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## The Kansas Farmer.

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### THE COMING CHICKEN.

Many persons dream of a "coming chicken" which will excel all other chickens yet produced. Breeders are trying, by judicious crossing, to create a fowl possessing all the qualities combined, of the Asiatic and Non-sitters, viz., size, beauty, weight and egg producing qualities. The thing may be accomplished, but I doubt it. I believe we have fowls now upon which no improvement can be made. Certain breeders, not satisfied with hens laying five eggs a week, want a breed that will lay an egg every day, and two on Sunday; and to this end, handsome, valuable breeds are to be sacrificed for the idle fancy of a paragon "coming chicken," a chicken which will commence laying as soon as it is weaned; a chicken which will lay three hundred and sixty-five eggs or more a year; a chicken which will weigh ten or fifteen pounds at dressing, and lay eggs as large as pumpkins. All this, and more, is expected of the "coming chicken."

Seriously, what have we to gain by crosses and the formation of new breeds? Would it not be better to improve, if possible, and bring to a higher grade of perfection, the pure varieties we have now? Our Asiatics, Hamburgs, Polands, Leghorns and Spanishs, are good fowls, *par excellence*. A thorough trial of Black Spanish fowls convinces me that they are *unexcelled* as egg producers, and my light and dark Brahmas are not far behind them. Five eggs per week from my Spanish, and four from my Brahmas satisfies me. Sometimes the Brahmas and Spanish will lay every day in the fore part of the egg season, in the spring. For several years I have bred fowls for pleasure, tried all varieties, and come to the conclusion that the Asiatics and pure Spanish will do to tie to and keep. Nothing is more beautiful than a flock of fowls "all of a feather," as obtain in pure breeds. With crosses I have not been able to get the desired regularity of plumage wanted. Perhaps I did not breed in-and-in long enough, and as I have not found that cross-bred stock is in any way as good as pure bloods, I decidedly prefer the latter, and advise farmers to raise pure instead of mixed breeds.

The "coming chicken" must be a cross-bred one. This is evident from the fact that we have now in this country the best varieties of European breeds; we can go no further in that direction. We can draw no more on foreign countries for new stock, so the "coming chicken," if he comes at all, must be an American production. But whether of mixed European blood, or European stock grafted upon our common stock, remains a problem. I do not say that good fowls cannot be produced by crossing; on the contrary, a few Brahmas or Cochins will double the value of the progeny of a yard of common hens in a single season. All common fowls are improved by crossing with the Asiatics, but never with the non-sitters. But I see no excuse for crossing pure blooded varieties, because there can be nothing gained whatever by so doing.

With proper regard for mating, care, feed, etc., we can bring our pure bloods up to a point of excellence that no "coming chicken" can ever reach. That is my opinion, founded on observation and careful study of this matter for years.

The great trouble is, that breeders allow their fowls to degenerate for want of care in mating and breeding, and then they want a new variety to supersede the old stock.

Let us bring the fine breeds we have up to as high a standard of excellence as possible, and there will be no need of a "coming chicken" to take the place of any of them. Our present breeds can not be excelled if rightly managed.

E. A. Davis.

Sabetha, Kansas.

### A FEW PLAIN WORDS TO FARMERS.

FARMERS, WRITE FOR YOUR PAPER!

It will not be long before the farmers will have more spare time on their hands than they have had for several months. The crops will have been gathered and either safely stored or disposed of; the duties of the day will be much lighter than they have been during the busy season, and the farmer will not be so tired when evening comes, and the evenings, being longer, will give him an opportunity to devote a couple of hours, at least, each evening, to the improvement of his

mind by reading and writing, though there are very many who neglect to do so.

Much of the time during these long fall and winter evenings can, or might, be devoted to writing out the varied experiences on the farm, and sending it to your rural paper, so as to help along the many others who read it and are ever ready and willing to profit by its teachings. There is no farmer who has not something of value and interest to communicate, and it may happen to be just the thing another farmer has been looking for. State how you put in your grain, how you prepared the soil, how much fertilizer or manure you have applied, and how the crop turned out. Let us know what kinds of porkers you raise; how many; how you feed them; what they have cost you, and how much pork you have obtained from them. Let us have your method of feeding your other kinds of stock; those fed for weight of carcass; how much you have realized therefrom. We want to know how you treat your dairy stock and how you handle the product, whether butter or milk, to obtain the best results in quantity, quality and price. We are anxious to know your experience with sheep and your methods of management and care, while items on poultry management are equally acceptable, if containing details of actual experience. We want the record of failures as well as successes, so as to put us on our guard against committing the same errors. Let those who have experimented in a certain way, or have tried certain new methods of management, or breeds of stock, give through the columns of their rural paper, a concise statement of facts, whether they have been successful or the reverse, and thus help their brother farmers in their efforts.

We well know that many farmers are but little given to writing, while many refrain from doing so for fear of having their compositions severely criticised. While it is a pleasure, to both editor and readers, to have well worded articles, in which all the sentences are nicely rounded, yet this is of but secondary importance, the main object being to have facts and written to the point. Say just what you know, in as plain and simple language as possible, write it plainly, and then send it to the editor and he will put it into shape for publication.

Remember, farmer readers, by writing your experiences, you induce others to do the same, and you will eventually profit by so doing.

### A FEW SIMPLE FACTS.

A farmer may not be expected to retain in his mind all the knowledge he may need in his calling, for he may only wish to use a fact or two to assist him at occasional and long intervals. Where knowledge on any particular point or subject is put into constant use, it becomes impressed upon the mind and remains a fixture there. It is our intention, now, to note down a few facts which have been gleaned from our own experience and from other sources, and hope we may give just those which are needed.

In shelling corn on the ear (unshelled), two bushels of ears are considered as making one bushel of shelled corn. When measuring up a lot, a person is liable to make a miscount, and if he is not known to be sound, may be accused of having acted dishonestly. Besides this, in a large lot, it is apt to make a considerable difference whether the corn be measured while on the ear, in a half-bushel measure or in a bushel basket. To avoid trouble of any kind, it is best to weigh the corn, counting seventy pounds to the bushel, for seventy pounds of ears will usually shell out a full bushel of corn, if of good, sound ears.

You may want to know how much your farm wagons will hold. You, perhaps, are hauling lime, marl, or something else, to spread on your land, and wish to know how many bushels you haul at a load, so as to gauge the quantity, per acre, to be applied. To do this, multiply the height, length and breadth, inside measure, of your wagon body together, and then divide by the number of cubic inches in a bushel—2,150.42—and you will have the number of bushels your wagon will hold, even measure. This is for wagons of even sides. If your wagon has bevelled or sloping sides and ends, add the top and bottom widths together and divide by two, to get the average width; do the same with the sides, if sloping, and then proceed as before directed. In the same manner you can ascertain the capacity in bushels, of boxes, bins, etc.

A farmer may wish to know how much hay he has in his mows. As there is so much dif-

ference in the quality and weight of hay, it is impossible to tell exactly, but we can approximate so closely that it answers for all practical purposes. When it has become well settled in the mows, get the length, width and depth, in yards, multiply them together and divide by fifteen, which will give the number of tons, nearly. If you want to tell how much old hay you have just loaded on your wagon, taken from a compact mow, multiply the height, length and breadth of the load together and divide by twenty, which will give you the number of tons, nearly.

### SADDLEBAG NOTES.

NO. 11.

In the extreme northeast corner of Osage county, is the farm of J. W. Woodward, Esq. Here I found the largest and finest pigs, of the Poland China breed, for the age (five months) that I ever saw, and would average 150 lbs. apiece. It has generally been supposed that this breed lacked the early fattening quality that is so essential for hogs in the western states. These hogs have had no extra care, but have had all the food they could eat, and have never been so hungry that they have had to equal for their food.

Corn in the southwestern part of Douglas county is ten per cent. better in quantity, and full as good in quality as the crop of last year. Not much wheat is raised here, and the yield would not average over 14 bushels per acre. Winter wheat is looking well, although it has not made a heavy growth.

Entering Franklin county near the northwest corner, at Centropolis, I found many very fine farms, well improved, the owners appearing to be in good, easy circumstances. The pastor here is the second step in importance in this county, corn being the first. Eighty thousand bushels of this favorite crop was raised in the county this year; the price at which most of it was sold was \$1.15. At least ten per cent. of the crop was damaged by wet weather, many hundreds of bushels being yet on the "bean beds" in a spoiled condition.

Two miles northwest of Ottawa, is the farm of H. H. Rodgers. I found Mr. Rodgers breaking prairie and turning the sod under eight inches deep, using two plows. The breaking plow cut a furrow eight inches wide and three inches deep; a stirring plow followed in the furrow, cutting it five inches deeper, and throwing the loose, mellow earth on top of the sod. I was informed by Mr. Rodgers that no grass ever grows up through this depth of soil. It is to be hoped that others will try this plan. The yield of corn on this farm on new ground broken in the spring, in this manner, was equally as good as upon old ground.

On this farm I also saw a fine body of apple trees, at least sixty thousand. The owner has adopted a plan for the sale of his trees which would be well to be followed by some of our other nurserymen in the state, viz., to let the purchaser select and dig the trees himself.

Near here is the farm and residence of an old subscriber of the KANSAS FARMER, W. R. Rodgers, Esq. The buildings upon this farm are substantial, the barn being built of stone, and is the largest and best barn in the county. The owner showed me a piece of land where he had raised 75 bushels of corn this year, this being the first crop; the land was sub-solled last spring like the above.

The cattle in this county are in better condition than they were a year ago. The corn crop is about half gathered, and will probably average 50 bushels per acre. Winter wheat is in good condition. The fruit crop, particularly apples, was very large. Potatoes were a fair crop, and were at least fifty per cent. better than in Shawnee county. W. W. C. Ottawa, Kas., Nov. 30, 1877.

### FAMILIAR FARM TOPICS.

NO. 51.

BY JAS. HANWAY.

### THE ORIGIN OF PRAIRIES.

Whenever an opinion becomes generally entertained by the public, it matters not how unreasonable it may be, it takes years to correct it. Even scientific men frequently receive it as true, and advance theories to support it.

In the KANSAS FARMER of the 26th, an article is copied from the *American Naturalist*, written by Prof. J. D. Whitney, on "The Origin of Prairies," etc. The Prof. it appears, doubts the ordinary theories advanced

to explain why prairies are not encroached upon by bordering woods.

"A great area exists in Wisconsin and Minnesota over which not a drift pebble has ever been found, either at the surface or at any depth beneath it. The strata have become chemically disintegrated and dissolved by the percolation of the rain through them, the calcareous matter has been carried off in solution, and there is left behind as a residuum the unsoluble matter which the rock originally contained, and which, consisting largely of silica and silicate of alumina, forms by its aggregation a silicious and clayey deposit of almost impalpable fineness. It is this fine material which makes up the bulk of the prairie soil; and, as the writer conceives, it is this fineness which is especially inimical to the growth of trees." \* \* \* "It is for the vegetable physiologist to say why this fineness of the soil is unfavorable to the growth of trees; it is for the geologist and physical geographer to set forth the facts which they may observe within the line of their own professional work."

Twenty or twenty-five years ago, these remarks of Prof. W. would have been received as an unquestionable truth, but the last fifteen years of Kansas life has shown that the "fine prairie soil" is not "inimical to the growth of trees," hence his theory, based on the chemical ingredients of the soil, is unsound.

The Prof. has assumed that prairie soil is "inimical to the growth of trees," while the facts are the very opposite. This statement of Prof. Whitney's will only produce a smile when read by any citizen of Kansas who has lived in the state for the last fifteen or twenty years, and who can testify that what he has observed concerning the growth of trees is quite the contrary.

It would be the height of folly and an insult to the people of Kansas, to argue the statement made by the learned professor, that our prairie soil "is unfavorable to the growth of trees," but as there are doubtless many others besides the professor, outside of the state of Kansas, who honestly entertain this ridiculous notion, it is proper that these false impressions should be contradicted.

