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## The Kansas Farmer.

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

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## Agriculture.

For the Kansas Farmer.

### THE DAIRY IN KANSAS.

There have been recently held in some of the principal dairy States of the east the annual gatherings of dairymen, which are called conventions. At these conventions the future prospects of the dairy in the west have been seriously and intelligently discussed. Several of the speakers have made journeys of exploration through what is called the west, and have noted its capabilities and its needs for dairying. As might have been expected, their views were very favorable towards a large future development of the dairy interest in the west, both as regards butter and cheese. It is interesting for us to remark what these capabilities and needs are, for they are not to be found everywhere, and it is only in these districts where they may be found largely and well supplied that the dairy can become profitable.

The first great need is grass, the next of equal value is good water; the next as affecting both grass and water is soil, and this should be limestone, as it produces both the richest grasses and the clearest and finest streams and springs. The next great necessities are pure atmosphere free from malarial taints, a moderate climate in which healthful influences are to be found for the stock, and a moderate temperature, not too hot nor too cold during either season, and in which the unavoidable heats of summer weather are tempered by cooling breezes during the day and lower temperature during the night, for the proper operating of the dairy processes. Where these necessary conditions exist the dairy may profitably be followed, and where they are wanting the dairy cannot profitably exist.

The vastness of the west ought by right now to be, and in time must of necessity be, supplied from its own resources. The time is now passed or is rapidly passing when we in the west shall grow corn from which eastern dairymen shall produce cheese wherewith our wants shall be supplied. This business which renders it necessary for the western farmer to pay freight on his produce one way and on the proceeds of it the other way, thus making two freights upon it, cannot last long, for he is becoming too wide awake to his own interests for that. It is therefore a fact to be understood that the cheese eaten in the west is to be made there. Then it becomes of the greatest interest to know where all these needs of the dairy are to be found in perfection, for there will the dairy business become the great staple and the most profitable.

Of all the great western States, Kansas is vastly superior in every one of these qualifications. This State possesses the richest pastures, for nowhere else can be found wild grass so profusely supplied, free from admixture with hurtful weeds, and so productive of the richest milk. It is noticed by every observant

traveler who sojourns within our State that the cream from milk produced upon our prairies is more golden in color, richer in quality and more profuse in quantity than any where else. Nearly the whole State is underlaid with limestone which has enriched our native pastures and which makes the soil "natural" to blue grass and clover, the dairyman's *sine qua non*. Nowhere is there more abundant water of the best quality than in our numerous streams, innumerable springs and copious wells. Our valleys are the most inviting and our uplands the most attractive to the herds. The cool nights which follow the few days in the summer, when the thermometer ranges among the nineties restore the tone of the animals and prevent the falling off in yield and quality of milk noticed elsewhere, and in the hottest days the constant breezes bring unusual vigor and activity. The equable temperature needed for the proper curing and ripening of cheese and for the manufacture of butter is here found in a greater degree than in many favored dairy localities elsewhere to compete with which we have the greatest facilities. That Kansas will ere long become a renowned dairy State as she has already become a noted stock and fruit growing State is not to be questioned.

This will probably become one of the first of the home industries for which she will become famed, for it is one that may be built up with very little capital, and the skill needed to set the business in operation may be readily attracted hither so soon as an opening for it is made. Certainly the institution of cheese factories would seem to be one of the most promising investments that can be made here.

### COTTON.

The success attending the growing of cotton on our southern border this past year has stimulated the demand for practical information upon this subject. We take from an excellent article in the *Humboldt Union*, the following extract:

Spring is coming on apace, and the farmers must have light on this subject. To the farmers of Anderson county we would say that wherever there is a sandy, loamy soil, cotton will do well if properly cultivated. It is our duty to add also that Anderson county has uniformly a strong limestone soil, on which cotton does not produce well. This is a mistake to those who own such land and want to raise cotton. But the soil which is inimical to this staple is especially adapted to wheat, fruit, tobacco and corn. Probably one-tenth of the county, or less, is of that sandy, loamy soil which is needed for cotton. Owners of such land can raise it under proper treatment. Of the method of its cultivation we are unlearned, and consequently cannot advise, though we hope to be able to do so fully before the time of planting arrives.

In conclusion, we would say that the Arkansas Valley, and the valleys of most of its tributaries, will be the great cotton-growing region of Kansas, because there the sandy, loamy soil mentioned abounds. But elsewhere in Southern Kansas, in counties like Anderson, only a portion of the soil is capable of producing cotton to advantage.

### WINTERING CABBAGES.

It is not generally known that cabbages will make heads in the winter if properly fixed. The way to do it is this: Dig up those that have begun to turn to head, but are not mature when frost sets in, with as much earth as will cling to the roots, and without stripping off the outer leaves. Prepare a trench in a dry, sheltered situation nearly as deep as the cabbages with the roots down. Crowd them into the trench—which ought to be wide enough to hold three rows—with the roots down; then cover them with straw or prairie grass, forming a kind of thatch over them. When hard frosts set in put on more grass, and earth enough to keep them all secure, but shed the water off as much as possible. This covering ought to be 10 or 12 inches in thickness.

The heads formed in winter are white, tender and delicate, and those which are loose and unfit for culinary purposes in the fall become compact and solid before spring. J. C.

### PEA NUTS.

The cultivation of this nut might be made profitable in this State, and is worthy of a trial at any rate. A gentleman in Lawrence, in 1873, planted three hills, with about half a dozen seeds in each, and in the fall dug up about a peck of excellent nuts. That was, to be sure, experiment upon a small scale, but it

was enough to show that our soil and climate are well adapted to them. I think our upland prairies are better adapted to them than bottom land. J. C.

From the Indiana Farmer.

### RACING AT FAIRS.

The time for arranging programmes and premium lists for agricultural fairs for the coming season is near at hand, and whatever reforms or improvements, if any are to be made in their management must be entered upon soon. I wish to call attention to the subject at the head of this article. When these fairs were first instituted, the sole object was to enable the farmers to bring together the products of their farms; specimens of the various cereals, grasses and fruits; the various excellence of different kinds of farm animals, and the handiwork of the different members of the household and neighboring mechanics, were the attractions of the occasion. In other words, these fairs were instituted for the express purpose of encouraging agricultural and horticultural productions and the mechanic arts. The cost of keeping up these associations was found to be considerable, and that something to "draw a crowd" was essential to fill the coffers of the society. In looking around for some attraction, various novelties and monsters claimed attention; among which, may be mentioned, some noted person to deliver an address, a balloon ascension, a low mule race, a fat man's race, and various other equally taking inducements for the people to attend and spend their money at the fair. On one occasion, I knew a society composed largely of staid old quakers, whose fair came just at the time the velocipede reached its zenith of popularity, to give their largest premium to the best velocipede rider. It is not strange that under such a strong feeling in favor of something to bring out the people, that the "fast ring" should be introduced at our fairs. And when it was found that many were led to the conclusion that it was essential to the financial success of the fair, for years this idea has prevailed to such an extent that it has been difficult, if not impossible, for one opposing racing at fairs to get a fair hearing from the various boards of managers of agricultural societies. The result has been, that the "fast ring" has taken precedence over every other interest at our agricultural fairs, to the neglect of many other more important agricultural interests. The true idea of agricultural fairs is to give the greatest encouragement to those productions and interests that are of the most importance to agriculture. The amount of premium offered for particular productions is an indication of its importance to agriculture. But all these principles have been violated and set at naught by our fair managers in giving the largest premiums to mere speed, a quality that is of no practical importance to agriculture. I shall have more to say on this subject in future.

L. J. TEMPLIN.

### HOW GRASS IS CHANGED TO BEEF.

The ox is a ruminant—and all ruminants masticate their food the second time, or rather first swallow and then after some time commence the process called "ruminating," or popularly, "chewing the cud." Let us trace this process in the cow.

The tongue first collects a mouthful of grass into a bundle, when it is nipped off by the teeth of the lower jaw and the grasping power of the muscular lips. She does not pause to masticate now, but swallows it whole. It depends to the first stomach, or *rumen*, which is only a storehouse in which the food is kept till wanted. This first stomach consists of four small subdivisions, and the coat is covered with thousands of little elevations, which doubtless produce some chemical change in the newly received food. From this first stomach the food passes into the second, which is much smaller and very complex in its structure. It is covered with a multitude of small cells, from which it is often called the honey-comb bag. In this second stomach the food takes the form of rounded, compact masses, which are returned through the gullet to the mouth by the muscular action of the stomach. Now begins the process of ruminating, during which she seems to enjoy the very perfection of animal bliss. As each portion of food is properly masticated it passes direct from the mouth to the third stomach. This is accomplished by the closing of the tube that leads to the second and third stomachs. The third stomach is very small and is called the manypus, from the numerous folds of which it is composed arranged like the leaves of a book. Between these active folds the food rests a short time, when it is passed into the fourth or true stomach, where the process of digestion is completed, and the food passes into the organization.

## Horticulture.

### BLACK LOCUST.

BY R. S. ELLIOTT,  
Industrial Agent K. P. R. R.

Under this head a correspondent of *Colman's Rural World*, signing "D. B. M.," of Barry, Clay county, Missouri, writes:

I will now give my opinion of the black locust. Having an intimate acquaintance with it for sixty years, I feel prepared, by observation and experience, to say it is the best timber that can be grown in this latitude. The locust should be planted along the branches, creeks, ravines and on lands unsuited for cultivation, or some part of the farm set apart for that special purpose. To plant them in an open field, or on prairie, the cottonwood, red elm and other forest trees should be mixed with them, to aid them in growing tall, and protect them against borers. They are rarely troubled by borers in a forest. I have three or four hundred on my farm, among other trees, that are fifty to sixty feet high, and would make from six to ten posts each, besides a number of fencestakes. The above trees are from twenty to thirty years old. The timber is best for fence posts, wagon axles, hubs, hounds, double-trees, single-trees, vineyard posts, sills for buildings, etc., and as good as any other timber for handles for farm implements, also best for railroad ties. By best I mean best in this latitude.

Geo. T. Anthony and S. T. Kelsey both concede the great value of the locust, but discourage the planting for fear of borers. I concede the danger of borers, but encourage the planting of this tree, with the hope that in some localities at least, it may not be seriously molested. This is about all the difference there is in our views. The remark of "D. B. M." in the above extract, that "the trees are rarely troubled by borers in a forest," coupled with his recommendation that other trees "should be mixed with them to aid them in growing tall," should receive consideration, and the value of the suggestion should be tested by experiment. The locust grows so rapidly in Kansas, even far out on the plains, that it should not be too readily given up. The experiment of a mixed grove could be advantageously tried at the State Agricultural College. If the suggestion I took the liberty of making three years ago, that the Fort Harker reservation be turned over to the State for a State Nursery and model forest, could be realized, the experiment could be tried to advantage there also. It is one hundred miles west of Manhattan, and while the trial might fail at one place, it might succeed at the other. At Bosland, (Wilson), twenty miles west of Fort Harker, the locust has done better from seed, in my railway field, than any other tree. While young it has few enemies, and the borers do not trouble the trees anywhere till old enough to be useful.

I have Arthur Bryant and Dr. Warder on my side as to the propriety of trials of the locust. In many parts of Ohio it is not troubled at all by borers. Bryant says that in Illinois these pests have disappeared in localities where they were destructive a few years ago. If we are to discard all trees troubled by insects, we must throw aside the silver maple and the cottonwood, as both are liable to have their foliage destroyed, and the latter to have the heart eaten out of the branches. As to the alantus—which we used to fondly think was insect proof—the grasshoppers, not satisfied to eat only the tender leaf-buds, also eat the bark as well; and I doubt its value west of Ellsworth county. The catalpa is not much troubled by insects, but the rabbits eat the bark off the young trees. So here are the locust, silver maple, cottonwood, alantus and catalpa—all rapid growers and all of value,—but each with an enemy; but if they are to be given up what shall take their place?

