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THE KANSAS FARMER.

E. E. EWING, Editor and Proprietor,
Topeka, Kansas.

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E. E. EWING,
Editor and Publisher,
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Correspondence.

The Butternut Tree.

BY PROF. J. P. STELLE, MOBILE, ALA.

In some localities this tree is known by the common name of white walnut, while in others it is called the butternut. Its botanical name is *Juglans cinerea*. It is a tree growing to what might be termed medium size, and in its general appearance it somewhat resembles the black walnut, or *Juglans nigra*, of botanists, though its leaves are somewhat larger, and it has a smoother bark. The bark is also of a lighter color, especially upon young trees or upon limbs of new growth. The nuts are oblong, a good deal resembling a small cucumber

nally, of the manna for salt in the drug stores. Speaking of drug stores reminds me that the butternut is, of itself, a very fair drug store. In the days when the Great West was east of the Mississippi river it supplied many a doctor with all he wanted for carrying on a large and successful practice. If he wanted a purgative medicine he went to the tree and pulled a quantity of the bark downwards, after which he boiled it until a strong ooze was obtained. He then removed the bark and boiled the ooze down to a stiff wax—this he made into pills, usually adding a little flour. From two to five pills of ordinary size were the dose for an adult; and I am now, even at this late date, fully of the opinion that a better purgative pill was never taken. If the doctor wished to appear wonderfully learned he called this *Hibobalarum*. For an emetic he pulled the bark

Life and Growth of Plants.—No. 4.

BY L. J. TEMPLIN.

The plant is a living being, possessed of living powers, and capable of performing various vital functions, and any theory that ignores this fact is incapable of giving an intelligent account of vegetable existence. The germination, development, inflorescence and fructification of the plants are all unsolved and unsolvable enigmas by any hypothesis or theory that does not admit the existence of this super-chemical, self-active and self-acting principle called vital energy, that is so clearly exhibited in the various processes and functions carried on in the living vegetable. And having reached the conclusion that none of the forces of inorganic matter can produce these processes

the same office. By these means these seeds are often wafted away and dropped many miles from the parent plant. Seeds are often borne by rivers and ocean waves long distances, and then on being dropped in congenial soil they spring up and grow.

Many plants have a peculiar arrangement for throwing their seeds with a spring, when ripe, and thus scattering them to a considerable distance. The coiling or twisting of the pods of many plants, when they burst, ejects the seeds with great force. Some species of the bean (*Phaseolus*), the touch-me-not, or jewel weed (*Impatiens*), the geranium, or crane's bill, and many others, act in this matter as if endowed with instinct and a care for their offspring. The squirting cucumber (*Momordica elaterium*), discharges the contents of its pod as a veritable popgun, with a considerable report, and throwing them to quite a distance.

Some plants, instead of throwing their seeds, travel with them and scatter them as they go. An instance of this is found in the common tumble-weed (*Amaranthus alba*), of the western prairies, which grows in a compact bunch of slender branches, frequently as large as a barrel. The roots soon decay and break off and the weed begins rolling and tumbling before the wind, scattering its seeds as it goes, till it is either broken to pieces or lodged against some obstruction.

A plant that grows in the deserts of Africa, the Rose of Jerico (*Anastatica hierochuntica*), when ripe, curls up into a ball, becomes detached from the soil, and is blown about on the surface by the wind. The seed pods remain closed till a slight shower of rain falls, when they open and drop the seeds which germinate in about eighteen hours. The welfare of the plant is intimately associated with these circumstances. If the plant remained where it grew it would probably be buried by the drifting sand, while if the seed did not germinate quickly while the ephemeral moisture continued, it never could.

I have noticed but a few of the evidences of design and wise arrangement in the vegetable world, but enough to show that all these beautiful adaptations are not brought about by blind chance. It may not be scientific to go back of sensible phenomena and enquire into final causes. The boundary of natural facts may be the limit of scientific inquiry, but this does not circumscribe the investigations of the philosopher and the theologian to the same narrow limits. Those occupying a higher standpoint may take in a wider view and thus trace through natural phenomena the workings of nature up to the great source of intelligence and life and power; in a word, "look through nature up to nature's God."

Hutchinson, Kansas.

FENWICK, Republic Co., near 100 miles northwest of Topeka, Dec. 20.—During the past week we had wet weather, and farmers generally have made rapid strides in gathering corn, which is worth, in Clyde, 21c; hogs, \$3.60 to \$3.95; butter, 12c; eggs, 20c; salt, \$2; green apples, 80c; coffee, 6 to 7 pounds for \$1. Some farms changing hands at prices varying from \$700 to over \$2,000 per quarter section, all owing to the location and improvements.

Stock of all kinds doing well. Winter grain looks well. I find that stock does better being watered from wells in cold weather, than to be left to run to some stream where they have to drink ice water.

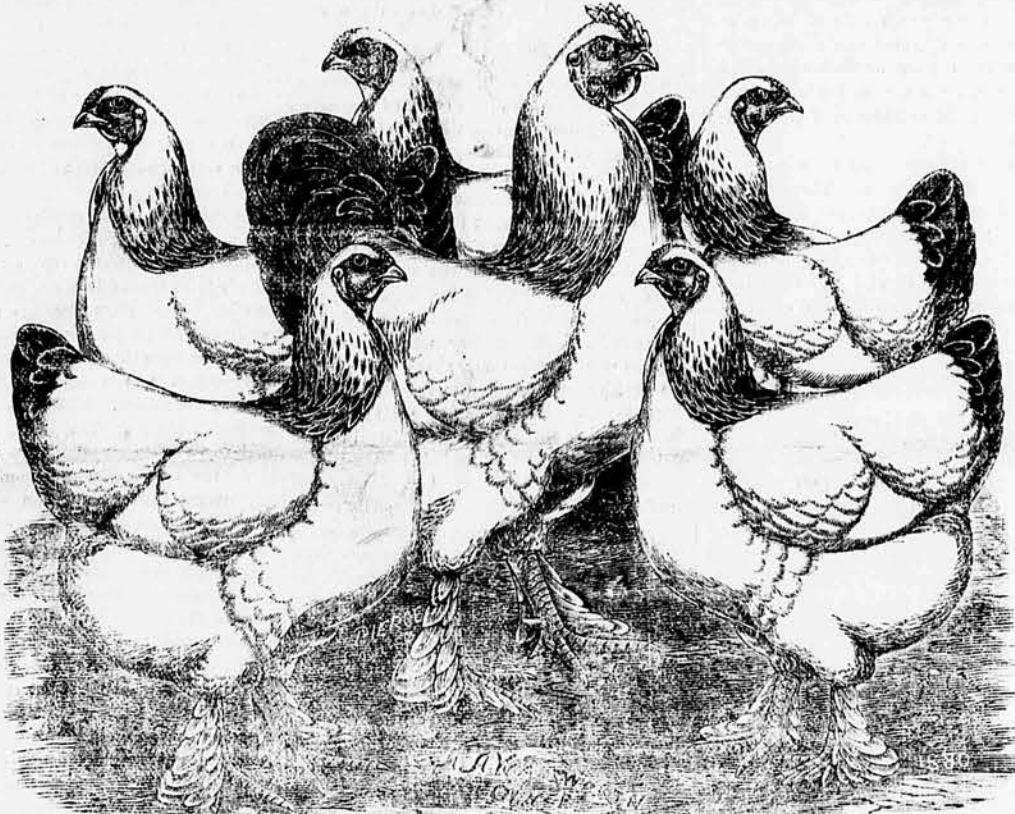
A gentleman near here had a cow which was giving a pailful of milk at a milking when the late cold weather set in. He says he noticed a considerable falling off in the quantity of milk on the first cold day, likewise on the second day, and on the third day she only gave a half pailful. This, I think, is strong argument in favor of a good warm stable for milch cows. I think the cost of a stable would soon be saved in provender and milk.

A poor breed of hogs, such as can drink out of a common jug, is a curse on the farm. The sooner we can get rid of them the better. I bought three Berkshire pigs several years ago. They had short noses and were fine looking, but they were rather too fine. I could only make them weigh 200 to 250 pounds at one year old. I find the Poland Chinas a good hog, and there is a better breed of Berkshires than mine.

D. DORAN.

Thornless Honey-Locust.

I would like to know, through the columns of the FARMER, if there is a variety of honey locust that grows no thorns; and, if so, where can the seed be obtained? W. H. YOUNG.
Glen Elder, Mitchell Co., Kansas.



FLOCK OF LIGHT BRAHMAS BREED BY A. A. WADSWORTH OF MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA.

when ripe and still surrounded by their outer-covering. When the outer covering has been removed and the nut is dry it is very rough, much more so than of the black walnut, usually the kernel is not so large as that of the black walnut, though it is much more rich and buttery, hence the common name.

The butternut tree is of reasonably rapid growth, and its light, smooth bark and large pinnate leaves (almost palm-like) make it very pretty. I fully agree with Mr. Wright in most he says with reference to the value of its wood, though I think he is somewhat mistaken in his notions as to its durability and consequent usefulness as a post-timber. The wood works beautifully, but it is extremely soft—almost as soft as white pine. It is a light burnt amber; lighter than the wood of black walnut, and its softness prevents its taking much of a polish. For inside work, where a polish is not required, it is everything that one could desire, but I think it does not last well exposed to the weather—not near so well as black walnut.

With this little difference I accept everything that Mr. Wright has said concerning the usefulness of the butternut; the only wrong that I can see in the premises lies in the fact that he did not go far enough. It was the discovery of this that led me into writing the article which you are reading—I wanted to see the butternut have full credit for what it is worth; and actuated by this spirit I shall tell what further I know about it, beginning where Mr. Wright leaves off:

The young growth of the butternut make fine bark whistles in the spring of the year, as every boy who lives in a country where it grows will bear me witness. [Willow "beats it to death."—Ed.] Hickory cannot compare with it for this purpose. The only trouble connected with the whistle business, in this case, is found in the fact that the whistle stains the mouths of the boys who blow them—but what do the boys care for that?

"Tapped" in the spring of the year, at the time of tapping the sugar maple the butternut runs a very sweet sap in great abundance, which may be boiled down to sugar. But the sugar is not to be recommended for general use, being something of the character, medi-

upward, and then treated it the same as in the other case. This, to astonish the natives, he called *Lobobahurum*. If he wanted a very gentle cathartic he gave out some of the dried bark to be made into a tea under the name of *Tonic-alooacium*. Of course the upward pulling of the bark made no difference in the effect of the preparation; yet the old doctors of those long-gone days fully believed that it did, and were always careful not to get the two preparations confounded. It took about one pill more of *Lobobahurum* to act than it did of *Hibobalarum*, and therein laid the difference in effect—it was the extra pill. But oh dear! let us drop that part of the subject—over forty years ago I took my last *Lobobahurum*, and when I think of it, even now, I am not hungry.

The bark of the butternut, simply boiled in water, makes an indelible brown dye for woolen goods that is entirely beautiful. Black walnut bark does the same thing, though the color made with black walnut is not so rich and bright as that made with butternut. Don't you recollect something of the "butternut brown" that was so much talked of about the opening of the late civil war? Well, it was colored with butternut bark.

And this makes me think of "butternut breastpins." In 1860 breastpins made of sections of butternuts, were extensively worn and very popular in some localities—in other sections they were not liked so well. If, at that time, a man had appeared in Kansas with one of them on some person would, I suppose have taken the liberty of plucking it off for him. But those times have gone down among the things of the past—I, as a Southerner, do not refer to them with any intention of recommending a revival of the wearing of butternut breastpins.

In conclusion I would state that the butternut does not grow in the lower South, and that, therefore, I cannot furnish seeds for experiment. [The Professor has effectually killed butternut planting in Kansas.—Ed.]

