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## THE KANSAS FARMER.

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### Literary Items.—No. 24.

#### SCAPE-GOAT.

In speaking of an individual of bad character, who by the commission of offences has escaped the clutches of the law, it is by no means uncommon to remark that he is a scape-goat. If we trace the origin of this expression, it will appear to be full of meaning and very appropriate.

The Jews, in their ceremonial system, appointed one day in the week called the Day of Atonements, which was kept with rigid fasting and general humiliation. The Atonement was made to clear away the sins of the people from the highest to the lowest, committed throughout the previous year. By law, the scape-goat should be let go in the wilderness, to carry away, as it were, the iniquity that was laid upon it. It was thus allowed to escape with its life. This was the law during the first temple. After the second temple was erected the law was changed. It was held essential that the scape-goat should be destroyed. This was done by precipitating it from a steep rock, about twelve miles off from Jerusalem, to which it was led away directly from the temple. Thus we retain an expression which originated from the ceremonies of the Jews, which has existed from the building of the first temple by Solomon.

"The house, when it was building, was built of stone, made ready before it was brought thither, so that there was neither hammer, nor ax, nor any tool of iron, heard in the house while it was building." 1 King, 5. It took seven years to complete it, in all its splendor—the glory of Jerusalem and the most magnificent edifice in the world. It stood about four hundred and twenty years from the time of its building, but was finally destroyed by the Babylonians, who carried the Jews into captivity.

#### OLIVE BRANCH.

This is an emblem of peace. It doubtless originated from the tradition recorded of the dove, which returned to the ark with an olive branch in its mouth. Thus Matthew Carey, the well known political writer of 1812, wrote a work entitled the "Olive Branch," to quiet the turbulent spirit of faction which existed at that time.

#### PALM OF VICTORY.

"The palm of victory," "He carried off the palm," are common figurative expressions, which denote success. It derives its origin from the fact that in the Olympic games, which were patronized by the Grecians with so much zeal, the successful competitor receiving the crown, which was composed of sprigs of palm, pine, laurel, or wild olive, as a mark of his triumph. A branch of palm was also given him, to carry in his right hand as a sign of victory.

In the New Testament there are frequent allusions to these ancient games of the Grecians, for it was considered a great honor to gain the branch of palm. For over two thousand years the palm has been emblematical of victory, and its figurative application has been engrafted into the language of other nations beside our own. Tradition also informs us that Horace and Virgil were crowned with laurels in the Roman capital, as a mark of respect for their poetic genius.

In the reign of Dioclesian the early Christians were tolerated in the empire, like other sects; but, unfortunately, one of the number, in a fit of passion, tore in pieces and trampled under foot an edict of the empire. This rash act brought trouble on all those who embraced Christianity. All Christians were obliged to give up their gospels, and written authors, to the magistrates. Those who gave up their books through fear of imprisonment, or even of death, were held by the rest of the Christians, to be sacrilegious; they received the name of "traditores," whence we have the word traitor, a word which has become familiar to the ear.

#### KISSING OF THE FEET.

It was also in the reign of Dioclesian that the kissing of the imperial feet was first introduced. This humiliating practice has generally gone out of vogue, at least in all European countries. A renegade Yankee, it is generally conceded, made a very cruel slave-driver or overseer. On the same principle, Dioclesian, who in his youth was a slave to a Roman senator, his father a common laborer, became the proudest of men, after he elevated himself to power, and the army gave him a diadem.

After ruling as an absolute sovereign for

many years, his ill health caused him to give the world the first example of the abdication of empire. His health recovered, he lived nine years as a private citizen; and when he was pressed to remount the throne, he replied: "that he only began to live from the days of his retirement; that the throne was not worth the tranquillity of his life, and he took more pleasure in cultivating his garden than he should have in governing the whole earth." Such is the testimony of a Roman emperor on human greatness. This case reminds us of King Hieron, who coincided in this opinion, when he said to a friend in conversation with him: "If thou knowest with what care and miseries this robe was stuffed, thou wouldst not stop to pick it up." JAS. HANWAY.

### Cheap Transportation and Cheap Capital.

The question of cheap transportation is becoming more, and more imperative every day, and I am surprised that the agricultural press don't impress its importance more on their readers. Take the great valley of the Mississippi with its untold and unappreciated wealth; our states and settlements in their infancy; our vast wealth of rich agricultural resources almost undeveloped; our mineral wealth scarcely touched; our navigable rivers neglected, and our transportation facilities in the hands of a crew of unprincipled sharpers, who in turn are plundered by a crew of usurers that pandemonium ought to feel proud of. Is it any wonder that the farmers find themselves drifting into bankruptcy, and the tax collector selling their homesteads and turning the unfortunate owners out on the highways to become tramps and paupers? Is there another nation on earth that a kind Providence has blessed with so rich an inheritance, and given so many glorious privileges to? And where is there another people that are so oppressed by taxation and its kindred devilish—Usury?

This, you will say, is strong language, but let me ask you, honestly, is it not true? Take the state of Iowa, or Kansas, if you please, and compare its rich, virgin soil, its mineral deposits, its cheap lands and fine climate, free schools, its educated and enlightened citizens, with the worn-out soil of France, and the poor returns for labor expended there, and the great want of one of the prime essentials to human comfort and development—fuel. Why, France would gladly pay the assessed value of half of the state for one or two counties containing those rich coal deposits. But cheap transportation is the great question I sat down to write on.

It has been for years a hobby of mine to direct our trade down the Mississippi, as an offset against railroad extension. I have felt confident, for a long time, that there is no other way to secure cheap transportation. An interest like the railroad ring of the United States, is too potent to be controlled by legislation. As long as farmers send lawyers to represent them, they need not be surprised nor get angry if those representatives are influenced by those who see them best.

The railroads of the United States received, as net earnings, last year, over \$450,000,000. What is the interest of 20,000,000 of a farming population in the balance of such an aggregation of capital, particularly when every member of the legislature carries a free pass in his pocket? I often think of the expression of the veiled prophet: "Ye will be fools and victims; and ye are."

But our Heavenly Father has provided a means of escape from our own blind folly, in our noble rivers. Just let me here bring forward as an instance of what can be accomplished through energy and honest enterprise. Take the city of Glasgow, Scotland, for instance: Situated on a little, insignificant stream, twenty miles from the sea, half a century ago it was nothing but an insignificant, inland borough town. Now it is the second city in the British empire; all accomplished through the means of cheap capital and energy. From Greenock for over twenty miles, the river has been dredged until the largest class of ocean steamers can pass up to Glasgow, and the banks of the Clyde from Greenock up, are lined on either side with the finest shipyards in the world; and shame on our congress that has driven ship-building from our own coasts, by vicious legislation. The American ship-owners now go to the Clyde to purchase their ships—built by cheap capital.

But it is with the results of this evil as it affects the farmers, that we have to deal. Through class legislation and the efforts of the combined transportation rings, we are hopeless of controlling the railroad companies, but by diverting our trade down the Mississippi, we have a

free outlet that no company or ring can control. Any man can put a barge or boat on the river and run his craft alongside of the English steamer in New Orleans, without being robbed on the way by elevators or warehousemen.

One important fact has been demonstrated, that there is less grain spoils on the river route, through heating and souring, than by the way of the lakes and the New York canals, that the time is shorter and the expense not greater, and can, when the trade is fully developed, be reduced much more.

I have been writing on this subject for years for European papers, and am constantly receiving letters from parties there as to cost of produce, transportation, etc. One letter I received a short time since, inquired how yearling (cattle) could be purchased here, that the price there was from £3 to £10, or from \$40 to \$50 per head.

There are few articles raised on our farms that will not pay to ship to Europe, provided we had cheap transportation. None but the very best article of its kind should ever be sent as that keeps the character of our articles up. When possible, all articles should be manufactured. As an instance, one shipment of 500,000 bushels of corn that were shipped to Germany, was distilled into alcohol, and a good deal of it returned to this country in the shape of perfumery, extracts, etc.

We could ship first-class baled hay from this point if we had cheap transportation; our corn ground into meal and put into sacks or barrels. White corn, pure, will always bring from ten to twelve cents more per bushel than the yellow, will always command a better price than eastern corn as it is sounder and better developed; but western shippers are too careless, mix all kinds together, good and bad, white and yellow, etc. This will not do, and by referring to the market quotations of the *Irish Farmer's Gazette* (a copy of which I send with this) you will perceive the difference that is made in the quotations.

Oat meal is another great interest that might be developed. (We are fitting up one of the largest mills in the west at this place to grind oats for the European market.)

Another point I wish to call your attention to is the difference in the prices of Irish and American packed bacon and hams. Now let me here insert the prices in the Dublin market, August 10th: Bacon, Wicklow sides, 70 to 74s. per cwt. (112 lbs.); Dublin middles, 70 to 80s.; Limerick, from 80 to 82s.; American town cuts, dry, 40 to 48s.; country cuts, 30 to 34s.; while Limerick hams are quoted from 88 to 92s. American only fetches from 60 to 64s. Some will say this is all prejudice, and so it is to a certain extent, as the following instance will illustrate:

A good many of the Irish packers in this in this country are putting up their meat in the most approved *Irish fashion*. A certain dealer in Dublin took an American ham put up by an Irish packing-house in Chicago, and cut it in two. He put one-half on one part of his counter and marked it "Best Irish Cured. Price 10½d. per lb." And the other, "Best American Sugar-Cured, Only 5d. per lb." The last remained on his hands long after the high-priced half was sold.