If I remember rightly, Dr. J. Stayman, in the State Horticultural Society, at Humboldt, in 1873, suggested the planting of the locust with other trees, as recommended by "S. B. McM." Along the Pacific railroad, in Missouri, these trees in many places seem to be free of borers, but in other places they seem to suffer somewhat. In St. Louis county the borer has never been troublesome. It may be true, as suggested to me once, that the difference in soil has its effect, as in some localities the sap may contain mineral matters in solution which are offensive to the insect.

The whole forest tree question is full of difficulties, and the only way to get along with it is to keep planting. Try all things, and hold

fast that which is good. As some farmers in Kansas may perhaps wish to try the locust, and as I do not know of any seed for sale in the State, it may be well to say that the "Plant Seed Company," of St. Louis, have it, at (I think) sixty cents per pound, and a large proportion are sure to grow. Pour scalding water over the seed and plant next day, in corn-planting time—or about April 20. It is best not to plant too soon in the spring.

For the Kansas Farmer.

### SETTING ORCHARDS FOR THE FARM.

As it is coming apple-tree time we have our roots to give, as well as others, for the help of those who don't know how.

1stly. Don't heal 'em in, that's plaggy hard work, but spade 'em in, just as far as you want to.

2ndly. Afore you spade 'em in, talk your jak nife an cutt the rutes an tops off, then you can git 'em out eazier when you want 'em.

3rdly. When you plant 'em, wittle the rutes off smooth, so az not to scratch the sides of the hoal.

4thly. Allays plant the winter trees with 1 side to the north, and the summer trees with 1 side to the south. Allays mind this.

5thly. Yuse the summer aples befor winter cums, and save the winter aples for cold wether. Talk notis wich kind ceeps the best and plant most of that kind the next spring.

6thly. A weak or 2 after you hav planted, go around among the trees and lift up all that air luse, look at the rute, don't aware, sock it back into the hoal, stomp the dirt tite around it, and it will live an year, it is because you planted in the rong sine of the mune.

7thly. If it don't bare after it has ben ded 2 years, pule it out az it iz no yuse sperimenting any longer.

8thly. Allays plant the best kind, butt remember the best kind aint allays the best every place else. That depends on the locashun. Ax the nabors boys, they can kin most allays tell wich tree iz best.

OLD CENTRE.

Abilene, Dickinson County.

We hear many complaints this winter of the ravages of the rabbits on young fruit trees, and their depredations have increased since the late fall of snow. Some persons have as many as a hundred young trees fatally injured by being girdled by them. According to the recommendation of Greeley, and the confirmation of farmers who have followed the sage's advice, an excellent protective remedy is to smear the trees well around from the ground to above the rabbits' reach with hog or beef liver. One liver will suffice to rub a hundred trees. A cheap, easy and sure preventive.

### PLANTING PEACH TREES.

For peach-growing on a large scale, choose high rolling land. Plant out seedling peach trees very thickly, say about eight feet apart each way, with corn or potatoes between rows. Cultivate well till the trees begin to bear. After the first or second crop, thin out such trees as have been damaged by winds and other causes, and such as produce poor fruit. This thinning process will yield an immense quantity of fuel. Three-fourths of the trees may thus be removed in the course of one or two years, leaving the trees about one rod apart both ways, and about 160 to the acre.

For marketing in the fresh state, plant the best budded sorts one rod apart each way, cultivate in corn or potatoes till the trees bear, then sow to clover. Keep pigs and poultry in the orchard as much as practicable, to keep down the curculio and other insects. Should such a plan as the above meet the approval of our Kansas farmers, very soon the scarcity of fuel will not be heard of, and we may repeat on a broader and more permanent scale the peach producing history of New Jersey and Illinois.

The peach is sometimes budded on plum stocks. This fits it better for cold clay soils. It also dwarfs it somewhat, rendering it more fit for small gardens and yards.—JOHN DAVIS, in *Junction City Tribune*.

### WORTH KNOWING.

Take a hog's liver o. blood and smear the bark of an apple tree with it, it is a sure safeguard against the ravages of the rabbits. Rabbits are not carnivorous animals and will not eat blood even though the bait is apple tree bark.

G. H. E.



## Farm Stock.

For the Kansas Farmer.

## THE CURSE OF CHEAP STALLIONS.

Your correspondent in the issue of the FARMER of January 23, inst., strikes the key note in the article entitled "How shall we breed?" Unfortunately, all he sets forth is only too true for us in this section of the State. Every farmer or breeder who is possessed of the least share of intelligence cannot fail seeing that it is a dead waste of time to breed to a horse without form, pedigree or action. The trouble and cost of raising a colt is the same as if royal blood flowed in his veins and after he is raised he turns out worthless. As long as we patronize them, just so long do we sow the seeds of degeneration. We should inscribe upon our banner, forward, not backward. Instead of continually degrading our stock, we should take steps to elevate it. If farmers are so blind to their own interests as to insist on helping to perpetuate a line of brutes, the law should interpose. In many sections children are compelled to attend the schools provided for their instruction, and this is right as progress should be the watchword. For the good of our State, the government at Topeka should take some steps to improve rather than degrade our stock at large. There should be a law that every stallion kept for public service should be licensed. If he should fail to come up to the standard prescribed by a competent board of examiners, let him be castrated. Farmers of the close-fisted and illiterate order would thus be placed beyond temptation. A compulsory act of the kind indicated would not only benefit the farmers whose freedom it abridges, but it would add thousands to our State. Without government interference it seems to be idle for enterprising men to make sacrifices with the hope of benefiting them. As we improve the stock, so do we improve its treatment. Thoughtless brutality ceases where market pecuniary value begins.

SOUTH WEST.

For the Kansas Farmer.

## HOW SHALL WE BREED?

As the breeding season is fast approaching this important subject very naturally presents itself for the serious discussion of our farmers and those interested in this useful branch of husbandry. The question of breeding and rearing the higher and better grades of horses whether for farm, road or the victories of the turf, has been subjected to an elaborate argument, and to our mind, substantially settled, as is attested by the immense capital invested towards founding the gigantic breeding establishments that now flourish in Kentucky, New York, Illinois and our own State.

But to the subject in our endeavor to improve the class of horses that we desire, how shall we proceed to attain the object? The precedent has been pretty thoroughly established that the only way we can do is to breed stallions that are known to be well bred, and those that have proved their lineage by exploits upon the turf, or, in other words, developed horses.

The fact is incontrovertible, that, with one or two exceptions, all of our celebrated horses spring from this source, and if our breeders prefer being on the safe side they must imitate the successful ones and patronize the families that show for themselves, or desire in raising stock for profit. Upon the established principle that like usually begets like, and that is the only safe rule to follow if we want to succeed in raising first-class stock of any kind. However, if our only desire or object is to have a colt from a stallion, because of his handsome form, without any knowledge whatever of the strains of blood in his composition, we must not be disappointed if, at the end of three, four or five years, find ourselves in possession of a colt that would not sell for enough to pay for the cost of what he has eaten, while our neighbor farmer who has been more judicious, and who paid, perhaps \$50 or even \$100 for the service of a stallion, has one of a similar age, valued among the thousands. Examples are not wanting to demonstrate this fact. Five or ten dollars that was formerly a very popular price for stallion service, is now looked upon by the intelligent stock-grower as an institution belonging to the medieval age, and it is an evidence that those who support that class, are such as are too ignorant to learn of their own experience or profit by that of others.

As it is a matter of record, our State has attained a very eminent position in the horse world, having furnished five horses to the eastern turf and for which the grand sum of seventy-eight thousand dollars has been returned to the State, viz., Smuggler, \$40,000; Henry, \$30,000; Kansas Chief, \$8,000; Kansas Pet, \$5,000; Kansas Queen, \$5,000.

H.

For the Kansas Farmer.]

## DOGS VERSUS SHEEP.

BY JOSHUA COPELEY.

No surer sign exists of an unthrifty, non-progressive people than the sight, as we pass along from house to house, of two, three or more dogs at each, and the total absence of sheep.

There are many farmers who would like very well to go into the sheep business, but they are afraid of their neighbors' dogs, many of which are but scantily fed, and must prowl and plunder and slaughter, as it is their nature to do, in order to eke out a living; so he makes no investment in that kind of property.

This "relief of barbarism" ought to be severely repressed, as we repress any other nuisance—not by fine and penalty, to be sure, but by sharp taxation. We must in that way make it unprofitable to keep dogs, before we can make it profitable or safe to rear sheep. The one must be to a good degree put out before the other can be brought in.

A farmer needs a good dog, and would cheerfully pay the tax upon him. Indeed, it would be to his advantage to do so, if by so doing he could have his sheep secured against the greatest of dangers. It is an old custom to pay a premium upon wolf scalps, in order to extirpate these natural enemies of sheep. The imposition of a tax on dogs is in exactly the same line of policy, with only this difference—the premium on wolf scalps takes some money out of the county treasury; the dog tax puts some in, and to that extent lowers the rates upon other property. It is a pretty business to be sure; to put a tax upon sheep and let the dogs go free! Let us tax them sharply, because they are so numerous as to deter nearly all our farmers from attempting to keep sheep at all, and so are a serious drawback to the general prosperity.

Few parts of the United States are better adapted to the business of wool growing than Kansas; and here it could and would be manufactured to a large extent. There are already many woolen mills in the State, on a comparatively small scale, it is true, but remove this greatest and most dreaded danger to sheep and the production and manufacture of wool would increase twenty fold in a short time. There is no reason whatever why wool on goods for ourselves, for Colorado, for Texas, and even for populations east of us, may not be made here.

When I look around and see the multiplicity of industries which may be carried on in Kansas to great advantage, I think I see before me a magnificent future; and the more we diversify our avocations the more prosperous will our agriculture become and the more independent shall we be of the great corporations, which, so long as we confine ourselves to crude products that must be borne to distant markets will be our own masters—men who laugh at our grumbling so long as we give them so much to do, but who will become benefactors as soon as we become a well balanced, self-sustaining community.

But I have wandered away from the subject. Let us lay a heavy but not unkind hand upon the dogs—and, if you like, a still heavier one upon "doggeries"—and then sheep and good men will multiply rapidly.

January, 1874.

## COLT STAKES.

EDITOR FARMER: I understand that the article of "P. B." published in the FARMER of the 14th inst., relative to forming a colt stake has met with a prompt and ready response by the "Shawnee County Driving Park Association," and that they propose in the next ninety days to open a stake for colts and fillies three years old in the years 1874, 1875, and 1876, to be trotted over their track the fall of each year; the association to add a reasonable amount to the stakes. The Shawnee track is known all over Kansas as one of the best in the west. Belonging as it does to the county and leased as it is for ten years to the Shawnee Driving Park Association—an association composed of some of our most upright and responsible county citizens—success is assured to this movement, which we hope will be the inauguration of many of a similar character.

This trotting association is a member of the National Association for promoting honesty and reform to the trotting turf. We will take this opportunity, of suggesting to numerous fair associations, that they, also, join this reform movement by becoming members of the National Association, as we think an improvement is needed in the management of the trials of speed at the fairs.

We look anxiously for the publication of these stakes, and hope the effort will meet with ready encouragement by our breeders, knowing as they do that the actual test of such a stake is their best advertisement to the public.

## WOOL GROWERS MEETING.

A meeting of the Wool Growers' and Sheep Breeders' Association of Missouri and Kansas is called for Tuesday, the 3d day of February, at the office of the *Rural American* in Kansas City, to take into consideration the general interests of sheep husbandry in the West, and especially to take action to secure the passage of laws by the Legislatures of the two States for the better protection and promotion of our industry.

We regard such action as worth millions of dollars to the West, and believe that by organized action great good may be accomplished. Addresses will be delivered by prominent wool growers, and it is hoped to make this an interesting and important meeting.

All Wool Growers and persons interested in sheep husbandry are requested to attend and participate.

THINK of fattening hogs on figs! The San Diego, Cal., *World* advises greater cultivation of the fig-tree because the food is so good for hog-feed. An acre of figs will fatten more hogs than will an acre of corn, and it seems all that is necessary is to stick a fig cutting and in three or five months the plant will bear fruit,—three crops a year,—and in three years the tree attains the size of a twelve-year-old apple tree. The same paper says a firm of honeyraisers, the first year of their cultivation of bees, cleared \$12,000 on their honey crop.

