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FARMER

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The Kansas Farmer.

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A special and interesting department of the paper will be the short letters from farmers and breeders, fruit-growers, and others, giving their opinions and methods of agriculture. The live discussions upon the topics of the day, embracing full and complete information upon every phase of the farmers' movement, will also be a prominent feature of the paper. Specimen copies will be sent free to any address.

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For the Kansas Farmer.
CONCERNING KANSAS AS A STATE TO LIVE IN.

Perhaps no new State has been so well advertised as Kansas. Land agents, in almost every town have published at least monthly while the several Railroad companies have sent their publications broadcast everywhere; even to Europe. All vying with each other in representing Kansas as the garden of the world. True a careful examination of these publications would suggest that the word garden must be taken in a somewhat restricted sense. In urging so persistently the planting and cultivation of trees, there is a confession that something's wanting and that, that something is not rain, is clearly shown by the published tables of rain-fall. And recollecting that in their eastern homes where timber was abundant, a different and more desirable condition of things existed, tree planting has been prescribed by some as the remedy for droughts. Others charge the want of humidity to the burning of the prairie grass in the fall of the year. The prescription of remedies so superficial and circumscribed in their character, leaves it to be inferred that the evils of drought are of but limited extent, as compared with the State at large, and then only in the newly settled counties, while the facts are, that not in these alone arise those cries for aid; the necessity for which, while charged to the grasshoppers, is very largely due to the drought.

An examination of the records of rain-fall of different locations in Kansas, as per Agricultural reports, shows a very great range in the amount of rain-fall in the several places observed, in 1869. Olath had 58.4 inches, Leavenworth 43.35 inches, Atchison 44.2 inches, Lawrence 38.8 inches, while the Agricultural College had but 28.27 inches. There is a very great difference in the character of the country, and the nature of the soil, in the different locations. Circumstances which will very materially affect the subterranean storage of water, and consequent ability of the land to withstand drought. These and similar causes have doubtless led to the glaring discrepancies of Kansas, receiving Gold Medals at the several National and State expositions for its products of fruit and grain, while after a period of 20 years settlement, counties like Shawnee are still importing food. Perhaps in a consideration of the resources and capabilities of Kansas too much importance has been attached to what is termed experience, as "one Swallow does not make a summer" as the experience of superficial and at best but imperfectly trained observers for a period of 5, 10 or even 15 years is not sufficient on which to base a law of the climatic conditions of a country.

The tendency of the human mind to generalize and to deduce laws from isolated facts, is too great to make individual experience trustworthy. For example experience based on a knowledge of the Arkansas valley, whose soil being sandy loam is well adapted to the subterranean storage of water and therefore well able to withstand drought, would be of comparatively little value on the impervious subsoil of the high prairies of Shawnee county. Doubtless much of the suffering from want in the older counties, as well as in those more recently settled, is due to the fact that the mania for taking up large tracts of land has left the settlers without adequate means with which to stock and cultivate their lands. In the desire to obtain cheap lands comparatively but little attention has been paid to location and quality, this is less matter of surprise when we consider that they were informed by those who should have known better, that if the seed was planted or sown cultivation was of minor importance, the thorough culture of the east was unnecessary as weeds were comparatively unknown.

Very many even feel that the bare suggestion of the necessity of irrigation of Kansas would work great injury to the State by retarding immigration. Such views are born of the buy-to-day sell-to-morrow spirit, which however, much it may induce immigration does little towards building up permanent industries. The wealth of a county or state does not consist in the possession of any given number of acres of unproductive raw prairie valued at, say \$15 per acre, but rather in the number of acres of land under cultivation which yield a profit on the cost of cultivating

the same. For example 40 acres of land costing for land \$15, for the construction of works for irrigation \$45, making the total cost of land 40x60 \$2,400, will yield a larger profit on the cost of cultivation than 160 acres at \$15 per acre, costing \$2,400. Then the value of the 40 acres of land will be as much greater than the 160 acres by that amount of money which at the rate of interest which productive land property will pay (say 7 per cent) would yield equal to the additional profit. If that profit was \$8 dollars per year the additional value would be \$1400.

The difficulties which prevent a complete solution of complex problems like the one before us, arise from the want of reliable data, we have a number of Stations in the State, at which records are kept of the rain-fall, the temperature and humidity of the air, the velocity of the wind &c. But the writer has not been able to find any information on the subject of evaporation as effected by the nature of the soil, the vegetation on different soils, and with different modes of culture, nor any records of drought, showing their frequency and duration with their effects at different periods of the year, and under the various circumstances of soil and location.

Perhaps no better service could be rendered to the future immigrant than the preparation and publication by the State Agricultural department of a chart of the State showing the physical features of the country, nature or soil, temperature, direction and velocity of the wind, amount and nature of the rainfall, humidity, evaporation under the varying condition of surface and soil as affected by temperature and humidity of the air and the nature of the wind, together with reliable information of the water supply, showing from where it is obtained and its quality. Such information would be of incalculable value not only to the farmer but also to the manufacturer, enabling each to select that locality which will be best adapted to his peculiar wants.

The Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce has endorsed Tom Scott's scheme for national subsidy to build his Texas Pacific railway. That body evidently think that the thing can be done in the same old way. But Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce, good enough things in their place, we suppose, are not auning Congress as much as they were. The subsidy will hardly have a majority in Congress. In the face of well-known public sentiment, it would be healthful to voice a railroad subsidy.—*Indiana Farmer*.

AGRICULTURAL LITERATURE.—What literature has done for astronomy, geology, botany, and the other sciences it is ready to do for agriculture, which lies at the foundation of all the wealth and comfort of civilized life. Book farming is simply the best and most exact experiments of good farming recorded in books and periodicals. To write books and edit periodicals requires, not a man of mere learning and accomplishments, but one versed in the particular subjects he writes upon, by observation and experience. It is in this way that we are furnished with books and periodicals by the most competent men and women in all the departments of knowledge. These make our literature, and to be opposed to them is to array ourselves against schools, and newspapers.—*National Agriculturist*.

CHEAP STALLIONS.—Some of the agricultural journals are propounding the query, "Why is it that farmers make no money in raising horses?" One paper adds: "As a general thing, our Western farm horses are too small to be profitable to the farm as workers or valuable in the market. Many of them scarcely pay the price of their raising, being neither fit for the farm nor the city; hence in the market they command but a nominal price—an amount insufficient to at all pay their breeding and raising." It can be easily demonstrated that the main reason why farmers, in the majority of instances, discover no profit in breeding horses is due to the niggardly view which they take of the matter. In selecting a stallion for their mares, the only thing they think about is the cost of service. They will breed to a miserable brute, without form, constitution or pedigree, in preference to a horse which is in every respect the counterpart of the mongrel, simply and solely because a five or ten dollar bill is the price of the embrace and guarantee to boot. A stallion of acknowledged merit is ignored for no other reason than that his services are held at from fifty to one hundred dollars. The farmer never takes into consideration that a well bred stallion will always command his price in the market, while there is no demand whatever for the unshapely things begotten by cheap, mongrel sires. The remedy for the existing evil is not to be found in the exclusive patronage of draft stallions, as some of our agricultural exchanges recommend, but in judicious selection and the use of pedigree series. It is well enough to breed a per cent. of draft horses, but it will not answer to breed draft and nothing else. We have use for the light and speedy horse in this country as well as for the ponderous Norman and Clydesdale. It is out of the question for the farmers to make money in breeding horses unless they pay attention to the wants of the age, and give some thought to ancestry and the principles of reproduction. Their great stumbling-block is cheap stallions.—*Turf, Field and Farm*.

THE DOG QUESTION.—G. P. asks how we shall protect our crops, etc. I can tell him how this can be done, at least in part. Let nine-tenths of the dogs in the State be "taxed to death," and make it a felony to shoot any dog upon the amount eaten. Attempts were formerly made to use the entire bean as a medicine, but the results of an overdose were so frequently fatal that it was abandoned.

