

Agriculture.

KANSAS WHEAT CULTURE.

[A paper read before the Farmers' Institute, at Manhattan, January 17, 1917, by Hon. T. C. Henry, of Abilene, Dickinson County.]

In discussing the topics which it is my province on this occasion to consider, I shall endeavor to be plain and brief. Only such matters as are clearly relevant to a practical exposition of the subject in hand will be considered. Ours is pre-eminently an agricultural state. In proportion as we successfully develop its agricultural interests will be the measure of our social and financial progress. The production of wheat has now become the leading industry in the state. Four years ago its profitable culture was almost universally questioned; to-day in proportion to the capital employed, we stand unrivaled in the world. If the present year prove as auspicious as it now promises, our total product will undoubtedly exceed any other state in the Union; and yet it is obvious that the extent to which its production will eventually and soon be carried, can hardly be conjectured. Considering therefore the vast interests involved, it is important that such experience as we can command shall be secured for immediate service.

KANSAS SOIL.

I am confident that the winter wheat area of Kansas, as already ascertained, has naturally no equal east of the Sierras; and I doubt if anywhere the chemical elements in the soil essential to the continued production of wheat, exist in such a favorable proportion as in certain limits within our state. If California, Minnesota, or some foreign parts excel us, the advantage lies in a more favorable climate, or less liability to insect scourges, rather than in the superior adaptability of their soil to the crop itself. Vegetable mold to supply carbonic acid for the young plant, silicates to afford strength to the growing stalk, phosphates and alkalies to perfect the grain, are all deposited in remarkable uniformity and in surprising profusion in our soil. With natural conditions so favorable, and the experience to guide us, there is no proper or sufficient reason why we may not prolong the growth and culture of that cereal indefinitely. The famous wheat plains of Joppa are as productive to-day, under a crude and primitive system of culture, as they were eighteen centuries ago.

CONDITIONS OF SUCCESS.

If with the natural conditions so favorable why, may be asked, is it that a correspondingly uniform success has not crowned the efforts of our farmers? To endeavor in some degree, at least to answer this question, is the main purpose I have in appearing here at this time. What I shall say will refer to winter wheat exclusively. I am not partial to spring wheat, and very much regret, for reasons I may perhaps give before I close, that a revival of its culture is so probable.

VARIETIES.

I will first treat of the various varieties of wheat. I am confident that we can never succeed worth our while with any of the white varieties. The difficulty is with our climate. The atmosphere is too dry and we have too much heat and sunlight. The delicate white varieties are the product of the humid climate of the north. We must, I think, rely upon such as have a dark colored bran, which therefore best absorb the rays of light and heat. I have observed that all white varieties rapidly deteriorate in our climate; and I have rejected all further thought of growing them. Those varieties which mature earliest in the season should be selected. I do not care how much a particular sort may promise, if it be late I should oppose its introduction. If a season be cut short by the hot south winds which always inaugurate a drought, then the crop is injured; or, if the season is favorable as to moisture, the rust is likely to attack and ruin it. The Early Red May, sometimes called the Little Red May, has been unquestionably proved to be best adapted to our climate among the number which have come into general notice. The berry has a dark bran, is small, and very plump and very hardy. It never gives a big yield but averages well, and always commands a good price relatively. The Orange wheat has done even better than the Red May, but it has not yet been sufficiently tested to justify its supplanting the other. It is an amber wheat, has a larger berry, and is a few days earlier than the May. The Egyptian is well spoken of. The Fultz wheat apparently possesses every requisite, and yields extraordinarily; but it is a little late, and that fact subjecting it to rust made my loss much greater the past year than if I had sown Red May instead. I conclude therefore that as a given variety approximates the characteristics of the early Red May, to that degree and extent will it prove adapted to our state. If white wheat succeeds it will be upon the wheat soils in the eastern or south-eastern portion of our state. I do not advise much further experimentation in new varieties. We have a sufficient number already introduced that are adapted to our soil and climate. It is, however, very important that we change seed. I know beneficial results follow that practice. Seeds grown upon upland does best upon bottom land, and vice versa. So changes from clayey to sandy soils, or calcareous to silicious, &c., &c., should be made.

EFFECT OF CLIMATE.

I am convinced that the climate has far more to do with the success or failure of wheat culture in the United States than the supposed

absence or presence of the constituent elements in the soil. Give me an equitable and uniform rainfall, and I will remove fifty per cent. of the probabilities of failure; add to the rainfall a favorable March, and twenty per cent. more of the danger is lessened; and supplement both with a dry and cool June, and the element of failure is almost entirely eliminated—always excepting locusts, chinch-bugs, and pests of that class.

EXHAUSTED SOILS.

Much is said about the gradual exhaustion of the soil in sections famous in years past for the production of wheat. Virginia, New York, Ohio, and other states are instance as conclusive evidence. I do not question that there are many scopes of territory whose soil affords such a scanty supply of the phosphates or silicates perhaps that a few continuous crops exhaust these elements. But in general the failure may be ascribed to a change of climate or the appearance of some insect scourge. The Genesee Valley of New York was once world-famous for its wheat, and now it is generally supposed to refuse to produce except in limited returns. The true facts, I apprehend, are not popularly known. The product of that section did not perceptibly decline until the ravages of the weevil appeared twenty-five or thirty years ago. Farmers were then compelled to give more attention to the culture of other crops. The largely increased population of the cities and villages—taxing the efforts of the surrounding country to supply them, the divided farms, the greater increased acreage devoted to fruit and vegetables, the bulky crops—particularly hay, have all combined to lessen attention there to wheat; and the cheap grain from the west has produced some effect. But I am confident that the condition of the soil in the Genesee country is as favorable to the production of wheat as it was twenty-five years ago. Last year was a propitious one, and the yield has not been equalled for twenty years. If the lessened product is to be ascribed to the exhaustion of the soil, how shall we account for the fact that their new lands are no more reliable than the old fields? and yet it is true that the crop is more uncertain than it was formerly. The explanation may be found I think, in the changed climate, owing to the destruction of forests, thereby exposing the fields to the cold blasts of winter and interrupting the regularity of the seasons. And I presume the same is true of Ohio, in some measure, as well as of other sections.

IRRIGATION.

Given a soil moderately well supplied with the proper constituent elements, and so long as irrigation can be applied so long wheat can be grown. The valley of the Nile has produced successive crops of wheat for unnumbered ages, and no fertilizing elements have ever been added other than such as have been deposited by the overflow of the Nile, and which Dr. Liebig asserts must of necessity be very inconsiderable. But let us come nearer home. To a person accustomed to the appearance of the wheat soils of central Kansas, the first impression of Colorado as a wheat section is disheartening indeed. A light colored thin and sandy soil—worthless; but give it a full supply of water and those unpromising uplands, such as surround Denver for instance, presents a return that really surprises and undoes a patriotic Kansas. What is the explanation? The mountain snows which supply the irrigating canals are as pure almost as the air there itself. Nor can it be said that much of any organic matter can be gathered in their way along the granite beds down the mountain sides. Nevertheless the water even when first applied at the base of the foot hills, works as marvelous a change upon vegetation as it does carried twenty miles further out. No, the constituent elements already exist in the soil, and the water performs the work of disintegration, thus preparing them for plant food.

And here I may say I am confident that the plains are naturally the best wheat lands in America, if water in some shape can be given them. Do I think it ever will be? Yes. How and when, I can't tell. Is it not a curious fact that all the famous grain districts are either located in the midst of, or very close by, rainless sections of the earth?—Asia Minor, Southern Russia, Egypt and the Barbary States. And what is the protracted rate period of California but a sort of irrigation? If we can discover some prominent and distinguished characteristic that is common to all these districts, we may be able to deduce conclusions that will go far towards aiding us in determining which are our best wheat lands, and the reasons why.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

FAMILIAR FARM TOPICS.

NO. LIV.

ORANGE SEED.

The question is often asked, "Why not sow the orange seed in the hedge row, where the hedge is needed?" We answer, because experience has demonstrated that it is generally attended with many difficulties. In the first place, when the seed is dropped in the row it is seldom that there is uniformity; in some places it would be too thick and in other places too thin. In planting seed in a nursery they generally receive better cultivation, and when the plants are taken up they can be assorted, keeping the strong plants by themselves. The fence row being newly plowed, the ground is in the best condition to receive them, and with a favorable season will make a rapid growth.

Although not much knowledge is required to know how to sow the seed and plant it, yet without this experience a failure is almost sure to follow. There is little doubt, judging from the large quantity of seed purchased by the retail trade, that in the aggregate it is a loss to the purchasers. Some may and do succeed, but many more fail. The inexperienced would do better to purchase their stock at the nursery, then they are certain of securing good, vigorous plants.

WIND-MILLS.

When we first set out on Kansas soil, in the year 1886, being in company with a small party of enthusiastic Free Soilers, who had come with the determination to do their duty in behalf of freedom for Kansas, we were all delighted with the natural appearance of the country. On our route through Johnson county, we saw in the distance one of those mounds which are so striking to the eye of those who have lived in a forest region of country. After a travel of several miles we came to the foot of it, and decided to ascend it, as it would afford a most extensive view of the surrounding country. We soon climbed to the summit and our thoughts soon changed from the poetical to the practical. "What a country Kansas will be for wind-mills," remarked one who had in his youth passed his early days in a country where wind-mills were never out of sight. This idea no doubt has frequently suggested itself to the first pioneers, that no country afforded more favorable advantages to wind-power than the undulating prairies of Kansas. Why is it that so little has been done to utilize this force of nature? Steam mills have been scattered here and there, consuming the timber scattered along our water-courses; but no wind-mills! Who can assign a reason for it? There is certainly no experiment connected with the erection of wind-mills for grinding purposes. Edward Gibbon, in his Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, says that wind-mills were introduced into Holland over eight hundred years ago. They are scattered all along the coast of the English Channel, and in the wheat-growing districts of England.

SALT FOR TREES.