But I must bring this to a close, as it is now too long for an ordinary article. I hope you will keep this subject of cheap transportation and cheap capital before your readers. Our future prosperity depends on it as a class of agriculturists. With a sincere hope that these few fugitive thoughts will stir up action in this direction, I beg to remain,

Yours respectfully,

SAMUEL SINNETT.

Muscataine, Iowa.

### Talk About Drilling Wheat.

Although it is generally conceded that wheat will, if drilled, produce from one-fifth to one-third more than when sown broadcast, yet there are a few that think broadcasting is equal if not better than drilling.

I know of one man, a large wheat-raiser, that sowed broadcast last year, and at the same time had several good drills in his barn. Of course he is satisfied that broadcasting is much better than drilling. But in his case there can be assigned good and sufficient reasons for his harvesting good crops from broadcast sowing. His farm is located on the Walnut river. The soil is as "rich as cream." It is surrounded with timber, which protects it from the hard winds, and of course does not freeze as hard, and retains moisture longer. All of the above reasons are favorable on the side of broadcast sowing. But while we have one farm located as above in this country, we have hundreds that

are not so favorably located. While it would be safe for others with farms as favorably located to act on his advice, it would be very unsafe for those that have "upland" farms to adopt it.

What are the advantages that drilling has over broadcast sowing, if any? I am inclined to think that most farmers overlook the most important point in favor of drilling, and that is in regard to the surface of the ground being left rough. I think the main advantage in drilling over broadcasting, if properly done, is its being in furrows. I notice a great many men put a harrow after the drill to smooth off the surface and cover what wheat the drill misses. Now I think they have not only lost their labor in harrowing, but they have damaged their crop besides. Wheat harrowed after the drill has but few advantages over broadcasting. If drilled with an eight-inch hoe-drill (I would prefer a ten-inch) on ground well prepared, the surface will be left full of furrows. If there is but little rain the furrows will collect what falls, so that the wheat gets the full benefit of what does fall. They will also attract the dews, so that every drop of moisture that falls to the earth, "goes where it will do the most good." In dry, windy weather, if the wheat is down in well defined furrows, instead of the "dirt" working off of the roots of the wheat it will be working on, which is a great advantage.

The only reason I would prefer an eight or ten-inch drill is that if the shovels are closer, the rear shovel will fill the furrow of the front shovel, and not only leave no furrow but actually leave a ridge instead, just what we do not want.

Some are of the opinion that deep sowing is all that they want. Now all I ask of such is that they watch the growth of deep sowing, and I think they will soon find that deep sowing is not what they want. As soon as wheat is well up and begins to stool, it throws out fiber roots just below the surface, in every direction, and the "tap root" that comes from the grain, rots off, so that the growing wheat gets its support from the surface, not from down deep in the "bowels of the earth." DR. J. BERGER.

Richland Center, Kansas.

### About Farm Stock.

In answer to your general request of all farmers who are doing anything in the way of farming themselves, or know of any one who is, to write the *FARMER*, so that your many readers may have the benefit thereof, I will state that I have been engaged in what might be called general farming, wheat being my principal crop.

I am situated in the Kaw valley. Our land is adapted to all kinds of grain and grasses. As a wheat-grower I cannot complain of my general average for the past seven years. My first crop averaged thirty bushels per acre, and my lightest yield twelve and one-half bushels per acre, still I cannot afford to raise wheat as a business.

Location and circumstances have all to do in the determination of the most profitable modes of farming. At the present prices of grain, my notion is for the farmer to raise less wheat and more corn, and stock enough to consume all of his corn, straw and corn-fodder. Don't be afraid of getting too much stock for your farm, provided it is of the right kind and good of the kind. There is more feed produced in this country than is consumed, and that is what is the matter with a good many of our farmers they don't keep cattle stock enough. These hard times the farmer must shape his business so that he can turn everything to account that grows on the farm.

Now as to the kind of stock. Those who are able should have a few Short-horns of the best families for beef purposes, for there is where the money is; use his Short-horn bull on common cows; make steers of his bull calves; select his best heifers for breeders, and by close attention in a few years he will have all the stock he can carry of pure bloods and high grades. It does not cost any more to raise a good calf than a poor one.

I think every farmer should raise his own horse-stock, provided he has large, strong mares, and breed to some stylish horse, or what is better, to some good jacks. If the mares are small don't breed them at all, or if you must breed, breed only to jacks, and thereby run out the breed as soon as possible. We have too many good-for-nothing horses in this country. I am satisfied that the horse-work of this country could be done better and with more satisfaction to the farmer, with one-half the horse stock we are keeping. The reason we keep this surplus is we can't get the cost of raising, and don't like to sell below cost. There

being no demand anywhere else for such stuff, we keep it and find it a great loss.

Williamstown, Kansas.

W. G. BAYNE.

### Buckwheat.

The name of this plant, or rather the grain of it is derived from the German word *Buckweizen*, "buck-wheat," from the resemblance of the seeds to beechmasts. It is not properly a grain but belongs to the family of knot weeds of which there are several varieties in the northwestern states. It is probably a native of China, but the time of its introduction into Europe is not well ascertained. It has been cultivated in England for about three hundred years. It was introduced into North America by the Dutch early in the seventeenth century. Kalm, the Swedish naturalist, who visited this country in 1748, found it growing in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. There are three cultivated species—common buckwheat, *Polygonum fagopyrum*, Tartarian buckwheat, *P. Tartaricum*, and Notched buckwheat, *P. emarginatum*. The first-named species is chiefly cultivated in America, the second in Italy, and the last in China. In Europe it is grown for food from Russia to Italy, Great Britain excepted. In the United States it can be grown in every section, but is chiefly cultivated north of North Carolina and Tennessee. The total crop in 1820, was 7,201,743 bushels; in 1850, 8,956,916, and in 1860, including states and territories, 17,571,818. It will be seen by these figures that the crop of 1860 was nearly double that of 1850, showing a greater increase than any other grain crop. In Pennsylvania and New York the grain is used extensively for feeding sheep in winter, and it has been found so valuable for this purpose, that the crop has increased enormously since 1850.

Buckwheat is sometimes an uncertain crop, from its liability to be blasted by frost when too soon too early and destroyed by frost when too late. It is a highly nutritious grain, and is used to a considerable extent as food for man, and the domestic animals. It is a rampant grower, and on this account is useful for killing weeds. It can be sown on land which is too wet for other crops, but as the season advances, becomes dry enough for this.

The quantity of seed sown is generally about one bushel per acre, but half a bushel spread evenly will, in most soils, be amply sufficient. It is sown sometimes for the purpose of clearing the land of weeds, and in preparing it for other crops. The plowing and harrowing of the land when the weeds are in full growth, and the exposure of their roots to the sun, have probably as powerful an effect in destroying them as the overshadowing foliage of the buckwheat plant. The straw is not much relished by horned cattle, but horses will eat all but the coarse parts, and keep in good condition upon this alone; when properly saved, it is very good fodder for working horses. It must be kept in a dry place, as it absorbs water readily, ferments and becomes musty. The uncrushed grain and the fresh straw have an extraordinary effect upon swine. If allowed to feed in a recently harvested buckwheat field, their heads and ears are attacked with an eruption, accompanied with intense itching, while the animals exhibit all the symptoms of intoxication. In severe cases, death ensues. When the fresh grain is fed whole in large quantities, the husks are passed by the animals undigested, and their bowels become disordered. If ground and cooked the mush has no bad effect, but is excellent fattening food. Some farmers grind buckwheat and oats together and find the mixture to be very good for horses. Some dairymen use buckwheat flour for slopping or mashing cows.

There is a striking similarity in the composition of buckwheat and rye. In the seeds of the former there is 27 per cent. of husk. The 73 per cent. of flour closely resembles that of rye in color and properties, containing 10½ parts of gluten and 52 of starch. The greatest resemblance exists in the constitution of the ashes, when both plants have been grown on the same soil. The dried grain of rye contains 24 per cent. of ash. Buckwheat is frequently plowed in as manure for a wheat crop, for which purpose it is said to be, on some soils, fully equal to clover. Corn does not succeed well when it follows buckwheat, but on account of the soil being mellow and free from weeds nearly all the cereals and root crops grow well after it. July is the month for sowing, but it can be sown as late as will enable it to escape the frost.

BAKED TOMATOES.—Cut large tomatoes in slices about an inch thick, lay them in a bread or dripping pan, scatter over a little salt, pepper and flour; to each slice put a small bit of butter, bake ten or twelve minutes; lay the pieces carefully on a platter, and pour over them the rich gravy formed in the pan.



## Farm Stock.

## Varieties of Sheep.

The London Agricultural Gazette says sheep may be divided into three classes: long-wools, short-wools, and mountain sheep.

