

# THE KANSAS FARMER

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## The Kansas Farmer.

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### THE ARKANSAS VALLEY FAIR.

This fair was held at Wichita during four days of last week, and was a success in every particular. The weather was favorable, the premiums liberal, the attendance large, the admittance fee reasonable, the stock and farm exhibition creditable; the programme was carried out and the premiums were promptly paid at the close of the fair.

One of the grand features of this fair was the presence of 87 Cheyenne and 29 Arapaho Indians from the Indian Territory. They brought their teams, tents, war implements and families and were allotted about five acres of land upon the fair grounds upon which to camp. The chief of the Cheyennes, "Whirlwind," a very intelligent Indian, came with them. These Cheyennes have no connections with the northern Cheyennes that have been committing the depredations near Fort Dodge, but are, at present, at least, peacefully inclined.

They entertained the whites with war dances, pony races, foot races and by other performances both new and strange to a majority of those present. The war dances were acknowledged by all to be a very tame affair. There were about twenty persons who took part in these war dances. I noticed the following chiefs among them—Whirlwind, Red Lodge, White Shield, White Bear, Tall Bear, Curley, Lame Bull, Red Breast and Buffalo Meat; the latter is one of the returned prisoners from Florida. The dance was spirited, and they didn't make half the noise that a dozen school children could.

The pony races were not like the races gotten up by their Christian brothers, the whites, for these Indian pony races were honest races, and the fastest horse won the race. The foot races were exciting, particularly the one between the squaws. Besides the blankets the dresses of the Indians were so slight that they were barely worth mentioning.

The Indians had brought all kinds of trinkets to sell, and they reaped a rich harvest their sale. Among the articles exhibited by them was an apron, made of scalps! How, when, by whom, and from whom these scalps were taken could not be found out by your correspondent.

The next grand feature was the number of wagons. I had never seen so many wagons together since the war times. By actual count there were, on Thursday, 1422 wagons on the grounds. I don't believe this can be beaten in this state or in any other state.

The stock department was quite well represented. Among the Short-Horns I noticed seven head from the herd of C. S. Eichholz. These were really fine animals and received seven premiums.

Also a full blooded bull and some high class grades owned by Mr. Saml. Evans. They received a number of premiums, the bull taking sweepstakes. Wm. Parker exhibited two full bloods and eight grades and received some premiums.

Hon. W. H. Ransom, better known as "Farmer K." one of the directors of the society, has taken a great interest in this fair. He received premiums on cattle, on Cotswold sheep, on Berkshire hogs, and on squashes

and other vegetables. The squashes (4) weighed in the aggregate 540? pounds.

The show of sheep was most excellent. Among the exhibitors were Messrs. Fox & Neal. They exhibited 11 Cotswolds, 5 Merinos and 16 grades. They received seven premiums. The wool on one of these coats was over 17 inches long! They have over 1100 head of sheep on their sheep farm 8 miles southeast of Wichita.

Here also were some very large Cotswolds owned by Hon. W. J. Snodgrass, of Augusta, Butler Co.; among the number were some imported sheep weighing over 200 pounds. He carried off two 1st premiums and sweepstakes. W. H. Ransom received 5 premiums and C. P. Shafer 1 premium in this class.

There was a goodly show of hogs. I did not get the awards of premiums in this class, but I noticed among the exhibitors W. H. Yazel, H. R. Watts, S. W. Richmond, E. H. Nugent, J. C. Hyde and John Stewart. There were 48 head of Berkshires, 5 Poland Chinas and two hogs entered as Chester Whites. This show of hogs was the best ever made in this county and would do credit to any county in the state.

The show of fruits was superior, particularly the apples, peaches and pears. Three different nurseries had samples of their trees on exhibition and I also saw here samples of fruit from the Iowa City nurseries, Iowa.

Among the many agricultural implements on exhibition worthy of special mention we have only room for the following:

### POOLE & PENDEGRAFF'S HEDGE LAYER.

The visitor on entering the grounds was generally curious to know what that covered wagon mounted high in the air above a combination of rollers and bars was intended for. The information given to inquirers sets forth the invention of one of the most important machines which has been developed in the west, supplying a necessity which is growing greater each succeeding year as the thousands of miles of hedges are advancing in growth. After the hedge plants have been slightly hacked with a large chisel having a fork handle attached, leaving the vitality unimpaired, the Hedge Layer passes over, bending them down and by a system of rollers gradually compacting it into a solid square wall, of any desirable width and height, making it not only hog but rabbit tight. The work is done by three men at the rate of from 200 to 400 rods per day, and in a manner never approached by hand labor. In securing the plants in position a large needle is used with which wire is passed around the stumps and over the top of the hedge from end to end. The entire work, including the cost of wire, can be accomplished at a cost of not exceeding ten cents per rod, or at about half the usual cost by hand. A hedge laid in this way makes a solid bottom and a fine, uniform growth above, and makes a fence unequalled by any material which can be used. For information address Savery & Poole, Augusta, Kansas.

Taken as a whole this fair was a success. There was taken at the treasurer's office on Thursday over \$1500. The premiums will be paid in full and the society will come out \$300 or \$400 ahead. Great credit is due to the officers of this society for the variety of the programme, the perfect good feeling among the exhibitors, the entire absence of drunkenness on the grounds, and the good management and eminent success of the fair.

W. W. CONE.

### FAMILIAR FARM TOPICS.

BY JAMES HANWAY.

#### Wheat Culture and Cattle Feeding.

Some time since, you, Mr. Editor, wrote an article in the FARMER on growing wheat. I have not the article before me, but the purport of the article was to impress upon the minds of farmers that a country which devoted its whole attention to the raising of wheat would, in a series of years, become poor. This prediction, I believe, was based on the history of past experience.

England, a century or so ago, had impoverished her soil by raising wheat, it being the most profitable crop. The average was reduced to ten or twelve bushels per acre. It now ranges from twenty-two to twenty-eight bushels per acre. This encouraging change was brought about by the introduction of sheep, which were fed on root-crops and grasses.

"Wheat-growing," says a recent writer, "has nearly ruined one section of Wisconsin. It has destroyed the fertility of one of the

best soils that ever the sun shone on. It has introduced a vast army of insects which now stand ready to destroy other crops. Worse than all, it has struck the farmer himself with a mental blight. Like intemperance, it steals away his brain, making him totally oblivious of his own folly. The culture of grass and corn, and raising of beef, pork, butter, and cheese, is the remedy for our impoverished farms and farmers. Dairymen are getting rich, grain-raisers are getting poorer every year. The profits that come from grass culture are not excessive, but they are sure; and besides, the farmer is not selling out his farm by the bushel."

A short time since an extensive farmer from the western wheat region of country, paid me a visit. He informed me that no crop but wheat was thought of in his section of country. "What do you do with the straw?" I inquired. "Why, burn it, of course," he replied, "for we have no stock to consume it, like you have in your section of country."

It is folly to expect that in a score of years from this date that the soil will continue to yield the same amount of wheat that it does now. We all trust too largely to the natural fertility of the soil, but the day will most certainly come when this mode of robbing the soil will teach us a lesson.

Prof. Stewart, in a well written article on the profits of cattle feeding in New York and the New England states, has some suggestions which should not be lost even on our more favored stock-feeders of the west. In speaking of the "conservative ways" of the eastern farmer, he says:

"If, in his opinion, some crop will bring more ready money on sale than can be made by stock-raising, he raises and sells the crop, without a serious thought as to the effect of his policy upon the future condition of the soil. England has greatly increased her meat production during this century, and at the same time has doubled her wheat yield per acre. Grain and stock-raising must go together, when it is proposed to keep up the fertility of the soil. Germany has increased her meat production while devoting so large a proportion of her land to beet-sugar culture. Even the refuse of the beet, after sugar extraction, will feed more cattle than the same land devoted to grain crops; so, likewise, the lands of New York, now devoted to indifferent grain-raising, with little stock, would produce more grain by doubling the stock."

The venerable and successful farmer, John Johnson, of Geneva, N. Y., is referred to. Prof. Stewart says that "Mr. Johnson proceeded upon the wise plan of making all the manure he could, no matter how small the margin of direct profit in feeding. He got his pay abundantly in the crops produced from the manure."

At a meeting of the State College of Agriculture, of Maine, a paper was read on the profits of cattle feeding. It claims, among other propositions, that the only true system of farming to be that which consumes the crops on the farm; that cattle afford the most direct, the cheapest, and, as at present advised, the only agency to stay sterility of the soil and keep it productive."

Testimony on every side proves the proposition that soil becomes exhausted by continually carting off the raw material and returning nothing in lieu of it.

The answer to what has been said, is the assertion that our soil is inexhaustible. This will satisfy some, as it has done in the past. It is the old stereotyped expression which has been used on every occasion in the settlement of a new country.

We will, for a moment, take a glance nearer home, in a section of country where cattle are bought up and fattened for market. If there is one cattle-feeder out of ten who places any value on the manure which a lot of cattle during the feeding season must necessarily make, we have not been fortunate enough to come across them. In a majority of cases we have noticed, the stock-feeder selects a high, elevated place of ground for feeding his stock, contiguous to a grove of timber or brush, containing running water. The first heavy rain which comes, washes everything into the run, which conveys what the venerable John Johnson considers the profits of feeding stock, into the creeks and rivers below.

The only difference, then, between our western wheat-growers and our cattle-feeders in the older counties of the state, is, they employ their cattle as machines to transform a heavy article into less bulk to save the cost of

transportation. The profits which our English cousins over the water, and our eastern friends, talk so much about as the leading object to be gained in fattening cattle, is not taken into consideration, but permitted to run to waste. Hence it is that Prof. Stewart remarks: "The facts that land and food are cheap, comparatively, in the west, leads to wastefulness and loss in feeding, and these western advantages ought to be counterbalanced."

### BURLINGAME FAIR.

The Burlingame Union Agricultural Society held their second annual fair at their grounds at Burlingame, September 25, 26 and 27. This is a stock company organized in 1877. They have a neat fair ground, temporary buildings and splendid race track. This is a grain and stock country. About 100 head of cattle were entered, the larger portion of them thorough-bred Short-Horn stock. We highly recommend the way of showing cattle adopted by T. M. Marcy & Son. They show their stock without washing, currying, scraping horns, etc., as is the practice by the most of the fancy stock men.

The horse department was good, comprising some 50 entries; also jacks and mules.

The show of sheep was not very large, but the greater portion of those shown were long woolled.

The swine department was not as well represented either. Those on exhibition however were very good.

The grain show was fair; some 35 entries of corn were made.

The exhibit of Irish potatoes was good, some 20 entries. There were sweet potatoes measuring 15 inches in circumference, onions weighing 18 ounces, squashes weighing 75 pounds, German millet, 6½ feet long, but wheat, oats, and rye were not very extensively exhibited.

Burlingame cheese received the blue ribbon.

The display of butter was very fine, as well as that of the bread.

The fruit on exhibition was nice, but the quantity not very large.

The display of fine arts and needle work was not very extensive.

Mr. Rastall, editor of the Chronicle, made a good display of blank forms and book-binding.

T. P. Hall, exhibited a screw harrow and roller combined for pulverizing the ground. It drills and covers grain and being in sections can be taken apart when it forms two good corn cultivators for small corn. It is also a corn-stalk cutter.

The first and last days being rather stormy the attendance was small. Receipts equal to expenses.

H. WARD.

### From Franklin County.

Oct. 5.—Wheat growing handsomely, but not as forward as it would have been with earlier rains. Corn good and plenty, but perhaps not so heavy as last year. Some of the new crop is being contracted to feeders at 15 and 16c.

Castor bean crop medium and the County Bean Club contracted for 30,000 bushels at \$1.25 per bushel, and probably a like quantity will be sold at the same price, to-day by Club No. 2, being from ten to twenty cents a bushel more buyers pay to individuals. O. W. Baldwin & Co., of Forest Mills and Elevator, Ottawa, bought the first lot and shipped to St. Louis. F. D. COBURN.

A small acreage of wheat has been sown this fall, compared with the acreage of last season—Montgomery Co. Kansas.

Sumner county is receiving a fair share of the immigration that is pouring into the state.

Agent Miles, has purchased from Wyatt Brothers of this city (Wilmington) ten bushels of peach stones, from which he intends to grow fruit for his Indians at Cheyenne Agency.

One hundred thousand acres will be seeded to wheat in Sumner county this season—Sumner Co. Press.

### AGRICULTURAL DREAMS AND REALITIES.

James Bird was a farmer—lived on one hundred and sixty acres of land, which was nearly paid for; and yet he was uneasy and dissatisfied with the slow increase of wealth. This slowness of making money was what troubled him, and having a good degree of

self-confidence in his power to achieve more rapid success, he cast about him to see what would best suit his inclinations, and at the same time the most rapidly fill his pockets with the needful. A combination of hogs, cattle and grain buying, presented a rosy lining to his imaginings. A little town on a new railroad passing through a rich grain-raising and stock-growing country, lent wings to his imagination, and ere long he sold his farm; bought several lots in the little town; built a warehouse costing over two thousand dollars, and a dwelling house which cost him three thousand. With the balance of his money he commenced business. The new man, with ready money, paying fair prices, was freely patronized. The cattle, hogs and grain came in briskly, but after a little his money was all invested, and no returns enough in to pay cash for the daily receipts of grain and stock. Well, he borrowed two thousand dollars and mortgaged his warehouse for security, not doubting but he could readily meet the payment when it should become due.

"Ah!" says one, "he is a business man; look at the hogs and grain he is shipping every week."