The intense cold of the present winter will endanger the fruit crop of next season. Peaches, especially, and berries are liable to be killed.

The Farm and Stock.

Controlling the Sexes.

BY F. D. COBURN.

From the time of Adam and Aristotle there have been efforts to discover the secret of controlling the sex of offspring, both in the human family and in the brute creation. Many plausible theories have been advanced to popularity for a time, only to be—as they ever have been—exploded, whenever wider and more extended experiment exposed them as fallacious. These have in turn been followed by others no less plausible and as poorly adapted to stand the crucial test of long continued experiment.

It may not be amiss to notice some of the more prominent and give in connection the results of some of those more carefully noted. Among the foremost that have met with much favor is that of M. Thury, whose idea was that if copulation took place on the first appearance of heat the produce would invariably, or almost invariably, be a female, while if copulation was prevented until near the close of its period the offspring would be a male or the males would predominate. One of the strongest supporters of this idea was the results obtained in the breeding operations of Georges Coonaz, a Swiss farmer. Having 22 Swiss cows and a short-horn bull, from which he wished to obtain heifers for dairy purposes, he practiced Thury's system and had the cows served as soon as signs of heat were discernible. He obtained 22 heifer calves! At another time, desiring to obtain bull calves from seven cows he prevented copulation until heat was passing off and the product in each case was a male. On the Michigan Agricultural College farm, during the ten years it was under the immediate management of Prof. Manly Miles the plan pursued was as follows: The cows were served as soon as discovered in heat, the herd being visited frequently during the day, as well driven to the barn night and morning. With ewes, rams were turned every forenoon during the breeding season, and both cows and ewes with very few exceptions must have been served during the first half of the period of heat, and Prof. Miles says, according to the theory of Thury, should have given a very large proportion of female young. In practice the produce for the ten years was, of sheep 102.5 males to 100 females; of cattle 118.4 males to 100 females.

In 1869 a series of experiments covering the ensuing four years were instituted by Hou. J. H. Saunders then of Iowa, and present editor of the *National Live Stock Journal*, to test the theory in swine breeding, and the animals used included the get of seven different males and the produce of more than twenty sows of various ages.

In these cases the theory proved utterly unreliable. Mr. Saunders says "one boar begot about 70 per cent. of males and this average was quite uniform, no matter at what period of heat the act of copulation was performed. Another that was used only one season got but three males among twenty-seven pigs. In this case the boar was a young animal lacking in constitutional vigor and died when about nine months old of quinsy—a circumstance that tended to confirm another theory often advanced, viz: that young or feeble males usually beget a preponderance of female offspring. Another peculiarity of this case was that the females sired by this boar were most elegantly formed, closely resembling the sire while the males were very inferior animals." Apropos of this latter statement I would mention the case of a young thorough-bred Berkshire sow of my own that lately farrowed. She was bred for the first time when 12 months old to her own sire, a large, thrifty three year old boar—Malcolm 2049—as soon as she showed signs of heat. The sow was always in robust health and fleshy condition and in 110 days from service had 4 male and 7 female pigs. One of the four males was the runt. A. P. Slade of Massachusetts had a sow served 36 hours after coming in heat and she farrowed 11 male and 6 female pigs; the next year the same sow was served under similar circumstances and had 9 male and 2 female pigs. On many farms the males and females herd together, so that copulation will usually take place at the beginning of heat, yet the average of each will be nearly the same, though in certain seasons there will be a preponderance of one sex over the other. This latter is shown wonderfully plain in Miles's experiment as follows: In 1864-5 there were 5 bull calves to 2 heifers; in 1866-7 the heifers were considerably in excess; in 1868-9 there were 2 heifers to each bull calf; in 1870 the bulls were decidedly more numerous and in 1871-2 there were more than 2 bulls to 1 heifer. In 1872 there were two rams to each ewe lamb, and the bulls were nearly in the same proportion to the heifers. In 1871 there were a preponderance of females among the sheep.

(Concluded next week.)

Flax and Potatoes—How to Raise.

The mild weather that has prevailed for the past weeks has enabled the farmers to complete their corn gathering and we can now begin to sum up our last season's operations. The crop season just passed has not been all that farmers hoped for, yet we are not complaining, as we are well off in comparison with our brother farmers in the western portion of the state. Our winter wheat and oats fell short about one-half the usual yield. Flax made a good crop and was yielding ten bushels per acre, but before the crop was more than half cared for, a

spell of cold weather set in lasting two weeks, which ruined all that was in the fields.

The crop promised finely until it began tasseling and earing when a drouth was set in, and between that and chinch bugs the yield was reduced to 25 or 30 bushels per acre. Late potatoes did well only in favored localities or where mulched.

In looking back over our failures, Mr. Editor, we see where we can better our practice in the future under like circumstances. We will take the flax crop for instance, which is a paying crop if properly handled. It should be sown as early as April 15th, and to insure an immediate growth and an even stand, begin your operations by plowing one land, say two acres, harrow smooth, and if the land is weedy sow three-fourth bushel per acre and cover with brush or Thomas smoothing harrow. Then plow another land and treat in the same manner until your field is sown. When ready to harvest cut with self raking machine and let it lay in bunches two days. Then take a manure fork and turn the bunches, at the same time laying every fifth row over to one side to make a wagon road. As soon as the flax is dry enough, set a separator in the middle of the field (if not too large), haul in and thresh. In loading have a man throw it on from each side of the wagon without tramping it down. If cannot have a thrasher just at hand when the flax is dry stack it and escape the blunder we made last season by waiting for a machine.

Now I will tell you how I raised some of the finest peach blow potatoes I ever saw. In the latter part of May I drove my two horses and plow to the patch of ground I wished to plant and commenced plowing around it. My boy followed, dropping potatoes, one in a place every fifteen inches and in every other furrow. I turned a light furrow on them and when done I covered the whole patch with straw to the depth of three inches. They needed no cultivation, and in August when we were having our dry spell, the potato vines in fields planted in the ordinary way were drying up and dying, these potato tops of mine were growing vigorously, completely covering the ground. I shall plant again in this way, but in the event of a wet season, I think the potato will be watery. It will be a good plan to plant both ways.

The farmers here are fairly alive in the matter of railroad legislation. They want it. They would like congress to take action in the matter, but if they cannot get that, they want our legislature to pass laws controlling railroad lines in the state. It will be a start in the right direction. Let that farmers convention convene. Jefferson county will be there.

Valley Falls, Kas.

100 ACRES.

Poultry.

The Light Brahma the Fowl for the Farmer.

Agreeable to your request to tell the many readers of the FARMER which I consider the best breed of fowls for the farmer, I will try to do so.

Last fall, at the Bismarck fair, I offered the following special premiums: For the best breed of fowls for the market and farmers' use, one trio of Light Brahma fowls, valued at \$15. My object in offering this premium was not to satisfy myself, as my mind had been made up on that question for some time, but to satisfy a great many persons that are new beginners in the poultry business, and also a numerous lot of my correspondents that are always asking the all-important question, "Which is the best breed of fowls, in your opinion?" The judging was done by three competent men, (farmers, I think) and as almost every variety of fowl known was there on exhibition, they had a very good chance to select the ones, in their opinion, that would be the best for market and the farmer. After giving the subject due deliberation they pronounced the Light Brahmas the fowl for the farmer, and I think their decision was just.

I have been a breeder of Light Brahmas for four years. I will state my own and the experience of another on the subject. What does a farmer want in a fowl? First, a bird that is a good market fowl, one that will bring in the quickest time ready money. That the Brahmas are a good market fowl any one will hardly deny, being the largest of the gallinaceous tribe, weighing, when mature, from ten to sixteen pounds. Of course the largest does not constitute the best, but when size is considered with all the other marketable qualities of the Brahmas, the largest wins. The Brahmas are one of the best table fowls we have. Their flesh is of that rich golden yellow color which all good judges of dressed poultry so much prize, with full, plump bodies that make so nice an appearance as dressed poultry; and appearance plays a very important part in the market. Take two lots of dressed poultry, one of the Brahmas with their plump, full bodies and nice, golden color, and place beside them the common barnyard fowl with its small, wrinkled, blue, pinched body, and send them to market; you will find a marked difference in the price realized on the two lots. The former will sell readily at good prices, while the other, if it sell at all, will bring such a small sum as to forever dissuade you from sending such poultry to market again. With the former the market is never overstocked, and good poultry is always in demand. One kind does not cost any more to raise than the other. If there is any difference it is in favor of the pure-bred as a market or table fowl. Louis Wright, editor of the *London Stock Journal*, one of the highest authorities on this subject, says their flesh is the

best, Light Brahmas having plenty of breast meat, and the leg is the best of meat, while it is of small account in other breeds. They are the most splendid table fowl possible, carrying almost incredible quantities of meat of excellent quality. If there is a better or as good a fowl for market as the Light Brahma, I do not know of it.

Breeders of the Light Brahmas are striving to establish a breed not simply for eggs or poultry, or as a market fowl, but for all of these combined. The ideal Light Brahma comes nearer combining these qualities in a more eminent degree than any other variety, and is for all purposes for which the farmer breeds fowls, the best that man, with all his intelligence, ingenuity and perseverance has succeeded in establishing. A fowl for general farm purposes must be large, prolific, hardy, healthy and attractive. If the Light Brahmas were deficient in any of these good qualities, they would have been supplanted long ago.

It is folly for farmers to keep several different breeds. Fowls are not like general or mixed husbandry. The wise farmer plants a variety of seeds as a better means of supplying the wants of his customers, but fowls are different, and several varieties will perhaps never be kept separately by the farmer. It is useless to tell him that several breeds can be kept with profit. The fowl that comes nearest combining all the good qualities is the best for all purposes.

F. E. MARSH.

Golden Belt Poultry Yards, Manhattan, Kas.

Communications.

Political Reform.

It is one of the encouraging signs of the times that the agricultural press is taking an outspoken position upon this most important subject. The political papers have heretofore claimed a monopoly of all that related to the affairs of government, or the mode of administering them, and their claim has in the main been admitted.

Agricultural editors, whose subscribers belonged to both political parties, fearing to tread upon somebody's toes, have confined themselves to a few "glittering generalities" about honest government and the influence that the farmers ought to have at the polls. But these truisms made no impression whatever upon those that read them. They went to the primaries and the polls and cast their votes as their self-constituted leaders told them the interest of the party required. The party was all; the people—nothing. The leaders got the offices and such legislation as they wanted, and the farmers went back to their plows and created the wealth that kept the whole machine in motion. Such is still the case so far as the national government is concerned. But in some of the western states these patient tax-payers have taken the reins in their own hands, and in Kansas they have actually a majority of the lower house. (In this county we have sent a farmer to the senate.) This change has been mainly brought about by two agencies—the grange movement and the agricultural press. The farmers' alliance is of too recent origin to have effected much as yet, although we expect much good from it.

There is a large class, and I think I can say a majority of the farmers, who do not take an agricultural paper, and they are the class that are so easily led by the demagogues that manage our political affairs. This ignorance and conceit furnish an easy prey to the smooth-tongued politicians who just before an election go about urging upon them the pressing importance of sustaining the regular ticket at this particular election. They almost all take their county paper, and this is right; if a man takes but one let him take his own local paper, and these papers depend upon the town people for most of their patronage, and their influence is in favor of the town and town men for all offices, and so the farmer hears but one side. How shall we reach this class? Show them a copy of the FARMER and urge them to subscribe, and they say they cannot afford it. They will show you a city weekly that they get for one dollar, and gravely inform you that it has twice the reading the FARMER has. What can you do with that class of men? and their name is legion. (Gather them into farmers' organizations.—Ed.) The grange failed to draw this class into its ranks, and I fear the alliance will experience a similar fate. The wide-awake, thinking class of farmers are now and always have been awake to the importance of being represented in our legislatures, and now that the agricultural press has taken hold of the matter, we may hope for more decided success.