1. *Long-wools*.—Lincoln sheep. Foremost among the long-wools stands the Lincoln, on account of the great weight and lustrous character of its fleece. The large number of sheep kept in the county from which the breed derives its name are, with few exceptions, entirely of this breed, and many are kept in all the adjoining counties. On the dry arable lands of Lincoln Heath and Wold these sheep thrive admirably, receiving often in the summer and autumn somewhat dry and scanty pasturage, on clover and stubble, but in the winter being folded on turnips, with linseed cake and other dry fodder. The native sheep of the district were originally crossed with the Leicester, and have been greatly improved. While weight and quality of wool have been increased, weight of carcass, symmetry, aptitude to fatten and early maturity have also been improved. A large number of very fine fat sheep in the wool, one year old, are annually sold in April at Lincoln and other fairs in the county. Lincoln wool is of very long staple, and often curly, parting down the back. Some of it has a glossiness which is much prized, as it is retained when manufactured into various fabrics. Instances of a fleece weighing as much as thirty pounds are not wanting; and ram hogg fleeces in a flock often average fourteen or fifteen pounds each. The faces and legs are always white.

The Cotswold—perhaps the largest British breed of sheep, originally springing from the neighborhood of the Cotswold hills—have been cultivated with care and improved in quality. They are for the most part confined to their native districts; but some are kept in Norfolk, and the rams of this breed are often used with ewes of other breeds to increase the size of the produce, and to breed cross-bred sheep for fattening. Cotswold sheep have large, handsome frames, well covered with flesh, and a great propensity to fatten. They handle soft, and the mutton is rather coarse-grained. They have the head well covered with a tuft of wool. The majority of the sheep have white faces and legs, though some pure-bred sheep are mottled-faced. The Leicester breed of sheep has been cultivated more than a hundred years, the name of Bakewell being very famous in connection with this breed in the last century. Enormous prices were then paid for the purchase or hire of rams from his flock. The Leicester sheep is of a moderate size, with good frame, a neat fleece of wool, very firm mutton, and a great aptitude to fatten. The mutton has, however, too large a proportion of fat, and is, therefore, not so salable as the mutton of some other breeds. The price of fat or tallow now rules very low—less than half the price that was formerly paid—while prime mutton, not over fat, is much dearer than formerly. It is, therefore, now most profitable to breed sheep which have a good proportion of lean flesh. The pure-bred Leicester, possibly from close in-breeding, is now somewhat small and delicate looking.

Miscellaneous breeds.—The Teeswater, the Border Leicester, (a much larger white faced sheep, the most noted breeders of which in the North obtain enormous prices for their rams), the Derbyshire limestone sheep, and the Devon long-wools, have most of them a heavy fleece, tolerable symmetry and aptitude to fatten, and much more size and constitution than the pure Leicester, from which they are partially derived. The Kent or Romney Marsh sheep are a hardy local breed, with a good growth of long, rather fine wool, rather unlevel frames, and faces resembling the Cheviot.

The Cheviot is a very useful white faced sheep, bred in the hilly and upland districts in Scotland and the North of England, where the pasturage is moderately good. The ewes are remarkably good sucklers. When three years old, they are generally sold from their breeding districts, and are purchased for grass farms for breeding, by a Leicester ram, one crop of lambs, for sale to the butcher, either as fat lambs or yearlings, the ewes themselves being fattened after rearing their lambs. Cheviots have not a heavy fleece. Their mutton is excellent, and the first cross Cheviot and Leicester is especially good for fattening.

The Dorset horned sheep, a white faced but scarcely a long-wooled breed, is especially useful for breeding lambs for fattening as house lambs in the winter for the London market. The ewes will sometimes rear two crops of lambs in one year.

2. *Short-wools*.—Black, brown, or grey-faced sheep are usually classed as short-wools, though some of them, as the Shropshires and Oxford Downs, cut a good fleece of wool of long staple.

The Southdown is a brown or grey-faced sheep, rather small, but very true in form, with very close fine wool, and mutton of the finest quality. Southdowns are largely kept in the dry climate of the South and Southeast of England, and thrive well on the close-cropped herbage of the downs, furnishing the highest priced mutton for the London market. Removed to the colder and moister climate of the midlands or the North, they thrive badly, and ultimately change their type.

The Hampshire Downs are much larger sheep, with more bone, short wool, lengthy frames, black faces, and often long Roman noses. They are well adapted for folding on the light, arable farms of Hampshire, and the wether lambs are sold fat at from ten to fourteen months old, weighing eighty pounds to the carcass.

The Oxford Downs are a fine breed of sheep like the Shropshires, of comparatively modern introduction. They were originally produced

from a cross of the Cotswolds with Hampshire Downs. They have been carefully bred as a distinct breed for more than thirty years. They have large, handsome frames, like the Cotswold, but with a black or grey face, closer wool and firmer mutton. They are largely kept in Oxford, Bedford, Bucks, and adjoining counties. The ewes are moderately prolific, and the young sheep fatten to a good weight, at twelve to fifteen months old.

The Shropshires—more probably than any other breed—are being kept in increasing numbers over a wide district. Like short-horn cattle, they seem to possess the faculty of thriving in varied circumstances of soil and climate. They occupy, to the exclusion of other breeds, continually extending areas, of which Shropshire, Stafford, and Birmingham are centers. They are also kept in many other counties of England, and there are some good flocks in Ireland. With a good fleece of fine thick-set wool and fine covered head, a carcass long, wide and deep, with plenty of lean flesh, they have robustness of constitution and aptitude to fatten. The ewes are good sucklers and very prolific, one hundred ewes not unfrequently rearing one hundred and sixty to one hundred and eighty lambs. The color of the face and legs is black or grey.

3. Among the *mountain sheep* may be mentioned the Herdwicks, a large, hardy, horned sheep, the Black-faced Scotch, the Lonk, and the small Welch sheep, which are very hardy, and have excellent mutton when well fattened, but are so small as to leave little profit to the feeder. Most of these sheep are bred in rather wild districts, and require but little attention, a shepherd and his dog looking after five or six hundred of them. They graze on the heather and rough mountain grass, getting no extra food except in severe weather. The wethers and draft ewes, when of mature age, are sold to be fattened in better pastures. The mutton of all these mountain breeds is excellent when well fattened.

## A New Cow-Fastener.

A humane man has invented an improved mode of confining cows without stanchions or stalls. He uses small posts, 4x6 inches, set up where the stanchions would be, 3 feet 2 inches from center to center. On the inside of these posts, 14 inches above the floor, a  $\frac{1}{2}$  staple, 12 inches long, is driven into each post. A 1-inch cable-chain, stretching from staple to staple, with a ring on each end, slides up and down on the staples, and has a ring in the middle into which the cow is to be fastened. A leather strap 1½ inches wide, with a strong breast-strap slipped on, is placed around the cow's neck and riveted on with three small copper rivets. The cow is brought between the two posts and the snap fastened to the ring in the middle of the chain, which holds the cow in the center between the two posts, but the slack of the chain and the strap slipping back and forth upon the neck, enables the cow to move forward or backward, to turn her head, and she may lick or scratch herself from shoulder to rump. And when she lies down, it may be in the natural position with her head upon her shoulder. The cow carries the strap upon her neck, and it is not as much work to fasten her as with a rope.

## Investigating the Cow.

T. Wilkinson, in the *Prairie Farmer*, gives the following mode of ascertaining the true value of a dairy cow:

"Set a given quantity of the milk of each cow separately, keeping the milk of each cow in air of the same temperature, and let it stand the same length of time for creaming. Then ripen the cream of each cow in the same manner, and churn each mess separately, and carefully note all the results obtained. This method is the only reliable one by which to determine the value of a cow for butter-making."

"My experience in a large number of trials was the same as that given in the article extracted, viz: that the most prolific milkers were often the most worthless butter-producers. I also found that the weight or bulk of cream was not a safe guide by which to ascertain the quantity or quality of the butter."

"For a period of several years I had an arrangement with two neighboring milk-producers by which I could test every cow they purchased, and I often found cows, which on account of their small yield of milk, were unprofitable, and they were large butter-producers."

"In turn, I turned over to them my cows, which proved to be large milk-producers and unpaying butter cows. This course was mutually very profitable."

"If all dairymen would adopt the course described, it would in two years more than double the value of both the milk and the butter dairies of the country."

## Poultry.

## Mongrel Stock.

"I've kept that breed of fowl on my farm now over a quarter of a century," said a sturdy farmer recently to a neighbor, who bred only "improved" poultry stock. And he pointed the friend who had called upon him to a large flock of hens and chickens scattered about his place that really looked very well, though they were mostly mongrels.

"Yes, I've heard tell about the Cokins Chimers," he continued. "They're big, heavy, unyielding critters, I know. An' maybe they lay bigger eggs, as you say, than the common kind do. But my fowls are big enough, and I don't have no fussin' with 'em. Let 'em do about as

they like, run over the hull farm, and go an' come as they please."

"But you feed them well, I suppose?" suggested the visitor.

"Wal—of course I feed all my stock. I don't starve 'em."

"No. I judge not, from their thrifty appearance," rejoined the fancier.

"Why, my friend, it ain't much trouble to throw half a peck o' corn and oats to the flock in the morning, and at night when they come home to give 'em a feed of wheat and barley. They get plenty o' insects in the fields during the day, an' they require no cossetting, you see."

"Corn, oats, wheat, insect food and barley, eh? That is a very good variety, neighbor."

"Yas. An' then we give 'em the waste milk, in scalded mash, now and then."