Salt has been recommended for fruit trees to produce a vigorous growth. There is danger in using this article too bountifully. We once witnessed a case of salting trees which ought to be a warning to others. My friend took great delight in having everything look cozy about his house-yard. The earth-worm had been working in his gravel-walk, and he procured some salt, knowing that it would drive the worms away. He sprinkled the salt on the walk. The next year he observed that the blue-grass bordering the gravel walk looked much more vigorous, having a darker green, it having received a slight sprinkling of salt. Having a quantity of salt on hand which had been used in salting pork in bulk, he concluded to give his lawn and evergreen trees a liberal supply, expecting it would produce a favorable result. As soon as vegetation started in the spring, he noticed an unfavorable result. In the fall everything which heretofore looked so flourishing, put on a sickly appearance, and the next spring not a shrub or tree sent forth a leaf. The salt had destroyed them. Similar results sometimes attend our

STRAWBERRY BEDS.

by mismanagement. In Kansas our winters are generally dry. We seldom have snow which lies on the ground any considerable length of time; hence strawberry beds need protection. Covering them with a light coat of straw will keep them moist and protect them from the severe cold of the winter.

Like my friend who salted his evergreens, we are apt to go from one extreme to another. When a strawberry bed has been lost for lack of a winter protection, it is often the case that in attempting to apply a remedy in the future, we pass to the other extreme, that is, we cover them with manure, or a thick coating of prairie hay. When spring opens and we remove the covering, we find the plants have been smothered to death. A light protection in winter is necessary, but we may kill them by kindness.

Lane, Kansas.

Topics for Discussion.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

BY REV. L. STERNBERG, D. D.

NO. II.

There is no objection to the moderate coinage of silver, in case it be not made a legal tender. It will serve as convenient change without strict regard to its intrinsic value, but when it becomes a principal, instead of a subsidiary coin, at once its intrinsic value must equal that of gold, for if inferior, it will drive it from circulation.

The logic of events points to gold as the sole standard of money value. England the chief commercial nation of Europe, and whose markets determine the price of our staple products, has long recognized gold alone, as such standard. Germany has recently done the same. The tendency of the commercial world is in that direction. We may resist it to our injury, but we cannot stop it. The laws of Congress cannot override the laws of trade.

In the second place, we are taught by our past history, that the authentication of government is not sufficient to establish the value of a circulating medium. Doubtless our nation is rich and powerful, but this is no reason why

the commercial world should receive for one dollar the coin it has stamped as a dollar, nor that to pay on demand unbacked by the intention or ability so to pay, should be accepted. In illustration of this we need only refer to the depreciation of our paper currency by the fluctuation in the valuation of our silver coins.

The idea of those who would have the government issue an unlimited amount of greenbacks or coin all the silver bullion that may be offered, under the expectation that this would create prosperity, is utterly delusive. Money like any other commodity is subject to the laws of trade. Debased, or issued in excess of the demand, it loses a portion of its purchasing power, just as a bushel of corn, when its quality has been impaired or the crop has been unusually abundant, will buy less in money or goods. Despotism governments have sometimes attempted to force a debased currency into circulation by making the refusal to receive it a criminal offense; but even violence backed by power has failed in every instance in which it has been attempted to sustain a debased currency at its nominal value. Especially is this impracticable in the case of a commercial nation. Its money standard must conform to that of the nations with which it does business.

Many imagine that by making silver coin a legal tender, remonetizing it as they incorrectly call it, the price of silver bullion will at once rise to the ratio that silver coin bears to gold. This would certainly be a nice thing for the owners of silver mines. But one might about as well claim that the manufacture of our hundreds of millions of paper money greatly raised the price of paper-rags.

Making silver a legal tender for all amounts would have no permanent effect upon its value. Duties being made payable in silver, might cause it to appreciate for a time at home, but not abroad, and hence, it would drive out gold, and at the same time depreciate greenbacks. Greenbacks are now worth considerably more than silver, because it is expected that they will soon be redeemable in gold. Make them redeemable in silver, and at once they become worth no more than silver, if as much.

I proceed to call the attention to a third lesson taught by our experience as a nation, in paper currency and coinage. It is this: The issuing of an excessive and hence a necessarily depreciated currency, is both a blunder and a crime. The circulating medium of a country, like that of the human body in a healthful condition, must neither be excessive nor deficient in amount for the health of the body politic. Rarely, if ever, is it the case, that stagnation in business is owing to a deficiency in the amount of money in a country. The business world is so large, the flux and reflux of capital is so rapid, that if there be no special causes to check its flow, it will soon find its level the world over.

True, money is needed to move crops, to turn spindles, to spread the wings of commerce. If ever there was a time when there was not enough in our country, for these purposes, surely that time is not now, when, besides many millions in gold and silver, we have a paper circulation of \$870,184,151. and this circulation is still below par. When it is remembered that a larger share of the business of the country is done by means of paper that is not currency; that money in large amounts has been steadily seeking investment at low rates of interest; that many millions of four per cent bonds were being taken by our own capitalists until the silver agitation arrested their sale, we are forced to conclude that if business languishes, it is not because there is not money enough to transact it in the country.

The causes of business prostration are often recalcitrant and are easily misapprehended. The want of blood at the extremities does not necessarily imply its absence in the region of the heart where the blood vessels may be ready to burst with the excess of the vital fluid. A business panic sends the currency of the country back to the great centers of trade with a rush. Let Congress by its tinkering, debase our coinage, or repeal the redemption act, and the result will be, that the capitalists and business-men in apprehension of danger ahead, will button up their pockets and lock their safes. The prudent mariner furl his sails and clears his decks, when a storm is brewing. No wonder that at the very moment when the balance of trade has slowly turned in favor of our country, and our manufacturing interests were waking to new life and the products of the farm are causing our barns to burst with plenty, that amidst the vociferous demands for non-resumption and unlimited silver, credit should be paralyzed and hence, money scarce. If wheat is to-day worth but seventy-five cents per bushel, and pork but four dollars per hundred, it is not for lack of money to handle them, but for lack of confidence in the future.

This agitation in arresting the sale of four per cent bonds, has entailed upon the United States treasury a loss of millions. This however, is but a feather in the scale. The chief injury has been among the industrial classes. To them it has occasioned the loss of millions upon millions. We hear already of the loan of money being refused except upon special contract of re-payment in gold. Unless this agitation is arrested, in mid career and the country settles down upon honest money, we "know not what shall be on the morrow," except that the sun or prosperity will not rise upon us.

Labor reforms proclaim an irrepressible conflict "between capital and labor. Never was there a greater or more dangerous mistake. Communism has been transplanted from Europe into this virgin soil. Agrarian sentiments are spreading among the masses, causing them to look upon all moneyed men as their natural enemies. Hence our labor strikes and incendiarism. Hence the over-running of the country by tramps and huge processions of unemployed laborers crying "bread or blood." Antagonism between capital and labor! Capital is the child of labor, which in turn supports the tottering steps of the parent. Capital and labor are the two buckets of a well. If one comes up full the other goes down to be filled. Capital is cautious. In a storm it does not run near a lee shore nor surging breakers, but seeks the open sea or a safe harbor. The only wonder is, that when capital is confronted by the double dagger from labor strikes and a debased currency, that a single dollar should still seek investment.

But if the inflation and debasement of the currency is a blunder, even more is it a crime. It tends to unsettle values, to draw men off from the steady pursuits of useful industry to plunge into wild speculations and stock gambling. The jog-trot of a prudent and safe business becomes too slow. Rome must be built in a day though the imposing structure is sure to go down with a crash on the following night. Honesty, integrity of character, sound business principles, are at a discount. Overreaching, fraud, extravagance, luxury and crime flourish like the rank vegetation in miasmatic marshes. These lessons of our past experience stand as spectres before us, lifting up the finger of warning. We must heed them, or amidst the struggles of our own undoing, they will shriek in our ears, "fools, to dilute and adulterate the milk that was your life! Monsters, to sap the foundations of public morality! Traitors, to besmirch the fair escutcheon of your country with the foul blot of repudiation!"

There is another feature of this currency question, that is as alarming as any before noticed. It is what is likely to be its political effect, unless corrected and speedily settled. It must be attended with a great political change if measures now in contemplation are pushed through. I forbear to inquire what party, or men, or influence, will in that case, come to the front. Enough to know that the prospect is by no means encouraging to the intelligent patriot.

NOTE. In article No. I, the date when the ratio of sixteen to one was fixed in our coinage of silver and gold, should have been 1837 instead of 1873.

WHERE TO LOCATE.

We Americans, or at least some of us, are rather unsettled in our choice of a location. If there is a spot in the United States, or any of its Territories, where money can be accumulated faster or with less labor than where we are now domiciled, we want to find it. The matter of pulling up stakes is a small item of consideration compared with the one of where to replant them again to the best advantage. "Some look before they leap," but this is not the "ruling passion" with all of us. Young America is inspired with such a passion of go-ahead-iveness that the leap is taken first and the looking afterward. In looking for a location, the purpose of business or calling should be your first consideration. If you are a merchant or a mechanic, select a city, town or neighborhood where there is an appearance of some enterprise and improvement, surrounded with good land, well cultivated. Locate there and make the best use of your time, talents and capital; feel that you are a part of the community, that the growth of the place will contribute to your growth, not forgetting the old adage, "keep your shop and your shop will keep you." These, with common courtesy and good behavior will insure your success. If your choice is grain-growing, look first for a railroad station or a landing on a navigable river; next for land of good quality easily cultivated, and calculate the cost of transportation to the seaboard markets. If all these are favorable you may venture to locate. If stock-growing is your object, you may go further from lines of transportation where you can get more land for the same amount of money; but be sure the land is of good quality, and if possible natural to the grasses, to insure good pasturage. Stock can be transported short distances to landings by their own locomotion, and being a little retired gives them less disturbance, which is a matter of much importance. If dairying is your object, select the neighborhood of a town or city, and within a distance that will enable you to retail your own butter or milk. In the selection of land the hints given to stock-growers will be applicable. If your object is gardening, or what is familiarly called "truckin'", and small fruit growing, the hints to dairymen will be applicable, with this difference, that the soil should be light as well as deep and rich. If you are a florist, locate in or near a large and flourishing city, as your labors there will be more fully appreciated. People who live in small towns or in the country, see so much of the floral world all around them from spontaneous nature, that the florists' labors are not by them, fully appreciated.