He did, indeed, do quite a business, but somehow his receipts failed to keep him in money, and so he borrowed five hundred more, and gave a mortgage on his house and lot. He kept the ball rolling awhile longer, and still he lacked money to pay down. Finally he borrowed two thousand dollars more and gave another mortgage on all the property he had in the town. This kept things buzzing for a few months longer, when finding money short and his patrons in need of cash as well as himself, it became a necessity to go slow and look more closely into his financial affairs. Come to straighten up the books, he made the astounding discovery that his own money, borrowed money and all was nowhere to be found. Upon a careful review of his three years' career in speculation, he found that he had been to Chicago a good many times, and that each time, on an average, it had cost him nearly ten dollars mainly for eating, drinking, and smoking with his friends, or rather with those he supposed were his friends. He found that the losses greatly overbalanced the profits—in a word, he found that his one hundred and sixty acres of land was swallowed up in the maw of speculation. So enticing is the gambling in grain in Chicago, that at one time he sunk one thousand dollars in twenty-four hours. Three years in a business of which he had no practical knowledge, was sufficient to sink the earnings of a lifetime and place him among the millions of poverty's slaves and make him lean helplessly on the stern will of the tyrant who controls the money and consequently the muscle of the impecunious.

Thousands of like cases occur annually, showing, beyond all contradiction, that for men to succeed in any kind of business, they must be educated expressly for the business, or there will be failure nine times out of ten. Our schools still lack, in many respects, that practical education in general business principles, and in principles especially applicable to this or that branch of business. A common school, academic or collegiate education as heretofore conducted, does not fit the pupil for farming or other pursuits. There is a specific education needed for each business, and without it the man who enters may expect to meet disaster rather than success. It behoves farmers, especially, whose accumulation of property is much slower than most other pursuits, to heed the experience of the past, and if they must change their business let them thoroughly study what they wish to pursue before entering upon the business. Follow the advice of David Crockett, "Be sure you are right, then go ahead," and the sunshine of success will warm the heart and cause you to feel a God-like sympathy for those receiving the rough treatment of tyrant power.

R. K. SLOSSON.  
Verona, Illinois.

## THE KANSAS FARMER

## Horticulture.

## J. B.'S. ANSWER TO "RUSSIAN APPLES ONCE MORE."

**SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.**  
The Best is Always Demanded.—Honey, as well as beef, flour, cheese, apples or grain, will bring the highest price and readiest sale when it is the first quality, and put up in attractive style. Poor honey, as well as poor butter, is a drug in the market! And yet many still cling to their old notions and put up their honey in unattractive packages, and then grumble because they cannot sell it at the highest price paid for a first-class and attractive article. Forgetting that it is the gilt-edged article that brings remunerative prices and a brisk demand.—*American Bee Journal*.

**Farms Wanted.**—Real estate agents at central points in New England are now recalling their advertisements headed Farms for Sale, and putting in their place the welcome caption of Farms Wanted. It is a complete reversal of the market, and for that reason is well calculated to inspire genuine satisfaction. We are encouraged by such an outlook to hope for better times. We see by it that the times are certain to become better when agriculture is called on, as it should ever be, as the mainstay of all other interests and industries. Trade is unsatisfactory and uncertain at best: the soil makes sure and generous returns to those who cultivate it. Finance is unreliable; but even when it is at its worst, it cannot take the food and shelter from the man who raises the one and owns the other.—*Massachusetts Ploughman*.

**Our Season and Prospects.**—Our season of autumnal fog and winds denote early rains, and our grain-growers should be ready when storms come.

The largest shipment of grain ever made from this country was made in August. Forty-five cargoes, valued at more than two and a half million dollars, such immense shipments being more than 1,500,000 cants, certainly show fair prospects for our state for 1878.

Our fruit crop excellent as usual, especially our mountain orchards and vineyards.

Our wool clip is not as large or good as it should be.

Our hop gathering will be short this year but the price advances in value to restore the balance.

The gathering of our semi-tropical fruits and nuts with our raisins and dried fruits, will add a large sum to the great fund of our resources, and help very greatly to aid in the general welfare of our state.—*California Farmer*.

**Saving the Fodder.**—It is conceded by all good farmers that no work on the farm pays better than saving the corn fodder in good shape. It is the very best kind of feed for horses and cattle, and even for sheep, if properly prepared. Cutting up on the ground is the speediest method of harvesting, besides being most economical. Topping is a slow process, especially if an attempt is made to save the leaves below the ear, and is rarely practiced by corn-growers now.—*Ohio Farmer*.

The above is good advice, and has frequently been urged by the Kansas FARMER. It is too late to serve for this season, but should be remembered and acted upon next fall. It applies as well to Kansas as to Ohio.

**Telling at Fairs.**—There can be no question but that the mass of exhibitors at our fairs make their exhibition a scene of care, labor, toil and vexation, beyond what is either necessary or right.

Many exhibitors that we meet seem weary and disgusted with many of the surroundings of the fairs, the sole aim being fame or reward, rather than the promotion of human progress and the general improvement of the age.—*California Farmer*.

**Butter.**—The cheaper butter becomes, the more interest people seem to take in its production. Nevertheless, butter is not really cheaper than in war-time when prices were nominally the highest. It ranged, then, from \$3 to \$50 at retail, and now it is sold in New York at 20 to 30 cents. Then greenbacks were worth 50 cents on the dollar, now they are at par. The west is vying with the best eastern dairies in the quality of its butter, while the quantity produced is annually increasing with great rapidity.

**Safe.**—The day for high prices in agricultural products, and large products in farming has passed away, and no one need expect to grow suddenly rich at the business. But farming, when conducted with care, prudence and industry, is now, as always, a safe and fairly remunerative pursuit. If the farmer has kept clear of debt he need not fear for the future. Reverses in business, so common in mercantile pursuits, will not affect him. Panics and hard times may cut down his gains, but they cannot embarrass him. By ordinary care and foresight he can lay up a portion of his earnings each year.—*Indiana Farmer*.

**Left-Handed Farming.**—In general a left-handed farmer is one who loses more money than he makes. This can be accomplished in many ways, and so there are many kinds of left-handed farmers, examples of which are seen in every neighborhood. One way to lose money is by holding crops for higher prices. Sometimes this course will win, but in most cases that have come to our knowledge, it has been attended by loss, more or less. It is not a profitable business unless you know when to commence and how long to keep at it, and these are things that only the shrewdest, most experienced observers have the faculty of discovering, and the best of these frequently miss it.—*Ohio Farmer*.

It is very evident to me that A. H. G. is the greatest genius of modern times. He has a faculty of knowing everybody, and everybody's business, in his mind. I do not think it is necessary to "put him in a straight jacket." I think he is perfectly harmless. I have met hundreds like him, who, though they may be perfectly sane on all other subjects, have some particular hobby, which masters them at will. A. H. G.'s hobby, is the guardianship of the people of Kansas. With true Spartan courage, he steps into the breach, defying all that come to invade his rights or interests. A. H. G. has made another wonderful discovery. He says "J. B., of Spring, Pa., is no other than a certain James Brennan, who sold trees in Kansas during this season." Well, truly, that is news indeed! I was not aware of the fact before. I certainly must thank A. H. G. for the information. Seriously, let me say right here, that this statement of A. H. G.'s is false. I am not the party to whom he alludes, as I have not been in Kansas this season. It seems to me that A. H. G. might engage in some more profitable, or honorable business, than slandering men engaged in a legitimate business, who, to say the least are probably just as honest as he is. I know nothing about A. H. G.'s business, but were I to jump at conclusion, as he does, I should say, he owns a small nursery in Kansas; in Douglass county, perhaps, as he seems to talk about that particular county. A. H. G. seems to doubt my veracity when speaking of certain apples cultivated in this section. He also quotes Ellwanger & Barry in a jumbling manner, without making a point. Now if A. H. G. will only step from beneath his cover, and give his name and address, I will be pleased to furnish him a catalogue from Ellwanger & Barry's nursery, for the season of 1878, which will speak for itself, in regard to the newer Russian varieties. In conclusion, I would say to A. H. G. he can't be too careful in the statements he makes. He ought to well know slander is very expensive business sometimes, besides, dangerous.

J. B.  
Spring, Pa.

## RASPBERRIES.

Quite a number of persons in your state, and some of them your subscribers, have asked me if there was no good red raspberry that would suit that climate, and that they had not yet succeeded in getting such a one.

This season we fruited at least a dozen old and new red ones, and will unquestionably say that the Turner is in every respect the best, and has this excessively hot and dry season, stood without flinching. Plant vigorous, quite hardy and immensely productive. Fruit large, a light color and pretty firm, with a flavor unsurpassed by any raspberry we ever tasted. Even the best foreign sorts, or the famous Brinkley orange are not superior in point of flavor.

We, this season, picked half a dozen berries from little plants not a foot high, which came up late last season. Here the fruit brought 20 cents per quart readily, while the best black caps sold for 5c. The beauty of this variety is that the plants are very cheap and therefore within the reach of every one.

We too, have been for years after a better berry than the Philadelphia, and one as good as the Clark, this latter freezing down three winters out of four, and although the fruit is a little larger than the Turner, is not any better.

S. MILLER.  
Sedalia, Mo.

## HARVESTING POTATOES.

On this important work, Alexander Hyde says in the *Country Gentleman*:

In the first place, the crop should not be touched until the weather is cool and the land dry. Potatoes are better off in the ground so long as the mercury runs up to 70° or 80° during the day. They keep best in a cool and uniform temperature, and this they do not get in the cellar, if dry, before the last of September. Indeed, we often have a week or ten days in the fore part of October so warm as to damage potatoes when piled in a light and airy cellar. I have seen them stored on the barn floor or in an open shed at this time of year, the farmer waiting for a convenient season to carry them off to market. I would not pay half price for potatoes that had been thus exposed to the sun and air for a week. This tuber was made to grow in the earth and to remain covered with earth till wanted for use. By leaving the crop in the ground till the weather is cool, we avoid all danger of rot. If there is any tendency to decomposition, it is sure to be hastened by exposure to air, and by being piled in large quantities. If the rot must come, I prefer to have the decomposition take place in the field rather than in the cellar. The contamination of the air is bad enough in either place, but in the house it is intolerable. I have known many a bin of potatoes to rot from being stored too early. This involves not only a loss of the crop, but a loss of labor.

To make the harvest of this crop easy and economical, the planting should be done in drills rather than hills. Both planting and harvesting can thus be accomplished by horse power. A potato digger, rightly handled, brings up the tubers so easily and so safely that I wonder that this instrument is not in more common use.

I have already intimated that the digging should be done in dry weather. Muddy potatoes are a nuisance. We want the tubers to

come out of the ground dry, so that they can be housed immediately. If they must be left on the field exposed to the sun all the day, in order to dry off the adhering mud, it is a damage to them. Neither must potatoes be thrown into a wagon as though they were senseless stones. The skin of a young potato is delicate and easily broken. The skin has a mission to perform. It is of a corky nature, and keeps the juices from evaporating. Farmers have pretty generally learned to handle apples carefully, but they do not so commonly understand that potatoes need careful handling. A cut or bruised potato is half spoiled, and should not be sent to market. The common practice of shoveling them with a steel scoop shovel is barbarous treatment. If they must be shoveled, use a wooden scoop. No less damaging is the practice of unloading potatoes into the cellar through a chute, on which they are thrown with a vengeance, and allowed to fall some distance into the bin. No wonder that the tubers wilt and rot after such a bruising.

The best storage for potatoes is found in pits dug in dry ground. I have never had them come out so sound and fresh in the spring as when stored in sand or gravelly soil. The same is true of most roots, and indeed of cabbages and apples. If they must be put into the cellar, select the coolest and darkest corner; and make the bins as air-tight as possible. I called on a young farmer a few days since, and found him making a potato-bin in a light and airy part of his cellar, and the leading idea in its construction was to get a good circulation of air around his potatoes. It was built away from the cellar wall, with cracks between the side and bottom-board—the latter being raised a few inches from the cellar bottom so as to admit the air. As he was brought up in the city, and this was his first summer's experience on a farm, I excused his mistake, but could not help laughing at him good naturedly.

When potatoes are first put into the cellar, they exhale an unpleasant odor. To absorb this, and also to exclude the light and air, it is a good plan to cover them with a little dry sand; and if there is any tendency to rot, this can generally be counteracted by a sprinkling of dry air-slacked lime. Potatoes will pay this year for more careful attention than they commonly receive.

## HARVESTING BEANS.

The work of harvesting beans is slow, tedious and laborious. If bad weather comes while the crop is exposed, there is the additional danger of its making the beans unsalable. A dry time is important, but at this season we cannot always be sure of the weather. Beans left on the ground after pulling are easily injured by wet. It is not so much the water as the mixture of earth with it which rots the pods and discolors the beans.

To keep the beans from the ground is therefore the first requisite to success. I know nothing better for this than to take a couple of fence boards or rails, place them side by side with just enough room between them to drive a row of stakes. Let the boards or rails lie north and south; place the pulled beans on the boards, piling them up and twining the vines among the stakes, which should be twenty inches or two feet apart. With stakes about four feet high and boards or rails fourteen feet long, from eight to twelve such heaps will clear an acre of heavy beans. When once put up, they will stand a great deal of bad weather without injury. The bean leaves shed the rain like so many shingles, while the long narrow beans afford a thorough circulation of air, so that if wet gets in the heap, it dries out before injury is done. This method is recommended wherever beans have to be left out some time, but it is also advisable whenever the weather is unsettled. By this method the beans may be gathered up while green, and their loss by shelling avoided.

Bean straw is excellent feed for sheep, and should be carefully saved for that purpose. When fed with beans or other grain, it makes a very rich, warm manure, quite as good as, if not better than clover. I know a farmer who every winter fattens a considerable number of sheep, who finds profit in feeding not only his own bean straw, but as much more as he can buy at low rates from farmers who grow beans but, keeping no sheep, have no use for the straw.—W. J. Fowler, in *Rural New Yorker*.

## A CHEAP POTATO DIGGER.

A. B. of Atkinson, Ill., in the *Western Rural* describes a potato digger and how to make one, and this is the way he does it:

"As the time for digging potatoes is at hand a word about a good cheap digger would not be out of place. The old hogs have about gone out of date as a digger, yet many farmers who raise from one to five acres, still dig by hand or plow them out rather than pay from \$20 to \$60 for a digger. A good digger can be made by taking the mould board off of a common fourteen inch plow and fastening rods to the lay. This will dig well both in Irish and sweet potatoes. In digging Irish potatoes, if there are many weeds mow them down with a mower or scythe and rake off, dig no deeper than is necessary and drive straight. In sweet potatoes mow the vines with a short scythe leaving them between the ridges.