"Milk and scalded mash?"

"Yas. It's better so, we've found, than throwing the milk to the pigs."

"I thought you were a good feeder, neighbor," said the fancier.

"Oh, you've got to take keer o' your live critters, be they cattle, swine, or fowls," insisted the farmer, earnestly, "if not, I don't keer what breed o' stock you keep, it'll never do well."

"That's so. And you get plenty of eggs, I suppose, from your hens?"

"Wal, middlin', I reckon."

"Where do you house your birds?"

"Yander, in the houses," said the farmer.

"They roost and lay there, and we clean out everything once a week, so we're never troubled with lice."

"And the chickens?"

"We make poultry of the cockerels, keep the pullets over two seasons for layers, and sell the eggs and chickens mostly at the market-town, four miles away."

"But you never change your breed?"

"No. That is, the hens. We place one or two cocks, every spring, with the hens anew."

"Of the same variety?"

"Yas, about the same. You notice the hens are mostly gray birds?"

"Yas."

"Some call 'em 'Dominicks.' I don't know 'bout that. We've had 'em, first an' last, five-an'-twenty year here, at the least. An now we use what they call the 'Plymouth Rock' for cock birds. This keeps up the size, I find. The color is about the same, you see."

"Well, you've got a nice lot of birds of their class," observed the fancier; "but you are taking much better care of them than farmers commonly do, and so you are reaping the benefit of good judgment and judicious treatment of your poultry. They must be profitable to you?"

"Yas, as far as these small matters go. They don't cost much to feed, they're always in good thrift, and I s'pose they pay a larger percentage of profit on their expense and feed than any other kind of farm stock will."

"But don't you think if you should stock up your place with pure breeds, you could do better with them?" queried his caller.

"I don't know. I'm satisfied with what I've got. They pay me well now, and I don't keer to try new breeds."

His visitor found the old farmer rigid in his opinion, and quite indisposed to move out of the old beaten track.

"I s'pose, now, you've got some o' the Cokins or Braymers that you want to sell," remarked the old man, quietly.

"No. Not that, at all," rejoined his friend.

"But I have found the 'new' breeds so much more profitable, that I advise you to improve on what you have here; because, with your kind of feeding and care, I have no doubt you could double or treble your profits on poultry, every year, easily."

The old man shook his head.

"No," he said, "I'm doin' fust-rate with the old kind. I don't know much 'bout the others. They're good uns, no doubt. Everybody says so. But I'll keep what I've got, and 'let well enough alone,' I reckon."

And his visitor passed on. He had found an intelligent farmer, who kept his poultry stock well, and who was satisfied with the profits he could make from his flock, properly tended, such as he had had on his place for thirty years or more.

There was no "fancy" about Farmer Gray! He was perfectly contented with his mongrels and "Dominicks."—*Poultry Yard*.

## Raising Sunflowers for Hens.

The necessity for a variety of feed for chickens is generally understood, but very few people are aware of the value of sunflowers as hen feed. They are very productive of oil, are eaten greedily, and give a peculiar luster to the feathers. I have one-eighth of an acre planted to this crop, and propose to bind them into bundles, and stow them away in a dry place for winter use. The heads can be thrown into the hen-house, where the chickens will soon pick out the seeds, thus giving them exercise as well as variety. With plenty of other grain within reach, they will eat no more sunflower seeds than are beneficial to them. The seed can be bought at our feed stores at one dollar per bushel, at which price it ought to be more generally used than it is. I think a plot of sunflowers, with their great yellow faces turned to the sun, an agreeable sight.

## Carrots for Poultry.

The common yellow sweet carrot is an excellent vegetable, as is well known, for horses and cattle, of which these animals are very fond. It is largely used in England and Germany, as well as in France, by poultrymen, and especially as a valuable ingredient at fattening time, to boil and mash up with the meal and ground oats fed to fowls being finally prepared for the markets.

This succulent root may be very easily grown upon the farm anywhere in this country, and large quantities are now produced to profit in Essex county, Mass., and in the vicinity of New York, where carrots have been cultivated very generally for many years to supply the demand in neighboring cities.

Those who have tried carrots in this country as a vegetable to cook with meal and potatoes, have found it more economical and better satisfying than turnips. There is more "body" in measurement, and the flavor seems to be more acceptable to fowls, it is averred.

When carrots can be had at a fair price per bushel or hundred weight, it will pay those who have a large number of fowls to feed daily to try this vegetable. Its quality is good, and when fed to cows or horses regularly, an improvement in the smoothness and gloss of their coats follows, it has been noticed. In the fall of the year we have no doubt it would operate to similar advantage upon the plumage of fine poultry.—*Poultry World*.

## Table Fowls.

There is considerable difference in the merits of the different breed of fowls for the table, although taste has much to do in determining which are the best; and, while breed has something to do with it, the age has a great claim, for some are better at certain ages than at others. The young, immature and slow-growing Brahmas, for instance, is not desirable until it has nearly gained its growth, and even then it is far better when a year old, when fattened up quickly. And, in fact, a year-old bird of any breed we prefer to chicken, no matter how it is cooked, though many have a weakness for broilers in the shape of young chicks. Young Leghorns, which feather up more quickly than do the Asiatics and mature more rapidly, make the best broilers, and many a nice one have we helped to dissect after it has come from the hands of a skillful cook.

Although but a few persons seem to know it, much of the table merits of a fowl or chick depends upon the way it is fattened, and on what it is fed, too, in a great measure. To make a bird tender and juicy, it must be fattened quickly. The food which gives it the best flavor is undoubtedly a grain food partaking largely of corn in some of its different forms, the amount and manner of feeding depending upon circumstances.—*Western Farm Journal*.

## Apiary.

## Extracted Honey.

REV. O. CLUTE.

The market reports in the large city dailies give quotations of "strained honey." All know that strained honey was formerly pressed out of old black combs that were taken from the old box-hives after the bees had been bristled. To any one who ever saw honey strained in the old way, its associations with the juices of half-grown bees is by no means appetizing. At the best it usually has a dark color, and a rank flavor of bee-bread. As to its production, all intelligent bee-keepers will agree in the advice given by Punch to couples about to get married—"Don't."

A serious evil which strained honey has created is the tendency, among nearly all, to put all liquid honey in the class with it, and so to do great injustice to "extracted honey." Extracted honey is honey in its purest shape, and to class it with the pollen-spiced, maggot-flavored, strained honey, is like putting the nectar of the Olympian gods on a par with forty-rod whisky. All bee-keepers should endeavor to have the character of strained and of extracted honey fully known, and should labor to convince the public that extracted honey is in the purest and most cleanly condition. Like all new articles of food, it will take time to make its merits widely known. When people become acquainted with its real merits, and its cheapness, there is no doubt but it will be in large demand.

But this wide popularity can be obtained and maintained only by producing an excellent article. To this end bee-keepers must strenuously insist upon two things: that the honey shall be sealed, or just ready to be sealed, before extracting; and that it shall have no suspicion of adulteration.

The nectar gathered by bees from flowers cannot be called honey until the evaporating or ripening process has so far gone on that the bees are beginning to seal the cells. Some bee-keepers advocate extracting as fast as the honey is gathered. It is quite clear, however, that honey so extracted lacks very much in the delicious flavor that belongs to a good article. If we are to build up the market for extracted honey, we can do so only by giving a genuine honey, and not the crude, watery nectar as is first gathered from the flowers.

The ease with which extracted honey can be adulterated, and the large profits derived from the cheat, have in a few cases led to such dishonest practices as seriously to injure the bee-keeping business. There are probably only a few individuals and a few firms that have been guilty of this fraud, but their guilt is a damage to every bee-keeper throughout the country, for, in the general ignorance as to extracted honey, whatever tends to cast suspicion on it, decreases the demand for it, and so lowers the price. Hence there has been need on the part of bee-keepers for agitation against the practices of the unscrupulous men who are selling glucose or grape sugar for honey. We may hope that the conviction and punishment of a few of these scoundrels will effectually end the fraud. In self-protection, the various local and state organizations of bee-keepers, and the national as-

sociation, should employ experts to examine all suspected honey, and should prosecute vigorously every person against whom good evidence of adulteration can be found.

Comb honey has such intrinsic qualities of excellence and beauty that it will always be in demand. A pure article of well-ripened extracted honey also has most excellent qualities which, when known, will commend it to wide favor, and secure for it a large consumption.—*Rural New Yorker*.