Professional men of good education, refined manners, and kindly disposition, are wanted everywhere within limits of civilization; they should locate wherever they find an opening, either in the State Legislature, or that of the United States, or any other good place, provided they don't veto the silver bill.

Spring Hill, Kansas.

H. R. Cook.

FARMING IN NORTHWESTERN KANSAS,
THE CAUSE OF FAILURE AND THE ROAD
TO SUCCESS.

NO. I.

Northwestern Kansas is now attracting quite a heavy immigration, the success of which depends upon the intelligence with which they commence, and the energy that they put into their farm operations; but the greatest difficulty that they are likely to encounter is that farming in northwestern Kansas, and that of other countries is so different; that although they may be practical farmers in other states and go to work with the same principles, they may, (yes, are almost sure to) fail, especially those of Missouri, Iowa and Illinois, and even eastern Kansas, which are almost entirely corn-growing countries; and they commence by planting "sod corn" which is all very well, but they plant corn again in the spring, and the grasshoppers or other insects which are so common in a new country, destroy their crop just when they think they are almost ready to realize their fondest hopes, and they next spring, still clinging to their old habits and ideas, conclude that they planted too late or too early the spring before; they only change their time of planting, and do not change the method, and when all is looking beautiful they, with a great deal of pride, sit down and write to their friends of their flattering prospects; their letters are borne to their friends, and they begin to think of migrating to the land of promise, and all this time the farmer in his new home is laboring to complete his crop. In the evening he sits down to rest in our balmy summer air, which is universally acknowledged to be so pure and healthful, and dreams pleasant dreams of an abundant harvest and a happy home; rises in the morning refreshed by nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep; with renewed efforts he goes to his work, wife and children, (if not an old bachelor), all smiling and happy; but about noon he begins to see those destroying insects make their appearance, and goes home to dinner the very picture of despair. In a few days his whole crop is destroyed. Then, times are desolate indeed. We all know the cause of failure; the road to success is what we all would like to find, which I shall take as my next subject.

MOSES ADAMSON.

Adamson, Kansas.

LETTER FROM DICKINSON COUNTY.

Being neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, I give it up, on the weather this winter. Rain, hail, snow, sleet and mud; there you have it. What effect the above combination will have upon the fruit and grain crop of another season is unknown. The crop on hand is the one of special interest, just now. Quite a quantity of corn is still in the field, and as the wet weather renders our cornfields almost impassable, it seems probable that it will remain out some time. A bad feature of this, is that nearly all our corn is not in merchantable condition. An examination of market reports at Kansas City, shows that not one corn in five grades two. Farmers should not expect high prices for inferior grain, or grain in poor condition.

Remonetization of all ver, or a reissue of paper money, will not remedy such defects. And are we as farmers in any worse condition than others? Corn at 15 cents per bushel, is no worse for farmers, than calico at 5 cents per yard for manufacturing establishments. The fact that under the stimulus of labor-saving machinery, mankind are capable of producing in any one year, more than they can consume, and it takes war, or a failure of crops or something of the kind to create a demand for any particular article. But I did not intend to philosophize, so I will say, that as a rule, our farmers are enjoying moderate prosperity. The outlook for the coming crop was never better than at this date, and the farmer who has not plenty to do and something to sell, is the exception and not the rule. And now let me ask, have we an Arbor day in Kansas?

January 28th, 1878.

THE ANTI-HORSE-THIEF ASSOCIATION OF
MISSOURI AND SISTER STATES.

In consequence of the amount of horse-stealing and other thefts, committed recently in southwestern Kansas, many persons have united into associations, in various localities, for mutual protection and assistance in recovering stolen property and capturing the thieves. Some of these associations are independent of all the others, but many of them are organizing as sub-orders of THE GRAND ORDER OF THE ANTI-HORSE-THIEF ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI AND SISTER STATES.

Said grand order is composed of delegates from about one hundred associations, styled sub-orders, located in different places in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Kansas. This grand order has a constitution which may be had by addressing its worthy grand president, Geo. N. Sansom, Kahoka, Clark county, Missouri.

This grand order (or its grand worthy president; or his deputy, in vacation), organizes sub-orders whenever and wherever ten or more men, in good standing, petition for the same in writing, accompanied by \$5 for charter fees and enough to pay the G. W. P., or his deputy, for organizing.

The members of these associations are bound to assist each other, when required, and get one dollar and actual expenses per day. These expenses are borne by all the members of the sub-order to which the person owning the stolen property belongs. Each sub-order is bound to assist the other sub-orders when requested, but may require a reasonable compensation for such service.

These sub-orders act in aid of the laws of the land, and when a thief is caught he is turned over to the civil authorities, but the sub-order mutually assist and attend to the prosecution.

This association assists in recovering any kind of property stolen from any of its members, and of capturing and punishing the thief under the laws of the land.

By acting according to law, and not countenancing mob-law, or any violation of the laws of our country, this association has won the respect and confidence of the best class of citizens, and such are authorizing under its authority wherever they are becoming acquainted with its character and benefits. Several sub-orders have recently been organized by a deputy, in Reno, Rice, McPherson and Lyon counties, Kansas. The last session of the Grand Order, was held at Augusta, Hancock county, Illinois. The next session will be held in Keokuk, Lee county, Iowa, on the third Wednesday in October, 1878.

B. P. HANAN.

Langdon, Reno Co., Kansas.

GROUND FEED, BURNING CORN, ETC.

EDITOR FARMER.—In your issue of the 28, inst., the advantages of ground feed for stock, was ably discussed. What advantage in feeding cooked ground feed, if we give all the corn to get it ground at the mills; our steam mills take 1-3 and the water mill 1-5. The time spent going to mill must be counted in. What breed of hogs does our friend keep that requires 80 bushels of corn to fatten or keep till they are 12 months old. Analyze it—80 bushel a year—6 2-3 bushels a month—1 2-3 bushel a week—allowing 120 ears to the bushel—28 4-7 ears a day, from the day he is dropped. We are thankful we have none of that breed in this valley.

In regard to corn following turnips my experience has been the same as that of Mr. Wellhouse. Corn will not do well following turnips. I do not know why. In regard to burning corn for fuel, no one would burn it, if he had money to buy coal or wood, but when he must sell his corn, and the corn will not buy enough of coal or wood to burn as long as the corn would, then he prefers to burn corn. He cannot hold his corn for a high price. Either way, it must be sold or burned. OMEGA.

Sedgwick, Kansas.

From Saline County.

Jan. 26.—We are buying wheat today as follows: No. 3, 70¢/bushel; No. 4, 60¢/bushel; rejected, 50¢. Corn 18¢; oats 15¢. Wheat has a better stand and a better prospect than ever.

J. M. BRUBAKER.

Patrons of Husbandry.

OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE.—Master: John T. Jones, Barton, Ark. Secretary: O. H. Kelly, Louisville, Ky.

KANSAS STATE GRANGE.—Master: Wm. Sims, Topeka, Secretary: P. B. Maxon, Emporia.

COLORADO STATE GRANGE.—Master: Levi Booth, Denver. Lecturer: J. W. Hammett, Plattville.

MISSOURI STATE GRANGE.—Master: H. Eshbaugh, Hanover, Jefferson county. Secretary: A. M. Coffee, Knob Noster.

TO OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE GRANGES.

For the use of Subordinate Granges we have a set of receipt and order books which will prevent accounts getting mixed up or confused. They are: 1st. Receipts for Dues, 2nd. Secretary's Receipts, and 3rd. Orders on Treasurer. The set will be sent to any address, postage paid for \$1.00.

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

WHY GRANGES ARE GOING DOWN.

EDITOR FARMER: Seeing so many of your correspondents' opinions as to the cause of so many granges going down, I shall add my mite to the general fund. The great masses which at first joined the grange without having a correct idea of what they were undertaking thought that by becoming members they should, through some hocus-pocus, presto change, receive rich rewards. Their want of confidence in themselves or in each other, and lack of energy, perseverance and determination has had much to do with present results. But whatever may have been the cause, our duty is to unite the closer, to lose no time on grange business not absolutely necessary, having some questions ready for discussion such as the kind of crops, soils, &c., suggested by the state grange, but in my opinion these are not all that is necessary. Suppose the question to be, "That high and discriminating railroad tariffs are injurious to the best interests of the country," or some other question that equally affects our prosperity. We want to become familiar with the great questions of political economy to enable us to act more intelligently. Go forth among your brother farmers, and others, and explain to them your object of organization and the means whereby you mean to accomplish it, viz: by your votes and by a more thorough knowledge of our duties as citizens as well as the best methods of farming. It is as necessary that farmers vote right as that they farm well. We have been too long the serfs of railroad monopolies, manufacturing combinations and capitalists who make unjust and mercenary laws for their own aggrandizement. They are not to blame, at least not so much as the laboring classes are; while having the power to redress the evils we so justly complain of, we permit ourselves to assist in sending men to the legislature and to congress who become the willing tools of the great combinations.

I see in your issue of the 2nd inst., an article by Samuel Sinnet, on cheap transportation, which touches one of the most important issues affecting our interests. Is it true that Capt. Ead's jetties are a success and that corn

is being shipped in barges from St. Louis to New Orleans for 75¢ per bushel, and if so, it could be shipped for 40¢ by securing return freight. If such is the case, you would confer a favor on your numerous readers by giving through your valuable paper the information so much desired.

I will only add that I have read Wm. Sim's address carefully, and in which I most heartily concur notwithstanding N. O.'s letter upon which I have no remarks to make as it was not written for publication and my belief is, that it would have been better had it not been. Our mail being something like the weather, rather uncertain accounts for my not being present at the meeting of the State Co-operative association. With consent—reconsider By-laws 1 and 2. The food contained therein being in my opinion rather strong for the infant association's digestion.