## Poultry Notes.

Eggs by Weight.

The Legislature of Massachusetts has lately passed a law making it necessary that a dozen eggs weigh one and one-half pounds. This is a move in the right direction and we hope that all of the other States may speedily follow the good example set by Massachusetts. It is annoying to the breeder of blooded and fine fowls to find, when he offers for sale eggs nearly twice as large as his neighbors, that they bring no more per dozen than do the smaller ones. Also, the consumer is often vexed to find that he must pay the same price today for a dozen of eggs weighing but a pound and a half yesterday paid for a dozen weighing a pound and a half. Besides, an egg from a well-fed fowl is heavier and richer than an egg from a common fowl that is only half fed, so that weight compared to size is an indication of richness. Thus, eggs of which eight will weigh a pound are better and richer than those of comparatively the same size of which ten are required for a pound.

Of course, with eggs at three or four cents a dozen—and the writer of this has seen hundreds of dozens sold at these figures—it is not much matter as to the size; but when the price ranges from twenty-five to sixty cents per dozen it is a matter worth looking after.

It is high time that this old style of selling and buying poultry and eggs by the piece should be discontinued. It is a relic of the past, and reminds us of the times when dressed hogs sold for a dollar each without regard to size or condition, and were a dull sale at that.

Insist upon it, then, you who raise poultry for market; insist upon it, then, you who have to buy eggs for consumption; insist upon it, all ye rich and poor, high and low, that eggs be sold for so much a pound. Then it will be some inducement for farmers to raise a better class of fowls, and all will get their just dues.

Then the enterprising breeder and poultry fancier will receive the reward for his efforts to furnish a market fowl of good size and of such a degree of fatness that it shall be eatable; and the breeder of poor, half-starved specimens will no longer be his successful rival.

Flint, Mich., Globe.

## Keeping Poultry to Enrich Lands.

Colonel Waring, in his "Elements of Agriculture," says: Poultry dung is nearly equal in value to Peruvian guano (except it contains more water). If granted that a hen will consume, of the different kinds of grain, meat, and vegetables, during the year, the equivalent of two bushels of corn, which weigh 120 pounds, then it is certainly low enough to place the excrement—the result of the digestion of these two bushels—as equivalent to fifteen pounds of guano. As the manure from 100 fowls, in a year, would equal 1,500 pounds of guano, taking the above supposition as at least safe; and as three hundred pounds is ordinarily sufficient for an acre of corn, it will be seen that the manure from 100 fowls will make compost enough for five acres. The experiment has been tried by the writer, of applying, to one acre of corn in the hill, the manure of twenty hens one year, mixed with swamp muck in the proportion of one part hen manure, and three parts muck. And the result was a better crop than upon an adjoining acre enriched, for sake of experiment, with a good fair ordinary dressing of stable manure.—*Scientific American*.

CHICKEN CHOLERA.—Dissolve a teaspoonful of Epsom salts in a little water, and mix it with bread. Give a grown hen half at night and the other half next morning. I have sometimes added a little whiskey, and have cured some even too weak to walk.—V.A.

## Bee Culture.

## HONEY LOCALITIES.

While there are few places where a stock of bees will not manage to get a living, we believe that in order to make bee-keeping a profitable pursuit, attention must be paid to choice of localities. It is so in other departments of rural industry. Some districts are specially good for grain-growing, others for dairying, others for sheep husbandry. As a matter of interest, a sort of pastime in natural science, it may do to keep bees in towns and cities, but they will not reward the apiarian with much surplus honey, and there will be times when the grocery and confectionery shopkeepers and their customers will vote them a nuisance, especially if they are Italians, for if so, they will forage wherever any sweets attract them.

To test the difference between keeping bees near a town of about 8,000 inhabitants, and having them wholly in the country, we last season took an average stock to board with a farming friend, and it gathered four times as much honey as the best of our in-town stocks.

We have a bee-keeping acquaintance who lives on the edge of an extensive cranberry swamp, and his bees do better than those of any other apiarian in the whole region. In very early spring, and even late in the fall, the bees appeared to find something to do in the swamp. Our Minnesota friend owes their extraordinary success to the vast stretches of basswood near which they live. We would say to all who contemplate going into bee-keeping as a business, choose your locality wisely. It will pay on a small scale to keep bees in many places, where it would hardly be advisable to keep them extensively.—*American Bee Journal*.

## BEEES IN SILESIA.

In the province of Silesia 200,000 colonies of bees are kept, representing a capital of more than one million of dollars. These, even in the most unfavorable years yield a profit of ten per cent; and in propitious seasons, such as the year 1846 was, the yield was fully 100 per cent, or more than \$1,000,000. It is well ascertained that the whortleberry and buckwheat blossoms are much richer in saccharine juices on the poor soil of Silesia than in more fertile districts.

The bees do not deposit in the cells, all the pollen they gather. Many of the pellets are taken from the gatherers as they return with laden thighs, and are at once consumed by the greedy workers, to qualify themselves for secreting wax or preparing food for the older larvae.

## Farmers' Organizations.

## PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

National Grange—Business Officers:—  
MASTER—Dudley W. Adams, Waukon, Iowa.  
SECRETARY—O. H. Kelly, Georgetown, D. C.

Kansas State Grange—Business Officers:—  
MASTER—M. E. Hudson, ex officio, Mapleton, Bourbon co.

SECRETARY—Geo. W. Spruozon, Jacksonville.

TREASURER—H. H. Angell, Sherman City, Cherokee co.

LECTURER—John Boyd, Independence.

CHAIRMAN—W. S. Hanna, Emporia.

STATE AGENT—Jno. G. Otis, Topeka.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—J. H. Dunsmuir, Jacksonville; J. H. Shaffer, Grasshopper Falls; W. P. Popenoe, Topeka.

GENERAL DEPUTY—J. A. Cramer, Lawrence, Kan.

STATE DEPUTIES—W. P. Popenoe, Topeka.

SPECIAL DEPUTIES—W. S. Hanna, Shawnee, Franklin co.; J. J. Sutton, Eldorado, Butler co.; J. H. Nelson, Jackson, Gr. Lettette; S. B. Shirley, Buffalo, Wilson co.; T. E. Tabor, Lawrence, Douglas co.; D. C. Coffey, Humboldt, Allen co.; E. A. Dodge, Marion Centre, Marion; Z. Meredith, Olathe, Johnson co.; J. Baker, Appleton, Bourbon co.; H. Parmenter, Solomon, Dickinson; J. N. Bailey, Oklawaha, Jefferson co.; W. S. Mathews, Seneca, Nemaha co.; U. M. Morgan, Jarbalo, Leavenworth; T. S. Floyd, Sedgewick City, Harvey; F. C. Heron, Huron, Atchison co.; B. H. Bradshaw, No. Cedar, Jackson; J. C. Limbeck, Polk, Polk co.; J. M. Warden, Vernon, Cowley co.; J. B. Zimmerman, Topeka, Sedgewick; J. F. Hackett, Garnett, Anderson co.; J. P. Fournier, Girard, Crawford co.; J. D. Wait, Greeley, Lincoln co.; J. L. Blair, Severence, Doniphan co.; A. A. Wilcox, Coloma, Woodson co.; J. B. Welding, Robinson, Brown co.; G. W. Summerville, McPherson co.; J. D. Wait, Greeley, Lincoln co.; J. C. 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## WHAT BECOMES OF THE MONEY?

EDITOR FARMER:—It may surprise you that such a dreary number as myself should so far presume upon the intelligence of your readers and yourself as to claim a place in your paper, but I hope your sense of my weakness may not deter you from allowing me space enough to ask a question.

My attention has been attracted to a little matter in connection with the Grange business that to me at least looks a little "queer to the eye." A State Deputy informs us that in Kansas are 750 granges, with a membership of 25,000 or 30,000; also, a notice in another column of your paper discloses the fact that the State Grange is in debt. Now, counting the average initiation fee at \$3.00 each, and a membership of 25,000, means the round sum of \$75,000 sent up to the State Grange by the subordinate granges, and yet it is in debt. Hence the query, *What becomes of the money?*

But this is not all. According to the last statement I have seen, there are in the United States near 6,000 granges—there may be many more by this time—counting the average initiation the same as the Kansas granges, \$1.00 each—which is doubtless too low an estimate for the older and more thickly settled States—and the amount sent up to the several State Granges by their subordinates reaches the princely sum of \$600,000. Perhaps one million would be nearer the true figures. In the face of the above, is it any wonder that one already a little skeptical should inquire, "What becomes of the money?" If I was a granger perhaps I might know. However, I shall insist on knowing first, for if my reckoning even approximates correctness, it is suggestive of full pockets somewhere. Is it not possible that the grange business is another credit mobiler and somebody is fattening, as is usually the case, on the credulity if not the absolute stupidity of the farmers. Please give us more light on the subject.

WILLIAMSON.

Grand View, Wyandotte co., Kan.

## WATER POWERS IN KANSAS.

Kansas Rivers Full Even in Dry Seasons—Their Peculiar Usefulness for Manufacturing purposes.

URON "water powers in Kansas." We take the following extracts published in the *New York Tribune*. The article is from the pen of our valuable correspondent Josiah Copley and presents facts which may be new even to old settlers.

More and steadier water power is quietly running to waste in Kansas than in any other State in this Union. Were this to be said of Idaho or Montana it would meet with prompt and unhesitating credence; but that strong and unfailing streams should be found in Kansas, where there are neither mountains nor extensive forests, where there are no heavy snows, and where all the rivers have their sources either on the great plains or on our undulating prairies, is really remarkable. The annual rainfall in Kansas is fully up to the average of the Atlantic States. During the spring and early summer months we have what may be called our rainy season. The latter part of summer, autumn and winter are usually dry.

Our larger streams, such as the Kansas, the Neosho, the Republican, the Solomon, the Blue, and many other considerable streams, flow in deep channels through vast deposits of sandy alluvium, often several miles wide. So deep are those channels that the streams rarely overflow their banks. During the rainy season these deposits are charged with all the water they can absorb. They are reservoirs of immeasurable capacity, which are slowly and steadily discharged by percolation as the streams sink lower and lower in their channels, and thus maintain their flow during the most protracted drouths, such, for example, as that of the present year.

During the present year the people of Lawrence erected a very substantial dam across the Kansas river in the midst of their city. It is mainly composed of massive stone work, with flumes of fifty feet and sixty feet—one on the north and the other on the south shore—through which the water is carried into canals or races running down the banks of the river. The work is nearly completed. The water is lifted some eight feet by the dam, and there is a fall or rapid below of about one foot more.

What has been done at Lawrence can be done at many other points on the same river, and also on smaller streams, such as the Neosho, the Blue, the Republican, the Grasshopper, the Solomon and others. At Junction City a race of less than a mile will throw the water of the Republican across the peninsula into the Smoky Hill river, a considerable distance above their confluence. A dam of moderate elevation will give, with the natural fall, a head of about twenty feet, and probably as much power as that at Lawrence. The Republican comes down from the north west, and has an average natural fall of not less than ten feet to the mile, so that the water can be worked over and over many times. At the close of the long drouth of the present year, it had a volume of water sufficient to drive the heaviest works. The Solomon, some forty miles further west, is similar to the Republican, but smaller. The Big Blue, which unites with the Kansas at Manhattan, and flows southward from Nebraska, through a magnificent country, is perhaps our best water power stream. I have seen less water in the Schuylkill above Philadelphia than the Blue had at its lowest depression this year; and as the water can be used many times in its course southward, it may become the Merrimack of Kansas. At Blue Rapids and Waterville there are already fine flouring mills and a woolen factory, and all doing well. A paper mill is in progress. Near Manhattan there is a very substantial dam and a large flouring mill. When I was there, near the end of our late severe drouth, I estimated that there was water enough to operate a dozen such mills. It was pouring over the dam in an unbroken cascade more than 200 feet long, in the spray of which we saw little rainbows. The Grasshopper is a much smaller stream; but in its measure it possesses the same character of permanence, and the same is true of numerous other streams which I need not particularize.