## Horticulture.

## Grape Culture.

From an address delivered before the Nurserymen's National Convention, at Delaware, Ohio, by Geo. W. Campbell, and published in the *American Wine and Grape Grower*, a new monthly devoted to this industry, we make the following extracts:

A general misapprehension of the care needed, and ignorance of the proper treatment of the vine by many of those who engaged in grape-growing, was doubtless the other great cause of failure. The fact that different varieties should have different treatment, some requiring long and some short training and pruning; that many grapes can only be grown in soils and situations suited to their special character and habit; that others need protection in winter; and that all kinds are seriously injured, enfeebled and often destroyed by over-bearing, seemed to be either unknown or disregarded. Another minor evil, which has an injurious effect upon the business of grape growing, is the persistent and unscrupulous pushing and sale of pretended new and remarkable grapes, which, in reality, have no existence. Bottles containing the large, white, foreign grapes preserved in alcohol, are exhibited to gullible purchasers under fraudulent and fancy names, with the assurance that they are new varieties; the vines are sold at two and three dollars each, which are claimed to produce these grapes, but which, if they ever bear, prove to be of the wild and worthless Fox tribe; of perhaps Concord, Ives, or whatever is most easily obtained or cheapest in market. The "Empress" was the favorite name for this swindle a few years ago. This year it has appeared as "Conover's Seedling," accompanied by a fanciful engraving. The secretary of the Ohio Horticultural Society has been investigating this matter, and is probably prepared to give more information than I can. I think it will be a legitimate subject for action by this society under the head of "avoiding the evils of dishonest tree agents." The experience of the past shows that difficulties have increased and that grape-growing is surrounded by hindrances not known twenty and thirty years ago. Attacks of mildew, and especially of rot, are certainly more prevalent. Complaints are made that vines which for a few years are healthy and productive, too soon fail and become diseased and unprofitable. There are many who believe that the phylloxera is at the root of all these difficulties; that it is a source of great injury in impairing the strength and vigor of such of the finer hybrids and tender native vines as are subject to its attacks. I have no doubt of its injurious effects upon the vine, but that it induces mildew or rot, in any other sense than by rendering vines which are already predisposed to these maladies more susceptible, I have no evidence. I believe the phylloxera aggravates these troubles but does not produce them. It is perhaps hardly profitable to pursue this subject further in this direction. That grape-growing has been for some years gradually but surely falling into disrepute and neglect in the northern and middle states, is known to us all. That this state of affairs is regarded with regret accompanied by a general desire for something better, I take for granted; and though the prospect appears discouraging, I still believe it capable of permanent improvement."

## The Apple.

George William Curtis, the talented editor of *Harper's Weekly*, pays the apple the following eloquent tribute:

"Strawberries, raspberries, cherries, mulberries, peaches, plums, pears, high and low blackberries, thimbleberries, blueberries, and huckleberries (if the gentle reader prefers to call them so) or to spell them whortleberries, let him do so), and grapes—even grapes, the most poetic of fruits—might all better be spared than the honest, sound, ruddy apple. Yes,—might altogether be spared rather than the apple. They are the delight of an hour, the evanescent decoration of a week, or a fortnight, or of a month. They play exquisitely into each other's hands, and wreath the summer with continuous variety and delicate gust. But the apple is a permanent pleasure. It is for all the year. It circles the months. You may eat Russets up to the day when the new apples appear. The apple is immortal! As it is the most ancient, so it is the most royal of fruits. The apple never dies."

THE COUNTRY'S NEED.—A cotemporary wisely says: "What our country needs to-day more than the manufacturer, the merchant or the lawyer, is the farmer. It seems, however, next to impossible to get people to realize this fact, or to act on it when they do. In spite of the hard times young men continue to lounge around large cities, where there is no possible hope of employment, waiting for something to turn up, and utterly neglecting the opportunities that are presented in the country. The truth is, people now-a-days are too much afraid of hard work, and decidedly object to that sort of living which has to be earned by the sweat of the brow. They had much rather live by the sweat of somebody else's brow, if they can."







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## Look After the Stock.

As the season advances and the September nights begin to grow uncomfortably cool, and pastures short, the stock will need some extra attention. Young stock, especially, should be looked closely after and given a little grain, and milk cows should be protected by some species of shelter from the cool nights which have come suddenly upon them. They will need a little extra feed as well, or they will fail very considerably in their milk. Shelter the lambs, colts and calves from rain storms. The old stock will be the better for similar care, but the young should have it at all events.

## Lilies.

The FARMER'S thanks are due to Mrs. Col. Veale of Topeka, for a bouquet of white lilies, scarlet geraniums and verbenas. Mrs. V. has a taste for flowers which she indulges by cultivating an extensive variety. Her lilies are particularly fine and her skill as a florist enables her to produce the handsomest specimens. Flowers are a great deal of trouble and much time is required to attend them, some will say. But those who really love flowers do not seem to feel the trouble or miss the time they demand. Perhaps love converts the former into a pleasure and Old Time steals his way among the flowers unnoticed.

## Kansas Ponies.

Kansas is rapidly growing into a staid, old agricultural state, and as such, has no use for the large crop of ponies, raised every year. Indian ponies are very convenient saddle animals to gallop over the prairies and drive cattle, but they take the place of a more valuable race of animals in a farming community. There is no market worth the name outside of the state, and they will not sell at home for the cost of raising them. W. G. Bayne, whose letter will be found in another column, brings up the subject of Kansas ponies, and very properly pronounces them a loss to the state. Those who own them should take his advice, in their future disposition, and farmers should raise none but a large, salable breed of horses. Fine horse stock is being brought into the state as well as horned cattle and farmers should immediately avail themselves of it to breed valuable animals, which, with a small increase of feed and perhaps better care than are bestowed on the \$25 and \$30 ponies, would bring at three and four years old \$150 to \$300 and upwards. Farmers should discard pony breeding, the Indians in the Territory will always furnish enough for hacks and palfrys at very low prices, and farmers can with much more profit give their attention to the breeding of a better class of animals for which there is both a foreign and domestic demand greater than the supply. Get rid of the ponies and breed a valuable class of horses. Waste no time and money on worthless stock of any kind while the demand is great for all classes of good stock, from the Golden Laced Bantam to the high bred racer.

## Saving Seed-Corn.

The early ripening ears are preferable for seed, but they can only be obtained by searching through the field and marking the stalks where the fading husk denotes the early maturing ears. But excellent seed may be gathered from the pile of husked corn by judiciously culling the variety determined upon. This will depend upon the disposition which is to be made of the corn crop or the kind most salable in your market. In any case ears with medium sized cobs should be selected. A large cob contains much sap and is a long time drying, and if the weather is warm after cribbing, the grain is liable to be injured by heating, and shell out "blue-eyed." This injures the quality both for the market and as feed. In white corn the blue-eyed grains are very conspicuous. It is the belief among experienced corn-growers, that by judicious selections of seed the yield per acre can be largely increased. Corn which produces two ears to the stalk is likely to produce large yields, and the kind is preferable if fed to cattle in the ear, as the ears and cobs are smaller if the number is multiplied on the stalk. For feeding purposes a gourd-seed variety is preferred to the flint. The stock masticate the former more readily and perfectly, and it makes softer, lighter meal when ground. All red cobs should be rejected in selecting

white corn for seed. The red chaff injures the sale of the corn when shelled. In yellow corn the chaff does not show. White corn of the gourd-seed variety is far preferable for bread purposes to the flint. The flints are very solid corn, ripen early, weigh heavy and are the only kind fit for hominy or grits.

Whatever type is desired for seed, select the ears the nearest faultless in shape, with compact, well ripened grains. In storing for the winter the ears should be put where they will be exposed to a low temperature, the germs being liable to injury by severe frost, especially if the cob retains a portion of dampness. A room where a fire is kept during the winter, on a shelf in the kitchen out of the reach of rats and mice, is a good place to store ears that are selected for seed.

The fundamental rule to be observed in selecting and keeping seed-corn is to choose well formed, symmetrical ears, with medium-sized cob, grains well ripened and close in the row. Store it where it will not be exposed to dampness or severe freezing and out of the reach of vermin.

## Three Things.

Three things on the farm returning most profit on capital invested; three things affording most gratification to cultivated taste, while uniting pleasure with profit; three things requiring a high degree of intelligence, care and gentleness in their management, are sheep, bees and fowls. The family raised to care for and attend those three things will acquire a degree of refinement foreign to a large majority of those deprived of their educating influences. They will grow up wiser, more intelligent, more refined, and in every way better men and women. For these reasons the three industries named in the beginning of this article should be a part of the system of every farm. There is an important blank remaining unfilled where these are wanting. The farmer's family that plod in plowed ground all their lives, with no more elevating employment, are apt to grow up boorish, coarse and clownish in manners, tastes and character. But those brought up to devote a part of their time to the care of sheep, bees and fowls, will acquire gentleness in manners, careful habits and keenness of observation. It is the every-day business of life that truly educates, and farmers that place the welfare of their children above all else, will see to it that no branch of industry be neglected which in any way belongs to farm life, that can be introduced without incurring loss, which tends to expand the moral and intellectual growth of his children.

The man who lets his sheep run at large, at the mercy of every prowling cur, his fowls scratch for their living and roost on the fence, and his bees live in hollow logs and rude boxes in a state of native wildness, is in no sense caring for them. That man needs some one to take charge of and teach him how to live. He is in a state of nature himself. But if his flock is huddled or yarded at night, and constantly improved in the breeding; his fowls housed and fed with the care required to keep them in the best condition; and his bees kept in movable frame hives and managed with the light and knowledge which modern apianaries have brought to their aid in the business, the work will prove a moral, social and business educator to all who pursue it. Old, slovenly modes, benighted in ignorance, must be abandoned, and the lights of modern discoveries brought to the farmer's aid.

