

THE KANSAS FARMER

DEVOTED TO THE FARM THE SHOP AND THE FIRESIDE

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The Kansas Farmer

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THE "PREGNANT HINGE."

Now that the Farmers' movement is successfully inaugurated, and seems likely to sweep over the country like a tornado, we shall expect to see every played-out politician and pot-house bummer come up to our support. We shall expect to see this class of bloodsuckers attending every farmers' meeting throughout the country, and they will be the loudest mouthed advocates of the farmers' cause we have. They have been out of office, out of power and (generally) out of money, and this farmers' movement is a streak of daylight to them, a godsend that they will strive to take advantage of.

These fellows have just found out that farmers' rights have been trampled upon, and they are going to devote their time, talents and energy to righting their great wrongs.

If the farmers of the State are deceived again by these time-servers, as they have often been before, they will deserve to wear the yoke of slavery. As the producing class, we owe this class nothing; are under no obligations to them, do not need the labors of their massive (?) intellects, need not fear their anger, and in the name of common decency, do not let the present movement be weighted with their carcasses. Make it a farmers' movement indeed and in truth. Strike in your own name and by your own strength. It is sufficient.

Remember, too, that your own ranks are not entirely free from those who wish to be political leaders, and who in times past have sought to be politicians. Choose your leaders from those who are not seeking position, and put none at the head of your State organization save honest, intelligent, conscientious farmers, who have not been professed politicians.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE STATE CONVENTION.

Since our last issue the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, upon the request of the Douglas County Union, has so amended the Call as to admit delegates from townships and counties having no regular Agricultural organization. For reasons stated elsewhere, we think this unwise.

The following railroads have agreed to carry delegates to and from the Convention for one and one-fifth fare, round trip: Kansas Pacific; A. T. & S. F.; L. & G., and U. P. Central Branch. One road refused to make any reduction of fare, stating

that they only commuted fare for political Conventions. They may think this is a political Convention before they are through with it. The hotels at Topeka have generously agreed to reduce their charges one-third to all delegates during the Convention.

THE ORGANIZATION.

From the many notices in our exchanges of local organizations, we have no doubt that our coming State Convention will be one every way worthy the farmers of Kansas. Farmers' Clubs are organizing in every nook and corner, and the many expressions of feeling that have reached us, by letter and otherwise, indicate that this is not to be boys' play. We are satisfied that the farmers are in solid earnest. It means business with them now. It is high time. They have allowed others to run their affairs, and dictate a policy to them, long enough. Let them now assert their rights, like true men.

In our coming Convention we hope and expect to see a unity of purpose. We must have this, or the Convention will be a failure. Keep all party politics from the deliberations there. Let us not be blinded or turned aside from our purpose to right our wrongs, by any cheap clap trap or catch-penny organization. An honest, earnest, continued, open-handed fight against all corporations or bodies that oppress us; and a united effort at the ballot-box, as farmers, as producers, will give us, at no distant day, a complete and glorious victory.

REPRESENTATION IN THE CONVENTION.

It was a matter of considerable thought with those who first put the machinery in motion that resulted in calling a Farmers' State Convention in Kansas, as to what the representation in that Convention should be. This meeting, being of course a preliminary one to a permanent organization, and it being desirable that none but farmers should have a part in organizing and giving direction to a movement intended solely for their benefit, it was thought best to restrict the representation to recognized organizations of farmers. Without an organization in any given township or school district, any man, farmer or not, might elect himself a delegate and claim a seat in the State Convention.

It will be a part of the duty of this Convention to adopt a Constitution and By Laws, which will regulate the future representation of this body, but it is all important that the farmers start off right, and we suggest, for we claim the right to do nothing more, that no person be allowed a seat in the permanent organization of this Convention unless they present credentials signed by President and Secretary of a regularly organized Farmers' Club, Union or Grange.

If farmers do not take enough interest in the matter to organize one or the other of these, they certainly will not be benefited by this or any other Convention, and if a State organization is to be effective, it will have to be supported by local

organizations in the counties and townships, and the above system of representation will perhaps hasten their organization.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

The following Clubs have reported to this office, and to Hon. ALFRED GRAY, since our last issue. The work goes bravely on:

Shawnee Township Farmers' Club, Johnson county. D. B. Johnson, President; J. Gore, Vice President; J. A. Meff, Secretary; E. C. Chase, Treas.
Richland Farmers' Club, Labette county. Dr. Geo. Lisle, President; J. N. Watson, Secretary.
Gypsum Township Farmers' Club, Salina, Saline county. J. Weaver, President; B. F. Whitehead, Secretary.

Highland Club, of Clark Creek, White City, Morris county. Henry Walker, Secretary.

Industrial Farmers' Club, Waterville, Marshall county. Horace Smith, President; E. J. Robinson, Secretary.

Oskaloosa Co-operative Union, Oskaloosa, Jefferson county. J. N. Insley, President; J. M. Russell, Secretary.

Peabody Farmers' Club, Peabody, Marion county. T. C. Thoburn, President; C. H. Parkton, Sec'y.
Shawnee Township Farmers' Club, Glenwood, Johnson county. D. B. Johnson, President; J. A. Neff, Secretary.

Skiddy Farmers' Club, Skiddy, Morris county. S. J. Willis, President; H. M. Anderson, Sec'y.
Union Farmers' Club, Riverdale, Clay county. J. H. Geist, President; J. B. Mudge, Secretary.

West Dragoon Farmers' Club, Barlingame, Osage county. John Mings, President; S. K. Freeman, Secretary.

Excelsior Farmers' Club, Greenwood county. R. B. Fletcher, President; E. V. Horton, Secretary.
Spillman Valley Farmers' Club, Lincoln county. J. W. Smith, President; J. H. Wright, Secretary.
Fremont Farmers' Club, Lyon county. John Nicklin, President; C. D. Burdick and J. S. Craig, Secretaries.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE LAND GRANT.

The bill which a few of the Eastern Agricultural Colleges, like "Cornell" University, was attempting to lobby through Congress, has been defeated, notwithstanding the very disreputable and dishonest tricks that were resorted to to insure its passage. Let the land already possessed be put under proper tillage and culture, before additional fields are asked for.

EARLY ROSE.

The first planting of Early Rose should be made at once. Break and mark off in narrow furrows, drop the potatoes and cover with half an inch of earth, and then spread four or five inches of straw or long manure over the rows. This may be left on through the season, or removed after danger from freezing is past.

The Kansas Farmer

FIVE DOLLARS A DAY AND EXPENSES.

We are afraid that some of our friends are getting anxious. They are giving us more attention than we deserve. Why is this thus?

Some months ago we published the Constitution of the Patrons of Husbandry, and in connection therewith published an editorial, in which we took occasion to express some of our objections to the organization. The closing paragraph of that article reads as follows:

The more we examine this scheme, the more we are convinced that there is a money-making scheme at the bottom of it, and that it is the money, rather than the desire to benefit farmers, at the bottom of the whole concern. There may be, and no doubt are, some in the National Grange who are there with a sincere desire to elevate the farmer's calling, but the many avenues by which money must flow into the Treasury of the National Grange; the long term of office (five years would make several men rich, and at the end of that time they could afford, if indeed it were not for their interest, to let the organization die), and the exclusive character of its members, leads us to believe that the benefits will be *personal*, rather than general.

This article appeared in the issue of August 15, 1873. This is all that we have felt called upon to say in regard to the organization.

Quite recently, this organization has obtained a foothold in Kansas—notably in Leavenworth and Douglas counties—and a State Grange has been organized. Among the officers of this Society is one known as Grand Lecturer, whose special duty it is to organize Granges, who is empowered to appoint Deputy or District Lecturers. This latter class are entitled to receive *five dollars a day, and expenses paid, for organizing Granges*. Pretty good pay, all will agree, and most anybody would be willing to talk a couple of hours for that sum.

Well, one of the "five dollar a day gentlemen" recently held a meeting in this county, at which time he took occasion to denounce the Editor of THE KANSAS FARMER in unmeasured terms, because, forsooth, he had dared to warn the farmers of Kansas to examine this organization of the Patrons of Husbandry, before they rushed headlong into its embraces.

Our real objections to this Society are contained in the above extract. We do not see the necessity for creating such an enormous fund, and placing it in the hands of a few men—so far as we know, irresponsible men—as this Order contemplates.

We are not surprised that farmers, whose necks have so long been bared to the yoke, should seek measures to relieve themselves from the burthen; but they should remember that the dangers unseen are sometimes worse than those seen.

If farmers are satisfied that the Patrons of Husbandry will benefit them, and that the money they will have to put into it is properly secured, we have nothing to say. We believe that the Order is too expensive, for the proposed benefits; but our readers may think differently, and it is their business, not ours, to decide.

We dislike to be hounded and called names by *paid strikers* of an organization, of which they themselves know next to nothing, and whose enthusiasm is measured wholly by the five dollars a day they receive for their labor (?). We are laboring for farmers, and in the interest of farmers. We have no other purpose to serve, and if these gentlemen wish to advance the interests of farmers, they would do well to denounce known enemies rather than proved friends.

FUEL.

It is a well known fact that in a portion of Kansas the fuel question is the most important to be met. There are some matters pertaining to the settling of a prairie that are unpleasant and undesirable, but many of these vanish after a time.

Not so with the matter of fuel. It is a thing that must be had not only the first and second years of settlement, but for all time, and all things considered, is the greatest want of certain sections.

The emigrant from the timbered regions of the East is often appalled when set down upon some of

the prairies of Kansas, with no vegetable growth larger than the "resin" weed within his range of vision, and no railroad perhaps nearer than forty miles to bring him coal. This is the case, over a limited area of the State it is true, but it is astonishing how many and various are the devices used to supply this want.

We are prompted to say this much upon the fuel question, by receiving an inquiry from a subscriber asking our opinions of the feasibility and profitableness of cultivating the *sun flower for fuel*.

Well, why not? It is a rapid and vigorous grower, is rich in resinous principles, and the seed is a very nutritious feed for stock. We believe an acre of it, planted in drills four feet apart, and the stalks eighteen inches or two feet apart in the drill, would be about as cheap fuel as a family could raise. The ground should be prepared as for corn. It will require something less than a peck of seed to the acre. It should be thoroughly cultivated, in order to induce a vigorous growth.

But sun flowers will only answer for a "make-shift" until something better can be grown. We believe that every settler, remote from timber, should plant from five to ten acres of peach seed this Spring for fuel. In three years it will begin to furnish some wood, and after that it will increase at the rate of from ten to twenty cords per acre per annum, until the growth is seven or eight years of age. The grove may be so thinned and managed as to leave a nice peach orchard standing. The grove should be so planted as to admit of good cultivation for two or three years; after that it is not so essential.

Our people have not been as prompt and active in this matter of timber growing as they should have been. After a roof has been erected upon a prairie claim to shelter the wife and little ones, the next thing to be done is to plant a grove of peach trees, and later, other and better varieties of timber. Seeds are so easily and so cheaply obtained that, with a little forethought, there are none that have a valid excuse for its neglect.

Let the work begin with this year. Let every man, woman and child living upon the prairie make it a part of their duty to go to planting trees this Spring. If you have friends at the East, and cannot obtain the seed nearer at home, write to them to send you tree seeds. Examine the list published in our last issue, and select varieties from that. You can scarcely go amiss.

TREE SEEDS.

Were it not that we are receiving so many letters, asking where the various kinds of tree seeds could be obtained, we certainly should not publish a "directory" of tree seed dealers, outside of our advertising columns. But the demand is so great, and the cause so good, that we are willing to give the following gentlemen the benefit of our columns, in the belief that by so doing we are accommodating thousands of our readers.

A part of the names annexed will be recognized as old advertisers in THE FARMER, and if the others consult their own interests, they soon will be. It will be remembered that packages of four pounds weight may be sent through the mail.

Tree seeds may be obtained from any of the following:

Robt. Douglas & Son, Waukegan, Ill.; Arthur Bryant, Princeton, Ill.; H. E. Rowley, Lacon, Ill.; W. A. Nourse, Moline, Ill.; Pinney & Co., Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; H. M. Thompson, St. Francis, Milwaukee, Wis.; Philip Mick, North Vernon, Ind.; Thos. Meehan, Germantown, Penna.; M. S. Grant & Co., Leavenworth, Kansas.

LIVE FENCE POSTS.

L. K. PERRIN stated before the Denver Farmers' Club that he, some years ago, planted a row of cottonwood trees, to which he now has wires stretched, making a good fence. He proposes to plant round all his fields. This might be done in Kansas, too.

THE GARDEN.

We continue our notes upon profitable varieties of garden seeds:

BEANS—Early Valentine and Early Mohawk will be found satisfactory.

BEETS—Second crop, Short Top Round, and the Long Smooth Round.

BORECOLE (Kale)—Dwarf Curled.

CABBAGE—Second and late crops, Early Winingstadt, Marblehead Mammoth, Drumhead Savoy. The first of these is both an early and late variety, and is one of the most profitable we have ever raised. Of the second, it is enough to say that we have raised them that weighed twenty two pounds, when trimmed for the krou barrel. The last is a good average variety, its only objection being that it does not uniformly head well.

CORN—For a succession, Early Narragansett, Stowell's Evergreen, Mammoth Sugar, Adams's Early.

CUCUMBER—Improved White Spine and Long Green.

EGG PLANT—New York Purple.

MELON (Water)—Phinney's Early and Mountain Sweet.

ONION—Large Red Wethersfield and Potato Onion.

PARSNIP—Student and Sugar.

PEAS—For extra early, the list in our last issue, with the addition of McLean's Blue Peter. For a succession, Dwarf Waterloo, Champion of England and Premier.