The meeting of farmers at Topeka, on the 12th of January next, is a move in the right direction. All other classes have their lobby in attendance to look after their interests, and if the farmers expect any good results, they must be on hand to look after their interests.

The Gypsum Valley Farmers' Club, at their last meeting, appointed delegates to represent them at the coming meeting, and we hope all similar organizations will be represented.

WM. PETTES.

Saline Co., Dec. 24, 1880.

Cause of the Farmer's Political Woes.

I am a farmer, not from necessity but from choice. I am one who believes that there is money in the business if properly followed. I purchased and placed under cultivation a farm in Kansas with the intention of making some money therefrom. I endeavor to note carefully the cause both of success and failure, around me, and strive to imitate the first and avoid the

latter. I endeavor to read with care whatever I find either in the agricultural or political press, that has a bearing upon profit and loss in my occupation; and when I believe that erroneous councils are given in the house of my friends, I think I ought to speak out. Permitted to call attention to some of these.

S. Sinnett, in writing for the *Western Rural*, copied in KANSAS FARMER, No. 48, goes far out of the way. Again, in KANSAS FARMER, Dec. 22, I find copied from the *Farmer's Friend*, viz: "We venture the assertion that there is not a district or county in Pennsylvania, to-day, in which the farmers have cast aside their partisan prejudices and united upon a representative farmer as their candidate for congress or the state legislature." This is a fair sample of the counsel I refer to. (My remarks will apply to both writers referred to.) I believe it is all wrong—it is bad counsel—for the reason, 1st, The good of our common country requires that we have no political party built up to accomplish class legislation. 2d, There is no reasonable probability of the farmer, in our day, casting aside his "partisan prejudice." It is now that we want something done. I could not ask farmers to cast aside their political prejudices. I freely say that I would not do it. I honestly entertain my own political prejudices; shall I concede less honesty to my neighbor? I spent three years of the best of my life in the army, as I believed, to maintain these same political prejudices. I would treat with contempt any proposition to abandon them. What, give up, abandon, turn our backs to all the political theories that we have ever held to be true in the past, and firmly believe now? Never!

We are always ready to say, each to the other, Come over and join us; and thus, I presume, that question will always remain.

Counsel no man to abandon that which he believes to be right, but rather to labor with renewed energy for its success. Every republican, democratic and greenback farmer has an equal interest in legislation that secures justice to his calling. Give them solid ground upon which all can honorably stand, and you lay a foundation that will inspire hope, which will prove to be the day star of the final triumph of our cause. Laws to secure justice to the farmer are not partisan questions. Such laws have their earnest advocates and opposers in all political parties.

In these discussions much has been said, unjustly, against the politician. Kings have ever claimed divine right to rule, and assumed the people to be incapable of self-government. Not so with the politician; he has ruled from necessity. The people were either too negligent or did not have time to attend to these things. Government was necessary. The politician came to the rescue. Nobly has he done his work—for himself. The people are lucky that affairs are no worse for them than they are. When the people have time and inclination for self-government the politician will gracefully hand over the scepter and offer to accept service.

Let every farmer know that congress and the state legislature are made of the primary causes of the political parties. That is the time for our people to speak and act. Let republican farmers, democratic farmers and greenback farmers attend every primary meeting, each of his own party, and see to it that delegates are selected who represent both the party and the farmer. Thus in the county convention the farmer secures his man as the nominee in each district. If the district is republican it elects a republican farmer; if it is democratic, it elects a democratic farmer, and so on. Each party can labor for the success of the principles that it deems to be for the public good. In a congress or legislature elected in such a manner, a majority in each political party would hold all laws essential to secure justice to the farmer, to be for the public good, and their passage would be assured. I believe in the farmer doing more political work and less political grumbling. If he stays at home on the day of the primary meeting for some trivial cause, trusting to some one else to do his political work for him, he will reap a crop of volunteer weeds. In Kansas, volunteer wheat will sometimes do, but volunteer politics—never. For this season the political seed time is over. If seed of proper kind and quality has been sown in its season and in workmanlike manner, the political fields should now be whitening with an abundant harvest.

Farmer, the hour calls for redoubled energy. Know that the harvest will never reach your barn without an effort from you. Let him that is placed on guard be vigilant, knowing "the price of liberty." Let him understand that the caucus is the great modern header in the political harvest. Farmer, the harvest is yours. Worthy and qualified, stand to the front. Man the machine. Be a master workman in the field.

A. P. C.

Solomon City, Kansas.

Worms in Horses.

Will some of the readers of the FARMER give the best remedy for worms in horses? I think worms kill more horses in Kansas than all other diseases combined.

Our corn is light. In this county I think it will not average more than thirty bushels per acre. Our portion of the county is improving in wealth and population. We have a good many cattle feeders, and a good many new houses went up this last summer.

Apples were a large crop, peaches a good crop; potatoes poor. LOUIS WILLIAMS.

Mound Creek, Kansas.

Any ladies wishing to know the merits of the Excelsior Kidney Pad, its action, etc., are referred to Mrs. Wm. E. McKee, Photographer, Parsons, Toledo, Ohio.—See Adv.

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We solicit from Patrons, communications regarding the Order. Notices of New Elections, Feasts, Installations and a description of all subjects of general or special interest to Patrons.

Notice to Patrons.

Fellow Patrons of the State of Kansas:

Having been selected to fill the office of Lecturer, it becomes my duty to inform you that we are now preparing for work. We stopped off the train, Dec. 24th, at Edgerton, and there had a public meeting, reorganized the grange and installed its officers, being assisted by Bro. Jackson of Wilson county. Bro. C. M. Dickson was elected Master and Bro. Wm. G. Frost, Secretary. They have a co-operative store there, which is a grand success, and I am satisfied that this grange will increase and thrive.

We have appointments out for public meetings Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings the coming week in this county, and let me here say, that we are preparing to spend most of our time for the good of the Order in this state the coming year. But as there are no provisions made for the payment of a Lecturer, not even the first dollar—for the simple reason that our state grange treasury has not got it, it will only become necessary that our place be supplied upon the farm and our actual expenses paid by the patrons of this state to obtain our services.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and success to our Order, I remain

Fraternally yours,

SAM'L C. BARNARD.

Humboldt, Jan. 1, 1881.

Railroads as Highways.

In lieu of anything we might be able to say on the question which of all others is exciting most interest throughout the country, we publish the letter of Judge Black, one of the ablest jurists in America. The time and circumstances will invest the opinion of Judge Black with peculiar interest to the readers of the FARMER. It will be encouraging to farmers to find that they are in accord with such able legal authority in their views of the public carrying business.

It would be well for those who propose discussing the question of fixing legal rates for railroad tolls and passenger fare, at the farmers' convention or in the legislature this winter, to examine the clauses in the constitution of the state of Pennsylvania, which Judge Black says contains, in the 17th section, "a series of provisions, which if carried out and enforced, would be amply sufficient."

THE LETTER.

GENTLEMEN: You propose a movement in favor of some legal regulation which will compel railway companies to perform their duties to the public on proper terms. I will answer your questions as directly as possible, but without observing the order in which you put them. You desire above all things to be just. The legally vested rights of railway companies, like other rights of property, are sacred, and no violation of them comes within the scope of your design. But on this question railroad men misunderstand their situation. They believe, or pretend to believe, that railways are the property of the companies authorized to run them, which is a cardinal error and the parent of much false argument. A public highway cannot be private property, and a railroad laid out and built by the authority of the state for the purpose of commerce is as much a public highway as a turnpike road, canal, or navigable river.

It is the duty of the state to promote intercourse and trade, by making highways of the best sort through her territory. To this end she may take land and materials, which is an exercise of the power of eminent domain. She can build a railway at her own expense, using the direct agency of her own officers, and after it is built she can make it free to all comers, or reimburse the cost by a special tax on individuals who have occasion to use it. She can delegate the taking and the taxing powers to a corporation or a natural person, and that is what she always does when she grants a railroad charter. And in either or any case the road belongs to the state, and all the people have a right to use it as common property upon compliance with necessary regulations and payment of the proper tax. The corporations who have got into the habit of calling themselves the owners of the railroads have no proprietary right, title, or claim to the roads themselves, but a mere franchise annexed to and exercisable thereon. They are the agents of the state for the performance of a public duty. If the franchise be forfeited or surrendered, or if it expire by efflux of time, the state takes possession of the road and runs it herself, or employs a new agent. The company cannot keep the road, any more than the outgoing collector of a port can appropriate to himself the custom-house where he did his official work.

The state, having need for a public highway at a particular place, makes a contract with a corporation to open and put it in condition to be used; and by way of reimbursing the builders and operators she authorizes a tax upon those who travel or carry merchandise over it. But this tax must be reasonable, just, uniform,

prescribed, and fixed, so that every citizen may know beforehand exactly how much he must pay, and so that when he pays or tenders the proper amount he will acquire an absolute and perfect right to the use of the road. The amount of the tax, toll or freight in any case is not a subject of bargain between the shipper and the corporation, but a thing to be settled, fixed and prescribed by public authority. If the company may charge what it pleases, then the road is not a public highway, the public has no rights in it at all, and the charter which authorizes the taking of land to build it is unconstitutional and void. These principles were stated by Judge Baldwin, in Bonaparte against the Camden & Ambler railroad company, (1 Bald. Rep. 252.) You will find a more extended discussion of them by the supreme court of Pennsylvania, in Casey against the Erie & Northeast railroad company, (2 Casey's Rep. 287.) I do not think they are opposed by any high authority, but no doubt they have often been overlooked in judicial decisions and forensic arguments. The railroads being equal property in which all the people have equal rights, and the companies that run them being public agents, it is absurd to say that the state has no right to regulate and control them in the performance of their functions by such laws as will prevent partiality, plunder and extortion. This is a power of which no free state can disarm itself by any acts of its legislative, judicial or executive officers. They could as lawfully sell the state out and out and deliver up the entire population to sack and pillage. But are not the franchises property in which the company has a vested right? Yes. The privilege of taking a certain fixed, prescribed, uniform, reasonable rate of toll from all persons alike, according to the use they make of the road, is a power that the state may bestow upon any person, natural or artificial. But no lawful franchise to take toll on a public highway can exceed those limits. A charter that goes beyond this is void. Those companies will oppose any effort to bring them down to a reasonable rate, with the argument that such reduction is a violation of the contract between them and the state. But upon the principle laid down by Judge Baldwin, in the case above mentioned, a charter is inoperative which authorizes a maximum of toll or fare so high that the company is able, without exceeding it, to exclude the people from using their own road. In the Granger cases, from Iowa and Wisconsin, the bargain was that the companies might fix their own rates. But the supreme court of the United States held, that a subsequent law to restrain them within reasonable limits, was no violation of the original contract. This principle applies to a company whose maximum rate is unreasonably high, because such a rate is practically the same thing as no limitation at all. The conclusion that all the railroad corporations in the country may be constitutionally restrained to reasonable and just charges, is not merely drawn from the fact that railroads are public highways. If they owned the corpus of the road and used it in the business of a common carrier, they might be compelled to behave themselves justly to all their customers and submit to any regulation for the public good. The unanswerable opinion of Chief Justice Waite, in Munn vs. Illinois, (4 Otto, p. 113,) settles that.