Sins are like circles in the water, when a stone is thrown into it one produces another. When anger was in Cain's heart murder was not far off.

## Society in the Country.

One of the chronic complaints made by farmers is that they have no society—that they are so isolated, have none of the social privileges which might be theirs were they living in towns. This is often used by farmers' sons, daughters and wives as a reason why the homestead should be sold or rented and the family move into town near to church and school. These reasons are sometimes valid. But it is often the case that a neighborhood of farmers make no effort to employ their own resources in social development. There is no neighborhood cohesion. Every man's hand is against the other man's hand; every woman nurses scandal against every other woman. The amenities of life are neither known nor nursed. There is no friendly interchange of visits. The long winter evenings come and go and no neighbor ever sees the other except as they chance to meet at the blacksmith's shop, in the market, on the road or at church. They neither get together to talk over farm or other matters. There are no reading, singing, debating, dramatic, or other clubs formed among the young folks. They have to go to town for amusement or profit.

Need we say that this is both wrong and unnecessary? Suppose the material out of which country society is to be composed is crude and uncultivated? Cultivate it. Here is a field for effort on the part of the more intelligent. Stimulate thought and action in this direction and it will be astonishing how much the crudest and most untutored will learn in a short space of time. At any rate, hold neighborhood meetings. Gather together at the home of some one once a week, and strive to develop friendly feeling, neighborhood pride and ambition, home talent and resources. Let old and young meet. Abandon formalities which only freeze out natural action and beget no warmth. Go in for a good time, in some way. Combine instruction with amusement. Plan some project which shall enlist the active co-operation of all. Treat no one as unimportant. Make every one old and young, feel that he or she has a place, and is expected to act a part. Commend what is done well and kindly and considerately criticize whatever may be improved.

Why, this isolation of which so many complain can be broken. It should be. It will be. We are glad to know that the Patrons of Husbandry are an agency to this end. But thousands will not join it; and those thousands should substitute something else for it which shall meet the social wants and awaken the social spirit among farmers. There are a hundred ways for improvement and pleasure which will suggest themselves the moment the ice of reserve and self-distrust is broken. These winter evenings should be utilized to get acquainted with each other to lift each other up and any neighborhood effort of this sort should include all! Try it!—*Rural New Yorker*.

## PULLING EACH OTHER DOWN.

Some of the New-Hampshire farmers have a fresh way of putting things. For instance, one of them is reported as saying at a recent farmers' meeting in that State:—

"As a class, farmers don't work together; they split and trip up each other. If the men here today could have the selection of officers of the State they wouldn't probably choose farmers. 'The moment one farmer begins to get up a little, we get jealous and pull him down."

We don't assert that this is true of farmers more than of any other class. There is too little fraternity among men. Some secretly, if not openly, rejoice when a rival of their own class is in trouble and falls. Perhaps we don't all do so; but as a rule we are too much inclined to be envious of, and captious concerning, men who get up higher than we are, or acquire places which we seek. Co-operation and fraternity help us to crush out such propensities. Let us try. Men and Brethren and Sisters, to keep the evil in ourselves under control and cease pulling each other down. *[Rural New Yorker]*.

We are sorry to say there is too much truth in this remark of our contemporary. We heard a prosperous farmer of the Bay State say not long ago, one who has got ahead of his indolent neighbors, "I have not a doubt that I have neighbors that would rejoice within, to see my barn on fire." This is of that same spirit cited above from the Granite State. The Republican party of the Granite State has nominated a genuine farmer for governor, a man who is, as he has been all his life a farmer, and is now in the neighborhood of tree-score and ten, an active, energetic man who has made farming pay; and yet we have good reason to know that there are farmers in that State who will not support him, which, if farmers and workmen will do, he will be triumphantly elected. Will they do it? *Nous verrons.*—*Boston Cultivator*.

From the Prairie Farmer.

## THE ATTEMPT WILL FAIL.

There is just now a studied and deliberate attempt on the part of that portion of the press that is run in the interest of railroads, to bring odium upon the Farmers' Movement, by denouncing its efforts to control and regulate railroads as the embodiment of communism. The charge was first made by Mr. T. B. Blackstone, of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, in this state, and has been seized by monopoly advocates all over the country as a cry by which they may divert attention from railway machinations, and bring disrepute upon the cause that threatens to bring the railway system of the country under control of the legislative and judicial branches of the government. It is a cunning, and in many quarters, an effective effort, but they can rest assured that it will prove futile. The farmers of this country are not communists and have no sympathy with communistic doctrines. They are bound to fight combination with combination, but this is not Communism. They firmly believe in co-operation to secure mutual benefits in trade and commerce, but this is not Communism. They may demand that legislatures and courts shall regulate the traffic of transportation companies, but this has no connection with Communism. They may ask of congress other ways failing them, that the government shall regulate commerce between the states, or build a railway, but they do not wish to disturb the rights and privileges of private property. They justly draw a distinction between the rights of a railway company and the rights of an individual or private corporation. They believe clearly and firmly, as the Illinois Board of Railway and Warehouse Commissioners say, (after citing numerous decisions) that there is an inseparable connection between the right of eminent domain and the right to supervise and control the use for which private property is taken and appropriated by the exercise of the right of eminent domain. The one always accompanies the other. They cannot be divorced. In other words, the constitutional right of eminent domain necessitates the keeping of property for public use as

well as the taking of it for such use. It is admitted by all that a right of eminent domain, being a sovereign power, is inalienable; and it would seem to follow that the right to supervise and control the use for which private property is taken by virtue of the sovereign power of the state, is also inalienable. They believe that railroads are public highways, constructed under authority of the state, by aid of the right of eminent domain, and that hence they are subject to public control. Also that if these roads are not subject to public control, then the whole commerce of the country is really subject to uncontrollable taxation, at the discretion of railway managers.

This is all there is of this question and this charge of communism that railway minions are attempting to saddle upon the farmers. It is a desperate, and we will add, a despicable, attempt, but it will fail. Farmers everywhere will spurn the charge.—*Prairie Farmer*.

From Colmans' Rural World.

## AMERICAN CHEAP TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION.

The association convened in Washington, D. C., at Lyceum Hall, January 14, and after an address by President Josiah Quincy, appointed a committee on credentials, which reported eighteen states and territories as represented. This number was increased by the subsequent appearance of delegates from the British Provinces, Dacotah, etc., so that not less than twenty-one or twenty-two states, territories and provinces were represented.

The subject matter of the convention comprised water transportation and railway transportation, upon both of which subjects elaborate papers were read and committees chosen to report.

The second day, Mr. Froebel, of Georgia, delivered an elaborate and much praised address upon water transportation, and on the third day, an address on national railway highways was delivered by Mr. Flagg, of Illinois, who was followed in the evening by Mr. Moore, of the same state, with some statistics of the great movement of the products through Chicago from the Northwest. Mr. Thurber, of New York, chairman of the railway committee, and Mr. Thomas, of Iowa, chairman of the water transportation committee, made majority reports from their respective committees. Minority reports were made from both committees, but after considerable discussion, the majority report of the water transportation committee was recommended and revised. Subsequently the majority reports were both adopted, recommending:

1. A railway bureau, to regulate inter-state commerce, and a national freight railway on the part of Congress; and state legislation on numerous points relating to railways.

2. The improvement of the various water ways, natural and artificial, of the country.

These reports were submitted to the senate and house committees on Saturday evening, the 17th, with remarks by various gentlemen of the committees.

Hon. Josiah Quincy, of Boston, was elected president for the coming year; R. H. Ferguson of Troy, N. Y., secretary; F. R. Shurber, of N. Y. city, treasurer, and a vice president for each state and territory.

The next meeting will be held perhaps in early summer, at Richmond, Va. It ought to have come west. The outlook is something like this: The continuous discussion kept up is clearing up men's minds and enforcing the necessity of controlling transportation. Our congressmen, from the West at least, admit that the popular demand for cheaper transit must be met, or they will go down to dishonored political graves; so it seems very probable that some things will be done, chief and most probable among which are, the improvement of the mouth of the Mississippi, and the establishment of a railway bureau or commission to report upon and perhaps regulate inter-state commerce.

We found here, as well as elsewhere, that the western men, from having given longer consideration to the subject, are far ahead of their co-workers from the east and south. The Dartmouth college precedent, which has been fairly blown out of water in our Illinois discussions, was still fondly cited by men in the convention. In this respect our southern and eastern brethren have much to learn—but it is only a question of time when they too will see that railroads are essentially public highways, and must be controlled as such in the public interest.

W. C. F.

## PEABODY GRANGE.

PEABODY GRANGE No. 199, P. OF H., Jan. 24, 1874.  
Resolved: As a counterbalance to the "Plover Resolution," adopted by twenty Manufacturing companies of the West, viz:

Moline Plow Co., Moline; Deere & Co., Moline; Moline & Co., Rock Island; P. & H. Smith & Co., Pekin; P. D. Brewster & Co., Peru; Furst & Bradley, Chicago; St. Joseph Man. Co., Mishawaka; Malcherhoff, Dent & Co., Ottawa; Briggs & Knapp, Rockford; P. Cummings & Co., Dixon; F. R. Orvis & Co., Dixon; Decatur Agl Works; R. Hanna & Co., Peoria; Wier Plow Co., Monmouth; Kinsey Mfg. Co., Geneseo; J. T. Walton, Bloomington; Haggood & Co., St. Louis; Monitor Co., Minneapolis; Laraway, King & Co., Dauber, McKinney & Co., Minneapolis; Minnesota; Mankato;

that we will buy no plows of the above manufacturers, and recommend every patron and farmer in the country to do likewise, until they shall announce their willingness to sell their plows to farmers' organizations on as reasonable terms as they sell to any other party.

Resolved: That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the KANSAS FARMER and *Spirit of Kansas* for publication, and be spread upon the minutes of this Grange.

WILL F. HOCH, Sec. p. t.

## ARNOLD GRANGE.

At a meeting of the Arnold Grange, No. 280, held at their room in Doniphan county, Kansas, January 24, 1874, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved: That the resolution offered by Representative Anthony, in the House of Representatives, in Topeka, assembled January 16, 1874, that the acceptance of a free or dead head pass from any railroad company by any member of the Legislature places the recipient under obligations to said railroad company to that extent that he cannot remain an impartial legislator.

The above met with our hearty approbation. Resolved: That our Representatives are respectfully requested to pass in their railroad checks to the clerks of the house, thereby restoring confidence in their rectitude to their constituents. Otherwise pass in your resignation, and come home.

A. G. MARTIN, Chairman.

JOHN D. PENNY, Sec'y.

White Cloud, Kan., January 26, 1874.

It has been said that it must be easy to break into an old man's house, because his gait is broken and his locks are few.

## Letter from Pardee, Kan.

PARDEE, KAN., Jan. 18, 1874.

EDITOR FARMER: A Grange, called Prairie Queen, was organized in school district No. 28, Center township, Atchison county, by F. C. Herron, Deputy, on Friday evening January 17, consisting of 22 members, all live men and women. The officers elected are as follows:

Master, W. W. Hall; Secretary, E. E. Dockbaugh; Steward, A. M. Earhart; Assistant Steward, Wm. Robbi; Lecturer, Rev. P. Butler; Overseer, J. Helfrich; Treasurer, C. Pittman; Chaplain, A. Robbi; Gate Keeper, S. C. Bruce; Lady Assistant Steward, Miss Clara J. Helfrich; Ceres, Mrs. C. A. Helfrich; Pomona, Miss Ella Loper, Flora, Miss Libbie G. Hulings.

The members are all alive to their duty, and interests, and we expect a prosperous time.

Yours, E. E. LOOKBAUGH, Sec'y.

## What the Patrons Propose to do.

1. To secure for themselves, through the granges, social and educational advantages not otherwise attainable, and to thereby, while improving their condition as a class, ennoble farm life, and render it attractive and desirable.

2. To give a full practical effect to the fraternal tie which unites them, in helping and protecting each other in case of sickness, bereavement, pecuniary misfortune, and want and danger of every kind.

3. To make themselves better and more successful farmers and planters, by means of the knowledge gained, the habits of industry and method established and the quickening of thought induced by intercourse and discussion.