POTATO—The Rose stands at the head for an early variety. We have no faith in the *Late Rose*. Peerless, Peachblow and Neshannock, are the leading late varieties.

TOMATO—Trophy and Gen. Grant. The first is an early and the latter said to be a medium variety. Two years ago they ripened together with us.

PECAN CULTURE.

[From the New Orleans Picayune.]

Pecans will be more extensively produced in this State, were the tree to come in bearing from the planting. This tree often bears at the age of twelve or fifteen years.

The pecan can be grafted on the hickory, and brought into full bearing in less than half that time. A pecan tree in full bearing, if the fruit is of good quality, will sometimes produce fruit to the value of \$25 yearly. Its average yearly product will not be under \$10. Every such tree is worth \$100 to its proprietor.

Suppose a planter had started 1,000 such pecan trees thirty years ago. Those trees would now be worth \$100,000, and the land would be valuable as a woodland pasture, thirty trees standing upon an acre.

If every shade tree in every door-yard and on all plantations in this State were full-grown pecan trees, bearing pecans of good quality, their value to the State compared to the value of property in 1870, would be greater than the assessed value of the city of New Orleans.

The pecan is native in Kansas. It may be found near Quindaro, as we are informed by ALFRED GRAY, Esq., and no doubt in other localities. The tree grows readily from seed. Plant the nuts in the Fall and they are sure to come. The timber is of great value. As the tree does not come into bearing until 15 or 20 years old, cions from bearing trees may be grafted on young pecan or other hickory trees. The State Agricultural College might try some cions and let us have the result a year or two hence.

Mr. ALLEN, of Salt Creek Valley, who advertises hedge plants and nursery stock elsewhere, is a thoroughly reliable man. Parties from a distance dealing with him may be assured of fair treatment.

COTTON SEED.

From a letter of E. S. NICCOLLS, President of the State Board of Agriculture, to the Garnett Plain-dealer, we learn that the State Board is making arrangements to supply those farmers with seed who propose to test the growing of cotton in Kansas this season.

This is all that is needed to insure a considerable

breadth of cotton planted, and those desirous of obtaining seed can apply to the Secretary at Topeka. The article in our last issue from our Mississippi correspondent will give those unacquainted with it some idea as to its cultivation.

CROSS BREEDING.

Our correspondent, Mr. SPONABLE, of Gardner, Kansas, comes back with the original question, "Will it do to cross Berkshires on Poland-Chinas?" If we get his meaning rightly, it is, Can he make this cross, and then breed both male and female from this cross, without again going back to either of the parent breeds? If this is his meaning, we would advise against it, if the purpose be to raise hogs for market.

The first cross is all we want for a market hog. In this cross we have a blending of the two breeds. If we breed this cross to the Berkshire again, we only approach the type of the latter, losing in so much the points made by our first cross.

What do we gain by a first cross with these two breeds? We gain a somewhat larger hog than the Berkshire, and with a greater eating capacity. We gain a smoother and a heavier hammed hog than the Poland-China, with earlier maturing. These are the chief points, if the sire is Berkshire and the dam Poland-China, which is the way the cross should always be made.

If Mr. SPONABLE chooses to undertake the task of establishing a new breed—and none know better than he what such a task means—we know of no better stock to experiment with than the two under consideration.

HEREFORD CATTLE.

We extract the following item from the report of the Blue Valley Farmers' Club, as we find it in the Times:

The discussion was opened by Mr. Woodard, who read several articles from the National Live Stock Journal, to show how Shorthorn cattle are pampered for the market. He had ten years' experience with Shorthorns, in Ohio; and he now has a herd of Herefords, which he considers superior to the Shorthorns, both for beef and milking qualities. One of his cows was giving twenty-five quarts of milk per day, two months after calving. One gallon of the milk of the Hereford cow will make twice as much butter as one gallon of milk from the Shorthorn cow. This he knew by experience. Hereford cattle of three years of age could be made to weigh more than 1,800 pounds, and did not consume as much feed as the Shorthorns.

Mr. Brown had seen the herd of Hereford cattle on the farm of Mr. Aldrich, which were as fine as any he had ever seen anywhere.

COST OF GROWING TREES.

We have received from the Illinois Industrial University the result of several experiments; among others, a statement of the cost of growing different kinds of forest trees. The following is the result, which we may say includes the cost of trees, planting and cultivating one acre of each:

Table with 2 columns: Tree Type and Cost. Includes Ash Green, Ash White, Catalpa, Elm White, Chestnut, European Larch, White Maple, Osage Orange, Austrian Pine, Scotch Pine, White Walnut, White Willow, White Pine, Norway Spruce.

DECISION IN THE CHICAGO & ALTON R. R. CASE.

Below we present the substance of the decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois, in which the decision rendered against the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company in the lower Court is reversed. It is taken from the Prairie Farmer, and we should examine it well, that in the action that will be taken upon this subject at no very distant day in Kansas we may not be misled in like manner.

The decision of Judge TIPTON against the Railroad Company is reversed by the Supreme Court, on ground more technical than otherwise. The Court quotes the provision of the Constitution on which

the present regulating Railway Act is based, as follows:

The General Assembly shall pass laws to correct abuses and prevent unjust discrimination and extortion in the rate of freight and passenger tariffs on the different roads in this State, and enforce such laws by adequate penalties, to the extent, if necessary for that purpose, of forfeiture of their property and franchises.—Art. XI., Sec. 15.

The substance of the first section of the Act under consideration is, that no Railroad Company in this State shall charge a larger compensation for the transportation of freight over any distance than it is charging at the same time, for freight of the same class, over a less distance, nor shall it charge the same amount that it charges over a less distance. Another clause of the same section provides that no railroad Company in this State shall charge a larger compensation for freight over any portion of its road, than is charged for freight of the same class over any other portion of equal length.

The Court argues that the discrimination forbidden by the common law, and by the constitutional enactment in accordance therewith, is against unjust discrimination, while the present law is against all discriminations, whether they can be shown to be unjust or not. The decision says:

This provision, expressly directing the Legislature to pass laws to prevent unjust discrimination, is a recognition of the palpable fact that there may be discriminations which are not unjust, and by implication it restrains the power of the Legislature to a prohibition of those which are unjust. This was undoubtedly the object of the Legislature in passing the existing law. This is clearly shown by its title. But the act itself goes further. It forbids any discrimination whatever, under any circumstances whatever, and whether just or unjust, in the charges for transporting the same classes of freight over equal distances, even though moving in opposite directions, and does not permit the companies to show that the discrimination is not unjust. The mere proof of the discrimination makes out a case against the railroad companies, which they are not allowed to meet by evidence showing the reason or propriety of the discrimination, and then upon this sort of ex parte trial imposes as a penalty for the offense a forfeiture of the franchise, which often would be equivalent to a fine of millions of dollars. The object of the law is commendable, but such a proceeding, to be followed by such a penalty for the first offense, cannot be sustained. It could only have been authorized through the inadvertence of the Legislature. The law as it now stands makes an offense out of an act which might be shown not to be an offense, but an exercise of a wise discretion really beneficial to the people of the State; and while debarring the companies from all right of explanation, confiscates their franchises upon the first conviction. The Legislature cannot raise a conclusive presumption of guilt against a natural person from any act that may be innocent in itself, taking from him the privilege of showing the actual innocence or propriety of the act, and confiscating his property as a penalty for the supposed offense. Those provisions of our Constitution which forbid the deprivation of life, liberty or property, except by due process of law, and which guarantee the right of trial by jury "as heretofore enjoyed," and the right in all criminal prosecutions to appear and defend in person and by counsel, would all be violated by such a law. These provisions, it is true, are designed to apply only to natural persons, but artificial persons must be permitted to invoke the spirit of justice which prompted them, so far as may be necessary to protect their property and franchises against the operation of a law that substantially condemns without a trial.

The opinion of the Court is, that while the Legislature has an unquestionable power to prohibit unjust discrimination in railroad freights, no prosecution can be maintained under the existing act until amended, because it does not prohibit unjust discriminations merely, but discrimination of any character, and because it does not allow the companies to explain the reason of the discrimination, but forfeits their franchise upon an arbitrary and conclusive presumption of guilt, to be drawn from the truth of an act that might be shown to be perfectly innocent. In these particulars the existing act violates the spirit of the Constitution.

The judgment of the Circuit Court, ousting the appellant of its franchises, must therefore be reversed. Judgment reversed.

The Court advises further, that before this act can be enforced it must be so amended as to correspond with the requirements of the Constitution, by

directing its prohibition against unjust discriminations.

It will be seen that the Court does not question the power of the State to regulate railway freight charges. It further promulgates some satisfactory words upon the subject of charging a lower rate of freight at places where there are competing lines of railway. As it is at these points that most of the discriminations exist, the remarks of the Supreme Court are of great moment to the people. Let us quote again from this decision:

If a farmer, living three miles from the Springfield station, upon this Company's road, is charged fifteen cents per bushel for shipping his corn to Chicago, is it just that the farmer living twenty miles nearer Chicago should be charged a higher sum? Certainly not, unless the Railroad Company can show a peculiar state of affairs to justify the discrimination; and this must be something more than the mere fact that there are competing lines at one point, and not at the other. The discrimination, in such a case, is as much a discrimination between individuals as it would be in reference to two persons living in the same locality, and shipping at the same station, unless, as before stated, a satisfactory reason can be given for discrimination between the points of shipment; and such a reason, in the case supposed, is not very easy to conceive.

The only issue to be made under a law properly framed would be, whether there was an unjust discrimination or not. If on the trial of such an issue the prosecution proves a permanently established discrimination, like that disclosed by the present record, and the Company can show no other reason for it than the existence of a competing line at the favored points, the defense must be held unsatisfactory, notwithstanding witnesses may testify that they believe, as a matter of theoretical opinion, that the rates to Lexington are reasonable. They can not be reasonable, and the discrimination must be unjust if the lesser rates for the greater distance have been established merely because the Company has ceased to exercise at that point a practical monopoly.

On the whole, we see no cause for discouragement in this decision. The law being unconstitutional, we are glad to know it at this early day. Let us now look to the Legislature for the amendments recommended, and let us have these amendments at once.

Now, the Supreme Court can do the State another good service, by taking up and deciding the passenger fare case brought against the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Just at this time, that is the most important case of the two, for the peace of the State is seriously threatened in various localities.

If amended constitutions and reconstructed courts are needed before this war is terminated in favor of Justice and Right, the people will have such amendments and such reconstructions.

INJURED GRAPE VINES.

The severity of the past Winter has occasioned much anxiety among fruit-growers; and the following letter from Mr. MURKIN to the Rural World calls particular attention to the grape vine. We shall be glad to receive items pertaining to this and other fruit matters, from our readers and correspondents:

I would call on my fellow-citizens to closely examine their grape vines. They will find, to their mournful surprise, that our prospects for the next grape-crop are very gloomy. It was just ten years ago that, by an extraordinary severe frost on new year's day, our vines were killed right down to the snow line; and the effect of the frosts in December and January last prove to be hardly less detrimental. I would caution my friends against using any bit of such vines as have remained above ground, for cions or cuttings, as very little of the last year's growth is really sound. The Catawba, and other vines of a more porous wood, are dead to the ground; others lost their main buds, and show a sign of life in one or both of the secondary eyes, and the wood itself in most of them has the appearance or paleness of death.

After removing the outer bark of the last year's canes, the denuded stem, if sound, will be of a bright light green color; while the injured wood and cambium shows a dirty hue, between gray, yellow and brown. The Cynthians has stood the cold spells better than the Norton; the Concord better than the Martha and all Rogers' and Arnold's hybrids; my Louisiana seedlings and the Neosho better than any of all the others. Upon the whole, I

count on a very scanty crop, except from regularly covered vines.

The failure, lamentable as it is, ought not to operate as a discouragement. Complete or partial failures will occur in most of the wine regions; indeed, more frequently in the most famous grape countries than with us—and we must try to do better next time. Those who cannot bear a disappointment had better root out their grape vines forthwith.

FR. MUENCH.

FLAXSEED AND CASTOR BEANS.

For the benefit of those who have been asking us questions pertaining to these two crops, we have compiled the following items from a pamphlet issued by the St. Louis Lead and Oil Company.

FLAXSEED.

A dry, rolling, moderately rich land, produces the best seed. The soil should be put in the best possible tilth, by plowing and harrowings, and the seed should be sown as soon in Spring as the land can be got in good condition, which is usually about the 1st of May in this latitude; but if sown earlier so much the better.

Sow broadcast, and cover with a brush in preference to a harrow. About one-half bushel per acre is the amount usually used, but thinner seeding will make thriftier plants and plumper seed. Some sow with barley, with satisfactory results.

Flax should be cut as soon as the bolls begin to turn brown, and while the stalk is yet green. If left standing too long, there will be a great loss of seed in harvesting. Farmers are usually well through harvesting Spring wheat before flax is ready to cut; and it ripens considerably later than Winter wheat.

MODE OF CUTTING.

Some farmers use a cradle, but a large majority a machine. From the number of reapers mentioned as working well, we are persuaded that almost all our standard machines can be used to advantage in cutting flax. When it is raised principally for the seed there is no necessity for binding it, but it may be raked off into gavels and lie until dry, when it is ready for threshing.

It may be threshed by the flail, or by most of the threshing machines throughout the country. One chief point in the profits of flax culture is to have the seed entirely clean. The average yield per acre of flaxseed may be placed at from ten to twelve bushels; while twenty bushels, and even more, are not uncommon. The straw will yield about a ton (rotted) per acre.