The reasonableness of the freight tolls or taxes that may be charged upon any railway, will depend on the expense of running and repairing it and on the cost of construction. The latter will, of course, be the principal element in the calculation, or the tolls ought to be high enough to give the corporation a fair profit on the capital they have actually invested. But many of these corporations have issued large amounts of stock and mortgage bonds for which the holders have paid nothing, or much less than their nominal value. Another way of enlarging their apparent dimensions is to water their stock under the pretense of increasing their capital, while, in fact, the additional shares are divided among themselves without putting a new dollar into the business. Of course nobody thinks that the real cost of the road is to be measured by the nominal amount of these bonds and shares. It is easy for a competent engineer to tell how much any road ought to cost, supposing the work to be honestly done and liberally paid for. That being ascertained, you have the true basis of a calculation which will show how much the tolls ought to be.

Most of our western roads were built with the proceeds of public lands granted mediately or immediately by the United States to the several companies which now have them in charge. They did not really cost the stockholders anything, and in some cases they got lands worth a great deal more than all expenses of making, stocking and running the roads. The two companies between Omaha and San Francisco, raised in cash out of government bonds, lands and mortgages of their franchises four or five times as much as they necessarily expended upon the roads, and the stockholders, without paying anything, put the enormous surplus into their pockets. These roads, thus built at the public expense, and in some cases paid for by the public five times over, are now claimed as the private property of the companies, and the right of the public to use them as highways is utterly denied.

Nevertheless, I think the claim of the companies to take reasonable tolls stands upon the same foundation as that of companies whose roads were built by the stockholders themselves at their own proper expense. The grant of the lands invested the grantees with a title which could not be revoked if the condition of it was performed. If they sold or mortgaged the lands and invested the proceeds in the construction of a railroad under a charter from the

state or general government, which authorizes them to take a fair profit in the shape of tolls, they have as good a right to the tolls as if the capital to build the road had been raised by themselves; that is to say, these companies which built the railroads with capital donated by the public have the same right as other companies to charge a reasonable toll, but their demand of excessive tolls, though not worse in law, seems in the eye of natural reason a greater outrage.

If railroad corporations have the unlimited power which they claim, then all business is at their mercy; agriculture, commerce, manufactures, must suffer what they choose to inflict. They may rob labor of the bread it wins, and deprive all enterprise of its just reward. Though this power does not belong to them legally, they have been permitted to usurp it, and I need not tell you that they have grossly abused it. They avow that they make their exactions with an eye single to their own advantage, without considering any right or interest of the public. They boldly express their determination to "charge as much as the traffic will bear;" that is to say, they will take from the profits of every man's business as much as can be taken without compelling him to quit it. In the aggregate this amounts to the most enormous, oppressive and unjust tax that ever was laid upon the industry of any people under the sun. The irregularity with which this tax is laid makes it still harder to bear. Men go into a business which may thrive at present rates, and will find themselves crushed by burdens unexpectedly thrown upon them after they get started. It is the habit of the railroad companies to change their rates of transportation often and suddenly, and in particular cases to make the charges ruinously high, without any notice at all. The farmers of the great west have made a large crop of grain, which they may sell at fair prices, if they can get it carried to the eastern ports even at the unreasonably high freights of last summer. But just now, it is said, that the railway companies have agreed among themselves to raise the freight five cents per hundred weight, which is equal to an export tax upon the whole crop of probably \$75,000,000. The farmers must submit to this highway robbery or else keep the products of their land and labor to rot on their hands. They submit, of course, as all other classes of industrious people submit to similar impositions.

Common justice imperatively requires that freights be fixed, settled and prescribed by law, and that they be not changed at the mere will of the railroad companies.

But the discrimination which makes the rates unequal is the most odious feature. A grain dealer at Baltimore gets a reduction or "drawback" which is denied to others, and he makes a fortune for himself while he ruins his competitors by underselling them. A single mill at Rochester can stop the wheels of all the rest if its flour be carried at a rate much lower. By discriminations of this kind the profits on one coal mine may be quadrupled, while another, with all its fixtures and machinery, is rendered worthless. Such wrongs as these are done, not only in a few sporadic cases, but generally and habitually on a very large scale. Certain oil men whose refinery was on Long Island, got rebates amounting to \$10,000,000 in eighteen months, and seventy-nine houses, (I believe that is the number,) engaged in the same business, were broken up. The directors of the Reading railroad, having coal lands of their own, made discriminations between themselves and others which drove all competition out of the field, gave them the monopoly of the Philadelphia market, and enabled them to charge for their coals as they charge for their freight—whatever they pleased. Thus, producers and consumers all suffer together. Worse still than that, the prosperity of large communities is blighted by the refusal of railroads to carry the products of their farms, gardens and shops unless they submit to the payment of rates much larger than what are charged on similar goods from other regions much farther away from the common market. The case you mention of four dollars from New York to Salt Lake, and only two dollars and a half to San Francisco, is perhaps not the most unrighteous, but it is as gross a violation of legal principle as can be conceived. If the railways belong to the people, then the rights of all citizens are precisely equal, and all discriminations are unlawful. Without reference to the public right of property, they are so shamefully injurious in their general effect and in their particular consequences, that no well governed state will endure them.

These railroad and transportation companies connect themselves with everything. The promotion of commerce, internal and foreign, the interests of buyer and seller, the rights of producer and consumer, the needs of the poor and the prosperity of the rich, all cry aloud for some system of management which will compel them to do the duties they owe to the public faithfully at rates reasonable, fixed, uniform and equal, without extortion, without wanton charges, without discrimination. The laws necessary for this purpose are not difficult to frame. If you will look at the constitution of Pennsylvania as amended in 1873, you will find in the 17th section a series of provisions which, if carried out and enforced, would be amply sufficient. But the railroad men and their advocates have managed to impress the legislature with the idea that they are above the constitution. They assert that every restriction imposed upon them in the interests of justice, equality and fair dealing, is a violation of the contract embodied in their charters. All this is no doubt very false doctrine, but they contrive in some way (I really do not know

how) to make the state authorities accept it as true.

I maintain that all the states have a clear and indefeasible right to protect their people against such wrongs, and to exercise the power as a sacred duty. When that duty is properly performed the internal trade of each state will cease to be enervated and crippled as it is now. But the commerce between the states will still be open to inequalities and liable to oppression and plunder by transportation companies, unless the national legislature does something to save it. Congress has power "to regulate commerce between the states." Is it not strictly within the scope of that authority when it makes a law forbidding carriers through the states to injure, impede or destroy the general trade of the country by extravagant and discriminating charges? If that be not a regulation of inter-state commerce, what would be? The power being conceded, an effectual mode of righting the wrongs now complained of can easily be devised.

Doubtless you are right in the belief that public opinion will be in favor of your movement. Reflecting men cannot deny its justice. But the influence of these great corporations can hardly be calculated. They have methods of defense and offense which make them almost invincible. You have referred to portions of their history which prove this. Some of the state governments are literally subjugated by them now. It will require a strong organization and much labor to reduce them. Undisciplined militia in the open field make a poor fight against regulars entrenched. What are corn-stalks against cannon? Such is truth against money. You ask what I think of regulating these affairs by the agency of commissioners. In England, I believe, that plan has been a complete success; in California, I understand, it is a dead failure.

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I have in my herd the sow that took first money and sweepstakes, and the sow and boar under six months that took premium at Kansas City Exposition in 1878, and the sow, boar and litter that took first premium and sweepstakes over all at the meeting of the Lyon County Agricultural Society in 1879. These pigs are all of my own breeding, and are competent for record. I send out nothing but first-class pigs. All stock warranted, and shipped as ordered, on receipt of money.

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NEW IMPORTATION

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FOR FULL PARTICULARS, ADDRESS
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SANFORD LIVES: Breeder of high class, thoroughbred Light Brahmas and Plymouth Rock fowls. My stock is the finest in the west. I won 1st in L. L. Brahmas, special for best breeding pen of L. L. fowls in Kansas, and sweepstakes on test of L. L. fowls of 1878. Let on P. Rocks fowls—only exhibit breeding pen of fowls. My entry for best of Keefer Plymouth Rock chicks best first the best of Keefer mark, 7 weeks very cheap. Speak quick! pullets with nice yellow legs, &c., &c. J. A. Brahmas chicks at reasonable prices. Circular free. Address Mount City Poultry Yards, Mount City, Linn Co., Kansas.

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E. E. EWING, Editor and Proprietor,
Topeka, Kansas.

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The greatest care is used to prevent swindling humbugs securing space in these advertising columns. Advertisements of lotteries, whisky blenders, and quack 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.

Subscribers should very carefully notice the label stamped upon the margin of their papers. All those marked 3 expire with the next issue. The paper is at ways discontinued at the expiration of the time paid for, and to avoid missing a number renewals should be made at once.

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Look at our offer for clubs. The greatest offer to club agents ever made. Cash and no trade in articles at high prices for work. Every agent who works for the KANSAS FARMER knows that he is working for Cash! And every agent gets something.

No Special Authority is needed for a person to form clubs. All that is necessary is to secure the names and remit the money.

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Club Lists with necessary instruction sent to those who contemplate getting up clubs.

Post Office Addresses.

When parties write to the FARMER on any subject whatever, they should give the county and post office both. Some of the new post offices are not put down in the post office directory, and when the county is not mentioned, the post office clerks do not know where to send papers or letters.

What Are We Prepared to Accomplish?

"Watchman, tell us of the night—
What the signs of promise are."

As the legislature stands on the order of doing, it is well to inquire what we are prepared to do. It is doubtless very little in comparison with that which, for the interest of agriculture and its numerous attendant interests, is required to be done. First, we should inquire what we are prepared, with proper information in detail to legislate for wisely, and attempt no more. That much achieved a long step will have been taken in the direction which will lead on with accelerated speed to the enactment of such laws as will encourage and prosper every industry within the bounds of our state. To enact some law to relieve the producing class from what they complain of as excessive charges for transportation, is the question which at present overshadows all others, and the one of many which members are probably least prepared, from lack of data and exact information, to pass upon wisely. But they are in possession of some information sufficiently tangible to commence what will perhaps require a series of acts to complete. Let them advance that far and attempt nothing which reliable data will not warrant. This far is safe and plain sailing; beyond that lies the realm of uncertainty, an uncharted sea full of whirlpools, sunken rocks and hidden dangers. Before attempting to legislate for the unknown, let us send out trusty men to explore, to gather statistics and compile all the information that it is possible to acquire. Having thus prepared the grade we are ready to complete the road, in the parlance of the engineers.

There are some abuses in our railroad management that are readily come-at-able, and should be prevented by legislation, and that will be of great relief to the public. There should be uniform rates charged on freight of the same class, and no rebates allowed to favored parties, and freight should be classed according to the expense and risk in transportation, handling, and the perishable nature of the goods; and not charge a higher rate on a bushel of potatoes or a barrel of apples, than on a bushel of corn or a barrel of flour. Such arbitrary classifying should be forbidden. Charges on short distances should never be allowed to exceed charges on longer distances, which is one of the crying evils of the system.

The stock-yard and elevator monopoly should be restrained within proper limits, or rates for charges fixed by statute. The market price of grain and hay outside the stock-yards should determine the charges for feed of stock confined in the yards, or the owner of stock be allowed to furnish feed, and all excessive charges for the use of elevators and stock-yards, be restricted by law. These are abuses which can be remedied very readily by act of legislature, and would result in immense advantage to the farming and stock interest of the state.

Beyond this point we are not aware that there is sufficient data in the possession of any member of either house, or that any official of the railroads can supply such information, to warrant a step further in the matter of regulating railroad freights and fares. That they are excessive in many instances is the universal complaint, but how much in excess of necessary outlay who can tell? Who can make a schedule of prorating without a table of necessary costs in detail for running the roads? No man in Kansas has such data, railroad superintendents not excepted. But such statistical information is obtainable and must be had before one step

can be taken wisely in the attempt to regulate by law freights and passenger fares.