In making the digger take a common old ground plow (one that has been thrown aside yet has a good beam and frame) to some good blacksmith, take off the mould board and bolt the handle to the beam, also brace it to the

other handle, then lengthen out the brace which runs from the land side to the lay four or five inches, also have it come to the end of the lay; lengthening the brace will make a fourteen inch plow cut eighteen inches. A slip shear is the easiest to do this with but the land side can be bent. A piece of good iron two inches wide of sufficient length and about one-fourth inch thick is to be wrinkled with a wedge of sufficient size to make the wrinkles hold a half-inch rod; the wrinkles are to be one and a half inches apart; they are to be made leveling so that a rod placed in them will run straight back when the piece is placed on the lay; half-inch rods are then to be cut two feet six inches long and one end fashioned to their respective wrinkles; the piece is to be fastened to the back edge of the bottom of the lay with bolts or rivets; the rods are to be placed in the wrinkles and held fast by the piece being screwed or riveted tight to the lay; the ends of the rods may be slightly bent down four or five inches from the end and should not be over ten or twelve inches high; they should be level on top so that the dirt will come straight back and not turn over like a mould board.

There is no danger of the rods bending down if they are held fast on the lays. Chains can be attached to the brace underneath if desired; they are however unnecessary in ordinary digging. You have now a digger for \$2 or \$3 which I have proved by actual trial to be superior to nearly every digger in the market, and especially in sweet potatoes where it would be hard to surpass.

A. B.

## Farm Stock.

## SMALL HORSES.

Perhaps it would be better expressed and more to the point to say heavier horses are the need of the times. Trotting horses, pacers, runners, or any other gait, are all right in their places, but the majority of horses are for labor and not for show; they are on duty as producers, and are valuable in proportion as they can do work; they are the motive power on the farm, the highway, and in the large towns and cities—as indispensable as bread and butter. Prices of large horses of all breeds that are compactly built and constructed on good rules of proportion rule high and pay well the handling. "Plugs" and scrub stock are cheap, and will be even less in price than heretofore, as all who employ teams are fast learning that a heavy, strong team costs no more to keep than a light, poor one, but even less, and can do much more service. A farmer should have, anyway, one heavy, strong team. He may own a small, light span, but for plowing and general use, the heavy team that seldom is urged beyond a fast walk on the road, and will take a fourteen or sixteen inch plow and go all day without evidence of weariness, is the one to depend on. The market is full of semi-fast stock, they do not command a staple price, but depend wholly on circumstances for the margin of profit, if any that they yield. Pure-blooded Norman or Clydesdales may not be the best in their exclusive nature, but by crossing them with good native western stock can be produced a superior grade of horses that will command good prices and be in demand at all times. Farmers should not be indifferent to this fact, and when they propose to raise a colt, select from that stock which will insure a heavy horse; it may cost more in the beginning but will bring larger returns in the end. Good horses, good cattle, good sheep and hogs, are a good deal the cheapest.—Evangelist.

## ABOUT RAISING HOGS.

Where corn is abundant and cheap as compared with the selling price of pork, the breeder can afford perhaps to breed continuously. On the other hand, in localities where the corn crop is a partial failure, and in consequence the price advances, it will be found unprofitable to raise fall or winter pigs. Winter pigs are always less economically raised than are those of spring and summer; and in years of scarcity of grain the difference in expense is more manifest. Pigs littered in the winter seldom grow well, are more liable to death and disease, and taken all together, we doubt the propriety, even where good prices can be obtained, of raising winter pigs.

Farmers who feed cattle can winter through their pigs very cheaply, yet feeding grounds are not suitable places for small pigs. Were we the owners of a lot of brood sows, and wished to make the most possible money by hog-raising we would not breed them before the first of December or January.

Pigs littered so as to meet the early grass, clover and sunshine grow off faster and are more thrifty than those of other seasons of the year. Another great advantage of having pigs come early in the spring is that with proper care they can be placed on the market in early fall, thus avoiding winter feeding.

One bushel of corn when pigs are on good pasture is worth in making pork more than three bushels during the cold weather of winter. Under the old dispensation, packers were only in the market during the cold weather, and naturally there was only a market once each year. Under the present condition (of summer packing as well, as winter) pork product is apt to bring a fair price in summer or fall months as in winter. Under the old dispensation large hogs were almost universally worth the most per pound, now smaller sizes are fully as much in demand and are ordinarily worth as much per pound.

Farmers need not be told that the first one or two hundred pounds is much more easily put on as well as more cheaply than to double the size of the hogs; hence it is easy to see that young hogs are more profitable than old ones. If the foregoing opinions are correct, and we believe they are, then it follows that spring pigs are the most profitable.—*Journal of Agriculture and Farmer*

## CHEAP TRANSPORTATION.

Our pen has lain a long time idle, but as the subject chosen seems to lag in interest and attention in the columns of the FARMER, we propose to present a few facts and figures for the attention of western readers.

That our present system of forwarding our produce by rail (via Chicago) to the Atlantic seaboard is very expensive, no one dare deny. That this expense is carried principally, first, by railroad freight, and second, by middlemen's commission, is equally apparent.

How much think you, farmers of Kansas, that it costs to transport a bushel of wheat or corn, or a pound of pork or beef to the seaboard? We quote from the market reports of the FARMER for Sept. 11th, 1878.

Commodity	Quality	Cost of Shipping.			
		To N. Y.	To L.	N. Y. to L.	Freight.
Corn.	Ex. Best	\$1.22	\$6.40	\$6.55	\$0.90.
Wheat.	" "	1.00	1.04	1.80	1.85.
Oats.	" "	0.16	0.24	0.36	0.72.
Pork.	" "	3.50	3.75	4.50	0.50.
Beef.	" "	3.75	5.25	6.05	0.05.

Now the question is, how can we save this

## QUERIES.

EDS. FARMER: Would not your correspondents, when telling of big crops, be so kind as to state how deep they plowed (honest measure), and such other facts about the manner and method of raising said crop? Such information might be of great value in showing how it might be done again. Will the party who raised 34 bushels of wheat to the acre, respond, and every one else who has raised above 25 bushels per acre?

E. A. PECK.

From Decatur County.

Sept. 30th.—Allow me just room enough in your valuable paper to say that our county is jubilant over its season's crop (threshing being about done), and the influx of emigrants. I don't know what the average per acre of grain is, but can say that the crop was very good. I had 60 bushels of grass wheat from 2 bushels of seed; my rye went 30 bushels to the acre, several pieces went 25; corn is damaged by worms in some places but the crop is called good. We are getting our share of emigrants; all claims bordering on creeks are taken and lots on the divides, but there is plenty of splendid prairie claims left yet. The name of our town, the future county seat, has been changed from Westfield to Oberlin, and is being built up quite rapidly. We have two good stores and goods are sold quite reasonably. Spring wheat is selling at 50c, and winter wheat at 60c. Corn, rye and oats 30c; butter 20c per pound; eggs 12c per dozen; bacon 10 to 12c; flour \$2.75. D. K. TUR.

## Patrons of Husbandry.

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

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

COLORADO STATE GRANGE.—Master: Levi Booth, Denver. Lecturer: J. W. Hammert, Platteville.

MISSOURI STATE GRANGE.—Master: H. Eshbahn, Hanover, Jefferson County. Secretary: A. M. Coffey, 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 3d. Orders on Treasurer. The set will be sent to any address, postage paid for \$1.00.

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

## REPLY TO "POLITICS IN THE GRANGE."

MR. EDITOR.—In your issue of the 25th inst., you stated the fact, that you published my letter defining the rights, privileges and duties of the order of Patrons of Husbandry, as an organization, in the discussion of political questions, and make no attempt to disprove the correctness of my position, but assert (on what authority I am unable to conceive) that "the organization is nevertheless intended to be as well a political as a social and business institution."

Now Mr. Editor, in this you are surely in error. It never was so "intended," on the contrary, its founders intended that it should not be turned to political account, as evidenced by the law and declarations cited in my last, and now, as additional evidence of the incorrectness of your position I desire to call your attention to the fifth section of our "Declaration of Purposes," which reads: "We emphatically and sincerely assert the oft-repeated truth taught in our organic law that the Grange—National, State, or Subordinate—is NOT a political or party organization."

Our Grange organization was not intended, neither is it suited, to political purposes. It is a secret order, and secret political organizations are antagonistic to Republican forms of government, and the two cannot exist for any considerable length of time in any one country. All attempts to prostitute our organization to political purposes have been in violation of our fundamental law and detrimental to our best interests.

WM. SIMS.

Topeka, Kansas

REMARKS BY "THE FARMER":—From the above letter of the Worthy Master of the State Grange it would seem that the Grange occupies a much wider field for usefulness than it is capable of enjoying; our authority for saying that "the organization is nevertheless, intended to be as well a political as a social and business institution" was found in the following extract from Maj. Sims's previous letter published in the Kansas FARMER of the 18th ult. We quote from that letter. "And on this question (that of politics) we have the following from the court authorized to construe that document, (Declaration of Purposes) to-wit: The word political in the constitution means partisan politics, and does not include or refer to general questions of political economy." This is the ground we took or attempted to take, but it seems that we were too generous in allowing the Patrons more room than they can occupy with safety. The Worthy Master adds in further and more careful definition of this construction of the fundamental law of the order: "When do political questions become partisan? I answer, "when they have been put in issue and the people have divided into parties upon them." Let us examine what is meant by political economy. Webster defines the word as "that branch of philosophy which discusses the sources and methods of material wealth and prosperity in a nation." The authority we have above quoted, the expounders of the fundamental law of the order, says that the exclusion of political questions from the order "does not include or refer to general questions of political economy." We will mention a

E. E.

## GRANGE NOTES.

SOCIAL CULTURE.—It has been the fashion to complain of the dreary isolation of dwellers in rural localities. But the complaints have been made most frequently by those who are entire strangers to the matters upon which they write so freely. Country folks are in general so fully occupied with affairs that they have no time to discover how lonely some they really are. So far as this is concerned we think it a misfortune. We are too busy. We work too hard. We take few or no holidays. We read and think too little, and do not spend sufficient time in social culture.

There is no reason why those who plow the soil, or "whose talk is of bullocks," should not experience the refinements which are the result of formal social life. In business, at bargains, in pursuit of dollars, no man is seen at his best. He is thorny, spiny, with his back up as a porcupine might be at his business. Let one doff his working clothes and enter a room full of his neighbors—men, women, young men and maidens—and he is a man of another kind. He naturally falls into the ways of an intuitive kindness, which is really the truest politeness; the doing to his companion what he would that he should do to him. He "lets himself out" to please, and, after an evening spent in social converse, he retires with many rough corners and asperities toned down. For a few days the influence remains. It would be permanent if it could be reinforced now and then, and the good results would be most agreeable and useful.—*Rural New Yorker.*

A GRANGE FAIR.—In the Indiana Farmer we find an account of a grand Grange fair from which we clip the following extracts: If the success of a public gathering depends upon its attractiveness, then indeed can the Patrons of Jefferson county congratulate themselves upon the good work accomplished in preparing for our second annual Jubilee, and Grange fair, held September 5th, 1878. The beautiful grove we occupied—some 40 acres in extent—was well located at the intersection of two good roads, and near the railroad. The day was delightful, and the people began to gather at an early hour. Good

The members of the Grange are beginning to understand that there is something more than dollars and cents to accrue from the Grange. They are beginning to talk of subjects concerning the farm. They are beginning to study their calling and are trying to profit from the experience of each other. Already they have learned some good lessons, and we are encouraged to believe that seeds are being sown at every meeting, which will bring back fruit a hundred fold.—*Dirigo Rural.*

few general questions of political economy closely connected with the "material wealth and prosperity" of farmers: Co-operation in various ways for mutual protection and economy in transacting business; the best means to employ in transporting their produce to market and in ascertaining the best markets; the system of public education which involves the least expense combined with the best practical results; the legal privileges which should be granted to co-operation, and the restrictions which should be placed on them, in order that their usefulness may not be impaired, or that their powers may not encroach upon the rights of individuals. There are many other questions similar which might be enumerated, but these will suffice for our purpose.

These are all purely questions of political economy which followers of every other industry, except agriculture, co-operate to turn, so far as possible, to their advantage. The commercial, the manufacturing, the mercantile, the railroad companies, the banking interests all study the bearings these, and similar questions, have upon their business, and exert themselves to avert any injury which may be apprehended through unwise legislation to them. But what do we find in this brotherhood of agriculture as expounded by Worthy Master Sims? Why, that when any or all of these or other questions of political economy are seized upon by a convention, and a wily politician frames a resolution declaring that—party pledges itself to the enactment of laws guarding the rights of the people and defining the powers, etc., etc., the granges at once stampede, although the questions have been under examination and discussion by the order, and a thorough understanding of them is of vital importance to the agricultural interest. A dozen lines by some machine politician has made them political! partisan! and they must be forever tabooed by the brotherhood. So says the Worthy Master in his letters, and we must accept the announcement as authority. It is humiliating that a brotherhood of farmers should occupy a plane so beneath that of other interests, that it becomes necessary to place such restrictions upon them to preserve their society intact, as to materially impair its usefulness. The hereditary "politics" of no other class is so injurious to it as that of the farmers. If questions of political economy involve their material interests as a class why pay the least regard to any political party that may take them up for transient use? All other industries appoint lobbies and petition congress and legislatures to prevent laws prejudicial to their interests, or to secure laws favorable to them. Why should not farmers be able to consult and work together for similar objects without exploding over party politics?

NOTE.—The writer of the comments on the letter of Worthy Master Sims, intended to compliment the Grange organization on the independent field it enjoyed which placed it above the influence of mere party politics, and very much regrets that in interpreting the law as expounded by the court authorized to construe that document, he has, as informed by Maj. Sims, misapplied it. He has always been friendly to the farmer's organization, and never failed, when opportunity offered, to speak a good word for it, when publishing a paper in the old east, or later in the new west.

and comfortable seats had been provided for over 1500 persons, and at one time they were crowded to their utmost, while good judges estimated that not more than one-fourth could obtain seats.