In the manufacture of the oil this acid principle, which is very volatile, is expelled in the process of heating; so that while the raw bean is a powerful cathartic, the oil obtained therefrom is only a mild purgative. If the oil be made "cold pressed," it is found, when first produced, to have retained this acid principle, and to be very violent in its effects. Such being the facts, we need not be at all surprised that stock eating of the fruit-vessels of this plant should be made exceedingly sick, or that, in some instances, the results should be fatal. I have been much interested in collecting data upon this matter from my students, representing as they do

really good dogs, if these are any such. G. P. POWELL in *Ohio Farmer*.

FARM ACCOUNTS.—During our whole business life, we have never, for a single year missed of taking an account and striking a balance by which we could know as near as one can without selling out, exactly what each year's labor had accomplished. Without such accounts and such a balance sheet, we should have been like a sailor at sea without a compass, especially when, as is frequently the case, produce sells for little, if any, more than its cost. At such times, when one's hogs seem to eat a greater value of meal in a day than they gain in two; when, as farmers often affirm, their chickens are eating more corn than their necks are worth, it is no slight satisfaction to turn to the accounts and see just what these hungry animals have cost, and, by making an estimate of their present value, be able to decide wisely whether to sell at once or hold on to the end.

The most simple account we can conceive of, that would be worth anything to a farmer, would be an accurate inventory at the beginning and the end of the year. The smaller subtracted from the larger, would show the gain or loss through the year, even if no other account had been kept. Many farmers keep an account of their sales and a partial account of their expenses, but, without this inventory as a starting point, such accounts are of little actual value in determining loss or gain. The fewer the products sold from a farm, the easier it must be to arrive at the cost of those products.—*North Eastern Farmer*.

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WINTER CARE OF FOWLS.—We'll be brief. You find your fowls are sneezing and running at the nose, with now and then an ominous rattling in the throat. Their appearance is ungentle, and their condition uncomfortable, but they cannot wipe their noses, or prepare composition tea. Simple remedies are at hand and all the following we have found beneficial: Moderate doses of Cayenne pepper in their drinking water, or soft food; spirits of camphor, ditto, ditto; spiced food, that is, a hot mash of bran or meal, or some boiled potatos, well spiced with pepper, cinnamon, ginger and alspice; warm roasting places; free from drafts of night air. Fine straw, to the depth of a few inches, in feeding rooms; will afford fine exercise for the fowls, if whole grain is strewn into it each morning. Douglass' mixture in drinking water. An occasional sulphur fumigation at night, sufficient to sneeze them. Use above hints with a sprinkling of common sense and good judgment, and your trouble will be well repaid.—*North Western Poultry Journal*.

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PRUNING.—All that is necessary in pruning

ornamental trees is to remove such shoots or branches as may interfere with each other; become diseased or destroyed, or that may interfere with our purpose in planting the trees. This requires a great deal of forethought and foresight, from the time the tree is planted. If we plant them at the side of a roadway or walk we must set them so far back as that, when they have attained their full development, they will in no wise interfere with the admission of the light and air necessary to keep the road bed dry; and so far away with the necessity of afterwards cutting off large branches for this purpose. While the trees are young we must so prune them as to have the lower branches start from the trunk at such a height as will ensure sufficient headroom for vehicles or pedestrians when the trees have become of large size. In exercising this forethought we must take into consideration the individual characteristics of each species of tree. Pyramidal-shaped tree can be planted closer to the edges than those of spreading habit. A Horse-chestnut tree will not require one-half the looking after in the way of shaping that will an American Linden or a Tulip tree.

The attention as we have already said, must be given whilst the tree is young, and when the branches do not exceed one inch in diameter. If allowed to get larger than this, amputating them gives the tree a great, if not an injurious check, through the large amount of foliage of which the tree is thus deprived. Then also, when larger branches are removed, it is a long time before the wounds are healed over, and during this interval the exposed wood becomes decayed and a permanent source of disease to the tree. When an imperative necessity requires the removal of large branches, the wounds should be painted over with gum shellac dissolved in alcohol, to fill up the exposed pores and thus prevent decay until the tree can cover them with new bark.—*American Garden.*

LAZY FARMER.—Laziness prevents a man from getting off his horse to put up the first rail that gets knocked off the fence, and through this lazy neglect a whole field of corn is seriously damaged.

Laziness keeps a man from driving one nail when one would do, and usually costs carpenter's bill for repairs.

Laziness allows a gate to get off the hinges and lie in the mud, or stand dropped by rails—or a stable or barn to leak and damage hundreds of dollars' worth of provender.

Laziness, in short, is the right and proper name of nine-tenths of the excuses given for bad farming. But by far the most prolific of the many wastes that are due to laziness is the waste of ignorance. But this waste is in itself so great and has so many ramifications, that we shall have to defer its discussions for another time.—*Dixie (Tenn.) Farmer.*

WINTER BEES.—Do you think my bees, prepared as you have advised for wintering, need water towards spring? I have left the caps on, with quilts under them over the frames. Have they sufficient ventilation?

Bair, Pennsylvania. F. M. G.

They need no water. Do not disturb them in any way until you set them out in the spring.

As to ventilation, we have always left off the caps from the hives. Others report good results, who have left them on, just as you described. We are inclined to think that when the quilts are on, they need less ventilation than we supposed formerly.

We saw a hive last spring on the top of which (the quilt being on) another hive had been set, and remained so all winter, cutting off entirely any upward ventilation. We thought it would be ruined, but it was to our surprise in good order; bees lively, and combs free from mould, with some brood in them. The quilt, however, was as wet as if it had been wrung out of water. Our inference is that, it would have been better, had the cap been on that hive. In that case the quilt would have been dry; but it shows also that there is air enough in a cap for all purposes.—*American Bee Journal.*

Patrons of Husbandry.

ABOUT THE NEW DEGREES.

In No. 4 of 1875, *Observer* hopes to hear from other members of the order; he says: "let us give our views on such subjects." All right.

If we can communicate anything to benefit the world, or the Grange, let it come; if not, keep still, and be counted wise for so doing.

He, (*Observer*), thinks it better for the order to make the fees for dispensation \$25.00, instead of \$15.00. It is so nice to have our money in the Treasury of the State and National Granges, in time of famine. I cannot see it. I think the safety and good name of the order is more secure, with just as little money in the treasury as is requisite to pay its legitimate expenses. We have precedents that prove this; of kingdoms, republics and also of churches; and why not hold good of the Grange.

Again, he says "The order is to a great extent filled up with unworthy material." If this charge is true, I am not aware of it, and I do not believe it can be maintained. He speaks of high fees, to keep out what he calls "unworthy members." It is hard to tell who would remain if any one man could exclude what he deemed unworthy; but one thing is certain, if high fees keep out one bad man, it would at the same time, ten good men. And it is quite possible if not probable, that, if our observing brother had the control of it, he would have the fees placed at a figure, that it would keep out Jesus Christ and most of his followers, up to the present time, also the majority of farmers in Kansas and all other States.

Now my understanding of the object of the Grange, is, that it was gotten up to benefit the farmers, good and bad, rich and poor; to lift up the weak, to teach the ignorant, to make the bad better, and finally to place the farmers on an equal footing with the average American citizen.

I am sorry to see in print, under the shadow of our glorious order, such an insinuation against the members of the Subordinate Gran-

ges. If they are not right, let us help them to get right. It is a good field for "Observer" to display his missionary talent, and all the rest of us can do something in that direction, if we have the will; it will pay better than brattling about speculating in patent rights through the National Grange, or 5th and 6th degree membership. The very thought of planting and cultivating an aristocracy in the Grange, is disgusting, and wholly contrary to the declared principles of the order of Patrons of Husbandry.