The growth of trees on prairie soil is no longer a debatable question. Facts are better than theories, even if they do come from a chemical laboratory. When we started for Kansas in '56, we were repeatedly told that trees could not be grown; the water could not be drunk, for it was impregnated with alkali. These were a few of the erroneous notions then entertained. When they are now recalled, they only produce a smile.

The facts are indisputable that so far as the eastern portions of Kansas are concerned, and this is the oldest settled portion, I have never seen a state where trees flourished and grew as they have done on the prairie soil of Kansas. I have an apple orchard on the high prairie, and a common remark made by visitors from Ohio, Iowa, and elsewhere, is that they "never had seen as large and well developed trees before," and in many cases they manifest a spirit of incredulity when they are informed that these trees are only eighteen years old. The same remarks are made of the growth of forest trees which have been replanted for shade trees around the dwelling-house.

It matters little what may be said about the "chemical condition of the soil;" the facts are trees grow in Kansas much more readily than they do in Ohio or Indiana, amongst the beech or oak regions of country where clay or a heavy soil is found.

Some writers who have claimed that our prairie soil is not congenial to the growth of trees, when they have observed the living fact that forest trees do flourish and grow as they do in other states where the native forests covered the soil, reply that they may succeed for a few years, but in the course of time they will decline and die out. To test such a theory we can only wait for future developments. One hundred years after this will be the proper time to talk about this prediction.

There is another point worthy of note, which seriously nullifies the theory founded on the chemical analysis of prairie soil: Whenever fires have been kept out of our small groves of timber, for a series of years, the timber belt rapidly extends out on the prairies from the streams. We know of numerous localities where only small underbrush grew fifteen or twenty years ago, which is now occupied with vigorous young trees. If the chemical qualities of the soil are as Prof. W. alleges—"unfavorable to the growth of trees," how can we explain these facts?

### INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION NEEDED.

The Agricultural College was endowed for the special purpose of furnishing a practical education that will prepare students for the farm, or trades, or business in the same sense that West Point is designed to instruct cadets in the principles and practice of the art of war. Quite frequently the notion is held that only the professional classes need be educated; and this notion finds a broader base in the fact that the educational system of the United States is now and always has been directly shaped for the benefit of the professional classes, although but three per cent. of those having a vocation are professional men while the ninety-seven indulge in industrial pursuits.

In considering this notion, it may help us to compare the need for an industrial education with the need for a military education. A man can serve us as an officer without being able either to read or write, as was shown by the experience of the late war. But the same man would have served better, and have risen more rapidly and higher, had he possessed the advantage which others derived from an ability to read and write. And this is equally true of the industrialist. Some successful farmers or mechanics in every state are unable to read; but would not the same man be more successful and better able to protect himself if he had this ability? Most certainly.

Again, the late war clearly proved that while men could serve efficiently as officers who previous to enlistment had never seen a company drilled, still the same officer would have been more efficient and intelligent had he received a military training. Probably there was not a single volunteer officer in either army who did not wish a thousand times for the knowledge taught at West Point, nor a single one who attained eminence except by the closest study of military art during his service.

In other words, there is always some one way which is the easiest and best way of doing a given thing. If other persons have discovered and tested this best way, their experience is greatly helpful to those who are called upon to do the same thing. This experience may be heard or it may be read. It is immaterial how the information be obtained, but necessary that it be obtained. Now, both in the art of war and the art of agriculture, there are a great many things to be done, and several different ways of doing each of these things. But some of these ways are better than others; and if a pupil can be taught these best ways before he is called upon to do them as officer or farmer, it certainly will be better for him and for the interests intrusted to him. It is precisely upon this fact that the relation of "apprentice" in former days, and of "pupil" or "chore boy" in these days, rests. That relation is as old as the race, and its continuous existence, in some form or other, is the best evidence of its necessity.

The questions which daily beset the farmer, mechanic, business man or woman are perplexing as those which puzzle the lawyer. And the right solution of these questions is of as much importance to the farmer as to the lawyer. Furthermore, these problems have arisen before and have largely been settled by former generations, one way or another; so their experience is not only valuable but obtainable. And it is simply a matter of common sense whether or not we avail ourselves of this experience in the industrial pursuits, as the physician does in his profession. The principles of science in its several departments, which underlie the work of the business world, and the past experience of men in applying these principles to the demands of business life, are quite as well known and can be as successfully taught for the direct benefit of the industrialist, as the principles of science have heretofore been taught for the direct benefit of the professional classes. And if it pays the cadet or student of medicine to obtain an education for his work, precisely to the same extent will it pay the industrialist to obtain a practical education.—*Industrialist*.

The amount of corn raised in this county this year is 2,416,140 bushels. The number of acres sown in wheat last year was 1,653; this fall there had been 5,285 acres put in wheat, an increase of 3,632 acres. The total product of corn this year in the state is 103,565,645.—*Lyndon, Osage Co., Times*.



## CLAWSON WHEAT.

Prof. Kedzie, of the Michigan Agricultural College, has been led by the discussion, this season, on the merits and demerits of Clawson wheat, to enter upon a somewhat exhaustive investigation, the results of which, as published in the *Lansing Republican* of Nov. 9th, are sent us by a correspondent for examination and notice. After recounting numerous practical tests, Prof. K. finally gives analyses of the flour of several varieties, and we refer to these at the outset, as an argument apparently so strong against the Clawson as has been based upon its supposed deficiency in albuminoids, under previous analyses by Prof. Prescott. But Prof. Kedzie does not find this assertion sustained in his own laboratory, and we do not see why his conclusions are not entitled to at least the same weight as those published in this paper of August 10th last, according to which the Clawson was rated at the bottom of the list. Prof. Kedzie says:

"The following table exhibits the percentage of water the flour contained, the ash or inorganic matter remaining after complete combustion, the percentage of nitrogen present, from which the amount of albuminoid was estimated by multiplying the amount of nitrogen by 6.25. The carbohydrates, such as starch, sugar, gum, and fat was found by subtracting the percentages of water, ash and albuminoids from 100:

KIND OF FLOUR	Water	Ash	Nitro-	Albu-	Starch
	per cent.	per cent.	gen.	minoids.	per cent.
Clawson, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15
Atlantic, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15
Gold Medal, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15
Weeks, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15
Egyptian Red, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15
Full, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15
Buckeye, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15
Diehl, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15
Clawson, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15
South, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15
Gold Medal, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15
Treadwell, 1913	13.8	0.83	1.85	11.45	72.15

\*Grown on the College Farm.  
\*Grown in Iowa County.

These analyses were made by my assistant in chemistry. The results given are the average of a number of closely concurrent analyses of each kind of flour. It will be observed that flour from the same variety of wheat gives a different amount of albuminoids according as it is grown on clay or sandy soil. This is shown by the analysis of the flour of the Clawson grown on the College farm and that from Iowa county. The difference in the same varieties of wheat grown on different kinds of soil is as marked as that between different varieties of wheat grown on the same soil. The mean amount of albuminoids in the Clawson (10.43), as shown in this table, is almost exactly the same as that of Gold Medal (10.47), and is slightly in excess of the Treadwell grown on gravelly soil (10.00).

As to the character of the bread made from the flour of the different varieties, the result of the various trials reported must certainly be regarded as showing that the Clawson ranks as well as the average. We quote only the trial made in Prof. Abbott's family, which is a very fair sample of all the rest—with such differences as might arise from various causes other than any fundamental difference in the several kinds of flour:

"Mrs. Abbott places Soule's first, then Clawson and Gold Medal, and Treadwell last. She says Clawson required more kneading than others; but the quality of the bread made from Clawson, Soule's and Gold Medal was about the same, and could hardly be distinguished, one from another. The bread of all four kinds of flour was kept for four days under the same conditions when all were found to be well kept, moist and palatable, and there was no perceptible difference in their keeping qualities."

As the fact that Clawson seemed to require a little more kneading than others, is spoken of by several different persons, it may be worthy of special mention.

As regards the out-door character of the Clawson, circulars were sent to farmers through out the chief wheat-growing sections of the state. A classification of the replies received, we condense as follows:

"The Clawson wheat equal or superior to other varieties in withstanding frosts, wet and drought—97 per cent. say equal; 80 per cent. superior.

Softness of straw—90 per cent. say superior to other sorts.

Yield on summer fallows—95 per cent. say 10 to 14 bushels more per acre than other sorts.

Yield after other crops—77 per cent. equal to other sorts; 65 per cent. superior.

Insects—resists Hessian fly better, 50 per cent.; 'almost midge proof,' nearly 90 per cent.

General merit—superior to other varieties, 98 per cent."

The following sentences embrace Prof. K.'s conclusions:

"I have no interest in Clawson beyond the interest I feel in the prosperity of the farmers of our state, for whose benefit this investigation has been made. I am convinced that there is nothing in its chemical composition which would justify its exclusion from the market or grading it below other white wheats. Compared with the flour of standard varieties of wheat raised in this state, the Clawson flour holds a good rank. For food value and palatability I ask no better wheat than the Clawson. For hardiness and productiveness, our farmers give it the first rank."—Country Gentleman.

## BROOM-CORN.

The cultivation of broom-corn is now very extensively carried on in the Mohawk Valley and in many other parts of the United States. Its introduction into this country as an agri-

cultural product is attributed to Dr. Franklin, who while examining a whiff of the corn discovered a seed which he planted. Almost any soil that will raise a good crop of maize will produce a fair crop of broom; alluvial lands, however, are best suited to its cultivation. It repays careful culture and manuring. The planting is generally done with a machine drawn by a horse, in rows three feet apart, wide enough for the cultivator or the plow to pass conveniently. Drop the seed in hills six to ten inches apart. Four quarts of seed will plant an acre, which in turn will yield from 100 to 150 bushels of good seed. When the blade makes its appearance, which will be in about five or six days, leave no more than five sprigs to the hill. If high cultivation is desired manure may be both spread upon the ground and placed in the hill. The cultivator can be used several times before hoeing. Two hoeings are generally sufficient. Broom-corn may be planted from the middle of May to the first of June. When ready to harvest bend the stalks or stems of the corn two and a half or three feet from the ground, leaving them to dry for a few days. Then cut six or eight inches from the brush and lay in heaps to be carried to the scraper. Different methods are used to remove the seed, either by simple hand machines or by horse-power scraping machines. The latter will clear from seed the brush of three acres of corn in one day. That part of the stalk remaining in the field should be ploughed under in the fall or the following spring. If carried into the cattle yards, where they become incorporated with the manure, the stalks make a valuable addition to the compost. Sheep are fond of the seed, and will fatten on it nearly as well as on Indian corn. And if ground with rye, oats, barley or corn is excellent for cattle. Mixed with wheat bran it is good for milch cows. The Shakers, who grow this plant so largely, seldom feed any other grain to their horses in the time of harvesting the brush. It can be dried on barn or garret floors or on the ground, but should be frequently stirred while drying. Clean in a fanning mill before grinding. The early harvested broom is brightest and best, consequently the harvesting must commence while the seed is in its earliest or milky state, which always entails more or less loss of seed.

## SHRINKAGE OF CORN.

We have more than once alluded to the fact that we think farmers who sell grain do not properly appreciate the loss while standing in the crib. In answer to the question of "How much does corn lessen in weight by keeping dry, when compared with its weight at time of husking?" the superintendent of the Experimental Farm answers as follows: "In the fall of 1910 Thomas M. Harvey put 400 pounds of sound corn (ears) in a lathed box to test the shrinkage. It was weighed and boxed Nov. 18, quite ripe and dry. This was late for husking you will notice. November 23, one box was shelled out and made 5 bushels 27 1/2 quarts by measure or 323 pounds 6 ounces, and averaged 55 1/2 ounces to the bushel; cobs weighed 75 pounds 8 1/2 ounces, making the total loss 2 pounds 1 1/2 ounces. The next box was shelled March 30, following, and made 5 bushels and 9 ounces, or 298 pounds 8 ounces, averaging 56 pounds 8 1/2 ounces per bushel; the cobs weighed 54 pounds and 10 ounces, making a loss of 46 pounds 14 ounces, or 7 1/2 per cent. on the grain, and a loss of 11 1/2 per cent. on the grain, and cobs. This result would have been quite different if the boxes had been filled with early husked, large-cobbed corn. I have had larger ears that lost 50 per cent. from the time they were first husked till thoroughly dried." To this Mr. Shortridge, of Bellefonte, adds his own experience: "1875, November 12, put in the crib 55 bushels, ears, weight, 1976 pounds; 15th do., weight, 1980; 17th do., weight 1970.35 pounds per bushel when cribbed August 31, 1876, it weighed out of crib, 31 1/2 bushels, or 1,079 pounds, for each draft put in crib. Each bushel of ears now weighed 34 1/2 pounds, making a loss in bulk of 18 1/2 per cent. and in weight 22 1/2 per cent. He says this was a shorter and plumper grain than other Chester county varieties of corn, and would probably lose less than our large-cobbed varieties. In the above experiment the corn was not shelled."—*Farmers' Friend*.