THE EXERCISES OF THE DAY were commenced with prayer by our Worthy brother, Rev. Robert Imel, followed by singing by the Glee Club, accompanied by a fine organ. Brother E. R. Wilson then gave the address of welcome, explaining the object of the gathering, in a brief but well chosen words. Then another song, followed by the reading of the "Declaration of Purposes of the Order," by Sister Kate Grossman.

## THE DINNER.

After another song came recess for dinner. One large refreshment stand, under the entire control of the Grange, supplied everything needful, from a peanut up to a full meal, of the best quality, and at regular city prices. Hot coffee was served by some of the ladies. No loud talking or commotion to attract attention was allowed, but all were waited upon in a quiet and gentlemanly manner. After dinner the people were called together by music from the stand, when Brother Mortimer Whitehead was introduced, and was listened to with much interest and attention. He said his text was not in the Bible, though one could find there something like it. It was "Mind Your Own Business," and was addressed to Patrons and farmers generally. His clear statements, and strong arguments carried a conviction of truth to all unprejudiced minds.

## THE EXHIBITION.

At the close the assembly was dismissed, but they lingered until a late hour examining the articles and animals on exhibition. There was quite a large number of entries for the fair, and the articles and animals were almost invariably of the best. The ladies' department made a fine display, as did also the fruit and vegetable department. There were also numerous entries in the mechanical department. Committees were appointed and ribbons awarded to the best.

IMMENSE MEETING OF FARMERS.—The picnic of the Patrons of Centre county, Pa., held at the State College, on Thursday, the 10th inst., was, without doubt, the largest and most successful farmers' meeting ever held in central Pennsylvania, 8,000 people being present and great credit is due the members of the committee of arrangements for the able manner in which they projected and carried out the details of this gathering. Able addresses were made by Col. Piollet, General Jas. A. Beaver, of Centre, J. U. Gillespie, of Jefferson, Dr. T. H. Allison, and R. A. Travis, of the State Grange Executive Committee, and others.

THE PATRONS OF DAUPHIN COUNTY, PA., ALIVE.—A grand meeting of Patrons of Husbandry and farmers was held in a pleasant grove, near Elizabethville, in the northern part of Dauphin county, on Saturday last. About 2,000 persons were present, many of whom had driven from fifteen to twenty-five miles to participate in the festivities of the day. Large delegations were on the ground from eight Granges.

The principal speaker was Brother D. Early, of Patriarch Grange, Harrisburg, who addressed the people in English and German with great effect. He was followed by Deputy J. H. Eppler, of Dauphin, and others.

Brother E. Koppenhoffer and his committee are entitled to the credit, and may well congratulate themselves on the entire success of this meeting.

By the above extracts taken at random from the *Farmer's Friend*, (many more similar might be added) it will be seen that the Patrons are lively and in good spirit in the old Keystone state.

## GRANGE ITEMS.

The Grange offers to the farmers the most practicable means of bettering their condition; and while it confines its membership strictly to the agricultural class, it appeals powerfully to the general public for sympathy and encouragement.

Do a little missionary work outside the Grange. The Grange must grow by taking in members from outside, and we cannot expect persons to join unless they have an intelligent idea of what the Grange is, the way to give them this idea is to get them to read a good Grange paper.

A correspondent, in speaking of enterprises started in the interest of farmers and their general slow growth, writes: "One great trouble is that farmers lack faith in their own institutions, and I may add, in themselves. They need a thorough awaking, and this can be accomplished by energetic and determined efforts on the part of leading spirits."

We hope the day is not far distant when every good farmer and his wife will be ready to assist in making the Grange what they think it ought to be, instead of saying "When I see that it amounts to anything I will be glad to take hold and help," remembering that he who does not sow, is not worthy to reap.

The members of the Grange are beginning to understand that there is something more than dollars and cents to accrue from the Grange. They are beginning to talk of subjects concerning the farm. They are beginning to study their calling and are trying to profit from the experience of each other. Already they have learned some good lessons, and we are encouraged to believe that seeds are being sown at every meeting, which will bring back fruit a hundred fold.—*Dirigo Rural.*

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

Our readers, in replying to advertisements in the Farmer will do us a favor if they will state in their letters to advertisers that they saw this advertisement in the Kansas Farmer.

## THE COLLEGE FARM

offers for sale a choice lot of

## BERKSHIRE PIGS

of the following highly prized families: Sallies, St. Bridges, descendants of imported Lady Leonidas and others, by the highly bred sires British Sovereign 2nd, Gent's Conqueror and Cardiff's Surprise. All stock eligible to record. Also for sale a few choice

## ESSEX PIGS,

straight Jos. Harris stock, and a few young

## SHORT-HORNS

of both sexes. A very handsome yearling JERSEY

BULL for sale—price \$50. Address, E. M. SHELTON, Sup't Farm, Manhattan, Kansas.

Shannon Hill Stock Farm

ATCHISON, KANSAS.

Thoroughbred Short-Horn Durham, 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.

J. R. DUNLAP & CO., IOLA, KAS., Breeder of pure Poland-China Hogs and P. Cochins, Light and Dark Brahmans, and B. B. R. Game, Bantam Fowls, Stock first-class. Write for prices.

L. B. CRANE, Durham Park, Marion Co., Kansas, breeds of Pure Short-Horn Cattle of fashionable strains. Youngstock for sale cheap. Send for catalogue. Herd of 200 head. Also Berkshires.

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

F. R. CHOICE Merino Rams and Ewes. Also Imported Canada Cotswolds at Moderate Prices. Address, A. B. MATTHEWS, Kansas City, Mo.

H. B. BROOKS, Ann Arbor, Mich., makes a specialty of breeding the choicer strains of Poland-China, Suffolk, Essex and Berkshire pigs. Present prices less than last card rates. Satisfaction guaranteed. A few choice pigs, gilts and boars now ready.

H. H. GRIMSHAW, Paola, Kansas, Breeder of Essex Berkshires and Poland China hogs. Stock for sale.

## Nurserymen's Directory.

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

WHITCOMB, Lawrence, Kansas, Florist Catalogue of Greenhouse and bedding plants, free.

MIA COUNTY NURSERY, Louisville, Kansas. M. F. Cadwalader, Proprietor. Tree, Rose, General Assortment. Apple trees, Orange plants, Azalea seedlings and Apple root grafts specialties. Wholesale and retail price lists sent free upon application. Shipping facilities good.

## Dentists.

A. H. THOMPSON, D. D. S., Operative and Surgeon Dentist, No. 139 Kansas Avenue, Topeka Kansas.

GOLD Any worker can make \$12 a day at home. Costly outfit free. Address TRU & CO., Augusta Maine.

JAMES G. YOUNG,  
Attorney-at-Law.

Rooms 10 and 12, Hart's Office Building, West Fourth Street, between Main and Delaware, Kansas City, Mo. Practices in Missouri, Kansas and U. S. Courts. Real Estate & Corporation Law a specialty.

HENTIC & SPERRY,

## Attorneys at Law,

TOPEKA, KANSAS. Practice in Federal & State Courts

## DARK BRAHMA FOWLS FOR SALE.

Pure blood: Imported. J. E. DUNCAN, corner seventh and Fillmore streets, Topeka, Kansas.

## RIVERSIDE HERD, NO. 1.

(Established 1868.)

I am now offering for sale a choice lot of No. 1 Poland China and Berkshire Pigs, (recorded stock) reasonable figures. Parties wishing to purchase will call on or address me. All pigs warranted FIRST-CLASS, and shipped C. O. D. J. V. RANDOLPH, Emporia, Lyon county, Kansas.

## STOCK CATTLE

FOR SALE NEAR ELLIS, KANSAS,

and on the line of the K. P. Railroad. Young Texas cows and steers, three to five years old. These have all been held over one year in Kansas. Also a small lot of half breed yearlings, two years old and cows that were raised in Kansas. Also a small lot of thoroughbred Kentucky raised, one and two year-old bulls. Enquire of W. P. Phillips, near Ellis, Kansas; C. B. Green, near Brookville, Kansas, or address

W. B. GRIMES,

1221, Locust Street, Kansas City, Mo.

## "HIGHLAND STOCK FARM."

Salina, Kansas.

## THE KANSAS FARMER.

## The Kansas Farmer.

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

IMPROVE AND INCREASE THE STOCK ON  
THE FARM.

The importance of breeding from improved stock is at last beginning to be pretty thoroughly understood by western farmers, or by the more advanced thinkers among them. It is best always to use a thorough-bred male; the females may be good, well formed natives or grades, but the breeder should make it a fundamental rule never to be lost sight of, to work steadily toward improvement on the mother's side also. A three-quarter-bred Shorthorn or Hereford is much superior to a half-blood of the same stock; and the rule applied to every species of farm stock produces similar beneficial results. Improved animals, if of the approved breeds of cattle, invariably make a rapid and larger growth, and of a quality for fattening and beef infinitely superior to common stock. They sell more readily, mature earlier and command higher prices, while the consumption of feed is no larger, and the care of stock costs no more in time or money than the same number of inferior animals.

The shipment of cattle to Europe, which is growing in importance, demands animals of the largest growth, which mature early and make heavy beef of fine quality. Such are the kinds of cattle which are being sought for by feeders, in the west, and are commanding higher prices each succeeding year. A half-blood calf presents a finer appearance than one of the common stock; a three-fourths takes precedence of the half blood, while a thoroughbred calf is superior in nearly every instance to either of the others.

The present is the most propitious time for farmers to push the matter of creating herds of their own. Those who are earliest in the field will have important advantages over others who defer the work for future years. The ranges are ample at present, but will be steadily contracted by the tide of settlers flowing into the state of Kansas and other states west of the Missouri river, and the accumulation of stock, as each succeeding year adds numbers to the droves that are raised up to consume in summer the rich prairie grass.

A very important part in this work, if success is achieved in rearing valuable herds, is the preservation and care of the best heifer calves. Every farmer, no matter how small his means, should make a determined effort to save the heifer calves—all of the best ones at least. These will grow into value in his hands and increase more rapidly than the interest of the "bloated bondholders," and if a well matured plan is steadily pursued with judicious management, every farmer in a few years may become the owner of a valuable herd of very high-bred grades at an imperceptible cost, and small outlay in cash.

It will be a much more profitable disposition of the superfluous milk of the cows to allow it to be taken by the calves, than its conversion into very poor butter, which is the result of a large per cent. of miscellaneous dairying as practiced in a small way throughout the country. The labor and expense of milking and manufacturing butter is quite considerable, even with a few cows, while by allowing the calves to have the milk, dispenses with this poorly requited labor and adds wonderfully to the value of the calves the first and most critical year of their existence. This system steadily pursued by any farmer in Kansas or any other state west of the Missouri river, cannot fail to return a sure and liberal annual income after a few years. By the business of raising stock (it need not necessarily be confined to horned cattle) is the only way the great majority of farmers in this western country can hope to gain headway and accumulate capital. It is out of the question to ever get their "heads above water" by raising grain alone, or as mainly the money crop. Thousands of acres of grass go to waste yearly on the prairies in sight of every farm, which can be utilized and converted into cash through the medium of stock by every farmer, if he will systematically lay out and work out the proper plan to do it.

## THE NORTHEASTERN KANSAS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of prominent horticulturists was held at Atchison, on September 25th, and a horticultural society formed bearing the above name, and intended to embrace the counties of Doniphan, Brown, Atchison, Jackson, Leavenworth, Jefferson, Wyandotte, Johnson and Douglas. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the following officers elected:

Dr. Wm. Howsley, president; E. Snyder, of Atchison, vice-president; Dr. J. Stayman, secretary; Wm. Tanner, treasurer. Trustees: John Eason, of Leavenworth county; Joseph Savage, of Douglas county; Judge J. S. Van Winkle, of Leavenworth county. County vice-presidents: Wm. Maxwell, of Johnson county; J. G. Pratt, of Wyandotte county; Noah Cameron, of Douglas county; W. C. Rose, of Jefferson county; C. C. Grubb, of Brown county; Adam Brown, of Doniphan county, and D. C. Hawthorne for Leavenworth county.

By motion, the president was instructed to appoint vice-presidents for Atchison and Jackson counties, as soon as he could inform himself of proper persons.

The time for the first annual meeting was set on the 26th of November, to be held at the commissioners' rooms, at the Court House in Leavenworth.

SOME PLAIN WORDS REGARDING AN UN-  
JUST CRITICISM.

The KANSAS FARMER in the past has done more than any one paper in the state to create among the farming community the idea that the "hard times" we have been going through were caused by bad financial legislation. It has tried to make its readers believe that all our woes were the result of bad legislation, and in fact have lived and thrived by catering to the so-called "Reform" movements of the day.

We are glad to notice a change in that paper. Its last issue has a very able and well written article, giving the real causes, as it now assumes, of the troubles we have been laboring under. As far as it goes, it is right, but it does not go quite far enough. But we are not going to complain, but refer to it to congratulate that paper on its soundness, even at this late day.—*Topeka Commonwealth*.

As editor of the KANSAS FARMER since November, 1873, the undersigned presumes that the above criticism on the past course of this paper, is meant personally.

Our idea of journalism is, that the editor of a paper should place in his editorial columns his sentiments, honestly and conscientiously expressed, and that we have done without fear or favor, and whatever may have been the shortcomings of the FARMER in the past four and a-half years, there has been no whining sycophancy, no truckling to men or parties for policy sake, or for the money that might be made. The FARMER has been outspoken and independent on all questions it has undertaken to discuss. We have further given to correspondents a wide latitude in discussing questions of general interest. We do not now remember a sentiment presented in our editorial columns that we would change or recall. What the FARMER has been in the past it will continue to be in the future. To make a useful farm and family paper, one that shall not confine its discussions to "sitting-hen" journalism, is the work we have undertaken to do. To charge that a paper has thrived by catering to special movements, is simply to question its sincerity. We would cheerfully submit to the verdict of our readers upon this point.