## Wheat-Seeding.

Topeka and vicinity, after having been parched by a six weeks' drouth, were visited on Friday morning last by a fine shower, which gave farmers who had their ground for wheat prepared early, an opportunity for getting in the seed. To insure a crop there is not a day for delay, and the wheat should be put into the ground with all dispatch. Early plowing and pulverizing the soil so that when the proper season arrives the seed can be got into the ground, is the only safe rule to pursue in managing the wheat crop in its preparatory stages. Late sowing fails five times in six, and only succeeds when the winter is peculiarly favorable. Having the ground in proper order is another prime essential to success, and failure in the wheat crop is oftener attributable to a neglect in observing these two fundamental principles than all other causes combined. This grain is small and requires a comparatively shallow bed for rooting in, but like all small seed it must have a fine soil over and around it for its young roots to run and multiply in without check or hindrance. Wheat also delights in a cool climate and consequently a cool soil.

A compact soil three inches below the surface, overlaid by a very fine tilth which acts as a mulch in preserving as nearly as possible a uniformity, cool, moist condition in the sub-soil, is the only accessible means for obtaining this natural requirement in soil and temperature for the young wheat plant. While this surface tilth acts as a mulch in preserving coolness and moisture in the more compact strata immediately underlying it, the pulverized soil on the surface admits air and moisture freely to nourish the roots of the young plant. If the labor expended on getting a large breadth broken, and in a semi-proper condition for wheat, was put upon half the area in getting the ground in order to receive the seed and nourish the plants while young and tender, more bushels and of a better quality of grain would be the result, at a less outlay per bushel in making the crop.

The majority of farmers who have been growing wheat from their boyhood do not understand the nature and requirements of what might with propriety be termed their staple crop, and there is no branch of farming in

which farmers are in need of more instruction than raising wheat. No man, possessed of ordinary common sense would put in two acres of ground if he was fully convinced that the same labor expended upon the two acres if put upon one, would make him as much wheat and generally of a better quality. Yet this would prove true in nearly every case where wheat is planted out of season and on poorly prepared ground.

But the state of the weather often interferes with the farmer getting his ground plowed after his arrangements have all been completed. This could be guarded against in a great measure by finishing the preparation of the ground as fast as plowed. Harrow and roll and put it in a proper condition for the seed at once, and hard, dry lumps will not form to contend with at a later period. There are a number of old-fashioned appliances for smoothing, breaking clods and fining the surface of plowed grounds, which have been discarded, that are better than the new and costly implements, nicely manufactured and painted, which are sold to farmers by agricultural implement dealers, and it would prove a profitable enterprise for farmers if they would go over carefully and select out the most approved of these discarded tools, and introduce them to use again, rejecting a large percent. of the most costly and perishable of the new implements which are thrust prominently forward.

The same class of implements and machines are not adapted to all neighborhoods alike, and close scrutiny and judgment are required by every farmer to determine just what tools are suited best to the cultivation of his land and the crops he raises. Manufacturers of farm machinery and tools would reap a rich reward if they would make a careful selection from among tools that have been pushed out of use and put them on the market again. Their utility and cheapness, with a little well distributed paint, would be sure to command a ready sale.

One other point we wish to touch on as an adjunct to wheat growing, and that is the value of manure on the upland. Every shovelful of manure about the farm should be saved and put on the high ground before or after the wheat is put in. The strong ammoniated horse manure is particularly beneficial to wheat on high land, making clean, bright straw, full heads and plump grains, and ripening up the crop early.

## Farmers in Politics.

The season has arrived when the farmers are brought face to face with the responsibility of selecting proper men to represent them in the legislatures of most of the states. Have they made up their minds fully to become aggressive in their demands, and take the nominating power in their own hands and out of those of trading politicians? All that is needed is an understanding among themselves to place in nomination men of their own pursuits not under the influence of professional politicians and office hunters. It will not be necessary to disturb their party relations. Let them be sure that men of their choosing are nominated on both party tickets, men who have a single purpose as regards the passage of such laws as farmers very generally demand, and the repeal of others which are obnoxious to their interests. This is the point of attack which is easily made and carried. Send men to the legislatures whose firmness and sound sense can be relied on, and whom you know to be proof against corrupting influences, and send the same men, who prove sturdy advocates of the farmers' interests, again and again to the legislature. Don't grow jealous of the honors they may reap. The first session they will learn some useful lessons in legislation and parliamentary life, the second term they will acquire confidence and be able to put their knowledge, in some measure, into practice. The third session they will take control of the legislature and put down the lawyers and tricky politicians and beat them with their own weapons. But if the foolish practice is pursued of sending new men every session, the strongest that can be found will not be able to accomplish anything of consequence. Select the staunchest, sensible men in your ranks and keep them session after session in the legislature, and such tactics will have telling effect upon the government of the state in the short space of three sessions. But if the crafty politicians are allowed to defeat this policy by the catch-word cry of rotation in office, no progress will be made. Men must learn how to do anything before they can do it, and the tactics of legislation can only be acquired by a few sessions of responsibility and practice. Let this be the plan of the farmers' political campaign, and they are bound to win. Neglect it and they are sure to lose.

## The Drag in Preparing the Ground for Wheat.

The following description of a cheap implement for preparing the ground for seeding wheat, we found in the Ohio Farmer. Farmers frequently spend a great deal of money in the purchase of costly implements, when a simple device, like the one described below, that can be manufactured on the farm, and at a cost of a few dollars, answers a better purpose, many times, than the patented machine, costing \$50 to \$100:

"Of all the devices which I have used to mellow my wheat fields, I prefer the plank drag. It consists simply of two-inch plank, bolted together so that when drawn over the field we get the benefit of a cutting edge on each plank. I prefer plank one foot wide and lap four inches. For a drag to be used with two horses, three plank ten or twelve feet long will be heavy enough; but on a farm where two teams are kept I would use four plank sixteen feet long. Whether two or four horses are used,

you want to hitch near each end, and will need two drivers, who may ride on the drag. If the drag is not heavy enough with the riders, you can weight it with stone or a log until it is right. If there are any loose stones on the field they can be taken off on the drag. If used at the proper time, it will do better work than either harrow or roller, and fully twice as fast as the roller and four times as fast as the harrow. I have seen a wheat field put in the best possible condition for drilling by going over it each way with such a drag, and with one sixteen feet long, ten acres can be dragged both ways in half a day. To do the best work it must be used on freshly plowed land, or as soon after a rain as the land is dry enough so that it will not clog. The drag is excellent for covering flax seed, and for smoothing down the oat field after sowing in spring.

"Use it on the cornfield before laying it off to plant, and sometimes after the corn is planted but before it comes up. These drags are so cheap and convenient that I generally have two or three sizes of them. We use a light one-horse one, for covering turnip seed, and find that it grows much better than when raked in. A sent could be easily attached to the larger drag if desired. For convenience in moving it from field to field, there should be a clevis at one end, as you will sometimes want to take it along a fence row where the road is narrow."

## From Proceedings of the Executive Committee of the American Berkshire Association, August 26, 1879.

The Secretary having been instructed at the June meeting to make further inquiry in reference to certain animals bred in England, reported as follows:

In preparing for registry the pedigree of English-bred Berkshires, a few cases have occurred in which rules 5 and 6, requiring sires and dams and grand-sires to be recorded, might, with apparent advantage to all parties concerned, be somewhat modified. The additional expense in the way of fees has not been urged in these cases as an objection to the rules. The difficulty of obtaining authentic pedigrees of said ancestors has been the only hindrance to their registry.

Can a statement that a grand-sire was pure-bred, if unaccompanied by a certified pedigree be accepted, and its descendants admitted to registry without such grand-sire being also recorded?

In order to bring the matter properly before the committee for discussion, the following resolution is presented and its adoption proposed: Resolved, That rules 5 and 6 be so modified as to admit the English-bred animals, under consideration, without requiring their grand-sires to be recorded.

A careful canvass of the matter resulted in the withdrawal of the foregoing and the introduction and adoption of the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, In order to carry out the established principle of the Association that the pedigree of all animals accepted for registry should trace a known line of descent from the period when the Association was organized, and WHEREAS, The rules adopted by the Association each succeeding year have been framed with a view to requiring the registry of ancestors to that period, and

WHEREAS, One cross less has been required of English-bred and imported animals than of American-bred, in the belief that the breeding of much of the foundation stock of Berkshires in England would thereby be secured, and

WHEREAS, American breeders, as a class, have taken great care to improve and perpetuate in its purity the stock brought from England; they having been as careful and zealous in these respects, as far as can be seen, as English breeders have been, and

WHEREAS, It seems, in view of the foregoing fact, that no further concessions in favor of English-bred stock should be made; therefore,

Resolved, That the increasing demand on the part of breeders for first-class animals with first class pedigrees calls for the impartial enforcement of rules 5 and 6, and that they remain unchanged.

ED. FARMER: I shall be much obliged if you can and will give me some advice,

1st. Can grape vines from one-half to one inch in diameter be taken up and set out again with safety? They do not bear to amount to anything, and are on the north side of the house I presume they are shaded too much.

2d. Where shall I send to get Forest Tree Culture, by M. G. Kern?

Will Mr. Bishir, or some one who knows, tell if blackwalnuts from the size of a person's finger to an inch through, would live if taken up and cut off even with the ground and set out this fall?

DELA B. CRIPPEN.