J. G. Clark,
Waveland, Feb. 1, '75.

ED. FARMER.—I am rejoiced to see that the FARMER is not only going to live, but to thrive and grow, notwithstanding the hard times and we all feel like giving it a boost: just wait till we get a hold again and we will give you something more than encouraging words. I am glad to see the subject of "arbitration in the Grange," being discussed in the FARMER, and hope the brotherhood will speak out on the question; it is an important one and if rightly settled, would save the farmers many profits that now go as lawyers fees. Our faith in the Grange increases, it is working inestimable benefits for the farmer and his family.

H. G. Smith.
According to Article 3rd, of the Constitution of the Kansas State Grange, the members of the State Grange, of Shawnee county, met in Odd Fellows Hall, at Topeka, and elected G. W. Clark, Chairman, and R. S. Priddy, Secretary. The following named persons were elected Delegates: J. G. Otis, Master of Capital Grange, member for the county at large; G. W. Clark, Master of Lynn Creek Grange, and R. S. Priddy, Master of Golden Rule Grange. On motion the meeting adjourned.

R. S. Priddy, Sec'y.

Last week the following errors occurred in the proposed amendment to the constitution of Newark Grange. "Under this plan, nine out of every ten roads, need not cost the town, aside from damages, over \$1,000 each." It should be \$7,000 each. The No. of the Grange is 1838 instead of 1838.

Saline Valley Grange No. 446; Master John S. Bean; Secretary, Mary A. Morrison.

The following resolutions were adopted by Capital Grange, at its last meeting, on Jan. 23rd.

Resolved., That our worthy Master and Past-masters are hereby requested to do all in their power to have the constitution of the National and State Granges so amended as to recognize the following principles:

1st. Any Fourth Degree member should be eligible to any position in the order.
2nd. All privileges and rights now belonging to Masters and Past-masters should be abolished.

3rd. All work in the Subordinate Granges, should be done in the First Degree.

4th. The Laws and Ritual should be modified so as to give less prominence to the ceremonial part of the work, and more to the instructive business, protective and social part.

At a meeting of Laurel Grange, No. 526, for the consideration of arbitration in the Grange, a list of resolutions, published in the KANSAS FARMER, by Pleasant Mound Grange, prescribing rules for arbitration, were adopted by this Grange.

It was also resolved that this Grange request the general assembly of this State, to cause a copy of all laws passed or amended at each of its future sessions, to be furnished to the clerk of each School District in the State, that each citizen in the State may have an opportunity to become informed in regard to the laws by which we are governed.

W. C. Pearce, Sec'y.

Jefferson County Central Council passed the following resolutions January 28;

WHEREAS, Our crops of almost all kinds have been badly damaged for several years past and especially so the last season by chinch bugs, and believing that the quail is the greatest destroyer of insects of all the feathered tribe, therefore,

Resolved., That we urge upon our senator and representative in the legislature this winter to use their utmost endeavor to have an amendment to the Game Law passed that no quails in the State of Kansas shall be killed or destroyed in any way for a period of five years.

Resolved., That the penalty for the violation of the above law be sufficient to give that thorough protection prayed for.

J. W. SHRADER, Sec'y.

Careful investigation has repeatedly proven that the quail is the greatest insect destroyer of the State, also that four thousand chinch bugs are an ordinary breakfast for a single bird. As many as five thousand have been taken from the crop of a quail. Also that chinch bugs are increasing at a fearful rate, threatening, and in some localities almost destroying, the grain crop.

In the face of the above facts we have no law for their protection. An act of 1871 was intended as a protection, but has proved a failure simply because quails are privileged characters and go where they please.

Farmers and Patrons, shall we jeopardize our interests by allowing sporting characters from the towns to ransack our farms for the purpose of destroying our best friends, or will we by a united effort use our influence to secure the passage of a law that will for at least five years prevent the slaughter of quails?

Riverside Farm, Osborne Co., Kan.

EDITOR FARMER.—In view of the projected meeting of the state Grange we would like to call the attention of Granges and Patrons generally to the objectionable manner in which delegates to the State Grange are now made. We refer to that feature of the constitution which confers the selection of delegates upon a body of masters who are not in any manner responsible to their Granges for such choice, and at the time of their own selection are not chosen for such purposes but the power is gratuitously conferred on them by a constitutional provision.

The peculiarly odious feature of this method is that it takes the selection of delegates out of the hands of the Subordinate Granges, where it properly belongs, and confers it upon a favored few who are, as will be seen, not even responsible to their Granges for their action.

The masters and those whom they may select as delegates being thus placed out of our reach we cannot of course instruct them to repair this objectionable feature, as we could do if they were chosen directly by the Grange. But we can give them notice that hereafter no masters will be chosen but those who favor the repeal. As it is now the masters haughtily presume upon their favored position and feel as if subordinate Granges have no right to be consulted in the selection of delegates and therefore take no notice of them whatever.

And yet these subordinate Granges are called upon to pay the expenses and *per diem* of these delegates as chosen for them by others—the natural inference being that in adopting that Article the mass of Patrons were deemed too ignorant to make their own selection.

This is un-American, anti-republican and expresses terms contrary to the letter and spirit of our institutions, and above all things, contrary to the principles sought to be inculcated by the Grange—which, while pretending to be a movement for ameliorating the condition of the people would create a monopoly of the most odious and dangerous kind within itself, viz: an aristocracy of masters.

The whole tendency is to build up a little circle of favored exclusives composed of masters and past masters who will, as is common to human nature, soon come to consider themselves the favored few and deport themselves accordingly.

And, as we have said before, the presumption of unfitness on the part of the mass of Patrons to choose their own representatives is enough to condemn any popular organization and will undoubtedly create wide spread dissension among the Patrons of the State unless repealed at the next meeting of the State Grange. S. H. BREMER, Cottonwood Falls, Chase Co., Feb. 2.

A DECLARATION OF PEOPLES RIGHTS, AGAINST MONOPOLY OF PUBLIC CREDIT.

To Col. John L. Motter, representative from Watertown, Doniphan county, Kansas.

DEAR SIR.—Knowing you to be a liberal and a progressive minded man, of probity and honor, desirous of bettering our social and political condition, is the reason why I send you this declaration of the peoples rights and wrongs, in relation to the monopoly of our National credit, in banking and currency. I want it read to the present Legislature, for their information; and published in all the political papers in Topeka, that are not controlled by banks, for the information of the people especially the Granger.

The greatest hydra headed monster of evil to the prosperity of the people, is the unjustly legalized Monopoly of our National Credit in banking and currency. By which they control all our agricultural, manufacturing and commercial industries, with our railroad interests and the Public press, and consequently our legislation, and often the Administration of Public Justice.

Centralizing their wealth in our large cities, making the rich richer, and the working poor poorer. Creating want and suffering in the midst of plenty, causing crime and pauperism, crowding our prisons and filling our poor houses in with the children of poverty, and want. All of which is done by a legalized fiction of bank credit, in the form of bank bills, which are as mortgages on the property and wealth or capital of our whole country, resting on a threadbare credit with a circulation unlimited, based on popular ignorance with its suspicion fast asleep.

It is to the interest of the Public good, that this ignorant stupor should waken up, before the new system of Free Banking gets into operation. For we may expect the same old financiers playing the bank cards to plunder the people that operated the old system of a fictitious credit, to absorb three-fourths of the productive industry of the country. The way to stop it, is for the people to make congress give them a money representative in greenbacks to the amount of one-third of their property wealth, or fixed capital of real estate, at one per cent, secured by mortgage, for furnishing the greenbacks, of three dollars and upwards for one in circulation. This plan will be attended with no monopoly can never be overruled, and will want no redemption, but to pay the one per cent interest, and refund the money if wanted no longer.

Thus placed on a primary base of real estate it will give up a safe, secure and a reliable national currency, better than gold or silver, not fluctuating in value, to leave our country and will be at par every where at all times. Note that Auditor Wilder, in his able report

of 1874, shows that Kansas is worth 180 millions of dollars, which would give us a monied representative of 50 millions based on real estate or two to three dollars, base for one in circulation, which can be furnished by the government for one per cent on the credit furnished by our fixed real estate, as our share in the National currency, as a medium of exchange, to dispose entirely with the monopoly of bank fiction at less than one-tenth of the interest. Saving all the capital.

