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## The Kansas Farmer.

HUDSON & EWING, Editors & Proprietors,  
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### TREES AND BIRDS.

The lover of the beautiful needs no special invitation to induce him to plant out in his house-yards and surroundings, trees for ornamental and other purposes.

In the moral world, one virtue is generally attended with other beneficial advantages; so it is with many of our plans on a farm. Shade trees are not only pleasing to the eye, but they afford us, on a summer's evening, a resort to rest after a weary day's toil.

To watch the setting sun, as it sinks below the western horizon, always reminds us of the beautiful lines of Thomas Moore:

"How dear to me the hour when daylight dies,  
And sunbeams melt along the silent sea;  
For then sweet dreams of other days arise,  
And memory breathes her vespersigh to thee."

Another advantage which is always pleasing to the lover of nature, is the resort which it affords to the feathered tribe. The little warblers of the forest are always welcome visitors in the spring. To watch them flying from tree to tree in search of insects to feed their young, is one of the interesting features of a home ornamented with shrubbery and shade trees. Although they are timid, and seek a lonely resort to build their nests, yet they may become partially domesticated. More can be done in this line than most people would suppose who had never tried it.

Last spring, some old oyster cans were lying around, which I concluded to nail to the trunks of trees for the purpose of attracting the attention of the little pugilistic house-wren. It worked successfully. Two of the cans were occupied by a pair each of the wren family. One of these cans is in sight of my front door, only about twelve feet from the ground, and the first thing in the morning, these little pets commence to sing their morning song, and to seek food for their families. It was an interesting sight, to see how soon these little birds accustomed themselves to persons being but a few feet from them.

It has been a mooted question with some writers on natural history, whether fear was natural or acquired. In the early days of the settlement of Kansas, while breaking up the prairie on the place where I am now living, every day while we were turning over the sod, a couple of little brown birds would follow the plow about half way round, it being eighty rods long. When we stopped at the end to turn the team around, these little innocent visitors would frequently hop on our feet and pick up a worm or grub which by chance was lying under the mould-board of the plow. It was evident that they were strangers to the "human face divine," for they manifested less fear than a domestic fowl in our house-yard.

On the sea shore in the Bay of Dublin, the common crow will pick up a mussel, fly into the air, let it drop, add then descend and devour the contents. The fall breaks the shell of the bivalve. How is it that the Irish crow has learned the force of gravitation, while the same bird on the eastern shores of England and Scotland, has not yet made this advancement? On the mussel shoals of the Ohio river, near Wheeling, we have witnessed the same performance, the same means adopted to bring about a similar result.

Last spring we found a bird's nest which was built some ten inches from the body of

the tree, on a slight branch. At the outer side of the nest was a small string, such as is used in tying up store goods; this was wound into the nest on one side. The other end of the string was fastened to an upper twig, and wound around it so that it was impossible to become loose. No explanation seemed reasonable to account for this unusual circumstance, but that the birds, after partially constructing their nest, found that the twig was too weak to support the nest, without this addition of the string to an upper branch to give it the necessary support.

J. H. Lane, Kansas.

### HORTICULTURE.

EDITORS FARMER: Under the general head of Horticulture, we have a state organization, incorporated December, 1869, that is doing much to make Kansas homes attractive, as well as to enhance the material prosperity of the state. They have also done much to determine the adaptation of the different kinds of fruit to our soil and climate.

I remember meeting Doctor Housley and Judge Wellhouse, in Topeka, in the winter of '73 and '73. They were very enthusiastic pomologists, and were there in behalf of this society, to ask the legislature, then in session, for an appropriation of one thousand dollars to place our fruit on exhibition in the east. Their request was readily granted, and they went on their way rejoicing.

By an act approved March 5th, 1877, an appropriation of \$3,600 was made to the society for the deficiencies for 1876, and for the years 1877 and 1878. I have been examining their report for 1877, a book containing 303 pages, which should be in the hands of every one, together with their reports of 1874 and 1875. These reports contain much valuable information upon the various subjects that are in any way intimately related to that of horticulture.

But the work of this society, and our local ones, is by no means accomplished yet. For instance, in regard to the fruit list recommended—an excellent one—time will change it. We see an indication of this in the fact that in the county reports of the lists of fruits planted, the Haskell's Sweet seems to have been reported from three counties only, and probably it had not fruited yet in any of these places. I apprehend that it will place itself among the preferred list not many years hence. The tree is a very vigorous grower, comes into bearing young, and the apple is large, fine grained and delicious; now ripening.

The Porter apple is reported among the list of trees planted from seven counties, two of which—Jefferson and Wyandotte—place it on the selected list. Whether it has yet fruited in any of the five other counties, does not seem to be determined. This variety has been fruiting in this vicinity for a number of years, and is very well liked.

A more general diffusion of horticultural knowledge through the farming community, would head off a great many of these snides who humbug them with "patent compounds," "tree invigorators," "Russian hybrid apple trees," etc. But I sometimes think some swindling could be avoided by reading the columns of the *Kansas Farmer*. As long as people will be "penny-wise and pound-foolish," they may expect to be swindled. This neighborhood has been thoroughly canvassed by agents in the interests of horticulture, and many who do not read the *FARMER* have given orders for hybrid apple trees of the Russian varieties, and have purchased "farm rights to destroy the root-borers"—in half an hour after they are dug out.

"C. W. J." stated, some time ago, a belief in the possibility of producing hybrids, by splitting the scions of different varieties of apple, through their buds, and it appears that Mr. Meecham, editor of the *Gardener's Monthly*, has been experimenting in this direction. But now comes Mr. William H. Slocum, a well-to-do and respectable farmer, and a native of New York, who left there thirteen years ago, and after a residence of eleven years in northern Iowa, removed to this place. He claims to have produced hybrids by the manner above stated. He says that the first man, to his knowledge, who practiced growing these kinds of apple trees for sale, was a Mr. Job Southwick, of Kerr's Corners, Erie county, New York, who had, at the time of his acquaintance with him, a nursery stock occupying about thirty acres.

Mr. Slocum says that the hybrid was produced from the halves of the terminal bud; that the two halves of the scion were wrapped

together carefully with tow, and then grafted into an apple root and laid away in the cellar to adhere until planting time in the spring.

Mr. Slocum's statement is that if one-half of the scion is from a sweet apple tree, and the other half from a sour one, the apple will be one-half sour and the other half sweet, but the sweet and sour will not be so distinctly marked as in the original varieties, and that an apple can be made to contain four different varieties of fruit in the same way. But if all this has been done, and could yet be done, what does it amount to? No one, certainly, aside from a matter of curiosity, would think of raising this kind of fruit, and if our Russian hybrids are of this kind, the purchasers will not get the apples they thought they were purchasing.

Before closing this letter, I desire to say that this seems to be a favorable time to bud young peach-trees—a thing that every farmer ought to know how to do.

The success that peach-raising has attained for a succession of years, inspires confidence in the business, and while ordinarily the market for inferior fruit will not pay for raising, yet choice budded fruit generally finds a good market. In this vicinity buds are being used most extensively from those of earliest access, viz: Hale's Early, the Foster, Early Tillotson, Crawford's Early, Heath's Cling, and a few others—seedlings, (perhaps) some of which were very fine, and ripe this year by the middle of June.

In a few more years, under the fostering care of a people desirous of testing fully the horticultural possibilities of our state, we may hope to see here in Kansas better fruit than the civilized world ever before was known to produce.

Black Jack, Kansas.

The enthusiasm of our correspondent for Kansas present and prospective fruit, is pardonable. Kansas state pride bids fair to match that of the "F. F. V.'s." Although very fine fruit grows in Kansas, yet there are probably some isolated spots in the civilized parts of this world that may equal if not surpass it.

The Hale's Early peach is a very poor peach. The peach-growers of the Delaware peninsula are digging up all orchards of that variety. We have never met with any peaches in Kansas that will compare in flavor with the peach of that region. Kansas has many advantages she may justly be proud of, but Providence has reserved some blessings for other parts of the world.

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

The thing to be considered, is what to plant, and at what is the most successful time to plant.

The experience of our oldest and most successful farmers is that our country (especially while in its new state) is best adapted to small grain; the average yield of wheat, both winter and spring so far as I have been able to learn, has been about 20 bushels to the acre ever since this country has been settled, showing conclusively that this is a wheat-growing district.

But says one who is thinking of migrating I want to raise stock as well as grain, and we want feed for our stock. To such I would say there can be more and better feed raised on an acre of ground planted to rye than there can if planted in corn. I know it will be difficult to make those who have been raised in a corn country understand the advantage of rye culture over that of corn, but when they have the experience that I have had, they will readily see its advantages.

THE ADVANTAGES ARE—First, the work of planting is in the fall when we can best spare the time.

Second, if sown in the proper time the pasture will be of immense value to all kind of stock, especially to young stock. It is a common expression among farmers in this vicinity that the pasture of the rye is worth the cost of seed and the labor of planting; and it is known by every intelligent farmer, that rye is a good feed for horses, and by practical experiment I have proved that by commencing early and getting the grain chopped and sowing it will fatten hogs as fast as corn, and good sweet pork. Third the grasshoppers never have bothered small grain in this part of the country since the country was settled; and wheat and rye are always very sure crops.

THE TIME TO PLANT. Experience has shown that the last of

August and the first of September is the most successful time to plant the grain which we have spoken of; although we have known rye sown as late as November and make a good crop, but would advise early sowing.

The straw is also valuable for stock feed. It saves the cutting of hay and brings them out in good condition when allowed to run on rye pasture.

MOSES ADAMSON.

### THE CROPS OF THE WEST.

The time has arrived when an estimate, approaching some degree of accuracy, can be made respecting the crops of the country. The doubt which hung over the corn crop in many sections, may be said to have been decided in favor of the crop by the hot weather, accompanied by copious showers, during the month of July. In all parts of the corn-growing region, that crop never promised better. Kansas will have a heavy crop. In Indiana, Iowa, and Illinois, we have reports confirming the same condition of the crop.

Kansas is now threshing her best crop of wheat, both in yield and quality, two important results that generally are found in company in a grain crop. In Dakota and the extreme northwest, spring wheat is reported good. Michigan seems to have been particularly favored with a heavy wheat crop.

In some parts of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, considerable damage was sustained by the wheat crop, while in other parts the reports are favorable.

Officers of the Rock Island, Northern, Illinois Central, and other railroads passing through the great grain regions of the northwest, are in good spirits at the inspiring outlook for grain freights on their roads, the approaching fall and winter.

In Iowa, oats are said to be fair. In Kansas oats are a medium crop. In Michigan that crop is light, but corn good. Where winter wheat is grown the crop is generally excellent. In Nebraska and Iowa, the corn crop is up to the best ever known.

There was a large breadth of wheat sown last fall and spring, and on this account, and the favorable conditions of the crop over an extensive area, it seems to be a fair conclusion that the wheat crop of the country will be the largest ever before raised. Winter wheat in every instance is pronounced very superior in quality, while spring wheat is only medium in this respect. It would probably prove a fair estimate to average the entire wheat crop throughout the west and northwest at fifteen bushels per acre. Corn and oats may safely be set down as full crops in most localities, the former a heavy one in the best corn-growing regions.

### WESTERN LOANS.

EDITORS FARMER: It is well known that during the past years of financial depression, that much eastern capital has been invested west.

The question arises with those who are skeptical regarding these loans, can the western farmer afford to pay such large rates of interest?

Supposing a Kansas farmer with 160 acres, with an average location for railroad facilities borrows \$500 dollars for five years at 10 per cent interest, and gives a mortgage on his farm. Are the advantages for farming such that he can afford to pay this rate and be prepared to meet the loan when it matures, as easily as a New England farmer with the same number of acres, and the same loan, paying 6 per cent?