Cut the grape vines off three or four inches above ground in the fall soon after the leaves drop, when the weather has become so cold that the plant is at rest. Take up the vines carefully with a large quantity of root to them, and set immediately in their new location. When transplanted mulch the ground heavily with fine manure. In the spring after the weather has warmed up remove the mulch and work the ground up loosely three or four feet round the vines, and they will grow and probably turn out nearly as well as slips, or two year old vines treated with the same care.

Rd. Send to the agent of the Kansas Pacific R. R. Co., at Topeka, or Kansas City.

EDS. FARMER: I wish you would give me some definite advice concerning raising castor beans. I have about thirty-five acres of upland prairie of compact soil, broken last year in May and June. I had thought of plowing it up very deep this winter and planting beans next spring, but a man from Neosho county, who has raised them, tells me that they don't do well on new land, but old land that has been cropped some time and run down is the best. What do you say?

You, and many others, speak encouragingly

of sheep-raising. At one time I had thought of trying it, and so made considerable inquiry and observation. The result is that all I know of that have been long in the business here, either have gone out or are anxious to sell out.

N. S. S.

Hutchinson, Kansas.

Will some of our correspondents that make a business of these beans, give N. S. S. the benefit of their experience? The bean family prefer old ground to new.

That many are going out of the sheep business and wishing to sell off, is no evidence for or against it, as you may find restless, discontented people always ready to change any business. Western people are noted for this mercurial disposition. When a man turns pioneer, the demon of unrest is very apt to seize him, and like will-o'-the-wisp, lead him from place in search of the elysium he never finds.

Sheep-raising in Kansas promises as certain and remunerative a business as any branch of agriculture, but it must be learned. Nothing is likely to prove successful if persons attempting to manage do not understand the business. All stock-raising requires judgment, care and constant attention.

## Sugar Curing Meat.

Farmers who wish to make sugar cured hams and dried beef will find the following recipe for that purpose as good as any and if they preserve it it will come handy for reference when the time arrives for such work. Beef round after being cured when hung up for drying should not be smoked. Dried beef being either eaten raw or frizzled, tastes of the smoke, and is much better without the smoking process.

OUR RECIPE FOR CURING MEAT.—To one gallon of water take one and a half pounds of salt, one half pound of sugar, one-half ounce saltpetre, one-half ounce potash. In this ratio the pickle can be increased to any quantity desired. Let these be boiled together until all the dirt from the sugar rises to the top and is skimmed off. Then throw it into a tub to cool, and when cold, pour it over your beef or pork. The meat must be well covered with pickle, and should not be put down for at least two days after killing, during which time it should be slightly sprinkled with powdered saltpetre, which removes all the surface blood, etc., leaving the meat fresh and clean. Some omit boiling the pickle, and find it to answer well, though the operation of boiling purifies the pickle by throwing off the dirt always to be found in sugar and salt. If this recipe is strictly followed, it will require only a single trial to prove its superiority over the common way or most ways of putting down meat, and will not soon be abandoned for any other. The meat is unsurpassed for sweetness, delicacy and freshness of color.—Germantown Telegraph.

## Flavor in Butter.

It is very well understood by all dairymen that particular care should be taken to protect cream from any impure or strong odors, as it causes the butter to taste unpleasantly. Fresh paint or sour milk, or dirt from the barnyard, will give a bad taste to the butter. When the fruit trees are in bloom, and the breath of the flowers come upon the cream, it gives the butter a peculiarly sweet taste that is very delightful; also the odor of new-made hay is beneficial to the butter. But these things are transient, so I experimented a little with happy results. Under the windows of my milk-room I sowed sweet clover and sweet peas. The peas are not in flower yet, but the perfume of the clover is very powerful; it not only fills the whole room with its fragrance, but it gives to the butter a very improving relish. It takes but little time to sow the seed and care for the plants, and it is labor that pays. I used to gather the clover and sweet marjoram leaves and carry them into the room, but the above plan is easier and the effects are more lasting.

## Special Premium.

T. L. Stringham offers a special premium of an engraved silver cup for the best breed of thoroughbred cattle, to consist of not less than one bull and three cows, or heifers, at the Shawnee County Fair.

AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS.—The semi-annual meeting of the National Agricultural Congress will be held at Rochester, on the 15th inst. It is expected to prove a very interesting and profitable session. The papers presented are usually of a practical character, and of great benefit to the interests of agriculture. The circular of the officers says: We earnestly solicit your aid and co-operation, not only in an early remission of the membership fee, but in sending us names and postoffice address of any persons in your own or other states and territories who are interested in promoting agricultural education, agricultural science, practical agriculture, granges, farmers' clubs, agricultural colleges, and other organizations intended to promote the welfare of the agricultural classes.

HORSES AND MULES EXPORTED.—The Export Journal mentions that horses are going abroad in considerable numbers, and there is promise of a successful export trade in this kind of stock. We have also been supplying the British government with mules for use in Africa. If these latter have been secured of the right pattern we will warrant them to be very effective in military operations. They will make good cavalry mounts and prove effective not only in standing their ground, but in carrying terror and dismay to the enemy should the latter approach within range.







## Literary and Domestic.

## September.

The golden-rod is yellow;  
The corn is turning brown;  
The trees in apple orchards  
With fruit are bending down.

The gentian's bluest fringes  
Are curling in the sun;  
In dusty pods the milkweed  
Its hidden silk has spun.

The sedges flaunt their harvest,  
In every meadow nook;  
The asters by the brook-side  
Make asters in the brook.

From dewy lanes at morning  
The grapes' sweet odors rise;  
At noon the roads all flutter  
With yellow butterflies.

By all these lovely tokens  
September days are here,  
With summer's best of weather,  
And autumn's best of cheer.

But none of all this beauty  
Which floods the earth and air,  
Is unto me the secret  
Which makes September fair.

'Tis a thing which I remember;  
To name it thrills me yet;  
One day of one September  
I never can forget.

—Schlumer for September.

## The Common Schools, the Farmers' Hope.

Prof. Gale, of Manhattan Agricultural College, believes that the common schools should shape their course of studies more in the direction of supplying the needs of country life, and states his convictions on the subject in the *Rural New Yorker*. The professor says:

"Much has been said and written in regard to an improved culture of the rural classes. They are demanding something more than hitherto, and asserting for themselves a higher position in the social scale. While there are steps backward as well as forward in all movements toward a higher civilization, we may be assured that the end here sought will be reached. Agriculture in all its departments must, in years to come, command a higher class of talent and a broader culture than in the past. While we are inclined to give honors to the rural press, to the associations and societies formed to promote rural interests, and to agricultural colleges, where they at all recognize the object of their creation, the more intelligent among the masses are feeling that they can justly demand something more for the children in the common schools than has hitherto been offered them. We ask that the culture of the common school shall be turned in some slight degree towards rural and agricultural interests. A more general diffusion of knowledge relating to agriculture and industrial pursuits is demanded. Our children need culture that shall impel towards farm life. This cannot be attained by the instrumentalities now employed.

"Hence we propose that the common school shall be made more tributary to our rural interests. We want an elementary course of instruction in matters, both practical and scientific, that relate directly to rural life. This should be so elementary in its character that the great mass of our children may acquire it by the time they are fourteen years old. By this means the common school will, to a certain extent, become the training school of our agricultural and industrial colleges. These latter institutions will then have opened to them a much wider field of usefulness and the possibility of a much more thorough culture to those who may enjoy their advantages."

## The Mother's Weakness.

From the Editorial Address to the tri-state gathering we clip the following melancholy truths:

"How frequently the mother sets up the fight between Esau and Jacob by telling the one he is only fit to be a farmer, and that the other is so smart it would be a pity not to educate him to pursue some more honored occupation. Then comes a long struggle to maintain the darling at college, while the one on the farm is denied all the advantages and pleasures of education society. Even on forced economy—and that work alone is the highest attainment of farm life—he is denied the small pittance and time that it costs to maintain a membership in a Grange. But this is not enough to crush out the ambition of the one that stays on the farm. But this favored child has become a great lawyer or minister, and must be heard even if it is at an agricultural meeting, and be applauded for his brilliant orations, while the one who stayed on the farm is thus robbed of the honors that should be his; sits in an out of the way place incensed at the injustice; despising the pursuit that robbed him of equal intellectual attainments and honors with this favored brother.

There was a time when it was thought that it was not necessary to be educated as a minister or a lawyer, but people have learned that, other conditions being equal, the one best educated is the one most useful. In the conviction of this theory, every profession has its special school to fit those for the particular profession they wish to pursue. Yet when we turn to the pursuit of farming and the schools established to fit persons for the calling how unlike the schools for the professions. We find too few attending these schools to fit themselves to become eminent agriculturists and be a power to our class in the advancement and elevation of agricultural pursuits."

## Circulation of Air in the Earth.

Having shown how moisture circulates through loosened soil, it remains to explain the aeration of the same. Upon the perfectly unobstructed circulation of water and air through the soil, depends almost entirely its

ability to give up its fertilizing properties at the demand of the plant. All water contains, in a greater or less degree, some air, but this quantity will not be considered in this article, because it is never in sufficient volume to be of much value to the process of germination and fructification.

Supposing a soil in early spring to be saturated with water, there can be no air in it, because the two cannot both occupy one space at the same time. As the water subsides, the atmosphere must follow it, or there would be a vacuum. As the air occupies the space thus vacated, it acts chemically upon the soil, and this evolves heat, and at the same time imparts its own natural heat to the soil.