4. To secure economies in the buying of implements, fertilizers, and family supplies, and in transportation, as well as increased profits in the sale of their products of labor, without enhancing their cost to the consumer.

5. To entirely abolish the credit system, in their ordinary transactions, always buying and selling on a cash basis, both among themselves and in their dealings with the outside world.

6. To encourage cooperation in trade, in farming, and in other branches of industry, especially those most intimately connected with agriculture.

7. To promote the true unity of the republic, by drawing the best men and women of all parts of the country together in an organization which knows no sectional bounds or prejudices, or owes no party allegiance.—*Rural Sun*.

## MR. GLADSTONE'S LATEST MOVE.

Mr. Gladstone has appealed to the country by securing the dissolution of parliament without waiting for it to assemble. When last year's session began, as our readers will remember, it was evident that trouble was likely to grow out of the Irish University bill, on which the Tories could best concentrate all the elements of opposition. When that bill came up the government suffered a decisive defeat, and according to British custom two courses were open to the ministry. Mr. Gladstone and his government had either to resign or to dissolve parliament, and by ordering a new election, submit to the people the question whether the government or the opposition represented the will of the nation. Of the two courses Mr. Gladstone chose the former, but after several abortive attempts had been made to form a new ministry which should command the confidence and support of parliament and people, a sort of compromise was effected by which Mr. Gladstone resumed office, that being upon the whole the most acceptable arrangement then practicable. From that day to this, however, the opposition leaders have insisted that there has been a conservative reaction against Mr. Gladstone's general policy, and it has seemed quite likely that the coming session of Parliament would bring trouble with it for the ministry. Mr. Gladstone has simply anticipated defeat and taken one of the two courses which defeat would be left open to him. He has secured the dissolution of parliament, and asked the people to say, by their votes in the new elections ordered, whether or not there has been a conservative reaction—whether or not the policy pursued by the government since 1868 is approved by the British nation.

It seems probable that the elections will result in favor of Mr. Gladstone and his party. His own confidence in this result is sufficiently shown by his action in asking the dissolution of parliament, while it was still a question whether that body would thwart his purposes on vital questions. But the surest indication of the liberal strength before the people is found in the fact that the Tory newspapers denounce the dissolution as a party trick. If they had any reason to hope for success in the elections, they would rather welcome an event which gives them an opportunity to strengthen themselves in parliament.

## Setting Tea Things.

Instead of the ever-recurring clatter and the loss of time incidental to putting all that is wanted twice a day in most families entirely away, and getting it out again for breakfast and tea, I have learned to get the necessary articles ready for the next meal immediately after washing them up from the former. Of course this necessitates the consecration of one tray to cups and saucers, etc., and will make it advisable to find or provide a shelf wide enough to hold it. But, as materially hastening to the operation of "bringing tea" fourteen times in every week, it would be worth some contrivance, for its comfortable accomplishment in all houses. It might be a curious test of the comparative prevalence of what is by courtesy termed "common sense," to ascertain how many individuals in the different classes of mistresses and servants, in their endeavor to carry out the above method, would naturally wash the tray first, and how many would begin with the cups and saucers.—*Godley's Lady's Book*.

A hot lemonade is one of the best remedies in the world for a cold. It acts promptly and efficiently, and has no unpleasant after effects. One lemon properly squeezed, cut in slices, put with sugar, and covered with a half pint of boiling water. Drink just before going to bed, and do not expose yourself on the following day. This remedy will ward off an attack of tea chills and fever if used promptly. We give it on the recommendation of one of the judges of our courts who is a just man and never takes bribes.

For the Kansas Farmer.]

## CHRISTMAS DAY AMONGST THE INDIANS.

BY W. H. F.

Christmas Day—the day that is most looked forward for by children, has passed, and along with it their old friend, Santa Claus, not to be seen again until another year has rolled by, when they will come to gladden the hearts of the old and young.

Having received a pressing invitation from the genial Agent here, Major Jonathan Richards, to spend Christmas day at the Agency School House, I gladly accepted it, and at noon on that day I wended my steps toward the Agency. Upon my arrival, I could not help contemplating the peaceful and snug looking buildings as they lay nestled at the bottom of a range of hills. The Agent's house, a fine frame building, with a large garden, pasturage and farm attached, presents a very picturesque scene, surrounded by fine old oaks cedars, etc., with neat looking cottages dotted about the slopes of the hills. The schoolhouse is likewise a large frame building, with a large field attached for the scholars to play and gambol in. On my arrival I was made welcome by the benign Major, and under his escort was shown over the building. He takes great pride in the Agency, and the improvements he is daily making, with the assistance of Mr. Carnell, his right bower, has made this place a paradise in the wilderness.

At 12:30 dinner for the scholars was announced, and led by the Agent we were taken to the dining-room, where, at two large, well-filled tables, sat about fifty young aborigines, presided over by M. A. Standing, head schoolmaster, a gentleman highly prized here, and Miss Pickard, matron of the school, a very intelligent and pleasing lady. These were most ably assisted by Mr. Henshaw, assistant school master, and his fascinating wife. To look at the beaming countenances of these Indian children, and at the astonishing rapidity with which they stowed away their dinner, told us how well they appreciated Christmas.

At two o'clock the guests, about 35, sat down to dinner, before tables covered with delicacies that did credit to the cooks. After a most sumptuous repast we all retired to witness the scrambling of the children for fruit.

At seven o'clock, we adjourned to the school room to witness the distribution of Christmas gifts to all the children. At the end of the room was a large cedar tree bending beneath the weight of various toys, Chinese lanterns, etc. The room was very handsomely decorated; on the walls were sundry designs worked in green leaves artistically arranged. The great taste shown by Mesdames Carnell, Hoag, Black and Miss Lottie Dunbar, in so skillfully changing the room to such a bewitching appearance did them great credit. Soon after our arrival, we were joined by Santa Claus, who looked as if he had made a long journey from the snowy regions, much to the astonishment of the children, who were afraid of him at first, but after he had distributed the presents amongst them, from off the tree, he got into their favor. Their happy faces, making the room ring with their light and joyous laugh, well repaid the ladies and gentlemen who had labored to produce this happy scene. This merry-making and happy day will never be forgotten by them; before the day was over they wanted to know when "heap big Sunday" and the good "snow man," as they designated Christmas day and Santa Claus, would come again.

After spending a very enjoyable evening with the ladies, we all took our departure. As Christmas after Christmas rolls by us, spending them, perhaps, each one in a different clime, I shall always remember with pleasure my Christmas Day at the Wichita Indian Agency amongst those happy young aborigines, associated with the hospitalities of Mr. Richards and his charming lady assistants. Wichita Agency, I. T., Dec. 27, 1873.

Letter from Lyndon, Kan.

LYNDON, January 10, 1874.

EDITOR FARMER: You request farmers to write up their thoughts and send them to you, and, in compliance with that request, I will send you a few thoughts in regard to the much talked of Mortgage Exemption law.

Generally, all the articles which I have read I have failed to see any suggestions for a law which would be just and equitable to all parties, and now for my idea in regard to it:

It seems to me that if the assessment law was enforced as it stands on the statute books, where it says: "All property shall be assessed at its true value in money," and then a law passed requiring the person holding mortgaged property to pay the tax assessed against it and allowing him to charge the tax paid on the mortgaged part against the mortgage, all parties would pay their just share of the tax. Let me explain, suppose A buys a farm of B, for \$10,000, pays \$5,000 down and gives a mortgage for the other \$5,000, then let A pay all the taxes on the land, yet, at the same time, permit him to have credit on the mortgage for one-half of the amount of the taxes, which would be perfectly just, as each in reality owns half of the land. Another improvement over the old would be that no mortgage would escape taxation. There would be still another advantage in such a law which would be that all mortgages on property in the State would pay tax in the State, while under the old law, if a mortgage on property in this State was held in another State it was not taxable here. I will not stop to defend my position in regard to enforcing the assessment law as it reads as it is, I think, too plainly just to need argument.

JNO MARSDEN.



## The Kansas Farmer.

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

## TERMS: CASH IN ADVANCE.

One Copy, Weekly, for one year, \$2.00  
 One Copy, Weekly, for six months, 1.00  
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One Insertion, 20 cents per line, nonpareil type.  
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 One Year, 10 cents per line, nonpareil, each insertion.  
 Special Notices, 25 cents per line. No advertisement taken for less than one dollar.

## SPECIAL RATES FOR LARGE CONTRACTS.

In the Breeder's, Nurserymen's and Seedmen's Directories we will print a card of three lines for one year, for \$3. This will give a circulation to the card of nearly 20,000 copies during the year, the best offer ever made by a first-class weekly paper.

## THE ELECTION OF U. S. SENATOR.

The present election of United States Senator for Kansas, to fill the unexpired term of Alexander Caldwell, has been, in many respects, the most singular one that ever occurred in Kansas. It is true that there has been less of absolute barter and sale of votes for cash, or its equivalent, than heretofore, but we are not so certain that there has not been equally as much political chicanery and back-room small jobs put up as in the past.

The multiplicity of candidates has given wide scope for the display of tactics and shallow intrigues. What is most singular in all this, is the innocent belief indulged in by the average politician, that his "tricks that are vain, and ways that are dark," are not understood, and that he is really doing something wonderfully shrewd and mysterious. The lobbyist looks wise, and pretends to be in possession of the latest plans of the enemy, and can give the latest sensational story. He blows and strikes, tearing down or building up, maligning or praising, as may be necessary. The invention of lies of every size and color, and the blacking and damning of men's characters, are especially accomplishments that no first class lobbyist is lacking in. A dozen active and determined lobbyists will change a doubtful case any day. The laboratic business-like work, the division of the labor of the seeing of members, the repetition of rumors and doubts, or the confident assumption of power, change men's minds without their knowing the reason why.

It may not be the most modern idea, but we must confess we hope to see the day when all this machinery will be dispensed with, and the senator, as well as all other high officers, be elected directly by the people.

## GOOD NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

Word reached us last week, too late for press, through Messrs Folks and Brodbeck, that a vein of coal, three and one-half feet thick, had just been struck near the city of Wellington, in Sumner county, at a depth of only 259 feet. This, if it develops as it promises, solves the fuel problem of that beautiful country, and we may expect to see a tide of emigration turn thitherward that has been unexampled in the history of Kansas. We congratulate that energetic, intelligent portion of our State on their great discovery made by the efforts of Mr. Abrell, the lucky owner of the deposit.

## THE JOINT CONVENTION.

The closing scene of the election of Ex-Gov. James M. Harvey to the United States senate is commented upon by all as one of great excitement and confusion, and therefore more or less disgraceful. It is pitiful that the joint convention, which should be the most dignified and decorous of all deliberative bodies, should so far forget its character as to become a wild and unmanageable mob, but the general admission that it does so forget its character and its duty is an additional argument why the office of Senator of the United States should be made elective by the people.

## OUR NEW SENATOR.

James M. Harvey is the first Granger elected to Congress. We congratulate the people of the State that we are to send the first Patron to the U. S. Senate, a representative of the solid sensible yeomanry of our State. His election we believe to be the first fruits of this great movement, which means in politics, better men and purer legislation. The people expect in James M. Harvey, a representative who will fearlessly stand as the exponent of this reform movement. That the sterling integrity of Governor Harvey will be proof against the insidious offers of the great stock jobbers at our National Capital, those of us who have known him for many years, have not a shadow of doubt. Governor Harvey as one of the people, will carry with him the earnest support of the laboring classes of our State, who believe in his election they have secured a representative. We are not asking for class or special legislation, but what we do want is a representative who will not ignore the rights of the people and who will dare to say so, and so vote in the halls of Congress. His election secured without money or promises of office is a high tribute to merit and integrity.