If this should chance to meet the notice of some of your readers who were formerly New England farmers, but are now tilling the soil under "Kansas skies," I should be pleased to hear from them.

A NEW ENGLANDER.

[Will some of our Kansas Yankees answer? Eds.]

### WHEAT SPECIALTY.

A Minnesota correspondent of the *N. Y. Tribune* writes:

"No farming can long prosper that does not return to the soil an equivalent for what is taken. With wheat every year, cattle can have no place; with no cattle and no manure, the result will be—no wheat. With the idea of rotation must be coupled that of recuperation. It should need no argument to prove to a nineteenth-century farmer that a gradual waste of fertility tends to poverty; and that restorative culture, that will make even rich land richer, is best for the profit of to-day and necessary for any profit whatever in the future. Then an absorbing specialty partakes of the nature of a speculation. As cotton cul-

ture—a great National blessing as a new and valuable industry—became a sectional curse as a pursuit that prevented the introduction of other essential industries, so the wheat specialty, if fostered and rendered all-absorbing, will eat up the fat kind of rural industries and still remain lean. It is an untrustworthy dependence. If a wheat famine comes upon foreign nations Minnesota may claim a dollar a bushel for her wheat; if abundance smiles upon foreign lands another year, Minnesota sits in mourning, with wheat at fifty cents a bushel and gloom brooding over every garner. This is rather a "game of hazard than legitimate farming."

### MORE ABOUT CHESS.

In the fall of 1865 while living in Western New York, I received from the Department of Agriculture at Washington a package of each of the following kinds of grain—oats, wheat, barley and rye. Desiring to keep them until spring, I put them into a wooden box. When opening the box in the spring, I found that the mice had gnawed a hole through the box and had badly mixed the seeds.

I gathered up the seeds as well as I could, but I found that with all my care there was about a quart of seeds that it was difficult to separate, and I therefore threw them out to the chickens. In scratching around for the seed the chickens naturally covered up some of the seeds. These seeds sprouted and grew for two or three weeks most beautifully.

A heavy frost, however, cut them off leaving about three or four inches on each kind remaining fresh above ground, with the exception of one stalk of corn. Alongside of this stalk of corn I drove a hard, smooth, hickory stick.

And now for the result. In July of that year, my attention was called to a heavy growth of chess where I had thrown those seeds. Upon examination I found one stalk of chess growing from the side of every stalk of wheat that had been winter killed. On each of the stalks of rye I found two stalks of chess. On each stalk of barley I found three stalks of chess, growing from the old dead stool. On the stalk of corn there was growing from each joint a large fine stalk of chess. And on the stick the most magnificent crop of chess I ever saw.

After this experiment I am ready to believe that chess or cheat, as it is sometimes called, can and will grow anywhere, and under any circumstances, and from any substance.

JOHN C. CALHOUN.

Pittsford, Kansas.

John C. Calhoun, my Jo John, you are facetious. But that cheat family is a very odd family, and strange authentic stories are frequently told of it. [EDS. FARMER.]

### SALINE COUNTY ITEMS.

Mr. C. Post has on his farm 14 acres of timothy sown last fall with wheat, that is a fine stand and very promising. Some stalks now as high as the wheat when the wheat was cut.

He also has a patch of alfalfa which he finds good to soil hogs upon, but cattle and horses, he says, do not like it.

The rat has injured the oats badly, in this county. The crop was unusually good till struck by the rust, and they seemed to dry up instead of ripening, and the crop will be light and poor. There is a great deal of good wheat and a good deal of poor to offset it. Wheat sown upon sod is light, and spring sown Odessa is nearly a failure. Many fields will not be cut. The fields that yield 25 to 40 bushels come to the front, and the poor fields are never heard from.

The little striped bug that for two years has destroyed our vines, has not put in an appearance this fall, and pumpkin and squash pies will be the order this fall.

Toads are unusually plenty this year, and as they are both harmless and useful they should not be molested.

We occasionally see and hear the robins this year, for the first time since I have been in Kansas. These and other birds follow along in the rear of the early settlers. Where civilization goes they go, and, (unlike the rat, which has not reached us yet) should meet with a hearty welcome. Swallows and martins have made their nests and reared their young about my buildings for the first time, this year.

The hot week passed here without serious injury to man or beast. 102° was the highest point reached at my house. WM. PETTES.



## Horticulture.

## KEEPING POULTRY IN ORCHARDS.

This is a matter that should be practiced if possible. We believe that if farmers and fruit-raisers knew the benefits arising from such management, they would at once adopt it. Last fall we visited an orchard in which fowls were kept, the owner of which told us that before the fowls were confined in it, the trees made little or no growth, and only a corresponding amount of fruit was obtained. But what a change was evident now. The grass was kept down, the weeds killed, and the trees presented an appearance of thrift, which the most enthusiastic horticulturist could but admire and envy. The growth of the trees was most vigorous, and the foliage remarkably luxuriant. The fruit was abundant, of large size and free from worms and other imperfections. This excellence was accounted for by the proprietor, who remarked that the "hens ate all the worms and curculio in their reach, even the canker worm." He found less trouble with their roosting in trees than he expected, and that a picket fence six feet high kept them within bounds. His orchard was divided into three sections, and the fowls were changed from one to another, as the condition of the fowls or the orchard section seemed to require.—*The Poultry World*.

## CURRENTS.

What a faithful friend the old-fashioned currant! It survives neglect, bears fruit with patient regularity, never winter-kills nor mildews, resists the competition of weeds and the robbery of years, and with a little help will triumph over its new enemies. And then how grateful it is to the taste, and how healthful to the system, with its sparkling acid and its rare sweet that is not too sweet! What the apple is to fruits the currant is to berries—sturdy, faithful, reliable, easily grown, health-giving. And yet the currant repays care as well as the daintiest berry; and the choice, large, new varieties show that it is susceptible of improvement. Take the form in which it is most commonly grown, the bush, and cut out the old stalks, thin out the spindling growths, cut back the vigorous shoots so as to make them stocky; hoe them as clean as you would a row of strawberries; give them all the old chips from the wood-yard, with a mixture of ashes and manure, and you will be surprised to see how the quantity and quality of the berries will be increased. That destructive pest, the currant-worm, can be destroyed, and the bushes preserved in all their greenness, for a few shillings' expense and a little care. A little powdered white hellebore sifted over the bushes when the worms first appear, with an additional dusting at their re-appearance for four or five times during the season, will do the business effectually. The fruit is best started by slips, either rooted or fresh cut, and grows quickly. Set four feet apart and mulch in dry weather.—*Golden Rule*.

## Dairy.

## FRESH BUTTER FOREVER.

S. R. M. gives the following directions for preserving butter in the *N. Y. Rural*. The writer wisely says that the butter must be made "well if you hope to take out a good article."

It is the atmosphere coming in contact with the butter which causes it to become rancid. Keep the two separate and the butter cannot spoil. To do this economically, prepare any kind of a vessel, a keg, jar, or barrel, make up the butter in rolls in the very best manner, cover them with a wet cloth, put them into the vessel and fill up with strong, clean brine, and arrange the cover so that a board or plank on its under side shall press the lumps down under the brine. Then bury the vessel up to the brim in the earth in the coolest corner of the cellar. Never let the brine get below the butter and it will keep for years. This is an airtight butter case; the but can thus be kept till the price suits. The butter does not improve in quality by this mode of keeping, therefore make it well if you hope to take out a good article.

## Farm Stock.

## THE FEET OF HORSES.

Few men who handle horses give proper attention to the feet and legs. Especially is this the case on farms. Much time is spent of a morning in rubbing, and smoothing the hair on the side and hips; but at no time are the feet examined and properly cared for. Now be it known that the feet of a horse require more care than the body. They need ten times as much, for in one respect they are almost the entire horse. All the grooming that can be done won't avail anything if the horse is forced to stand where his feet will be filthy. In this case the feet will become disordered, and then the legs will get badly out of fix; and with bad feet and bad legs, there is not much else of the horse fit for anything.—*Home Journal*.

At all times regularity in feeding horses is necessary, as disease will often accrue from suffering the animal to go too long without his small stomach, which soon becomes empty, being filled. Staggers often arise from this irregularity, which causes the animal to distend his stomach beyond ordinary, the avidity and voracity with which he eats his food, not allowing him to chew it.

## PREVENTION OF BOTS.

This is the season when the bot fly fulfills the main object of her existence, in depositing innumerable eggs on the surface of those animals in which her offspring may pass the inclement months of winter. Now, therefore, is the time to anticipate and prevent the ravages of the young of those insects. To the horse, especially, the larva of the *Estro* is highly injurious; and in the case of animals that have been exposed in the fields in summer, the evil effects are seen for the entire year—in a poor condition, which cannot be corrected by the greatest care, in a soft, flabbiness of the muscles, in an indisposition to exertion, in perspiration and fatigue under slight efforts, in swelling of the legs when standing still, in occasional irregularities of the bowels—diarrhoea, alternating with constipation—in occasional colics, and even an violent and fatal indigestion or inflammation. In other cases, a chronic cough, persisting through the entire winter, and disappearing at the season on the return of hot weather, betrays the presence of the bots attached to the membrane lining of the throat in place of that covering the stomach and intestine.

No less than six different species of bot flies are known to hibernate in their larval form in the digestive organs of the horse. All, however, pass through the same transformations, and the same precautions are necessary for all alike. The flies are active from midsummer through the heats of autumn, when the female is remarkably vigorous in attacking horses, and depositing her eggs on the long hairs by means of a protractile conical extension of the hinder part of her body (ovipositor). The eggs are prolonged into a round button-like mass at one end, by which they are glued to the surface of the hair, while the free end is furnished with a minute lid, which opens in a day or two, to allow the exit of the embryo. This latter is usually extracted by the tongue of the horse in seeking to rid himself of the accumulating eggs. By a special instinct, the fly deposits her eggs mainly on such parts of the skin (shoulders, breast, fore legs), as can be easily reached by the tongue. The exception shown in the eggs deposited under the jaws, is but an example of another adaptation, for here the embryos fall into the manger, or at grass among the food of the horse, and are swallowed with the regular aliment. They leave the digestive canal of the horse in the warm summer months, from May onward, and pass from 30 to 40 days in the form of nymphs before emerging as the perfect fly.

**Prevention.**—To prevent the attacks of the fly, it is not sufficient that the horse should be secluded in the stable during the warm months, as the insect will follow him in his retirement, though not so numerous, as in the open air. A good deal may be accomplished by clipping off the long hairs from beneath the jaws, from the neck, breast, shoulders, chest, and fore limbs. It is to these long and isolated hairs that the fly prefers to fasten her eggs, and in their absence she will to a large extent confine her attention to other horses. Again: much may be done by oiling the hairs of the lower jaw, neck, breast, shoulders and fore limbs. This prevents the adhesion of the eggs, and thus largely obviates the danger. If to oil is added some agent which is obnoxious to the fly, its value will be increased. A drachm of camphor, carbolic acid, oil of turpentine, or assafoetida, mixed with a quart of sweet oil will serve this purpose. Finally, wherever eggs have been attached to the hairs, it is well to sponge these with water, when the horse is returned to the stable. This may fail to remove the egg-shells, but will usually extract the live embryo, and the empty shells that remain are perfectly harmless. It is, however, advisable to remove even the shells if possible, as you are then better able to judge when a new mass of eggs has been deposited, and when sponging will be demanded anew.—*National Live Stock Journal*.