The cost of production is about the same as wheat, and is a much more certain crop. Perhaps the only thing to be said against this crop is, that it is very exhaustive to the land.

CASTOR BEANS.

Any good corn or wheat ground is good for this crop. One of the chief reasons for cultivating castor beans is, that it is one of the most fertilizing crops raised. In this respect it surpasses even clover (?).

Prepare the ground as for wheat. Lay off the rows five or six feet apart, and between every sixth and seventh row leave a space wide enough for a wagon to pass, to gather the crop. Before planting pour hot water over the seed, and let it stand twenty four hours. Drop eight or ten seeds to a hill, and after danger of cut-worms is past, thin to two plants.

Until the plants are about three feet high, they should be cultivated similar to corn.

The beans begin to ripen about the 1st of August, and the harvest must commence at once, or the beans will "pop out" of the pods, and be wasted. The entire seed-pods are cut off, and the harvest continues till frost comes.

A dry yard should be made near the field, sloping to the south. Plow, harrow and roll, or in some other way pack the ground firm and hard. Turn the pods occasionally, till all the beans are shelled out, when they are to be removed, and the ground cleared for the next load.

When rain is anticipated, the pods must be raked

together, and covered with straw or plank. The beans should be cleaned in a fanning mill, sacked, and set in a cool, dry place, until ready to market them.

When this crop is raised on a large scale, it will pay to erect a dry-house, to be heated with a large wood stove.

The yield is from fifteen to twenty-five bushels per acre; and good or bad cultivation may increase or diminish these amounts.

This is always a cash crop, and prices thus far have always been remunerative.

[Written for the Kansas Farmer.]

THE EVENING STAR.

BY SUSAN E. RAND.

The transient hours, so calmly bright,
Were flying fast away;
And lovingly, o'er vale and hill,
Came back the parting day.

With hectic flush, to bid good-bye
To earth, and then be gone,
Robed in the somber of the gray
It wore at early dawn.

It's gathering folds had plucked a star
From night, and set the gem
In golden beauty, on the blue
That fringed its distant hem.

There, bright and beautiful it shone
The twilight hour to grace;
And, day departing, night caught back
The star to its embrace.

And thus may life's last, fading hours,
That speed to death's dark night,
Be calmly beautiful and clear
In faith's unfolding light.

Lawrence, Kansas, February 26, 1873.

"Knitting and Talking."

EDITED BY ANN APPLESEED.

NARROWING.

Just now, after tax-paying time, and while the penalty upon non-tax payers has been extended, it seems very proper that our knitting has reached the narrowing. It is a pity that so many of our younger women and girls do not understand knitting—for any good occupation is a preventive of that terrible disease, gossip—but for the benefit of such we will explain that narrowing means taking two stitches together and knitting them as one. This process, you see, constantly diminishes your number and narrows your circle. You have doubtless had enough of narrowing of one kind this Winter.

"Money is tight," cry the Bulls and Bears of Wall Street, and that little pebble thrown into the public ocean breaks like a great tidal wave over the country, widening its ripples as it advances, and contrary to known laws, it increases in force the farther it gets from its center. By the time it reaches the frontier it means for John to sell the best cow to pay taxes, for Stephen to sell half his sheep to pay that back interest. It means, dreadful to think of, to borrow money and mortgage the home. It means in-doors for Mary Ann to go without the new shawl, for her to piece together flour sacks for sheets and tablecloths. It means for Jenny to turn or dye the old gown, and for Charlie to reverse his trowsers. It means for Father to knit his brows anxiously and to increase the wrinkles; for mother to grow paler and her hair to whiten faster; for both of them to lie awake far into the night and devise new plans to stop the narrowing. Ah! it is sad business, this narrowing, if we look at it in this light, but in our knitting it shapes the work, and gives to the outline that graceful curve which artists call the "line of beauty."

Is there any parallel to this in the narrowing work of life? Good people aver that the narrowing work cuts off the rough edges, tones down the high colors, humiliates the false pride and molds into forms of grace and beauty characters that else were harsh and unlovely. That the self-denial,

the self-forgetfulness, the anxiety which develops the character's hidden strength and resource develops nobility and goodness, where more freedom would have failed.

AROUND THE FIRE.

PRINCE THESEUS.

A long time ago, in the old city of Troezene, there lived a little boy named Theseus. His mother, Aethra, as good mothers now do, used to take Theseus into the woods, and while there, beside a great rock, she used to talk to him of his father, King Aegeus, of Athens. "When you can lift this rock and show me what is under it, you may go and see your father."

Theseus loved his mother dearly, but he thought it would be such a fine brave thing to be a man and go out alone by himself in the world, that he used very often to try a lift at the rock. At last when he was quite grown he was able to lift the rock, and under it he found a sword with a golden hilt and a pair of sandals. His mother with a good many tears put the sandals on his feet and girded on his sword, telling him they had been his father's, and to wear them bravely, she bade him good bye, and he started for Athens.

On his way he had many adventures with robbers and monsters, and cleared the country of them. One fellow named Procrustes kept a bed in his cavern and used to invite tired travelers to come in and take a nap. If they did so, and were too short for the bed, he would stretch them out by force; if too long, he lopped off their heads or feet, and laughed about it.

Theseus at last reached the gate of Athens, but his fame had traveled faster than he had, and he was met by some bad cousins who came near having him poisoned by their wicked mother, but King Aegeus happened to recognize his sword and sandals, and received him with joy.

Soon after, it happened to be time for Athens to send her seven young men and seven maidens to be devoured by the Minotaur at the island of Crete. Theseus said he would go also, and if he could not kill the monster he would die himself. So in a vessel with black sails they started on the sad voyage. When they neared Crete they were met at the harbor by Talus, the wonderful man of brass, who used to walk eighteen hundred miles in twenty-four hours around the island, and challenge every vessel that passed.

Minos, the bad king who kept the Minotaur, gave them all a poke in the ribs to see if they were fat enough, and then sent them all to prison, but his daughter Ariadne pitied them all, and at midnight she went and called for Theseus and took him to the labyrinth of Daedalus. This labyrinth was the queerest puzzle; if you took but a few steps from the door you would never find your way back. In the center of this labyrinth lived the terrible Minotaur. Ariadne gave Theseus one end of a silken string and said she would hold the other; then she bade him, if he was not afraid, to kill the Minotaur. After a curious journey, up stairs and down, under arches and over bridges, backwards and forwards, he found the Minotaur. What an ugly sight it was! With a horned head like a bull and yet waddling on his hind legs, he looked partly like a man. This dreadful creature, like bad people, had no society, and separated by his evil passions from all friends, he spent his time grumbling and roaring at everybody who came in his way. When he caught sight of the Prince he just lowered his horns and rushed at him, but Theseus missed him by a hair's breadth and one of the creature's horns broke short off against the stone wall. He bellowed so at this mishap that part of the labyrinth tumbled down. Then they fought sword to horn for a long time until Theseus caught the Minotaur off his guard and gave him a sword stroke on the neck that sent his bull head six yards from his body.

The moon now shone out brightly, and Theseus followed the silken cord back to Ariadne. He then

persuaded her to go with him to his kingdom, and after awakening and releasing his companions they set sail for Athens. In their joy at returning they forgot to change their black sails to bright ones which they promised King Aegens to do if they were successful. So the poor old king when he saw the black sails coming, supposed that Theseus was dead, and flung down his crown and scepter and threw himself into the sea. Theseus was now king. He sent for his mother, and by taking her advice became an excellent monarch.

VIOLETS—(VIOLA ODORATA).

Somewhere I have read of a visit a friend made to Charles Dickens. The friend remained quite late in the evening, and when about to depart the great author proposed to accompany him across the moor; and while walking and talking Dickens suddenly dropped on the ground, and with outstretched arms cried out to his friend, "Down on your knees, man—here are violets, violets!" He could not see the flowers, but the delicate fragrance was a charm that brought this man prone to the earth. In England this violet is as common as the blue scentless ones are with us.

Their cultivation in this country is quite simple, requiring only shade and moisture and some boards laid flat on the plants during the Winter months, and are easily raised from seed. All of our nurserymen keep this violet, and although handy, is not, for some reason, often seen in our gardens. It is really a creeping plant, sending out branches from the main stem and roots, and in this way, in favorable, shaded nooks, making quite a bed. Its little white blossoms are among the first out in the Spring, and I have often wondered when in the garden what it was that filled the air with such a faint, just discernible plum-like fragrance, and then call to mind this violet, the flowers being almost hidden beneath the green leaves.

The wild blue ones are in some localities around here, found in great profusion, really making the grass look blue; and the sight of them makes old and pleasant recollections, for what man or woman is there who has not again and again in childhood sat on the grass with some child friend—each with a handful of violets—and played "fighting roosters?" each one trying to hook off the blossoms from the stem held by his neighbor.

Every child has to try this inevitable battle of the violets, as surely as he has to be initiated into the mysteries of making pale green ringlets out of dandelion stems, hunting four-leaved clovers and testing each other's love for butter by holding under the chin a golden yellow buttercup—the bright metallic reflection, declaring beyond a doubt that the owner of the chin does love butter.

The pansy (*Viola tricolor*) has larger and finer flowers than any other variety of this family, and is more largely cultivated—but we will talk about the pansy next time. "HARRIET."

HOME HINTS.

GOOD SOCIETY.—Your daughters are in good society when they are with girls who are sweet and pure and true-hearted; who are not vain or frivolous; who think of something besides dress, or flirting, or marriage, and between whom and their parents there is confidence.

Good society for your boys is the company of boys who are honest and straightforward, who use no bad or vulgar words, who are not anxious to try the taste of tobacco or the ways of the street, and are not in a hurry to be men. Much of the so called good society is a little glitter and show over the very dregs of life.

CLEAN LINEN collars and cuffs in abundance define the lady better than imitation laces.

THE table, if laid neatly, whether company is expected or not, will assist as flowers and music do, in the unconscious refinement of your children.

BE at much pains to have your children's feet and legs warm through these changeable days.

If the children have headaches, look to the air of the school-room and bed-room.

THE Queen of Denmark wears calico dresses in public, by way of rebuking extravagance in dress.

A DUST cap, to cover the head while sweeping, may be made of white striped or pink or blue cambric. Cut a round piece half a yard across the center. Edge with a narrow hem stitch a tape an inch from the edge, for a casing. Draw in an elastic to form a ruffle around the edge. Add a hemmed bow over the forehead.

TO RE-COLOR ALPACA.—Take two ounces of extract of logwood and one ounce of blue vitriol; put each separately in six quarts of water, the logwood in an iron vessel, the vitriol in brass. Bring both to a boiling heat; dip the cloth into the vitriol water first, then into the logwood water, then alternately from one to the other till it has been dipped in each three times. Then dry and wash in strong suds; rinse in soft cold water, and press when damp.

CHEAP FRAMES.—Cut strips of pasteboard an inch wide the desired length. Clip the ends to a point and cover with nice black cloth or bronze paper. Lap the ends at the corners and fasten with a white or gilt button. Bind your picture and glass with gummed paper and glue on the frame.

FASHIONS.

The **fichu collar** is much worn. It is a bias band of velvet, satin, crape, tarleton or swiss muslin or lace, lined with stiff foundation, trimmed or untrimmed, and slightly shaped to pass over the bust. It passes around the back just below the collar and laps in front and is fastened just above the belt, where it is held by hooks and loops. A lace fichu of black or white lined with a bright silk, will render a black or dark dress quite dressy for evening.

Dresses are all made to hang very narrow and close in the front and at the sides, being very full at the back.

Dolmans or wraps for the Spring will have extremely long side pieces or sleeves, even reaching to the knee. Worsted and silk laces will trim them. They will be made of soft summer cloth, of olive tints, gray, brown and black cashmere and camel's hair.

Sailor suits for Spring and seaside will be made for girls of twilled washing flannel, pink, creamy white or navy blue; trimmed with wide white braid or bias cashmere bands. Drawers to match will be worn sometimes.

SPRING FASHIONS.

All the quaint colors of the Winter will be found in the Spring goods, but in lighter, more delicate shades—mere shadows of shades. Solid colors will prevail in heavy silks. Cheap silk will be in pin stripes and in broken stripes, one wide and the next narrow and irregular clusters.

Polka dots promise to be very popular in all Spring goods below the grades of silk. Foulards are coming into favor in all the new shades. The serge foulard with the heavy twill are serviceable, but those of plain surface fray in wearing.

Mousseline de Laines fine and closely woven and all wool, reversible twenty-six inches wide and in the new shades are found.

Satin jean is now seen of light quality, but glossy as satin in solid colors of light and dark hue with polka spots. These goods wash beautifully, and have worn with our children beyond precedent. **Percales** have dark instead of light grounds.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TREES ON THE PLAINS.

BY R. S. ELLIOTT.

EDITOR FARMER: Here at Bosland, March 8th, the tree buds are swelling. Ailantus trees, two years old last year, are alive to the tips. The same

at Ellis, three hundred miles by rail west of Leavenworth. We are at work, plowing, transplanting trees, &c. I have a fine lot of box elders to transplant, grown from seed 1872; seed bought in Illinois. Last season I wrote to the papers, advising the farmers of Kansas to gather seeds of ash and box elder along the rivers, plant in the Fall if they could, or keep over till Spring. Perhaps not one of them did this, but I did it myself. I planted several acres of each—ash and box elder—last Fall, and the seeds are to all appearance preparing to grow; and will produce 20,000 trees. [If the Arbor Day bill passed, they had better rule me out next year, or I shall take the premium.] My seeds of ash and box elder, kept over, have been in sacks in the corner of my office (a cool corner) all Winter. They seem to be all right, and will be planted in a few days. At Ellis I have several thousand trees to transplant, grown from seed last year—ailantus, box elder, locust, honey locust and Osage orange. I shall plant ash seed there (from Smoky trees) this Spring. Ailantus is entirely available to Ellis, but rather tender at the west line of the State, where ash, box elder, catalpa, elm, honey locust and Osage orange are better trees.