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SELLING HOGS DRESSED AND GROSS.

Some sensible farmer has tried the experiment of weighing his hogs and selling gross for 4 1/2 cents and dressing and selling at 6 cents. It is something that each farmer should test and see which will be the most remunerative. Here are his figures on the question: "I tested the subject as far as my opportunities would permit, not having anything to weigh with but a beam. I weighed the pigs, each one after killing and bleeding, and then dressed and cleaned, and after hanging an hour weighed over with the following results: First pig before dressing, 224 lb.; after dressing, 175 lb.; second pig, 190 lb.; before cleaning, 154; third pig, 238 lb. before cleaning, after 200. It will be seen that the first pig lost 49 lbs., the second 36 lbs., the third 38 lbs.; in all 123 lbs. Weight of all the pigs before dressing, 625 lbs., at 4 1/2 cents per cwt., would be \$29.34; after dressing, 329 lbs. at 6 cents per cwt. would be \$31.74—a profit of \$2.40, which would hardly pay if you had to spend one day to butcher and one hauling to market. If sold on foot it takes but one day to deliver, but in selling dressed it leaves \$2.40 for one day's work, which in these times would be more than enough to pay for some good paper."

## BREEDING SHEEP FOR MUTTON.

We have various inquiries upon this subject. How to breed for mutton will depend upon what branch of the business you propose to follow—whether to rear sheep to sell to the butcher or for breeding purposes, or (which, in our opinion, is generally the most profitable practice, as well here as in breeding cattle) to rear your stock with a view to both objects. With the best blood, as we have frequently had occasion to show, there will always be some individuals below the standard of merit that should be required in breeding stock, and these should go to the butcher. If you select good, strong, compact ewes, of the common sort in your neighborhood, and breed them to a Southdown ram, the lambs will probably show the dark faces and legs, and to a large degree the fattening properties and the quality of flesh, of the sire and meet with a ready sale in the market at high prices, as the Southdown is the best as to qualities of mutton, of all our cultivated breeds. If a Shropshire Down ram can be had he will get you larger stock, with a heavier fleece of wool, though both fleece and flesh will be coarser than in the Southdown. However, it is probable that the produce of the Shropshire, being larger, would be the most profitable. If neither of these breeds (nor the Hampshire Down, regarded as next to the Southdown in quality and larger in carcass) at hand, or if the long wool is preferred, we would choose a Cotswold or a Lincoln—both very large, with fine and valuable fleeces for combing. But these large breeds require, to make them profitable, high feeding and more attention than the smaller varieties. All these breeds are ready for market at eighteen months, and it is not believed profitable to keep the wethers to a much greater age. They are the sheep for dear lands, where there is a good demand for mutton. In rearing sheep to sell for breeding purposes, of the mutton races, we would prefer the Southdown, and next to them the Shropshires. To begin with, get a good ram, compact, stout and short-necked and well covered with wool, of as uniform staple as possible. Don't be particular about the price if the ram suits you; any man who breeds sheep can afford to give a good price for a good ram, but no man can afford to breed from a poor ram—in proportion to the investment nothing will make or lose money to a farmer like a ram. After securing the right sort of ram look about for a few good, purely bred ewes of the same breed. It is not necessary to get many to begin with; if you are without experience in the business feel your way. To these you may add the common ewe as before suggested, and breed your ram to them for stock for the butchers. Breed early, not later than November, and get your lambs stout for the early grass. Grow your lambs—this is the true system in growing mutton as well as pork. The more you feed bran, oats, &c., the higher will be your profits. The ewes, too, must be kept in condition to give plenty of milk.

## WINTERING BEES IN CELLARS OR SPECIAL HOUSES.

If bees can be wintered in a cellar, an equal temperature can be obtained, thus keeping the bees inactive and lessening the consumption of honey. A cellar adapted to this purpose should be cool, dark and dry; if the entire cellar cannot be used for the bees alone, the part least disturbed may be separated from the rest by a partition or curtain, so that the light may not induce them to fly when the door is opened. If the cellar is not perfectly dry, or a large number of hives are crowded into a small space, the combs may become mouldy. To guard against this to some extent, construct a ventilating tube by fastening four boards together, and arrange it in the cellar window or through the door. The hives should be elevated from the floor by scantling, and if a larger number than can be placed on the floor are to be wintered in it, shelves may be constructed. The interior of the hives should be prepared as for winter, in the open air. As soon as winter has fairly opened, the hives should be taken in, and not sooner. Common hives may be inverted, and a piece of thin muslin or wire cloth fastened over the openings. During the winter, the hives should be examined occasionally, to see that the combs are not getting mouldy; should the humming and uneasy motions of the bees give indication that the cellar is too warm, it should be cooled, and if this cannot be effected by opening the door and window, the uneasy stock should be carried outside until the bees become quiet, when it may be returned.

Special houses are sometimes built, when a cellar cannot be used. The building is weather-boarded outside and boarded within, and the space between filled with saw-dust, tan-bark, or straw; the roof is also boarded inside, and the cavity between filled with straw or saw-dust. To secure a more even temperature, a pit two or three feet deep is dug inside. The bees are wintered in it as in a cellar.

Ground pits are also made use of in the absence of either of the foregoing. Select a perfectly dry spot, dig a pit or ditch six inches deeper and wider than the height and width of the hives; drain this ditch to secure perfect dryness; lay down four-inch scantling, and upon it place your hives; arrange a pole over the middle of the ditch, rested in forked limbs, and from the pole lay short boards to each side of the ditch in such a manner as to form a roof; make a tube for each hive by nailing the edges of four laths together; insert them so that one end reaches down to the middle of the hive, the other end projecting

outside, and cover the whole with straw about a foot thick, and over it place some earth to retain it in place. As soon as the warm days of spring approach, the hives should be set on their summer stand, beginning with the strongest colony, and as soon as they have marked their course, more may be set out until all have their summer stand. If no more freezing weather occurs, upward ventilation should be checked, and the entrance contracted to retain the warmth of the hive, and to enable each colony to guard against robbers.—*Bee-keeper's Guide*.

## TREATMENT OF CUTTINGS.

Prepare the cuttings of a convenient length for handling (say about ten inches), of the last year's wood. Let the lower end be cut off smoothly, just below the bud. After a little practice, it will be no trouble to follow this rule, and one will always be able to distinguish the top and bottom ends of the cuttings at sight. Grape cuttings on this plan should contain from two to four buds. Tie the cuttings in bundles about three inches in diameter, with willow twigs or small wire that will not rot in the dirt; make the butt end of the bundle even, and tie lightly. Heel in the cuttings in dry, mellow ground, with the butt ends of the bundles up, and the top ends down. Cover the pile from four to six inches deep with mellow earth, pat down smoothly and administer a good drenching of water. Then cover the bed with manure, fresh from the stable, deep enough to prevent from freezing during winter.

On the approach of warm weather, when the frost has all left the ground, and night frosts ceased, take off the manure, but do not disturb the earth or cuttings. Let the cuttings remain well covered with earth to keep them moist while the surface of the covering is gradually warmed by the sun from day to day. After most other spring work is done, examine your bed, and when the buds are well swollen so that very careful handling is necessary to prevent damage, then raise and set out the cuttings in fine mellow soil. Set them deep enough, so that the bud will be just at the surface of the ground, and so that a mulch of chaff, sawdust or cut straw will hide it. This treatment of cuttings should be begun early in the fall, and it will be perceived that we have used bottom heat all the time—first manure and second the sun. And generally it will be found that our cuttings have become well rooted, and all are likely to grow, if handled carefully. The setting should be done from a pail partly filled with tepid water.

Any person wishing to commence the treatment in spring, should begin it at the earliest moment that digging can be done. In all cases the cuttings should remain in the bed as late in the season as they can be handled without destroying the buds. It will always be found that the butt ends are more advanced than the top ends. Great care must be taken to preserve the roots, and the bud at the top end.

We never propagate the pear, apple, plum, peach, or cherry from cuttings. Quinces, gooseberries, currants and many other plants are easily grown from cuttings. Apple trees are propagated by root grafting.—*Fruit Recorder*.

## ORIGINALITY IN FARMING.

There are two ways in which a farmer may manage his business. He may observe definite rules without regard to varying circumstances, or he may be guided by his own judgment and regulate his own operations according to conditions. There is a tendency among a large class of farmers to be guided by maxims which they have received from their fathers. They plant their corn and wheat as nearly as possible on stated days or at stated times of the moon. They hoe and cultivate their corn a given number of times without much regard to the condition of the soil; and in all the routine of farm work they keep as nearly as possible in the old track, believing that to be the only safe one.

When we consider the variety of circumstances under which the same crops are raised in different localities, it is evident that no rules can be given for their management that it will be best to follow in all cases. There are fields of corn that will thrive and produce well with very little culture, while others will be nearly ruined by quick grass and thistles, without very thorough cultivation. Sometimes the weeds are of such a kind that a smoothing harrow is the best implement that can be used for destroying them, while at others, the time-honored corn-plow is the only instrument that will prove effectual. Unless the farmer uses judgment in the management of his corn he will not always get it at the least cost per bushel.

The same may be said of every department of farm labor. The old rules may be safe, but there is sometimes a better way, and the farmer who can look beyond, and see when his practice—and in may be varied with profit—has an advantage over others. There is as much opportunity for making good bargains in raising our crops, by taking advantage of circumstances, as there is in selling them by taking advantage of the markets. It is often noticed that the farmers who do the most hard work do not always succeed the best.

This is because they do too little thinking. The question should always be "How can I apply my labor so that it will be most effectual?" Many farmers accomplish more with their heads than with their hands.

There is an opportunity for originality not only in the management of crops but as well

as in all the appurtenances of the farm. Most of our barns were built before the invention of the horse pitching apparatus, consequently they are rarely fitted to its use. Much labor is expended in hauling hay over wrongly placed beams, and especially in moving the apparatus from one building to another, that might be saved if barns were planned with reference to convenience in storing hay. When properly arranged, two large barns may be filled with the same apparatus; that it will require but five minutes to shift from one building to the other. The farmer who has barns to build may use some thinking with profit in planning with reference to convenience in filling. Other opportunities for improvement will doubtless suggest themselves to thoughtful farmers.—*Dirigo Rural*.

## AGE OF FRAUD.

Crime, like some diseases, seems to be at times epidemic. The present appears to be an era so peculiarly adapted to the development of crime, in the form of embezzlements and breaches of trust, that one is almost frightened for one's own integrity. Hardly a day passes that does not discover some new and gigantic rascality by which one or a few persons have been enriched at the expense of the many trusting dupes. Not unfrequently, too, are these practices carried on under the cloak of unusual piety and great professions of religion. What is the cause, what will be the effect, and when shall we have an end of all this? The cause is apparent. It does not begin with the natural depravity of the luckless thief in all cases; but can be traced in many instances to the desire for show, the extravagance and emulating desire to outshine the neighbors, which is such a prevalent passion with our American society. Those people who actually have the money of their own with which to astonish their neighbors, do it so ostentatiously and treat all lesser attempts with such supercilious contempt, that many whose moral and mental caliber are not of the strongest, are led by their desire not to be left behind, to do those things which, though small at first, soon grow to the proportions and assume the shape of gigantic frauds. Every man or woman, upon a little reflection, will tell you what a poor result dishonesty will show if calculated even without regard to any moral element at all. Yet in the unguarded moment, the man, by some little dishonest act, enables himself to gratify some small extravagance, and he is started on a career which ends—no one knows where. The father and husband is in state prison or an exile in a foreign land; the mother and wife in a lunatic asylum, and the children—poor, innocent little creatures!—thrown upon the charity of friends and relatives and disgraced forever. This picture is not overdrawn. It has occurred under our very eyes within three months of the present writing. And all for what? That extravagance and ostentation could be maintained before the neighbors.