Respectfully and fraternally,

JOHN ANDREWS.

NOTE: The letter of N. C. spoken of above reviewing the subject of co-operation was intended for publication and was written by as good a patron as can be found in Douglas county. Friend A. will remember that the FARMER believes that a difference of opinion is no crime. EDITOR.

EDUCATION OF FARMERS.

The following excellent points are taken from a paper read by Prof. J. H. Platt before the Blumont Farmers' Club of Manhattan, Kansas:

"We all know what a stampede there is among farmers' sons and daughters away from the country into the town. The boys leave the plow and the reaper and betake themselves to measuring tape, to selling beer, to peddling sewing machines,—anything rather than to farm. The girls leave the kitchen, the dairy, and home, with all its pleasures, preferring the scant pay of a school mistress, among strangers, or the wearisome confinement of a dress-maker's shop in town, till fortune furnishes them husbands and homes of their own. Anything rather than to cook bread, beef or potatoes, or work big rolls of butter.

All the professions and most of the trades in our country are crowded with men and women struggling to gain a precarious livelihood, while thousands of broad acres are lying idle, only awaiting the tillage of willing hands guided by clear and intelligent heads, in order to yield a rich harvest of wealth and honor to their occupants. Many fine homes—steads—the life-work of thrifty parents—are passing into the hands of strangers, simply because the children have contracted the prevalent notion that farming is not quite good enough a calling for them. Something else will be a little more lucrative, easy and genteel. Many of the brightest and most talented youth in the land fall into this way of thinking, and, leaving the farm, betake themselves to schools where all their surroundings tend to foster their notion. There they prepare themselves for some other profession. They often prove ornaments, too, to their chosen professions. They rise to wealth, honor and influence in society. But the moral force of their example is not favorable to the agricultural profession. It deepens and spreads among the young, the impression that a smart man may do better in the world than to become a farmer. The agricultural interest has seriously suffered in this way. Its ranks are depleted of many who ought to belong to them, and who might greatly benefit them had they not abandoned them. I do not say that all the best and brightest of the youth among our farming population thus leave the ranks of agriculture. Far from it. As good men, and true, remain, as can be found in any other profession. But the craft needs more such. In the sharp competition of industries it needs the aid of just those keen, wide awake, long-headed, well educated men who have gone out from it. It needs their moral influence to give to it higher standing and more increased credit. It needs their ability as writers, and their eloquence as speakers, to help maintain its rights in society. It needs their presence in legislative halls to guard its interests there, and to withstand the combinations so incessantly clamoring for franchises and subsidies in aid of schemes of profit or fraud, nine-tenths of which are to be operated in some way at the expense of the farmer. It needs them in offices of honor and trust connected with the powerful corporations of the country. If we had among our railroad managers, for example, a few more well educated, clear headed and honest, practical farmers, in full sympathy with the craft, but able through careful mental drill, to reason logically, unraveled sophistry, and tell well what they know, I doubt not these corporations would less frequently be the soulless and greedy money suckers they now are, fastened, like leeches, upon the great agricultural interests of the country.

Finally the farmer class needs such men to man its colleges—the places whence it has a right to expect a supply of them in the future. In charges of these schools, it needs men who by experience and associations with farmers, know what they need and desire in the way of education; men whose interests and sympathies, from boyhood up, have been with the agricultural class; whose hearts still beat in unison with it; men who are able and willing to use their responsible offices for the advancement of its welfare, and yet men who have at least sufficient culture to speak pure English and avoid habitual vulgarism, both in speech and manners."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

In answering an Advertisement found in these columns, you will confer a favor by stating you saw it in the KANSAS FARMER.

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Manufacturers of the Celebrated Stover Automatic Windmill that carried off the highest honors at the American Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876, proven by actual test to run in a lighter breeze than any other mill on exhibition; has a patent self-bracing tower, is a perfect self-regulator, will stop itself in gales and start again when the storm subsides. We also manufacture the Stover Twenty Dollar Oscillating Feed Grinder, operated by ten and twelve foot pumping Mills; is a novel and economical grinder for farmer's use, will grind from ten to twenty bushels per day and pump at the same time. All who have used them speak of them in the highest praise. Therefore buy a Windmill and the highest prize. Save money and make home happy. Agents wanted in unassigned territory. Send for circular.

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R. COOK, Iola, Allen Co., Kansas, Breeder of pure Poland China Hogs, Short-Horn Cattle and Light Brahma Chickens. All Stock warranted first-class and Shipped C. O. D.

W. H. COCHRANE, Emporia, Kan., Breeder of Short-Horn Cattle. Stock for sale. Correspondence solicited. Planet, 17945 at head of herd.

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J. M. ANDERSON, Salina, Kansas, Pekin Ducks, C. J. Partridge, Cocker fowls, and White, Guinea, Write to me.

L. E. DUMBAULD, Hartford, Lyon County, Kansas, Breeder of Thoroughbred Short-Horn Cattle and Berkshire Pigs. Young Stock for sale. Correspondence solicited.

E. T. FROWE, Wamego, Kansas, Breeder of Bucks for sale this year.

HALL BROS., Ann Arbor, Mich., make a specialty of breeding the choicest strains of Poland-China, Suffolk, Essex and Berkshire pigs. Present prices less than last card rates. Satisfaction guaranteed. A few splendid pigs, jills and boars now ready.

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NATIONAL HAND CORN PLANTER
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The Kansas Farmer.

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

CONCERNING CIRCULATIONS.

We see, by a late issue of the *Leavenworth Times*, that Col. Anthony, editor and proprietor of that paper, publishes a sworn statement showing his cash subscriptions for the month of January to be 426. This is a good showing and Col. Anthony has a right to be proud of the prosperity of his paper. We call attention to the Col., however, to the fact that the cash subscriptions of the *FARMER* for the month of January, were 1,008, exceeding his own list just 682.

The *KANSAS FARMER*, since January 1st, 1874, has stood at the head of the press of Kansas, in circulation, and we say to our friends who are publishers in Kansas, as gently and as modestly as becomes the subject, that we propose to maintain this position for the paper in the future. Nothing so exactly determines the circulation of a paper as the number of pounds of paper sent through the post office to bona fide subscribers. For the week ending February 9th, 1878, the postage bill of the *FARMER* was \$10.73 for papers sent by the pound to subscribers. The postage bill of the *FARMER* and *AMERICAN YOUNG FOLKS*, mailed the previous week, was \$35.23. Any paper published in Kansas claiming as large a circulation as the *KANSAS FARMER*, is requested to give, as frankly as we have, the amount of their postage bills paid on mail sent to subscribers. What is meant by the circulation, is the amount of postage paid on a single issue of a paper—daily or weekly.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

The silver question still remains unsettled. The whole country is waiting in suspense for some definite action of Congress on this subject. In the Senate it is talk, talk on the question by the hour, by the day, and by the week; an inundation of words and twaddle, while the people everywhere are demanding action.

The vote on the Matthew's resolution was plain and unmistakable evidence of the sentiment of the people as shown in the majority given it by their representatives. The text of the resolution was as follows:

"Be it resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring therein): That all the bonds of the United States, issued or authorized to be issued under the said act of Congress (of 1870 and 1875) herein before recited, are payable, principal and interest, at the option of the government of the United States, in silver dollars, of the coinage of the United States, containing 412½ grains each of standard silver, and that to restore to its coinage such silver coins as a legal tender in payment of said bonds, principal and interest, is not in violation of the public faith nor in derogation of the rights of the public creditor."

An analysis of the vote shows that eleven western states, including Missouri, gave eighty-seven votes for this resolution and five against it. The fifteen Southern states gave seventy-eight votes for the silver resolution and seven against it. The nine eastern states voted twenty-one for and sixty-five against the resolution. The three Pacific states voted four for and two against. Thus three of four sections of the Union—west, south, and Pacific—supported the resolution, and only one section—the east—opposed it, and even there the second largest state in the Union—Pennsylvania—gave nearly two-thirds of her vote for silver. In the face of this unanimity of sentiment on the part of the people's representatives, will the President venture to interpose the veto against the demand of the American people?

The Bland bill provides for the payment of bonds in gold or silver, at the option of the government, and that the silver dollar shall be 412½ grains. Senator Christianity, who misrepresented Michigan in the Senate, has offered a compromise silver bill, which provides for coining silver dollars having 434 grains, to make it as valuable as gold. The *Inter-Ocean* suggests to Christianity to introduce a bill making 3½ feet a yard—as calico has decreased in price during the hard times.

Representative Phillips, of Kansas, has introduced a bill to provide for the funding of the savings of people in the popular loan, and to make them interconvertible. It provides for receiving savings for the Postal Savings Bank, from twenty-five cents upward, and when \$10 have been accumulated, a postal money order will be issued which may be placed in a 3-65 bond, interest payable quarterly, bond will be reconvertable into legal tender bonds, which should be issued in postal orders of the denominations of \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100, by the Treasurer of the United States and Assistant Treasurer, or a government depository; the proceeds to be invested in paying for six per cent bonds, subject to call, and \$50,000,000 of them to be held for reconversion.

THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.

We have been waiting patiently for Gen. LeDuc to give some evidence of his fitness for the position of commissioner of agriculture. He has written some foolish things about making the culture of tea profitable in this country, and has endeavored to push Mr. Dodge, the statistician out of the Department, the most competent man connected with the Bureau in years past, but so far as making any practical improvement upon former commissioners, his tea literature is making him the laughing-stock of the country. The old political seed distribution lumbag is preferable

to this tea business. If agriculture is to continue to bear the burden of this Department, and it fails to be either useful or ornamental it would be a saving to wipe it out.

The commissioner of agriculture should be a cabinet officer, and his department something more than a political machine by which congressmen can cheaply compliment their constituents with packages of seed. Until a man can be found who can comprehend the magnitude of the interests involved, and the value such a department might be to the whole country, the loss in suppressing it would not be great.

A WORD TO EASTERN CORRESPONDENTS.