The next and all important duty of the legislature is to create a commission to gather all such data as we have referred to, as lacking, to a complete knowledge of framing laws for the guidance of railroad managers. The loose system of state and national legislation on railroads has left the officials without laws by which to govern their actions, and they are compelled in consequence to make such regulations as best they can on account of this criminal neglect on the part of government; and the result is that an uninformed public rail at and denounce railroad corporations and managers, whom their governments have foolishly and criminally left without law and without responsibility for their management.

It is time for the states to begin to undo what they have done amiss. In addition to appointing a commission invested with full powers to conduct the work assigned them, the companies should be compelled to make quarterly reports giving full and accurate details of all the business of their respective roads, and those reports should be collated and published in such form by the state officer or officers to whom made, as would place the public in possession of all the facts pertaining to outlays and what for, and all the receipts and what for, of the roads in the state. It were no hardship to compel railroads to make such reports. Banks and other institutions in which the public are interested through their business, are compelled to do so. Light would thus be shed upon the minds of all, and with light and knowledge prejudice, passion and denunciation would fade away, and no official whose road was earning 25 to 50 per cent. profit upon cost over expenses, would have the face to say such rates for fare and freight were just; but while these and similar facts are kept in the dark, they will be defended with the utmost tenacity and practiced with relentless persistence. Light, education is what the public is most in need of. Let the state address itself to the task of supplying it, and a remedy for the evils so loudly complained of will come almost of themselves they will be acquired so easily and naturally.

It should be understood, however, that all state legislation in the matter of fixing bounds and making laws to regulate railroad management, can of necessity be only preparatory work. The great controlling power which in future is to guide and direct the transportation business of the country, will have to be placed in the hands of the general government. Capital invested in these works must be protected and made as safe as government bonds, and there will be no lack of it to build all the railroads that the demands of the times will justify, and the officers who work the roads will have their duties prescribed and fixed by wise laws, and will receive their pay. Each man will have his work assigned and his pay, as every clerk and official has now, and there will be no pooping and fixing rates. The stockholders will be secure in their property as the holders of government bonds are now. They are not secure in their property under the present loose system, or rather want of system, in railroad management, and have been robbed of hundreds of millions by "railroad wrecking," "cutting rates," "rebates," and other ring stealing, while other hundreds of millions have been wasted in railroad wars between rival lines. Our whole railroad system is execrable from Alpha to Omega, for owners, officials and public. But the steam horse has come to stay, and will be drawing the produce of these prairies a thousand years hence, and it is the duty of the present generation, who have originated this change in the system of travel, transportation and highways, to provide laws to regulate and govern it wisely, and not allow this wild, steam horse to charge down on the next generation unbridled and unbroken to the laws which govern civilized society. We have no right to inflict such a curse on posterity, and with it a plutocracy that will hold the laws that govern society in defiance.

But there are other important questions which the present legislature should devote its attention to. The wool interest of this state needs some legislation. The scab is a nuisance and is allowed to spread through laziness and culpable neglect on the part of some sheep owners. Legislation will be asked on this subject and others by the wool-growers' association which meets in this city in a few days. The system of plundering our farmers by wheat speculators in Kansas City, should be stopped, by creating inspection officers in this state for wheat. State scales, with weight-master, should be established at Wyandotte, where stock-yards could be established that would yield a revenue to the state while it saved large sums to our cattle owners.

The legislature should not let the railroad excitement run away with and consume all its time, but take hold of and afford relief in these other matters.

The Fourth Quarterly Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture for 1880.

The last Quarterly Report of 1880 is promptly issued on time, and the Secretary of the Board, Maj. J. K. Hudson, publishes an epitome of its contents, from which we excerpt the following most important points contained in the Report, embracing 134 pages filled with valuable statistical matter and facts relating to the agricultural interest of the state.

The number of farm animals and their aggregate value by counties is given for 1879 and 1880, with increase and decrease; mortality among farm animals as returned by township assessors; values of animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter; poultry and eggs, and pro-

duce from market gardens, sold; number of pounds of cheese and butter made in factories and families; number of stands of bees and pounds of honey and wax produced; number of bushels of old corn on hand March 1st, 1879 and 1880; number of acres in farms and nurseries; number of tons of prairie hay harvested and pounds of wool produced. Information of the weather and rainfall as reported by eleven scientific observers in various parts of the state, and valuable papers concerning fruits, grains, grasses, vegetables, farm animals, etc., are furnished by some 235 volunteer correspondents. Bee-keeping in Kansas is a treatise in forty-eight papers by practical apiarists, many of whom have been raising bees in the state from five to twenty years, and their experience, observation, successes and failures are noted in a way to be of vast benefit to those who incline toward apiculture as a source of either profit or pleasure.

One of the most valuable portions of the Report is the part devoted to the breeding, raising and management of horses, prefaced by a table showing number and value of horses in Kansas each year since 1874, followed by a brief historical and descriptive sketch of the thoroughbred, the trotter, the Percheron-Norman, or French draft horse, and the Clydesdale. Sixty-three leading horse breeders give their experience in raising and handling this class of stock in our state and a multitude of valuable suggestions pertaining to it, following an article on the prevailing epizootic, its causes, pathology, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment.

The most valuable portions of the recent report on Spanish fever, by Dr. D. E. Salmon, who was employed by the United States Agricultural Department to investigate it, is given. An illustrated article by Frank H. Palmer, of Boxford, Mass., on Insect Eating Birds, shows their utility as agents for the destruction of noxious insects and the important part they play in the economy of nature.

The volume closes with a list of organized counties in the state and the names of their respective county seats, county clerks and treasurers.

The Cottonwood as a Nurse.

In my remarks on the cottonwood I did not wish to be understood as condemning the tree in toto, but I regard it among trees as I do the turnip among vegetables—very good as a relish but decidedly poor as an exclusive diet. You say I "overlook the first principles in successful tea-growing on the dry plains. Slow-growing, hard wood timber trees will never survive in that section without protection and nursing."

Now while I admit the need of nursing, I object most decidedly to the nurse. Better trust a pig with baby's milk than a cottonwood, in a dry climate, near anything else that wants a drink. It is a coarse, rank grower and hungry feeder, bound to live if everything else about it dies, and on that fact is based its wonderful growth and successful existence, a worthy rival to Jonah's gourd. Yes, plant out a few, not in geometrical lines or great square blocks, but in small clumps here and there, and now and then a single tree. It quickly relieves the landscape and gives immediate satisfaction. But don't try to grow anything else near its hungry roots. I have seen too many failures of that kind to wish any one to try it.

Undoubtedly the cottonwood will grow where other trees will not, and will stand a harsh treatment and live, which better kinds can not do; and very many begrudge that crazy growing tree the little labor required. I know parties in Pratt county that plowed cottonwood cuttings in in sandy land only three inches deep, and another who put in five acres by cutting a spade down four to six inches and pushing the cutting down behind it in unplowed, wild land. I suppose if the good Lord had given them his special care and had rained on them every few days, they would have lived, but he did not, and they "died, they died," and why not? And just as far west, the same year, I saw hard wood trees growing and thriving without shelter. Away up north, on the level bottom lands of the famous Red River valley, forty miles across, where the winter winds whistle to the tune of sixty degrees below zero, I have seen both fruit and hard-wood timber trees living and growing finely; and our best hard-woods are found on the top of the rocky, barren, ice-girt hills of New England. They will stand heat and cold, and the gales from the west, but cannot live without water, and that the cottonwood does not give but takes away.

Now, Mr. Editor, this is not fancy, but the fruits of my observation in several years' journeying over the west. I have been out west and have eaten many a meal in the 7x9 frontier cabin, and also with those whose frontier experience was twenty years' ago. The cottonwood is a God-given tree when used as useful to shelter the home and about the corral, and to help to quickly wipe out the dreariness of the plain. But give us something else also. Don't let it be like boarding-house hash—ninety-nine tater to one meat.

Again I say five acres is a big job, too big for most farmers. Better try two acres and plow not less than eight or ten inches at least three times, after the sod has rotted, and then choose a wet spring and plant 8x8. Prune off side branches of the inside rows. Cultivate to corn as long as it grows fodder. Plant native trees. Keep the rabbits out and weeds down. Use good "horse sense" and don't expect too much for nothing.

I do not believe in cottonwood nurses, nor in too thick planting. Nothing but a swamp could furnish water for trees planted 4x4. I have seen the slow-growing trees die in the

shadow and in the "nurse's fond embrace," and the thick-planted groves grow to a jungle of brush. The farmer wants a few trees with straight stems and clean bodies; not a forest or game-park, but something useful—to-day, a lever, an ax-helve, an oak pin; to-morrow, a fence-post, a stack-pole, or perhaps a gate-sweep, or even pea-brush, or a goose-yoke, without going to town after them.

Now, Mr. Editor, say back what you or your readers may think; I shall only like the FARMER better and take it longer.

E. A. PECK.

Our correspondent writes and reasons from a standpoint farther east than the plains; even so far that he has been totally oblivious to the great first necessity of a speedy growth of trees. Trees are of prime importance on the wind-swept plains as nurses for man, beast, crops, and other trees, and not nurses in the sense that young animals are fostered by a mother. While clumps and individual trees are commendable as forming a picturesque landscape, such landscape gardening can be dispensed with for awhile. The first essential of a farm on the plains is shelter from the force of the warm, south wind in summer, for which trees planted in clumps are of little or no advantage. What is wanted is a wind-screen or break reaching from the east to the west line of every farm on its southern boundary. While it requires much labor, time and expense to plant and care properly for a few trees placed in bunches and groups about a farm, large numbers with comparatively small outlay in time and money can be planted in long lines or belts. Prepare a "land" 16 or 20 feet wide, in the manner our correspondent designates, running east and west on the southern boundary of the farm. When the time for planting approaches, "strike" furrows with a light plow five or six feet apart, the distance having been determined upon. In these furrows young cottonwood trees or slips, as choice may have determined, can be dropped almost as fast as a man can walk, four to six feet apart. Plant plenty of them. Cottonwoods can be had for the gathering by all who wish to plant. A man following the dropper with a hoe will draw a shovel-full of soil to each plant. Step on it to firm it and keep the plant in place, and pass on to the next. When the plants are "set" complete the work by throwing a furrow to them with the plow; level the ground between the rows with cultivator or harrow, and finish by running a roller over the belt, and if the plants are small, as they should be, they will nearly all grow.

In planting four or five rows across the farm but little more labor and time have been expended than in planting as many rows of corn or potatoes. When the spring rains have started the plants and the weeds too, cultivate clean, and when the prairie grass will cut a good swath, and before the hot weather sets in, mow as much as will cover the whole plat with a heavy mulch and spread it on evenly, being careful not to cover the young trees. This belt of infant trees must be nursed and protected from stock as any crop must be to succeed. When the hot blasts blow from the south and old Sol pours his vertical, midsummer beams down like the breath from the mouth of a seven times heated furnace, the fostering mulch will keep the soil cool and the moisture from evaporation, and the roots of the young plants will run riot in the rich, moist earth, and their green tops, rejoicing in the glad sunshine, will shoot heavenwards, mounting higher and higher in the free prairie air, and in five-ten years they will be young giants, defying the south winds and casting their cool shadows on the grateful earth at their roots.