Fellow citizens, and representatives of the people; have I succeeded in showing you that

the farmers of Kansas, and every other state

should have a money representative of one-third

of their own wealth, or capital in greenbacks,

furnished by the government on mortgage at

one per cent. Thus they could use their own

credit according to their capital, instead of

bank fiction, for which they must pay the

principal with high interest. Thus enabling

them to use the credit of their own capital at

one per cent. to pay their taxes and debts,

and make improvements and enable them to

sell their produce at fair prices, which would

put down high interests, and besides helping

their poor neighbors and themselves to put an

end to our semi-barbaric forced sales by law

or otherwise. All on the platform of equal

rights, with no monopoly.

To make this more plain; permit me to cite my own case, which is but one in ten-thousand. In 1874, I did not raise more than barely enough to live on, with nothing to pay my taxes nothing but money which the government prevents me from having. I have landed property and improvements worth ten thousand dollars for which I have no monied representative, which alone should be the base of all safe, secure and reliable credit. Now if I had a monied representative of one-third of my fixed capital, I would be entitled to more than three thousand dollars, at the ratio of three dollars base for one in circulation, costing one per cent. for furnishing the greenbacks, and taking a mortgage, with which I could pay my taxes and debts and at the same time sell my produce at fair prices and besides help my neighbors, but under the present laws I can do neither.

JOHN GRABLE.

Educational.

EDITED BY PROF. J. B. HOLBROOK.

A CHARACTERISTIC ILLUSTRATION.

This characteristic illustration of the parrot-drill of public schools is given by a writer in the Penn Monthly: "It is said that a gentleman who fell in with one of our school boys offered him a 'quarter' if he would tell him the names of all the capitals in Europe. It was done, and quickly. 'Now,' said the gentleman, 'I will give you another quarter if you will tell me whether they are animals or vegetables.' 'Animals,' was the ready and confident answer."

In the opinion of the New York Tribune, from which we have clipped the above anecdote, it—the anecdote—is a "characteristic illustration of the parrot-drill of public schools;" in our opinion it being found in the columns of that journal is characteristic of the general disposition of American newspapers to grasp at every and all things that can directly or by implication cast discredit and reproach upon the American school teacher or school system. Like most of such yarns derogating the commonsense of the teacher, it goes too far. It presupposes an idiot child in attendance upon the school, whereas idiots are not admitted to the public schools. The initiatory three words, "it is said," are prima facie evidence of slander. The denouement of the story is so strikingly absurd as to make it a matter of astonishment how any one could for a moment entertain a thought of its truth; whilst wonderment guesses what possible combination of home culture, school instruction, and native sense could produce a malformation such as this story presents, a boy who quickly names all the capitals of Europe and in the next breath calls them animals. Unless that boy answered the fool according to his folly for the sake of the quarter, the story is a lie; but, nevertheless, it will go the rounds of all the fire boxes, boilers, blast pipes and excentrics which go to make up that wonderful engine of civilization—the press.

GEOGRAPHY.

The geography recitation is the opportunity for the teacher to impart to his pupils his stock of general information. In order to teach the subject well the teacher should be conversant with town, county, state and national governments, as will as possess a general knowledge of foreign governments. He should have a respectable fund of information on the morals, manners and customs of all the peoples of the earth, with which he may illustrate and explain the necessarily concise statements of the text-book.

He should have visited woolen and cotton mills, paper mills and printing establishments, rolling-mills, blast furnaces, flouring and saw mills, slaughter and packing houses—he should never have neglected an opportunity to familiarize himself with the operations and processes of the trades and mechanic arts. He should be possessed of a knowledge of the flora and fauna of leading countries, also with the methods of culture of such plants as the tea, coffee and rice, of such animals as the silk worm, reindeer, llama and camel. In order

that he may teach a geography that is up to the times the teacher should take and read a first class newspaper, as he may by that means know of the changes in political geography throughout the world.—It was not long since we heard a child give Florence as the capital of Italy, the teacher not correcting the mistake.—If to such general information be

February 10, 1875.

It is only a matter of attention, dedicated by good business management, whether these bonds are collected or not, when due. Only in case of absolute forgery of the papers or of perjury of the county and district officers, are these securities worthless, and for the protection of its citizens as well as for its own protection, when this can be proven, the State should promptly arrest and punish these offenders.

There are \$14,576 unpaid coupons past due, in the treasury, but it must be remembered that there are three reasons, outside the inability of the school districts to meet their liabilities, for this fact:

First, The county commissioners, under the new law, through carelessness, have failed in many cases to make the proper levy to meet the interest and principal.

Second, In many cases where the levy has been made, the U. S. Supreme Court decision making certain R. R. lands not liable for tax, has rendered such levy insufficient to meet maturing bonds and accrued interest.

Third, The defalcation of certain county Treasurers has prevented the collected money from being paid into the treasury for redemption of said unpaid coupons.

While it is evident the most stringent guards should be thrown around the investment of the school fund, yet it rests with the present Legislature to say whether or not it will rob the Permanent and Annual School Fund, of the advantage this investment offers, whether or not they will place a few bond speculators between the school district officers and the market value of their bonds for the individual benefit, and whether or not they will deprecate these bonds to the direct injury of the districts, to the extent of many thousand dollars, by withdrawing the financial and moral support, which the State has heretofore given to these securities, by being their purchaser.

P.
Topeka, Kansas.**Horticulture.**

For the Kansas Farmer.

POMOLOGICAL LITERATURE.—ITS TEACHINGS AND ITS VALUE.
By PHRYTON.

To the non pomological mind, it would seem that at the various pomological and horticultural gatherings conducted at the expense of the public, there ought to be disclosed something upon which, after a few years might be based a pomological philosophy, and that a students who had never grown a premium apple or pear, might deduce this philosophy from the "heap talker, not say welly much," of the pomological savants. It is true that these conventions next assembling would taboo any man who would rely upon any previous observations, facts or conclusions, as the ories, the regular pomological way of determining whether any particular soil or climate or combination of both is adopted to any particular species, or variety of the species is to say so, and when he says so, and twenty or thirty other savants have said so, with respect to other varieties, the concern resolves itself into a committee of the whole to reform the fruit list.

In the intervals between this labor, they have it lively as to whether a favorite apple is Rawles' "Janet," "Genet" "Janeton" "Jannet" "Janneton" "Gennet" "Gunton" "Jenneting" or "Genneting" etc., ad infinitum; at length this question being laid upon the table, the cause of blight is taken up; the Venerable Bambocci dogmatically says Insects; Bunkum says, Fungus; too much pruning, says Staymon; not enough, says Howley; because not grown in grass, says Meehan; because you do grow in grass, says Kelsey, and if there is anybody in Kansas competent to correct pomological and forrestal errors, all the lesser lights rise up to say to Mr. Kelsey, "thou art the man," [Elliott.]

Dr. Hall thinks a lack of root pruning causes blight, and Charles Darwin says, it is caused from non adaption of the pear to the medium in which it is growing; so it becomes distressing to the smaller lights to know what to do to grow pears in this natural home of all sorts of orchard fruits, with profit.

I have concluded to go through some of the writings of some of our most eminent pomological savants, and see if there can be discovered any clue, by which the uninitiated amateurs may follow into this labyrinth.

As it seems probable, that the medium, (soil and climate,) where the apple and the pear are most successful, is that which they require; we have only to determine where the best results are obtained, learn the soil and climate of that region, and if particular localities show a lack of success, we can then by the elimination of the elements common to the medium of both sites, fix upon the one covering the trouble.