There is a large demand throughout the east for reliable information concerning Kansas, and we receive many letters asking for detailed facts, which our limited time makes it impossible for us to fully answer. To be asked, "Where would you advise me to settle?" is not infrequent. "Where is the best land in Kansas?" is another question often asked.

State and local pride is rapidly growing in Kansas. Every man fully believes in his county, especially in his township, and more particularly the quarter section upon which he resides. They not only know that their county is the best, but they can prove it.

The bottom lands of all the streams are rich, and while many would prefer high prairie or upland farms, others give the bottom preference. Much depends upon the kind of farming men expect to engage in, whether stock, grain, fruit, or mixed husbandry, as to their location. The amount of their capital and their experience are other important considerations.

Unimproved and improved land, in every conceivable location, can be had in every county in Kansas, to-day, at prices that will justify their purchase for purposes of legitimate business, but not as speculations. Schools, churches, and railroads, are to-day rather in excess of the real demands of the population than behind them.

Many have come to Kansas with only sufficient money to get their families out upon a claim, and made good farms and good homes, but it is not a safe way to come to Kansas or to any other new state. The bare land without anything to work with or live upon, means for those who undertake it, hardship, trouble, and suffering. Young people with good health and plenty of clear grit can do this, but those who have passed the meridian of life, if they are without means, can do better where they are well known than among strangers.

A great many have an idea that cheap, rich land is all that is wanted, but it is not. Men must have money to develop this land, and if they are not practical farmers, they must learn the business in Kansas as well as anywhere else, and this education costs time and money.

Business sagacity, aided by capital and industry, can make a success in Kansas or anywhere, while, on the other hand, we have no personal knowledge of a locality, between the Atlantic and the Pacific, where a lazy, shiftless man, without business sense of some kind, can, or ought to, succeed. The point we make, is simply that the kind of men who win in Kansas, will win anywhere else. The west presents many opportunities in all the various occupations, and those who expect to fill them must come expecting to reach success by the same slow, legitimate methods pursued elsewhere. The time for sudden fortunes by speculation has passed. The country is full of men hunting some nice, easy employment for large wages. In their general and indefinite idea of "the west," they felt there must be some places of that kind yet untaken—but they find a dozen applicants ahead of themselves. The professions are more than full—especially law and medicine.

The *FARMER* endeavors to present the facts, and permits the reader who contemplates a western home, to draw his own conclusions.

WEATHER REPORT FOR JANUARY, 1878.

Prepared by Prof. F. H. Snow, of the State University.

STATION—Lawrence, Kansas, latitude, 38 degrees, 57 minutes, 35 seconds; longitude, 95 degrees, 18 minutes; elevation of barometer and thermometer, 875 feet above the sea level and five feet above the ground; rain gauge on the ground; anemometer, 100 feet above ground, on the dome of the University building, 1,200 feet above the sea level.

The month was remarkable for its high temperature and large rainfall.

Mean temperature 38° 97, which is 8° 04 above the January average of the ten preceding years. January, 1876, however was slightly warmer, having a mean of 34° 70. The highest temperature was 55° on the 24th; the lowest was 7° 5 on the 6th, giving a monthly range of 47° 5. This is a very limited range, indicating unusual uniformity of temperature. The mean temperature at 7 a. m. was 28° 30; at 2 p. m., 40° 53; at 9 p. m., 33° 56. There were 23 days during the month whose mean temperature was above freezing point. The mercury has not reached the zero point during the winter.

Rain, 3.05 inches, which is 1.85 inches above the January average. Either rain or snow fell on nine days. There were flurries of snow on the 8th and 13th, not enough for measurement. There was a brisk thunder shower on the 26th, with hail and sharp lightning. The entire depth of snow for the winter thus far half an inch.

Mean cloudiness, 46.77 per cent, the month being 1.49 per cent clearer than usual. The number of clear days was 14 (entirely clear, 9; half-clear, 5; cloudy, 8 (entirely cloudy, 5). Mean cloudiness at 7 a. m., 53.22 per cent, at 2 p. m., 47.43 per cent; at 9 p. m., 39.08 per cent.

Wind.—N. W., 43 times; S. W., 24 times;

N. E., 17 times; S. E., 6 times; E., twice; N. once; W., once. The entire distance traveled by the wind was 9,986 miles, which gives a mean daily velocity of 323.45 miles, and a mean hourly velocity of 13.43 miles. The highest velocity was 40 miles an hour from 2 to 3 p. m. on the 5th.

Mean height of barometer, 29.144 inches; at 7 a. m., 29.168 in.; at 2 p. m., 29.120 in.; at 9 p. m., 29.161 in.; maximum, 29.618 in., on the 6th; minimum, 28.885 in., on the 11th; monthly range, 0.733 in.

Relative humidity—Mean for the month, 73.4; at 7 a. m., 82.4; at 2 p. m., 75.3; at 9 p. m., 80.3. Greatest, 94.7 on the 18th; least, 37.4 on the 23d. There was no fog.

Facts and Figures from Kansas.

SADDLEBAG NOTES.

NO. X.

A large proportion of the farmers in the counties where I have traveled, have not covered their corn-cribs, and the loss of corn from the effects of rain and snow will aggregate many hundred thousand bushels.

Some farmers have already commenced to overhaul their corn and place it under shelter. The sooner this is done the less there will be wasted.

I have noticed that a very small proportion of our farmers make any effort to shelter their farm implements. During the last three months I have seen the following implements left to care for themselves without shelter: 131 mowing machines, 23 reapers, 11 threshers, 244 plows, 106 harrows, 28 horse hay rakes, 37 riding cultivators, and wagons too numerous to mention. In many cases these tools were left just where they were used last. Fully one-fifth of the mowers were yet in the field where they were used last summer. It would be better for the tools to wear out than to rust out. A very cheap covering could be made with a few rails and posts, and a load of hay. It has been said by a well known agriculturalist of the eastern states, who visited this state last year, that "the people of Kansas would never get rich until they learned the value of a five cent piece," and he might have added, nor prosper until they learned to shelter their tools. Within the last few days I have seen on a farm of an otherwise good farmer, a mower and horse rake standing where they were used last summer, and I think I hear him say to his boy as he reads this, "John hitch up the team and go down into the meadow and bring up that mower and rake and put them under the shed."

Reader, have you got any tools rusting and rotting out in the fields or prairie? W. W. C.

Manhattan, Kansas.

From Davis County.

Weather warm, frequent snows and rains have made the roads as bad and the ground as wet as it can be in Kansas, but nothing to compare with what we hear from Illinois and Iowa. There was 25 per cent more wheat sown here last fall than ever before, and it looks 50 per cent better; besides there will be considerable Odesa, or grass wheat sown, which yielded splendidly last year. Stock is generally in fine order, but black-leg is occasionally taking one of the best; I have lost four, two of them good cows, within the last two weeks; they only live about six hours after they begin to shiver and limp. My attempts at doctoring have only appeared to hasten their death; is there any cure or preventive. Our prospect for fruit is still good; peach plum and cherry buds not swelling (as reported by many). Our faith in this part of the state for fruit is growing stronger, and all who are able will set trees the coming spring. If people would buy direct from a reliable nursery nearest to them, instead of the trash offered by peddlers, it would be a big step in fruit culture.

From Mitchell County.

Jan. 30th.—Fall wheat is in good condition, and a larger acreage has been put in than last year; on account of the dry weather in September it was most all sown in October, but having plenty of rain from the first of October until now, it has quite a good start, and the prospect is fair for a good crop. There is a great deal of corn to gather yet in our county. It is estimated to average fifty bushels per acre, which is about twenty per cent above the average yield of 1876. Wheat and rye are about ten per cent, and oats about twenty-five or thirty per cent, better than 1876. There are a good many cattle being fed in our county this winter. Corn and hay are plenty and cheap. Quite a large number of hogs have been shipped out of this county this fall and winter, and there are still more fattening and getting ready to ship.

A man in our neighborhood by the name of Allen, sold a hog lately that weighed 745 pounds. It was quite a shoat. Stock-raising seems to pay well here. I hear of no disease among cattle and hogs. I received a postal card from A. Howard, of Morris county, wishing to know if there was any chance of buying forty or fifty head of yearling steers in this neighborhood, and at what prices. I would say, through the *FARMER*, that there are a good many cattle men in our county, watching for such chances. I don't know of any yearlings for sale at present.

Immigration was heavy in this part of Kansas last fall, and we hear of many more coming in the spring, seeking homes. The prices of land are rising. Raw prairie is selling at from \$3 to \$5 per acre; improved farms from \$5 to \$12 per acre. Homestead land is scarce in this vicinity. There is a good deal

of school land advertised for sale in this county.

Work horses sell from \$75 to \$125; milch cows, \$20 to \$30; yearling steers, \$10 to \$15; two-year-olds, \$20 to \$25; work oxen, \$75 to \$100 per yoke.

Our county is well supplied with churches and schools. J. T. CRUZ.

From Marion County.

Feb. 4.—Winter open, and the worst roads ever seen in the county. There is a great deal of corn in the fields yet and not much prospect of getting it out, at present. Corn is only worth 15 cents, and it seems to us that it will pay every farmer to carry over a good crib full for fear of a short crop the coming season. Winter wheat looks well. Stock of all kinds never wintered better. I see Mr. Dilley, from Reno county, would like to know what breed of hogs do well in Kansas; we will say from experience and careful breeding, that any black breed will do well, but would not advise any Buckeye Hog Tamers; still, if you are bound to have one, they can be got at the hardware store at Peabody. Blue-grass and red clover does well here, and can be obtained at most of the seed stores; white clover was tested at Durham Park, last season, on a small scale, and did well. C. F. S.

From Butler County.

Feb. 6.—This place was settled in the year 1870, and the first acre turned in March; to-day every quarter section for several miles around us, are more or less improved, and many large farms are already opened out, with many comforts of life surrounding them. As a general thing our farmers are very enterprising, therefore have good houses, good schools and schoolhouses, and plenty of them; church and Sabbath-school every Sabbath, prayer-meetings through the week; Societies: Methodist and Presbyterian. There are four school-houses within 3½ miles of my own home. A. L.