## THE HORSE OF ALL-WORK.

If you want a horse for all-work—the horse for the farm and for the road, to drive to the church, or to the mill, or to market, for pleasure driving or for hard service, to sell in town or city, for most purposes—we say by all means breed the trotting-horse. Breed for size, style and stamina, as well as speed, and you will get horses that the highest or the humblest in the land need not be ashamed to ride, drive, or work. To get the trotter, breed to trotting families, and speed will follow in the progeny. If both dam and sire are trotters, all the better; and better still, if both are from well-established trotting families; and still better yet, if both are from one well-established trotting family, as it will more fully intensify the spirit and adaptation to trot, to bring family relations together who possess the trotting knack.—*Coleman's Rural*.

## FEATHER-EATING FOWLS.

This is a vice which fowls frequently practice in winter, or at any time when closely confined. No one knows why they do it. Many poultrykeepers, being annoyed by the practice, have tried to discover the cause, and a remedy. So far none has yet been found. Some say the fowls want animal food, and pluck the feathers of their companions to eat the blood and albumen found on the quill end of the feather; others say they want sulphur, etc. The habit is usually formed when fowls are confined to their quarters by snows or stormy weather in winter. Some say the habit is formed by fowls which have nothing else

to do, when confined in small quarters. This is probably as good a reason as any that has been assigned. The vice will spread in a flock when it has once started, and often a flock will be nearly all plucked, presenting a disagreeable appearance. Some one fowl usually begins the practice of feather-eating. As soon as the vice is discovered, watch for the offender, and when found separate her and fatten, and eat her.

The best way to prevent the habit is to keep the fowls busy; give them something else to do. Let them scratch among straw, chaff, cut corn-fodder, hay, or any such loose, light material. Give them as much room as you can afford, and scatter their feed in the hay, straw, leaves or whatever litter you use in your fowl quarters. Feed sour milk and wheat bran in the morning, scalding the milk before mixing, and pour in a trough. Give also pounded oyster shells, where they can be procured, or ground bone, or old mortar, or lime core, most any kind of rubbish. Charcoal ad libitum is good for fowls. A great many diseases have been tried to cure or stop the habit after it has been formed, but so far as I know, no satisfactory plan has been discovered. The best way is to give your fowls all the room you can, make them comfortable, keep them busy, kill off the first hen you see plucking feathers, and trust to Providence for the rest.—*A. M. D., in N. Y. Tribune*.

## IMPORTANCE OF THE GOAT.

There is a move in England to place the goat on more favorable footing before the Royal Agricultural Society, by offering prizes for the different kind. A writer in the *London Farmer* grows eloquent in praise, and thus pleads the cause of the goat:

"It is not amongst the farmers of this country that I wish to encourage goat-keeping, however. They have unlimited supply of fresh milk from their cows, and though I know of several farmers and others—who, possessing both animals, prefer drinking goats' to cows' milk, still these are getting comparatively few, and they go in for goats as a luxury. All I desire with regard to these gentlemen is to persuade them, and landlords generally, not to discourage the culture of the cottager's 'Nanny' amongst the tenants on their farms and estates, to whom milk is a necessity."

The goat is the cow of the poor man, everywhere but in England—and more, for it not only feeds but clothes him. Its milk provides his family with food, making cheese and butter; its flesh gives them meat, its fat goes for candles, and its skin clothes them. Nor is it in mountainous districts only, as many suppose, that these animals are cultivated. On the plains of France, Germany, and Holland, and in other parts of the Continent, the goat is constantly met with, singly or in couples, tethered to stakes by the side of cottages, or roadsides, railway embankments, waste plots of ground, etc. The grass in similar places in England is allowed to go to waste instead of being transformed, as it would be by pasturing goats thereon, into wholesome milk, a commodity so scarce, strange to say, in many rural districts that the poor have often to go without it, or give it to their children skimmed as to pigs."

## HENS AND DUCKS IN THE FRUIT-YARD.

Young chickens and ducklings will get a large part of their living from insects, if they have the opportunity. It is a good plan to give up the fruit-yard, or a part of the orchard, to poultry. Chickens and ducks want shade as well as sunshine, and thrive better for it during the summer. They are always on the watch for worms and millers, and greedily devour every insect that falls from the trees. They are fond of fruit, and consume the wind-falls, which harbor the insects that are so destructive to fruit. A brood of chickens left under an apple tree afflicted with Canker Worms or Caterpillars, will reduce the stock, and finally exterminate them. One of the most successful fruit-growers we are acquainted with, keeps poultry constantly under his trees. The apples and pears are fair, and he has paying crops every year.

## TEXAN HERDERS.

A Texan herder's outfit consists of two donkeys, for carrying supplies, a tent, cooking utensils, blankets, canteen made of tin, and holding five gallons of water, a small Mexican pony, two or three dogs and tobacco. Shepherds receive from \$10 to \$15 per month and board, and overseers from \$25 to \$30. Two men and three dogs can readily take care of 5,000 sheep. Thousands of sheep roam all over our vast plains, feeding as they go, never sleeping two nights in one place, excepting at the home stations. At night these immense herds gather closely around the camp of the shepherds, and sleep peacefully, guarded by well trained Scotch dogs, who exhibit wonderful sagacity and prowess in their midnight vigils, holding at bay the fiercest wolf until by their furious barking they awaken their masters. An area of from ten to twenty miles will be grazed by an ordinary herd in a single day.

There are very many simple things that if remembered, will materially assist you in keeping your fowls in good health. Keeping a few old rusty nails in their water-dish is a good tonic. Be sure they are provided with a good dust bath; a soap box, or one large-sized filled with fine street dust is best; part wood ashes is also beneficial, but clear ashes are too strong, and in wet weather the lye from them is injurious.

## SMALL AND LARGE HOGS.

I have been raising and fattening hogs on a small scale for over thirty years, I have tested fairly about all the different breeds as they have made their appearance, always being particular to get full bloods. In 1868 I was living in Illinois, had got rid of the Berkshires on account of the small size and inclination to run wild if not closely penned, and was raising Chester-Whites. They were a very large hog but required too much age.

About that time A. C. Moore of Canton got up an excitement over the Poland-China. I got some of them and disposed of the Chester Whites. I have seen nothing yet that tempts me to drop them and I have never heard of a farmer that gave them up after trying the full bloods. They are the gentlest and most peaceable hog I ever saw; they will fatten as young as any of the small breeds and will grow as large as any except it may be the Chester-Whites.

A correspondent in a recent number of the *FARMER*, (which I am sorry is mislaid) starts an article in favor of small hogs, by saying "farmers should save saleable meat." He says "grocerymen charge 1 to 3 cts per pound more for hams weighing from nine to fifteen pounds than they do for the large ones. He must remember that farmers do not often sell their hogs to grocerymen, nine-tenths of the hogs are marketed on foot and three-fourths of the remainder are only dressed before selling, so but few sugar-cured hams are sold by the farmers."

He was talking about profits to farmers but I venture the opinion that the farmer does not live who ever sold a lot of hogs at a discount because they were extra large. These nine to fifteen pound hams mostly come from hogs that do not net 200 pounds and it is customary for packers to dock such hogs 25 cts. on the hundred pounds.

Those small hams are more saleable to small families, and the packer notwithstanding he has bought it at a reduced rate is compelled to sell it higher or lose on it. There is double the loss to the packer in heads, legs, and bones of such runs, that there is in large fat hogs. Besides the lard, which is one of the most valuable products of the hog, is not got from these scallaws. I venture the opinion that the writer of the article referred to never sold a lot of hogs to a packer in his life, and he must remember that us grangers cannot afford to raise small hogs to accommodate the corner groceryman when we can raise a big one at a trifle more cost. If we kill our hogs when but half grown, or raise a breed that will only grow to half the size, we must of course raise more of them. This compels us to keep more breeding sows and have more pigs around with their ever lasting bother. A pig at four months old [has usually been more trouble to us than he will be all the rest of his life.

Small hogs always cost us more per pound than large ones and invariably sell for less.

The writer says the fashion of the Kansas breeders appears to run to heavy hogs, the Poland-China and the Berkshire are the two favorite breeds. He dwells particularly on the fine point of the Berkshire and says the matter of size in these two favorite breeds is the principal points against them. Does he wish to deceive some one into buying the Berkshire for a big hog, or does he not know that the small size is one of the main objections to that breed.

I look at it about this way; if you wish to raise small hogs the Berkshire is as good as any; if you wish to raise large ones the Poland-China is the best hog known.

All the talk about the superior quality of the flesh of one breed over another, or of the stripping of lean and fat is mere bosh. The fatter you make a hog the less proportion of lean there is in him, and I am not sure but that there is even less in a very fat hog than in a poor one. All you can add to a hog after he gets his growth is fat.

Junction City, Kansas.

## TRANSPORTATION OF LIVE-STOCK.

There has been a great deal of nonsense palmed off upon the uninformed, in the name of humanity, in favor of the use of the so-called palace stock cars. In fact, we are afraid that, under the specious plea of a desire to alleviate the suffering of live-stock during transportation, a fat job in the interest of a ring which controls the patents on these palace stock cars, has been concealed, and that the tender regard for the sufferings of live-stock which has been so prominently developed in and around Washington City within the past few months, has been born solely of a desire to so shape legislation that everybody shall be compelled to pay tribute to the ring which controls this patent. The facts are, that all kinds of live stock suffer much more from the unnatural position they are compelled to occupy, while being transported by rail, than from want of food and water; and any expedient which increases the length of time that animals are transported without unloading and rest, rather increases the suffering than diminishes it. Upon this ground we are compelled to say, that inasmuch as the palace stock cars are avowedly for the purpose of increasing the length of time that animals will be confined for transportation by rail without unloading humanity is the last argument which should be urged in their behalf.

The true solution of the transportation question as it effects live-stock, is found in slaughtering at points near where they are fed, and the transportation of the meat in

refrigerator cars, thus saving all losses from injuries received in transit, and the extra expense of transportation of worthless offal. In a humanitarian point of view, this plan is more desirable than the use of palace stock cars or any of the other modern appliances for relieving the suffering of live-stock while being transported from the Great West to the seaboard.—*National Live-Stock Journal*.

## HOG-CHOLERA.

Ten thousand dollars was appropriated by the last Congress to be expended in investigating this terrible disease, and if possible discover its origin and remedy. The appropriation was placed under the direction of the commissioner of agriculture, who has appointed Prof. Law, of Ithica, N. Y.; Prof. H. J. Detmars, Chicago; Dr. R. F. Dyer, Ottawa, Ill.; Dr. D. U. Voyles, New Albany, Ind.; Dr. Albert Dunlap, Iowa City, Iowa; Dr. Hines, Kansas, and Dr. Salmon, Ashville, N. C., to carry out the law of congress in endeavoring to ascertain the cause of the disease. These gentlemen are scientists, and when their report is made it will be placed in the hands of the best scientific talent to be found with the object of ascertaining remedy for the disease.

The annual loss to stock-growers in this country, is shown by statistics in possession of the department of agriculture to aggregate more than \$10,000,000. Those states where hogs are allowed to feed among cattle and gather their subsistence from the droppings of the cattle, are the greatest sufferers. We conjecture that the commission will report this habit to be the primary cause of hog disease. The wages of the sin of this unclean, ungodly practice, results in death to tens of thousands of hogs. The estimated loss to each of the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Missouri, is reported at \$1,500,000.

## MANGE ON PIGS.

Mange on pigs is caused by a minute insect, which is probably hatched from eggs adhering to the skin. There is no way of curing it, or of preventing its spread except by killing the insects and their eggs—not only on the pigs themselves, but also on the sides of the pens, posts, or anything that the diseased pigs rub against. To destroy them on the woodwork, nothing is probably so good as petroleum, and though we have not tried it, we have little doubt but that it would also cure the pigs, especially if applied before the disease had made much headway.