The pear succeeds in Riley county, it does not succeed in Leavenworth, the soil being substantially the same; it must be a difference in "meteors;" that is, the winter being colder and the summer hotter and drier at the former than the latter. We may fairly conclude that the "Edens of the apple and the pear," are those regions where the summers are extremely hot and the winters extremely cold, where extremely wet seasons alternate with extremely dry ones, where early and late frosts frequently occur, where the energetic thermometer jumps through a range of sixty degrees in twenty-four hours. Regions of this kind have

taken most of the pomological premiums. It will be made manifest, that if they possess this kind of climate, that such a climate is required in the home of the apple and the pear. Our selections will illustrate this law, with now and then a chorus of despondency.

"After the experience of the past season, and since the exhibition of fruits of this State, at the late fair in St. Louis, and at the Horticultural fair at St. Joseph, in September last, and also at the exposition at Kansas City, in October last, it is no longer doubted that the State of Missouri, together with portions of Kansas and Nebraska, are, all taken together, the finest apple growing country now known, of the same extent.

I think I hazard nothing in saying, that this is true not only in reference to productiveness of the trees, but also in reference to the size, beauty and excellence of the quality of the fruit. The past season has served to confirm the conviction that, unless some remedy can be discovered for the blight of pear trees, the cultivation of pears in this State, except by amateurs, might as well be abandoned. All lovers of good fruit will regret this; for except for this disease of the tree there is no country that would produce pears more abundantly or of higher quality." (Judge Vorles opening address, 18th annual meeting, Missouri Horticultural society, 7th report of Missouri board, page 40.)

A MELANCHOLY CHORUS.

"Whatever the Society may deem it advisable to do the present year for the promotion of horticulture, I think an amount sufficient for a thorough investigation of orchards should be appropriated. That orchards succeed well in some localities, is unquestionable; but orchard husbandry generally must be pronounced a failure. St. Louis is almost dependent, for her supply of winter apples, upon Michigan, northern Ohio and western New York." (John Tice, same, page 53.)

Mr. Stewart, practical nurseryman, Mason, Missouri; "I think that the rapid increase of injurious insects is one great cause of the fall of the apple crop." Page 53.

Prof. Swallow, geologist; "St. Louis country commenced planting orchards earlier than any county in the State, and if they are now failing, it is important that we should, if possible find out the reason. Those who early planted orchards in Boone county were very successful, but now things are beginning to be different; in many cases three-fourths of the crop has been destroyed or badly damaged by insects." Page 63.

"The treasurer, Mr. Tice, reports the unquestionable facts, that in the commercial metropolis of the State the demand of the market for home consumption of winter apples, is in excess of the supply from Missouri and the adjoining state of Illinois, and in order to satisfy the demand, the lake shores of Michigan, Ohio and New York, are laid under contribution."

NOW WHY IS THIS, THUSLY?

"And we ask the question with the more seriousness, when we look at the abundant and unequalled display of apples, both for size and quality, before us, at this [pumpkin show] exhibition. This is convincing evidence too that here, on the western border, in the valley of the Missouri, fine specimens of apples can be raised as in any part of the globe, and the specimens we find as delicate and delicious as they are large and beautiful."

BUT THEY COST TOO MUCH.

"Then the question occurs, can the apple be grown for profit? Facts seem to answer this question in the negative." (Page 99.)

THE HULL OF IT IS ROOT PRUNED.

Dr. E. S. Hull of Alton, Illinois, was called on to discourse on the "Incentives and Drawbacks of Fruit Culture," and he said: [drawing back] "I am afraid there are more drawbacks than incentives. If I could draw back all my means invested and was seeking a new business I would not choose fruit growing (or root pruning?) for profit. Two years ago I said at Cobden that it would be fifteen thousand years before they would get a full crop of peaches, it was thought to be an extravagant statement. A year ago I was in the same locality, and I am prepared to reiterate the statement, for I could not find a sound peach in all that region." (Missouri Report, 1870, page 38.)

TOO MUCH WATER.

Dr. Stayman of Leavenworth county, Kansas, has found out what the matter is, he said, "The pear growers of Leavenworth county succeeded in growing pears successfully for ten years, but now all their orchards are completely destroyed by the blight. They universally go at twelve years old or younger. We have no pear trees in Leavenworth county to-day over that age, except in one or two isolated cases. We have had the blight every year since 1865, usually from May 10th to June 10th (the next year). The increase of the annual rainfall since 1865 is eleven inches, which mostly occurs between May 10th and July 10th; put these facts together and draw your conclusions. I consider pear culture in this section a failure." 7th Mo. 107 compare 1st Kansas, page 28.

[It is apparent from these excerpts that the further west you go the better the soil and climate become adapted to fruit culture, because, becoming somewhat dryer, with colder winters, hotter summers, bigger rains, longer droughts, higher and hotter winds and greater monthly thermal range are peculiarly favorable to the apple and the pear, unless by acting upon the health, and imagination of men flap-doodle becomes vagrant from climatic stimulus.]

TO BE ILLUSTRATED BY MARK FOUNTAIN.

"While there are few soils, if any, better adapted to the cereals, it is certain that the vine will thrive better here than in many portions of the east. And the conviction, may be thoroughly established in the mind of every horticulturist, that this (Manhattan, Kansas) is to be the home of the apple, pear and peach as well as the vine. Enough has already been accomplished to give promise of a proud pre-eminence in the production of all varieties of fruit. We have only just begun to study the capabilities of the screaming bird of freedom of Kansas for fruit culture. The western half of the State has scarcely had its capabilities (for grasshoppers) tested! It is possible that a few years may teach us some very important lessons in regard to fruit culture and especially the culture of the pear in western Kansas." Professor of Sylviculture, Manhattan, Dec. 7th, 1873; First Kansas Report of B. A. page 14.

FATHER HOWSELY GIVES A FLAP OR TWO.

"I don't wish to speak in vain glory of Kansas fruits. It has been said that our victory at Philadelphia was a spasmodic one. Such is not true (climber). At Richmond we met nineteen states, and won the highest expression."

THERE IS MUCH VIRTUE IN YOUR IP.

"If the scope of country between the foot of the Rocky Mountains and Kansas [is always covered with trees, [why having a sylvan climate] the drought [and grasshoppers] to which that country is so subject would be tempered and the violence of wind storms broken." Pages 59 to 70 1st Kansas.]

THAT \$100.

Kansas specifically gets away with Missouri at Topeka notwithstanding lack of plate, and Missouri gracefully elevates the pomological sponge and concedes that the further an apple tree is from water the more profitable is orcharding. (Pages 59 to 70 1st Kansas.)

Dr. Howley—"Missouri has soil enough but she lacks men."

Mr. Murfield corks up Missouri until the hour of her revenge. Page 14.

But Missouri wants a reference to parties who understand English. Page 138.

"In other words, our decision is substantially upon the comparative merits of soil and climate [and men] between the States of Kansas and Missouri as fruit producing territories are measured by the display of fruit exhibited for our examination, by the societies representing these States respectively." Page 139.

It is comfortable to know that during the pending of this contest, the fierce-eyed bird of freedom overlooked the display of selected fruit—Overtopping and resting upon the apex, sat majestically the national emblem, the eagle with its wings wide spread, indicative of protection, construed to mean, that as it was the champion of all birds so Kansas was the champion in Pomona, and with the strength of extended domain, her broad acres and wide spread intelligence she would protect herself from the encroachments of [border ruffian] invaders." Page 140.

Let us rest, while the male chickens and that eagle are permitted to roost. Let us rest!

To be continued.

Farm Stock.**SOME ACCOUNT OF THOROUGHBRED STOCK NOW IN KANSAS.**

ED. FARMER.—In reply to your request, to furnish a description, of my stock, for the FARMER, I herewith give you, from the Cincinnati Post, an account of prices which have been paid for horses.