From Allen County.

Feb. 5.—Winter wheat is in very good condition, acreage 80 per cent more than last year; the crop of 1877 averaged 11 bushels per acre. There is a great deal of old corn on hand from 1876; yield of corn per acre in 1877, about 35 bushels; present price of corn 18 to 20c. Wheat, 75c to \$1.00; butter 10¢@12¢; potatoes, 50¢@60¢; eggs 8c; cheese 15c; prairie hay, \$5 per ton; millet \$7 per ton; oats 15c per bushel. Cattle show an increase of 30 per cent, and in good condition considering the wet weather. Hogs have increased 50 per cent; present price, \$3 per hundred; cattle ready sale, cows, \$15@30; two-year-olds, steers \$16@20; yearlings, \$10@14; horses, \$35@80; mules, ready sale at good figures. No vacant government land in this county; there is a great deal of railroad land from \$1 @4 per acre on eleven years' time at 7 per cent interest; improved land sells from \$5@30 per acre. There has been a great deal of land changed hands this winter, and we have had a large immigration here last fall and this winter; men coming in with plenty of money. Times are very good considering all things; labor is \$1 per day; farm hands \$12@18 per month; mechanics, \$2 per day; wood \$4 per cord; coal 15c per bushel. We have five cheese manufactories in Allen county, three of them on a large scale; I will get the number of its each in my next. The Murphy movement has taken our town, there are six hundred already, and more coming. ELMER.

From Atchison County.

Jan. 30.—Condition of winter wheat the very best, acreage about one-third greater than 1877; yield in 1877 about 15 bushels per acre. Considerable old corn on hand; yield in 1877 about 35 bushels per acre. The yield of oats was about 35 bushels; rye 20; potatoes 65; flaxseed 20; turnips unknown. Present price of the above is rather low. Butter 15¢@18¢; eggs 8¢@10¢. Condition of cattle good, in number from 10 to 20 per cent greater than last year. Winter thus far very mild; a great deal of rain and no snow. The fruit crop for 1877 was excellent in our locality; apples, peaches, plums, grapes, raspberries, gooseberries, etc., etc.; pears, cherries, and currants only to a limited extent. Price of prairie land from \$8@15 per acre; improved farms, \$10@35; horses, \$75@100; cows, \$20@30; two-year-olds \$20@25; farm labor, \$14 to 18 per month. Churches and schools, good. SAMUEL STONER.

From Crawford County.

Winter wheat is in excellent condition now, the acreage is not so large as that of last year by three-fourths; the yield per acre last year was quite small, not more than five bushels; our best wheat would grade from No. 3, all the way up to No. 9; very little old corn on hand; this year corn yielded about 25 bushels per acre and light at that; worth 20c per bu. Oats were a good, average crop, worth 15c per bushel; rye, none sown; potatoes were a good average yield, worth 50 to 75c per bushel; turnips, very few grown; no cheese made here; butter 15c; eggs, 8c. Cattle in excellent condition, and the number has increased some. Cows are worth from \$20 to 25; choice cows above these figures; steers 3 yrs old next spring, \$25; 2-year-olds, \$17; one year old next spring, \$10. Horses have not fully recovered from the epizootic, but some are in good condition; average price of a good work horse \$75. GRANT.

From Fulton County, Ind.

Feb. 3.—The average of crops in this county is as follows: corn 35 bushels per acre; wheat, 15; oats and rye each five bushels, but very little of either raised; potatoes, 55 bu.; turnips 20 bushels. Wheat is worth \$1 per bushel; corn 35c; oats; rye 90c; potatoes 40c;

turnips 15c; eggs 10c per doz.; butter 15c per lb.; cheese 18c. Prairie land is from \$10 to 15 per acre; farm land \$20 to 40. Work horses \$60 to 80; milch cows \$15 to 25; 2-year-old steers \$25 to 35; farm labor \$16 to 20 per month. No government land in the county. Cattle in excellent condition; very few raised. Very little fruit in the county. Good schools and churches all around us. A. B. A.

From Pratt County.

Feb. 10.—Winter wheat generally looks well, there is more than three times as much sown as there was in 1877. The yield last year was about 14 bushels per acre. As this is a new country, wheat has not had a fair trial yet. There is not much old corn on hand; the yield averaged about 12 bushels per acre on sod ground; no old ground in corn. It is hard to tell what the average of other crops would be; oats, rye, potatoes, turnips and all vegetables do well as far as they have been tried. Market prices of fall wheat .70¢@.90; corn, .30; potatoes, \$1.00; eggs .15 butter, .15. Cattle are in good condition. No fruit raised yet; there is plenty of vacant government land. Horses are worth \$80@150; milch cows, \$35@50; two-year-old steers, \$12@25; the price for farm labor is \$20 per month. The county is not yet organized; no schools nor churches; the county is settling very fast. FRANK MORRIS.

A DOLLAR OF 425 GRAINS.

The director of the mint, who is opposed to the unlimited coinage of silver dollars provided for in the Bland bill, proposes that the silver dollar be increased in weight from 412½ to 425 grains which would make it worth 87½ cents in gold. In other words, while he is opposed to a silver dollar containing only 92 cents, he is in favor of one containing only 97½ cents. But if making the government receivable for all debts would be "repudiation," as the gold advocates pretend, would not the making of the latter receivable for all debts be repudiation, too? The director of the mint, admits that the only objection to increasing the weight of the dollar to 425 grains is that "under the funding act of 1870, the government has the option to pay in gold coin, or silver coin of 412½ grains, and that option many desire the government shall not lose." This is an important admission. It concedes all that the advocates of the Bland bill demand—viz.: That by the law of 1870 the bonds are payable in either in gold or silver and the government, therefore, has the option of paying in either. There is nothing strange in the fact that the people desire this option shall not be surrendered, for that would virtually add 8 per cent to the public debt. The country has no use for a new dollar of 425 grains weight. The lawful dollar of 412½ grains weight will answer all purposes of people heavily in debt.—*St. Louis Republican*.

Markets.

New York Money Market.

New York, February 11, 1878.
GOLD—Opened at 101½; closed at 102.
LOANS—Carrying rates, 3½ per cent.
SILVER—Bars, \$1.19 in greenbacks; \$1.16½ in gold; coin, 1 per cent. discount.
BONDS—Government, Steady. Railroad, Weak.
State, Dull.
STOCKS—Irrregular and in the main lower until near the close, when a recovery was made. The coal place; the greatest decline of the day was in coal shares and New York Central.

Kansas City Produce Market.

KANSAS CITY, February 11, 1878.
WHEAT—Stronger and higher; No. 3, \$1.05; No. 4, 96½¢; rejected, 78¢.
CORN—Firm; No. 2, 29½¢; rejected, 25¢.
RYE—Dull; No. 2, 61½¢.
OATS—Nominal.
BARLEY—Nominal.

Kansas City Live-Stock Market.

KANSAS CITY, February 11, 1878.
CATTLE—Receipts, 248; shipments, 154; dull but firm; little doing; sales of yearlings at \$18 per head; cows, \$2.40@2.60; Colorado shippers, \$4.
HOGS—Receipts, 289; good demand; light market; sales at \$3.40@3.50.

New York Produce Market.

New York, February 11, 1878.
FLOUR—Demand moderate; unchanged.
WHEAT—Dull; closed firmer; No. 1, red winter, \$1.38; upgraded red winter, western, \$1.28; No. 2, new, February, \$1.20@1.27½.
RYE—Quiet; western, 70¢@72¢.
BARLEY—Fair demand and firm.
COFFEE—Demand moderate; unchanged.
SUGAR—Quiet and firm.
MOLASSES—New Orleans, 25¢@50¢.
RICE—Unchanged.
EGGS—Heavy; western, 10¢@16¢.
PORK—Mess, firm; \$11.25@11.50.
BEEF—Quiet.
LARD—Prime steam, \$7.60@7.62½.
BUTTER—Firm and unchanged.
CHEESE—Firm and unchanged.
WHISKY—Firm; \$1.08@1.09.

St. Louis Produce Market.

St. Louis, February 11, 1878.
FLOUR—Firm, quiet and unchanged.
WHEAT—Firm and higher; No. 3, red, \$1.19½; No. 4, \$1.20; March, \$1.20½; No. 2, spring, \$1.20½; No. 3, spring, \$1.20½; No. 4, spring, \$1.20½; No. 2, spring, \$1.20½; No. 3, spring, \$1.20½; No. 4, spring, \$1.20½.
CORN—Firm, 41¢@41½¢ cash; 41½¢ February; 40½¢ bid March.
OATS—Lower to sell; 24½¢ cash; 30½¢ bid March.
RYE—Steady; 51½¢ cash.
WHISKY—Steady; \$1.03.
PORK—Firm; \$10.50@10.60 cash; \$10.50 bid March.
DRY SALT MEATS—Firm and held higher; short rib, \$5.25; loose short clear, \$5.45@5.50; hams, \$3.40@3.75; Colorado, \$3.25@3.40; corn-fed Texans, \$3.40; receipts, 899.
SHEEP—Good heavy medium scarce and in demand at \$4.25@4.50; butchers', \$2.75@3.25; receipts, 2,500.

St. Louis Live-Stock Market.

St. Louis, February 11, 1878.
HOGS—Firm and fairly active; 50¢@10¢ higher, mainly on light receipts; light, \$3.50@3.75; packing, to fancy, \$3.75@3.95; receipts, 4,100.
CATTLE—Steady; firm and unchanged; prime to good shipping steers, \$4.70@5.25; fair to good, \$3.80@4.00; fair to good butchers' \$3.40@4.25; cows and heifers, \$3.40@3.75; Colorado, \$3.25@3.40; corn-fed Texans, \$3.40; receipts, 899.
SHEEP—Good heavy medium scarce and in demand at \$4.25@4.50; butchers', \$2.75@3.25; receipts, 2,500.

Chicago Produce Market.