The effect of all this will be a demoralization of our youth and perhaps a greater epidemic of fraud and embezzlement at a future day. The few families who are immediately affected in pocket and affections by these acts, are such a small proportion of the great human society that they are hardly worth considering in the whole breadth of the question; but the effect of these acts upon the minds of our youth, who read of them and become familiarized with them by constant repetition, can hardly be calculated in all its vastness. Right here it behooves parents and guardians to bestir themselves to instill into the minds of those under their care and protection such firm principles of honesty and integrity that a fall will be impossible. Do not teach them that honesty is the best policy. Never let the words honesty and policy be associated together, but teach them to be honest because it is right—from motives of principle and not policy, and they will be rewarded by an inward satisfaction which surpasses all ostentatious gratification.

The end of all this crime, fraud, embezzlement and rascality will be when men are honest from principle—because it is right and not because it is the best policy. We may argue up from the "policy" proverb and certainly strike a weak place sooner or later; but when we start from the "principle" end of the line we are hemmed in on both sides by the solid rock of RIGHT, and cannot swerve either to the one side or the other, but must keep the straight road to the end of life's journey.—*Rural New Yorker*.

One hundred and three steers ("threes" this spring) are being lifted at the place of Henry Brown, west of Wilson county. Brown is also wintering over 100 head of stock, cattle and is fatten ing 150 head of hogs. He feeds 75 bushels of corn per day.—*Wilson Co. Tribune*.

The *Olathe Mirror* of the 15th contains the following how that city was named, and also the meaning of the word *Olathe*: "Olathe was named in this manner, to wit, as the lawyers would say before describing a piece of land: Dave Daugherty, a Shawnee Indian, was brought along as chain carrier, and in case of necessity he could act as interpreter if any squaws should come wandering round the new town. When the train reached the top of the hill where Jonathan Milliken now lives, the Doctor (Barton) halted them, and with glowing cheeks and sparkling eyes, enthusiastically remarked that yonder were the quarter sections upon which the future county seat of Johnson county should be located. Dave straightened himself up—took one good look—gave a few of his Indian grunts, and then exclaimed in Shawnee, 'O la the!' which the Indian language means beautiful. Dr. Barton then and there declared the name of the future county seat should be the Shawnee Indian word for beautiful—Olathe."







## The Kansas Farmer.

J. H. HUDSON, Editor &amp; Proprietor, Topeka, Kan.

TERMS: CASH IN ADVANCE.

One Copy, Weekly, for one year	1 00
One Copy, Weekly, for six months	50
Three Copies, Weekly, for one year	3 00
Five Copies, Weekly, for one year	5 00
Ten Copies, Weekly, for one year	10 00

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One insertion, per line, (nonparel) 30 cents.	
One month, " " " " " " " "	10
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The greatest care is used to prevent swindling humbugs securing space in these advertising columns. Advertisements of lotteries, whisky, and quick doctors are not received. We accept advertisements only for cash, cannot give space and take pay in trade of any kind. This is business, and it is a just and equitable rule adhered to in the publication of THE FARMER.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

A notification will be sent you one week in advance of the time your subscription expires, stating the fact, and requesting you to continue the same by forwarding your renewal subscription. No subscription is continued longer than it is paid for. This rule is general and applied to all our subscribers. The cash in advance principle is the only business basis upon which a paper can sustain itself. Our readers will please to understand when their paper is discontinued that it is in obedience to a general business rule, which is strictly adhered to and in no wise personal. A journal, to be outspoken and useful to its readers, must be pecuniarily independent, and the above rules are such as experience among the best publishers have been found essential to permanent success.

## TO THE FRIENDS OF THE FARMER.

The season has arrived for the renewal of subscriptions. We ask of the friends of the FARMER and those interested in placing in the hands of their friends and neighbors a live, progressive paper, identified and honestly working for the welfare and prosperity of the producers, as citizens, as individuals, and as business-men, to give us the benefit of their influence in their respective communities. The FARMER is a plain-spoken journal that does not pander to prejudices, or play the sycophant to any class, ring, sect, or party for support. It aims to deal fairly and fearlessly with questions treated in its columns, hoping to secure from its readers their respect and confidence in its integrity, if they do not at all times agree with the judgment of the editor. We give to the work of making the KANSAS FARMER our entire time and strength, hoping to make a journal which shall be useful to the people of the West and welcome in every family.

We adopted the cash in advance principle for subscriptions, because it was the true business basis upon which to build a successful and permanent journal. This course has been, and will continue to be, strictly adhered to. Every subscriber will receive the paper as long as he has paid for it; and while we regret to lose a single reader, we shall, at the expiration of each subscription, send a notice requesting a renewal of the subscription, and if it is not renewed, the name will be dropped from the list. Thus every subscriber gets just what he pays for, and is not forced to take a paper for one, two or three years after he ceases to want it, and the subscribers who do pay for their paper, do not under this system, have to assist in supporting a large list of non-paying patrons.

## OUR CLUB OFFER.

The very low club rate of the FARMER places the paper within reach of every farmer in the West. It is as follows:

Ten copies, in one order, to any number of post offices in the United States, or Canada, accompanied by \$10—in draft, P. O. order, or registered letter,—entitles the person acting as club agent to an extra copy.

The FARMER gives its readers fifty-two copies for one year. It has never missed an issue of the paper in ten years. The 15th volume, ending December 26th, 1877, will contain 472 pages. We shall give our readers, in 1878, 500 pages of reading matter, five columns to the page. Those who join clubs thus get a volume of 2,500 columns for one dollar.

Now is the time to get up clubs. Sample package of papers and club list sent free to any person who will try to make up a club. Friends, let us hear from you!

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The Annual Message of President Hayes, which we regret to say cannot be presented to our readers until next week, is a well written document, which treats in good, smooth English the usual questions discussed in this presidential paper. The particular portion of the message which we confess disappoints us very much, is the treatment by the president of the silver question. The criminal outrage by which silver was demonetized, we regret to say, finds an apologist in the president. Upon this question Mr. Hayes places himself unqualifiedly with the most ultra specie resumptionists by whose influence silver was demonetized, and the people of the West will read with regret and with feelings of keenest disappointment the hackneyed arguments of the bondholders in the president's message. We have credited Mr. Hayes with the most earnest, patriotic and sincere sentiments in his civil service and southern policy, developing, as it has, a manly independence in his course as president which raised him above and beyond the politician—but upon this, the most vital question now before the country, affecting the interests and prosperity of the mass of the people, we believe Mr. Hayes has made a most unfortunate mistake in being the champion of the gold mongers.

## THE MURPHY MOVEMENT.

The temperance movement which is known throughout the western and middle states as the Murphy Movement, has reached Kansas, and bids fair to arouse people more earnestly on the subject than for years before. It is absolutely necessary to have a good shaking up on this subject occasionally, because many good temperance men easily lose sight of the necessity of assisting others to be as temperate as themselves. The mixed chemicals which are sold as wine, whiskey, rum and brandy, will never fall into disrepute, nor their sale prove unprofitable, as long as that element of society known as the respectable, give them their approval. The poor drunkard and his beggared, disgraced family, form no part of the influences at work transforming our young men into drunkards; on the contrary, a poor fellow who has every feeling of self-restraint chained by the terrible appetite for whiskey, as he goes staggering home to his hungry, poverty-stricken family, is an influence on the mind of every observer for total abstinence. The influence that does make drunkards, is the respectable drinker, men, young and old, of good business and social position, who ridicule as weak and childish the man who refuses to take a social glass. The fashionable families who invite their guests to drink wine, the churches which harbor within their folds those who make money by selling the damnable stuff, are the ones who are responsible for the high social position of whiskey. Give the poor drunkard and his needy family a helping hand. Save the bitter words of condemnation for those who traffic in the stuff, and those who rent their houses for saloons, thus sharing the profits of the misfortunes and appetites of men, because the public sentiment of the better part of the community is too cowardly to assert itself. Business-men talk temperance in whispers, for fear outspoken opposition will reach and affect their trade. Crime is manufactured by our saloons, while we patiently toil to pay the taxes to support these criminals and paupers of whiskey.

Let the orators who address the Murphy meetings, place the respectability of drinking and selling whiskey where it belongs, viz., on the men influential in business, religion, education, politics and society, who negatively aid, or apologize for its sale or moderate use.

## BLACK-LEG IN CATTLE.

We have received two or three letters asking information in treating black-leg in cattle. The following, upon this subject, was contributed by Mr. Coburn, February 16, 1876. If our readers are familiar with a better system of treating this disease, it will be a favor to a number if they will send a statement to the FARMER for publication.

With the black-leg the animal will appear stiff in the hips and thighs, or shoulders, and will probably be down when discouraged and unable to get up. Unless far gone and badly swelled, bleed as much as the size of the animal will allow, but if about gone don't bleed. Active purgation must next be resorted to, and owing to the great disturbance of the system and want of vitality in the digestive organs, a much stronger dose than common will be required. Dr. Paaren, V.S., recommends the following: "Take of croton seeds, powdered, ten grains, solution of aloes (one part of aloes to eight parts of boiling water with two parts of common soda), four ounces, powdered ginger, two drachms. This may be given in a quart of warm ale, with a little yeast in it, which will increase the action of the medicine and act as a corrective of the disposition to grangrene, which exists in the system."

I will remark here that I consider it just about as practicable for the average farmer to get a quart of cologne water from Paris, for a purge, as to get a quart of ale on short notice as he has in such emergencies. "Local applications to the swelled parts are useless and a more energetic treatment must be resorted to. Bold and deep incisions should be made in the swellings at intervals of an inch or an inch and a half, with a sharp penknife, and the punctures dressed with spirits of turpentine. Dr. Paaren says May and June are the months when the diseases is most prevalent, but I think in Kansas more young cattle die with black-leg in February, March, and April, than in the remaining nine months of the year.

He says: "Prevention is however, more in the power of the breeder, and to this we draw his most serious attention. The young animals should be closely watched, and any predisposition to plethoria (fullness of blood, obesity), checked by bleeding, phlebotomy, &c., and a sparer diet, upon losing one or more, active measures should be adopted with the remainder. They should all be bled, physiced, and a seton inserted in the dew-lap. An ounce of nitre may be given to each once in the week. The administration of any specific or celebrated condition-nutrients to prevent this disease cannot be too much deprecated, as it can only lead to disappointment and loss on the part of the farmer, by inducing him to neglect other and more important measures. "Reducing the vascular system and attending to the diet, constitute our main preventives. In addition a counter-irritant, a seton may be inserted in the dew-lap. The seton should be composed of equal parts of tow and horse hair, plaited together, and dressed now and then with oil of turpentine."

## THE MEETING OF THE KANSAS STATE GRANGE.

The following letter from the secretary of the Kansas State Grange, Mr. P. B. Maxon, regarding reduced railroad fares, is of importance to those of our readers, in Kansas, who will attend the meeting:

"The A. T. & S. F. R. R., and the M. R. & T. R. R., will sell return tickets to persons attending the Kansas State Grange, to commence at Emporia, December 11th, at one and one-fifth rate. The K. P. R. R. will sell round trip tickets to Topeka and Junction City at one and one-fifth rate. The M. R. Ft. Scott & Gulf and St. L. & G. R. R., will sell tickets to persons attending the State Grange at one and one-fifth round trip. Tickets to return on to be endorsed by the secretary of the Kansas State Grange. The C. B. R. R. will sell round-trip tickets to the Kansas State Grange at one and one-fifth fare.