The disease usually manifests itself on the skin under the armpits and thighs, and inside the forelegs. At first, small red blotches or pimples appear, and these gradually spread as the insects multiply and burrow under the skin. It is well to give sulphur and other cooling medicine in the food, but the real aim must be to kill the insect by the prompt and continued use of carbolic acid, petroleum, or a strong decoction of tobacco. Solutions of arsenic and corrosive sublimate are used in severe cases, but are dangerous articles to place in the hands of inexperienced persons. "Unguentum," or mercurial ointment, is efficacious, but is not easily applied.—*Haris on the Pig*.

## WOOL AND MUTTON.

Wool is low, and wool-producers look in vain for any hopeful sign of returning high prices. Threatened changes in the tariff cause uncertainty; which inevitably acts unfavorably upon the production of an important staple like wool. But with or without a tariff, we have no fear that wool cannot be profitably produced in this country. We have an enormous business in manufacturing woollen goods, which must be supplied with home grown material. No kind of wool we can produce goes begging for a market while the people need carpets, blankets, and woollen clothing. We shall probably have to wait many years before seeing wool sell at a dollar a pound; perhaps it may never bring that figure again. But as a rule a sheep pays its expenses with its wool, and gives us a lamb as a profit under the worst of circumstances. This ought to be satisfactory. Further than this, the sheep husbandmen of this country must pay more attention to mutton; instead of being quite secondry, it should be of equal importance with wool; and when it is so considered, and breeding is conducted accordingly, the price of wool will no longer determine the absolute profits or losses of the business. Mutton production has been greatly neglected by our sheep farmers; but on the lower prices of wool, we trust it may take its due prominence, as the demand is increasing, and always brings a relative high price. As in all cases "the best, pays the best," it is the business of farmers to choose that kind of sheep which will give the most and best wool, the highest quality of mutton, and which are sure and prolific breeders. Even in the far west, where wool should pay handsomely at 25 cents per pound, and where pasturing is the cheapest, it is found to pay the best to infuse pure blood into the flock, thereby producing superior wool. How much more then should Eastern wool-growers find it to their interest to improve their flocks so as better to meet the present difficulties.—*American Agriculturist*.



## THE GREAT OIL COMBINATION.

The Standard oil company represents a powerful combination that has within its grasp seven-eighths of the petroleum interest of the United States. This gigantic monopoly has absorbed or crushed out in five years nearly three hundred independent refineries, and is now working for the final mastery over a product that yearly exceeds in value the annual yield of all the gold and silver mines on the globe.

Stealthily has it worked since its first inception in 1860, with the members of a firm then known as Rockefeller, Flagler & Andrews, becoming in 1865 the Standard oil company, until it has become the most powerful ring or combination ever known outside of the great railroad organizations to which it is supplementary and without whose co-operation it could not exist. Its profits are said to outrival the famous Credit Mobilier scheme of the Union Pacific railroad, and completely throw in the shade those of the notorious Tweed ring. This combination is credited with exerting an influence strong enough to control local elections, and largely the press throughout the oil regions. Its intimate alliance with the officials of the leading trunk railroads, is attested by the unequal advantages the ring receives from these powerful organizations, and the power it exerts in compelling the roads to obey its behests. With equal force does the saying of a recent writer, in relation to the Vanderbilt combination, apply to them: "Their wealth, swelled by each instalment of dues withheld from the people, rapidly multiplies its millions as a snowball, multiplying its volume at every roll, grows to an avalanche." It is said one prominent director in a leading road was presented with \$50,000 in stock for his influence. The success of the present combination is due to a secret compact existing with the four great trunk lines running to the seaboard. The margin upon petroleum is very small, a quarter of a cent per gallon often deciding a sale, while fifty cents per barrel is regarded a fair margin for a refiner's profit. In 1873 dealers invariably found they were undersold by the Standard oil company. The matter was a puzzle until it was discovered a compact had been entered into with leading railroad officials, and originally suggested by one of them, whereby the rate for transporting oil should be \$1.40 per barrel (the cost to the railroads for transportation is fifty cents), with a drawback to the ring of ninety cents per barrel, and sworn in affidavits recently made to be in some instances \$1 per barrel. This is equivalent to two cents on every gallon of oil. The power thus acquired—afterwards lost and then regained—was relentlessly used. From Parker's, in the lower oil region, and distant 150 miles further from the works of the Standard oil company than from refineries in Erie, Titusville and other points, the Standard company transported oil past Titusville, past Erie, and other refining centers, to Cleveland, where it was refined and then shipped back and sold in Erie and other refining places, at prices ruinous to the competing refiners. The Western and Erie refineries were made bankrupt and compelled to sell their works to the monopoly; then the Titusville and Pittsburgh opposition was broken up, and the game continued, until there are at present only five refineries outside of the ring. Recently, it is reported, they have succeeded in having the railroads disregard their duties as common carriers, agreeing to transport no oil except for members of the combination. A test suit has been brought in this city asking for a peremptory mandamus requiring the Erie railroad to move a train of cars they have kept standing on the switch at Carrollton for six weeks, simply because it was owned outside the ring.

The company, it is said, aim to become an absolute monopoly between producers and consumers, and anything and everything that stands in the way must succumb. The production of crude oil during July, averaged 44,754 barrels per day, while the world's consumptive demand requires 33,000 barrels of refined oil daily. The railroads refuse to carry the present production of crude oil to the seaboard, although they have formerly carried thousands of barrels more per day than they are carrying at present. This is done in obedience to the behests of the ring, who, it is surmised, propose to using the same tactics to gain control of the interests of 5,000 producers, that they did to absorb the refining interest. It is for their interest to bankrupt the producers, and, therefore they depress the price of oil by causing a heavy accumulation of crude oil for want of transportation, until it shall run to waste for want of storage.

Nothing but the apathy of the people of the United States to the present manner of conducting the transportation system, renders it possible for such tremendous monopolies to grow up. The officers who control the vast railroad properties of the country, amass fortunes by all manner of schemes worked in connection with the roads they are popularly supposed to manage in the interest of the public and their rightful owners. The power already exerted by the combinations controls legislatures and makes itself effectively felt in the national councils. Virtually their hand is on every man's pocket, and the power for gain yielded through the instrumentality of the oil company, is a type of that used in other parasitical concerns that are fastened to all the various trunk lines. Unless checked by public opinion, these rings will hold a power that can tax at will the industrial interests of the entire people.

In 1876, through the operations of the Standard oil company, refined oil showed a profit to the refiner of \$5 per barrel, and this monopoly, it is said, made \$10,000,000 in four months by their operations during the "corner" of that year. If the ring gain their final point, which they are now working for by cutting off outside transportation, bankrupting the producers, acquiring the oil-producing territory, or forcing the proprietors to sell their crude product exclusively to the ring, they can again make the price of the refined product so it will pay \$5 or more profit per barrel, which upon the \$12,000,000 barrels annually consumed, would enrich them to the extent of sixty millions per annum. Such things seem incredible and prompt us to exclaim, "Can such things be?" Certain it is that the attempt is being made, and whether it succeeds or not depends largely upon whether public opinion approves or condemns it. To us there seems to be but one solution to this question, and that is the ring must be broken. Money never yet made men happy who forfeited in its getting the respect of their fellows, and if citizens will arouse to the study of the questions involved in these rings, the days of their power will soon be numbered.—*American Grocer.*

A Western gardener says he has saved every one of his cucumber, melon and cabbage plants, during the past five years, and also repelled the potato beetle by sprinkling with water impregnated with gas tar, repeating the application if washed off by rain.

The first book printed in England on horticulture is said to contain the advice that persons who wish their roses to be "fine and extra sweet," should "grow them always in an old onion bed."

In the report of the Pennsylvania Fruit Growers there is reference to Maiden's Blush and Greening apples packed in barrels in autumn, buried in the ground, and kept, the former till April the latter till June.

The raising of graft requires much labor, and at the low price it commands it don't pay to raise it at the present time. The farmer should put on his study cap, and ask himself what will pay, what kind of farming requires least labor. If he does, he will say that it is stock-raising. That takes little labor. That keeps the farm rich. That requires more grass and less grain, more condensation of values.

## Patrons of Husbandry.

OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE.—Master, Samuel E. Adams, of Minnesota; Secretary, O. H. Kelley, Louisville, Kentucky; Treasurer, F. M. McDowell, Wayne, N. Y.

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 Treasurers. 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.

## A POTATO SHOW AT CAPITAL GRANGE.

Saturday, August 10th., the members of Capital Grange had an exhibition of potatoes at their hall in Topeka, which called forth some interesting remarks, and if the specimens were a fair sample of Kansas potato diet for the coming winter, we will all be Marphyites.

There were Victors, one of which was enough for a medium-sized family's dinner; they looked like mammoth egg-plants in both size and color, though perhaps not quite so dark a purple, the eyes instead of being holes protrude so that they can be cut right off and leave the potato smooth. Brother Freeman pronounced it the "Boss" late potato. Mr. Popenoe questioned its solidity, but upon cutting the finest specimen, it was found to be perfectly solid, and Brother Martindale said a friend of his had cut three barrels and failed to find a single hollow one; he also gave it as his opinion, founded on experience, that potatoes of any kind dug as soon as ripe, or as soon as the tops were dead, and put in a cool, dry, dark cellar would almost invariably keep well, that there was much less risk in treating them in that way than in leaving them in the ground. Brother Freeman agreed with him, but Brother Popenoe said that out of three pecks of the Beauty of Hebron, dug by him to bring to the grange, fully one-fourth rotted in three days; that was perhaps partly owing to the fact that they had been washed, as others dried and piled in a shady out-house did not rot so badly as those left in the ground. It was the testimony of all the exhibitors of that variety (the Beauty of Hebron) that it rotted badly this year, excepting Mr. Popenoe who was the only one that had grown them on upland. He says all of his upland potatoes are free from rot; he planted early. Sister Sims said that with them the Beauty of Hebron planted late, and Early Rose planted early on bottom land all rotted in three days after digging.

Brother Otis classed those two varieties about alike as to quality, yield, earliness and habits, both growing in compact clusters near the surface, many protruding, and all that did so, rotting first.

Brother Freeman said the Beauty of Hebron yielded twice as much for him as the Early Rose and that he did not find many rotten ones except those that were not covered with soil, and their habit of surface growth he thinks their worst fault. Brother Armstrong found some of them pink at one end or half the length, and knotty though generally they are very white and thin skinned, perfectly smooth, and good sized.

Brother Martindale attributed the knotty form of some of them to the late disturbance of the roots; he thinks they had better be let alone than cultivated too late. It is his opinion that the defects in early planted potatoes are a disease instead of the work of an insect; he first saw it on the white Peach-Blow and then on the Early Rose. Brother Armstrong thinks the ground becomes potato poisoned if they are planted many successive years in the same place and that Brothers Freeman and Popenoe might find that the cause of their trouble. Brother Freeman said that his early planted Early Rose were badly injured by a worm, he thought, for two reasons; the grooves with which they were covered look as if eaten by a worm and the late planted ones were not affected by it, hence he supposed it had disappeared before they were formed; he had seen the application of ashes and lime recommended for it, but Brother Popenoe said he had tried that for the same thing on the old-fashioned Meshannock and made it worse. The award of the premium was postponed until the first meeting in September, because many had not dug yet. At the next regular meeting there will be an exhibition of cut flowers in bouquets, for the best one of which a years subscription to the Kansas FARMER will be awarded.