If a mixed grove is desired, gather black walnuts and hickory nuts the succeeding fall—the cottonwoods having been planted in early spring—and with a hand hoe go through the embryo timber belt and drop and cover as many nuts as desired, or till the seed is exhausted. In time the nuts will spring up young trees and grow in the rich soil beneath the fostering (nursing, if you please,) mulch. That is the way nature raises her forests. She mulches the soil every fall with leaves and drops the seeds of future trees in the decaying mulch; a few of them find a suitable place to grow. The old trees die and the young and thrifty survive. The weaklings dwindle and die, and thus a stately forest is preserved and the bramble is destroyed.

Go through the abandoned cornfields of Old Virginia, and you may see nature at forest-making in every stage of the business. The fields recently abandoned, where the traces of the corn rows are visible, will be covered thickly with young, fine brush; those which have been abandoned a few years longer will be so thickly covered with small saplings—bean poles—that a dog can scarcely run through them. As the growth becomes older and the trees increase in size, they commence to weed out. And step by step you may trace the work of nature till finally the forest is around and over you with its stately trees and long arcades, winding through open woods of tall, smooth bodied pines, straight as arrows, with green tops sighing a hundred feet above your head in the breeze.

Having seen how nature makes a forest, let us imitate her. The prairies of Kansas are as fertile as the Wabash bottoms, where grow the greatest forests in the temperate zone, but they lack moisture. They probably receive thirty inches of rainfall in twelve months. If we can save a goodly portion of that water we can raise forests. It escapes mainly by the surface if it has once entered the soil and is drawn out by the agency of the sun and dry wind. Let man do at once what nature is years in doing—cover the surface where he plants trees, and

keep the water in to feed the roots of the infant forest. Our correspondent says cultivate in corn, and thus rob the young trees and expose their tender roots to the influence of drouth and heat. Nature says keep grain out and shade the soil, and she is the most successful tree grower we have yet met.

As the trees grow, thin out the weaklings with the ax and the bramble will not be found. The black walnut will fight for life as vigorously as the cottonwood, and both, with many other kinds, will dwell in peace together in the same grove if they all have enough to subsist on, and the larger they grow the deeper their roots will go, opening subterranean passages for the winter's snow and spring rains.

Behind the sheltering wall of trees you can plant crops and orchards, and the sweeping prairie winds will not twist the boughs and thrash off the fruit and grain. Plant similar belts on the north and west lines and stock and orchard are shielded from the icy blasts of winter. Run another belt through the middle of a 160-acre farm, and when the trees have grown 30, 40, 50 feet in height you are sheltered from the worst wind storms. The soil of the oats and corn-fields will not be lifted by the April wind, and carried, grain and all, over to the farm of your neighbor, as frequently happened last spring.

Thus the cottonwoods by their rapid, vigorous growth, have served as faithful nurses to the whole farm; stock orchards, grain fields and hard wood trees of slower growth. As the trees increase in size, thin out the cottonwoods. They answer for fuel, for poles, "peas stick and goose yokes." They have served a good purpose. They have been faithful nurses and protectors of everything about the farm, from their worst enemies—the hot winds, the cold winds, and the pitiless beams of a cloudless, summer sun. They have invited the song and insectivorous birds to tarry and build their nests in the shade and branches, and assist the farmer to destroy the swarms of insect life that destroy his grain and fruit trees. In ten years the farmer looks from beneath embowering shade trees that arch above his door, and lo! he is dwelling in the very midst of a veritable park, all his own, and the cost has been so small that he cannot count it. To accomplish this, however, he must make use of a higher order of sense than "horse sense;" he must use human sense and learn from nature how to plant and nurse a tree.

The Great Farmers' Meeting.

At the hour we are compelled to close the forms of the FARMER (Tuesday afternoon) is too early to give any of the proceedings of the meeting, but from the number of delegates who have arrived and are arriving by every train, the indications are that a large convention will assemble, composed of representatives from all parts of the state. An earnest interest is manifested on the part of all delegates to the convention, to act and resolve with deliberation and moderation, and discourage all rash acts or denunciatory measures. Strong resolutions will be passed recommending and urging such legislation as is practical, and such other legislation as will prepare the way for future action tending to regulate and give system to railroad management such as will conform to the public interest.

Sales of Fine Stock.

The Messrs. Smiths & Powell, proprietors of "Lake-side Stock Farm," Syracuse, N. Y. have recently made the following sales: To Stockwell & Lightner of Iowa, Holstein cow, Isis (148); heifers, Constantia (882), Millie (867), Floretta (915), Felicity (878), Christie (855) and Ella (876) a magnificent lot of animals to commence a herd with.

To J. R. Benchler of Virginia they sold Holstein cow Duchess of Friesland (283), the two year old heifer, Lakeside Belle, (567); and the bull calf Cardinal, to Richard DeLong of New York; Holstein heifer Jessica, (854) to A. H. Cole of Steuben Co., Clydesdale Stallion, young Scotchman; to C. H. Black of Wyalusing the Clydesdale colt, superior. And to L. C. Lemine of Paris, France, the span of Hambletonian driving mares, Zephyr & Rosebud. They will be shipped via Havre this month to Paris.

Clerk's Name and County Wanting.

Will the County Clerk who sent four strays taken up in Sugar and Middle Creek Township please send us his own and County name, as both are omitted from copy containing list of strays. Clerk's will oblige us by writing the name of County on the list, as accompanying advices are liable to be lost.

Capital Grange.

There will be a public Installation of the officers of this grange on Saturday Jan. 22nd, at their Hall over Knox's Bank at 1 o'clock p. m. sharp. Every member is requested to be present and a cordial invitation is extended to all to meet with the grange on this occasion. An address will be delivered by Prof. Shelton, of the State Agricultural College.

Wool Growers' Meeting.

The committee of arrangements have secured Odd Fellows' Hall to hold the meeting of the State Wool Growers' Association, which meets on Tuesday, the 18th of January, at 3 p. m. All interested in sheep raising and wool growing are expected to attend.

Exclusive Manufacturers, Decatur, Ill.

Literary and Domestic

To the Honey Bee.

DEDICATED TO THE LOS ANGELES BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

Sweet toiler of a day!
Short is thy life, yet full of perfect bliss--
To dream 'mid flowers, and with them pass away.
What sweeter life than this?

To live remote from strife;
To sip and swing where flowery tendrils twine--
O, toiler sweet? I would that human life
Were even like to thine.

How sweet it were to sip
Bright nectar where a thousand tender sighs,
Exhaled from many a coral-tinted lip.
Melt 'neath the azure skies!

When mantling night-shades go,
To lie away where lingering fairies feast:
When rosy day's deep-flushing crimson glow
Illumes the trembling East.

To rise with circling sweep;
To lay the course, as points the compass true,
Toward some far, flowery harbor, slumbering deep
'Neath the aerial blue.

To tireless wingaway
Where spread the flowery leagues in odoriferous bloom,
And sensuous dream where loitering zephyrs play,
Till falls the twilight gloom.

What spirit-haunting dream,
What rapt soul-worship for thy mother-queen,
Impels thy swerveless course o'er plain and stream,
With arrow-flashing sheen?

Thy sweet lips fondly cling
Where bridal-blossoms deck the orange-tree,
And Nature whispers to the low-voiced Spring
Of golden days to be.

'Mid summer's sweet turmoil,
How fit and pass the fragrant, rosy hours?
And evanescent as the fading flowers,
Thy own brief life of toil.

What though the spoiler's lust
With ruthless greed absorbs thy golden store?
Soon hold thy waxen cells a hidden trust
More precious than before.

From the far, flowery dells
Thou hastest homeward on thy pinions fleet;
And, singing ever, build'st thy tiny cells,
To hold thy treasures sweet.

Sweet architect divine!
O, that this long, long changeable life of ours,
Of bitter-sweet, were even like to thine--
A short, sweet life of sunshine, strewn
With flowers!

ALBERT F. KERCHEVAL,
Los Angeles, Cal., 1880.
Semi-Tropical Californian.

New Year Thoughts.

"Ring, bells, ring! for the King is here;
Ring, bells, ring! for the glad New Year.
He mounts his throne with a smiling face,
His scepter lifts with majestic grace,
Ring for the joy his advent brings;
Ring for the happy songs he sings;
Ring for the promises sweet and true
With which we gladden our hearts anew."

The New Year is here at last, 1881. How many people will in writing their letters date them 1880 and then be obliged to scratch it out. It generally takes some time to get accustomed to that last figure.

How many there are who will welcome the New Year with happiness and rejoicing, but probably there are three times as many to whom it will be just the same as any other day. Those who have all they can do to earn enough to live on, to them it will only be a renewal of work and hardships which they already know only too well.

Then how many families have had their pleasant homes broken up by that grim destroyer, Death. Almost with the closing of the old year the famous novelist, George Eliot passed away. She was born in 1820, married the 6th of last May and on the 22d of December she died. But who will forget her when she leaves behind her such books as "Adam Bede," "Mill on the Floss," and a number of other well known works. To many of her admirers, her marriage to John Cross was a great disappointment. When George Henry Lewes died they expected that she would hereafter live in retirement, but they were not prepared to hear of her marriage. But now that she is dead they will only remember her as the woman who, by her wonderful creative genius achieved such literary success that will cause her name to be remembered forever, and as the woman whose fervent and devoted love for Mr. Lewes caused her to brave the sneers and frowns of the world and live with him as his wife.

"All love, all loss; all longing done,
Ah! then what boon will be the best
To the vanquished Soul, its words unwon?
Sleep now in peace and take thy rest."

BRAMBLEBUSH.

Gold and Silver Cloth.

The Rural New Yorker tells of a new kind of cloth that is employed in making screens, lambrequins and grate curtains.

It is Gold and Silver cloth lately imported from France. The gold cloth is made of gold thread and cardinal crevel. It is woven in such a way as to resemble a sheet of shimmering gold, dashed with a suggestion of cardinal—the latter color intensifying the general effect of brilliancy.

The silver cloth is composed of interminglings of gold thread, silver thread and black silk. The effect is even more beautiful than that of the gold cloth. The yellow of the gold presents a sharp contrast to the white of the silver, and the slight infusion of black serves to relieve it of the faintest suspicion of lawdiness.

These cloths are designed mainly for screens. They present too pronounced a background for

the advantageous display of delicate embroideries so that applique designs are usually employed on them. Two screens made of this material are shown; one of gold cloth with a callalily and leaves applied in plush with cardinal plush bordering. The other of silver cloth has a square of heliotrope satin in the centre with a hand painted design of a girl with a petticoat of pink and a robe in two shades of purple; the screen which is framed with a border of heliotrope satin, is embellished with beautifully painted morning glories in pale pink and lilac.

Scollops are out of date, and lambrequins, whether for mantle or window are made in Eastlake style. Many materials are used in their construction and the greatest possible latitude is allowed individual taste in the matter of ornamentation. There is a fancy just now for using sets of scenes from Mother Goose as designs on mantle lambrequins. A popular one represents six episodes in the life of Cinderella. The lambrequin which is of old gold satin, is arranged in panels, and the designed in seal brown Japanese embroidered silk. The panels are separated by bands of crimson plush. A broad band of the same material, and a rich fringe of cardinal, old gold, seal brown, Nile green, and Watteau blue finish the edge. BRAMBLEBUSH.

The Medical Flora of Kansas, and an Epitome of the Medicinal Properties.

BY DR. J. H. OYSTER, MEDICAL BOTANIST,
PAOLA, KANSAS.

C. anthelminticum, Wormseed. This species seems to contain properties very analogous to the Mexican Tea.

Sassafras officinale, Sassafras. Diaphoretic, stimulant, antiseptic and alterative.

Benzoin odoriferum, Spice Wood, Fever Bush. Aromatic, tonic and stimulant.