What the FARMER has said editorially upon the financial question in the past, the writer very thoroughly believes in at this time. We have very sincerely believed that the forced resumption law, which was made more for the benefit of the monied interests than the welfare of the mass of the people, or the credit of the nation, has caused such a depression in values in all kinds of goods and property, as to entirely unsettle all business relations, bringing bankruptcy and ruin to the best of business men. We have believed that this legislation that doubled the purchasing power of money, has brought distress and financial trouble beyond computation, which might, in a great measure, have been avoided by giving to the country a more gradual policy of resumption. We have not advocated wild schemes for the unlimited issue of greenbacks, nor has there ever been a word or a line in our columns advocating dishonest measures towards public or private indebtedness, and every candid man who has read the FARMER, will recognize our statements as true.

We have urged that the farmer should be an intelligent man upon his duties as a citizen as well as a good farmer. We have urged, year after year, that men pay their debts, whether bonds or mortgages, as they promised to do, and that honest labor was the royal road to prosperity. We have urged that men vote intelligently; that they nominate sober, upright men; that they give professional office-seekers and bummers a back seat; that they scratch from their tickets every drunkard or scoundrel who by "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" has secured a nomination for office of trust and honor. We have urged that the grange organization be preserved free from politics and used for the social and educational advancement of its members. We have urged co-operation among farmers in the sale of their crops. We have urged education as the great helper for progress among farmers. These are among the reforms we have "catered to."

During the past five years we remember two or three other reforms we "catered to" that the Commonwealth has not: When a drunkard was nominated for governor we opposed him, and we did the same for a state treasurer, nominated at the same time, who since left the country for his country's good. Later, we said some reformatory things to prevent our readers from investing in a thieving lottery which our neighbor may remember, known as the "Topeka Library Aid Association." A paper like the Commonwealth, that has never advocated a measure that was not, apparently, supported by the majority; that has had nothing but sneers and jeers for every attempt by citizens to secure reforms through legislation; a paper that is "policy" from one year's end to another, and no more dares to call its little soul its own than to be fair in its judgment, is not, from the nature of things, likely to give an unprejudiced opinion of a paper like the FARMER.

The editor of the Commonwealth can certainly call to mind an expression of his own experience in his obituary notice of the "Record" he formerly published, to the effect that catering to reforms had not been a thriving business with him; had he found it so, he would probably have continued the Greeley Woodchopper he afterwards published. We would suggest to him, while he is so busy hounding what he calls "disloyal papers" all over the state, that a review of his own status, say during Grant's last campaign,

would render him more reasonable and consistent.

Our neighbor knows very well that the success of the FARMER has been made by persistent hard work, and that the sentiments it has expressed have been its own; and we can only add, in conclusion, that its prosperity cannot be impeded by any misrepresentation from the Prince of Caters "even at this late date."

J. K. HUDSON.

## THE A. T. &amp; S. F. R. R.

This enterprising railroad company whose headquarters are at Topeka, Kansas, commencing its eastern terminus at Atchison with a branch to Kansas City, has extended its line through the fertile valley of the Arkansas across the states of Kansas and Colorado, to Pueblo, Trinidad and other points in Colorado. The company have perfected arrangements to extend their line to the following points in Colorado. We copy from the Denver Tribune:

Ten branches are provided for. The first of these (already very nearly completed) is to run to Trinidad and to the southern boundary of the state.

The second is to go up Coal Creek from the Arkansas river into Custer county.

The third is to leave the main line at the mouth of California Gulch, penetrate that to Leadville and pass on to Oro City.

The fourth is to proceed up Poncha creek and through Poncha Pass into San Luis Valley to Saguache and Del Norte, thence up the Rio Grande river to the headwaters, through Wagon Wheel Gap and Antelope Park; through Cunningham Gulch to Baker's Park and down the Valley of the Animas to the mouth and thence down the Rio San Juan.

The fifth branch is to pass through Lake and Gunnison counties, up Poncha Creek to Marshall's Pass to the Continental divide, down Temichi Creek to the valley of the Gunnison river, through the Canon of the Gunnison to the junction with the Canon of the Cebolla, and thence up this Canon to the divide between Cebolla and Uncompahgre rivers; down the valley of Cedar Creek to the Uncompahgre, and again back to the valley of the Gunnison and along it and the Grand to the western boundary of the state.

The sixth branch will go up the stream of Lake Fork, from its junction with the Gunnison to Lake City.

The seventh will proceed to Ouray along Cedar Creek.

The eighth is to pass through Antelope Park, starting near the mouth of Clear creek to Lake City.

The ninth branch is to proceed from Saguache through Cochetopa Pass to Temichi creek.

The tenth branch is to leave the main line at Pueblo, go thence to Colorado Springs, along the Fountain que Bouille and to Denver, going from Denver to Black Hawk and Central, and thence to Georgetown by the way of Fall river.

After reaching out its iron arms and encircling all the rich mineral regions of the Rocky mountains in Colorado, the road will be pushed on through Arizona and connect with the Southern Pacific, thus completing the second line to California.

## THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The decrease of the public debt during the month of September, is set down in the statement of the treasury department at \$3,169,584. On the 1st of October the 4 per cent. bonds amounted to \$151,500,000; the 6 per cent. bonds to \$12,494,000, showing a decrease of the largest interest bearing part of the debt of upwards of \$10,000,000 during the month. As the public debt is converted from a 6 per cent. to a 4 per cent. interest bearing debt, the disbursement by the treasurer for the payment of interest, is reduced one-third, which is a very large annual saving in taxes to the people. If the credit of the government is sustained, and we do not apprehend any reverse to that, in time the whole interest bearing debt will be reduced to a 4 per cent. interest and possibly still less. This is more important than forced liquidation of the debt; for as the resources of the country develop, and its population and wealth increase, with economical administration of public affairs, the taxes should diminish, and the pressure on industry to that extent be relieved. It is gratifying to know that a large part of the 4 per cent. bonds are taken by the people at home, and the interest, when paid on them, goes immediately into the business of the country in place of abroad, as a large portion of it formerly did. Less hurry in paying the principal, and increased energy in funding the 6 and 5 per cents into 4 per cent. bonds, will commend itself to the business interests of the country as a judicious policy of making haste slowly.

## THE ENGLISH SPARROW.

An Irish-American farmer, writing to the New England Farmer, has this to say of the little foreign bird which has been the subject of so much learned discussion within the last few years:

"I love to see the little beggars around, because they bring to my mind the associations of childhood and school days. If I lived in a city or suburb, I would protect and cherish these English-Irish sparrows lovingly; if I lived in the country on a farm, self-interest would compel me to wage a relentless war on them. I was born and lived in Ireland until the age of eighteen; I know all about the habits of the sparrow; I lived amongst them daily for a dozen years. To the farmer they

are a terrible pest, devastating whole fields of oats, barley and wheat. Many and many a weary day have I passed ranging through the grain fields with a pair of wooden clappers in my hands, scaring away the sparrows. From the time the grain begins to form until the harvesting is ended, every farmer has to keep his own boys or hire other boys to protect his grain from these little pests. Nothing is more amusing to an Irishman of agricultural bringing up, than to read the opinions of some of our ponderous scientists that the sparrow is essentially an insectivorous bird. Nothing can be further from the fact. Do not any longer protect, but give these little fellows a fair chance to battle with nature, and their number will cease to increase."

## GUARD AGAINST DANGER FROM PRAIRIE FIRE.

The rank growth of vegetation this season and the approach of frost with dry autumn days, warn every dweller on the open prairies to prepare in time for prairie fires. No stacks, sheds, barns, buildings, timber lots, or orchards, should remain unprotected from the devouring element a day longer than is absolutely necessary. Furrows should be plowed round them, and the grass, before it becomes too dry, burned in a calm day by "back firing," so that no food for the flames, which may come careering across the prairies any dry, windy day, be left within burning distance of farm or other property.

We have accounts, already, of devastating prairie fires in the northwest. In Minnesota, where the grass has become dry and dead, fires are reported extending miles in distance, which have destroyed a large amount of property. One burned twenty miles in less than two hours, and another is reported thirty miles in length. Our farmers should make preparation immediately for the fires, which will soon be lighted.

## POLITICAL.

As the time approaches for holding the annual elections, it seems in order to indulge in a few reflections on the much extolled and much abused "privilege of the free ballot." That there is considerably too much freedom of the ballot allowed and practiced, is a truth not denied by any who have taken the pains to be informed on the subject. The fact is that freedom of the ballot might, in numberless instances be very properly termed license of the ballot, abuse of the ballot.

The shocking frauds which are practiced on the ballot box in nearly every large city and town in the country, is enough to make the thoughtful dispair of free government. If it was not for the preponderating influence for good that the country exerts on the elective franchise over the corrupt practices of the cities, a free ballot would speedily become a farce. There the very worst elements, composed of combined ignorance and crime are voted shamelessly by professionals in politics. And not only voted in their individual strength, but they are organized as repeaters in bands, and by this vicious arrangement one of those representatives of ignorance, vice and crime will not unfrequently count as much as a dozen of the most worthy citizens and intelligent men in the community.

The boasted "free ballot" not only makes this possible, but permits and almost sanctions the vile practice. Honorable men are found, not only ready to cowl at it in their party but to cloak it, screen it, and even defend it if exposure is threatened. This is political license of a most despicable type, but still there is a worse license if possible; at least a more inexcusable perversion of the political franchise. This is the permission accorded tramps and vagrants to pollute the ballot by their votes. The army of tramps which spread over the country are gathered into the cities and "cooped" previous to important elections, and voted by thousands; and in many of the states—probably the most of them—the vagrants and those who are cast upon the charity of the state and have surrendered their independence and became wards of the state, are brought out by the keepers of the almshouses and voted like "dumb driven cattle" in the interest of the party to which the trustees owe their place. We have seen judges of election go out to the wagons which were loaded with these inmates of the almshouses, and take up their tickets like an omnibus agent, while a clerk stood by to register the poor creatures' names, and a ward politician went in advance and placed a ticket of the "right stripe" in each trembling, shrinking hand.

Here is an element which is choking our political system with the poisonous lees of humanity, that requires a mighty leaven of virtue and intelligence to counteract. It is a farce on free, or any other kind of government. It is perpetuated and its existence made possible, while its reform is made impossible, by the demagogue element that is tolerated in our politics. The only hope of a reform and a weeding out and emasculating from our politics of this source of disease and these seeds of death, is in the growing independence and power of the public press. "Thick and thin" party organs are growing weaker and fewer in numbers, while the independent press is mounting higher and growing bolder in defense of the right. It is beginning to hunt out and denounce political abuses and advocate reforms, and the hope that it will at some day in the near future attack this monstrosity in our politics and effect its dismemberment, before our population doubles and trebles in millions, and this element charged with so much danger, becomes too ponderous and dense to be removed.

Those present who had attended the famed Neosho Falls fair spoke of the Wilson county fair as surpassing it in the arrangement and display of the floral hall, the judges' stand and conveniences for the comfort of visitors.

While the hall made the most successful feature of the fair, it was, so far as premiums went, the most poorly rewarded. This is usual; it is also not unusual that the awards go by chance rather than by merit.—*Citizen*.

Morris County Fair.—The Morris county fair, held at this place, closed last Friday, though there was an attempt made by the managers to hold it over during Saturday. But exhibitors had commenced removing their products before the announcement was made to hold over, and the result was that the fair closed for all purposes except racing according to the original programme. There was considerable excitement during Saturday over the races.

To say that the fair proved a grand success would be using language rather loosely. It certainly was a success so far as excellence of articles on exhibition goes to make up success. It did not succeed, however, in attracting to it a very large contribution from the farmers, mechanics and artisans of the country, of their products. Nor did it attract a large number of spectators. There were several untoward events transpiring, which were calculated to discourage the managers of the fair, and for which they should not be held responsible. Chiefly among these was the disappointment in not receiving the tent which was to be used as a floral hall.

The threatening aspect of the weather on the morning of the second day, no doubt deterred many from coming, and its final culmination in a heavy rain made it exceedingly uncomfortable and cheerless for those present.

With all these discouragements, the fact is demonstrated that Morris county has some of the finest stock in the state; that the show of horses, cattle and hogs, though few in number, could hardly be excelled, and the same may be said of the show of cereals, fruit and vegetables.

So far as my observations went I thought the managers of our fair showed commendable zeal in the prosecution of the intricate and rather difficult details of the business, and I think gave general satisfaction.—*Republican and Democrat*.

Riley County Fair.—Tuesday was devoted principally to getting ready. Exhibitors brought in their stock, fruit, vegetables, etc. Showmen, eating stands, etc., were getting their wares ready to tempt the hungry and the sight-seers,—and consequently there was not much of a crowd on Tuesday. On Wednesday the north winds blew and the dust descended in vast clouds upon the meager crowd that gathered on the grounds. It was cold enough for an overcoat, and many wore them. The attendance this day was also rather slim.

## FLORAL HALL

was neatly ornamented with evergreens, corn stalks, flowers, etc. This work is due to the exertions of Levi Woodman, Thos. Jenkins, and several ladies, who had taken a prominent part in the arrangements of the hall.

The display of fruit was not as large as last year, but it was very fair. The display of grain and vegetables was rather small, and though fine in quality, did not at all represent the agricultural resources of Riley and Pottawatomie counties.

There was a fine display of preserved fruits, jellies, pickles, etc.

The display of wheat, corn and mangles was rather slim.

The fruit was a leading feature, and was very fine.

There was a \$25.00 shawl to be voted to the best behaved lady on the grounds. There were large number of fine quilts and fancy articles.

## MACHINERY HALL

contained some fine specimens of machinery, buggies, agricultural implements, etc., from our business houses and manufactories.

There was a fair display of blooded horses and cattle. A good display in poultry. The turn-out in sheep was very small,

October 9, 1878

## WILSON COUNTY FAIR.

The Wilson county Agricultural and Mechanical Association held their 8th annual fair at Neodesha, on the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th of September.

The enterprising citizens of Neodesha tendered the association the use of their city park for a fair ground, the park being in a good location, containing one of the best half-mile tracks in the state, with an abundant supply of water. It was accepted by the association. The public school building which cost \$15,000, adjoining the park was used as a Floral Hall, and a glance at the building would convince the most liberal or prejudiced that the people of Neodesha were both liberal and tasty.