JOSEPH SAVAGE passed here to-day, and was surprised to find our peach trees all alive at the tips, and uninjured. He did not understand it, and neither do I, when the trees, as he says, are killed about Lawrence.

Bosland, Kansas, March 8th, 1873.

FERNS AND FERN-HUNTING.—No. IV.

BY J. W.

ANTIGRAMMA RHIZOPHYLLA.

EDITOR FARMER: Having made you acquainted with the rattlesnake fern, let us emerge from our hot quarters in the hazel thicket, and retrace our steps toward the opening by which we entered the woods. But before stepping on to the railroad track, let me call your attention to the funniest little fern you ever saw. There used to be quite a little colony of them, scattered along the mossy ledges that cropped out along the bank of the river at this point; but in making the railroad bed the greater part have been swept away by the merciless mattock of Western improvement; and now, this little nest, and a few others farther down the road, are all that I know of in this neighborhood. I have no doubt, however, that a diligent search in similar localities, between here and Wyandotte, would bring to light some other growing settlements of this irrepressible little pedestrian; for I allude to the *Antigramma rhizophylla*, or walking fern, so called from the fact that sometimes its fronds fall backward, and, penetrating the moss or tiny apertures of the rocks, take root and form new plants; thus taking an annual step in their slow but steady march along the surface of the venerable calcareous rocks that are usually selected for their Summer promenades.

In the year 1680 this curious little plant was first introduced into England, being the third foreign fern ever brought into that country. In 1699 it was followed by the *Onoclea sensibilis* (of which, by and by, I shall have something to say); so that, among the few Kansas ferns on our list, we happen to have the four species that, for about three quarters of a century, comprised the entire collection of foreign ferns cultivated in England: to-day, there are, probably, not less than nine hundred exotic species to be found in Kew, and other British gardens.

The *Antigramma rhizophylla* is not, strictly speaking, a rare fern, nor can it be said to be common. On the banks of the Kansas river, near Tiblow; on the banks of the Ohio, and farther East, I have frequently found it in rocky woods, imbedded in the mossy base of some hoary old lichen-covered boulder, or spreading itself, step by step, along the shelving rocks, with here and there a pretty little tuft peeping out from the crevices and shady corners. It is a tufted evergreen fern, with simple

(undivided) fronds, five to six inches long; margin entire, sometimes sub-crenate, or slightly notched near the base, which is cordate (heart-shaped), stipes short. The fronds are remarkable for their slender, attenuated appearance, tapering off and terminating in a narrow thread-like apex; and are grouped into little star-like tufts, radiating from a common center. When young, the fronds are procumbent; but when mature they become more erect, and sometimes fall backward, their long, tapering points reaching the earth, where they soon give out rootlets, which in due time produce new plants, and thus, in a manner known to no other American fern, reproduce themselves *ad infinitum*.

The Greek scholar will readily understand why the specific name *Rhizophilla* has been given to this leaf that takes root; but the generic name, *Antigramma*, may not be so apparent. It owes this name, I believe, to one of the most eminent cryptogamists of the age, Mr. John Smith, for many years Curator of Kew Garden, and from whose writings I have gleaned some of the information I am now trying to impart in these articles. *Anti*, opposite, and *gramma*, a line, or writing, was suggested by the arrangement of the lines, or oval-oblong sori, which, although somewhat scattering, are usually found opposite each other, with linear indusia, the free margins of which connive, or come together; the sori ripening in July, and the rather dull green fronds retaining their verdure through the coldest Winter.

You will find no difficulty in cultivating this pretty little plant, as it requires scarcely any attention after it has been fairly established. Give it a place in some sheltered nook of a rockery, for which it is admirably adapted, and you will find it a continual source of interest, and a pleasing contrast to the more stately *filices* that surround and overshadow it.

One more fern, and this, our first fern-hunt, will be over. Let us walk a little farther up the track, on our way home, and I will show it to you. Before the railroad folks had run an iron path through my fern patch, several crumbling calcareous rocks that have become detached from those higher up the bluff, lay scattered along where we are now walking. One day, on examining them, I found a fern that I had never seen before, growing in the dry crevices and scanty soil of those old weather-beaten fragments. I found it to be the

PELLAE ATROPURPURIA, OR ROCK BRAKE.
And if I am not mistaken, we will find some on the rock just before us. Yes! there they are—the grayish-green fronds of this year springing up among the darker-hued and partially decayed fronds of last Summer. At first sight it is not particularly attractive; and yet, like all ferns, it has its interesting features. In keeping with its chosen habitat, it has a hard, dry, rigid look, singularly in contrast with the lithic, flexible beauty of most ferns.

Its generic name, *Pellaea* (*pellos*, dark-colored), is derived from the dusky color of the fronds; and its specific name, *Atropurpuria*, from its dark purple, polished stipes. The fronds are from six to nine inches high, and vary considerably, the young fronds of four or five inches being pinnate, with from three to five pairs of opposite pinnae, oblong or oval-shaped—the terminal pinna longer than the others. On the older fronds the lower three or four pairs of pinnae are bi-pinnate, assuming a *hastate* or halbert-shaped appearance; on the fertile fronds the divisions are linear, with a linearly continuous indusium running along the margin, which, in June or July, opens and shows a compound continuous sorus, composed of numerous minute round sori.

This is rather a rare fern. I have found it upon the banks of the Kansas river, and just below Paola, in the rocky woods sloping toward the creek, on the right hand side of the Fort Scott road.

This fern will thrive well on a rockery, provided you give it a dry, elevated position, where the

moisture will not be sufficient to injure the roots.

And now, if you please, we will return to Leavenworth; and, if you have found this first imaginative fern-hunt at all interesting, I will be glad to have you go with me next time as far as Connor's Station, and I will show you two or three more of the species *Titicum*; but, in order to point out the form and position of the sori (which is sometimes very important in classifying ferns), we will, on that occasion, suppose it to be the month of July, that being the month in which the sporangia most generally mature, and the best time to collect specimens for your herbarium; although I would recommend you to procure, if possible, quadruple specimens—one without, another with, the indusium formed, a third with it opening, and still another showing the masses of ripe sori shedding their millions of minute spores (if you only want a single specimen the third stage is the best); and by arranging them together you can study their gradual development, the pleasure of which would be greatly enhanced by procuring an ordinary botanical microscope, without which you cannot properly appreciate the wonderful beauty and divine wisdom exhibited in the peculiar arrangement of the reproductive organs of these flowerless plants.

GOSSIP ABOUT FRUIT-GROWING.

BY J. K. HUDSON.

EDITOR FARMER: We are trying to grow some fruit. Six years ago we commenced grubbing out Hillside. Our ambition was to be a pomologist, and it is yet, for that matter. We have discovered, however, that theories are easily overcome, but the practical details of fruit-growing, with a limited capital, is quite a different thing. We looked up on THOMAS, WARDER, FULLER, and all we could find on Grape Culture, looked up the prize essays, &c., of the Department of Agriculture Reports, Agricultural papers, and our enthusiasm was of the highest character. Two or three tree peddlers, representing Eastern nurseries, found us in this condition, and straightway booked us for considerable orders. Dr. GRANT, of Iona and Israella fame, had convinced us that bones, manure and deep trenching for grapes was the thing.

We remember how the natives of this vicinity (they were a cross between Ingalls catfish aristocrat, and the Shawnee Indian) looked on our operations when planting our first acre of grapevines. They expressed their opinions very freely, and in a dialect strong and pointed, if not elegant, of a man who would haul bones and manure four miles and then dig a hole as big as a cellar just to fill up with trash, all for the purpose of planting a six-inch vine. It was almost beyond belief, and the subscriber was at once put down as lacking somewhere. It is a fortunate thing for us financially that not more than one acre was attempted. Just how much that acre cost is a secret, which the good reader will pardon us for not divulging. Before the next season for planting had arrived, Dr. GRANT had lost his influence over us, and we, more rationally, were satisfied with plowing deeply twice, and planted an acre for about the cost of planting one vine the year before; and the same with the next two acres the following year. There is some trouble and expense in getting a good vineyard started, but nothing planted on Hillside has given so much satisfaction as our vineyard.

To return, however, to the beginning. We desired a variety of fruit. In apples, we wanted many kinds, some to try, some, the books said, we must have, some, the papers said, to be sure to get; and so it was with plums, and pears and peaches. Much of the stock was dry and dead when it arrived, much died before the season was over. The next peddler was treated with more caution. His stock was some better. He dwelt upon the beauty and necessity of dwarf trees upon a new farm. How soon they would come into bearing, and how easy it was to induce them to

become standard trees at our pleasure. We bought dwarf trees. From fifty dollars worth of trees we have had three pears. Dwarf trees may be an important part of every nurseryman's stock, but we hope he will not mention the fact when he visits us. It is a tender subject.

We bought ornamental plants, and still continue to buy evergreens as regularly as April comes. Our Prairie Queen rose, from two peddlers, failed to have the habit and style of a queen. The evergreens will die, and many of the shrubs prove to be worthless; but as horticulturists, it will never do to stop planting. Like systematic business men, we had figured up the cost of our fruit in detail before we began to plant, and we will acknowledge to having made the most encouraging figures of the future profits. Beginning with the second year from planting, we had the vineyard and small fruits giving us a handsome revenue. Much transpired to double and quadruple our estimates of cost, and alas for human expectations, the other side of the ledger has few entries compared to the many we anticipated. The irrepressible tree peddler continues to make his periodical visits with his little picture book and satchel, but he no longer finds a victim in this vicinity.

We are not noting down this little experience to ask the wise saws of professional horticulturists, who, like other good people, are blessed with a better hindsight than foresight. We write for any who have not gone through this sort of experience, to say to them to go into fruit growing by first making up their minds that there are no extraordinary profits in it, but like any other legitimate business, when learned and well followed will yield as much profit as any other branch of the farm, and on an average, no more. The unusual yield of some special crop, and the consequent large profits, goes the rounds of the press, and men rush in to the production of the same to secure the large reward, which usually "is not there." For trees and vines and plants, go to your own nurseries; at least buy western grown trees of reliable men who can make good their warranty. The best plan is to go to the nursery and secure your own trees, and put them in the ground as soon as possible, giving good care and cultivation. Do not select too many varieties. There are a few reliable standard kinds in all sorts of fruit, which will do to depend upon. Experimental vineyards and orchards are expensive luxuries.

Hillside Farm, Wyandotte County, Kansas.

FROM SUMNER COUNTY.

BY B.

EDITOR FARMER: As Spring opens the tide of immigration to this part of the State begins to pour in. The price of our Osage Trust Lands is only \$1.25 per acre, with a soil unsurpassed and abundance of the best stone, water and timber for firewood and stock shelter. Having traveled over a number of States besides Kansas, we can truly say there are few sections of country combining more advantages than this. Yet, the outlook for farmers at present is not bright. Prices of pork, beef and corn rule very low, and we cannot compete with those nearer market. Is there a remedy?

Actual experiment the last two years demonstrates that cotton can be successfully raised here, unless those two years have been exceptions. If we can become a cotton as well as a corn raising people, our future is assured. A number of Southern planters are settling here, and the cotton question will be thoroughly tested this season.

Peanut raising is receiving attention, and is as sure a crop as corn or potatoes.

Flax and hemp are good paying crops, and will doubtless do well on our soil.

If sumac raising was engaged in, and a tannery started in this region of raw hides, it would be a paying business. We are paying dearly for ship-

ping hides East and leather back, and true economy would dictate that we supply the East with finished leather, and open a market for our produce that will not bear shipping at our own doors.

This brings to mind the question, Why must Kansas buy all her agricultural implements from the East? A query that has been put a hundred times before. By reports from various Farmers' Clubs it is seen that when proper steps are taken they can buy machines at 10 to 20 per cent. discount. Why cannot we go a step farther in Kansas, and form a co-operative company for their manufacture? The Keystone Corn Planter costs here \$65. Actual cost of manufacture is said to be not over \$20. Mowers cost \$110, actual cost \$40 to \$50. Other implements in the same ratio. We commend this subject to the Farmers' Union of Douglas county. In the Eastern part of our State there is plenty of good timber and all the facilities for manufacturing, and we of the West will gladly pay a fair profit for implements. It is said that on every hand the farmer is taken advantage of. True, but complaints are not remedies, and farmers must unite as do other trades and professions, for self-protection.

We need better railway facilities in this part of the State. Several roads are contemplated, but none in actual progress, and we do not feel like waiting many months. Lands for the landless sounds well, but if half this land was given to a railway through the southern tier of counties, the other half would to-day be worth twice what the whole is, and no better disposition can be made of the lands west of this county to the State line than to give half of them to a responsible company to construct and operate a road to the State line within a year.

Harper county has excellent soil and splendid water, but no timber, and remains entirely unsettled on this account; while the pioneers are squatting on the timber belts of Medicine Lodge and Cimmaron. Could a railroad reach us from the coal fields of Labette all this prairie country would soon support a dense population. Without a railway its settlement is next to impossible, unless coal beds should be discovered here (that is, in Harper county).

Barbour county has plenty of iron ore, and many strong indications of lead. South of Barbour, in the Territory, lie extensive deposits of salt. Southern Kansas is rich in minerals, but it will take time and capital to make them available.

A grist mill is loudly called for here. With tens of thousands of bushels of corn, we have no mills nearer than Arkansas City and Winfield, in Cowley county. There are several good water powers in the county; one at Oxford on the Arkansas river, is very valuable.