Euphorbia corollata, Flowering Spurge. Emetic, diaphoretic, expectorant and epispastic. It is the greatest remedy ever discovered for dropsy. *E. hypericifolia*, *E. maculata*. These two last species of the Spurge family are efficacious in dysentery and diarrhea.

Croton monanthogynus, *C. capitatus*. I have used these plants and found them to be diaphoretic and somewhat stimulant. The flowers and leaves are the parts used. Not found in medical literature.

Ulmus fulva, Slippery Elm. Emollient, demulcent and nutritive. Its soothing and softening effect cannot be surpassed.

Morus rubra, Mulberry. Astringent.

Urtica dioica, *U. urens*; Nettles. Either of these herbs may be used for the same purpose. Astringent, styptic, tonic and diuretic.

Pilea pumila, Richweed. The leaves bruised give immediate relief in inflammations, painful swellings, erysipelas, and many painful affections.

Humulus lupulus, Hop. Tonic, hypnotic, febrifuge, antilithic and anthelmintic. It is a strong antiparasitic.

Cannabis sativa, Hemp. Narcotic, anodyne, antispasmodic, sedative and aphrodisiac.

Plantainus occidentalis, Sycamore. The buds are used. A good remedy for cramp, bowel complaints, pain in the breast and flatulency.

Digest one ounce of the buds in a half pint of alcohol for a week; from half to teaspoonful for a dose.

Juglans cinerea, White Walnut. It is one of the mildest and most efficient laxatives in the materia medica. *J. nigra*, Black Walnut. The rind of the unripe fruit is applied to ringworms and tetter, for their removal.

Carya alba, Shagbark Hickory. The other species of the Hickory found in Kansas may be used for the same purpose. The barks of these trees are aromatic and astringent. Recommended in intermittent fever. Mr. Washington Hand, of Louisville, informs me that he has made considerable use of the bark by making a strong decoction and making a syrup for coughs, which he thinks is a most excellent medicine.

Quercus alba, White Oak. Tonic, powerfully astringent and antiseptic.

Corylus Americana, Hazelnut. Astringent. The bark of the root is used. No medical author has ever alluded to it as far as I know.

Ostrya Virginica, Ironwood, Leverwood, Hop Hornbeam. Tonic, anti-periodic and alterative.

Salix nigra, Willow. Tonic, stomachic, anti-periodic, astringent, and antiseptic.

Juniperus Virginiana, Red Cedar. Diaphoretic, and employed in chronic rheumatism.

Arum triphyllum, Indian Turnip, Wake Robin, Jack-in-the-Pulpit. Expectorant, diaphoretic, stimulant, rubefacient and ferbifuge.

Typha latifolia, Cattail. Astringent and emollient. Useful in dysentery and diarrhea.

Alisma Plantago, Water Plantain. Used in gravel complaints and epilepsy.

Cypripedium parviflorum, Lady's Slipper. A good nerve.

Dioscorea villosa, Wild Yam. Diaphoretic, anodyne, antispasmodic, anti-emetic and expectorant. Specific in bilious colic. It is one of the finest plants that we are blest with; but not used by a large class of practitioners of medicine.

Polygonatum biflorum, Solomon's Seal. Demulcent and tonic.

Equisetum hyemale, Scouring Rush. It is diuretic.

Botrychium Virginicum, Rattlesnake Fern. Tonic and mucilaginous.

Adiantum pedatum, Maiden-hair Fern. Refrigerant, expectorant and tonic, and sub-astringent.

Sabbatia campestris, American Centaury. Tonic, stomachic. It is a most valuable herb.

I have not given the full and complete medicinal properties of our medical flora, as it would

require too much space. (For this see botanical works). A number of medicinal agents spoken of I have examined medicinally myself, no account of which can be found in any medical works. This is the most extensive paper that has ever appeared on the medical flora of this state. It should be preserved.

A California Lady's Oyster Experience.

I never found anything but once here in excess of my expectations or even approaching them, and that was the New York oysters, I had then just come on from California, where oysters are very small and unimportant, not to say insignificant, and I had often eaten a hundred there at a time, and had always felt that I could eat more if I had them. So, when I arrived at the Metropolitan hotel I ordered my dinner to be served in my room, and told the waiter to bring with my dinner a strong cup of coffee and a hundred raw oysters. He looked at me a moment and then said:

"Did I understand you to say a hundred oysters?"

"Yes," I answered, "raw, on the half shell, and as soon as you can, for I am very hungry."

"Ahem! Miss. Do you want a hundred?"

"Yes, I do. What are you waiting for? Must I pay in advance? I want nice large ones."

"No, no, Miss. All right, you shall have them," and he went out. I continued my writing and forgot all about my dinner till he knocked and came in with my dinner on a tray, but no oysters.

"How is this?" said I. "There are no oysters?"

"Dey's comin', Miss, dey's comin'," and the door opened and in filed three more sons of Africa's burning sands, each with a big tray of oysters on the half shell. I was staggered, but only for a moment, for I saw the waiters were grinning, so I calmly directed them to place one tray on a chair, one on the washstand and one on the bed, and I said:

"They are very small, aren't they?"

"Oh! no, Miss, de berry largest we's got."

"Very well," said I. "you can go. If I want any more I'll ring."

When they got out into the hall one said to another:

"Fore goodness, So, if she eats all dem oysters she's a dead woman."

I did not feel hungry any longer. I drank my coffee and looked at the oysters, every one of them as big as my hand, and they all seemed looking at me with their horrible white faces and out of their one diabolical eye, until I could not have eaten one any more than I could have carved up a live baby.

They leered at me and seemed to dare me to attack them. Our California oysters are small and with no more individual character about them than grains of rice, but these detestable creatures with instinct with evil intentions, and I dare not swallow one for fear of the disturbance he might raise in my interior, so I set about getting rid of them, for I was never going to give up beaten before those waiters.

I hung a dress over the key hole after I had locked the door, and just out side my window found a tin water spout that had a small hole in it. I carefully enlarged it, and then slid every one of those beastly creatures down one by one—one hundred and two of them—they all the while eyeing me with that cold nasty look of malignity. When the last one was out of sight I stopped trembling and finished my dinner in peace, and then rang for the waiters. You should have seen their faces! One of them asked if I would have some more. May he never know the internal pang he in flicted upon me; but I replied calmly:

"Not now. Think too many at once might be hurtful"—Cor. Philadelphia Press.

Advertisements.

In answering an advertisement found in these columns, our readers will confer on us a favor by stating that they saw the advertisement in the Kansas Farmer.

62 Golden Chromo, Crystal, Rose, Damask, Navy, &c. Name in gold and jet 10c. Winslow & Co., Meriden, Ct.

\$777 A YEAR and expenses to agents. Outfit Free. Address P. O. VICKERY, Augusta, Maine.

\$777 A Month and expenses guaranteed to Agent Outfit free. Shaw & Co., Augusta, Maine.

18 Elite, Gold Bow, Bevel Edge cards 25c, or 20 Chinese Chromos, 10c. J. B. HUSTED, Nassau, N. Y.

50 CHROMOS, name in new type, 10c. by mail. 40 Apts. Samples, 10c. T. S. CARD CO., Northford, Ct.

\$66 A WEEK, \$12 a year at home easily made. Costly outfit free. Address FINE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

50 Chromo, Tourist's Shell, Cupid, Motto, Floral cards, 10c; outfit 10c. Hall Bros., Northford, Ct.

\$5 to \$20 per day at home. Samples worth \$5 free. Address STINSON & Co., Portland, Maine.

\$72 A WEEK, \$12 a year at home easily made. Costly outfit free. Address FINE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

50 New Year Cards, elegant designs, with your name on each for 10c. C. E. KAY, New Haven, Ct.

Agents Wanted. S. M. SPENCER, 112 Wash'n st., Boston, Mass.

FREE 8 S. S. plates and Catalogue of best selling articles on earth. World Mfg. Co., 122 Nassau St., N. Y.

50 All Gold, Chromo & Lit. Cards, (No 2 Allike), Name in gold, 10c. Clinton Bros., Clintonville, Conn.

50 Landscapes, Chromo Cards, etc., name on 10c. 250 Gold-Edge Cards 10c. CLINTON & Co., North Haven, Ct.

50 Lithographed Chromo Cards, no 2 allike, 10c. Name in fancy type. CONN. CARD CO., Northford, Ct.

50 Perfumed cards, best assortment ever offered, 10c. Agis Outfit, 10c. CONN. CARD CO., Northford, Ct.

FREE 8 S. S. plates and Catalogue of best selling articles on earth. World Mfg. Co., 122 Nassau St., N. Y.

50 All Gold, Chromo & Lit. Cards, (No 2 Allike), Name in gold, 10c. Clinton Bros., Clintonville, Conn.

50 Landscapes, Chromo Cards, etc., name on 10c. 250 Gold-Edge Cards 10c. CLINTON & Co., North Haven, Ct.

50 Lithographed Chromo Cards, no 2 allike, 10c. Name in fancy type. CONN. CARD CO., Northford, Ct.

50 Perfumed cards, best assortment ever offered, 10c. Agis Outfit, 10c. CONN. CARD CO., Northford, Ct.

W. L. Trumbull, Wholesale and Retail dealer in Picture Frames, Mouldings and Mirrors, TOPEKA, KANSAS.

For Sale Cheap for Cash.

A first-class Two-horse TREAD MILL POWER suitable for farm use, has been used but little and kept housed, is in good repair, made by O. K. Diedrick & Co., of Albany, N. Y. We intend utilizing water power. Call on or address

C. P. BOLMAR & CO.,
102 Sixth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas.

C. H. BARTON.

General Subscription Agent

for leading NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES, Lowest rates for single subscriptions received at any time for any time. Address Box 186, P. O., Topeka Kas., or call on above at Court House. Lists and rates furnished free.



Poultry World

(Monthly) and

The American Poultry Yard,

(Weekly). Both publications are exclusively devoted to Poultry. Published by H. H. STODDARD, Hartford, Conn. The Poultry World is sent post-paid for \$1.25 per year; the American Poultry Yard for \$1.50. Both papers for \$2.00. A series of 12 magnificent chromos, each representing a standard breed of fowls sent for 75 cents extra, to all subscribers of either publication.

Land! Land! Land!

HOMES FOR THE PEOPLE

350,000 ACRES

Bourbon, Crawford & Cherokee

CO'S, KANSAS.

Still owned and offered for sale by the MISSOURI RIVER, FORT SCOTT AND GULF RAILROAD COMPANY

On Credit, running through ten years, at seven per cent. annual interest.

20 PER CENT DISCOUNT FOR CASH IN FULL AT DATE OF PURCHASE.

For Further Information Address

JOHN A. CLARK,
Fort Scott, Kansas LAND COMMISSIONER

The Sheep's Life and Shepherd's Friend.

New and very Important Discovery.

Deodorizer, Disinfectant, Antiseptic, Insecticide,

and valuable Therapeutic agent. Little's soluble Phenyl also Little's Chemical Fluid. The new sheep Dip is a sure cure for Scab, Mange and foot rot, kills lice, ticks, and improves the growth and quality of wool; cheaper and better than anything of the kind in use at present, as one trial will prove, costing less than three cents to dip a sheep, mixes readily with water and is used as a dip in cold water at all seasons of the year; has all the advantages of carbolic and arsenic without the poisonous effects. Send a 3 cent stamp for prospectus and testimonials to

JAMES HOLLINGSWORTH,
210 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

A. PRESCOTT & CO.,

TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Have on hand

\$100,000 TO LOAN

In Shawnee and adjoining Counties on good Farm security

At 8 and 9 per cent.

Per Annum.

W. W. MANSPEAKER.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCER.

227 Kansas Avenue, Topeka,

The largest Grocery House in the State.