Please state the above facts in your paper for the benefit of such as may attend the meeting, and oblige,

P. B. MAXON,  
Secretary State Grange."

## GREAT SHORT-HORN CATTLE SALE AT EMPORIA.

As will be seen by our advertisement columns, a very important auction sale of thoroughbred Short-Horn cattle will be held on the Lyon county fair grounds, Dec. 15 Mr. Cochran, who is known as one of the most successful cattle breeders in the west, informs us that he expects to add a number more of choice animals to this sale, the number of which, if negotiations now going on for their purchase are successful, will be duly announced. There is no question but that the stock at this sale comprises some of the choicest in the country, and breeders should not fail to attend it. We refer to the advertisement for particulars. In last week's paper, the date of this sale was given as Dec. 1st; Dec. 15th is correct.

EDUCATIONAL CALENDAR.—This is the title of a small, four-page educational publication, issued monthly by Mr. George W. Martin, as publisher, and Prof. S. A. Felter, editor. It is a bright, beautifully printed paper, well edited as a teachers' newspaper. The subscription price is only 25 cents per year, which should insure an immense circulation.

CENTENNIAL COLT SOLD.—J. J. Parker, West Chester, Pa., importer and breeder of Percherons, has recently sold a yearling colt to W. C. Myer, of Ashland, Oregon; the above colt took the first prize at the Centennial show. Mr. Parker, it will be remembered, recently advertised his two imported Percheron stallions in this paper.

OUR PAPER.—The failure to receive our supply of paper is the cause of the extra two pages not appearing this week. This will be fully made up next week in an issue of 12 pages, in which will appear the President's message in full, and much interesting reading for all our friends.

## AN OFFER FROM MR. COBURN.

EDITOR KANSAS FARMER: There is scarcely a family in this broad state that would not be benefited by taking both the KANSAS FARMER and the AMERICAN YOUNG FOLKS, and although lack of time prevents my giving my personal attentions to canvassing, I never neglect an opportunity to speak a good word for them to my acquaintances and correspondents.

The FARMER should reach a circulation of 20,000 in the next six months, and to add my mite for the encouragement of those who will exert themselves to that end, I will make the following offers:

To the person sending the largest club to the FARMER before February 1st, 1878, I will ship one model Berkshire pig (either sex), descended from my finest strains, worth \$20. To the boy under fifteen years of age, sending the largest club to the FARMER before January 1st, 1878, I will send postpaid, one copy of Coburn's "Swine Husbandry," (published by Orange, Judd, and Co., New York). To the boy or girl sending the largest number of subscribers to the AMERICAN YOUNG FOLKS before February 1st, 1878, Mrs. Coburn will ship a setting of 13 eggs from the matchless Light Brahma fowls, worth \$3 00.

F. D. COBURN.

Pomona, Es., Nov. 21, 1877.

This is no apology for whiskey drinking; it is a medicine that cannot be used to intoxicate; it produces a tonic effect, as well as acts as a cathartic. In fact, Simmons' Liver Regulator is pronounced an unexceptional medicine.

## Crops, Markets &amp; Finance.

Opinions, Facts, and Figures from Various Sources.

Nuckolls County, Nebraska.

Nov. 30th.—This county is situated on the Little Blue river, in the southern tier of counties, and is the fifth county west of the Missouri river. Winter wheat is raised here, but is not considered a safe crop; spring wheat is grown in abundance, the average yield this year, being over 20 bushels per acre; oats very heavy; my oats yielding 60 bushels per acre. Cattle-raising is carried on quite largely, also hog raising, but few sheep here yet; land very cheap, good land is worth from \$1.50 to 4.50 per acre. This county is the best supplied with timber of any in the state.

Geo. S. CONANT.

KANSAS.

Allen County.

Nov. 28d.—Corn harvest in this locality is about over, in spite of the prevailing wet weather of the past few weeks; the crop is far above the average, about equal to the famous year of '75, with a larger acreage. Price

at present from 16@20c per bushel; winter wheat is in fine condition, never better; acreage 25 per cent. above last year; spring wheat is not a success here, on account of chinch bugs. Rye and oats are raised extensively, and are paying crops, that is to feed, not to ship. We derive our greatest profit from consuming all our grain (except wheat), right at home, literally driving our grain to market on foot. Hogs are a profitable "crop" as they are not subject to any disease whatever and the price is always good. Prices of stock will about average with other sections of the state, good milk cows commanding from \$35@40; work-horses from \$75@100, according to quality; potatoes, average crop this year, worth 50 cts per bu. Fruit of all kinds was bountiful; apples now worth 75 cts per bushel; butter 15@18 cts per lb; cheese, 10@12 1/2 cts. Land and farms cheap, a fine opening for new comers, of which we are receiving our full share.

D. D. S.

## Franklin County.

Nov. 23rd.—The chinch bug in former years, had become such a formidable pest, that farmers generally, in this section of the country, resolved to adopt the suggestion of Prof. Riley, not to sow winter wheat for several years, so as to cut off its breeding growth. For the last four years, very little wheat was planted, and it has diminished the chinch bug crop most wonderfully.

Last summer the wheat crop (what little there was sown), was very fine, and in some fields of wheat after the crop was harvested, not a single chinch bug could be found. This was something new, and strange. There may be climatic causes which have favored this state of things, but the facts at least are worthy of note.

The fall wheat and rye never looked more promising than it does at this date. Farmers have commenced gathering corn, it is perfectly sound; but the yield per acre is not what many anticipated it would be; too much rain about planting time, and the unusual amount of replanting in the spring, are doubtless the drawbacks on the yield of the crop. The acreage however, was larger than any former year: It was generally predicted that the raid of the locust in '75, destroyed all the blue grass pasture, this was a mistake. We are now feeding sixty head of fat cattle on a thirty acre field of blue grass. It would be no exaggeration to estimate the value of this field, to the same number in corn, taking into consideration the cost of the two crops. The question is sometimes asked, if blue grass will flourish on our light, prairie soil. The difficulty is, in getting it to start.

The county clerk has plenty of fun now, issuing warrants for bounty on rabbits' scalps. About 50 or 60 are brought in every week, and occasionally the scalp of a wolf or a wild cat.

—Alma Blade.

From all parts of the country we hear the most encouraging reports of the prospect for wheat, and a great deal about the heavy yield of corn. Plenty of hay has been put up, and stock seems to appreciate that they will be well cared for this winter. It is a noticeable fact that the farmers are beginning to see the importance of good shelter as well as feed for their stock. They are going to have milk and butter this winter, sure and all kinds of recreation and enjoyment. Societies are being organized for mutual improvement and pleasure, and the farmers' clubs are going to put the time this winter for the benefit of the sons of toil.

The estimated number of acres sown to fall wheat in this county is 59,358, being the sixth largest acreage in the state. The total acreage in the state, to fall wheat is 1,243,515; an increase over the seeding of 1876, of 401,210 acres. This at the general average of the past twelve years, would yield 17,509,210 bushels, of which Butler county would produce about one-twentieth, or 831,012 bushels.

—Gazette, Butler County.

Independence school district has a present bond debt of \$13,500, assessed valuation of property \$440,000, has 865 children of school age, 625 enrolled and a daily average 389; pays her male teachers an average of \$62.52, and females \$43.00, had 33 weeks of school during the past year. —Independence Tribune.

Northern Shawnee, as well as other portions of the county, can boast of many substantial improvements this year. The farmers generally have improved their farms, and a stranger driving that way cannot but be favorably impressed with their neatness. —Topeka Commonwealth.

Thirty-five mills in Texas are now being supplied with wheat from Junction City, and they demand all the wheat that can be marketed at this point during the winter. Kansas City rates are now being paid for wheat at this market, which makes Junction City the best wheat market in Kansas. —Junction Union.

During the year there was an average attendance of 1,310 pupils, out of a school population of 2,378. The total receipts and expenditures for school purposes was \$25,815.23, with \$281.64 overdraw on Treasury. —Lawrence Standard.

Hog disease.—On Sunday morning John Ferguson, who lives four miles northeast of this city, found one of his hogs dead and others sick. Five have since died and others probably will die. They first show symptoms of weakness and go around with their noses to the ground, and then appear blind and run against any thing in their way, then turn round and round with a twitching or jerking movement, then become spotted purple and soon die. —Winfield Courier.

There are signs of returning prosperity in this country. Most all farmers are preparing to make extensive improvements. There will not be any corn left to rot in the cribs, this coming season, is the resolution of all farmers. We expect to see the country teeming in a few days, with hog buyers, as this country is well supplied with fat swine, ready for the market—in fact Doniphan county has a large surplus to go to the market, this year, of all the commodities belonging to the farm produce. —Troy Chief.

On the ground that those who do a good thing should see that others appreciate their work, the Kansas College sums up an itemized account of work on the University building as follows: The freestone is without doubt the finest in the state and was executed by Mr. Otto Jevne, of Chicago. All the interior finish was done under separate contracts, by Messrs McFarland and O. P. Smith, of this city, and it does them credit severally and collectively. The main floor is furnished with tiling-seat opera chairs. The entire expenditure has been about \$12,000. —Lawrence Standard.

S. L. Shotwell, cashier of the Exchange Bank in this city, raised, or rather had raised, upon one of his lots a small patch of corn, that beats anything we have heard of in this section. The ground planted was between a fourth and a third of an acre. Upon gathering the crop thirty-five bushels of good corn were picked. The corn was planted in drills. It is getting to be very popular in some portions of this county to plant corn in drills. It stands to reason that it will produce a better crop if the weeds can be kept under. —Ellipton Press.

A large vein of coal has been discovered on Turkey Creek, west of town, measuring some 14 inches in thickness. It is an excellent quality, and is pronounced by those who have used it to be a No. 1 article. This is good news to those who have to pay a high price for coal and then haul it 25 or 30 miles. We hope the matter will be pushed forward and the coal banks in Woodson county opened up. —Woodson Co. Post.

B. J. Potter who has been devoting considerable time to sheep-raising recently sold and delivered 1,000 head at Great Bend. Mr. Potter has been quite successful in this business, and this should encourage others to make similar investments in this county and climate has proved beyond a doubt to be adapted to sheep-raising. —Hutchinson Interior.

The following is a statement (taken from the shipping books) of cattle, hogs and grain shipped from Winchester, Kan., from Nov. 76 to Nov. 77: Cattle, 83 car loads; hogs, 119; sheeps, 242; wheat, 41; oats, 37; millet, 8; rye, 4; flax seed, 3; potatoes, 9; hay, 20. This includes only what was shipped in car loads. There was a large quantity shipped by smaller lots. —Oskaloosa Independent.

The following prices were ruling yesterday, Nov. 28th, on ordinary family groceries: Flour, per 100 \$3 50 to \$3 00; tea, choice Imported \$1 00; good Japan, 60 cts to \$1 00; Hyson, 60 cts to \$1 00; Twankay, 25 cts; a fine 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 for \$1 00; sugar, granulated A 7 1/2 lbs \$1 00; extra "C" 8 1/2 lbs \$1 00; yellow cut, 8 1/2 lbs \$1 00; potatoes, per bushel, \$1 00; apples, per bushel, \$1 40; cheese, per lb, 30 cts; butter, 20 to 25 cts per lb; eggs 20 to 25 cts per doz; bacon per lb, 12 cts; shoulders, per lb, 9 cts; hams, per lb, 15 cts; onions per bushel \$1 00. —Wichita Eagle.

I enjoyed a night's hospitality with Mr. Winkler, of Winkler's Mills: Saw their 1,000 head of sheep driven into corral and range themselves alongside the 300 or 400 head of cattle. Took the following notes from Mr. W. relating to the profits, mishaps, &c., of sheep-raising: "Sheepers during the night and stormy days in a good frame, shingled shed. Feeds corn all winter and deems it well used. Loses a very small percentage more by accident than disease. Clears seventy-five per cent. How are you, herd law men? Finds sheep more profitable than cattle, of which he has a large herd. His large grist and saw mill is run by the water of Fancy Creek, which furnishes an abundant supply at all times, only when drank up by grasshoppers—and drouth. —Cor. in Manhattan Nationalist.