Cattle have done well here this Winter, very few having died. Our horned stock is mostly Texan, which is being improved by breeding to domestic animals. Our people are alive to internal improvements. A fine bridge spans the Arkansas river at Oxford, and good school-houses are being built all over the county. Those in want of cheap homes in a good community, those who want to engage in stock raising or manufactures, come to Sumner county.

Oxford, Sumner County, Kansas.

BERKSHIRES AGAIN.

BY J. W. SPONABLE.

EDITOR FARMER: I fear that your correspondent, J. K. HUDSON, did not understand my inquiries, as I failed to make my question. You spoke, I think, in December 1872, of the crossing of Berkshires and Polands.

I want to know from actual trial if Berkshires can be crossed on Poland-China hogs, and what will be the result the first, second and third times? I think it important information, to me at least. If the answer is satisfactory in the affirmative, I want to breed about forty sows to Berkshires; if

negative, vice versa. Mr. HUDSON has answered as to "razorbacks," and perhaps as to Chesters, &c. Mr. HUDSON's theory of breeding is correct, as I understand it. But history leads us to believe that crosses may not result as you wish. That is, one kind of cross makes a superior animal; a different one might and often does make an inferior animal. All had good treatment. Again, Mr. HUDSON is not breeding crosses, but pure Berkshires. Still, he may be able to answer my question, but his article on page 55, February 15, '73, is no answer. Again, I see on page 71, March 1st, '73, an attempt to answer; but I fail to see even an allusion to my question. I thank A. A. STEWART for doing more than "smile." Smiling is a good thing, but it does not always answer important questions.

I wish farmers would throw off the habit of nodding and smiling at questions that appear very simple and ridiculous to them. If you can answer the question fair and square without theory, do so in as few words as possible and without delay. It is now near two months since I asked a question that may seem to those that are posted to be very ridiculous. One man says, "Why, he might know without trying. That cross won't do," and smiles to his son and hired man.

Another smiles, and says to a near neighbor, "I guess that man that says Berks and Polands won't cross a leetle the best of any breeds, must be a darned fool." Have the questions been answered? No one has said a Berk is not a good hog—all agree that they are a very good hog. No one has said they would not improve scrub hogs. My man calls razor-backs first, second and third row hogs. He determines the number by seeing them reach through the fence and dig up the third row of potatoes. Still, there are thousands of them produced and sent to the market, and the farmers that "smile" and do nothing more, are to blame.

Gardner, Kansas, March 3, 1873.

WINE MAKING.

BY WILLIAM BRYMAN.

EDITOR FARMER: With my subscription for this year I wrote a few lines to you, in regard to wine making, wishing you would give wine making a small corner in your edition of THE FARMER this year; but as I have seen nothing of it in any of the numbers so far issued, I thought you might have overlooked it, and would take the liberty to jog your memory again with a few lines.

Wine making is rapidly becoming a large branch of industry among the farmers of this State, and no doubt a few experiments of some of our Kansas wine manufacturers would be read with great interest, and many a new beginner would largely profit by hints given in this way.

Now, dear Sir, I will leave it to your consideration, whether it would be of any advantage to the wine growers or not.

In one of the preceding numbers I saw an article on horses overreaching, that may be a good preventive for this bad practice; but it can be done away with by simply leaving the hind parts of the hind shoes extended out behind the foot about 1½ or 1¾ inches, and leave long corks on same. It will catch in the ground before the front part can touch, and so draw the toe of the foot down before it reaches the fore foot.

Fearing that my lines may take too much space, please excuse me for this time.

Pleasant View Farm, Wamego, Kansas.

SOUTHERN KANSAS IMPROVING RAPIDLY.

BY S. K.

EDITOR FARMER: In the past two years whole farms have been fenced and broken, cultivated and improved, in a manner that would astonish those who never saw it. Crops have been bountiful, and the farmers' prospects are brightening continually. An immense amount of wheat was sown last Fall, or rather drilled in, in well prepared soil; and the large body of snow has preserved it remarkably

during the Winter. In fact, I have not seen a single piece that has winter-killed in the least.

In addition to the crop sown last Fall, our farmers intend putting in a good deal of Spring wheat, but this is done more as an experiment than with an expectation of profit.

We have had no chinch-bugs or grasshoppers here yet, to do us any damage, as in some portions of the State.

But what we surpass in, is our advantages as a stock-raising country. In this respect Southern Kansas is nearly equal to Texas. Our Winters generally are comparatively light, with scarcely snow enough to prevent cattle from obtaining their own living. Our farmers are taking advantage of our climate, and already quite a number have large herds, which are being increased in number every year by their own increase. Nor is it the long-horned Texan, the scrubby Cherokee, or the sluggish Arkansas; but to a great extent imported stock, or crosses between an imported and native.

Attention is being directed, too, to a considerable extent, to the raising of hogs and sheep; more especially the former, they being considered a necessity with cattle. Already a packing house has been established, of sufficient proportions to handle the present surplus.

Thayer, Kansas, February 26th, 1873.

ELSINORE FARMERS' CLUB.

BY "ANON."

EDITOR FARMER: I was requested to forward to you, for publication in your valuable paper, the proceedings of the Elsinore Township Farmers' Club, which was organized February 26, 1873, and is now in good working order, with the following officers at its head for one year:

W. H. Green, President; J. M. Spawr, Vice-President; H. M. Pettingill, Secretary; G. H. Spaulding, Treasurer. All are live, energetic farmers, who will give life and animation to anything with which they may be associated. So, you may expect to hear from this section once in a while.

The object of this Club is stated in its Constitution to be, to promote the social, moral, intellectual and pecuniary interests of its members, which number sixteen at present; but we hope within two months to make the number three times as large. Our Club will probably be represented at Topeka, March 26th, as we are all anxious to see something done at once toward helping the farmers, as a class. We surely have as good a right to protect ourselves as any other class of men; and I hope the farmers will unite in selecting men only who will look after our interests, as well as railroad monopolies in our Legislature, and will enact just laws for our benefit, and regulate railroad tariffs throughout the land. Farmers have slept long enough already. Let them unite at once, and show their strength, and demand their rights.

Elsinore, Allen County, Kansas.

NORTH AMERICAN FERNS.

BY WILLIAM EDWARDS.

EDITOR FARMER: I was pleased to receive the 15th of February number of THE KANSAS FARMER, and among the many articles of interest, to find one upon "Ferns," by my friend Mr. WILSON. It would be of great interest to the lovers of this interesting class of plants, in the New England States, if he would furnish a complete list of the ferns of Kansas, of which little is now known.

There is certainly one rare and beautiful fern growing in your State, of which my herbarium contains a specimen, and for which I would gladly exchange other rare ferns for a stock of duplicates. It is *Notholana dealbata*; fronds exceedingly delicate, three to four inches high, triangular in outline, dark green outside, white silvery underneath, stalks black and very brittle when dried.

If the readers of your paper would like to see a list of the New England ferns, I will gladly furnish it.

South Natick, Massachusetts.

The Kansas Farmer

WHAT DO FARMERS NEED?

Farmers are an abused class of men. Certainly. That is an admitted fact. It is beyond the pale of argument. But who is it that is abusing them? What are the ills they complain of? These two questions have not been answered satisfactorily. One farmer says it is the railroads; another, that it is thieves in office; another, that it is high taxes; a fourth, that there are too many consumers; a fifth thinks there are too many producers; a sixth says it is "rings"; a seventh, middlemen; the eighth, a lack of capital; the ninth, protection to manufactures and none to agricultural products; a tenth thinks it is too much grain and not enough cattle, sheep and hogs. So we might go on indefinitely, giving bona fide excuses that we have heard offered to explain why and how the farmer was oppressed. In the last month we have asked hundreds of farmers how they expected to get relief from the ills of which they are now complaining, and the answers have been as various as the persons asked.

From this, we infer that farmers are not as yet agreed as to the remedy to be applied; indeed, are not agreed as to the ills complained of.

We have not in this article started out to flatter farmers, and if we speak some plain truths, we do it in no harsh or fault-finding spirit, but with the sole purpose of awakening thought among those who are too apt to let some one else think for them. Although none know better than we that among our practical working farmers there are a few, alas! too few, who are the peers of any in all that goes to make up the intelligent man, farmers, from the very nature of their employment, living as they do separate and apart from each other, have not the same community of feeling that we find among other occupations. We attribute many of the ills of which they are now complaining, to this cause. They need to be brought close together, to talk over their affairs, as does the merchant in his Board of Trade.

The Farmers' Clubs that have been and are being organized all over the country, will furnish this needed medium for the exchange of thought, and to these Clubs we look for very much of the benefit that is to accrue from organization. The farmers of the West have weighty matters to discuss and to act upon in the next two or three years, and we simply desire to urge the exercise of a wise discretion upon them. Let us do nothing hastily, but let all our actions be tempered with justice, prudence and wisdom.

As matters that should be discussed and acted upon at our coming Convention, none, perhaps, deserve or will attract more attention or elicit more argument than that of railroads. With this, as with other questions, there are two sides to it. Notwithstanding the extortionate charges of freight and passenger rates, what would our farm produce be worth without these channels of trade and commerce? We can only judge by what it was worth before the era of railroads. We have bought wheat, good, sound, plump wheat, at thirty seven and a half cents per bushel. Oats at eight and one-third, and pork at one and one-half cents per pound. It is true, that articles that the farmer had to purchase at that time were somewhat lower than now, but relatively, farm produce was from twenty-five to one hundred per cent. lower than it is to-day. With the advent of railroads, came better prices for farm produce. Old Kansans will say that was not the case here. Why was it not? Simply because the producing capacity of the Territory was far below the consuming capacity. Had Kansas had the population in 1856 that she has in 1873, even with no railroad west of the Mississippi river, does anybody believe that under ordinary circumstances corn would ever have sold for one dollar per bushel? Certainly

not. The fact that it did do so was not because there were no railroads here, but for the sole reason above stated.

But railroads charge too much for transporting our produce. This is unquestionably true. How are we to improve this? The answer is simple and the remedy of easy accomplishment, if farmers desire it. Elect men to office whom you know will legislate rationally in your interests, and who will enforce laws so made.

There can be no reasonable doubt that the right of " eminent domain " over these and other highways rests with the people. This being true, there can be no shadow of doubt that to the people belongs the right to make the laws that shall govern them. These laws, however, to be effective, must be based upon reason and " common law " principles. Hence, the farmer in studying this subject, should for the moment divest himself of the fact that he is an interested party, and judge the case upon its merits alone. It does little good to elect a narrow-minded, selfish man to the Legislature, though he be honest, who in his zeal for his constituents votes steadily against the railroads, regardless of every principle of justice or common law. That kind of legislation cannot stand, because it is founded upon injustice. We must protect the rights of the people, but we must not ignore the rights of railroads.

But here comes in one of the chief difficulties in the way of an easy solution of the question of railroad and other legislation, and explains our action in endeavoring to have a State Farmers' Convention called.

As it stands now, farmers have no easy means of communicating with each other—they have no common medium. In the matter of elections to office, we have voted for our party rather than for men. That parties have subserved a good purpose, and may again, we do not deny; but we now have personal interests that are higher than party, and our action should be directed to electing honest, capable, intelligent men, rather than partisans. But we must first know what we expect or want to accomplish. To do this, we must have organization. This organization should be Township Clubs, that, while acting independently, should come together once a year, perhaps oftener under certain circumstances, in a delegate State Convention. Ordinarily, this Convention should meet a month or so prior to the Fall elections. Let this Convention carefully consider what legislation is needed to protect the Agricultural interests of the State, and then let the delegates go home, report to their brother farmers the laws needed to be passed or repealed, and then pledge every candidate *in writing* to support your measures. In some counties it may be necessary to have a County Convention, in order to secure a proper administration of county affairs.

If the farmers can control the election of the State Board of Agriculture, this body might very properly be made the State Executive Committee of the farmers' organization, as this course would probably be the least expensive, and the expense of any organization is one of the chief things to be looked at. We do not want an organization with hosts of paid officers, to feed and fatten on the hard earnings of the producing community. Taxation, no matter in what shape it comes, is something that we must look after sharply.

If the State Board of Agriculture cannot be entirely controlled by farmers, then a State Executive Committee must be elected annually, and one hundred dollars will probably pay all their ordinary expenses. It seems to us that some such system as the above is the cheapest, most feasible, efficient and practical way of protecting the farmer's interest, so far as legislation is concerned, that can be adopted. It not only secures the passage of such laws as we want, but also insures, so far as we can, an honest, economical administration of State and county affairs.

Certain politicians seem to consider that, when elected to office, their wishes are to guide their votes, rather than the opinions of their constituents. We must teach them better.

But there are other questions that have recently been raised, and to some extent adopted, that our opinions and judgment do not sustain. We refer to the system called the Co-operative Union. Farmers, no more than men in other occupations, are exempt from known and invariable laws. Because they *are* farmers, does not exempt them from the rule that if they buy more than they sell, they will certainly fail, financially. They cannot subvert or turn back natural channels of trade. They must take hold of every question from a business and common sense stand point.

Next to a fruitful soil, what is most essential to the farmer's success? A market, surely. What constitutes a market? Certainly men who are *not* producers of bread and meat. Is it necessary that these men should have an occupation? If not, how are they to pay us for the products we raise? Virtually, the Co-operative Union, as organized in one or two counties in the State, says that it is not necessary for these non-producers to earn a living. The principle they set up is, that all farmers should trade at one store, have one blacksmith, one shoemaker, &c. Where are the rest to go, or what are they to do? If they turn farmers, who is to buy our produce? This is the real essence of the principle of the Union.