## THE FARMER IS GROWING.

To our friends in all parts of the State who are so generously giving time and labor in extending the circulation of the FARMER, we wish to express our many thanks and hope by giving our time and earnest labor to the work

of making a first class paper to merit a continuance of this warm support. We have an ambition to make for the great west an agricultural paper unrivalled for original merit and scope and breadth. A high-toned, unexceptionable family paper is a want felt and expressed on all sides. To these ends we are laboring and ask the help by subscriptions and correspondence. Those who have items, queries or ideas we expect to hear from. Our subscription list comes in at an average of over FIFTY PER DAY, which we are pleased to think is an endorsement of the paper. If you have a Grange or club or society of any kind in your neighborhood send us word, and we will send specimen copies and posters free.

## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Our new advertisements include those of Kern, Steber & Co., of St. Louis, whom we know to be reliable and trustworthy. Their catalogue is a beautiful specimen of typography, and well worth sending for by every farmer, gardener and florist.

Storrs, Harrison & Co., of Painesville, Ohio, are well known and reliable dealers. Their trade in Kansas is large, and has been satisfactory to those who have purchased of them.

James J. H. Gregory, of Marblehead, Mass., has for many years done an immense trade in the West. We have grown crops from Mr. Gregory's seed, and they always gave satisfaction.

Readers replying to advertisements will confer a favor upon us by mentioning where they saw the advertisement.

## OUR HARD-PAN OFFER.

Our readers will please bear in mind that the 'Hard-Pan Offer'—twenty-five subscribers for one year for \$25, sent at one time, in one order—only continues for sixty days longer.

Subscriptions on this offer may be taken for any postoffice in the country. Additions to the Hard-Pan Clubs may be made at any time within the next sixty days, if not less than ten names are sent at one time. This offer gives everybody a chance to get a first class family journal at the cost of the white paper upon which it is printed. The Hard-Pan offer flanks hard times, and those who have seen and read the Farmer cannot do without it.

## LETTER FROM "MAC."

TOPEKA, KAN., Feb. 3, 1874.

EDITOR FARMER:—Permit me to say to your readers that the agony is over—Old Harvey was elected yesterday by a vote of 76, to the unexpired term of Alex. Caldwell, as senator of the United States.

Reformers Bronson, Boyd and Lawrence played at "stampedes," but their heavy strategy made no diversion in favor of their candidate, Ex-Governor Robinson.

The names on the roll of the joint convention that appear to me as most entitled to the confidence of workingmen and reformers are Simons, Simpson, Matheny, Allen, Beam, Conklin, Cusey, Edson, David Johnson, Leach, Mitchell, Robinson, Roe, R. B. Taylor, Williams, McGuire, Stowell, Campbell and Watts.

The men who bear the above names did everything in their power to secure harmonious action among the reformers, and, as the sequel proved, were not seeking to be with the majority simply because it was the majority.

"Old Harvey," as the senator elect is familiarly called, has it within his power to become the champion of the new movement, and if he is wise all will be well, if otherwise, the reformers who voted for him will be remembered hereafter at the ballot-box. MAC.

From the Topeka Commonwealth.

## JAMES M. HARVEY.

The legislature of the state of Kansas on the sixth vote, yesterday, elected Ex-Governor James M. Harvey in the United States senate during the unexpired term of Alexander Caldwell. Governor Harvey is too well known to Kansas people to need any extended introduction, though a brief review of his public career is interesting just now in view of his latest elevation.

Governor Harvey was born in the state of Virginia and removed in early life to Adams county, Illinois, where he was reared as a farmer. He studied civil engineering, and served one term as deputy surveyor of Adams county. He came to Kansas in 1853, and began farming, which he has followed as a regular occupation ever since. He served in the army during the war of the rebellion, as a captain of the 10th Kansas regiment of volunteers.

In 1868 he was nominated for governor on the republican ticket and was elected by a large majority. He was re-nominated for the second term in 1870, was again elected, and at the expiration of that term returned to his farm in Riley county, and last summer filled a contract as government surveyor in the western part of the state. Governor Harvey was originally a whig, but became a pronounced republican as soon as that party was organized, and has been an unflinching adherent to republican principles ever since.

The new senator is not a brilliant man nor a fluent and ready orator, though he is possessed of qualities more in demand just now because somewhat rarer. He is in the best sense of the term of a safe man. He subjects all his actions to deliberate judgment and, as a result, seldom makes a mistake. It is not the deliberation of weakness, however, for the governor is known to be "very set in his way" when once he has made up his mind to the performance of an official act. While it is known that his common sense, which in him serves for more distinguished qualities, can be implicitly trusted to keep him from the commission of mistakes, it may be truly said of him he has never been even suspected of dishonesty either in public or private life. In a word, he is honest, prudent, practical and self-contained.

Governor Harvey is a practical farmer, and is in sincere and sensible sympathy with all legitimate and practicable reform measures.

But he will never be found aiding or comforting a set of political shysters in getting up a third party. He is as he has always been, an uncompromising republican, and will be found ever acting with that party during his senatorial term. He has always raised his voice and exerted his influence against the corruptions that have existed in Kansas politics. His election is a recognition of the services he has rendered in purifying the state and the existence of a strong popular sentiment against public rascality. The election of Governor Harvey will be a signal for the cessation of the unexampled abuse that has been heaped upon the state and its politics, and the principal endeavors of his brief senatorial term will be directed to giving the state a more respectable name and a more worthy record among the now scornful sisterhood.

SOUTH HAVEN, SUMNER CO., KAN.

January 23, 1874.

EDITOR FARMER: Your weekly FARMER came to me a few days since, and gives such satisfaction that I have concluded to take it, though able to take but one agricultural paper this year. Kansas farmers have no excuse now for not supporting their home paper in preference to any other.

The winter has been very light. Breaking prairie was not interfered with on more than two days before Christmas. Weather rather wet since the holidays; the prospects for a good yield of fall wheat very promising. Corn crop tolerably good last season, but owing to the demand from new settlers, corn is worth 40 cents in this locality. Money is so scarce here, that unless considerable time is given the settlers in which to pay for their land, many of them will lose their claims and improvements. Money loans as high as sixty (60) per cent., with real estate security. Relief by Congress would be one of the most beneficial acts.

Yours, J. JAY.

EDITOR FARMER: We are doing well in this out-of-the-way place. We have a Grange organized, with 20 male and 11 females. We mean business, as we intend to get our implements and groceries by wholesale, in fact, everything we farmers need. Granges are springing up all around us. Two-thirds of the farmers will be enrolled within our Order in less than three months. Fall wheat looks well, up to date, and the stock is doing well. I have added Robin to my herd of Short-Horns. Robin was sired by Improved Clarendon, dam, Red Bird, bred by B. F. Vanmetre, of Kentucky. Price paid, \$250.

Cottage Hill Grange, No. 767, Horace Smith, Master; E. J. Robinson, Secretary.

BALDWIN CITY, KAN., Jan. 26, 1874.

EDITOR FARMER: After five days tramping over the ice of last week, I have succeeded in raising the club sent with this. I gave the subscribers the benefit of your "Hard Pan" offer, throwing in my time and boot leather.

As soon as convenient, I will write an article for the FARMER. It is not in my line, but as the farmers all seem to be "putting in their gab" I am induced to do likewise, even if it finds its way to your ample waste basket.

Very respectfully, ARTHUR WEBSTER.

PAWNEE STATION, BOURBON CO., KAN.

January 27, 1874.

EDITOR FARMER: I have received several copies of your very valuable paper, and perused with interest the contents. As a farmer's, and particularly a Granger's paper I would recommend it as being far superior to any other paper published in the State, as it is devoted entirely to our interests. We not only get the suggestions of the best practical farmers in the State but the market reports, workings of the Grange, etc., with all the latest news.

I think I can get up a large club of subscribers in our vicinity for the FARMER.

G. W. LAIDLAW,

Sec'y North Star Grange, No. 537.

TEHAMA, KANSAS.

EDITOR FARMER: Please give me information through the FARMER of the best variety, what kinds, and how many of each for an apple orchard of 200 trees; also, what variety of pears is the best to plant in Southern Kansas. I want to have them in succession from the earliest to the latest. JARED P. ATKINSON.

LENEXA, JOHNSON CO., KAN.

January 26, 1874.

FRIEND HUDSON: Allow me to congratulate you on your new avocation, that of journalism. The improvements made in the KANSAS FARMER would indicate that you are an old and thorough journalist. Your paper is here in my office and all seem to be greatly interested in it. May be we can get up a "hard pan" club.

G. M. BOWER.

CLEAR CREEK, KAN., Jan. 23, 1874.

EDITOR FARMER: There is a new disease among the cattle here, from which several have died. It resembles "black-leg," but the blood settles along the back instead of in the legs.

I lost two on Tuesday last, one a yearling this spring, the other a two-year-old. They were taken sick about 2 P. M., and were dead by dark, and seemed to suffer great pain. By pressing along the back the blood could be heard working along under the skin.

I would like to know if any thing can be given as a cure or preventive. Yours truly,

T. V. WILSON.

P. O. address, Leghorn, Pott Co., Kan.

## General News.

THE Kansas City Times correspondent gives the following interview with the new Senator. Your correspondent immediately upon the close of the convention sought the Senator elect, and after stating the object of the visit to secure from his own lips his position, the following conversation ensued:

Correspondent—Governor if you have no objection the TIMES would like to know just how you consider your election, whether a victory for the strait Republicans or for the Reformers.

Harvey—Unquestionably for the Reformers. Correspondent—You have identified yourself with the Reform movement have you not?

Harvey—Yes, a year ago I was among the most active against Pomeroy and thoroughly believe in reform. I am a Republican, though by no means a party man or partisan.

Correspondent—Do you consider your election an endorsement of the Farmers movement.

Harvey—Undoubtedly.

Correspondent—Do you go to Washington as an Ingalls or anti-Ingalls man.

Harvey—I go to Washington as Mr. Ingalls' equal.

Correspondent—You have received no support from what is known as the Administration or Ring party, have you?

Harvey—No, I have always considered myself the farmers' candidate. I am a farmer, and always have been a farmer myself, and am now elected by the farmers.

The foregoing is enough of the conversation to indicate the new senator's position. He goes to the United States Senate as the first granger ever elected to that body. In all respects he is the Kansas Booth, or in other words he is to this state what Booth is to California. His election is an unqualified victory for the Opposition, 36 out of 45 that voted for him on ballot of the House, and two out of six in the Senate, or in all 38 out of the original 51 votes that unquestionably elected him were cast by members of the Opposition caucus; a fact that all the sophistry and evasion of the dying organs cannot do away with. Of the Stover force, but three even took part in the Opposition caucus, while the Phillips and Plumb men were in about the same proportion. The entire 18 of Simons's were all representatives of southern Kansas. Osborn fought Harvey at every step, as did also Stover, Phillips and Plumb. Harvey was never touched by the ring or administration men, but was ridiculed, scoffed at and snubbed on every occasion, and it is now positively sickening to hear the ring men claim Harvey as their man.

THE Agricultural Committee of the National House of Representatives has appointed a sub-committee to take into consideration the complaints of the Grangers. These complaints are pouring into Congress from all sections of the country, and embrace a multitude of subjects, including transportation with its rates and inconveniences; also, the great cost of manufacturing wheat into flour.

The Wisconsin Grangers have resolved that the taxation of railroads should be increased to 5 per cent., and that the United States Government should provide currency enough to do away with any danger of panic.

THE United States Attorney-General, on Jan. 16, received a dispatch from the United States Marshal at Austin, Texas, saying: "The newly-elected Governor, Coke, was inaugurated last night. Armed men are guarding approaches to the offices and to the Capitol. Other armed men have possession of the legislative halls. A conflict seems inevitable. A message from you may save us from disaster." The Attorney-General replied: "I could only appeal to the parties to peacefully adjust their difficulties if possible. Cannot some one negotiate a settlement? I have no power to interfere with force, nor have you any duty to perform in respect to the matter except to use your influence." On the same day the President received a telegram from Gov. Davis, saying that under the Constitution he was entitled to hold the office until the 28th of April, and that he was making preparations to protect the officers of the State, and asked for military assistance. The Washington report adds: "There is no probability that the Government will interfere or make any change in the policy heretofore indicated in the recent telegram of the President to Gov. Davis, and in the response of Attorney-General Williams to the United States Marshal of Austin."