From the following figures one would conclude that it pays to raise fine horses; Kentucky sold for \$40,000; Norfolk, 15,000; Lexington, \$15,000; Kingfisher, \$15,000; Glenville, \$10,000; Extra, \$10,000; Smuggler, \$8500; Dexter, \$38,000; Lady Thorn, \$30,000; Blackwood, \$30,000; Jay Gould, \$30,000; Jim Irving, \$30,000; Goldsmith Maid, \$20,000; Shartle, \$20,000; Prospero, \$20,000; Roseland, \$20,000; Luin, \$30,000; Happy Medium, \$30,000; Judge Fullerton, \$20,000; Auburn Horse, \$18,000; Edward Everett, \$20,000; Mambrino Berrie, \$10,000; Socrates, \$20,000; Clara G. \$20,000; Pocahontas, \$25,000; George Palmer, \$15,000; Mambrino, Pilot, \$12,000; George Daniels, \$8,000; J. G. Brown, \$12,000; Flores Tempa, when old, \$3,000, for a brood mare, \$25,000 was offered, and refused, for Tom Bowling, last summer; \$30,000 was offered and refused, for Harry Bassett, when three years old; \$25,000 will not buy Baywood or Asteroid; \$40,000 was offered for Woodford Mambrino; \$20,000 for Thorndale and \$5,000 for old Gold dust."

I might add in this connection, that I have and would again refuse \$15,000 for Baywater full brother to Baywood, given above.

In answer to your request, I will proceed to give you a brief history of my thoroughbred horse, in connection with others that I own in the State.

Baywater was bred by the late R. A. Alexander, of Kentucky. In proof of his superior blood and action we will give below an account of his racing and blood tracing, taken from the Turf, Field and Farm, under head of "American Turf History, Dec. 25 1874."

[It is apparent from these excerpts that the further west you go the better the soil and climate become adapted to fruit culture, because, becoming somewhat dryer, with colder winters, hotter summers, bigger rains, longer droughts, higher and hotter winds and greater monthly thermal range are peculiarly favorable to the apple and the pear, unless by acting upon the health, and imagination of men flap-doodle becomes vagrant from climatic stimulus.]

EDITOR FARMER.—Please allow me to inquire through the FARMER for the best method of preparing under-drains. Some advocate the filling of the drain with rock so as to keep out burrowing animals, others say only protect the outlet.

I would be glad to have the experience of those who who best know, for a guide.

ed. Time, 3:45—track very heavy. At Jerome Park, September 25, 1866, dash of one and a quarter miles, for three-year-olds, winner of the Jersey Derby or Travers Stake excluded; Baywater won, Local second; Jim Thade third; Ripley, Delegate and Tom Week folk not placed. Time, 3:17. At Jerome Park, October 6, Club purse for all ages, mile heats; Baywater won, Richmond second, Delaware third; Ripley fourth. Time, 1:50, 1:48 1/2. At Patterson, N. J., October 10, Jersey St. Ledger premium, \$1,000, for three year olds, \$50 each, play or pay, two and a quarter miles, forty-four nominations, value \$3,200; Baywater, won, Watson second, Ulises third; Local, Tom Woolfolk and Black Slave not placed. Time, 4:20 1/2. At Cincinnati, October 25, 1866, Jersey Club purse, \$500, for all ages, two miles; Baywater won, Little Mack second, Molie Austin third, and Tom Porter last. Time, 3:22. At Lexington, Ky., September 24, 1866, dash of one and a quarter miles, for all ages, two miles, heat, Baywater won, Extra second in both heats; Grant third. Time, 3:20 1/2, 3:40 1/2. Baywater beaten a head for the first heat. At Cincinnati, Ohio, September, 25, 1867, purse \$400 for all ages, two miles; Baywater won, Little Mack second, Jerry Sparklin not placed. Time, 2:38. Same place, May 30, 1868, sweepstakes for all ages, \$25 entrance, play or pay, with \$600 added, three miles; Baywater won, Prin second, eight paid forfeit. Time, 3:34.

BAYWATER'S PEDIGREE.

He was sired by the renowned Lexington Dam; Bay Leaf, by Yorkshire, he by St. Nicholas, by Emily, by Orville, by Benningbrough, by King Ferguson (son of Eclipse), dam Seameen, by Seed, by Benningbrough, by King Ferguson (son of Eclipse), son's dam Eliza, by Highflyer, out of Augusta, by Eclipse. St. Nicholas' grandam Goosander, by Hambletonian, by King Ferguson (son of Eclipse). Yorkshire's dam, Miss Rose, by Tramp, by Dick Andrews, by Joe Andrews, by Pot-S-o (son of Eclipse). Baywater's grandam Maria Black, by Filho-da-Puta, by Haphazard (son of Sir Peter and Miss Harvey, by Eclipse). Filho-da-Puta's dam Mrs. Barnet, by Pot-S-o (son of Eclipse).

It will be seen from above, that Baywater gets fully twelve crosses of the great English Eclipse, from his dam, and, as we will see at some future time, the same from his sire, making in all 24 crosses, which is leaving out the crosses of Highflyer, King Hero, and two crosses of the great Mambrino, sire of Imported Messenger. We doubt if any horse upon the American Turf, has better blood than Baywater, however, he is not upon the Turf at the present, having broken his foot in his last race at Canal Dover, Ohio, compelling him to leave the turf in the prime and vigor of life, the very stamp required for his present position, the stud. Next is my young and powerfully formed horse, known as Commodore or Bertrand Patchen, sired by Dr. Herr's Mambrino Patchen, a full brother to Lady Thorn. The dam of my young horse was sired by Joseph Downing's old bay Messenger, 2nd dam by Bertrand, sire of Woodpecker and others; 3rd dam, a thoroughbred mare owned by Capt. John Hutchcraft, Sr., of Bourbon Co. Ky. Next in my stud are two stallions located at Newton, Harvey county, this state: one known as Young Tiger, that is draft and trotting stock, and a beautiful, large, well formed horse; the other is a four year old, sired by Orphan Boy, he by Imported Australian, out of a Canadian mare with good tracing, etc.

Next in my outfit, is the great thoroughbred bull, Noble Duke, 2nd, got by the renowned show animal, of Kentucky, Noble Duke, he by Duke of Airlie No. 12,730. My Duke was out of Mrs. Lee, by Duke of Marlborough; Lady Gage by Deceiver, etc., he has a predominance of that high and fashionable Duchess blood. For pedigree in full, see the American Short-horn Record, Vol. 3rd, page 246, No. 2398.

Next and last of my breeding animals, is a Jack of good size and well formed with a very superior trotting motion for an animal of his kind. Besides these, I have a few good brood mares and some other stock, that I will not attempt to speak of any farther at this time.

Respectfully yours,

J. A. Merrick.

Shawnee County, Kansas.

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Literary and Domestic.

EDITED BY MRS. M. W. HUDSON.

DANIEL GRAY.

BY J. G. HOLLAND.

If I shall ever win the home in heaven
For whose sweet rest I humbly hope and
pray,
In the great company of the forgiven
I shall be sure to find old Daniel Gray.

I knew him well; in fact, few knew him better
For my young eyes oft read for him the
Word,
And saw how meekly from the crystal letter
He drank the life of his beloved Lord.

Old Daniel Gray was not a man who lifted
On ready words his freight of gratitude,
And was not called upon among the gifted,
In the prayer meetings of his neighbor-hood.

He had a few old words and phrases,
Linked in sacred texts and Sunday
rhymes;
And I suppose that, in his prayers and graces,
I've heard them all at least a thousand
times.

I see him now—his form, and face, and mo-
tions;

His homespun habit and his silver hair—
And hear the language of his dire devotions
Rising behind the straight-backed kitchen
chair.

I can remember how the sentence sounded—
"Help us, O Lord, to pray, and not to faint!"
And how the "conquering and-to-conquer"
rounded

The loitering aspirations of the saint.

He had some notions that did not improve
him;

He never kissed his children—so they say,
And scented scenes and fairest flowers would
move him

Less than a horse-shoe picked up in the
way.

He could see naught but vanity in beauty,
And naught but weakness in a fond care,
And pitied men whose views of Christian
duty

Allowed indulgence in such foolishness.

Yet there were love and tenderness within
him.

And I am told that, when his Charley died,
Nor Nature's need nor gentle words could
win him

From his fond vigils at the sleeper's side.