CHICAGO, February 11, 1878.
FLOUR—Steady and unchanged.
WHEAT—Irrregular; good demand and a shade higher; No. 1, spring, \$1.05; No. 2, spring, \$1.04; No. 3, spring, \$1.03; No. 4, spring, \$1.02; No. 2, spring, \$1.04; No. 3, spring, \$1.03; No. 4, spring, \$1.02.
CORN—Fairly active and a shade higher; 40¢@40½¢ regular, 40¢ cash.
OATS—Steady and firm; 23½¢ cash.
RYE—Quiet and steady 51¢.
BARLEY—Easier; 46½¢.
PORK—Fairly active and a shade higher; \$10.30 cash.
LARD—Fairly active and a shade higher, \$7.40 cash.
BULK MEATS—Firm; shoulders, 3¢; short rib, 5½¢; short, 5¢.
WHISKY—Steady and unchanged; \$1.03.

Literary and Domestic.

EDITED BY MRS. M. W. HUDSON.

Mrs. HUDSON.—Please may I come in? I'm a stranger to all in your circle but would like to get better acquainted. I have just commenced to take your paper and do not know what subjects have been laid "on the table." So if I should happen to advance an idea not very original, pardon my blunder and I will try to do better next time, if this is not consigned to the waste-basket.

That "everlasting servant-girl question," yes, and it will be "everlasting" as long as this world stands, and people are obliged to hire some one to do their work. I think the idea advanced by you that servants should "learn their trade" is the right one, and one that will help to end our difficulties. In England they train their help. Young girls are taken from families on the estate into the "Hall" or whatever name the "great house" has, and put under the care of old, experienced workers. And in time they take their place in the household as family servants or go out to service in other places as good, trustworthy efficient helpers, with good recommendations from Lady so-and-so. We have nothing to take the place of this training in this country. Biddy or Kathleen comes to us fresh from the "Old Country," stays a few days or weeks till perhaps you think you are going to have a good servant, but something happens; Biddy wants her afternoons "out" without reference to company in the house or the pleasure of the mistress, and Kathleen, "sure and it was never so in the old country." You may find some one who will do your work better, I'm after having. So they come and go. In the city it does not matter so much, but in the country where there are no intelligence offices to send to and order a fresh cook or chambermaid every ten days, what shall we do? Girl left this morning, "without notice." Dinner to get for a dozen harvest hands, churning, sweeping, making beds, fruit to take care of, baby teething, elder children to look after, Johnny's pants are torn, button off of Mabel's apron, "please Ma mend these before school." Think as hard as we may, we cannot plan and contrive how the work of our hands can be accomplished by two. Under any circumstances, is it any wonder that farmers' wives grow old faster than city women? I say, no! And this servant question is in a great measure responsible for it. If we could get a good, trustworthy helper by paying out money for her wages, how many are there who would be without help? It is true there are almost always some girls seeking employment, but if they are going around looking for a place they are usually of no earthly account. I would not give them house room. My first call has been rather more lengthy than fashionable, so I will say good-night, and tell you something next time I come about my flowers and babies, which perhaps, will be pleasanter subjects.

MRS. M. A. BUCKNELL.
Macoupin, Co., Illinois.

Mrs. HUDSON.—In a late issue of the FARMER, Heliotrope asks how to make worsted mats, and as no one has responded, I venture to give the desired information. Make a strand of four threads of shaded green zephyr and two or three yards long, then thread your needle of the same and tie around one end of the strand. Hold the strand between the thumb and first finger of left hand, carry the working thread down about one inch and hold with the strand, throw the working thread around from right to left, making a loop, and pass the needle under the strand and up through the loop as in buttonhole stitch, draw tightly and tie once again. Now carry the thread another inch and tie in same manner, and when you have finished tying at intervals of an inch, cut all but the working thread. It will take several yards prepared in this way for a mat. When you have enough, cut a pasteboard the desired size, and after covering both sides neatly, sew in long loops around the edge, then a row of shorter loops and then another of still shorter loops and your mat is done. I hope you will understand my explanation.

I think "Lonesome Ben" is entitled to much sympathy. Susan G. is very generous in offering him all her nice recipes for the asking; perhaps she would make his yeast and bake his bread for the same, and save him much vexation; however, I hope he will have less trouble now, as he has found another "Sympathy." I would say if he finds it difficult to procure hops, he can take a handful of peach-tree leaves from his orchard, if he has one, if he hasn't, he had better plant one out, use the same as hops and aside from the benefit of the leaves, he can soon gather fruit which will be better for the inner man than castor oil, that is, more palatable.

POMONA.

Gloves are an expensive article in a lady's toilet, especially light kid gloves, and many think that when soiled they are worthless. But they can be made to look fresh and new by thoroughly wetting them with naphtha or gasoline, then take them out on a clean towel, and rub them until dry with a clean napkin. The disagreeable odor will be gone in half an hour. No lady should affect a disdain for the minor economies of life. I heard one say: "There's Miss Susan G., she has a new pair of gloves for every concert and party," when the truth is Miss Susan has only had two pairs in a year and a half, and they are no half worn out. I have cleaned my buckskin driving gloves in the same way.

SUSAN.

A NEW MEMBER OF THE FARMER FAMILY.

After reading the interesting article on Darning and Thinking, I wondered how such a plan for social improvement would work in Kansas, where I am told most of the farmers are bankers (?) with ample means to purchase thousands of acres. Where do they all come from? Are they a product of the state? It certainly is nice to have the wealth, but how could men be social with their nearest neighbor two miles away. I think, however, that some parts of the state must be more thickly settled and not all bankers. I know there are many hard working intelligent people in Kansas, who are feeling themselves degenerate just as we do in Illinois, from a lack of sociability. Home, however attractive, will not satisfy. The grange, lyceum, Red Ribbon society, or even an old fashioned spelling school should be welcomed, if it brings together the young men and women, boys and girls, for development of mind and social enjoyment. All the better if father and mother can join heartily into their children's enjoyment and thus renew their youth, for we all grow old too soon.

ADA BELL.

BUTTERMAKING.

A young wife whose lot has been cast to dwell on a Kansas farm, inquired, through the FARMER, last week, for information which will enable her to make good butter in winter. There are several reasons why winter-butter is rarely as good as summer butter. The two principal ones are, first, the cows are usually not fresh; second, the feed is dry; nothing being equal to the sweet, succulent grasses of May and June for producing fine, golden, first-class butter and plenty of it.

The great difficulty, however, experienced in churning in winter over that in summer or late spring, before the dry heat of summer has set in, exists in the different temperatures of the atmosphere. In May and early June, when it requires the least labor to make good butter, the temperature of the atmosphere is about 70° in the morning, a few hours after sunrise, which is the best time to churn. The milk, at that season of the year, is generally kept in a cool, airy room free from offensive and impure smells, and in consequence is perfectly pure and healthful.

The above simple reasons embrace the why and wherefore that May and June butter is superior to January butter. If your correspondent "Ellen R." will set her wits to work to secure the same conditions in winter which nature, almost unassisted, provides for her in the spring, she will compass the whole mystery—which is no mystery at all—of making good butter in the coldest weather in winter. Her cows must be fed with rich, wholesome food, or there will be but little butter in the milk, and that of an inferior quality. Food possessing a disagreeable smell or taste, will impart its bad qualities to the butter.

In milking in winter, great care should be practiced in keeping every particle of filth of the stable or yard from getting into the milk. The milk and cream must be kept out of the kitchen and living room, and absolutely clear of all odors from cooking or smoke. A dry, airy cellar is probably the best place the majority of farmers have for a milk room in winter. But if vegetables are stored in the same cellar, the place will, in all probability, be made as near air-tight as possible to exclude frost, and the odor which is constantly arising from vegetables thus stored, will be absorbed by the cream, and the butter be permanently and incurably injured.

The cream and milk must be kept in an absolutely pure atmosphere of as even temperature as possible, until enough has been gathered for churning. The temperature should be kept above the freezing point or of course the cream will not rise. Stir your cream twice or three times a day. Before churning keep the churn in a room where the temperature is not lower than 70°, for several hours, so that the wood may become thoroughly warmed through. Now remove the crocks or vessels containing your cream, from the room where they have been kept, into a warm room, and set them in a tub or large boiler of scalding water, and stir the cream to cause it to warm evenly until it is brought to a temperature of about 80°. If you have a thermometer you can ascertain this exactly, but if not you can approximate it by feeling with the hand or tasting the cream; then turn the cream into the churn. Before this operation, however, the churn should be scalded and rinsed thoroughly, by pouring a pailful of hot water into it, and giving the dasher a few brisk turns, and after the hot water has stood a few minutes in the churn with the lid closed, empty and allow the churn to remain open a minute or two till the temperature of the inside lowers slightly before turning in the cream. While churning keep the room comfortably warm and avoid cold drafts striking the churn from opening outside doors, while the operation of churning is going on. Cream will churn easier if properly scoured before churning, but it is much better to expend a little more labor and have nice, sweet butter, than run the risk of standing your cream in a warm room where it is exposed to the odors of the kitchen, which are sure to injure the butter more or less. Drain the buttermilk off and wash the butter with moderately cold well or spring water, pressing it firmly with the ladle. Do not mix and damp it, or the grain will be injured. Salt with one ounce of fine Liverpool salt to the pound of butter, and let it stand for two hours or more in a clean place where it will not get too hard to work, then work over by pressing with the ladle till the buttermilk is all ex-

elled, and form into rolls or prints. Never use coarse salt, and always, if possible, the Ashton, or Higgin's dairy salt.

If these directions are followed, intelligently, the young lady will have sweet, nice butter that her husband will never tire of praising.

TWENTY-SIX HOURS A DAY.

III.—HOW TO GET THEM.

You retire from the field discouraged, try to follow these "directions." The result is something very different from Mrs. Handy's delicate muffins. John breaks one open very suspiciously, and, after a minute's inspection pushes back his plate—with that expression of huge patience which men assume when they want to say something severe but don't, and says:

"Haven't you any bread, Mary? Don't let the children touch these. They are as tough as leather. Why don't you ask Mrs. Handy how she makes her muffins? They are something like."