But a stroll through the building after the many farmers and their wives had brought their produce and fancy work to be placed upon exhibition, and it had been arranged by the artistic hands of Mr. Hill and Miss Stewart, would cause one to say that Wilson county might well feel proud of her citizens, as every department was represented; fine arts, fancy work, quilts, tidiess (both cotton and worsted), canvas work, rugs, mats, crochet work, fancy knitting, landscape drawing, oil painting, in fact every thing that feminine skill could manufacture out of cloth, paper, thread, yarn, or with pencils, were placed on exhibition, and many articles that did not receive a premium were worthy and received much praise.

Fruit fresh from the trees, also canned, preserved, pickled, spiced and dried in such a manner as would tempt the appetite of a king. Native wines, new and old; apples, large and small; corn ten and one-half feet to the ear; wheat of many varieties; potatoes, onions, beets, and honey, jellies, jams, peaches, pears, grapes, all received premiums according to merit. The many blue ribbons in this department is evidence that our county is a produce and fruit-growing country.

The ladies were all interested in their department and worked in a manner that is deserving of much praise. If the men would work as do the ladies, we would always have better fairs than we do; and their department in the premium list is always short, and premiums offered are small. It should be different.

"The cattle show was good; among some of the exhibitors were A. B. Hulit with his herd of Short-Horns; W. S. Martin with some pedigreed cattle; T. C. Singleton pedigree bull, and many others.

Among the horses, A. B. Hulit exhibited two fine Norman stallions. There were many fine animals in this department which we have not space to note in detail.

J. Davis made a fine exhibition of Poland China hogs; J. M. Hopkins received several blue ribbons, T. Sprague, H. W. Jaynes, and Chas. Leigan, had pens of hogs that were worthy of notice. Our stock of cattle and hogs has increased in a manner that is a good showing for our fine stock men in the past few years.

There were several exhibitions of poultry that were creditable to their owners.

The Pioneer Manufacturing Co. had large works at Neodesha, and had on exhibition a commendable display of agricultural implements of their own manufacture.

Brown & Hogue of the Guilford nursery, exhibited some of their ornamental fruit and forest trees, and they have an extensive nursery. There were many other things that should receive some notice but I fear I am intruding on space.

The attendance was not as large as was expected, owing to the busy season keeping many of the farmers at home.

The number of entries was greater than any previous year, and more interest manifested. Steps have been taken to organize a district fair; if such an organization is perfected, Neodesha will hold the best fairs in southern Kansas.

ISAAC MITCHELL, JR.  
Secty.

## CROP NOTES.

Wheat has been coming in, in large quantities for the last one or two weeks, and our buyers and millers are paying better prices than can be obtained at any other point in this or Cherokee county. The prices being paid would not warrant shipment at the present St. Louis market. Although the price is low, this accommodation on the part of our millers and wheat buyers is duly appreciated by those compelled to sell at the present time.—*Chectopa, (Lafette Co.) Advance.*

The wheat in this vicinity is all up and looking fine. There has been but little damage from grasshoppers. The wheat crop sown this fall is much larger than ever before.... The corn crop seems to be making a good yield, but is somewhat damaged by worms.... There is still some excitement over the K. P. land.... The earlier sown wheat looks well, the late sown is needing rain. There is about the same acreage of wheat sown this year as last, and would have been largely increased if the dry weather had not interfered so much with the plowing. Farmers are about through sowing wheat for the present. Most of them intend sowing grass wheat late this fall or early in the winter.—*Rice Co. Gazette.*

## FORBES' DRAMATIC COMPANY OF CHICAGO

will play at the Opera House, Topeka, on Saturday and Monday Oct., 12th and 14th.

The press speak highly of the company.

Pittsburgh, Pa., *Daily Dispatch* says:

"Over one thousand persons witnessed the play of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," last evening. Doubtless many were attracted there to see Mrs. Nelson Kneass in her great role of Topsy, who made such an immense hit in the character of Diana Duychink, in the play of the Molly Maguires on the previous evening. That she is far superior to any other person that ever played the part in this city, no one will deny that witnessed her marvelous acting. Every character represented was portrayed in a beautiful manner, and is considered the best representation of this popular drama ever given in this city."

We are informed that there were 130 students enrolled in the State Normal School at Emporia, at the opening of the present term and that daily more are entering. Our informant, "Horticola" who reported the number at 70 or 75, published in the FARMER of the 2nd inst., was somewhat mistaken in his figures.

Common colds neglected are the cause of one-half the deaths. Consumption lurks in every cough, often using as masks the ruddy cheek, quickened pulse and sparkling eye, until it deeply plants its dreaded deadly seeds in the system. Every home should contain Ellert's Extract of Tar and Wild Cherry which prevents serious sickness if taken in time, and will surely cure colds, coughs, croup, catarrh, consumption and all bronchial complaints. Don't wait for sickness to come, but this day take home a bottle of Ellert's Extract of Tar and Wild Cherry for it may save the life of a loved one, when delay would be death. Sold by all druggists.

A correspondent, writing from the Paris Exposition, says: "The Jury on Musical Instruments, composed of many of the most celebrated European experts, and of which Dr. Franz Liszt is the honorary president, were especially pleased with the magnificent display of the Estey Organ Company. They repeatedly visited and tested their instruments, and made them the standard of excellence by which all others of their class were judged. The jury regretted that Estey & Co., who are by far the largest American exporters of cabin organs, were *hors concours*, but it is the well-known policy of this house never to compete for prizes. Had they done so, there can be little doubt that another grand prize, or at least a gold medal, would have been added to the list of awards to the United States."—*N. Y. Tribune.*

## FAT PEOPLE MADE LEAN.

Physicians and physiologists have long "scratched their heads" and "burned the midnight oil," seeking to devise some means whereby excessive corpulence might be either prevented or controlled. Until recently all "theories," "special directions," and "remedies," have failed. But at last the problem is solved. Allen's Anti Fat will surely and positively reduce flesh at from three to six pounds per week. No medicine or combination of medicines has ever been discovered that would produce such wonderful results, and at the same time improve the general health. Sold by druggists.

Children have health and mothers rest when Dr. Winchell's Teething Syrup is used. It produces natural sleep, regulates the bowels, cures dysentery and diarrhea arising from teething or other causes. Sold by all druggists at 25 cents a bottle.

When you are depressed and system disordered take Ellert's Daylight Liver Pills; they regulate the liver and digestive organs and will quickly restore you to health. Sold by druggists.

Dr. Jacques' German Worm Cakes stand unrivaled as a worm medicine. Give them a trial. Sold by all druggists.

Uncle Sam's Nerve and Bone Liniment is a balm for every wound. Sold by all druggists.

"Economy is the road to wealth;" fifty cents worth of Uncle Sam's Harness Oil applied to your harness, will make the leather look like new and keep it soft and pliable.

Thousands of dollars are now being saved every year by progressive farmers, who soon discover the great value of freely using Uncle Sam's Condition Powder in the feed of their stock; it restores the sick, increases the usefulness and beauty, and promotes the growth. Sold by all druggists.

## ANNOUNCEMENT.

There will be opened on or about October 1st, 1878, a full line of men's, boy's and children's clothing in Dr. Stormont's new building, south of Banking House of John D. Knox & Co., in Topeka, Kansas. JACOB LEVI.

## THE GREATEST BLESSING.

A SIMPLE, pure, harmless remedy, that cures every time, and prevents disease by keeping the blood pure, stomach regular, kidneys and liver active, is the greatest blessing ever conferred upon man. Hop Bitters is that remedy, and its proprietors are being blessed by thousands who have been saved and cured by it. Will you try it. See other column.

## DOCTORS GAVE HIM UP.

"IS IT POSSIBLE that Mr. Godfrey is up and at work, and cured by so simple a remedy?"

"I assure you it is true that he is entirely cured, and with nothing but Hop Bitters, and only ten days ago his doctors gave him up and said he must die!"

"Well-a-day! If that is so, I will go this minute and get some for my poor George. I know hope are good."

## MONEY! MONEY!!

If you wish to borrow money upon Real Estate, and get your money without sending paper East, and at reasonable rates, go to the KANSAS LOAN AND TRUST CO. Topeka Kansas.

## THE KANSAS FARMER.

## 8 and 9

Eight and nine per cent. interest on farm loans in Shawnee county.

Ten per cent on city property.

All good bonds bought at sight.

For ready money and low interest, call on

A. PRESCOTT & CO.

## Markets.

(October 7, 1878.)

## Kansas City Live-Stock Market.

The receipts Sunday and up to present writing are

as follows: 1,740 cattle, 1,200 hogs, 1,000 sheep.

Large principally Colorado native shippers, feeders and stockers. Demand steady for fair native shippers.

Packers have commenced killing, but so far are buying the cheaper grades of Texas steers and Colorado cows. Native calves almost unsalable. We quote:

Chickens live, \$1.00; 100 lbs. 30¢; 1000 lbs. 20¢.

Steers, 1000 to 1200... 25¢; 1200 to 1400... 20¢; 1400 to 1600... 15¢.

Native stockers and feeders 900 to 1200... 30¢; 1200 to 1400... 25¢.

Grass wintered Texas steers, \$80@\$100; 1,700@2,500.

Bulls, steers, scallaws, 1,000 to 1,500... 20¢; 1,500 to 2,000... 15¢.

Hair to good butchers' cows and heifers... 15¢; 1,500@2,000... 10¢.

Grass wintered Texas heifers and cows... 15¢; 1,500@2,000... 10¢.

We give a few of Saturday's sales: 47 Arkansas stockers, averaging 75 pounds, \$1.70; 70 southwest Missouri stockers, averaging 85 pounds, \$2.20@2.50.

Through Texas steers, \$1.50@2.00.

Large native steers, averaging 185 pounds, \$2.50@3.00.

55 Colorado half breed steers, averaging 85 pounds, \$1.50; 20 Colorado half breed steers, averaging 1.80 pounds, \$2.75; 75 Colorado-Texas steers, averaging 1,000 pounds, \$2.50.

HOGS—No sales up to writing; range, \$2.85@3.00.

SHEEP—Steady at \$1.50@2.00 for poor to choice heavy.

## BEEF &amp; SMOKED MEATS.

## New York Produce Market.

FLOUR—Heavy; superfine western and state, \$3.50

@3.80; common to good, \$3.80@4.10; good to choice, \$4.10@4.50; white wheat extra, \$4.80@5.00.

WHEAT—Heavy, No. 3 spring, \$2.85@3.00; No. 2 spring, \$3.00@3.25; ungraded, 90¢@1.05; No. 3 do., \$1.04@1.15; No. 2 do., \$1.03@1.14.

RICE—Puff; limited demand.

PORK—Steady; mess, \$8.75.

BEEF—Quiet and steady.

CORN—Light trade; steamer, 47¢; No. 247¢; round yellow, 52¢@55¢.

OATS—Firm; mixed western, 27¢@32¢; white western, 29¢@36¢.

COFFEE—Quiet and steady.

MOLASSES—Quiet and steady.

RICE—Puff; limited demand.

PORK—Steady; mess, \$8.75.

CUT MEATS—Heavy; western long clear middles, 5¢@6¢.

LARD—Steady, prime steam, 6¢@6.5¢.

BUTTER—Dull; western, 6¢@6.5¢.

CHEESE—Quiet; western, 62¢@64¢.

WHISKY—Firm; western, \$1.14; city, \$1.18@1.13¢.

## St. Louis Produce Market.

FLOUR—Dull and unchanged.

WHEAT—Lower, No. 2 red, 85¢@85¢; cash, \$1.85@1.85; October, 85¢@85¢; closing, 85¢@85¢ November; 85¢@86¢ December; No. 3 do., 82¢@82¢ November; 85¢@86¢ December.

OATS—Lower; 19¢@19¢ cash; 20¢@20¢ November; 22¢@22¢ December.

RYE—Lower; 40¢.

BARLEY—Unchanged.

WHISKY—Quiet; \$1.07.

POUNDS—Firm; 50¢.

DRY SALT MEATS—Nominal.

BACON—Lower; \$5.25; \$5.75@5.87¢.

LARD—Nominally \$6.25.

## Chicago Produce Market.

FLOUR—Weak.

WHEAT—Fair demand and lower; No. 2 spring, 80¢@81 cent cash; 81¢@82¢ October; 82¢@83¢ November; 90¢@91¢ December; No. 3 spring, 67¢@68¢; No. 1 red winter, 85¢; No. 2 do., 85¢.

CORN—Fair demand and lower; No. 2, high mixed, 33¢@34¢ cash; and October, 34¢@35¢ November; 35¢@36¢ December.

OATS—Fair demand and lower; No. 2, 18¢@19¢ cash; 18¢@19¢ December.

RYE—Dull and lower; 43¢@44¢ cash; 4¢ November.

BARLEY—Dull and lower; \$1.04 cash and October; \$1.05 November.

PORK—Fairly active and lower; 75¢@76¢ cash; \$7.65 October; \$7.75 November.

LARD—Easier; \$6.17¢ cash; \$6.17¢@6.20 November.

BULK MEATS—Shoulders, \$1.13¢; short clear, 85¢@87¢; short rib, \$5.11¢.

WHISKY—Steady; \$1.07.

## Chicago Live-Stock Market.

The Drovers' Journal this afternoon reports as follows:

HOGS—Receipts, 7,000; shipments, 2,000; strong and higher; shipping, \$3.00@3.50; light packing,

## Literary and Domestic.

EDITED BY MRS. M. W. HUDSON.

## BURNING AND THINKING.

Once more we are back in this cozy corner. Between the Rocky mountains and the fair season, fruit preserving and school suits much housekeeper knows there has not been much time for darning; as to thinking, thank fortune that is a luxury we have thrown in all along, the only trouble just now is to concentrate one's wits on one of the many hurrying topics which present themselves. There is that terrible bugbear of the masculine mind, house-cleaning, only a week, or at best a few weeks off. We all make a good deal of ado about it but an honest confession from us as women, would reveal the fact that we really enjoy it, it is the only time in the year when the woman is the chief ruler of the household, and we must make the most of it.