Goods Shipped to any Point.

We buy for Cash; buy in large quantities; own the block we occupy, and have no rents to pay, which enable us to sell goods

VERY CHEAP.

The trade of Farmers and Merchants in country and towns west of Topeka is solicited.

In the Whole History of Medicine.

No preparation has ever performed such marvellous cures, or maintained so wide a reputation as Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, which is recognized as the world's remedy for all diseases of the throat and lungs. Its long continued series of wonderful cures in all climates has made it universally known as a safe and reliable agent to employ. Against ordinary colds, which are the forerunners of more serious disorders, it acts speedily and surely, always relieving suffering, and often saving life. The protection it affords by its timely use in throat and chest disorders, makes it an invaluable remedy to be kept always on hand in every home. No person can afford to be without it, and those who have once used it never will. From their knowledge of its composition and effects, physicians use the Cherry Pectoral extensively in their practice, and clergymen recommend it. It is absolutely certain in its remedial effects, and will always cure where cures are possible. For sale by all dealers.

AGENTS WANTED EVERYWHERE to sell the best Family Knitting Machine ever invented. Will knit a pair of stockings with FINE and TOE complete, in 20 minutes. It will also knit a great variety of fancy work for which there is always a ready market. Send for circular and terms to the Trembly Knitting Machine Co., 409 Washington St., Boston, Mass.

Pianos--Organs.

CHEAPEST HOUSE IN AMERICA. 1st-class instruments, all new, for cash or installments; warranted 6 years. Illustrated catalogues free. Agents wanted. T. LEEDS WATERS, Agt., 28 West 14th st., New York

ORGANS

14 Stops, 4 Sets Reeds, ONLY \$65. PHANOR, \$125 up. Paper free. Address Daniel F. Beatty, Washington, D. C.

BEFORE BUYING OR RENTING AN ORGAN

Send for our LATEST ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE (32pp. 40c), with NEWEST STYLES, at \$1 and upward; or \$6.25 per quarter, and up. Sent free. MASON & HAMILTON ORGAN Co., 124 Tremont St., BOSTON; 46 East 14th St., NEW YORK; 140 Wabasha Ave., CHICAGO.

THE COLLEGE OF THE

SISTERS OF BETHANY,

Topeka, Kas.,



FOR

GIRLS AND YOUNG LADIES

Exclusively.

Under care of Protestant Episcopal Church, for boarding and day pupils.

From eight to ten teachers in the family. All branches taught--Primary, Intermediate, Grammar and College, French, German, the Classics, Instrumental and Vocal Music, Drawing, Painting, etc. For Boarding Pupils, from \$200 to \$300 per school year according to grade. For day pupils from \$5.00 to \$20 per session according to grade.

Fall Term will commence September 15th, 1880. BISHOP VAIL, President.

The Cincinnati Weekly Times.

THE HANDED WEEKLY OF THE WEST.

An eight-page paper only ONE DOLLAR a year, and a magnificent engraving "two feet wide and almost three feet long" free, and postage paid to every subscriber. Address WEEKLY TIMES, Cincinnati, O.

160 Acres Land for \$1000

New farm, all fenced, 30 acres wheat, timber, water, and pasture, four miles from V. Falls. Address CHAS. OS- GOOD, Valley Falls, Mo.

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Manufacturer of and Dealer in



Breech and Muzzle Loading Guns,

Ammunition, Pistols, Fishing Tackle, Pocket Cutlery, Sporting Goods, etc. Oriental Powder Company Agency. Guns and Pistols repaired on short notice. No. 221 Kansas Ave., Topeka, Kansas.

A KEY THAT ANSWERS AND NOT

SOLD FREE. J. S. BIRCH & CO., 38 B. ST., N. Y.

The American Popular Dictionary.

This is the first and best dictionary of the English language ever published. It contains over 100,000 words, and is the most complete and accurate dictionary of the English language ever published. It is the only dictionary of the English language that is both a dictionary

Farm Letters.

MOHLE, Elk Co., Dec. 21, 1880.—190 miles south of Topeka. The weather has been very unfavorable since the middle of last month. Snow on the ground most of the time. Snow now two inches deep, and looks as if we would have more. The wheat crop here is secondary. Corn takes the lead. What wheat there was sown looks poorly. The last year's crop was fair, about 12 bushels per acre. Corn was very good, the yield being from 18 to 60 bu. per acre, with a probable average of 25 to 30 bushels. Stock raising and feeding is the main business. Every one is getting into the stock business. Hogs are very fine, the farmers having taken great pains to get good breeds. Cattle also are good; plenty of thorough-breds. Short horn three-year-old steers weighing 16,000 to 17,000 are very common.

Some of our farmers are going into the sheep business, and they seem to do well.

Potatoes of all kinds do well here, but this county is decidedly a stock county. Stock of every kind does well, and there is some of the finest farming lands in Elk county, that can be found anywhere. Corn on the Elk river bottom will yield from 50 to 100 bushels per acre, and there has been as much as 60 bushels of wheat raised per acre. The climate is fine and the population intelligent and is equal in this respect to any other county in the state.

C.

BARNES, Washington Co., 100 miles north-west of Topeka, Dec. 20.—Farmers and stockmen are pleased with the winter so far, the temperature having been very even—just good, comfortable winter weather, three degrees below zero being the coldest morning at this point.

The epizootic has had its run; nearly all horses are well. All were more or less affected. Warm stables, careful driving, and good care generally, are remedies that seldom fail of effecting a cure.

Corn-picking is the order of the day; only a very few have finished. This crop is rather better, on the whole, than was anticipated before picking; will average 35 to 40 bushels in this locality, of a fair, medium quality.

We would say to F. A. Henry, that in our judgment nine or ten months is as profitable an age to breed hogs of either sex as any, although nearly every breeder has different ideas in regard to that.

J. P. S.

LOUGHTON, Elk Co., 140 miles southeast of Topeka, Dec. 24.—We have had some very cold weather, freezing up a portion of the potato crop and of course destroying it. Our crops were light; wheat averaging about 13 bushels to the acre, corn about 30. Sweet potatoes good, but Irish potatoes did not return the seed planted in many places. Wheat looks well notwithstanding the dry autumn; acreage about the same as last year. Stock looks well. Fat hogs getting scarce; selling at \$3.50 to \$4.

Our orchards are just beginning to bear. We had a few apples, but peaches and grapes are very abundant. The late frost destroyed much of the budded fruit. I should advocate budding from some superior seedling, and growing trees whose fruit we can rely on. The Isabella, Concord, Dracut, Amber, and Delaware grapes are superior—the second and fourth the grapes for us. Small fruit grows well so far as wood, but have not fruited enough yet to speak of their success. I can say more next year. Providence permitting, having some 3,000 strawberry, blackberry and raspberry plants to fruit. I never saw trees fuller of blossom buds than ours now. Every kind seems to be so, even cherry. The wind destroyed our last spring.

ELK.

P. S. I have planted a good stock of trees, small fruits, and as some of it was by way of experiment, I will from time to time give you my experience. I will give you a list of apples and peaches that have succeeded here, about January 1st. Success to the FARMER.

NORTON, Norton Co., Dec. 20. 200 miles N. W. from Topeka.—At your request I will endeavor to say something for the benefit of the readers of your valuable paper. Norton county is bounded on the north by Nebraska, east by Phillips county, south by Graham county, west by Decatur county, and is in the portion of the state known as "Drouthy Kansas."

We indeed had a failure of most all crops but corn. There being no rain or snow during the winter of '78-'80, and no rain to do any good until June 29, 1880. After that date corn came up and for a time we anticipated a fine crop,—but a cold rain followed by frost, and continued cold made it so that corn did not mature and ripen.

If our people had lived here long enough to have raised a crop, we would have had enough to do us, but all the new settlers failing, made it hard; but I will say for those coming since in '79 and spring of 1880, that many of them had more than the "old settlers"—for they have been staying here from five to seven years and with but little ground in cultivation, while the new settlers came here to work.

The soil is good, water along streams is abundant. On the "divide" it is to be had for the digging or boring, 10 to 150 feet. The upland soil produces best; though of course the timber along the streams made those "claims" desirable and were taken first. The county has a population of about 7,000. Good chances to get land here yet.

Jay D. Dunning, clerk, Wabash Sheds, Toledo, Ohio, says: I am now wearing an "Only Lung Pad," and it has afforded me almost instant relief from asthma.—See Adv.

KIDNEY WORT

THE ONLY MEDICINE

That Acts at the Same Time on
**THE LIVER,
THE BOWELS,
and the KIDNEYS.**

These great organs are the natural cleansers of the system. If they work well, health will be perfect: if they become clogged, dreadful diseases are sure to follow with

TERRIBLE SUFFERING.
Biliousness, Headache, Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Constipation and Piles, or Kidney Complaints, Gravel, Diabetes, Sediment in the Urine, Milky or Ropy Urine; or Rheumatic Pains and Aches, are developed because the blood is poisoned with the impurities that should have been expelled naturally.

KIDNEY WORT will restore the healthy action and all these destroying evils will be banished; neglect them and you will live but in suffering. Thousands have been cured. Try it and you will add one more to the number. Take it and health will once more gladden your heart.

Why suffer longer from the torment of an aching back? Why bear such distress from Constipation and Piles? Why be so fearful because of disordered urine?

Kidney-Wort will cure you. Try a package at once and be satisfied. It is a dry vegetable compound and One Package makes six quarts of Medicine. Your Druggist has it, or will get it for you. Insist upon having it. Price, \$1.00, with full directions, sent by mail, on receipt of price.

(With full post paid) Burlington, Vt.

Liquid KIDNEY WORT

In response to the urgent requests of great numbers of people who prefer to purchase a Kidney-Wort already prepared, the proprietors of this celebrated remedy now prepare it in liquid form as well as dry. It is very concentrated, is put up in large bottles, and is equally efficient as that put up dry in tin cans. It saves the necessity of preparing, is always ready, and is more easily taken by most people. Price, \$1 per bottle.

LIQUID AND DRY SOLD BY DRUGGISTS.

WELLS, RICHARDSON & CO., Prop'rs, Burlington, Vt.

SAWING MADE EASY.

A boy 16 years old can saw off a 3-foot log in two minutes.

Our new portable Monarch Lightning Sawing Machine rivals all others. \$50 cash will be given to two men who can saw as fast and easy in the old way, as one boy 16 years old can with this machine. Warranted. Circulars sent free. Agents wanted. MONARCH LIGHTNING SAW CO., 123 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.

BOSTWICK'S GIANT RIDING SAW MACHINE

This Wonderful Improved Saw Machine is warranted to saw a two-foot log in three minutes, and more cuts for less money. Every Farmer and Landowner needs one. Circulars sent free. Address: FARMER'S MANUFACTURING CO., 128 Elm Street, Cincinnati, O.

140 Percheron Horses

Imported from France SINCE LAST APRIL.

M. W. DUNHAM, Wayne, DuPage County, Illinois.

Being MORE than the COMBINED Importations of ALL OTHER Importers of all kinds of Horses in the United States and Canada during 1880.

50 ARRIVED DECEMBER 15TH. 100 page catalogue, 41 illustrations, free on application.

WHISKERINE IS THE ONLY hair dressing that grows the hair and keeps it from falling out. It is a perfect hair dressing, and is the only one that will grow the hair and keep it from falling out. It is a perfect hair dressing, and is the only one that will grow the hair and keep it from falling out.

40 Clydesdale Stallions

AND MARES—MOSTLY IMPORTED.

60 Hambletonian Stallions

AND MARES OF THE FINEST BREEDING

Largest Herd of

HOLSTEIN CATTLE.

With largest milk records in America.

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