Of course it cannot succeed, because it attempts to subvert an unchangeable law. We supposed it to be the true interest of the farmer to call around him as many non-producers of agricultural products, who were engaged in an honest, legitimate business, as possible. By so doing, he brings his market to him. If the Union could succeed in a given locality, it would drive the market away from him. The Union claims that merchants make too much profit. This is not proven. Statistics, if they prove anything, prove the opposite of this. But does not our own observation also prove the opposite? Does an unwarrantable per cent. of them become wealthy? Our observation shows us that more farmers become wealthy than merchants. Do farmers make too much profit?

Supply and demand must govern in this as in other cases. If there are too many merchants some of them will fail, and thus get out of the way. It is true that towns keep somewhat in advance of the country, but so much the better for the country. The towns make our markets.

It may seem almost nonsensical that at this day we should have to argue so plain a question. But so it is. There may be designing men at the bottom of these Unions, who organize them for the chief purpose of benefiting themselves; but farmers should see that they are not made the cat's-paw to pull the chestnuts from the fire in this or other organizations. We believe the greatest good will result from a fair, open, manly discussion of all questions that relate to our interests, in Farmers' Clubs, County and State Conventions.

Among farmers, as among other occupations, there will be found incompetent, slothful, ignorant workmen, and we have always noticed in all occupations that this class is the most discontented, and if an office is to be filled that pays pretty well, you are sure to see plenty of applicants from this class, while the intelligent, working, industrious farmers are taxed for their support. We trust that in this movement, men who have proved themselves failures upon the farm will not be allowed to lead and to provide for themselves a support that their laziness prevented them from obtaining from the farm.

We do not expect to accomplish much at this, our first Convention of farmers. The ground is to be looked over, thoughts interchanged, future meetings and representations to be provided for, a platform of principles to be adopted and much other work to be done. Let the farmers of the

State talk the matter over in the Club, and then let them come together in Convention, conscious of the justness of their cause, and willing to do what is right in the sight of God and man.

WHO IS RIGHT?

The vast and growing interest of hog raising is our only excuse, if one is needed, for referring again to the amount of the hog product in the country this season.

It will be remembered that we stated our belief last Fall, prior to the packing season, that the number of hogs in the country was not greatly, if any, in excess of last year, and hence prices should rule as high as in 1871. The packers, and certain papers acting in their interest, claimed that the price must rule low by reason of the excessive number of hogs to be slaughtered. The Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce has now telegraphed the total packing of the season throughout the entire West, and by their showing, the number is about 400,000 in excess of last year. Are the figures correct? We think not.

Cincinnati has been one of the accredited heads of the pork market, and the number cut at that point this year is 3,996 less than last year. Louisville, another of our largest packing towns, packed 309,512 last year, and but 302,246 this; a falling off of 7,266. Milwaukee packed last year 315,000, and this year 303,500; a falling off of 11,500. St. Joseph, Mo., killed 119,155 last year, and this season but 88,082; a falling off of 30,073.

Other points, of course, report a gain, but why should the important points above named show a decrease, and others a gain? The rivalry among cities to do the largest business is well known. Those that were beat last season want to excel this, and hence exactness ought not be looked for, and this rivalry prevents our forming even a comparative opinion as between different towns. It is not singular, therefore, that the greatest increase this season should be found in Chicago and St. Louis. These cities, and of both we are proud, are striving to "beat" each other in becoming the metropolis of the West; and as we have said, these two show the greatest increase in the number of hogs cut this season. Our readers can draw their own inferences as to how the figures come to be so high.

As to the whole number packed throughout the country, we have before us the trade circular of MILWARD & CO., of Chicago, provision dealers, and of KERCHEVAL & SON, of St. Louis. MILWARD & CO. say in regard to the estimated packing:

It is well known that many of the points have included in their packing all the dressed hogs they have shipped, and which, of course, have been included in the packing here, and at other points to which they have been shipped.

This, every one acquainted with the business knows to be true, and as the number of packing points has largely increased, we have a greater number of duplicate entries. We claim that this item of itself tends largely to invalidate the claim of the packers. But if pork is so plenty this year, so much in excess of last year, why is it that we find prices of mess pork and other meats so rapidly advancing, and so much in excess of last year's prices? The firm above quoted states that "many have expressed their surprise at the advance in price being so marked and rapid." Again:

The sales of city product have been larger than for many weeks, and several of the country points have closed out their entire season's packing. These are moved rapidly East and South, but are taken up for consumption as fast as they arrive.

These facts do not point to any very large surplus in the country.

KERCHEVAL & SON, of St. Louis, speaking of the hog product, say:

The competition among purchasers has been greater than for many years, and promises to be continuous. If the theory of operatives is true, it may lead to a more continuously good market than has prevailed since the war.

Do not these facts tend to show that the Packers' Convention of last Fall was, as we then claimed,

a "put up" job on the farmers; and the worst of it is, it was a successful one? Could it have been avoided by the farmers? We do not know that it could. If they would keep out of debt, agree upon a fair remunerative price for their hogs, and if not offered that price by the packers, kill and cure the meat themselves, they could, perhaps, control the prices. The objection to this would be that few of them are expert enough to handle the product as well as do the packers. They could learn to do this, but would they? There's the rub. Those farmers who have put up their meat neatly this season will undoubtedly get a good price for what they have to sell. Don't be alarmed if prices drop a little about June; August will probably be a better month to sell.

TIME IS MONEY.

An old farmer came into our office to-day (March 10th), and remarked: "The plows have started; now comes the tug." Yes, with the season of plowing comes the tug for the farmer. From this time till the 1st of September there will be few days that the farmer can spare from the farm. It must have his constant, intelligent, watchful care, if he is to make more than a bare living from it. If he is satisfied with this, he may, perhaps, spend a day or two of each week at the store or blacksmith shop, and still make both ends meet at the close of the year. It is true, no other business would admit of this kind of negligence; but farming, you know, is an exception. But if a farmer wishes to make progress financially; if he wishes to make more than a mere sustenance; if, in short, he wishes to grow, he must use energy and tact; he must push things from the start. That is the way money is made in any business.

General News.

C. LELAND, Jr., of Troy, Kansas, sold and shipped last week nine thousand pieces of meat sides and shoulders.

A FRUIT canning establishment at Dover, Delaware, has received an order from a single house in London for 400,000 cans of peaches.

THE total amount of weight of potatoes shipped from Cambridge, New York, station in the year 1872 was 6,531,452 lbs.; a decrease of 1,309,855 lbs. from 1871. A good many last Spring were thrown away.

A GENTLEMAN of Milton, Illinois, sold to E. Binns & Co., sixty pigs, whose average age was nine months, and their average weight was 305 pounds. All got by his noted Berkshire boar, Bourbon, whom he purchased of Henry Clay, of Kentucky.

ABOUT four hundred acres of Spring wheat will be sown in this county this Spring. Four hundred acres of flax, eighty acres of tobacco, and two hundred of cotton—so far as heard from up to date. Keep the ball rolling, but at the same time put in just as much corn as ever.—*Garnett Plain-dealer.*

HEMP makes as vigorous a growth here as on the rich Missouri bottoms, and it ought to be cultivated by our farmers. It is a staple article, and always commands a good price in the market. The growing of hemp would pave the way for establishing a rope factory in our city, that would create a home market for such productions as hemp and flax.—*Burlington Patriot.*

GRACE GREENWOOD, Washington correspondent of the *New York Times*, having alluded very favorably to Colorado in some of her letters, a Chicago editor insinuates that perhaps she is interested in some town lots out there, and is trying to lobby some bill through Congress. Grace reproachfully responds: "If my Chicago brother should speak well of Heaven, I would not suspect him of having 'treasures laid up' there."

ALLEN CROCKER, who is carrying about forty-five swarms of bees, says the cold weather of our past

Winter has destroyed from ten to fifteen per cent. of all the bees in the county. Swarms not well provided with honey have died from hunger, as the cold weather precluded opening the hives to furnish any extra feed. There are some fifteen hundred hives of bees in our county, and the loss of one-fifth or over is an unusual thing in Kansas. It is very seldom we have any cold weather that destroys bees. We intend soon to call on Mr. Crocker for some statistics on bee culture, as he is well posted on this subject.—*Burlington Patriot.*

Our Correspondents.

Castor Beans and Flaxseed.—"A Farmer" asks: "Please inform me, through the columns of your paper, how to raise castor beans, flaxseed and broom corn, and where to market these products when raised."

Elsewhere in this issue we publish an article, giving information as to the two crops first named. Broom corn wants a rich, warm, loamy soil. To be planted after all danger of frost is past. Plant in hills three feet apart, in rows three and a half to four feet. Be sure to have five or six stalks to the hill. Thick planting makes fine tough brush. Break down the tops, by bending two rows together, just as the seed is going out of milk, and let it hang until the seed is fully ripe. As with all other crops, good cultivation and care in the broom corn crop pays best.

This city usually affords a good market for all three of these crops.

The Ague.—ISAAC MORGAN, Hyde Park, Pa., writes: "Having been a subscriber of THE FARMER for the past three years, its influence has drawn my attention particularly to Kansas, and I hardly know how I have resisted thus long my inclination to move to your State, having made a purchase of land in Osage county, near Arvonnia. Now, the report comes to me that they have a fever out there that is called Ague, and I wish an answer to the following questions: Does the Ague catch every one that moves out there? Is there any mode of living that is more apt to reduce the disease than another? What is the best treatment for the disease when it comes?"

It is a fact that we do have, to some extent, the ague in Kansas. It affects about as many as does the small-pox in Pennsylvania. With regular habits there is little danger from this disease. The treatment is simple, and a cure is usually effected in from three to ten days.

Crop Notes.—JOHN W. FISHER, our enthusiastic young friend, sends the following: "Wheat in this section looks well, and prospects are good for a fine crop. Much corn is yet ungathered. Last year we inquired about the sowing of buckwheat. Some advised to sow one-third of a bushel per acre. Mr. N. CAMERON said he sowed one and a half bushels to the acre. We sowed two bushels and twenty pounds on about four acres, and the yield was thirty-six bushels. A neighbor sowed three pecks on four acres, and harvested ninety-five bushels. Hereafter I shall sow one peck only to the acre."

Peanuts.—S. C. THORBURN wants more light on the peanut question: "I planted three square rods to peanuts last year. Did not cover the blossoms. The yield was three bushels of fine, plump nuts. Is there not some better way of threshing the nuts off the vines?"

We do not know whether there is a better way or not, as we do not know what system you are practicing. They are usually threshed off over a box or wagon-bed.

Apple Seed.—J. V. B. writes: "Will you please tell me how to manage apple seed, so as to make it grow?"

Usually, apple seed is placed in sand and earth, in the Fall, and allowed to freeze. As an experiment, if it be desired to plant the seed this Spring, soak a small portion of the seed, for a few days, in lukewarm water, until fully swelled, and then plant.

Patrons of Husbandry.—JAMES GEARY asks: "Is there an organization in this State known as Patrons of Husbandry? If so, is there such in this county?"

The organization has started in this State, and promises to spread rapidly, unless something equal

Cotton.—J. N. WATSON writes: "Our farmers are forming a Cotton Club, and are endeavoring to procure seed to plant one hundred acres, so as to get some person to erect a gin. A very large breadth of wheat was sown last Fall."

ly efficient, and less costly, can be substituted. We think this can be done.

Arbor Day.—C. W. DAVIS writes: "Can you tell me where I can obtain a copy of the bill in relation to an Arbor Day— or Week?"

We have not yet been able to ascertain whether such a bill passed or not, but are of the impression that it did not.

Game Fowls.—W. T. NEELY, writes a word in favor of these fowls, as follows: "I have tried many different breeds of fowls, and my preference is decidedly in favor of the Games. They are noted layers, good setters, and excellent mothers—being healthy and hardy. The cocks are a sure preventive of that pest, the hawk. They guard their harem as jealously as a Turk. Have never had the cholera among my Games."

Leghorns—Moles.—L. J. Winter asks: "Will you please tell me where I can obtain the Leghorn fowls? and, also, how to kill a mole that is working in my lawn?—the only beautiful thing I possess."

Write to GEO. E. MCGILL, of this city, for the Leghorns. As soon as the weather gets a little warm, watch your lawn; and whenever you see traces of the mole, you can catch him, by watching between eleven and one o'clock in the day. When he commences burrowing, step on the track behind him, and dig out with a hoe.

OUR CORNER

Tall Hemp.—Mr. NAT. HENDERSON, of this county, brought into our office a sample of hemp fiber raised by him. We don't know whether friend HENDERSON intended this as a hint that he thought we ought "to pull hemp" or not. If he did, we beg to differ with his judgment.

The fiber measures nearly ten feet in length, and is but little more than an average sample of seventeen acres raised by him the past season.

The Busy Season.—Now that we have a fair prospect of Spring, we shall look for a considerable decrease in our Correspondence. Farmers cannot work and write both. But we would suggest that during the working season our farmers do not entirely desert us. Remember, that observations made during the growing season can be more profitably used now, than next Winter. Therefore, don't forget to ask or answer questions that come under your observation.

Squash and Tomato Seed.—We are under obligation to Jas. J. H. GREGORY, the noted Seedman, of Marblehead, Mass., for a package of his new Canada Tomato seed, and his new Marblehead Squash. We shall give both a fair trial, and report for the benefit of our readers.

Clover Seed.—The sale of clover seed this Spring has been unprecedented in this market. One firm, M. S. GRANT & Co., have sold nearly five hundred bushels. The low price of corn may work a benefit to our farmers, by inducing them to sow more clover and grass seed.