And when they came to bury little Charley,
The found fresh dew drops sprinkled in his
hair.

And on his breast a rose-bud gathered early—

And guessed, but did not know, who placed
it there.

My good old friend was very hard on fashions
And held its votaries in lofty scorn,

And often burst into a holy passion

While the gay crowds went by on Sunday
morn.

Yet he was vain, old Gray, and did not know it.

He wore his hair unparted, long and plain

To hide the handsome brow that slept be-
low it,

For fear the world would think that he was
vain!

He had a hearty hatred of oppression,

And righteous words for sin of every kind,

Alas, that the transgressor and transgression
Were linked so closely in his honest mind.

Yet that sweet tale of gift without repentance
Told of the Master, touched him to the core

And fearless he could never read the sentence

"Neither do I condemn thee; sin no more."

Honest and faithful, constant in his calling,
Strictly attendant on the means of grace,

Instant in prayer, and fearful most of falling.

Old Daniel Gray was always in his place.

A practical old man and yet a dreamer,

He sought that, in some strange, unlooked
for way,

His mighty Friend in heaven, the great Re-
deemer,

Would honor him with wealth some golden
day.

This dream he carried in a hopeful spirit;
Until in death his patient eye grew dim,

And his Redeemer called him to inherit

The heaven of wealth long gathered up
for him.

So, if I ever win the home in heaven
For whose sweet rest I humbly hope and
pray,

In the great company of the forgiven
I shall be sure to find old Daniel Gray.

THE WRATH OF THE BACHELORS.

That unlucky remark of ours about old
bachelors and their slippers, has called down
upon our head such a torrent of appeal, from
our opinion, that we are truly repentant for
our hard heartedness and admit that they do
deserve something more than a pair of slippers,
but what that something should be depends
very much on the bachelor. A few of
them no doubt deserve good wives, and notwithstanding
their excuses we still sincerely
hope they will get them.

A good many of them evidently would be
benefited by a sound curtain lecture, and one,
at least, from whom we have heard, deserves
to be made the superintendent of an orphan
asylum, for he says he has known bachelors
who knew more about training and taking
care of children than parents; he takes it for
granted that what we said "was intended to
inspire children with a hatred of old bache-
lors," and we don't know whether to take
this as unkind or complimentary, for while we
had no desire to influence children in any such
way, we shall be very glad if our words are
far reaching that they warn little boys of the
misery of a bachelor's life. For miserable it
must be, we are quite convinced of that fact
since hearing their case, else why would they
blame their state on the ladies?

In justice to L. H. L., who first replied to our
course "they have not time," you need not tell

"thrust," we must inform our readers that he
has exonerated all Kansas ladies from being
the cause of his unfortunate condition: so we
suppose it was before he emigrated, that he
made those fifteen or twenty unsuccessful, but
praiseworthy attempts to commit matrimony
and we would advise him to try again.

Another one has entirely misapprehended
our motive for thinking they ought to marry;
it is not to please us, or any other woman
especially, but because there is no gift like a
good wife—except a good husband.

TOPEKA, KAN., Jan. 28.

EDITOR FARMER.—Having my attention
called to an article in your paper of the 26th
concerning the lady clerks, I feel called upon
to correct a statement concerning myself. My
father has always supported his family, and
done it well, but for the last few years he has
been rather unfortunate, and I have done
little towards helping him out. My case must
certainly have been exaggerated to you. I do
not care for honors that are not due me.

Respectfully, LIDA E. MOORE,
Engraving Clerk of House of Representatives.

CARRYING MY OWN PORTMONNAIE.

I have been waiting patiently for some more
able pen than mine to take up the subject men-
tioned above, and advocate my cause, but as yet
no one has noticed my humble appeal, ex-
cept Ardie Bee, and she says if she were a far-
mer's wife she would not want a separate
purse; and if her husband's surly disposition
had made such a thing necessary, she would
think she had made a great mistake in mar-
rying him. Well, what's that? Would she sit
idly down and bemoan the fate that had link-
ed her destiny with that of this close-listed in-
dividual; or would it not be better to make
the best of a poor bargain, and remember that
there is hardly ever a case sordid but that there
is a remedy? Now, I think it is not only nec-
essary to a woman's happiness to have some-
thing of her "very own" but I claim it as one
of her "rights". I have not quite made up my
mind whether I want the right of elective
franchise or not; but I do want undisputed
right to the proceeds of my labor. And it is
not because my husband is stingy or surly
either, for he always gets me whatever I ask
him to (that is if he don't forget it); but I some-
times want things that I do not wish to ask
my husband to procure for me, things he would think
unnecessary, because all men do not under-
stand women's wants. For instance I wish to
prepare a bit of a surprise for him, and make
him a pair of embroidered slippers for a gift.
Of course I do not wish to ask him to get the
material for me to make them of, for then the
pleasure of the surprise would be spoiled.
Don't you see, Ardie, how very necessary it is
to have something of our "very own"?

Our husbands are such matter-of-fact individuals
that they cannot understand that these little
things that seem of such trivial importance,
are so necessary to our happiness, and thus
will sometimes make sarcastic remarks when
we ask them to get them for us. So, rather
than brave their sarcasm, we do without them
and thus shut out sunshine from our lives.

Do not think my husband is a Blue Beard,
I repeat what I said once before, he is one of
the "kindest and best" of men; but you know
they all have their faults, and I believe it is
our duty to show them their faults, and use
our utmost endeavors to reform them, and not
try to make martyrs of ourselves, by putting
up with their shortcomings.

One of the reforms I propose is a separate purse.
I know plenty of women whose husbands are not the
kindest and best; these women toll on faithfully
year after year, and the head of the family
pockets the proceeds of their labor, and invests it in plows, wagons and harnesses
or adds more sheep to his already extensive
flock, never giving the equally hard working
wife one dollar to invest as she thinks best.

Farmers have too many cattle and sheep
and hogs to see to, to devote much time or
thought to the welfare of their wives; there
fore we must look after our own interests.

I call on the sisters to come and help me
bring about this great domestic reform, for it is
the "tidal wave" that is to remove the rock
by which many matrimonial barges have
foundered.—Mrs. Solomon Stillwater, Lamar
Mo.

The above correspondence to the Western
Rural, contains some ideas, which we think a
large class of wives will appreciate; but we
would like to inquire about the assertion, that
farmers cannot bestow much thought on the
welfare of their wives, because they have so
much "stock" to look after. A strange idea
that, for a farmer's wife to publish, and one we
think that might well deter young ladies from
marrying farmers, if it is true. Whether a
man is a thoughtful husband or not, does not
depend upon whether he is a farmer, a mer-
chant or a prince, it depends upon the man
and his wife. Farmers see more of their wives
than do husbands in any other business, and
have quite as much time to think of them as
men who work hard at any other occupation;
if they are less attentive and considerate, we
are inclined to think it arises more from this
fact than any other. Such constant and
close companionship gives a husband and
wife no opportunity of knowing what they
would lose by each other's absence, for it is an
old true saying, that we do not fully appre-
ciate anything while it is in our possession.

Mechanics and others who are engaged in
business which calls them away from home
except at meal time, and at regular intervals
are more apt we think to be met with a
smile, and clean wrapper and collar; not
however, because farmers wives smile less
frequently, or are more slovenly than other
women, but because their husbands happen in
all hours and see them under all circum-
stances and engaged in all kinds of work. To
remedy the effect of this constant familiarity,
we would advise farmers wives to visit more;

the social advantage of the Grange we believe
will do a great deal of good in this way, and
we think every farmers wife should take a
little trip sometime during each year. Of

us that, but then we say, take time to do
whatever will keep the "love at home," for if
we are decidedly of the opinion that one of
the sensible things to do in this world, is to
have a good time, none of us know much
about what kind of a one we may have in
the next.