Just think of the odor of fresh whitewash and new straw, and imagine the crackling of the first fire in the sitting-room stove, newly blacked, and the cozy tea of bread and butter and apple sauce and chipped beef; it is worth a few days of turn-out to have such an all-pervading clean feeling in the house.

Our choice of a day for house-cleaning is one when the wind blows nearly as hard as it ever blows in Kansas. It is a little more trouble to handle things then and whatever is put out doors must be secured in some way, but there is nothing like wind and sun together to renovate things that cannot be washed. We like to have the walls and floors swept with all the doors and windows in the room wide open and the wind doing its best through it; it is astonishing what an amount of dust will go out in this way after the room has been well swept with the windows closed.

Very soon too the plants must be potted and brought indoors; there have been some excellent suggestions in regard to their care, in the FARMER recently, but we want to add a word about crowding the children. If you have but one south window it belongs to them, flowers make the home cheerful of course if one has room for them, but not if they keep the sunshine off the babies. A hanging basket, and brackets half way up the window are nice for people who are not afraid to keep their curtains above the regulation notch. But better none at all until they come out doors again than a few sickly, half frozen things and the household stinted of fresh air at night to preserve them.

After the house-cleaning is done will be time enough to make the grass and dried fern bouquets for winter decoration. While autumn flowers last no one cares to see dried grasses and it is not in good taste to have them displayed all the year round; one grows tired of seeing always the same things if they are even so beautiful, and in our opinion grass bouquets are not apt to be strikingly beautiful. The grasses that are "tied up in bunches and hung heads down in a dark closet" as some writer advised us recently, we have found worthless for bouquets. They have lost all the airy grace and lightness which alone makes dried grasses beautiful, and are nothing but wisps of hay. The only way to dry grasses so they will be pretty is to stand them up-right in a deep jar or vase without crowding in the least, so that they can keep their natural form and then when they finally are arranged never put so many together that you cannot see through them.

CHEYENNE CANON, COLORADO.  
BY MRS. M. W. HUDSON.

If either the dwellers or the sojourners in Colorado Springs and Manitou are asked which is the most beautiful spot among the mountains in that vicinity, they will almost invariably answer Cheyenne Canon, though perhaps they do not exactly mean that it is the most beautiful. There are other places in my memory's eye much more delightful to the vision and within a few hours' ride of these towns, but I would write it as an axiom for the guidance of pleasure seekers in those resorts, that Cheyenne Canon should be visited last, and that is equivalent, it is not to an admission of its superiority in some respects? Viewed from a distance it is like any other canon—a valley without any breadth, between mountains. Our party approached it from Colorado Springs and looked into it for miles before we reached the mouth, though it seemed just over a narrow strip of low land about wide enough for a small Kansas field when we started. And as we looked and wondered what there could be so magnificent between those broken and barren mountains, for this was our first trip into the wilds—we began at the end and left off at the beginning you see—a handful of mist gathered at the head of the valley away up among the peaks and added greatly to their picturesqueness, for what would a mountain picture be without vaporous veils and curling clouds to soften the sharp outlines, and our mountains had all been in pictures up to that time. But behold it rolled over and over and gathered volume alarmingly, and grew blacker with every revolution until we agreed that we had better stop and prepare for a deluge. It was plainly to be seen that the cloud was coming straight toward us so we turned our carriage around in front of the last house on the road, buttoned down the curtains, tied the horses to the fence and with our lunch baskets and shawls asked for shelter until the storm was past. A very pleasant woman invited us in and enter-

tained us with some interesting information about the country, but all the time we thought we could detect a suppressed smile in her countenance, and after a while she still more smilingly said that she did not want to be thought inhospitable, but she believed that if we were to wait till night the storm would not reach there; we had begun to wonder ourselves that it did not come, and immediately went out to look for it, and there along the face of the mountains stretched a thin gray streak of cloud, floating off to the north like smoke released from a great pipe bowl. There was nothing threatening about it after it got out of those compressing walls, and we rolled up the curtains and proceeded.

There is no carriage road up this canon and no room to make one, so we alighted at the entrance and began the two mile journey on foot, at first absorbed with the novelty of crossing and recrossing the canon stream on stones and fallen trees, and stopping to admire the limpid pools and the green nooks, but as we advanced words of admiration died away and we could only put back our heads and look. If the hand rested on a rock, or caught a bush, we had a sorer feeling, for the bare idea that some live thing might be on top made one want to know there was a bottom.

If your conception of a canon be a gorge, then Cheyenne is the ideal, for in a portion of its length the walls are perpendicular masses of rock, leaving only a narrow winding way for the rushing stream and a foot path between.

Sometimes the strata are inclined in every possible direction, and to look up and down the ragged heights causes a dizzy feeling, as if the great walls were slowly heaving, and at other places the walls are smooth and hard, almost without a seam for hundreds of feet up, overhanging the path and making one almost crouch beneath them at the thought of their crushing weight.

At several turns there are magnificent views of peculiar cone-shaped mountain-tops called St. Peter's Dome, the Devil's pulpit, etc.; they have rather a sort of devil's furniture in Colorado; and there are groups of silver firs that are exquisite, so there are some beautiful pines and cedars, but the canon is particularly impressive for its gigantic masses and towers of rock, and we did not realize that it contained as much verdure as it does, until we overlooked it from a knob a thousand feet above the bed of the creek.

After going two miles through this grand passage way into the heart of Cheyenne mountain, sometimes along the pebbly margin of the stream, and sometimes on a narrow path cut in the mountain side, often stopping to exclaim and wonder and compare this view with that, and crossing the stream seventeen times, we see a precipice of polished rock set square across the canon, apparently making an end of it, but we are not to be caught by such an illusion as that, and go on feeling sure that in the right hand corner which we cannot see, there will be an opening. We cross the creek once more, much wider now, and running over a bed of solid rock which reaches from wall to wall, and peer round the last point which intercepts the view, and lo! this way "the water comes down at Lodore." Leaping and flashing in three white cataracts, one above another, from a crevasse in the rocks. The canon has indeed come to an end and there is no possibility of going any farther without going straight up.

One of our party, a member of the Topeka orchestra, who discoursed sweet music at Manitou this summer, tried that, but he came down so swiftly and so smoothly that it forced from him the only blasphemous remark of the day; he said it was better than a cellar door. By climbing a little way up a spur of the wall on the opposite side, a view can be had of the seven falls together, the four upper ones being a little back of the others but not seen immediately from the foot. There we rested, as every one will, and were joined by other parties, consulted, selected stout staffs and separated for the climb. The weary the altitudinous, the faint-hearted, the aged, the halt and the blind stayed there, the rest of us went up.

Just before coming in sight of the falls there is a steep path leading up the mountain to the left, and then on around the side higher and higher above the dry canon which branches from Cheyenne, until it reaches the top of a high knob directly above the falls, completely hiding them from view, but presenting a grand panorama of mountain scenery. The seven falls are 1000 feet high, but from that height we looked far down into a grassy valley west of us, through which Cheyenne creek runs before it reaches the head of the falls, and eastward over the whole length of the wide canon through which we had come.

Great promontories of rock jutted out from the mountains on both sides, some apparently just ready to fall, and some had fallen and covered the stream with a mass of broken stones and fallen timber, but the water had tunneled its way through and went singing down to fructify the great plains. We could see them, too, away off in the east, spread out as though crushed from this ridge by a mighty roller and leveled for man's habitation.

And we could see the Pillars of Hercules, two thousand feet high, with here and there a stunted and splintered pine hung in a fissure, the only life save that mounts on wings, that ever dared to climb their dizzy pinnacles.

The bottom of Cheyenne canon seemed filled with green, and we could only occasionally

catch a glimpse of the water, but tall trees reached so short a distance up the comparative height of the cliff that they seemed only bushes, and the rugged walls were bare and hard. In that high and almost inaccessible valley beyond us we saw a deserted claim cabin, where some dreamer had thought to make a ranch, but Bruin yet quenches his thirst in Cheyenne creek, and neither the water nor the land is navigable for mowing machines, so that settler probably removed to Kansas in search of better roads and neighbors. We found cards bearing names and addresses from all parts of the United States, tacked to a storm twisted pine, left another for the winds to scatter, gathered our memento and came down, repaid a thousand fold for our exertion, which, by-the-way, was greater and more perilous than necessary because we had taken the short, steep route; it is much easier and safer to go up the bottom of the dry canon to its head, and then ascend the knob by a wooded path. The upper trail leads over the loose, gravelly soil of the mountain side, where it is so precipitous that one has to cling to every stray root and knot of grass for support, and when a slip would send you down hundreds of feet. My companion who went before and gained a firm footing and then lent me a helping hand, frequently told me not to look and I had no desire to, it was frightful enough from the top where one can stand upright and hold to a tree.

At the foot or the falls we found a new party boiling their coffee and taking their luncheon, while we had left ours in the carriage and that is another thing we will know better than to do next time, for to the top of a mountain and down again is as far as any mortal man can go without something to eat; a woman can wait a little longer. But the walk down the canon was delightful to all, notwithstanding the burden of our appetites, the views were so new and so ever-charming, and the water so sparkling and delicious, we drank at every fall and every deep bowl, and played in every shoal, while its merry motion seemed to help us on our way.

There is a square angle in the wall of the canon which we do not notice when going up, but on coming down it presents an appearance similar to the one noticed as we approached the falls, that of the canon being walled up, except that this one is more perfect and there is an opening on the other side through which we go on down, following still the gleaming water, and bid farewell to the grandest canon in that vicinity. If seen first the impression of its magnitude will dwarf all the rest, seen last it is a fitting climax to the others; but seen whenever it may be, it can never be forgotten.

## QUESTIONS.

Will some one tell me how to clarify or rectify cider and keep it sweet. ABBIE.

Can some flower-grower inform me how to propagate and raise smilax best, I seem to have poor success with it. M. F.

Will some good mother please tell me what she has found to be the neatest, cheapest and best dress for the kitchen and oblige a BEGINNER.

## CHOW CHOW.

1 gallon of vinegar; 1 lb ground mustard; 6 tablespoomfuls salt; 4 tablespoomfuls ginger; 2 of black pepper; 1 of cloves; 1 of cinnamon; 2 of turmeric; 1 cup of sugar. Boil all together 10 minutes, then add 1 bottle of salad oil, and pour the mixture over pickles after soaking one day in brine.

Omit, if you please, ginger, pepper and turmeric and add four tablespoomfuls curry powder. ANN APPLESEED.

## HOME ECONOMY.

HUSK MATS.—These convenient, economical articles are very useful, especially for those who live where mud abounds. They are easily made, and do a great amount of service. Sort the corn husks, selecting the longest for braiding. Take nine husks and tie the butt ends with a piece of twine; then divide them equally in three parts for braiding; as each strand is laid over, have three more husks ready to put in, leaving about an inch and a half of the butt ends out. The underside of the braid will be smooth, while the upper side is as rough as possible. It takes from six to ten yards of braid for a mat according to the size which you wish to make it. If the husks are very dry it is easier to dip them in water as you braid. The braid must be wet when you sew it, which must be done with stout twine and a very long needle, fastening the ends well.

HOW TO MAKE DYES.—A German writer tells us that a number of excellent dyes can be obtained from the berries of common plants, by boiling them in water so as to produce a strong decoction. The whortleberry and the blueberry, when boiled down, with an addition of a little alum and copperas, will make a fine shade of dark blue. The same treatment, with a solution of nut galls added to it, will make a handsome brown; while, by adding alum, verdigris and sal ammoniac to the berries, several shades of bright purple and red can be obtained. The juice of elderberries boiled in water with a little alum will also produce a shade of blue. The berries of the privet, when over-ripe, will yield, by a mixture of a little salt, a scarlet red; and the seeds of the burning bush, when treated with sal ammoniac, make a beautiful reddish purple. The juice of the currant, with a little alum, will dye a bright shade of red; and the bark of the bush, treated in the same way,

makes a good brown. Yellow can be obtained from the bark of the elm, the poplar, the ash, and the apple tree, boiled down strong and mixed with alum water. The tassels of broom-corn, treated in the same way, produce a good shade of green. S. O. J.

THE BEST REST.—A physician says the cry of rest has always been louder than the cry for food. Not that it is important, but it is often harder to obtain. The best rest comes from sound sleep. Of two men or women, otherwise equal, the one who sleeps the best will be the most moral, healthy and efficient. Sleep will do much to cure irritability of temper, peevishness and uneasiness. It will restore to vigor an over-worked brain. It will build up and make strong a weary body. It will cure a headache. It will help a broken spirit. It will assuage sorrow. Indeed we might make a long list of nervous and other maladies that sleep will cure. The cure of sleeplessness requires a clean, good bed, sufficient exercise to produce weariness-pleasant occupation, good air, and not too warm a room, a clear conscience, and avoidance of stimulants and narcotics.

## JAM AND WAGES.

Among the many toothsome dainties that our good husband is exceedingly fond of, jam is prominent; and since a wiser and greater than we has said, a man's heart is reached through his stomach, we think we do play the part of a wise matron, in laying by a goodly quantity of that pleasant and healthful preserve for winter use.

Not long since, while bending over our work table by an open window, pressing grapes through a sieve for the above named delicacy, we overheard one man bestow an unpleasant title upon the other, because he worked for low wages; to which the second, replied, he would "sooner work for ten cents a day than lie around idle." They passed on but the words repeated themselves over and over. To us the men represented two classes. The one loves the bread of independence, and while circumstances may for a time compel his acceptance of low wages, ultimately, perseverance and industry make known his merits to a higher market; the other is dependent—loves not work, neither will perform it except under the most favorable surroundings, and from the beginning of life never advances. We would not take from the pleasure or lessen the apparent justice of receiving and dispensing equal wages. We have known what it was to work hard, and pleasantly too thinking of what the means would accomplish, and we know that well done work goes not long a-begging. How aptly might be applied—"For unto every one that hath (industry) shall be given and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not (industry) shall be taken away even that which he hath."

E. H. H.

## RECIPES.

HOW TO MIX MUSTARD.—Mustard is a wholesome condiment if rightly prepared, and is relished with cold meats and salads. If prepared with cream, it can be very smoothly mixed, and a little salt can be stirred in with it.