## WHAT A STRANGER THINKS.

J. W. Billingsley, a travelling correspondent of the Indiana Farmer, writes that paper as follows:

Very few ever think of stopping short of the distance suggested by railroad agents; hence, there are few buyers for lands situated in the older and, not unfrequently, most desirable portions of the state, for improvements, society, markets, etc. I saw a very desirable tract of land, 240 acres of deep, rich, black loam soil with an abundance of timber and water, within six miles of Topeka, very eighty, that could be purchased for eight dollars per acre, one-third down and the remainder in one and two years. I could give many other equally as good bargains that came within my notice, but it is not my purpose to advertise them, but only to explain how the privations of a new country may be avoided. The lands referred to would produce, with anything like good tillage, fifty or sixty bushels of corn, or twenty to thirty bushels of wheat, or fifty to sixty bushels of oats to the acre, and as fine vegetables as grow anywhere, and Kansas is pre-eminently a fine fruit country, the state through.

## THE GRANGE.

From a paper read before a New York grange, we clip the following generous extract. It is worthy the serious thought of farmers:

The grange is, practically, one of the new things of our times. What the order has accomplished has been done within a brief period, and what it has failed to do, it has a few years of existence to be blamed for. Without going into details as to reason for its organization, the fact was painfully evident that the rural masses were deficient in many important branches of education; that they held too strongly to the tradition of their fathers, instead of being guided by the revelations of science and newer experience, and there was not that concert of thought and effort that characterizes most other pursuits. Recreations and social enjoyment did not receive their proper share of attention; and, in short, a boundless and exhaustless field appeared to be opened, in which united labors of head, heart and hand would produce rich and abundant fruits. The fact was quite too plain that even the best farmers were not living up to the requirements or privileges of this enlightened and progressive age. The very nature of a farmer's yearly operations is calculated to teach him the virtue of patient waiting, laboring always, rather than to inspire a zeal for new opinions and practices. Relying on the promises of seed-time and harvest, he becomes accustomed to wait for things to come round. While thus waiting, men, things and events have come around him in ways not always for his good.

As long as farmers were simply trying to hold the even tenor of their way, individually, they were relatively going backwards. People of every other calling, tramps, thieves and politicians not excepted, have their exclusive associations for the particular benefit of members of their craft. A mutual association of some sort for farmers had become, not a desirable choice, but an absolute necessity. Under the circumstances a movement which promises social, moral, mental and financial benefits, even at a small sacrifice of time, money and prejudice, could not be expected to make rapid and general progress throughout the country. Old habits and customs were too firmly fixed, and the change to new and untried methods too great, not to require time and education before their adoption became general. Comparative ignorance on the part of those to be benefited, as well as a lack of humanity, were at the same time serious obstacles and impelling motives to the progress of the new order of things. All obstacles to the contrary notwithstanding, the growth of the

grange has been tolerably rapid, and in the main satisfactory. This may suggest such questions as, What is the grange? What has it done, and what is it going to do? Briefly—it is an institution which seeks to better, in every sense of the word, the condition of farmers and their families, without defrauding any individual or class. As an educator it has already done much by teaching the first step toward knowledge, to know that we are ignorant. If it seems like assuming too much to claim that connection with the order has taught us this, there is plenty of other evidence to prove the ignorant condition, as well as the consciousness of it. Have we not been told, from time to time, and rather emphatically, too, that farmers are ignorant; that they do not understand business; that they cannot agree to unite, even for their own interests; that they cannot keep their own counsel or secrets? The manner of telling often implies that they are hopelessly ignorant; that they cannot even learn to manage their own affairs; that they are in constant danger of violating the universal and immutable laws of trade; that running so simple an affair as a mutual life or fire insurance association is an abstruse science quite beyond their possibilities. No need of the grange to teach us that we lack culture and social accomplishments. Reminders of that fact come often enough from those of our fellow mortals who move in other walks in life.

Right here the farmer's organization has furnished incalculable aid and comfort to another class. Those who would speak slightly of us or our occupation, have only to use the word grangers, and they have said volumes. In their opinion it is equivalent to using all the disrespectful epithets ever applied to the ignorant and unfortunate tillers of the soil. But a brighter day is dawning. Man's first and noblest occupation is indeed looking up. In the triumph of mind over matter, none have greater opportunities than the farmer. I make the assertion without fear of contradiction, that nothing has given a greater impetus to improve methods of agriculture and general education among farmers than this same Patron's movement. The order is yet in infancy, but promises well for reaching full maturity, and perhaps a hearty and honorable old age.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

## Sheep.

Two or three hundred choice young Sheep for sale by H. A. STILES, Pavilion, Kansas.

## Great Public Sale.

50 Head of

HIGH BRED TROTTER STOCK including Stallions, Brood Mares, Colts and Fillies of the most fashionable strains of blood in America. Representatives of the five leading families now on the turf, viz: Hambletonians, Abdallahs, Clays, Mambrino Chiefs and Alexander's Normans. Also,

20 Head of Thoroughbred JERSEY COWS, CALVES & BULLS,

The Property of E. A. SMITH.

NORWOOD STOCK FARM

LAWRENCE, KANSAS.

Sale to take place at the Kaw Valley Fair Grounds,

THURSDAY, Sept. 5th, 1878.

Capt. P. C. KIDD, Auctioneer.

All the stock will be on exhibition during the Fair held Sept. 2nd. to 7th, 1878.

NOTE: Parties wishing to attend the sale, can avail themselves of the ONE CENT A MILE excursion rates on all Railroads to and from the Temperance Camp-meeting, held Aug. 30th to Sept. 10th. For pedigrees and description, send for catalogue.

## Walnut Grove Herd,



S. E. WARD, Proprietor.

Breeder of Pure bred Short Horns. 1st Duke of Walnut Grove, 3518, S. H. Record. A. H. Book \$26.49 and Mazurka Lad 2nd 513, S. H. Record at head of Herd. Young Bulls and Heifers. The get of the above sires for sale cheap. Inspection of my herd and correspondence solicited. Six miles south of Kansas City. Address, S. E. WARD, Proprietor, Westport, Jackson Co., Mo.

## SHORT-HORN CATTLE.

ALBERT CRANE, Durham Park, Marion County, Kan., breeder of pure Short-horns of fashionable blood. Stock for sale low. Also, best Berkshires in Kansas. Catalogues Free.

## "HIGHLAND STOCK FARM."

Salina, Kansas.

THO'S. H. CAVANAUGH,



BREEDER OF

HEREFORD CATTLE. COTSWOLD SHEEP. BERKSHIRE AND DORSETSHIRE PIGS.

Premium Cattle, Sheep and Pigs for sale. Correspondence solicited.

## Breeders' Directory.

F. MERY & SAYRE, Osceola, Clark Co., Iowa, breed Recorded Berkshires and Poland Chinas for sale. "Beauties Sure." Fair not akin. Circulars free.

D. W. IRWIN, Osceola, Iowa, Breeder of pure, D. M. Magie, & W. W. Elsworth strains of Poland China hogs; write for circular.

O. BADDERS, Leavenworth, Kan., Breeds Black Sheep, Cocker & Brown Leghorns. Stock not surpassed in America. Send for descriptive circular and price list.

DR. W. H. H. GUNDIFF, Pleasant Hill, Cass Co., Mo., breeder of thoroughbred Short-Horn Cattle of fashionable strains. The bull at head of herd weighs 3000 pounds. Choice bulls and heifers for sale. Correspondence solicited.

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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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WATSON & DOBBIN, Wholesale and Retail, 100,000 2 yr. old apple trees for fall, also 100,000 1 yr. old, all of the best growth and varieties, all fenced in Rabbit Rats; also 50 acres of Hedge Plants in season, prices low to Nurserymen and Dealers. Address, ROBT. WATSON, Lee's Summit, Jackson Co., Mo.

50,000 Apple Stocks, 1,000,000 Osage Plants, 50,000 Fruit Trees, 25,000 Small Fruit Plants, &c. Apple Hedges put up to order by experienced hands. Send for Price Lists. J. F. CALWALLADER, Miami County Nursery, Louisville, Kansas.

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Single Pig \$15, \$35 per pair, \$35 per trio. These pigs are bred by the imported Prize-Winning Boar, Wade Hampton, and out of sows picked from the best herds in U. S., and warranted to be as good as the best. No trouble to answer correspondence. Address, F. B. HARNES, New Palestine, Mo.

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## Park Nursery

LAWRENCE, KANSAS.

2nd year in the State. Very large and complete stock of ornamental trees, grape vines, &c., &c., Wholesale prices very low, and terms reasonable. Address P. P. PHILLIPS, Lawrence, Kansas.

GEO. M. CHASE,

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BREEDER OF

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BERKSHIRE PIGS.

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Dark Brahma and White Leghorn Chickens.

None but first-class stock shipped.

## 600 SHEEP!

Owing to the shortage of Range, and increase of Flocks, we offer for sale, delivered Sept. 15th, 600 head of Sheep, most ewes, graded Merinos; age from one to five years old. Our flocks have been in this section of the country five years. For further particulars, enquire of J. M. BRINING, Great Bend Kansas.

## SHORT-HORN CATTLE.

L. A. KNAPP, Doctor, Shawnee, Kansas, breeder of Pure Short-Horn Cattle. Farm 13 miles south-west of Topeka, and 13 miles south of Roseville.



## The Kansas Farmer.

HUDSON & EWING, Editors & Proprietors,  
Topeka, Kansas.

### THE FARMERS AND THE RAILROADS.

The influence and importance of railroads are not felt in the old Atlantic states lying east of the Alleghenies, by the farming interest as they are west of the mountains, nor do they become so important and indispensable to the country drained by the Ohio and lower Mississippi rivers, as to the regions west of the Missouri. The farmers in all that region known as the Atlantic Slope, are from one to a little over a hundred miles only from the sea coast, where the great marts for produce are situated. And although they complain to some extent of railroad extortion, the tolls for transportation are comparatively trifling when placed beside the freights required to move heavy produce fifteen hundred miles. The expense actually necessary, and the many temptations and opportunities for tolling the farmer's wheat and corn in carrying them that distance, are very great. The almost limitless power which has been granted these corporations, is too great temptation for human nature to resist. With a restive people ever jealous of their rights and liberty, and the corporations with no check but the judgment of the officers of these corporations between them and the exercise of power, and the people on the other side, whose necessities compel them to use the railroads it is impossible that the latter, at no very distant day, will not use their power to restrain and bring under subjection the imperial power now exercised by these common carriers.

So essential are these inland highways of travel and traffic to productive industry, and the latter to the prosperity and very existence of the former, that they must work together and have a common interest. The railroads are the interior farmer's best friend. They are his very breathing tubes with the outer world. Without them the farmer on the prairies of the great central parts of the continent could not exist and remain in a state of civilization; but nevertheless, this is no reason that the rights of either should be infringed upon by the other. A road is an open thoroughfare running through all parts of the country, for the use, convenience and comfort of the inhabitants thereof. A railroad is a modern improvement on the roads of the olden time, and the people are entitled to enjoy all the increased facilities, benefits and advantages which modern invention and improvements have been able to add to the old-time roads, without parting with any of their liberty or "inalienable rights." On the other hand, companies who use their capital to construct and equip those modern steam-carriage roads, should have the protection of the government for their capital invested and a fair remuneration for labor, care and risk.

But at this point the difficulties of the problem appear. The roads have become indispensable to the public, and yet it is within the power of the officers of the roads to manage them without regard to public interest and in defiance of it if they see proper. This is a power which should never be granted by government to individuals. The railroad problem is a tangled skein which requires all the wisdom and address of the highest statesmanship to unwind and adjust, and harmonize public interest and private right. Chemistry applied to art has brought such rapid and radical changes in modern civilization, that law and justice have been distanced and unable to adapt themselves to the rapid and ever-changing systems.