Twelve emigrant wagons in one string passed through town last Monday, bound for the Solomon Valley. They were from Jefferson county, Iowa. There is scarcely an hour in the day that "prairie schooners" may not be seen on our streets, and generally these candidates for new homes in our state are of the fields of three to five hundred acres, and one man has over 700 acres. —Neosho County Journal.

Farmers tell us that wheat never looked better at this season of the year than does the present crop. Should nothing betail it between this time and next harvest, Montgomery county farmers' eyes will be gladdened by the heaviest crop of wheat that has ever been harvested in the county since its settlement. —Independence Kansan.

Mr. T. R. Whelan showed us some samples of potatoes and turnips, grown on his farm near town. When we saw them we felt like "mounting the ramparts" and "blowing our selves away" in our desire to tell the eastern people what a gloriously productive country is Kansas. We measured three of the turnips and found them respectively 6 1/2, 7 and 7 1/2 inches in diameter. One of the potatoes weighed 1 lb and thirteen ounces. Who can beat it? Don't all speak at once!

We had scarcely written the above when in comes another candidate for "turnipatorial" honors, who scoops all. It measures 7 1/2 inches in diameter, 23 inches in circumference, and weighs 4 pounds 3 1/2 ounces. —Cherry Vale Leader.

Immense trains of coal, lead and other shipments are daily coming over the Joplin road. Last Sunday evening there were over fifty loaded cars standing on the switches ready to go north on Monday, and every one of them had been brought there since noon of the previous day. Verily the "bottleneck" road is getting to be a horse of another color. —Oraford Co. News.

We are informed that the graders' camp on the narrow gauge has been moved this side of Eagle Creek, and that a gentleman who came down from Emporia a few days ago counted sixty teams on the grade line. This force ought, with the machinery used, to be able to carry the work along at a rapid pace. Major Fuller has promised us a new hat in case he fails to have the cars running into Greenwood county by Christmas. As that time is less than a month away we are beginning to fear we will be compelled to receive the hat. —Eureka Herald.

Rooks county is next north of Ellis, and at present, is tributary to Hays City in matters of market, travel and transportation. Stockton being 40 miles north of Hays City by the stage and wagon route. The population of the county is about 1,500, mostly made up of excellent people from the eastern and north-eastern states. There are about 500,000 acres in the county with perhaps 25,000 acres in cultivation. Fully 80 per cent of the land belongs to the government and is open to homestead and pre-emption entry. These lands are in the Kirwin Land District, 45 per cent of them are finely suited to agriculture and the balance are unsurpassed for grazing. —Stockton News.

The hog market is away down. Only \$3 25 was offered yesterday for fat hogs. Many farmers are holding for better prices. Some, we are sorry to say, are "standing off" their creditors and causing their paper to be protested for the small amounts credited out to an hundred individuals. —Southern Kansas Tribune.

O. Shawler, who has recently returned from Butler county, tells us that the wheat crop there this year was simply immense; the yield in many cases, reaching as high as 35 to 40 bushels per acre. A great breadth was sowed this fall; it being no unusual thing to see better class—intelligent looking, and apparently by no means empty handed. We are pleased to notice that our county is receiving a fair share of this immigration, and that generally they select the best farms to be had when making purchases. Let them come, there is a great abundance of choice locations yet in the market. —Washington Republican.

To avoid all trouble or law suits from heirs and others, I have concluded to administer upon my own estate by spending it as I go along.







## Literary and Domestic.

EDITED BY W. M. H. HUBBARD.

## THAT DRESS OF MINE.

There is much ado about this age of improvement, but it is my opinion that the things which most concern me do not always improve. For instance, here is this dress which, after six years of such opportunities as seldom, if ever, were accorded to a dress, is no better than the day on which its education began. Nay, it seems to me it has been going backward, deteriorating instead of improving. I bought it—or rather the stuff of which it is made—from Field & Leiter, down State street, in the old stable in which they took refuge after the great Chicago fire; bought it in November, 1871; chose the Cheney Brothers' brand of silk, because it was said that this was always improving! Alas for the improvement!

I made it up immediately, and its opportunities began. Made it long for the platform, with strings to tie it up for traveling. I wore it that winter and the next, in season and out, sometimes for two months straight along, introduced it to more folks than any dress of mine saw before or since, and won for it no end of compliments. It was treated with great consideration; and yet the fact became apparent, in the fall of '73, that that dress was soiled.

I ripped it up, laid it, breadth by breadth, in strong ammonia water; washed it well with a sponge, then rinsed it in the water, being careful to make no creases, and hung it up. When dry, it seemed all right. I made it up, but it soon became shiny, for I had neglected to put alum in the rinse, and so I sponged it with beer.

That week I gave it an eight weeks' visit to Philadelphia, New York and Pittsburgh, with opportunities of improvement that should have stimulated it to exertion. The next winter I wore it in the west, a greater portion of the time; and, in April following, carried it out of our mountain home when this was all ablaze and most things burned in it. Then I wore it out to northern Minnesota and back to Pittsburgh; wore it for a street dress that summer and next winter, and in the spring of '76 concluded to go to Europe; but what was my surprise and indignation on being told that my dress was "not fit to be seen!" that it was stained and brown, and beginning to fray around the pockets! That good-for-nothing dress—and after all I had done for it!

Well, I ripped it up once more, gave it another washing in ammonia water, and still did not think to rinse it in alum water; made it up; put patches around the pockets and made believe they were trimmings; wore it to Washington; showed it the sights in the capitol, from the Senate chamber gallery to the sewers which supply the House of Representatives with fresh air for the use of the members; wore it on to New York, across to Liverpool and up to London; introduced it to the bloody beauties of the Dore Gallery, and other things too tedious to mention; gave it over two weeks of airing in London fog, then wore it to Dover; gave it special opportunity for enjoying its passage across to Calais; showed it Cologne, the Cathedral, and the Chapel of St. Ursula; the river Rhine and the coal barges which make it picturesque; wore it to Leipzig and most of the six months I stayed there, simply alternating it with a flannel wrapper and putting on a summer dress occasionally, out of respect to the Leipzig opinion that the weather was warm.

Late in August, old Kaiser William came to Leipzig with his crown prince, Von Moltke, and other folks of that kind; and the king and queen of Saxony, with their crown prince and princess, and ever so many people, with long handles to their names, came to meet them. It seemed highly probable the good old emperor had come up on purpose to see me, for he had not been there since he was a boy. I must needs afford him the opportunity of forming a favorable opinion of American costumes, and so put on my dress to welcome him! Now the soil of Saxony is as yellow as the hair of her children, and as adhesive as a porous plaster, and when stirred up, after a long drought, by forty thousand soldiers and twice as many civilians, it showed a great power of distribution. Then the Americanism of that dress asserted itself, and forthwith it set about gathering mementoes of the occasion.

Such an amount of Saxon clay as it did collect, and the tenacity with which it held fast to its real estate! Well, September brought the time to come home, and I was not going to bring a German farm to this country, so the only way was to rip up that dress, once more, and give it another washing. This I gave it, then wore it back to London, showed it Westminster, the Parliament House, Sydenham, Spurgeon, the Tower, Smithfield, and other places in which there are ample opportunities for culture; got to Philadelphia in time to give it the advantage of seeing the Centennial; wore it pretty much all last winter in Pittsburgh, Washington, and railroad cars; and, last March, brought it to Swislevale, where it has seen a new phase of life, while I was having an old log house screwed up; a story built under it; old chimneys and plaster pulled down; old floors and roofs taken out and off and replaced by new; swamps drained or filled up; watercourses changed; barns and fences built; orchard planted; crops put in; garden made, and other things of that ilk; through which this dress and my flannel wrapper went, going up and down a ladder to

go to bed and to oversee workmen; seeing the inside as well as the outside of life, and having more and better opportunities for coming into contact with heaps of brick and stone and lumber; oak logs, old shingles, wash flooring boards, tar, lime, sand, oil, paint, putty and rosin, than ever before a dress was favored with. When it was all over, that dress was like the sick girl in Scripture, who had had the care of many physicians, and was "nothing the better but rather grew worse."

I was disgusted with it, and I had half a mind to give it, with my blessing, to some worthy applicant for charity, when one day my conscience pricked me, and I concluded to give it one more chance. A boy had put on a washbowl with some rain water, and potash to clean the oil off a floor, then went off and forgot; and thinks—to-myself now or never is the time to clean that dress; but there shall be no more ripping. So I put it, lining and all, into a tub, with plenty of hot water and lye; took soft soap, and, with a washboard, gave that dress such a cleaning as it had never yet had, rinsed in alum water and hung it on the fence in a good, hot sun. Well, would any one believe it! After that dress was dry it was all clouded and blue, and I was in despair; but presently I bethought me, made a pot of strong coffee, spread the dress on a table, and with a piece of black muslin, gave it a thorough sponging; but now it does not begin to look as well as it did six years ago. True it is quite a respectable dress, though I should not wear it for any great occasion. I conclude that all this talk about American silks constantly improving, is a mere advertising dodge. No one could do more for one than I have done for that dress of mine, and it has not improved in the least. So there!—*Jane Grey Swisshelm, in Rural New Yorker.*

## WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

## The Old and the New Dynasty.

Though we, as a nation, may not be able to boast a "Golden Age," yet certainly we have passed through an Age of Gold. With every change of administration Washington experiences a social revolution. This is especially felt just now when the contrast is striking between the administrations of Grant and Hayes.

The new dynasty upon which we have entered is as striking a change from that of the last as was that of the Puritans after the reign of license during the period of the cavaliers.

The president, his wife and the cabinet are plain folks. Mrs. Hayes has never known anything that could be called poverty. Good clothes are no novelty to her. She has no taste for finery, and therefore the shopkeepers grumble. There are no handsome, dashing ladies in the cabinet. They are staid, sober matrons. There is one bachelor, but as yet there is no development concerning the aspirations of ambitious widows or maidens. Robeson had no peace until it was an assured fact that the dashing widow who became his wife, had secured the prize. The death of one Mrs. Baskin aroused the hopes of many aspirants, who desired to fill the vacancy, but again were fair maidens overlooked, and a widow coveted and obtained the prize.

## NOT IN THE ADVERTISING BUSINESS.

The president and Mrs. Hayes decline all invitations to the theatre and places of amusement. Managers feel that they have lost good advertising, since they can no longer notify the public that the president and family will occupy a private box during the performance on certain evenings. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes are very devout Methodists.

The White House and its inmates are exceedingly popular. There is a refreshing absence of pretension and formality. The president and his wife have courteous, cordial manners which spring from kindness of heart. They are quick and ready in conversation, so there are no awkward pauses. They are not afraid to converse freely, and do not appear to put any restraint upon their utterances, as though they feared misrepresentation. This, too, is a contrast to the last regime.

Two winters ago a young man called at the White House one evening. Sending in his card, and writing upon it that he was a classmate of Ulysses Grant, Jr., and had called at his request, Mrs. Grant directed the usher to show him in. When the young man obeyed the summons he found himself in a brilliantly lighted drawing-room filled with guests. He felt much embarrassment, as he was a total stranger, and he saw no hostess to welcome him. After an awkward pause he singled out Mrs. Grant, as she was the only lady present without a hat. He was shaken by the hand, but no remark made. His embarrassment was distressing, and a lady near by so pitied him that, without an introduction, she invited him to take a seat beside her. She made inquiries about his college life and friends, and soon succeeded in restoring his self-possession. When the lady rose to leave the young man also made his adieu. As soon as they got beyond the threshold the gentleman drew a free breath and exclaimed: "If the Lord will forgive me for this I will never do so again." Should he or any other young man make a similar call now he would be received with a radiant smile and a motherly interest that would win his heart and cause him to swear that Mrs. Hayes is the best, handsomest and sweetest woman in the world.—*Beaver in Philadelphia Times.*

## BOSTON'S BABY SHOW.

Babies! Babies! Babies! Horticultural Hall is full of them. All sizes, shapes and conditions of life. Big and tall, short and small, blue-eyed, gray-eyed, black-eyed, and no eyes at all; black-headed, white-headed, and red-headed. Anything in the way of infants that one cares to see may be seen in Horticultural Hall. And what a novelty it all is! The late dog show was a curiosity, but it sinks into insignificance when compared with this exhibition of babies.