An Assortment.—JAMES VICK, Rochester, N. Y., whose reputation as a Seedman is world-wide and whose enterprise is proverbial, has laid us under obligations for an assortment of garden seeds, for which he will please accept our thanks.

BOOKS AND PAPERS.

Progressive Bee Culture, or Apine Instincts and Labor Defined; A New Theory. By D. L. ADAIR, of Hawesville, Ky. A pamphlet of twenty-five pages, giving many new ideas. Price, twenty-five cents.

Newspaper Advertising Agency.—J. H. JONES, 257 River street, Troy, New York. Religious and Agricultural papers a specialty.

Catalogues.—Glen Flora Herd and Woodlawn Herd of Shorthorn Cattle, Waukegan, Illinois. Catalogue of Pedigrees.

Flower and Vegetable Seeds, Roots, Bulbs and Plants. G. C. HYOKOK, Solon, Otos county, Nebraska.

VEGETABLE, Field and Flower Seeds. NICHOLAS COLB, Pella, Marion county, Iowa.

Weak Eyes.

EDITOR FARMER: What is good for weak eyes in horses? I have a mare that is troubled that way. She can see perfectly well, but her eyes appear to be weak. Yours, &c., R. F.

ANSWER.—Bathe the eyes five or six times a day with tincture of arnica, one ounce; water, one pint. Mix.



Prescriptions for Sick or Injured Animals, Free.

B. S. CHASE, VETERINARY EDITOR.

The readers of THE FARMER, who have sick or injured Horses or Cattle, can have the advice of a Professional Veterinarian of great experience, through this Department, gratis, by sending an account of the complaint they desire advice upon. No question will be answered by mail.—EDITOR FARMER.]

ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES ABOUT ANIMALS.

Black Leg.

EDITOR FARMER: We have had two calves to die this week. They were well enough, to all appearance, in the evening, but the next morning they were down and could not get up. They died before noon. We opened both of them. The gall was enlarged, until it contained as much as half-a-pint. The manfolds were dry and solid, as if they had been pressed. The lungs were full of blood. In one case the hind quarter was swollen, and the blood settled in it; the other was swollen on the back, and the blood was settled from the hide through the flesh to the lungs.

From the foregoing description, can you tell what is the matter, and what remedy to apply? Or, better still, What will be a preventive? for there has not been any time to give medicine in these cases.

Yours, truly, J. M. JOHNSON.

ANSWER.—Black leg is the disease. By referring to THE FARMER for June 1st, 1872, you will find the treatment for it.

Nephritis.

EDITOR FARMER: I have a horse that, from some cause, does not improve in flesh. His hair is rough and dusty; he urinates frequently, but little at a time; urine very yellow. What is the matter with him, and what will cure him?

Yours, truly, A. S. HACKNEY.

ANSWER.—A change of feed frequently relieves the trouble. Do not give diuretic medicines, as they but increase the flow of the urine without relieving the horse. Give the following powder in feed, every night for twelve nights: Powdered sulphate of iron, three drachms; powdered gentian root, four drachms. Mix.

Consumption.

EDITOR FARMER: There appears to be a disease in the west side of this county, among horses, that has proved fatal in several cases; and as I have never seen anything like it, I should like to hear from our Veterinary Editor in regard to it.

I will describe, as near as I can, the symptoms as appearing among my horses. No. 1, a horse three years old last Spring, commenced growing poor and somewhat stupid in September; exhibited no symptoms of pain or fever; ate heartily all the time. I gave him tincture of iron for a time, without any effect. He continued to grow weaker and more thin in flesh, until December, when he died.

No. 2—A filly, two years old last Spring, exhibited the same symptoms, for the same length of time, except that she had a swelled ridge under the chest, as large as a man's wrist, and extending for a few inches back from the fore-legs. This appeared only a few days before she died, about the last of December.

No. 3—A horse two years old last Spring; symptoms as above, except that about a month ago he appeared to be more lively, and I began to think that he was clear of disease and going to get well, although reduced to a mere skeleton; but the other day I found him down and not able to rise, and on helping him up, he seemed to have partially lost the use of his fore legs and soon fell down again.

We helped him up frequently. His legs began to swell, from his feet to his body, quite large, and to-day the matter is discharging.

No. 4—A filly one year old last Spring. Symptoms—eat hearty and grow poor, from September until February, when one hind leg became much swollen; she was unable to get up without help. Two days after the swelling appeared, matter began to discharge in six or eight places, and it run very freely for three days. At present that leg looks more like rotting off than anything.

Greenhead flies were very plenty here last Summer, and the horse epidemic this Winter visited our stables.

These horses are all young, only one having ever been worked any. They commenced growing poor when feed on the prairie was abundant; all have eaten enough all the time of their decline to keep a well animal in good condition. Once or twice some of them seemed to eat but little corn; then we gave them oats, and they took them freely.

Several other young horses have died, apparently of the same disease.

If you can give the name and cure, you will oblige many farmers. Respectfully, J. W. PAUL.

ANSWER.—I am inclined to believe that the disease is consumption, but want to hear from you again. Open the next one that dies, and give me, as fully as you can, the result of the *post mortem*. Treat the sores on the legs with carbolic acid one ounce, water one pint; mix. Apply once or twice a day.

Garget.

EDITOR FARMER: I want to ask a question or two. Will you, or some of your correspondents, tell me how to cure garget in a cow's udder? Also, how to cook sea moss? "ZERUIAH."

ANSWER.—Bathe the udder with tincture of arnica, one ounce; water, one pint; mix. Apply this several times a day, while any undue heat remains, after which bathe with linseed oil morning and night.

Frozen Back.

EDITOR FARMER: Please tell me what to do for a hog that has got his back frozen. I have a hog that got frozen this Winter. I would like to know whether there is anything I can do for it that will be any better than to let it alone.

Yours, with respect, J. P. ATKINSON.

ANSWER.—Bathe the back twice a day with linseed oil and lime water, equal parts.

Lameness.

EDITOR FARMER: I would like to ask your Veterinary Editor's advice about a mare I have. She has been a little lame part of the time all Winter. Sometimes she seems to be crippled in both her fore feet. I thought her feet were sore, and had shoes put on her, but it did no good. If she steps on frozen snow, or anything else that presses hard in the middle of her foot, it makes her limp; but she often limps on the smooth road. The frogs of her feet are almost as hard as the hoof. She seems to be a little stiff in her fore legs. Sometimes she stands with one foot set forward. I do not see that her shoulders are shrinking any. When she stands in the stable all day, her fore feet swell a little. She eats hearty, and seems to be in good health, except that she is wormy.

One of my neighbors thinks it may be corns in her feet. Others think it is sweeny. One advised me to pour lard, as warm as she would bear it, on the bottom of her feet.

If you can tell me what is the matter with her, and what will cure her, you will oblige J. S. K.

ANSWER.—We have two diseases in the fore feet and legs, that cause a similar lameness, viz: Splint and navicular joint lameness. Examine the mare's legs carefully on the inside, just below the knee.

If it is splint, you will notice the enlargement. If it be in the foot, you will find by applying your fingers to the cavity just above the heel, that there is undue heat there. In either case, use the biniodide of mercury ointment. If it be the former, apply it once a day to the splint for four days; if the latter, apply it to the coronet (that is, the front part of the foot, at the top of the hoof). Cut off the hair, and rub it in well, for five or six days, once a day. Tie up the head for an hour after each application. At the end of the five days, wash off the parts and apply a little fresh lard.

The ointment is made of biniodide of mercury, two drachms; lard, one ounce. Mix.

Disease of the Kidney.

EDITOR FARMER: I have two colts, aged one and three years. They walk well enough, but when they trot they throw their hind feet three or four feet apart, and forward farther than usual, and travel with much difficulty. They have never been injured, to my knowledge. How can they be cured?

Yours, &c., W. FANCHER.

ANSWER.—If your description of the colts indicates any disease at all, it is of the kidneys.

Steaming the loins, by means of a sheepskin, on the flesh side of which hot water has been poured until it is soft, and then applied to the loins as hot as the colts can bear it, will give relief. Repeat the application a few times—as often as it gets cold. If this does not answer, send me a fuller statement of their case.

Black Leg.

EDITOR FARMER: I have just skinned a calf, and thought I would describe some of the symptoms in the case. It was about a year old—a very hearty, thrifty-looking steer calf. One ham and hind leg were very much swollen yesterday (the first I knew that anything was wrong about it). It ate some corn, then lay around all day, would not drink, and died last night. One leg and ham turned quite dark. In skinning, bloody matter ran freely. The other leg was somewhat affected. Head and horns hollow. Food in first stomach today, and hard. Gall two or three times too large. Very little blood in the heart, and that was somewhat frothy.

Now, I would be glad to know what ailed the calf, and whether I could have done anything to help him after I noticed him; and if so, what? Also, what was the predisposing cause?

My cattle had straw (mostly oat straw), plenty of good hay, and some corn, for their food. They were regularly salted through the Summer and Fall, but not so well through the Winter:

Please answer, through THE FARMER or otherwise, and oblige Yours, &c., JAS. HIRST.

ANSWER.—Black leg is the disease. For its treatment, see THE FARMER of June 1st, 1872.

Congestion of the Lungs.

EDITOR FARMER: About a month ago my horses got well of the epizootic, and since that time they have been apparently fully as well as they were before. I usually turn my horses out. On last Sunday night they all came up, as playful as ever. I fed them each ten ears of corn, as I usually do; but next morning I found one (a pony, four years old) dead in the stable. I hauled it off, and did nothing more with it. Last night the rest of my horses came up, apparently well; but this morning I found one (a three-year-old next May) lying very sick, and panting very hard. I called in the aid of the best medical skill that I could get, and they all pronounced her almost without fever. I gave her first about a pint and a half of milk and sorghum molasses. I gave her nothing more for about two hours and a half; then I gave her about the same quantity of warm salt water, and then about the same quantity of warm water without anything in it. All this time she passed a great

deal of wind downwards. She did not bloat any, but died to-day about ten o'clock.

Upon examining her entrails, we found the bowels all right. One lung was dark nearly all over; the other very slightly so. On cutting the tubes of the windpipe, we found them almost full of froth or foam; the one that was the least diseased had the most foam in the tubes. On examining the heart, we found some water around it.

Yours, truly, ANTHONY NOCE.

ANSWER.—Congestion of the lungs killed the horses. Cause—Weakness and want of power in the blood-vessels to contract and empty themselves—in your cases resulting from the effects of the influenza.

Treatment—Allow free access to pure air. Bandage the legs and clothe the body. Drench with the following mixture: Sweet spirits of niter, half an ounce; powdered carbonate of ammonia, half an ounce. Mix in a bottle of cold gruel.

Split Hoof.

EDITOR FARMER: I have a mare, four years old, with a split hoof, fore foot. The hoof is splintered badly in several places, but in about the center it is split clear up. I have kept her shod and oiled it for about a year, and still she is very lame; in fact, nearly ruined for business, unless cured.

How is she to be shod, and what treatment must she have?

Yours, truly, S. B. F.

ANSWER.—The following treatment will cure the mare up sound. It is only a question of time.

Rasp the edges of the crack thin—the nearer the crack, the thinner the horn should be. This may be filled with shoemakers' wax. Take off the shoe and cut out a little of the wall of the hoof on the bottom of the foot on each side of the crack, so that when the shoe is put on again there will be no bearing immediately under the crack. Heat a piece iron red-hot, and apply it for a moment flat on the hair, at the head of the crack, sufficient to make a scab. This will insure a solid growth of horn. Buckle a strap tight around the hoof for a time.

Use whale oil, two parts; oil of tar, one part; mix. Apply this to the hoof twice a week for a few weeks. It facilitates the growth of horn; and if applied to all the feet, you will have no more cracks.

SWEET POTATO CULTURE.

We clip the following items from a circular on sweet potato culture, issued by E. C. CHASE, of Shawnee, Johnson county, Kansas. He is one of our oldest and most successful growers of this generally esteemed vegetable:

SELECTION OF SOIL—PLANTING.

The quality of the sweet potato greatly depends upon the soil it is grown in. On our common uplands of a light, clayey texture, they grow short and of a light color and excellent quality. New land, if dry, produces bountiful crops of fine potatoes. In our loose prairie soil they grow long and of a darker color. Wet or very rich soil produces plenty of vines and few tubers.

In all cases the ground should be well worked and finely pulverized to a moderate depth. If worked very deep the tubers grow long and stringy. When the ground is warm and moist, and your plants are ready, throw two furrows together with a large plow and form high, sharp ridges three feet apart, going up and down hill. If the ridging is done in dry weather and two furrows thrown together, the center of the ridge will be dry dirt, not fit to plant in until wet and settled by rain. If the soil in the ridge is quite moist, the planting may proceed all day without watering, if properly done.

INSECTS.

Plants are often bought and set out early in the Spring and fail to grow, and the plant grower is censured for furnishing a poor article, when, in fact, the cut-worm, insects and cold weather are destroying them. For a few years past the black jumping bug or ground flea, was the most destruct-

ive insect we have had to contend with. On some fields they appear in large numbers and eat the leaf from the under side, leaving nothing but a skeleton. We have found nothing to prevent their ravages but to re-set the crop later in the season, when the weather is quite warm and they do not work as bad. The cut-worms are plenty some seasons, especially on ground that was not in good tith the year before. You will find them under a clod, or about one-half inch in the ground near the plant they have cut off during the night. Hunt them out and destroy them. I know of no better way.

The golden bugs and ants are sometimes destructive. Lime or ashes sprinkled on the plant when the dew is on is a preventive.