As a class whose numbers far exceed all others, the farmers of the interior of the country are more vitally concerned in this question than any and all others. They have attacked it with heat and rashly, working much injury to the roads and to their own cause, and accomplished very little in the direction desired. The question is of momentous importance and of vast magnitude demanding the highest wisdom, deliberate action, with a steady purpose to deal justly not rashly. A railroad should have no other interest attached to it than that of a common carrier. It should be simply a road, designed for the purpose of transporting passengers and freight, associated with no other interest, wholly disconnected with coal mines, oil wells, cattle yards, grain elevators, or any other species of speculation, bringing it in competition with the mercantile or other business of the people. Till the railroads are shorn of all outside interests, remanded back to their proper sphere, and wholly confined to the business for which they are properly designed and fitted, there will be no permanent peace nor prosperity, neither for them nor the dissatisfied people. If the farmers of the west will steadily and wisely work with this objective point always in view, they will ultimately triumph and insure the lasting interests of railroads and agriculture. They are inseparable and each must be brought to see and respect the other's rights.

### RAISING MULES FOR PROFIT.

In the earnest discussion that is going on in the stock and agricultural journals, on the subject of improved breeds and the profits in stock-raising, the mule is almost wholly ignored, while the respective merits of the Clydesdale, the Percheron, the Morgan and other strains of horses; the Short-horn, the Hereford, the Ayrshire and Jersey among the bovine family; the Merino, the Cotswold, and the various downs among sheep; the Poland China, the Berkshire, the Chester-White of the swine race, each and all have their able advocates; the patient and unpretending mule seems entirely neglected.

And yet fortunes have been made in breeding mules. Kentucky, foremost in Short-Horns and in high-bred horses, stood also in the front ranks among the states in the number and excellence of her mules.

The mule is worth more money at a year old, than any of those animals before mentioned, estimated by its commercial value. The animal is more hardy, less liable to disease or accident, will thrive on coarser food at less cost than any other species of farm stock. Good saleable and serviceable mules can be raised from dams that would not produce horses which could be placed on the market with any chance of profit. There could be no better country found for raising mules than Kansas, and yet among all the stock enterprises being discussed and entered into, the sober mule is never mentioned. Among our numerous able correspondents there are, doubtless, a number who are familiar with mule-breeding, who could furnish interesting articles on this class of live-stock. Who will write an initial chapter for the FARMER, on the mule?

ICES AND ICE CREAMS.—What are termed ices consist simply of the juices of fruits sweetened with sugar syrup and then frozen, like ice cream. It is stated that the best ices are made by first cooking the sugar into the form of a syrup, having a strength of 30°. The fruit juices are strained through a sieve and then added, with a little water and the whites of a few eggs, to the prepared syrup. The final mixture should have a consistence of 22°. It is then frozen in the usual way. To make the best ice cream, says *The Scientific Farmer*, it is necessary that the cream should be of the very best quality, and the utensils in which it is made must be absolutely clean. With every quart of the cream mix six ounces best pulverized white sugar, a very little vanilla bean, and the white of one egg. The latter imparts a smoothness and delicacy to the cream that cannot otherwise be obtained. The prepared mixture is then to be stirred in the freezer until it is entirely congealed. Those who desire first-rate ices or creams should follow these directions carefully, and avoid the use of corn starch or other thickeners. Instead of vanilla as a flavor for the cream, a trifling amount of any desired flavoring syrup or juice may be used, as strawberry, pineapple, orange, lemon, etc.

### LEGISLATION AGAINST TRAMPS.

The Indiana *Farmer* makes the following comments on New Hampshire's mode of dealing with this new product of a cross between the criminal and vagabond, which we heartily endorse:

"The state of New Hampshire is going to be severe with her tramps. Her legislature has just passed a bill to punish these gentry by imprisonment, from fifteen months to five years. The former penalty will be inflicted upon any one proved to be a tramp, even though not guilty of anything more criminal. The legislature, in effect, declares laziness a crime, and it is right. It works evil to the individual, to his family, and to society, and leads to theft, burglary, and other crimes. We regard the New Hampshire legislature as a sensible body of men, and hope that Indiana will be favored with similar wisdom in our next legislature. If the right to vote were taken from the tramp fraternity, as it should be, there would be no difficulty in persuading the legislature to enact laws that would speedily suppress the tramp nuisance. The people should instruct them in regard to their wishes on this subject at an early day in the campaign, and then watch them carefully to see that their promises are kept, and the desired legislation enacted."

### TOPEKA FAIR.

The Shawnee County Agricultural Society and Topeka Driving Park Association, are making extraordinary preparation for the exhibition which will come off at the fair grounds near this city on September 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th. The list of premiums is very large and covers a great variety of articles.

The Driving Park Association are using their best efforts to secure some of the first horses in the country to trot. All the horses which are to be in Kansas City will be at Topeka, the fair at the latter place immediately preceding the Kansas City Exposition.

### DULLNESS ABROAD.

The editor of the *American Grocer*, writing to that paper from London, says:

"Here in London, the centre, as we are led to believe, of commerce, trade is fearfully dull, and New York merchants have only a faint conception of the deserted appearance of places once associated with business activity. It is a poor consolation for the English wholesaler and manufacturer to know that trade is dull over with you, but so far as I have been able to see the New York merchants have much to be thankful for. They have, I learn, the prospect of abundant harvests and there is also a certainty of a large demand on this side for American cereal products as well as for large quantities of meat and provisions, likewise cotton. America is rapidly becoming the world's larder, and so far as I can see the outlook with you must needs be brighter than it is here."

### THE FARMER'S LIFE AS COMPARED WITH OTHER PURSUITS.

After all, contentment is more desirable than ease, and the granges should not be so much absorbed in their efforts to make the farmer easy that they will forget to do what they can to make him contented. They should provide exercises and furnish instruction that will make farmers feel not only that their calling is honorable, but also that it is as free from care and permits as much recreation as other callings. When once they are convinced of this, they will not so readily give up the occupation to which they have been reared and which they thoroughly understand, for one of which they have little or no knowledge, as they do, and they will be less ready than they are to consent to the removal of their most capable sons to the cities and towns. It is certainly very important that the downward tendency of farmers and their children be checked, quite as important as that a large fraction of the next congress be tilers of the soil; and it will be checked when farmers come to appreciate the comparative comfortableness of farm life. They always appreciate this after they leave their farms. We heard an ex-farmer say recently that he had never lived so comfortably or independently in town, as he did on his farm, that the mistake of his life was in giving up farming, that while a farmer he was not harassed with notes and drafts, and could occasionally leave his work for a day's pleasure, and that he would rather see his daughters marry farmers than men of other class. His misfortune is that he did not realize how well off a farmer is, until he had tried being something else. Many other persons have suffered the same misfortune. If the granges will keep it from striking still others, they will render the farming class no trifling service.—*Grange Bulletin*.

Yellow fever is assuming an epidemic form in New Orleans. One case has been reported in St. Louis. Texas has taken measures to quarantine all her town against it.

The rate of freight has been advanced five cents a hundred by the railroads running to eastern markets. The crops are about to be moved. In ordinary business where healthy competition prevails rates are lowered as the volume of business is increased. Not so with railroads, and why?

We are sorry to learn that Mr. E. A. Smith of Norwood Stock Farm, Lawrence, Kansas, and breeder of blooded stock has lost his pacing mare, Cherokee Girl, which is reported to have died from sunstroke. Mr. Smith advertises a Public Sale of blooded stock in the FARMER.

The Wabaunsee county, Kansas, *News* says there is a stone on Mission creek in that county which will take as fine polish as Vermont Marble, and cut into as handsome tombstones.

### THE HOLMAN LIVER PAD.

This new method of treating diseases is but little understood, though many of the advanced Allopaths of to-day frequently prescribe remedies to be rubbed into the surface of the body. Many people from time immemorial carried a potato, a horse-chestnut, and other articles in their pockets, to cure rheumatism, piles, etc., while others have worn out half an onion bound upon the abdomen, as a specific for chills and fever. But the Holman Liver Pad Co. have carefully studied the law that governs cures by absorption, and adapted their various sized pads to the long line of diseases which are readily reached in this way. How well they have succeeded is fully attested by the immense number of pads sold daily all over the Union. See advertisement.

FINE STOCK SALE.—The leading interest of the western farmer is stock-raising and feeding. And to be successful in either or both of these departments, it is essentially necessary to have the best blood to work with. A rare opportunity for farmers and breeders to supply themselves with fine stock, is offered by E. A. Smith's great sale of high bred horses and Jersey cattle, advertised in the FARMER.

As the sale occurs September 5th, during the Kansas Valley Fair, and the great temperance camp meeting near Lawrence, the very low rate of one cent per mile can be secured to attend this sale. Send for the descriptive catalogue.

We publish the list of agricultural fairs in the state as far as heard from. In a few cases we have not been able to ascertain the time they are to be held. These we left blank. If their officers will furnish us with the dates we will fill them out next week.

Among those who achieved distinction at the Binghamton College commencement N. Y., were Miss Fannie Chester, daughter of Rev. Dr. Chester, pastor of the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C.; Miss Mary Snowden, daughter of Hon. J. Ross Snowden, Philadelphia; and Miss M. Bell Patterson, grand-daughter of ex-president, Andrew Johnson. The former for excellence in Elocution, the latter for an original paper on "Woman's Rights" and Miss Snowden for art accomplishments.

### From Wabaunsee County.

Aug. 4.—Wabaunsee county is blessed with good crops this year; it will compare very well with other counties of the state. The corn crop in this vicinity will be heavier than any previous season. The wheat crop is averaging well, some yielding as high as 28 bushels per acre. Oats and spring wheat crop is rather light, owing to the rust and chinch bugs. Farmers are beginning to plow for fall wheat; there will be quite a breadth sown. Some have commenced making hay, and the grass was never better. There is considerable sickness prevailing already, mostly ague. Politicians haven't their speakers out yet, stumping the county, on account of the hot weather; the thermometer has stood as high as 112° in the shade, here.

Mr. Editor, you would confer quite a favor by informing your readers in this vicinity, as to whether what is known as the Odessa spring wheat or grass spring wheat will do to sow for fall wheat. Is there any difference between Odessa and grass wheat? Will some one answer this question that has tested this, or knows? G. A. WOODS.

Spring varieties of wheat are not fit for fall seeding, and we presume there is no exception to this rule in favor of the grass or Odessa wheat, which are one and the same. [EDS.]

### From Johnson County.

July 25th.—This is the day for sowing turnips, of old saying that it will rain on the 25th of July or immediately before or after. We are having this day a very fine rain that is doing a great deal of good. Crops had begun to suffer and this rain is timely.

With another good rain we will have a good corn crop. Wheat is a fair average crop, though not much of it threshed yet in this vicinity. Oats are not so good as was anticipated. Within about ten days of ripening it was struck with rust and before the machines could cut it, there was a good deal of it strawfallen so that it was not gathered, and the quality is rather inferior.

Flax is fine and an extraordinary large yield—13 to 16 bushels of seed per acre. Contracted seed is 90 cents; independent seed 95 cents per bushel. Old corn 23 to 25 cents; wheat 60 to 70 cents; oats 15 cents.

In regard to Mr. B and chess from Washington county. The secret of chess in his wheat is this. I think that if Mr. B. had examined his wheat very closely he would have found chess in the seed he sowed. One grain of chess in a pint of wheat is not much, but as it yields like forty and staggers belief that so much will spring from so little seed, and the same ground sown with wheat, raised on it the previous season, is liable to produce a crop that appears to be virtually all chess. At least this is my experience.