CREAM CAKE.—Two cups of sugar, one cup of sour cream with a small teaspoonful of soda, two eggs, and flour enough to drop smoothly from the spoon. To be nice this must be dropped in small drop cakes or in gem irons or patties.

## LITERARY EXERCISES IN DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

BY R. C. STORY.

Read before the Kansas State Teachers' Association, June 26th, 1878.

The distinctive faculty of man is mind. Says an ancient philosopher, as quoted by Sir William Hamilton: "There is nothing great on earth but man, nothing great in man but mind." The tendency of governments is toward freedom—the impulse of freedom is toward mental liberty—in republican governments, toward outward expression or demonstration, Republicanism and freedom of thought go together, the one mutually acting upon the other. The suppression of the one would be the extinction of the other. Our government is a free one, hence it demands freedom of thought and freedom of utterance on the part of its subjects. This demand was not born of the immortal declaration of '76, but springs from the politics and principles of the day and hour. The mind must be exercised, the feelings must be painted by tongue or pen. To be done well, the educating power of circumstances or of schools must develop and put in training the thinking faculties. In the grange, in the school meeting, in the political caucus, in the jury-box in the sewing circle, as a business man, as a letter-reader and a letter-writer, as a lover, as an advertiser for help, for help-mates, for goods or for customers, our citizens must write, must talk, must read. To read or write or talk, he must think, and to think clearly, logically, smoothly, connectedly, he must be educated in this direction.

Preparation for the duties growing out of public and private demands, shall begin where? In the college or university? In the high-school or academy? If this preparation begin not until the entrance of a pupil into the halls of such institutions, then will these demands be seldom met, as the majority—a decreasing majority, let us hope—take degrees from institutions no higher than the common schools. To serve the masses of our people, the preparation of which I have spoken should begin in the district schools. In addition to the subjects generally taught therein, literary exercises demand a larger part of the attention of teachers and pupils than that which is commonly given such exercises.

What is the end sought by literary exercises? The production of a Cicero or a Clay? a Pitt or a Hamilton? a Bismarck or a Lincoln? By no means! though the tendency in our high-schools and colleges too often points in this direction. When Providence has need for such minds they come responsive to the demand. The end of these exercises should be to make one quick and accurate in the performance of everyday life, to give one a key by which the treasures of literature may be unlocked, to produce a command of mind and tongue and person that will enable one to do well and logically all that lies at his door to do, and to put in his heart an inspiration for the highest and holiest creations of the ages; an inspiration that will throw a halo of light and beauty around his life, whether he stand

high on the ladder of fame, or dwell among the "newers of wood and drawers of water" for earth's elect.

Is it the end of our system of schools to produce lawyers and doctors and preachers? No. Neither is it the end to make farmers, blacksmiths, tanners, printers nor school-teachers. The cry about practical education too often comes from one of the worst evils of our times. Parents too universally turn over to the control of teachers the mind, manners, morals, hands and hearts of the children, and expect them to come forth trained in heart and head and hand for any and every sphere of life, and any failure therein draws the lightnings of public wrath down on the teachers in our schools. Our best farmers are made on the farm and in the field, not in agricultural colleges. Our best printers and editors are graduates from the printing office and editorial sanctum. Our successful bankers, merchants, tradesmen, mechanics, day-laborers, draw the forces through which they obtain success from the very labors of their respective callings. "Is true that Paul made tents in order to earn a livelihood while preaching, and that Socrates and Plato carved in marble as well as in morals? But these great minds learned their trades out of school hours. Our schools should, as Huxley says, "have other ends in view than to teach one to use a saw, a plane or a compass." The end should be to awaken all the mental faculties of the pupil, to educate it to think, to reflect, to compare, to investigate, to economize health and wealth, and to perform honestly and loyally all duties of citizens, public and private.

If this position be sound then is our argument at an end, and we are ready to give directions for engineering these exercises in district schools.

A teacher can initiate the work by selections to be memorized, gems taken from the world's treasures, songs from the world's singers, proverbs from the world's wisdom. From the sacred writings, (for illustration) one might select, "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down. Yea, we wept when we remembered Zion." Or, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handwork."

"My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky;"  
would be a fine lesson from Wordsworth. "A man's man for a' that, and a' that" or,  
"O wad some power the giftie gie us."  
could be taken from Burns.

Of songs and proverbs and beautiful thoughts there need be no end. They can be learned line upon line, proverb after proverb, song after song, thought after thought, until a rich collection of jewels would become the property of every school child. Let the work not stop with the mere memorizing of the words, but let the hidden meaning of the lines be drawn out by close and continued questioning on the teacher's part, and let the worth of the selection be impressed indelibly by conversation between pupils and teacher.

Recitations and readings would enlarge the character and influence of the selections made. They would specialize in their effect on the performer in personal grace, ease and delivery, in training the memory, and in sharpening the conception of uttered truths. These could come, at least, semi-monthly with every pupil in the school, by appointment or selection, and should have faithful and generous criticism on the part of teacher and pupils.

The use of postal card, letter-writing and essay exercises would complement the foregoing, would furnish drill in the business matters of life, teach accuracy in the use of language, and clearness in the expression of thought. Let a teacher supply his school with genuine postal cards and have genuine messages and addresses written thereon by the pupils, and the educational compensation would far exceed the cost in dimes and dollars. Let him supply his classes with note or letter paper and envelopes, and call for genuine notes and letters, for a time turning his school into a postal department, and then would he see how the teaching would go home to each pupil, and through each pupil to every family connected with the school. Would not such a course in our schools cancel in a short time the figures which show the thousands of letters annually reaching the dead letter office by reason of misdirection and ignorance?

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## NORMAL INSTITUTE.

By J. M. GREENWOOD, KANSAS CITY, MO.

Read before the Kansas State Teachers' Association, June 30th, 1878.

Normal Institutes will be discussed under two divisions:

## I. What are the limits?

## II. The instrumentalities necessary to accomplish the work proposed.

Upon what condition the Normal Institute came into being as an educational force, the extent of its actual and potential powers, the boundaries where its limits cease, are questions worthy of patient and attentive thought.

In the minds of many, Normal Institute is a vague idea having no definite significance as a conception; it is made to vary so as to represent anything or nothing, and is not inaptly symbolized by that ultimate in philosophy in which nothing equals being. In one sense it is a new factor in the American system of public instruction; but in another, it is the realization of an idea adopted by some of our most thoughtful educators several years ago.

To avoid confusion in the use of terms, distinctness is necessary at the outset. The Normal Institute is not a normal school, a county institute, a graded school, college, nor university. Strong resemblances it bears to some of these, but there are also marked differences which preclude the idea of sameness or identity. But the Normal Institute may be defined as a special kind of training school organized for the benefit of a large number of teachers who have not been instructed how to teach and how to conduct a school.

This is the function of a Normal Institute. There are other subsidiary modifications branching off from the main stem, which will change the character of the Institute to some extent.

Statistics show that the average time teachers follow their vocation is not far from three years. Forty percent of the teachers in some of the states quit or are dropped out annually. The survival of the fittest has no application in this country, among teachers. An analysis of that army of three hundred thousand teachers, would give many curious and interesting results. There would be found the young, the giddy, the thoughtless boys and girls yet in their teens, having no qualifications for the important duties they are trying to perform. But then, another group more numerous—already crystallized and fossilized—inpecunious specimens who have failed at every step in life—must be provided for, and as a kind of public charity—the public schools get them. Another class is found mixed here and there among the multitude. They are the teachers; the men and women who mould character and shape national destiny. To them, as benefactors of the nation and the friends of humanity, we owe a debt of everlasting gratitude.

The masses, sluggish in educational movements, are partially aroused at last, and the question is: What can be done to improve the unskillful teachers, and how can it be done the quickest?

Normal schools, county institutes, high schools, colleges and universities, are, in the main, doing good work, but they are entirely inadequate to supply the pressing demand for qualified teachers. The only practical remedy, though necessarily imperfect, is the Normal Institute system. The legislators of this state are entitled to the thanks of all citizens for their wise and judicious action in the matter. With Iowa on the north and Kansas on the west, I trust Missouri will adopt a similar system next winter, without abolishing her magnificent normal school, as your state did out of jealousy.

In the absence of statistics from official sources, the following, clipped from the Manhattan *Industrialist*, is submitted as embodying a condensed statement of the work in Institutes last summer:

"The aggregates show that sixty counties held institutes, each having a session of twenty school days, or four weeks. Systematic instruction was given by sixty paid conductors and 142 paid assistants, while discussions of special topics were made by 164 lecturers, making a corps of 202 regular instructors, or 368 in all. The amount paid for salaries was \$10,959.83, and for sundries, \$3,834.17, or a total cost of instruction of \$14,782.51. The receipts from examination fees, \$6,990.00; from registration fees, \$4,496.75; from the state appropriations, \$2,800; and from county appropriations, \$2,090.28; total, \$16, 516.13, leaving a balance on hand of \$1,533.62. Number of pupils enrolled, 4,605."

This is a satisfactory showing and a sure guarantee of ultimate success. Literally, a short course of instruction was put within the reach of the teaching force in sixty counties. That is to say, sixty different schools were taught.

Since there are intelligent persons claiming that normal schools may be supplanted by Normal Institutes, it is worth while to examine this assumption.

Normal school advocates represent two antagonistic ideas. One side contends that all instruction in normal schools should be strictly professional; that is, that all branches, if studied at all, are simply reviewed. Of course, this idea cannot be realized, only on the condition that the literary training has been properly attended to prior to admission to the normal school. Normal schools in cities carry out this conception.

The other contends, and correctly too, that in state normals, the literary and professional instruction must be combined. They assert that it is impossible to get graduates from colleges, high schools and universities to attend normal schools to receive a few finishing touches. Here the master rests.

Years are required to master the branches and to understand educational methods. A deep philosophy underlies the whole system of education. It is manifest that these cannot be learned in four weeks. Normal schools are usually supplied with first-class instructors—master workmen. Normal Institutes are too frequently conducted by instructors minus all necessary qualifications. Normal school work is thorough work, well finished and rounded up; Normal Institute work is hasty, spread over much territory, more suggestive than reflective, and usually very imperfect.

The two schools agree in this, that the literary and professional are blended—in the one, it is a harmonious blending of all the tints and shades; in the other, it is a jumbled mixture.

From the preceding, the scope of the Normal Institute may be summed up in a few words: To improve the public schools by teaching the teachers what and how to study; how to systematize their knowledge; how to present it in the most attractive form; how to adapt the instruction to all grades of pupils; and how to manage school business to the best advantage.

Under the second division four points will be noticed:

## I. The course of study.

## II. Suitable building, apparatus, etc.

## III. Qualifications of instructors.

## IV. The work to be done.

A synopsis is necessary, first, to assist the inexperienced; second, to unify the work. The courses issued by the State Superintendent last year and this, for the guidance of instructors, are among the very best that I have examined. There is much in them that it is decidedly meritorious, that it is with considerable difficulty that I dissent from any suggestions in the course of 1878. However, as it is suggestive merely, declaratory not mandatory, I offer the following for consideration:

Glancing over the daily programme, I was not favorably impressed with the Order of Exercises, nor with the Time Table.

The session commences at 8:10 A. M., and closes at 12:30 P. M., with only twenty minutes for intermission.

The work to be accomplished claims attention. The

country schools are far from being satisfactory. There is little or no system among them. One district has nothing in common with another. Through the agency of the Normal Institutes, system and organic union are possible. Instead of a county having a hundred and fifty different schools entirely independent of one another, controlled by one hundred and fifty different heads, they will be controlled and directed by one mind—supervising the entire work. This is an important point gained.

Should the State Superintendent publish a "Course of Study and Daily Programme" for country schools, a grand step forward in furtherance of education would be made. That would save trouble and prevent much confusion.

Again, by a systematic effort school work may become one of the most attractive features at the county fairs. The work of the school children is surely as important as dog shows, chicken shows, etc.

Teachers are ambitious—a desire to excel—to do better work, is natural. Through the incentives of the Institutes new fields of thought will be opened up. Intellectual excursions will be made into hitherto unknown regions. Beauty will be seen in the dew-drop, the violet, the solid rock, the floating cloud, and the dancing sunbeam. Literature will sparkle with gems more radiant than jewels on crowned heads; the formulas of mathematics will become vocal with truths—the symbols of eternity; and last of all, the mind, the determiner of thinking—feeling—willing, will be studied as the pivotal point whence all thought emanates.

Yes, this system will give better teachers, citizens, pupils and schools—true men and women—the object of all education.

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Another essential qualification that the instructor should possess, is system. He must be systematic in all that he does and in what little he says. He needs the organizing power of a great general—to organize the first half-day and be ready for work in the afternoon—classes having been formed and lessons assigned—signals and movements practiced and explained until all understand them.

Four days were spent last year by one instructor, in organizing an Institute, and in having those in attendance study the origin, history, and destiny of "Paper." Further, the deponent saith not.

Before leaving this part of the subject, I would suggest that a commission, say, of three, be appointed to inspect the Institutes and report results to the office of the State Superintendent, the reports to embrace all items necessary for determining the quality and quantity of the work in each Institute. A great deal of the work must have been imperfectly done last year, and for the reason that thirty or forty good instructors can not be found in any one State of a single season to do this work well. Doubtless those engaged did the best they knew—but good intentions do not always insure success.

Last year one of the county papers of this State was handed me, and in it was published a "Daily Programme for County Schools." The programme was the result of some axiomatic educational propositions, one of which was to this effect that as much time should be given to a class as the First Reader as to the most advanced classes. This looked fair and so I read the time-table. There were about thirty-eight different recitations; each recitation was just ten minutes except that of United States History, which, by some special act of grace, was lengthened out to fifteen minutes. This programme was adopted without a dissenting vote, and to which were appended some very complimentary resolutions, the teachers agreeing to work to it in their schools. I looked vain for the man from the rural districts to put in an emphatic No!

This was not done in a remote corner of the State, and perhaps some of you saw that programme. It was a singular experiment!

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