We have no doubt that a separate purse for
husband and wife, would in very many in-
stances be a wise arrangement, and it cer-
tainly would be just, in all instances; it
would prevent many hard feelings and un-
kind words, and teach women, what men say
they very much need to know, viz: the worth
of a dollar; and pray, how can they be ex-
pected to learn that, if they never have one of
their own?

This distinction is not more needed among
farmers than among other classes however, unless
it be for the reason that farmers wives
earn a larger share than most of wives; neither
is it needed by the rare few, who, like
Ardie, probably have their every want antici-
pated and gratified. The perfectly mated, en-
tirely congenial and all confiding couples in
matrimony, are the small minority of this
earth's inhabitants, and they do not need leg-
islation; it is not for them we write, a sep-
arate purse could not add to their bliss; nei-
ther can it make happy, husbands but wives,
who are entirely alienated, and we believe it
would often bring nearer together, those who
truly love but do not fully understand each
other, by relieving the wife of a feeling of
dependence and subordination, and by show-
ing the husband what a good use she would
make of her income. We believe many a
husband would be surprised and gratified by
the disposition his wife would make of man-
ey she might call her own, and would learn
that her appreciation of his cares and troubles
was much deeper than he supposed.

Of course, the money that the farmer in-
vests in implements and stock is as much for
the wife's benefit as his own, but if he will
put himself in her place he can understand
that she does not care to be entirely relieved of
the responsibility and pleasure of investing
the proceeds of her own labor.

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

There is a well known principle in mechan-
ics, that no labor is ever lost; but it appears to
me that this sort of overdone devotion of moth-
ers to their children comes about at near being
labor loss as anything well can be, not to vio-
late a principle of physics. It is an injury to
both mother and children, and an injury to
other people, let me tell you. I knew one ex-
cessively devoted mother. I have known sev-
eral in my time; and I think I never saw one
whose children did not look down on her as
a drudge and nothing else. I never saw one
whose children did not become selfish men
and women, utterly regardless of the comfort
and rights of other people, especially of their
own families. But this mother was so devo-
ted to her children that she arose in the morn-
ing and made the fires all over the house, and
let her grown sons lie in bed till breakfast
was ready, when she called them very tender-
ly, and when they came down stairs, she did
not exactly wash their faces for them, but she
had soap, water, and towels, all waiting for
them, as though they had all been princes
in my time; and I think I never saw one
whose children did not look down on her as
a drudge, born to wait upon them; and by and by,
when they had families, they re-
garded their wives and children in exactly
the same light. They expect their wives to
creep meekly about and drudge for them, just
as their mothers used to do. If the household
of one of them happens to be temporarily with-
out a servant, his wife must arise first, make
the fires, prepare the breakfast, and then gently
awaken the lord and master of the prem-
ises.

"There is a golden mean to be observed in
all things. Children ought to be brought up
to wait upon themselves and other people, to
have regard for the rights and the comforts of
others. A stupid, affectionate drudge of a
mother is about the last person on earth to
train model republican citizens.

"There is nothing in life more grand or he-
roic than to lose one's life in trying to save
that of another. Moral grandeur can reach no
more sublime height than to give one's life to
save another's life. When it comes to be one's
duty to die for others, one ought not to hesi-
tate a moment. But that is something very
different from one individual being a slave
to another while both are living. Such self-
sacrifice amounts simply to committing suicide,
by inches without doing the other person any
good. The longer I live the more apparent it
becomes to my mind that the Creator never in-
tended one person to be born for a drudge to
another. Self-sacrifice is a good thing till it
reaches the point of engendering selfishness
in the person sacrificed to, then it ought to
stop."—From a Lady correspondent of the
Philadelphia Evening Post.

The "Forlorn" Poet to represent America.

In a new book which is about to be published
on literary men whose lives were those of
constant struggle with poverty and untoward
circumstances, Edgar A. Poe is to represent
America. Poor Poe! who was almost from
first to last his own enemy.

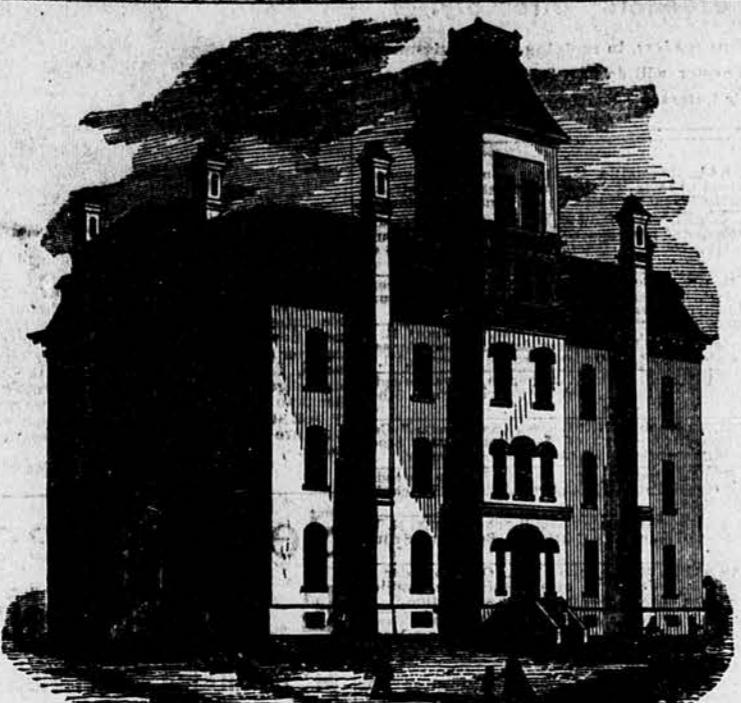
It was one of the saddest things in his sad
history that the two dearest to him were
sharers of his hardships and sufferings—his
beautiful young wife and devoted mother.
He married his cousin, who was brought up
at the South, and was unused to toil as she
was unfit for it. She hardly looked more than
fourteen, fair, soft, and graceful and girlish.
Every one who saw her was won by her. Poe
was very proud and very fond of her, and used
to delight in the round, child-like face and
plump little figure, which he contrasted with
himself, so tall and thin and half melancholy
looking; and she in turn idolized him. She
had a voice of wonderfull sweetness, and was
an exquisite singer, and in some of their
more prosperous days, when they were living
in a pretty little rose covered cottage on the
outskirts of Philadelphia, she had her harp
and piano. But these articles disappeared,
with all the luxuries of house and of wardrobe,
being disposed of one after another for neces-

sities of life, until when they left that place
they had scarcely anything.

At times while residing there they were re-
duced almost to starvation, having nothing
but bread and molasses, and that in no great
supply, for days at a time. There was then
some kind of a society under the care of ladies
for helping in a delicate way those who were in
need, and would signify it by depositing some
article at the room—persons whom common
charity could not reach; and to that Mrs.
Clemm, the mother, made application. Yet
so sensitive and proud was the little family
that it was almost impossible to aid them to
any extent even when they were suffering for
the common comforts of life.

It was during their stay there that Mrs. Poe,
while singing one evening, ruptured a blood-
vessel, and after that she suffered a hundred
deaths. She could not bear the slightest ex-
posure, and needed the utmost care; and all
those conveniences as to apartment and sur-
roundings which are so important in the care
of an invalid were almost matter of life and
death to her. And yet the room where she
lay for weeks, hardly able to breathe except as
she was fanned, was a little place with the
ceiling so low over the narrow bed that her
head almost touched it. But no one dared to
speak—Mr. Poe was so sensitive and irritable;
"quick as steel and flint," said one who knew
him in those days. And he would not allow
a word about the danger of her dying—the
mention of it drove him wild.

Still he was a "perfect gentleman," as all
those brought into relations with the family
agreed. "No one could fail to see that—con-
siderate, delicate, and courteous but lament-
ably wanting in self-control. A single glass
of wine would affect him at once." He keen-
ly felt the privation that his dearest ones
shared with him; he was at times half-distracted
with worrying over it, and would steal
out of the house at night and go off and



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JOHN WHERELL, President.

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10th Annual Illustrated Catalogue

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