I sowed one acre and a half in wheat that had but very little chess in it, and I harvested the crop with considerable chess in it. As it was I sowed again on the same ground and the result was one-half chess. If Mr. B's wheat is clean he will harvest clean wheat, or any other man; no matter how inferior his seed is, wheat will not turn to chess, it is my experience as a farmer.

[Our correspondent is correct. That question has been settled by science long ago. Those stories about wheat turning to chess are all moonshine. Many a ghost story has been as well authenticated as any of the chess marvels, and yet they are all illusion.—EDS.]

"A New Comer, Allen county, Kansas," Fall plowing sod for corn is the best thing we farmers can do in Johnson county, and I would advise a New Comer in Allen Co., to fall plow his sod in October and November. Farmers make it a business here to fall plow for corn all they can, which helps them out in the spring towards gathering the seed in early, and prevents the spring work from crowding them.

Mr. T. from Osage county wishes to know whether fall broken sod will do for corn next season. I will state what I saw: My neighbor broke prairie in September and rebroke it in the spring and he raised a very fine crop of corn. L. W. MOLL.

### QUESTIONS.

EDITORS FARMER:—Will you please say whether or not it is the custom for the assessors in your state to exact an oath as to correctness of statement when making assessments?

It seems to me that it looks very distrustful and suspicious when assessing a man to have him subscribe and swear to his statement.

### FARMER.

[The statement has to be subscribed and sworn to by the owner of the property assessed. There is nothing unusual in the transaction. All legal proceedings are oath-bound.—EDS.]

EDITORS FARMER:—Will somebody inform us through your columns what sort of a wheat-growing region the southern part of Jefferson county is. Please tell us what advantages it has and also its disadvantages.

A number of us here in this section of Pennsylvania are thinking of going to the eastern part of your state and we like the location of Jefferson county—especially the southern part—between Lawrence and Topeka. It seems to me that it ought to be a good place to live and farm. PENNSYLVANIA.

[It is a first rate locality. Probably some of our readers would like to answer the above enquiry more definitely.—EDS.]

### FARM MISCELLANY.

The annual report lately issued by the Chicago Provision, Grain and Stock Board gives the sales of grain at \$38,003,523, against \$59,791,000 last year; provision sales \$16,189,000, against \$25,325,000 the year previous.

A gentleman in Reading, Penn., has a fruit-house holding 3,000 bushels, and keeps apples for neighbors at a rate of 15 cents a bushel.

Fruit seeds saved during the present season with intent to plant, should not be allowed to roast from day to day in the hot sun. As soon as the outside of the seeds is sufficiently dry to prevent moulding, put away in a cool place till planted out for the winter frosts to act upon. Cherry seeds especially, should not be come very dry.

Close the outside doors and windows and burn brimstone, and you will not have any trouble with bedbugs. Heat an iron red hot, place it in a large kettle, placing brimstone around it, and leave it 24 hours.

Any country that has farms with groves of forest trees, with orchards, with vegetable and flower gardens, is beautiful and valuable. Without these no country, however rich in soil and location, is attractive. Every dollar spent in trees and flowers will add ten dollars to the value of the home.

According to Dr. Fleischman, the access to milk of dust from the chaff of smutty grain causes it to turn sour. In milk thus spoiled, he has discovered fungoid spores, and therefore recommends that food in this condition be steamed or boiled, or allowed to ferment, so as to insure the destruction of the fungus.

The present stock of gold in the world is estimated at nearly seven billions (\$7,000,000,000) reckoned in the coinage of the United States. This vast sum, far too large for comprehension, would be represented by a block of gold 17 feet high, 28 feet wide, and 56 feet long. Divide it amongst the people of the globe and it would give each individual between six and seven dollars. It would not be long before the smart ones would again have the bulk of it.

If you want to improve the quality of your sheep, cattle or hogs, buy or use thorough-bred males. Many farmers buy grade animals for this purpose, and they make a great mistake. The thoroughbred male will work a greater transformation in the produce of stock in one year than a grade male in several years.

### CAMEL-BREEDING IN TEXAS.

A Texas camel-breeder, speaking of the rearing of the "ship of the desert," says they are no more trouble to raise than horses or cattle. The colts for the first three or four days are rather tender, and require close attention, but after that they take their chances with the herd. They feed on cactus and brush eschewing all grasses that cattle and horses eat if the favorite cactus can be had. The females, with proper care, give a colt every year, and the price at which they are sold, the ease with which they are raised, their extreme docility, and the adaptability of our climate to their nature, would seem to indicate that camel raising is a profitable business in Texas. Mr. Lanfear says there is one camel in the herd that has traveled 150 miles between sun and sun, and that almost any well-broken camel is good for more than 100 miles in a day.

### BE GENTLE WHEN YOU MILK.

The advantage of kindness to cows has been frequently insisted on in these pages, and is well illustrated by the following anecdote: A man had a fine cow that, week after week, was milked alternately by a couple of hired men. He observed that the amount of butter he carried weighed about a pound more each alternate week. He watched the men and tried the cow after they had finished milking, but always found that no milk had been left in the teats. Finally he asked the Scotch girl who took care of the milk, if she could account for the difference. "Why, yes," said she. "When Jim milks, he says to the old cow: 'So, my pretty muley, so!' but when Sam milks, he hits her on the hip with the edge of the pail, and says: 'H'ist, you old brute!'"—Ohio Farmer.







## Literary and Domestic.

EDITED BY MRS. M. W. HUDSON.

(For the KANSAS FARMER.)  
WESTWARD.

Away out towards the setting sun  
The star of empire takes its way,  
And in its life-inspiring trail  
Great cities spring up to a day;  
The wilderness is made to bloom  
And blossom like a lovely rose,  
And on the recent "arid waste,"  
A wealth of priceless grain now grows.

A busy, energetic throng,  
Of happy and contented souls,  
Have gathered here from every land,  
To work the earth like human moles;  
Nor in their labor loving ways  
Is true advancement or forgot,  
For in each well adapted place,  
A handsome school-house marks the spot.

The wonder of the world at large,  
(Mysterious problem, we might say.)  
With all her grand accomplishments,  
Is this young commonwealth to-day;  
She justly occupies a place,  
Among the nations of the earth,  
Of high esteem, and great respect,  
For rapid growth and sterling worth.

The hundred years that marked the day,  
And date when liberty was born,  
On this great continent of ours,  
And despite of their power were shorn,  
Was deemed a most propitious time,  
For all the nation of the earth,  
To make expose, in grand display,  
Their things of beauty, genius, worth.

And in this wonderful display  
Of products from the various climes,  
The little state of Kansas proved  
Herself unrivaled by the times,  
Her fruits were luscious, ripe and fair,  
Her grain and grasses were the best,  
Her every exhibition there,  
Stood nothing daunted by the rest.

ROBERTSON.

## A LITTLE BROWN DOG.

He was a poor little fellow, errand-boy in the large grocery of Rice, Groves & Co. (I don't mean the brown dog, but Harry Jacklow), and he earned just two dollars a week. Sixty cents of this went for car fare—he lived so far from the store that he was obliged to ride to and from it—and the rest to his mother, who, with that and the eight dollars a week she received from the cloak factory where she worked, supported herself, her children—Harry, twelve years of age, Eddie, seven, and Jennie, two—and Mr. Jacklow.

Mr. Jacklow was her husband; and the less said about him, the better. I'll merely state that he could sit in a rocking-chair and smoke and think longer than any man I ever knew.

But besides this two dollars a week, Harry, who was a bright-eyed, willing, whistling young chap, sometimes got a two or a five cent piece, or, more rarely, a dime, from his employers' customers when the grocers' wagons being overloaded or the customers in a great hurry, he carried home their purchases for them. And it was this money that he had been saving ever since the first of January, for the purpose of having a good time on the next holiday.

On Christmas-day they had had a real nice time at his house. His "boss" had given him two dollars, and the superintendent of the place where his mother worked had given her one, and somebody (they had never found out who) had sent them a large turkey, and the dress-maker down stairs had put a box of tools in Eddie's stocking—dear me! what am I saying? she couldn't have done that; I meant to say she had given Ned a box of tools, and Jennie a doll, in the name of Santa Claus—and Harry had presented his mamma with a new coffee-pot, and his mamma presented him with a woolen comforter and a pair of woolen gloves, and Mr. Jacklow had bought himself a new pipe; and when Harry saw how happy they all were, he quickly made up his mind to give them a party on the very next holiday, which would be the Fourth of July.

It was the 3rd of July when my story commenced, and Harry had kept his resolution of saving every penny outside of his wages. He had had to pass many a heap of rosy apples without glancing at them, run away from many peanut stands, force himself not to look into the tempting windows of the candy stores and go by on the other side when he knew himself near a well-known bakery, to do so; but he had done so, and now his reward was near.

The house in which he lived was an old-fashioned one in an up-town street. A quarter of a century ago it had been a small farmhouse surrounded by meadows, but now it had a large tenement-house on each side, and a whole row of brick buildings in front of it. But one splendid old oak tree still stood before the door—"Bully to tack pin-wheels on," said Harry to himself, and there was any number of children round to cry "Oh!" and "Ah!" as the fire-works went off. I have always noticed that when a boy is setting off fire-works, the more aching and oh-ing there is, the brighter the fire-works look to that boy. Well, Harry had laid out the supper in his mind as follows: Ice-cream, a whole quart, twelve-cent sponge cake, five sticks of molasses candy, pitcher of lemonade, apple pie, half pound of cheese, and some baked potatoes—Mr. Jacklow liked baked potatoes. And he meant to get his mother and the rest of them out of the room (send them down to visit the dress-maker, who at the last moment was to be let into the secret), set the table himself, and then, when all was ready, call them up again. Wouldn't it be fun to look at their faces when they saw the ice-cream, and the sponge cake, and the molasses candy, and the lemonade, and the apple pie, and the cheese, and the baked potatoes? It would be almost as good as the circus. Harry had been there once, and had never forgotten how delightful it was. And then after the supper was over, and they thought the entertainment at an end, wouldn't it be fun again to see their faces

when he invited them down on the front stoop to see the pyrotechnic (look in your dictionaries) display!

So Harry had been saving, and saving, and saving, until he found himself, on the evening of the 3rd of July, with one dollar and eighty-two cents in his right-hand trousers pocket. Times had been hard, very hard, since the new year began, and people had looked very sharply after their small change, or it is likely he would have had double that amount. "But," he said to himself, "a dollar will get the feast, and the rest will buy at least a dozen nice fire-works."

He got home from the store on that evening too late and too tired to go out for the things he wanted, but the next morning he was up before the sun rose—and the sun rises pretty early during the summer months—and dressed and out in the street as the first sunbeams told the eastern sky morning had come. The streets were almost deserted, and no firecrackers nor pistol-shots yet broke the silence. But before he had walked a block some cannons boomed in the distance, and a peal of bells nearer by began playing "Yankee Doodle" very merrily. Whistling, and jingling the coins in his pockets in tune and time with the music of the bells, and wishing the stores where he meant to buy the materials for his party would open, he sauntered slowly along until he reached the dog pound—a place where all stray dogs are taken in hot weather and kept a day or two, so that their owners may, if they choose, seek and reclaim them. If found to be friendless at the end of that time, the poor things are put in a large tank prepared for that purpose, and drowned.

Harry heard the imprisoned dogs barking and yelping; and stopping a moment to listen to them with a pitying look on his face—for, like all kind-hearted boys, he dearly loved animals—he saw, sitting upon the door-step, a very pretty little girl. She wore a faded calico dress and a blue checked gingham apron; the apron she held gathered up in her hand, as though it held something of value, and her head and feet were bare. Her large eyes were of a soft brown, and her hair, of the same color, hung in straggling curls about her face. There wasn't another creature, man, woman, nor child, with the exception of a milk-man on the next block, in sight, and Harry looked at her with surprise. At last he said, with a smile, "I thought I got up early, but you must have got up much earlier than I did."

