed with loam. Two yards are better than one, as one may be cultivated while the other is occupied. In this way, roosts and other fowls may be grown for fowls, on land fertilized by their droppings. The open shed is very important, as affording protection from cold in winter and heat in summer. There would be scarcely a limit to the number of fowls one might keep at a profit, if he would give them all the same care usually bestowed on one, but people get careless and lose their interest after they get a large number of fowls. I would feed swill or dough in the morning, green cabbage, roots or other forage at noon, and grain at night. Hens must be fed well to be profitable, and, if well-cared for, are like a machine with the power applied—it must work. If hens are well fed, they must lay eggs or die. Clover rowen is excellent for winter feeding, in place of the green stuff which they get in summer.

Close breeding for three years will cause the eggs to be unfertile. Breed every year and change old stock for new. Young fowls pay much better than old ones. Brahmas should seldom be kept more than two years if one is seeking the greatest profit. Never keep more than one hundred growing chickens in the same yard, and if of different ages not so many.

For setting hens I prefer half barrels without heads, set in the ground half their depth. Make nests of hay on the earth. In cold weather such nests exclude cold air from beneath the eggs. In warm weather the earth should be moistened by pouring on a pail of water. Slitters should be kept by themselves, to prevent annoyance from other hens. A coop placed over the nest large enough to allow of a dust bath works well. Have food convenient so the birds can eat and go back to the nest before the eggs get cold.—Paper of I. K. Fitch, read before the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture.

There has been \$50,000 paid out for hogs at Sabatha within the last three months. Each car load averaged 800 pounds to the hog. Mr. Heseltine brought in two Chester Whites which weighed 990 pounds. G. W. Conrad, two Poland-Chinas, weighed, 910. Gustaf Stenblier, two Poland-Chinas, weighed 850. J. M. Miller, one hog Poland-China, 7 months old, weighed 850. Next comes Henry Monroe, who is liable to be deceived slightly in the strength of Peter Cooper as a Presidential candidate, but not so easily beaten on the weight of Chester-Whites. He brought up of his own raising the other day, 37 head of 16 months old Chester-White hogs that were beautiful, and averaged 360 pounds; two of the largest weighed 960. Then comes Bob Ray another Peter Cooperite, with two Poland hogs that weighed 800. Bob can explain the good qualities of a Poland hog better than the Peter Cooper vote. Charles Culverhouse sold 8 Poland-Chinas hogs that averaged 380; The heaviest weighed 560. Day & Phelps, 4 Berkshire hogs that averaged 420. Mr. Boomer brought in the largest number of any one man—80 head, all black of his own raising. They averaged 309. Mr. Jones brought in 40 head, all black; averaged 305. Mr. Halford 40, all black; averaged 325. If any other shipping point can beat this, let us hear from them.—Hobetha Adair.

No more cattle dying since the hints about lack of water in the Dispatch. Some say it was not that, but then there is every reason that it was, even if there was plenty of water in the field where the cattle are, they eat dry feed until they become stupid, and want stirring up before they will go to the water. The snout on corn also tends to clog up the stomach, but water, plenty of water, will save the stock from death.—Hawatha Dispatch.

FLOUR MILL.—Mr. Johnson & Lewis, of Elk Falls, are building a good grain and saw mill, on Mr. Mann's farm on Grimes Creek. Work on the dam has begun. It is estimated that the cost of the mill and dam will reach \$16,000. By cutting across a bend in the creek and building a twelve foot dam, he gets a fall of nineteen feet and eight inches.—Arkansas City Traveler.

There are indications for a speedy formation of a new coal combination. It is about time the poor coal consumers of the East had their marrow squeezed out of them again for the benefit of some of the huge coal corporations. When interrogated respecting this rumor the representatives of the various companies stated that the combination only proposed to regulate the supply. Exactly. Shorten the supply and what follows? High prices.

The jams of ice in the harbors of the seaboard cities and the small mountains of snow heaped up in their streets very seriously interfere with the exporting trade. The snow prevents a free transfer of freight to the docks, and the ice impedes the vessels. About the only cargoes going to Europe now are provisions, grains and flour, which are the shew of war, and war is pretty certain to occur.

France is getting so short of raw sugar that she is compelled to close up many of her refineries. One at Nantes has just closed, leaving a large force of workmen to struggle with poverty and a hard winter.

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