Along the walls of the lower hall elevated seats are ranged, and upon these the mothers and nurses are seated, complacently viewing the little ones who choose to keep quiet, and anxiously trying to soothe those who feel inclined to be fractious. As we enter the hall the sight is amusing. Nurses are rolling little children across the floor in little carriages, mothers are rocking and dandling fragile bits of mortality, and several little ones are indulging in fearless romps by themselves. The children gaze curiously into the faces of the visitors, and little, dark eyes peer wistfully

from laughing, rosy faces, or shine out from little heads clothed in dark or flaxen curls. The entries made up to yesterday numbered two hundred and forty, and others are constantly coming in, so that undoubtedly three hundred will be entered before the prizes are awarded. The lightest baby weighs five pounds and the heaviest one hundred and three; the youngest is seventeen days old and the oldest three years. The twins number thirteen pairs. Among the other notabilities is a pair of triplets, whose voices are said to be attuned as alto, tenor and soprano, but doubters beware. A baby of fifteen months is said to speak good English, and another baby of two years sings the Moody and Sanky hymns. One little girl, aged nine months, weighs but six pounds, and a bouncing boy near her weighs fifty-eight pounds, and that at two years of age.

The exhibition will continue through the week, and the manager announces that premiums amounting to \$1,000 shall be distributed among the babies, and a gold watch set with diamonds is promised to the handsomest mother. Everything is arranged for the comfort and convenience of the children and their parents. Cooking apparatus has been placed in the ante-rooms, and competent nurses are in attendance to aid and advise. A physician sees all the babies daily before the hour of opening the exhibition, and care is taken to prevent any children infected with any kind of disease from entering the hall.—*Boston Advertiser.*

Western people don't want to hear of Boston putting on any airs after that; it is worse than an Indian war dance, or a Mexican mule race.

## THE HOUSEHOLD.

A CHEAP MINIATURE FERNERY.—You can make a lovely fernery in this way: Paint green a square tin pan several inches deep; fill with earth, in which set ferns, mosses, and little plants from the woods. For a cover set pieces of glass together and putty them on the inside. There should be four panes for the sides and one for the top. When your plants are set and watered put the glass over them; it should just fit inside the rim of the pan. Paste narrow green ribbon over the edges of the glass. If your soil is of the right kind (see Vick's Guide) you will not need to touch this fernery for three or four months. If it is not it will need occasional watering.

TO FRESHEN BLACK LACE.—Lay it on a clean table, sponge it all over with a weak solution of borax, about an even teaspoonful or less to a pint of warm water. Use a piece of old black silk, or black kid glove is better, to sponge with. While damp cover with a piece of black silk or cloth, and iron.

TO PROTECT POTATOES FROM ROT.—Dust over the floor of the bin with lime, and put in about six or seven inches of potatoes, then dust lime as before, then more potatoes, using about one bushel of lime to forty bushels of potatoes. The lime improves the flavor of the potatoes, and effectually kills the fungi which causes the rot.

A CLEAN FLOOR.—The other day I went to see my friend Mrs. Cook. She had just finished mopping up her kitchen floor. "Noticed it looked very nice, and asked how she kept it so well. "Why," she said, "don't you know I oil it about every six months? That is what makes it so easy to keep clean." "Oil!" I said, "How do you do that?" So then she told me as follows: "I take a quantity of the cheapest and least offensive oil (labeled) I can secure, and I apply smoothly, so that it will strike equally all over, and yet not stand in spots on the surface. I do this at night after the evening's work is done, and fix the place ready for use again next morning."

"Of course it would not injure the oiled surface itself to track upon it at once, but grease is liable to be tracked from it, at first, to adjacent parts of the house. A new coat of oil applied once in six months, or even once a year, sometimes is sufficient to keep a floor in perfect order. One may in this way prepare to great advantage the floors of kitchens, pantries, summer dining-rooms, back rooms, back halls, stairways, porticoes, closets, bath-rooms and laborers' bed-rooms.—*Household.*

## RECIPES.

CREAM PIE.—Last winter, after making apple pie, I had enough crust left to line a plate, and then wished for just one egg that I might make a custard pie, but the hens were taking a holiday, and it was useless to wish, so I tried a "cream pie," but it was some time before I could get it just right. I stir two tablespoonfuls of flour to a smooth batter, and turn a pint of cream into the bowl, adding sugar enough to sweeten (about half a cup), one-half teaspoonful of salt, and half a nutmeg. I then pare and grate one cupful of sweet apple, which is then added. I select sweet russets, as they do not grate fine, but leave small lumps. If I had no russets, it would be best to chop the apple about as fine as wheat. Sometimes, to have a light colored pie, I put the apple into the milk as fast as grated, but for a richer looking one, I leave it out until thoroughly colored. The pie must be baked slowly, as it is apt to boil over. When it is placed on the table, and I ask my husband how he likes it, he, in answer, asks for another piece. Charlie thinks baking day incomplete without it, and I notice that father and Charlie's brother never refuse it.

SAUSAGE RECIPE.—I send you our recipe for sausages, which is an excellent one: 20 lbs of meat, 7 oz. of salt, 2 oz. of sage, 1 oz. of summer savory, and not quite 2 oz. of pepper.

N. E. D.

CREAM CAKE.—Two cupfuls flour, one cupful sugar, one cupful cream, one egg, soda, salt, spice.

FEATHER CAKE.—One cupful of milk, one cupful of sugar, one and one-half cupfuls of flour, one egg, one tablespoonful of butter, a

little salt, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, and a little nutmeg if liked. Bake in small tins.

A DELICIOUS APPLE CUSTARD.—Take six acid apples of medium size, a tumblerful of crushed sugar, three tablespoonfuls of butter very little heated, or two tumblerfuls of very rich, thick cream, six eggs, one lemon peel grated, half the juice; peel the apples and grate them, cream the butter and sugar together, beat the eggs separately, and mix as for cake. Bake in puff paste. This quantity will make two good sized custards.

MY WAY OF MAKING RYE BREAD.—I have made some rye bread in the last year, and think it very good. I make the same as other bread (choosing salt rising rather than hop yeast for rye bread). A good way to have salt rising in a hurry is to make what is called "railroad" rising, which is to take a little ginger, sugar, salt and soda, with a few spoonfuls of flour, and erald all together and set in a warm place to rise. When wishing to bake, set rising as usual with a spoonful of this rising, and in two or three hours it is up and ready for use.

As to those who wish to fry cakes and have more tallow than lard, I will say you can fry them in clear tallow as well as mixed with lard. It is a very good substitute, in very many places, for lard. Mrs. A. A. M.

Miss Alcott's works are understood to have sold in England to the number of half a million copies, and no doubt the home figures exceed these. Her new story is expected to add to her popularity. It is prettily named, "Under the Lilacs."

Senator Blaine's daughter, who was shot in the forehead by a toy revolver, is out of danger. There are all sorts of rumors flying about Augusta, one being that Miss Blaine tried to kill herself because of some love disappointment.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

Our readers, in replying to advertisements, in the Farmer will do us a favor if they will state in their letters to advertisers that they saw this advertisement in the Kansas Farmer.



LIVER DISEASE and Indigestion prevail to a great extent than in babyhood, and are the cause of many ailments. It is a disease which is always anxiously sought after. If the Liver is Regulated in its action health is almost invariably secured. Indigestion or want of action in the Liver causes Headache, Constipation, Jaundice, Pain in the Shoulders, Cough, Dizziness, Sour stomach, bad taste in the mouth, bilious attacks, palpitation of the heart, depression of spirits or the blues, and a hundred other symptoms. SIMMONS' LIVER REGULATOR is the best remedy that has ever been discovered for these ailments. It acts mildly, effectually, and being a simple vegetable compound, does no injury in any quantities that it may be taken. It is harmless in every way; it has been used for forty years, and hundreds from all parts of the country will vouch for its virtues. VIZ: Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia; Bishop Pierce of Alabama; Gen. John B. Gordon, R. L. Mott, of Columbia, Ga. are among the hundreds to whom we can refer. Extract of a letter from Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, dated March 3, 1872: "I occasionally use when my condition requires it, Dr. Simmons' Liver Regulator, with good effect. It is mild, and suits me more better than active medicine."

It is not the quantity eaten that gives strength, life, blood and health. It is the thorough digestion of the food taken let it be much or little. Therefore, do not stimulate up the stomach to carve food, but rather assist digestion after eating by taking

SIMMONS' LIVER REGULATOR. Original and only Genuine.

Manufactured only by J. H. ZEILIN & CO., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Price, \$1.00. Sold by all Druggists.



It aims to be a favorite in every family—looked for eagerly by the young folks, and read with interest by the older. Its purpose is to interest while it amuses; to be instructive, practical, sensible, and to have really permanent worth, while it attracts for the hour.

It is handsomely illustrated, and has for contributors some of the most attractive writers in the country. Among these are:

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# THE STRAY LIST.

Strays for the week ending December 5th, 1877.

Allen County—T. S. Stover, Clerk.

**HORSE**—Taken up by J. H. Willett, Elm Tp., a brown horse, 8 or 9 years old, white blaze on the left side of the face, white hind legs, saddle marks, shod in iron. Valued at \$20.  
**MARE**—Taken up by Wm. Pash, Elm Tp., one light bay mare, about 2 years old. Valued at \$20.  
**MARE**—Taken up by William Stafford, Cottage Grove Tp., one sorrel mare, about 1 year old, 15 hands high, left hind foot white, base face, heavy with foal. Valued at \$25.  
**PONY**—Taken up by R. E. Booth, D. Creek Tp., one roan pony mare, black mane and tail, some marks, shod before, about 2 years old. Valued at \$20.

Brown County—Henry Isely, Clerk.

**MARE**—Taken up by Levi O. Anderson, of Pattonia Tp., (Hawatha P. O.) November 5th, 1877, one bay mare 3 years old, a scar across the face, some marks on hind legs, white blaze on the left side of the face. Valued at \$20.  
**COW**—Taken up by Stephen Hughes, of Robinson Tp., (Robinson P. O.) November 1st, 1877, one cow, black and white spotted, ears seem to have been frozen. Valued at \$15.  
**MARE**—Taken up by Robert Smith, of Mission Tp., (Claytonville P. O.) November 1st, 1877, one bay mare about 7 or 8 years old, 15 hands high, some marks on hind legs, white blaze on the left side of the face, end of tail cut or cauterized. Valued at \$25.  
**MARE**—Taken up by J. E. Mason, same date, one bay mare about 7 or 8 years old, 15 hands high, end of tail cut or cauterized, shod in iron, small rope tied around neck when taken up. Valued at \$25.  
**MARE**—Taken up by Wm. M. Speck, of Walnut Tp., (Hawatha P. O.) November 1st, 1877, one cow, black and white spotted, ears seem to have been frozen. Valued at \$15.  
**COW**—Also by same person, same date, one black horse colt, 2 years old, one white spot on end of nose, white spots between the eyes, 14 in front feet white, no marks on hind legs. Valued at \$20.  
**PONY**—Taken up by Wm. Page, of Washington Tp., (Normanville P. O.) November 1st, 1877, one bay mare about 2 years old, 15 hands high, some marks on hind legs, white blaze on the left side of the face, end of tail cut or cauterized, shod in iron, small rope tied around neck when taken up. Valued at \$25.  
**MARE**—Taken up by J. E. Mason, same date, one bay mare about 7 or 8 years old, 15 hands high, end of tail cut or cauterized, shod in iron, small rope tied around neck when taken up. Valued at \$25.