"I have been here all night," said the child in a sweet, patient voice.

"Here all night!" repeated Harry with a long whistle. "Good gracious! what'd you do that for?"

"Cause I want to go in [the very minute the door opens. My Prince"—with a sob—"is in there."

"Your dog?" asked Harry.

"Yes. He's the dearest little brown dog in all the world, and I love him best of every thing 'cept granny, and I love him just the same as her when she scolds, and my mamma brought him home one day just before she went to heaven, and I've had him ever since, and he's the best dog ever lived, and never did anything wrong in all his life 'cept once, when he stole a piece of boiled corned beef that somebody'd set out in the back alley to cool, and he wouldn't have done that 'cept he knew how hungry granny and me was," and the tears rolled down her cheeks.

"Oh! I'm so sorry! Don't cry," said Harry. "Here, take my handkerchief and wipe your eyes."

"They'll kill him," commenced the child again, "if I can't coax them to let him out, and I don't want him to go to heaven that way. I'd rather we'd both go together; and he could run on in front, and then mamma'd say, 'Why here's Prince—Nellie must be coming!'"

"Are you sure he's in there?" asked Harry.

"Oh yes. He was playing by our door yesterday afternoon, 'most night, and I was poking chips in the stove to make the kettle boil, and I heard him calling like he was in some trouble, and I ran out, and two awful men had him in a cart, and Jimmy O'Neil said they was going to take him to the pound. So I run after the cart without stopping to put my hat on, and soon it went so fast I couldn't see it, and then I asked everybody where the pound was. I remembered the name by thinking of a pound of brown sugar; and at last I got here, and it was shut up, and so I staid here all night; and do you think they'll open it soon?"

"What are you going to do when they do open it?" asked Harry.

"Go in and beg the dog man to give Prince back. He's such a little dog they won't miss him."

"But they won't give Prince back unless you pay two dollars," said Harry.

"I haven't any money—not a cent," said the child; "but I've brought these," rising and holding out her apron, which held a tiny china doll, a headless cat of the same material, a string of glass beads, two pink motto papers, and a round white shell. "These were all given to me Christmas," she said; "and I've kept them good, all 'cept the cat, and her head's in my pocket, and he can stick it on somehow, and the candies out of the mottoes—I ate one and gave the other to granny—and the man may have them every one if he will let poor Prince go."

"I'm afraid he won't take them," said Harry shaking his head.

"He won't? Oh dear! what shall I do?" cried the child. "My dear, little dog! my dear, dear little dog!"

"Don't! don't!" begged Harry, the tears

starting to his own eyes. "You shall have Prince. I have a dollar and eighty-two cents, and I'll borrow the other eighteen cents from my mother."

The little girl's face lit up with joy; she thrust the toys into his hand. "Take them, you good, good boy!" she said, "and I'll tell my mamma about you when I say my prayers to-night."

Harry put them back in her apron. "You keep them till I come back," he said; "I won't be gone but a little while; and away he ran to his home. There he found his mother making the fire, and his father smelling the coffee she had measured out ready for boiling.

"Mother, will you lend me eighteen cents?" said he.

"I intended to give you ten," she said, "for your Fourth of July. But why do you want it so early in the morning?"

"Please, mamma," coaxed Harry, "make it eighteen, and I'll pay it all back to you soon; and may I have a slice of bread and butter for a poor little girl? I'll tell you all about it by-and-by."

"I can't make it eighteen," said his mother; "I haven't another cent. Take the ten if you want it. It is in my pocket-book in the top bureau drawer, and the bread is on the table. Don't bother me any more—I am in a hurry."

Harry helped himself, and away he ran again to where Nellie patiently awaited him, a smile of perfect trust on her lips.

It is all right, said Harry, putting the bread in her hand; (an uncommon thick slice it was, too, with plenty of butter); eat that.

By this time there was a number of people in the street, and pistols were being fired and torpedoes and fire-crackers set off, and all the bells began ringing The Star Spangled Banner, and My Country 'tis of thee, and Three Cheers for the Red White and Blue, and Hail Columbia. And Harry looked at the ice-cream stand, which the owner, a jolly-faced old woman, who had just arrived with a bag and a basket of fruit, cakes, and candy—was preparing for the day, and at an early rocket that was going up in the sky; and he thought of the long time he had been saving the money, and of the intended supper, and the fire-works, and the tenement-house children oh-ing and ah-ing; and then, the door of the pound being open, he took Nellie by the hand and marched in.

Is there a little brown dog here? he asked. Named Prince? said Nellie, her love making her bold—a dear little dog?

Ha! Ha! laughed the man; that is good. Why, there is fifty brown dogs here, and all of 'em dear, I think. Two dollars apiece. Do you want to get one out?

Yes, sir, said Harry, if you will take a dollar and ninety-two cents—all I have.

At this moment a tall, dark, odd-looking gentleman came into the doorway and stood just behind the children.

Can't do it said the man, it is against the law to take less than two dollars.

Nellie began to sob again, and the tall gentleman came forward.

Your dog? he asked Harry.

No, sir; here, replied the boy.

Your sister? was the next question.

No, sir. I never saw her till this morning. I came out to buy some things for a Fourth-of-July party, and I took a walk down this way 'cause the shops wasn't open, and I found her sitting on the door-step, and she had been sitting there all night.

All night, repeated the gentleman, just as Harry had done, only without the whistle. Tell me all about it.

And he looked so kind and good that Harry did tell him all about it. And when the story was finished, the gentleman said to the man at the door, You had better take the money, Lewis. But wait—we'll see if Prince is really here.

And led by their new friend, the children went in. There were dogs of all kinds there, all shapes, all sizes, all colors that dogs could be—yelping, barking, growling and moaning.

Nellie looked eagerly around, and shouted Prince! as loud as she could shout, but could scarcely hear herself, so great was the noise. But a little brown dog, whose ears must have been much sharper than hers, sprang forward with a cry of delight that seemed to come out of the top of his little brown head.

It's Prince! It's Prince! cried Nellie, clapping her hands in delight; and the next moment he was in her arms, covering her face with dog kisses.

Harry marched out, handing the door-man the money as he passed. The tall gentleman followed with the little girl and her dog; and when they were all in the street once more, he stooped and patted Prince on the head, at the same time tucking Harry's handkerchief, which was hanging half-way out, into his jacket pocket, and saying, You will lose that if you are not careful, my boy.

Then he kissed both children, and went in to the pound again. And Nellie threw her arms around Harry's neck and gave him a good hug, and told him she should love him forever, and made him promise to come and see her and Prince; and they parted.

And that is the end of our Fourth-of-July party, said Harry, a short time after, to the Jacklow family, as he finished his breakfast and his story at the same time.

You are a good boy, and did just right, said all the Jacklow family, with the exception of Mr. Jacklow, who remarked, mildly, that a dollar and ninety-two cents would have kept him in tobacco a long while.

And baby Jennie came and gave her big brother a sweet kiss—in fact a very sweet kiss,

for some of the syrup she had been eating on her bread and butter went with it; and as she toddled away, Harry pulled out his handkerchief to wipe his mouth. It came out with a jerk, and four bright, new, silver half dollars came with it, and falling on the floor with a pleasant sound, rolled away toward the corners as fast as they could. But they were pounced upon before they had rolled a foot.

The tall gentleman, said Harry. God bless him, said his mother. Three cheers for our side! shouted Eddie, and proceeded to give them.

I wish I had the morning paper, said Mr. Jacklow.

And there was a party, after all, and besides the family there were three other guests—an old woman, a small girl, and a little brown dog.

CANNING.

Canned fruits and vegetables, says one of the best of our authorities, have become one of the staple articles of food in our country as well as a leading article of export to other lands. Such goods may be bought at reasonable prices of any respectable grocer, and form, usually, a large part of their stock in trade. Still many people have a prejudice in favor of home-made canned goods, as well as of home-made preserves, and even where the fruit and vegetables must be bought, there is a considerable saving in putting them up at home. When, however, they are home-grown and must be used or lost, the saving forms a considerable item in the family expenses. The cost is a mere nothing except for the cans, and these, especially if of glass, may be used from year to year.

The best recipes we know of call for only a tablespoonful of sugar to a quart of fruit, and many housekeepers use none, though even the small quantity mentioned greatly adds to the security of the canned fruit.

In the first place the fruit should be ripe and perfectly sound, but never over-ripe; in the second, it should be boiling hot when put into the cans, and sealed tight, then kept in a cool, dark, dry place.

By all means use glass jars. They cost more to begin with, but are cheapest in the end, for they last from year to year, and are far easier to manage than the tin, which need to be soldered. If you are careful, they will not crack. The breaking of glass is due to the unequal expansion of the inside and outside, caused by heat. Thus hot water poured in will break a glass, and so equally will plunging it into hot water. To prepare your jars, roll them in hot water and then set them on the stove to dry; or else wipe out and set them on a towel wrung out of hot water and folded into several thicknesses. A large spoon, silver or tin—iron will discolor fine fruits—put into the jar while filling it, will add to the security. For berries and for peaches, sprinkle the sugar between the layers and set the kettle on the fire, where it will not burn, until the juice is extracted. It is a good plan for this to set the kettle in a pan of water. Then let them boil for five minutes to be sure that every place is heated through and can piping hot.

Pears will need a syrup, which should be made from a quarter pound of sugar and a half pint of water to each quart of fruit. Boil the syrup and when it has boiled five minutes drop the pears (first peeled and cut up, taking out the cores) in and boil until each piece is done clear through. Then fill your cans, piece by piece, with the fruit; pour over the pears the boiling syrup—which must have been kept boiling all this time—and seal closely. Plums must be pricked with a large needle or steel pin to prevent them from bursting.

Use always the best granulated sugar—cheaper qualities are apt to ferment, and present the danger of throwing away a dollar to save a dime.

Much syrup is no advantage in your cans; it takes up room and does no good; but if you like you can add a quarter pound of sugar to each pint of fruit-syrup left over after filling; boil fifteen minutes, bottle hot and seal tightly. It will be a delicious syrup for hot cakes during the winter.

Every housekeeper knows the value of the tomato. Put up at home, in the height of the season, when tomatoes are plenty and therefore cheap, they are an excellent investment. See, first, that the tomatoes are firm and sound and also ripe, rejecting all which are either soft or bruised. Pour boiling water over them to loosen the skins, take out the cores and slip off the skins, drain off all the juice you can and then stew for from ten to fifteen minutes. Can them boiling hot—heat is the first requisite here—and keep them in a cool, dark place. The light will cause them to ferment, and once fermented they are hopelessly lost.

We have known housekeepers prepare tomatoes for soup by stewing to a thick pulp and then drying in the sun, on dishes, into sheets, which, when dry, were rolled into balls and kept in brown paper bags, hung up in a cool, dry closet. Each ball was the size of a hen's egg, and sufficed to flavor two quarts of soup.

Corn is the most difficult of vegetables to keep. Marion Harland's receipt is the best of which we know. Boil on the cob until the milk ceases to flow, when the grain is pricked. Cut off the corn and pack in stone jars. A layer of salt at the bottom half an inch deep, then one of corn two inches deep, another of salt half an inch, and so on until the jar is nearly full. Let the top layer of salt be double the depth of the others, and pour over all

melted—not hot—lard. Press upon this when nearly hard, thick white paper cut to fit the mouth of the jar. Keep in a cool place. Soak over night before using it. If your fruit or vegetables mould on the top only the top layer will probably be spoiled. Scrape that off and the rest will in all likelihood be found injured.

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