You nerve yourself and pleasantly ask if he wouldn't like a slice of dry toast. (Such a comfort as dry toast is under such circumstances!) In a week or two, after a series of experiments, you finally evolve from your "inner consciousness," and flour and eggs, some very creditable muffins—but you don't call your experience judgment.

There are many cases where it is a woman's duty to prepare the food herself—as, for instance, when the delicate child, or aged parent, needs the preparation of the unimpeachable flavor which "mother's" practiced hand alone can give. Where, for any reason, the lady "does her own work," this is a necessity. However, I am speaking of superfluities, not of necessary labor, and very often even in these cases, simple dishes would be more healthful and also as palatable.

It does not follow, of course, that every elaborately dressed lady is perforce a slave to her needle. There are natural seamstresses whose deft fingers, out of common materials, will conjure garments almost as magically as the fairy godmother changed Cinderella's rags into a beautiful ball-dress. Their artistic gift takes out scanty purses, and they are elegant in apparel which costs little in time or money. Sewing is a pastime to them; after two or three hours' work they are as fresh as daisies, and will accomplish more in a half a day than their less gifted sisters will in a week. They never can understand what a torment sewing is for those who don't like it, who plod along drearily sticking the needle in and out, invariably doing everything in the hardest way, forgetting what they are about, and sewing the wrong pieces together, and having to rip the work out just as they imagine it completed.

It will not do to judge harshly from appearances. Mrs. R.'s dainty ruffles may not cost her any more time and strength than Mrs. W.'s plain folds do her. Still, if these skillful fingers could only be satisfied to do plain work, how much time their quickness might save their fortunate owners, and how much of those who try to "keep up" with them.

But I hear Mrs. Motherly exclaim, half indignantly: "I don't see how all this applies to me. I never had an elegant dress in my life, and I am sure I don't take one needless stitch in my children's clothes. But when you think how the knees and elbows grow short, and how the skirts and sleeves grow short, and how the old material, which I must use for economy's sake, wears out before its time, you see the necessary sewing for three or four little children is a great burden. If I could only afford to hire some of it done!"

System accomplishes as much in house-keeping as in anything else. It is a great help to have a plan for each day thought out the evening before or early in the morning. By this I don't mean a cast iron inflexible frame, in which you and your family are uncomfortable, but a judicious, practicable idea of what you wish to do that particular day, a plan flexible enough to allow for unforeseen emergencies, yet firm enough to keep you steadfast for your purpose. I once heard a lady describe her dress-maker as such a wasteful cutter, "because she cut right into the whole cloth for everything, without the least attempt to see if she could do anything with the pieces." A great many women use their time in just the same way. They fill up whole mornings with little, unimportant things that might as well be crowded into odd minutes, and start their large enterprises just when they cannot finish them without serious interruption and delay. A wise forethought will have ready always some light sewing to "catch up" when your neighbor runs in for an afternoon's chat, or your husband wants to read you something from the last magazine. Your fingers can be busy while your mind is free to listen. It is the half hours of enforced or voluntary idleness that makes the "drive" and overwork when you are crowded into a corner.

There is yet another superfluity to be given up, if we would gain time by saving it, which can hardly come under the head of work, viz., much of so-called "society"—not simply fashionable society; those who are absorbed in that have little time or thought for personal culture, except to furnish material for the evening's "small talk." But there is a good deal of aimless running back and forth, many of these little evening gatherings and tea-parties, where nothing more important is discussed than Mrs. Smith's new baby, or whether poisonaises are to be worn or not. These all take time without rendering any equivalent for it.

No one more than a mother of little children, who is tied to a never ending routine of distracting cares, needs the refreshment which comes from an occasional neighborly call on some congenial friend. It is a change, as well as an interchange of thought. They compare experiences, and she goes back to her duties with clearer eyes for having taken an outside view of her home as well as an inside view of other people's. Even ceremonious calls are very useful as an expression of courtesy to new comers, and a means of keeping up a half formal acquaintance between those who wish for that and nothing more. We must give some time to other people besides our own families, or we shall grow narrow and selfish; but it ought to be in such a way that both we and they are the better for it.

Can't you remember the mental and moral exasperation with which you have felt the priceless minutes of an especially

busy morning slide forever away, while politeness forced you to sit helpless, listening to the aimless chatter of some voluble acquaintance? The smell of burning cooking may come up from the kitchen, or the sound of the baby's fretting from the nursery; but like the "wedding guest" held by the "cold, glittering eye" of the "Ancient Mariner," you

"Cannot choose but hear."

Console yourself by thinking that some of our most able literary women have been excellent housekeepers. Remember how Charlotte Bronte stopped in the midst of some of the most exciting passages in "Jane Eyre" to go out into the kitchen and take the black specks out of the potatoes, unknown to poor old "Tabby," rather than hurt her sensitive feelings by ordering the younger servant to do it.

It is one phase of the popular unjust judgment of women, even in these liberal days, that it regards literary women as necessarily neglectful of household affairs, in the face of well-known facts to the contrary. A man of undoubted genius may be never so absent-minded, his financial affairs may get into the wildest confusion, and people only smile and say, "Well, one man can't be everything." But if it is a woman, no matter how great her ability, if her parlor-table is dusty, or if occasionally the buttons are off her children's boots, people shake their heads solemnly, and say, "Oh, these literary women!" Perhaps the secret of the prejudice is that, there are those who affect the eccentricities of genius without the genius itself, which alone makes the eccentricities endurable. De Quincy, speaking of his mother, says, "Though unpretending to the name and honors of a literary woman, I presume to call her (what many literary women are not) an intellectual woman. So, although leaving household duties neglected in order to write weak articles for still weaker papers may be the fault of a so-called literary woman, it is not a characteristic of one who is either intellectual or womanly. The popular verdict is right, so far as this, that a mother's first duty is to her family, and nothing which conflicts with and forces her to neglect that, is either womanly or proper. Be very sure that your family are contented and comfortable; that your husband finds your intelligent sympathy and counsel an aid to him in his work; that the children's place in the mother's heart is warm and ample; in a word, that your culture is but a gathering up of precious things to be poured out for their benefit, and you can snap your fingers at what your neighbors say and think.

After all, these things are relative. What to one family is a luxury, to another may be the most pressing of necessities. The society in which we move, the reasonable demands and wishes of our nearest friends, our own tastes and abilities must all be considered before any one of us can answer the question, "How can I gain more time for my own personal culture, without neglecting any essential item of my daily duties?" In this matter of "time," there are no patent rights and no monopolies. We each have all the time there is; our mental and moral status is determined by what we do with it.—Scribner for Feb.

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NASBY.

A novel by this celebrated Humorist, and eight other burning topics, all for 25 cents. Would cost \$5.00 a book form. Address, BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

IT WASN'T THE TOOTHACHE.

In the ladies' waiting room at the Central depot the other day were a newly-married couple from Grass Lake. They had been visiting in the city two or three days, and were now ready to go home. They sat side by side, of course; his arm was around her waist and she leaning on his shoulder. A long-waisted stranger from the east, having sore eyes and a big heart, walked in, saw them thus seated, and in about a minute he asked of the husband:

"Has that woman there got the toothache?"

The husband looked up in surprise, but made no answer. After two or three minutes the long waisted man again remarked:

"If that woman has got the toothache I've got a bottle of peppermint in my satchel here."

The bride rolled her big white eyes around and the husband looked somewhat embarrassed. The man from down east unlocked his satchel, fumbled among shirts and collars, and brought up four ounces of peppermint essence. He uncorked it, touched the contents of the bottle against his big red tongue, and handing it forward towards the husband, feelingly said:

"Just have her sop some on a rag and rub her gums with it. We've used it in our family for—"

The bride's eyes threw out sparks as she lifted her head from its loving position, and striking at the bottle, she snarled out:

"Toothache, you fool! If you don't know the difference 'tween true love and the toothache, you'd better pick grass with the geese!"

"My Lord!" gasped the man, and he hurried out with his satchel in one hand and the bottle in the other.—*Detroit Free Press.*

ANOTHER LESSON IN POETRY.

We have just received to-day from a young man who wears side whiskers, thin ones, and eye-glasses, the sweetest little gem of a poem. There is only one verse of it but he says it is very seldom he drops into poetry, and can only write when the divine affluat is on him. We think the divine affluat was on him yesterday with both feet. We could have wished that he had written more, but are grateful for the one stanza he did send, because it gives us some new ideas on poetry-making, and we are always glad to get hold of anything that will help us to get a new wrinkle on the old machine; the affluat, when it strikes him, just seems to make it ooze out of him like perspiration, and he flings this stanza off as though he had breathed poetry all his life:

"Fair, fair, it is beyond compare,
My fannie with the brown, brown hair;
My fannie that blooms, that blooms among
The heathery prairies wide and long;
Methinks I hear her song, her song,
Now that is something like—"

When we had occasion to lecture on this subject, through the columns of this valuable paper, for sale everywhere, price five cents, the reader will remember that we stated that the only difficulty was in filling in, not in finding the rhyme, for you could write the rhymes first, and then rush around and look up the words to go in the lines. But this young genius has given us a hint that does away with all that trouble. He is a "white crow," he is. We could go right on and finish his poem for him without an effort:

Where the soft, soft, soft moonlight glows,
I'll seek, seek, seek thy bow-wow-wow;
Oh! fairest rose, rose, rose, rose,
My lily flow, flow, flow, flow, flow.

Oh, off, off, in the starlight beams,
I'll hie, hie, hie to our trysting place,
And linger in dre, dre, dre, dre, dre, dre,
For the sight light-light of thy lovely face.

I may caw, caw, caw, caw, call the mine,
With thy yel, yel, yel, yellow gold-like hair;
And my eye, yel, yel, eyes would shine,
To see thee, my dam, dam, damsel fair.

Really, what with one and another modern improvement, it will soon be a great deal easier to write poetry than prose, and no man nor woman of any pretensions to genius or scholarly attainment will ever clothe their thoughts in any garb other than poetry.—*Burlington Hawk-Eye.*



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