THE Correspondent of the Kansas City Times says that Mr. Taylor, of Wyandotte in withdrawing Mr. Hudson's name spoke in the highest terms of J. K. Hudson, and declared that he had never solicited a member to vote for him, or in any shape or manner log-rolled for the position. Col. Mason closed the debate with an eloquent tribute to Harvey, declaring that he could vote for him as an honest and pure man.

The Concordia Empire says of Senator Ingalls' timber-culture act: "We trust that Senator Ingalls' amendment to the timber-culture act, extending the time allowed for planting to three years, will pass. It is a wise thought, will greatly stimulate forest culture, and will be appreciated by the people of the great west."

Notice to Those Who Desire to Attend the State Grange.

The Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf railroad will make a rate of one and one-fifth fare for round trip, from the following named points: Fort Scott, Pleasanton, Paola, Olathe, to Kansas City. Tickets will be good from the 16th to the 18th going, and to return until the first of March. The tickets before return will be stamped by this agency.

Parties at other stations, desiring to take advantage of these rates will be obliged to purchase tickets to their stations, and ask for rate tickets at the above named stations.

J. G. OTIS, State Agent.

## GRANGE MEETING.

At a meeting of the members of the State Grange, residing in Shawnee county, Kansas, held at the Court House in Topeka, on the first Tuesday in February 1874, the following named persons were duly elected delegates to the legislative branch of the State Grange, to wit: Wm. Sims, H. C. Bush, G. G. Shellabarger.

C. C. GARDINER, Sec'y.

## Miscellany.

## The Abuse of the Eye.

Somebody with a correct idea of the way we abuse our eyes gives the following instances to illustrate the danger:

The sculpture Crawford was accustomed all his life to read lying down. To this, very largely, physicians attributed the loss of his eye. Very soon a cancer formed in the other, which caused his death.

The great historian Prescott lost his eyesight when a student by a bit of bread thrown in sport by a fellow at the table. Never be careless in such little matters. A pair of scissors or a fork thrown in sport or anger, has often caused the loss of an eye, which the wealth of the world cannot replace.

A friend, who was very ambitious to finish a set of linen for her brothers, spent almost a winter in fine stitching, sitting up often late at night, over the work, in which she took great delight. The result was the nerve of the eye was so injured that she was obliged wholly to give up sewing, knitting, and reading under penalty of becoming perfectly blind.

A young lady, who lived but ten miles by train from school, used to spend the time in studying a certain lesson while she was riding down in the morning. The result was a severe affection of the eyes, which disabled her from study a long time. It is always hurtful to the eyes to read in the train, though we may not see the bad effects so plainly when it happens only occasionally. A steady practice like this young lady's may produce even worse results when the system is in a bad state.

Never read by twilight, nor before eating in the morning. The little you gain in time will be doubly lost by a failing of the eyesight long before life's sundown.

I know a young clergyman who is a remarkably well read man, but whose eyes are a perfect deformity. He said he ruined them by reading at night, long and intently, when he was getting his education. He seems to have no control of the lids, which twitch and move in a most grotesque manner. Don't fancy you can do what you please with your eyes, and yet have them serve you faithfully. Take as good care of them as you would of gold, for gold can never replace lost eyesight.

At a late meeting of the Mexican Geographical Society, it was stated that some brass tablets had lately been discovered in the north of Brazil, near the coast, which were covered with Phoenician inscriptions telling of the discovery of this portion of America five centuries before Christ, by a Sidonian fleet, and giving the number of vessels, number of crews, and other interesting particulars.

A Writer in *Harvard* observed a nuthatch, or nutpecker, drive a nut into the ground with repeated taps of its beak, and on investigation he found six other nuts buried in close proximity to this one. In the winter the bird would frequently visit his hoards, taking enough to supply his present needs. This hoarding characteristic, the writer remarks, has hitherto been observed in no other birds than tame individuals of the family.—*Corvidae*.

Valedictory.—With this issue the *Topeka Blade* closes its career as a daily and weekly periodical for the present. To attempt to explain the whys and wherefores might not only weary the patience of the reader, but the writer, and so we will simply throw the mantle of charity over the whole affair, call it a "mistake" and say no more about it.—*Topeka Blade*.

Household Measures.—As all families are not provided with scales and weights referring to ingredients in general use by every household, the following may be useful:

Wheat flour, one pound is one quart.  
 Indian meal, one pound two ounces is one quart.  
 Butter, when soft, one pound one ounce is one quart.  
 Loaf sugar, broken, one pound is one quart.  
 White sugar, powdered, one pound one ounce is one quart.  
 Best brown sugar, one pound two ounces is one quart.  
 Eggs, average size ten eggs are one pound.  
 Sixteen large table-spoons are half a pint, eight are a gill, four half a gill, etc.

To Prevent Wood from Cracking.—A correspondent of the *English Mechanic* writes:

"Having a great deal to do with the seasoning of the harder and better kinds of wood, I find that they are all liable to crack badly at the ends. I generally give them three or four coats of glue on the ends only, which I find is a sure preventive, till the wood is well dry, and then cut on the quarter."

The Vinegar Polyp.—A very singular present has recently been made to the aquarium of the Jardin d'Acclimation at Paris; it is a medusa polyp, which, on the day after its entry into the pool assigned to it, had created a void around it, and skillfully got rid of all its neighbors. This was a mystery until the water of the pool was analyzed; the water was found to be converted into a solution of vinegar, and it was apparent that it was one of those very rare molluscs, the vinegar polyp, whose body when plunged into pure water gives presently a strongly characterized acetic solution. The working of this animal is very curious; it produces alcohol, which it transforms into vinegar. The poisonous mollusc was, of course, quickly withdrawn and placed in clarified vinegar in a closed jar, where it will pursue undisturbed the economical manufacture of the acid.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry*.

A KIND WORD FOR MOTHER.—Despise not thy mother when she is old. Age may wear and waste a mother's beauty, strength, limbs, sense and estate, but her relation as mother is as the sun when it goes forth in its might, for it is always in the meridian and knoweth no evening. The person may be gray headed, but her motherly relations are ever in its flourish. It may be autumn, yes, winter with a woman, but with the mother, as mother, it is always spring. Alas, how little do we appreciate a mother's tenderness while living. But when she is dead and gone, when the cares and coldness of the world come with withering to our hearts, we experience how hard it is to find true sympathy—how few will befriend us in misfortune—then it is that we think of the mother that we have lost.







## Literary and Domestic.

EDITED BY MRS. M. W. HUDSON.

## The Old Clock on the Stairs.

BY H. W. LONGFELLOW.

Somewhat back from the village street  
Stands the old-fashioned country seat.  
Across its antique porches,  
Tall poplar trees their shadows throw;  
And, from its station in the hall,  
An ancient time-piece says to all—  
"Forever—never!  
Forever—never!"

Half way up the stairs it stands,  
And points and beckons with its hands,  
From its case of massive oak,  
Like a monk, who under his cloak  
Crosses himself, and sighs, alas!  
With sorrowful voice, to all who pass—  
"Forever—never!  
Forever—never!"

By day its voice is low and light;  
But in the silent dead of night,  
Distinct as a passing footstep's fall,  
It echoes along the vacant hall,  
Along the ceiling, along the floor,  
And seems to say at each chamber door—  
"Forever—never!  
Forever—never!"

In that mansion used to be  
Free-hearted hospitality;  
His great fires by the chimney roared,  
The stranger fastened at his board;  
But like the skeleton at the feast,  
The warning time-piece never ceased—  
"Forever—never!  
Forever—never!"

There groups of merry children played,  
There young and maiden dreamers strayed;  
O, precious hours! O, golden prime!  
And influence of love, and time's prime,  
Even as a miser counts his gold,  
Those hours the ancient time-piece told—  
"Forever—never!  
Forever—never!"

From that chamber, clothed in white,  
The bride came forth on her wedding night;  
There, in that silent room of snow,  
The dead lay in his shroud of snow;  
And in the hush that followed the prayer,  
Was heard the old clock on the stair—  
"Forever—never!  
Forever—never!"

All are scattered now, and fled:  
Some are married, some are dead;  
And when I look, with throbs of pain,  
"Ah, when shall they all meet again,  
As in the days long since gone by?"  
The ancient time-piece makes reply—  
"Forever—never!  
Forever—never!"

Never here; forever there,  
Where all things, pain and care,  
And death and time shall disappear;  
Forever there, but never here!  
The hourglass of Eternity  
Sayeth this incessantly—  
"Forever—never!  
Forever—never!"

## SEWING.

Fanny Fern once said, "if children were only born with clothes and an education," and in taking care of a family of children the thought often recurs to us, we do not so much wonder about the education, but we have often pondered the question of why we are the only animals in the world, unprovided with natural clothing; not that we can bring ourselves to regret the fact, except for the reason that it would prevent untold suffering among poor and neglected children, although it entails a vast amount of labor, time and expense. There are few people who do not experience some pleasure in thinking of, and selecting their dress and none of us would be willing to sacrifice the privilege of exercising our own taste in measure, and adopt a uniform costume for any great length of time.

Poets at all times have sung the charms of the needle, but we must confess that for ourselves it has no greater fascination than any other work necessary to the comfort of our loved ones, and we believe that with most mothers who have to make and keep in repair the numerous articles and garments used by a household, the great question is how to accomplish it in the shortest time and best manner. Two rules, which we have found of great benefit, are, to have a grand cutting-out day occasionally, so that sewing may be always ready and then to make and finish one garment before another is begun. To be able to have sewing done in season, and to do it at convenient times, we must of course have material on hand, and we are inclined to think that in some families, this might be provided a little earlier, if the head of the house realized that it takes time to make, as well as money to buy clothing, and if the wife was privileged to spend a portion of the income where and how she pleased. When times are so hard that many of us have to buy just what we can, and do with as little as possible of everything, bear and forbear, must be the motto; and patience, perseverance and earnest, intelligent endeavor on the part of both husband and wife, will, in most cases bring better fortune.

In purchasing dry goods, as well as anything else, never buy what is not needed, because it is cheap, but try to buy what is needed when it is cheap, and remember that the best is always the cheapest.

We presume all women rejoice in the invention of the sewing machine, and yet it is a question with thinking housekeepers, as well as with the medical profession, whether it will not prove a curse instead of a blessing. If it does, there can be but one excuse made for it, and that is, woman's want of sense. Men expect labor-saving machinery to give them more time for study and thought and pleasure, and if we cannot take the same advantage of such help we have ourselves to blame for it. The swift flying needle tempts one to ruffle and tuck when before we would not have thought of it, but we must not carry this to a foolish extent, else, more time will be finally spent on a piece of goods than if it was made up by hand, and our time will be lost, for in many cases, the one object for which all this labor is expended is not attained, cheap goods are not improved by a profusion of trimming and the effect of fine goods is entirely spoiled by it. It is poor economy to put work worth twice as much as the goods, on a cheap calico dress, and women must learn to consider

their time worth money, is they would have their labor so valued by the lords of creation. It has been proven beyond dispute in manufacturing establishments, that to run a treadle machine constantly is very injurious exercise, we want no more knowledge than this, to realize the need of so managing our work, that it shall not be necessary to sit a whole day at a time at the sewing machine.

We have seen it suggested that steam be applied as a motive power to sewing machines, and we do not see why this could not be done in manufactories so sewing women need only guide the work, but in our homes the matter can only be regulated by forethought and intelligence and the exercise of sufficient moral courage to appear more plainly dressed than the woman who can go to a seamstress and say make me this and that, and make them so and so, and send the bill to my husband, for that fortunate class these few suggestions are not given.

For the Kansas Farmer.

## A FIT OF DISCONTENT.

BY MRS. CORA M. DOWNS.

"Along the curves of the coast the shadows of the water were a pure green, and the rocks growing still more distinct and sharp in the gathering dusk.

There was a cold smell of the sea in the air. A few stars came out overhead, and their light scarcely trembled on the smooth waters of the bay.

A cold, fresh scent of sea wind was about, but no wind.

Lambent skies, calm seas, and far mountains, gray and ghost-like, in the pale glow of the moon!