Cherokee County—Ed. McPherson, Clerk.

**PONY**—Taken up by Thos. Boone, in Noshoe Tp., November 11th, 1877, one pony mare, 5 or 6 years old, 14 or 15 hands high, heavy mane and tail, some grey hairs on jawline. Valued at \$20.

Franklin County—Geo. D. Stinebaugh, Clerk.

**STEER**—Taken up by Leabon Smith, of Pottawatomie Tp., (Leawee P. O.) on the 11th day of November, A. D. 1877, one white yearling steer, red ears and nose. Valued at \$15.  
**COW**—Taken up by J. D. Miller, of Harris P. O., (Otawa P. O.) November 2nd, 1877, one cow, white and black, medium size, small in left ear, swallow fork in right ear. Valued at \$20.  
**STEER**—Taken up by Mrs. Lane H. Kime, of Greenwood Tp., November 2nd, 1877, one yearling red steer, white stripe between horns. Valued at \$15.  
**STEER**—Taken up by J. D. Miller, of Harris P. O., (Otawa P. O.) November 4th, 1877, one red and white heifer. Valued at \$15.

Jefferson County—D. B. Baker, Clerk.

**STEER**—Taken up by Leabon Smith, of Pottawatomie Tp., (Leawee P. O.) on the 11th day of November, A. D. 1877, one white yearling steer, red ears and nose. Valued at \$15.  
**COW**—Taken up by J. D. Miller, of Harris P. O., (Otawa P. O.) November 2nd, 1877, one cow, white and black, medium size, small in left ear, swallow fork in right ear. Valued at \$20.  
**STEER**—Taken up by Mrs. Lane H. Kime, of Greenwood Tp., November 2nd, 1877, one yearling red steer, white stripe between horns. Valued at \$15.  
**STEER**—Taken up by J. D. Miller, of Harris P. O., (Otawa P. O.) November 4th, 1877, one red and white heifer. Valued at \$15.

Lyon County—J. M. Craig, Clerk.

**COW**—Taken up by Hamilton Howard, Jackson Tp., (one and one-half mile west of Neosho Rapids) November 10th, 1877, one cow, 5 years old, white and red, white spots in face, white under belly, white and red legs, no marks or brands. Valued at \$15.  
**MARE**—Taken up by C. H. Williamson, living in Agnes City Tp., (Allen P. O.) one cow, white, lame in right shoulder, some white on right hind foot, about 14 hands high. Valued at \$25.  
**COW**—Taken up by Hugh Vandogden, living in Center Tp., November 12th, 1877, posted by ore L. O. Priest, J. P., one 2 year old bay horse colt, right hind foot white, white on right hind foot, small white spot in face, no brands. Valued at \$20.  
**COW**—Taken up by William Stuart, of Center Tp., November 31st, 1877, and posted before L. O. Priest, (Kempira P. O.) one light bay mare, 2 years old, small in head, supposed to be 2 years old last spring, about medium size. No marks nor brands visible. Valued at \$20.  
**Also**, one dark bay mare colt, supposed to be 1 year old last spring, small in head, no marks or brands visible. Valued at \$15.

Miami County—C. H. Giller, Clerk.

**STEER**—Taken up by A. Bendorff, Wes. Tp., November 24th, 1877, one red and white steer, 1 year old, small in head, white blaze on the left side of the face, white hind legs, saddle marks, shod in iron. Valued at \$20.  
**MARE**—Taken up by J. E. Mason, same date, one bay mare about 7 or 8 years old, 15 hands high, end of tail cut or cauterized, shod in iron, small rope tied around neck when taken up. Valued at \$25.

McPherson County—John B. Wright, Clerk.

**STEER**—Taken up by N. Hempstead, of Groveland Tp., one black and white spotted steer, both ears notched in and branded "T" on left hip. Valued at \$15.  
**Also**, one brown steer, branded "W" on left side and hip, both ears cut slightly on sides. Valued at \$10.  
**Both** small in size and about 2 years old.

Nemaha County—Walter J. Ingram, Clerk.

**FILLY**—Taken up by Elias Woodburn, Wetmore Tp., one 1 year old dark gray filly, white spot in forehead, shod on the nose, both hind feet white.  
**COW**—Taken up by S. B. Becker, Harrison Tp., one light red 5 year old cow, white in forehead, and white along the flank.

Rush County—A. McAnnis, Clerk.

**MARE**—Taken up by Charles Dutz, of Banner Tp., November 26th, 1877, one dark brown mare, both hind feet white, star in the forehead, and white nose, weighs about nine hundred pounds. Valued at \$20.

Shawnee County—J. Lee Klabach, Clerk.

**STEER**—Taken up on November 11th, 1877, by O. W. Sidwell, of Mission Tp., one 2 year old steer, 14 or 15 hands high, white blaze on the left side of the face, white hind legs, saddle marks, shod in iron. Valued at \$20.  
**MARE**—Taken up on November 11th, 1877, by Eugene Argo, of Auburn Tp., one dark bay mare, about 4 years old, in cks nor brands. Valued at \$20.  
**Also**, one dark bay mare, about 3 years old, white spot on end of nose, white spot in forehead, left hind foot white, shod in iron. Valued at \$20.  
**FILLY**—Taken up by Robert Mitchell, of Williamsport Tp., one black filly mare, 2 years old, about 12 hands high, branded on the left shoulder with the letter "X" or "3" or a brand. Valued at \$15.  
**MARE**—Taken up by James Swan, of Mission Tp., November 10th, 1877, one bay mare, 3 years old, about 14 hands high, small brand on left shoulder supposed to be "H", no other marks nor brands. Valued at \$20.  
**MARE**—Taken up by D. C. Hamilton, of Mission Tp., November 6th, one bay mare 3 years old, star in forehead. Valued at \$20.  
**Also**, one sorrel, yearling mare, star in forehead, white ring around left forehead, no marks nor brands to be seen. Valued at \$25.

Woodson County—H. N. Holloway, Clerk.

**HEIFER**—Taken up by Jackson Diamond, Eminence Tp., November 12th, 1877, one red and white 2 year old heifer, no marks or brands. Valued at \$15.  
**STEER**—Taken up by J. E. Mason, same date, one bay steer, 3 years old, with cross and two white spots on hind legs, white blaze on the left side of the face, white hind legs, saddle marks, shod in iron. Valued at \$20.

Wyandott County—D. R. Emmons, Clerk.

**COW**—Taken up by F. E. Robinson, Shawnee Tp., October 27th, one black cow, white back and belly, supposed to be 3 or 4 years old, no marks nor brands.

Strays for the week ending November 29, 1877.

Anderson County—J. W. Gottra, Clerk.

**HORSE**—Taken up by A. Hixon, Putnam Tp., Nov. 3, 1877, one light roan horse, one year old last spring, white spot in forehead, no other marks or brands. Valued at \$25.  
**Also**, one black horse, one year old last spring, no marks or brands. Valued at \$15.  
**STEER**—Taken up by J. D. Day, Clark Tp., Nov. 3, 1877, one spotted roan yearling steer, with swallow fork and bit in left ear, upper and under bit in right ear, stung by horn. Also one nearly red yearling steer branded on left hip, but brand not distinct. Both valued at \$20.  
**STEER**—Taken up by John Moller, Butler Tp., Nov. 20, 1877, one red roan steer, branded on left hip with the letter "S", the left ear cut off or lost, the right ear supposed to be 3 years old. Valued at \$25.  
**Also**, one red and white steer about 3 years old, branded on left hip with the letter "S". Valued at \$25.

Bourbon County—J. H. Brown, Clerk.

**FILLY**—Taken up by J. J. Peasley, Brywood Tp., Nov. 20, 1877, one black filly, 15 hands high, weighing about 700 lbs, 1 year old last spring, long mane and tail, no marks or brands. Valued at \$25.  
**MARE**—Taken up by James Nance, Drywood Tp., Nov. 20, 1877, one black and white horse mare, weighing about 400 lbs, no marks or brands. Valued at \$15.  
**STEER**—Taken up by J. J. Allen, medium size, red ears, no mark or brands. Valued at \$15.  
**Also**, one red and white pig steer, 2 years old, branded on left ear, no other marks or brands. Valued at \$15.  
**Also**, one red and white pig steer, 2 years old, branded on left ear, no other marks or brands. Valued at \$15.  
**Also**, one red and white pig steer, 2 years old, branded on left ear, no other marks or brands. Valued at \$15.

David County—P. V. Frovinger, Clerk.

**STEER**—Taken up by Lloyd Hardin, in Smoky Hill Tp., Oct. 18th, 1877, 1 red steer, 10 or 11 years old, droop horns, left side, a cross and an under half cross in right ear. No other marks or brands. Valued at \$25.

Atchison County—Chas. H. Krebs, Clerk.

**PONY**—Taken up by Wm. D. Bailey, Lancaster Tp., Sept. 15th, 1877, (Johnson County) 1 sorrel horse pony, left hind foot white nearly to knee, blaze on forehead, about 14 hands high, about 5 years old. Valued at \$20.  
**STEER**—Taken up by Joseph Gleason, Walnut Tp., Oct. 25, 1877, (P. O. Mt. Pleasant), 1 red steer with white head, 2 1/2 years old. Valued at \$25.  
**STEER**—Taken up by Peter McDuff, Shannon Tp., Nov. 1, 1877, (P. O. Atchison), 1 white steer, dark ears, 3 years old. Valued at \$15.  
**COW**—Taken up by Smith Sutton, Shannon Tp., Nov. 1st, 1877, (P. O. Atchison), 1 red roan cow, 2 years old. Valued at \$20.

Steele County—Nicholas Matthews, Kaploma Tp.

**STEER**—Taken up by Nicholas Matthews, Kaploma Tp., Nov. 1, 1877, (P. O. Muscatine), 1 pale red steer, some white on forehead and under belly, 1 year old. Valued at \$15.  
**Also**, 1 red heifer, all white under belly, 1 year old. Valued at \$15.  
**STEER**—Taken up by Samuel Pardee, Center Tp., Nov. 1, 1877, (P. O. Nortonville), 1 red and white steer. Valued at \$15.  
**MARE**—Taken up by A. M. Crouch, Center Tp., Nov. 1, 1877, (P. O. Atchison), 1 white mare, white star on forehead, 2 1/2 years old. Valued at \$20.

Morris County—H. W. Gildemester, Clerk.

**MARE**—Taken up by Charles Owens, of Diamond Valley Tp., November 9th, 1877, 1 brown mare with star in forehead, and about 12 years old. Valued at \$20.  
**Johnson County—Joseph Martin, Clerk.**  
**MARE**—Taken up and posted Oct. 25th, 1877, by Geo. Friend, of Oxford Tp., Johnson County, Kansas, 1 roan mare 3 years old, blind in the right eye. Valued at \$20.  
**Also**, 1 three year old black horse mare, figure 7 on the right shoulder. Valued at \$25.  
**STEER**—Taken up by Wm. H. H. of Oxford Tp., 1 yearling, Texas steer branded "H" on left shoulder and "S" on right hip. Valued at \$25.  
**STEER**—Taken up by J. D. Hawkins, of Lexington Tp., Johnson County, Kansas, 1 small red steer, marked with cross, split and underbit in left ear, and cross and split in right ear. Valued at \$15.  
**MARE**—Taken up and posted by Christian Wagner, of Monticello Tp., Johnson County, Kansas, 1 black mare, 5 or 6 years old, with a white ring round right hind foot, and about 14 hands high. Valued at \$20.  
**COW**—Taken up Nov. 5th, 1877, by A. C. Clinchdale, of Aubrey Tp., 1 black mare, branded on the left shoulder with the letter "H", about 15 hands high. Also 1 gelding, 15 hands high, branded with the letter "H" on left shoulder, color, iron gray. Also 1 bay mare, no brands or marks, 14 hands high. All of the aforesaid colts are 3 years old and valued at \$25 each.

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