Here we have the first effort to bring the earth into a condition favorable to plant life. If at this time cultivation takes place, a greater volume of air is admitted, and the soil becomes warm proportionably faster. At this time the moisture from below rises, and is in the shape of what might be called a subterranean dew, mingled with the air from above, and by a chemical exchange it is at once rendered a perfect solvent of the earth's fertilizing constituents.

Constant changes of temperature above ground, cause a circulation perpendicularly of moisture and air, each refreshing and invigorating the other—there can be no stagnant water, no stagnant air, as long as the sun's heat exerts its usual power. It is evident that in a solidly-packed soil, this circulation could not take place; that the earth would soon become dead, sour and totally unfit for living herbage. It is also evident that the unobstructed circulation of air and moisture in soils is absolutely essential to healthy growth.

As a proof of this, stop up the hole at the bottom of a flower-pot, continue to water the plant as usual, and note how soon the roots are destroyed by dead water. Again, place a glass shade over a pot full of earth, having the hole at the bottom open; water from below, and note how soon the shade is filled with a fungus growth which will smother any plant growing in it.

Cultivation of the soil is the key to successful farming, and if applied at the time of need, never fails to pay amply for the labor spent. The time to cultivate (without having reference to the destruction of weeds), is whenever any cause so packs the soil that it cannot breathe freely. From the reasons given, it is also evident that frequently cultivated soil is both warmer and more moist than that which is allowed to pack and bake.—S. F. Mason, in *Rural New Yorker*.

## Cooking Maxims.

Tepid water is produced by combining two-thirds cold and one-third boiling water.

To make macaroni tender, put it in cold water and bring it to a boil. It will then be much more tender than if put into hot water or stewed in milk.

The yolk of eggs binds the crust much better than the whites. Apply it to the edges with a brush.

Old potatoes may be freshened up by plunging them into cold water before cooking them.

Never put a pudding that is to be steamed into anything else than a dry towel.

Never wash raisins that are to be used in sweet dishes. It will make the pudding heavy. To clean them, wipe in a dry towel.

To brown sugar for sauce, or for puddings, put the sugar in a perfectly dry saucepan. If the pan is the least bit wet, the sugar will burn and you will spoil your saucepan.

Cutlets and steaks may be fried as well as broiled, but they must be put in hot butter or lard. The grease will be hot enough when it throws a bluish smoke.

The water used in mixing bread must be tepid hot. If it is too hot the loaf will be full of great holes.

To boil potatoes successfully: When the skin breaks, pour off the water and let them finish cooking in their own steam.

In making a crust of any kind, do not melt the lard in the flour. Melting will injure the crust.

In boiling dumplings of any kind, put them in the water one at a time. If they are put in together they will mix with each other.

## Warming Over Potatoes.

When left from one meal to another, potatoes are good warmed over in either of the following ways:

Slice them, put them in the frying pan, add butter, salt, pepper, and milk enough to nearly cover them; cook slowly until the milk is done down so that the slices have the appearance of having been coated with cream. Or, the milk may be omitted, using water instead—merely enough to raise steam to heat them through—and using more butter; cook slowly to evaporate the water, now and then stirring them carefully. But the way I like them best in warming them either way, is to hack them fine and stir thoroughly while warming them. Also beef drippings, or pork, or smoked ham gravy may be used instead of butter. Or they may be chopped fine before warming them. If well seasoned and done down just dry enough, warmed potatoes resemble few things less than the watery mess of potatoes and warm milk or water, sometimes dignified by the name.

We sometimes warm potatoes without slicing them: put them in a kettle, add a good lump of butter, some salt and pepper, and water enough to raise a strong steam; cover closely and steam until the potatoes are hot clear through, and the water evaporated, meanwhile stirring

them occasionally. New potatoes are very nice this way. Mashed potatoes are very easily warmed, all that is required being to add a little milk or water, and a little salt and perhaps a piece of butter, certainly, if water is used instead of milk.

## Advice to Girls.

In marrying a man, make your own match. Do not marry a man in order to get rid of him, or to oblige him, or to save him. The man who would go to destruction without you, will quite as likely go with you, and perhaps drag you along. Do not marry in haste, lest you repent at leisure. Do not marry for a home and a living. Do not let aunts, fathers or mothers sell you for money or position, into bondage which you could not redeem with tears and lifelong misery. Place not yourself habitually in the hands of any suitor, until you have decided the question of marriage. Woman wills are weak; people often become bewildered and do not know their error until it is too late. Get away from their influences; settle your heads and make up your minds alone. Do not trust your happiness in the keeping of one who has no heart. Shun the man who gets intoxicated. Do not rush thoughtlessly into wedded life, contrary to the counsel of friends. Love can wait.

## Flowers.

"And round about he taught sweet flowers to grow."—Spencer.

The lantana is one of my favorite plants for winter blooming. They will grow readily from seed and clips, and are easily rooted in sand.

They can be used as bedding-plants for summer, and in the fall if you take off a few slips, they will be continuously in bloom during the winter. The flowers are small and in clusters, and resemble in shape the verbenas. They are of various colors, some white, yellow, pink, lavender and white and straw color.

They delight in a loamy soil, and I give mine plenty of sunlight. They grow very fast and can be trained in almost any desired form. Seeds can be bought for ten and fifteen cents, and the plants are twenty-five cents each.

In my article on Geraniums I advise the Rose, Lemon, and Shrubland Pet, instead of the Scarlet geraniums. BRAMBLETUSH.

## Dried Corn.

I prefer to dry sweet corn to putting it in brine. I never had any to get wormy and I have dried it nearly 40 years. The corn should be almost too young to cook. (I do not know how to express the meaning in other words). I prefer to dry from a late piece of corn. If I have no girls to help and the corn is far away, get the men folks to gather two or three bushels in the early morning, if possible. If it can't be done in the morning have it done the evening before; wash the stove boiler clean, have it filled about half full with water and put in the stove before sitting down to breakfast, when the water boils put in as much corn as the water will cover, put on plates to keep the corn under; do not let it boil hard, only bubble for 15 or 20 minutes; if the fire is hot the boiler must be set on the top of the stove. Can get three or four messes out by ten o'clock. It does not need silking, as it all blows away. I prefer to dry in the shade, but it is not always convenient. I forgot to say there must be a clean sheet put on the boards. Spread a piece of netting over and lay small sticks and stones on the edges to keep it down. The corn will dry enough in two days to put in a flour sack, if in the sun. Mrs. D. B. C.

## Green Apple Pies.

Pare, quarter, core and stew nice tart apples in water enough to prevent them from burning. When tender, sweeten very sweet with white sugar; fill the pie plate, which has been lined and edged with puff paste; grate in a little nutmeg, cover, and bake forty-five minutes. When the paste is rolled one-quarter of an inch thick, the pies should be baked one hour.

PRESERVED WATERMELON RINDS.—Peel the melon and boil it in just enough water to cover it, until it is soft, trying it with a fork. Allow a pound and a half of sugar to each pound of rind. For each pound of sugar allow half a pint of water. For every three pounds of sugar allow the white of an egg; mix when cold; boil a few minutes and skim it. Let it stand a few minutes, then skim and strain it. Simmer the rind two hours in this syrup and flavor it with lemon peel grated and tied in a bag. Then put the melon in a tureen and boil the syrup until it looks thick; and then pour it over. Next day give the syrup another boiling and put the juice of one lemon to each quart of syrup. They will keep a long time.

TO PRESERVE APPLES.—Take tart and well flavored apples, peel, and take out the cores without dividing them, and parboil them. Make the syrup with the apple water, allowing three quarters of a pound of white sugar to every pound of apples, and boil some lemon peel and juice in the syrup. Pour the syrup, while boiling, onto the apples, turn them gently while cooking, and only let the syrup simmer, as hard boiling breaks the fruit. Take them out when the apple is tender through. At the end of a week boil them once more in the syrup. B.

EGG BALLS.—Boil four eggs for ten minutes, and put them into cold water. When quite cold, pound them in a mortar with the beaten yolk of one new egg, a teaspoonful of flour, one of chopped parsley, half a teaspoonful of salt, a quarter of a teaspoonful of Cayenne, till perfectly smooth. Then form into small balls, boil them for two minutes, and add to the soup.

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that I have just described. By the French system, when the butter has just come in these fine grains, the buttermilk is drawn off by the ~~mouth~~ through a sieve, the 'dairymaid hold-

We sow pretty much the same amount of seed whatever the land may be, which is an error in

### Butter-Making in the "Old Country."

for 3s. per pound, and nearly as dear  
 Janeiro salted or in tins, is much the s

### THE FRENCH SYSTEM.

in howether, when butter is apt to be after churning, the churn should be filled with cold water and allowed to stand, which, he would make the butter firm. A friend mentioned that was new to many of us. The dairymaid goes a step further, and always has her butter stand for half an hour in cold water on the same principle. As firmness is of excellence in butter, there can be little doubt this practice is right, and one we ought to follow. Sometimes, I believe, salt is mixed with water—enough to salt the butter with in a few days. I have never seen this done, but you may learn more salt to it. It is said to be good plan for fresh and light salted butter.

## How To Treat Work Horses.

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