Oh dear! it makes one sigh from the depths of one's soul to think how we are shut up, boxed up, as it were, midway on the continent, days and days of journeyings to either ocean shore, and exiled from the mountain; "gray and ghost-like," dear in memory and beautiful as dreams.

It is no comfort to assure oneself that one is living on the isothermal line, on the grand highway of the nations; that we are a country favored of heaven and that our fertile valleys laugh with plenty.

This reminder of "a cold smell of the sea" has effectually put to flight all individual thanksgivings I might have had previous to reading the "Princess of Thule," in Lippincott's charming magazine.

I look out of my window, and what do I see? A miserable, winding, turbid streak of water, hugging a steep bank on the one side, and lapping a long, wide, level reach of sand on the other, which stretches out its unprofitable and dreary waste till bordered by the most unpicturesque growth of trees in the world, the mushroom-like cottonwood.

A shiver of ice creeps here and there over the river; there is neither glamour of romance or trait of poetical beauty where withal to clothe it; water without its crystal illusions, a river without lither haunting shore, luring one to wander and explore. Yet by this great artery of commerce, as some rascally speculators in bottom-lands continue to call it, here have we pitched our tents, and here are we likely to remain.

Never the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, nor the scent of the salt seas to stir new life into the heated pulses by and by, in still, sultry summer days.

Do n't quote and preach, whatever else you do—

My mind to me a kingdom is,  
and "Contentment is the handmaiden of Wisdom," or words that effect.

When one has a longing for one's native mountains; and the "cold smell of the sea in the air," a barrel of sermons about resignation and contentment wo'n't help the matter.

Nevertheless, we must not lose sight of our advantages. We are not bound to love the Missouri river—no, thank heaven for that! But there are the lines of railway, stretching hither and thither out into the Beyond and the Everywhere. If we "take the wings of the morning" we may soon see the "desert pierce," and flying along in the easy palaces of the Kansas Pacific Railway, a day and a night will bring us to a solitude of miles and miles numbered by hundreds of gray plains and limitless wastes of prairie. Shall we encamp, and try the "dug out" of a settler for awhile? This is the great dancing hall of the winds. Hither come they from the four corners of the earth, and hold high carnival. They have always had their own way till the steam power plowed a pathway for humanity over the trackless waste; and now, like the witches of Macbeth, their shrieks die out in hollow mockeries as the carved and gilded chariots of the railroad kings roll swiftly along their domain, unto that magic city of the plains, Denver, the key of the mountains of gold.

Nay, if we can not go eastwardly, we will go westwardly, and if the man who winds his watch in New York, and keeps winding it, without changing his time to suit his location and longitude, he will find himself going to bed in the afternoon, and getting up a little after midnight. Eastwardly or westwardly, we will be sure to run up against the mountains somewhere, and if you want a new sensation, oh, tired inhabitant of midland countries, take up your knapsack and start for the blessed clime of Colorado.

Arise at early dawn, and take the rear platform of your Pullman, so as to get the first glimmer on the towers and temples of Denver, and the pure white mountain tops beyond. It is the "Land, Ho?" of the voyager on the high seas. It is the "happy isle" we are to touch; we seem to feel that with the sun-god not yet climbing up the far east, that we are close up

on the gates of the dim border land where he goes down and leaves the world in night, "near to the baths of all the western stars."

It is a new lease of life to one who goes to Colorado for the first time.

Green travelers from the East, who have an idea that they will introduce a little of eastern culture and style into these remote regions, find out that the eternal spirit of progress has been here before them.

You may load yourself, Madame Follee, with diamonds, and the solid Denverians will look at you with a half suspicion that you are a gambler's wife; but come dressed in sober hues, and with a reverent face turned to the hills, something in your eyes shining as if of the

Spirit yearning in desire

To follow knowledge like a sinking star,

and if there is anything in you, or about you, to win respect, there is no denizen of the world's cities so ready in replies, so courteous to assist, as the resident of Denver.

Remembering the delights of one trip heretofore among the parks and canons of Colorado I had almost forgotten the homesickness of an hour ago, caused by that sudden longing for the salt marshes and the fresh sea-weed odors that refresh us as we drive beach-ward, and hear the Tritons moaning in their caves.

By and by the languid days will come. It makes one faint away on an instant, thinking of them.

How can one talk so much about going on a trip, and not go somewhere? "Bridget, pack up my breast-pin and tooth-brush." As the children say, "Let's pretend we are going to travel."

(Confidentially, is's going to rain; the mud is twelve inches deep; there is nowhere to go; and it being hard times—perhaps you have heard so several times lately—may be we had better sit still by a bright coal fire and only dream of going. We can see all we have talked about with our eyes shut. That's where we are on a level with kings and emperors.

Nevertheless, we will go somewhere, some day, *Nous verrons.*  
Wyandotte, January 29, 1874.

For the Kansas Farmer.

## A KANSAN IN EUROPE.—No. 3.

BY HAMBLER.

Ayr is a seaport town, of 18,000 inhabitants, about forty miles southwest from Glasgow, and as we must make the trip there and back the same day, we leave the hotel at 9 A.M. and walk to the vicinity of the railway station. Not seeing anything that looked like a depot, we venture to inquire of a policeman its whereabouts. "In front of you, sir; that large building to your right, and go up stairs"—so up we go two flights, and find ourselves in a large hall, with a lunch room on one side and waiting rooms on the other, with a ticket office and gate at the end. We purchase a first-class ticket to Ayr and return, for which we pay one pound four shillings and ten pence—nearly eight cents per mile in our currency—and as we have some minutes to spare before the departure of the train, we make an inspection of the waiting rooms. Each one has a sign over the door—first, second and third class. The first class room is about eighteen feet square, with oil-cloth on the floor, an old-style mahogany table in the centre, half a dozen hair bottom chairs, and an old lounge of the same material, with a plate-glass mirror of fair dimensions against the wall. This completes the furniture here. The second-class room is about the same size as the other, but is furnished with settees around the sides, something like those in this country, while the third-class has a common table in the centre, wooden benches around the sides and the floor sprinkled with sand. It has a smoky and filthy appearance. None of the rooms look as clean or as well as the depots in this country in towns of the same size. Just as we finish our notes the bell rings, the gate is thrown open, and we walk towards the train. Our ticket is punched as we pass through the gate by an official in blue uniform, with brass buttons and a broad gold band on his hat. The train, consisting of six or eight small cars, with the doors opening on the side, like the old stage coaches of this country, stood ready to receive us. The guard asks if we are first or second class, and showing our tickets he requests us to "step into this one, sir," and immediately on our stepping in he slams the door together and locks it. We find ourselves a prisoner, with two other passengers, in a small compartment with a seat on each side, upholstered with blue cloth and painted white overhead. It looks more like a stateroom on some steamboat than a passenger car. There is no stove, no water, or saloon—indeed, there is nothing for the accommodation or comfort of the traveling public. People who travel in America and grumble about the conveniences, do not appreciate their comforts. The station master starts the train with a silver whistle instead of the conductor's "all aboard," as in this country, and as we move out of the station we are somewhat surprised to see that we are on the tops of the houses and can look down on the streets and people below us from the small windows in the doors of our compartment. Soon we reach the country and come on a level with the ground again.

Our first stopping place is Paisley, the town where the celebrated shawls are made which are so much worn by ladies in America. We are greatly disappointed in the speed the train is making, having heard that the trains here run sixty miles an hour, and we inquire of our fellow passengers if this is the usual speed in this country. They inform us that some of the trains do make very near that time, but only the mail trains between London and Glasgow, and London and Liverpool. Our private opinion is that some other nations can brag as well as the yankee people.

We arrive at our destination, after consuming more than two hours of time, and as we pass out of the gate our ticket is broken in two pieces, one of which is handed back to us to return on. The town is divided by the river into two parts, called Wallacetown and Newtown, and spanning the stream, the "Twa Brigs" immortalized by Burns. On the site of the tower where Wallace was confined a gothic structure has been erected, 115 feet high, called Wallace tower. In front is a statue of the hero, and on the top are the same clock and bells of the old dungeon steeple. After doing the town, we take a hack and drive two miles to the cottage where Burns was born, January 25, 1759. It is a low, concrete building, thatched with straw, and divided into two rooms. In the front one, visitors are shown the bed in which the poet was born, two old wooden chairs, an old fashioned dresser and some dishes, which were in use during his boyhood.

About a mile from this, we reach Alloway's auld haunted kirk—which was immortalized by Burns in his "Tam O'Shanter." Here his father and mother are buried, and close by is the poet's own monument. It is made in imitation of that of Dyscrates, at Athens, about sixty feet high, surrounded by nine corinthian columns thirty feet high, supporting a cupola. The whole structure is of white freestone and cost £4,000 sterling. In the room upon the ground floor are many relics of the poet; one of his portraits, a snuff-box made from the wood of Alloway kirk, the bible he gave to his Highland Mary. Here, also, the visitor can purchase photographic and stereoscopic views of the grounds. In a grotto close by the monument are the statues of Tam O'Shanter and Soutar Johnnie, cut from granite, each with his pot of beer in his hand. Both are elegant pieces of workmanship.

A short distance west of the old church yard we find the well where Mungo's mither hanged herself. It is preserved by an iron rail around its mouth. We walk a few yards down the road, and stand upon the Auld Brig o' Doon. It was here, on the banks of the Doon, that Burns composed "Man was made to mourn" and the "Braes of Ballochmyle."

We cannot describe the thoughts that pass through our mind as we look upon this scenery—the loveliest in all Scotland. It brings us back to our boyhood, when we read the poet's works and Scottish history, little did we then expect to visit this spot. We turn with lingering footsteps toward our vehicle, and finding that we have only half an hour to make the return train, order cabby to give us an extra shilling's worth of driving. We take a different road back from the one we came, passing some very handsome private grounds and residences. We make the train in time, and arrive in Glasgow at seven o'clock, well pleased with our trip.

## About House Plants.

There are many trifling operations connected with culture of plants that produce important results. Liquid manure may be applied to many plants with benefit—such as roses, geraniums and fuchsias may be stimulated with such liquids, and by this means, produce more flowers and a better growth than if mere pure water is used. A barrel should be placed in some out-of-the-way place and filled with coarse manure, through which water should be filtered to furnish the requisite supply. The liquid used on parlor plants should not be rank or possess any offensive odor; and still, if properly fertilized, it will contain sufficient fertilizing materials, although not apparent in color or odor. Liquid manures should not, however, be used too frequently, but only once or twice in two or three weeks.

Many species of plants, such as camellias, oranges and oleanders, are liable to be attacked by scale-like insects (*coccus*) and these should be carefully removed by washing the leaves and stems with warm soap suds, using a soft sponge or brush for that purpose. All dead and decaying foliage should be cut off and the plants kept clean and in handsome shape, either by pruning or tying up the branches.

Whenever the weather will permit, carry the plants into the open air, or into some room where they can be watered over head and their leaves cleaned of dust, if it cannot be done in the place where they are grown. This cleaning of the leaves of the house plants is far too generally neglected by ladies who cultivate only a few specimens; because it is too much trouble, and water is not just the thing to sprinkle over carpets and furniture. We can hardly expect to improve on nature's method of watering plants; and she pours it upon the leaves first, and the roots get their share all in good time. One of the principal reasons why the plants cultivated by professional florists in their conservatories thrive so much better than those cultivated in common dwellings, is that they are frequently showered overhead, and the atmosphere in which they grow is kept constantly moist. Heat, light and moisture are the essentials to insure growth of seeds and plants, the richest soil or the best attention being of little value without them.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Safety in the Use of Kerosene.—The following hint, given by a correspondent of the *Tribune*, relates to an exceedingly simple method of precaution in the use of kerosene and other cheap oils, and may be worthy of attention. His plan is to fill the lamp lightly with kerosene, and then pour in the oil, and in case of accident, the latter does not flow about, and can thus be easily extinguished on one occasion. The kerosene lamp burst, and a mass of flame jumped out, but being in a compact body he covered it instantly with a bucket, and with the help of the water pitcher and a few wet towels, extinguished it before the slightest damage was done. Had it not been for the cotton, the flaming oil would have flowed in all directions.

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