CULTURE

Mainly consists in keeping the ground free from weeds. Re-set what plants that may be missing. About ten days after planting stir the ground above the plants to prevent its becoming crusted, and to kill the weeds that have just started. By using a steel tooth rake the ground along the top of the ridge may be stirred very fast. One hand will get over one acre and a half per day; but if the weeds are allowed to get a start, the hoe must be put in.

The ground between the ridges should be stirred with a large shovel plow, going through about every ten days, to keep down the weeds until the vines cover the ground. In hoeing do not cover or cut the vines off, or strike the hoe too deep near the plants to cut the young potatoes off. Keep the dirt drawn to the ridge to preserve it.

At the second or last hoeing the vines should be laid back on the ridge out of the way, and the ridges may be cut into hills if you wish. Give them a good thorough hoeing and lay them by, and the vines will soon cover the ground.

Some think it necessary to lift the vines, to keep them from growing fast at the joints. I prefer letting them have their own way, except when the heavy rains wash the ridges down and cover them, then they should be lifted.

PREPARATION OF HOT-BED.

Having decided on growing your own plants, you should secure your seed potatoes so as to know that they will be forthcoming when needed. On receiving the seed, empty out of the barrels and spread out on the floor of a warm room to prevent heating, and they should be bedded soon after their arrival, as they do not keep long after moving in the Spring.

If at all wilted it will be found advantageous to sprinkle the potatoes and keep moist with warm water twenty-four hours before bedding; but do not let them get chilled in this condition, for they will not bear a lower temperature.

TO YOUNG BEGINNERS.

[From the Canada Farmer.]

Young beginners on the farm are too apt to "go it with a rush." How often we see the young farmer bidding recklessly at auction sales for everything that he thinks may be of use to him; the money with which to stock his farm burns in his pocket, or he longs to use his check book. Too often he collects around him miscellaneous articles, all good in their way, but perhaps not actual necessities. Anything that can be done without in the start should be left out of this first inventory of stock.

It is thought that such and such should be bought now, because he may not have the money to buy it when required. Such a principle is fatal. A certain amount of general stock is of course necessary. Do not buy one extra plow or harrow, and wait until you are sure you can work them to advantage, ere you invest in the more expensive machinery of the farm.

Cash is more valuable for the first year upon a farm than it is at any subsequent period; and the beginner should, ere he opens his check book or

thrusts his hands into his pockets, pause and consider whether what he is about to buy is an absolute necessity.

You may apply the same principles to your purchase of live stock. It is wonderful how rapidly they will increase upon the farm. Buy a few at first, and pay more than they are considered worth rather than buy poor beasts. Depend upon it, a good beast at more than its value is cheaper than a runt at half price, because if you do pay too much for a superior animal, the money will be returned in its offspring.

It is but a poor farm that will not pay for its own improvements. Devote all your energies—they will assuredly be occupied—to getting your farm into thorough and systematic order, and then, when the farm begins to put a balance of profit in your hands, it will be time enough to turn your attention and your surplus money to permanent improvements.

WOMAN IN AGRICULTURE.

The New York Times says: There is much work about the farm which no man can do so well, which nature seems especially to have intended for the skillful and delicate touch and quick perception of woman; hence, any effort to draw her from that work has been met with a corresponding deterioration of the product, and the fact forced into prominence that nothing was needed but simply such appliances as might lighten labor, but still leave all to be guided by her skill. The special work of woman in Agriculture should be the care of the dairy, the general direction and lighter labor of the garden, the poultry yard and its varied fowls, the bees, and her pleasure, the flowers. These, except the dairy, may be called the little things of the farm, yet in them may be stored many dollars of profit or many a luxury which the hard-wrought grain will not supply. No man can ever be so successful in raising chickens, none attend so pointedly to the wants of the busy insect who gives the honey, none know so well where and how the varied vegetables of the kitchen garden should be grown.

ACCORDING to the late census 89,000,000 people inhabit the United States. Of these, 12,500,000 earn their bread by some kind of labor. And of the twelve and a half millions of bread earners, 5,922,471 are engaged in agricultural pursuits. In other words, nearly half of all the people who work in the great national hive of industry are tillers of the soil. And yet the farmers exert a comparatively small influence in legislative affairs. This is not as it should be. Those who add so much to production certainly should have a strong voice in framing rules for the government of the community. Some of our laws bear oppressively on the agriculturists. But the farmers are chiefly to blame. They must organize and fix upon some harmonious plan of action, if they would make their influence properly felt.—*Turf, Field & Farm.*

TO NURSERYMEN.

Look out for a man claiming to hail from Rochester, N. Y., calling himself J. H. LUCK (supposed to be an assumed name); he is between 30 and 33 years old, 5 feet, 5 or 6 inches in height, heavy set, weight 165 or 170 pounds, very small hands and feet, dark complexion, dark gray eyes, black hair streaked with gray, except when freshly colored, round, full face, head rather large and round, roguish look. Shows a drunkard's face; gets drunk when he has money, and when drunk, ugly and quarrelsome. Writes a good business hand, well posted in the nursery business. Good talker, tells large stories about what he has done in business, frequently contradicting himself. Rather gentlemanly in his appearance when sober. Well calculated to deceive, cannot be trusted. Would be glad to hear of his whereabouts. W. T. NELSON, Wilmington Nursery, Wilmington, Illinois, February 14, 1873.

MANHATTAN Island, on which New York City now stands, says the Boston Cultivator, was bought by the Dutch from the Indians in 1626, for the trifling sum of \$25. The assessed value of wealth on the Island in 1872 was about \$300,000,000; the real value is not less than \$2,000,000,000, and may be even double this. Of course it will be said that the Dutch made a good investment of their \$25, and no doubt they did. But if that \$25 had been put at interest at ten per cent., on the first of October, 1626, and the interest itself annually invested at ten per cent. also, the product on the first of October, 1872, would have been \$26,560,179,962—or more than twenty-six thousand millions!

"WHERE THE LAUGH COMES IN."

"A little Nonsense, now and then,
Is relished by the wisest men."

A GOOD thing for the elevation of women: Thick-soled boots.—*Walnut Valley Times.*
How are they to be applied?

THE married women of Hannibal, Mo., have organized a "Come Home Husband" Club. It is four feet long, and has a brush on one end.

A COLORED member of the Mississippi Legislature declares that until he has made money enough to pay for his farm he will not vote for adjournment.

WHAT relation is a loaf of bread to a steam engine? A steam engine is an invention and bread a necessity; therefore necessity is the mother of invention.

A MINISTER having remarked that there would be a nave in the new edifice the Society was erecting, an old lady said "she knew the person to whom he referred."

A SCOTCHMAN asked an Irishman why farthings were coined in England. Pat's answer was, "To give Scotchmen an opportunity to subscribe for charitable institutions."

A SWEET little boy, only eight years of age, walked into the scene of a teachers' examination, at Oswego, N. Y., and bawled out, "Annie, your feller is down to the house!"

"I WONDER what's the reason," said a wife to her husband, "that the turkey I ate for dinner does not set well on my stomach?" "Probably," said the aggravating man, "because it wasn't a hen turkey."

"IN London no man ever thinks of blacking his own boots," said a haughty Briton once to the late Mr. Lincoln, whom he found polishing his calf-skin gaiters. "Whose boots does he black?" responded Uncle Abe, as he spit on his brush.

A SPORTING Quaker puts his bets thus: "Friend Edward, thee thinks thy horse is faster than mine. I value my opinion at one hundred dollars. Now, if thee values thy opinion at the same rate, we will put the money together and ask our horses what they think of it, and leave the conclusion to them."

HERE is an authentic instance of true and faithful love: A Pittsfield, Mass., school-girl, in order to convince a jealous boy that she liked him better than some other urchin, exclaimed, "Why, of course I like you better than I do Bill, for don't I miss words in spelling lesson on purpose to be down at the foot of the class where you are?"

A GENTLEMAN in Massachusetts, being threatened with a contagious disease, said to his little son, who in an affectionate mood wished to embrace him, "You mus'n't hug me, you'll catch the scarlet fever." Willie, standing back, looked in amazement upon his papa (who, by the way, is a pattern of propriety), and quickly asked, "Why, papa, who did you hug?"

AN Englishman, it is said, having heard of the Yankee propensity for "bragging," thought he would try an experiment himself. He walked up to a market woman's stand and said, "What! don't you raise larger apples than those in America?" "Apples!" said the woman disdainfully, "anybody might know you was an Englishman. Them's huckleberries!"

"THAT'S where the boys fit for college," said a Professor to Mrs. Partington, pointing to a school-house.

"Did they?" said the old lady with animation, "Then, if they fit for the college before they went, they didn't fight afterwards?"

"Yes," said he smiling and favoring the conceit, "but the fight was with the head, not the hands." "Butted, did they?" said the old lady.

ESSAY ON THE WHEELBARROW.

[From the Danbury News.]

If you have occasion to use a wheelbarrow, leave it when you are through with it, in front of the house with the handles toward the door. A wheelbarrow is the most complicated thing to fall over on the face of the earth. A man will fall over one when he would never think of falling over anything else; he never knows when he has got through falling over it either, for it will tangle his legs and arms, turn over with him and rear up in front of him, and just as he pauses in his profanity to congratulate himself, it takes a new turn and scoops more skin off of him, and he commences to evolve anew, and bump himself on fresh places. A man never ceases to fall over a wheelbarrow until it turns completely on its back, or brings up against something it cannot upset. It is the most inoffensive object there is, but it is more dangerous than a locomotive, and no man is secure with one unless he has a tight hold of its handles and is sitting down on something. A wheelbarrow has its uses, without doubt, but in its leisure moments it is the great blighting curse on true dignity.

MARKET REPORTS.

CORRECTED TO MARCH 10TH, 1873.

APPLES—In good supply at \$1.25@1.50 per bushel from the stores, and \$1.00@1.25 wholesale.

APPLES, DRIED—7c@10c per pound.

BRAN—Per sack, 75c. BUTTER—Per pound, 18c@20c.

BACON—Per pound, 7½c@10c.

BEANS, DRIED—Per bushel, \$1.00@1.35.

CHEESE, FACTORY—Per pound, 14½c@16c. Country made, 11c@13c.

CASTOR BEANS—Per bushel, \$1.40@1.75.

CORN—In full supply at 22c@26c.

EGGS—Per dozen, wholesale, 12½c.

FEATHERS—Prime live geese per pound, 60c@75c.

FLOUR—Per 100 lbs, \$3.75, \$5.00 and \$5.25.

HIDES—Dry flint, 20c@21½c.

HAY—Prairie per ton, \$4.00@4.60.

POTATOES—Plenty at 60c@80c, from the stores.

POULTRY—All kinds plenty and prices dull. We quote chickens, dressed, at \$3.00@3.50 per dozen. Turkeys, dressed, 10c@12½c per pound.

SEEDS, WHOLESALE—

CLOVER—Per bushel, \$6.50; Timothy, \$4.00; Kentucky Blue Grass, \$1.75@3.00; Orchard Grass, \$3.00; Red Top, \$2.50; Millet, \$1.00; Hungarian, \$1.00; Osage Orange Seed, \$10.00; Rye, 75c; Barley Spring, 80c; Barley, Fall, \$1.

CATTLE—There seems to be a somewhat stronger feeling in the Cattle market, but with no quotable advance in prices at this point. In the St. Louis market, sellers were able to hold the prices of the preceding week. The best Cattle will not come into market until April, and a few choice lots are held for delivery until May 1st. We quote prices at this point at \$3.00@4.00. In St. Louis, the range is \$4.50@5.15, on Cattle of from 1,000 to 1,300 pounds. The Chicago market is slightly in advance of these figures.

SHEEP—Have maintained the advance of six weeks ago, pretty well; but there are some indications of a break in the market. At this writing, choice mutton Sheep would sell at \$4.75@5.25 per cwt.

HOGS—By resolutions of the Packers' Convention, the packing season closed March 1st; but the resolutions, practically, are not worth the paper they are written on, as the packing still goes on with little or no abatement, except as the supply of hogs decreases. In fact, many packing houses are now so arranged that they can cut and cure meats in mid-summer.

Quite lately the demand for Hogs at Kansas City has been quite active, and buyers from that market have been operating along the line of the Kansas Central, in some instances paying as high as \$3.75 gross. Our own packers seem to be doing nothing save to accept the few offerings, and then usually at prices below those of Kansas City.

In St. Louis the market is stiff, and prices rule firm. The same is true of Chicago. The range of the market at those points is \$4.25@5.25, with all offerings quickly taken.

PROVISIONS—Prices rule very firm, with an advance in Eastern quotations. Mess Pork is now quoted in New York at \$15.75; Lard, in 50 lb tierces, at 8½c@8¾c for prime steam rendered, and 8¼c@8½c for kettle rendered.

GRAINS—Red Winter Wheat is now quoted in St. Louis at \$1.75@1.95. In the same market Oats are quoted at 27½c@27¾c; Barley, 70c@87½c for prime Spring; Rye, 62½c@63¾c.



Sweet Potatoes.

RED AND YELLOW NANSEMOND, Bermuda and Brazilian, Spanish and Southern Yams, AT LOWEST MARKET RATES.

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3 1/2 MILES SOUTHEAST OF THE CITY.
A GENERAL NURSERY STOCK,
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 Evergreens and Flowering Shrubs a Specialty.
 Address, for Price List,
JOHNSON & ALBERTSON,
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WILSON'S ALBANY, GREEN PROLIFIC, KENTUCKY
 and Downer's Prolific, sent by mail at \$1.00 per hundred, carefully packed to go any distance.
 Raspberries, Blackberries and Gooseberries,
 One Dollar per dozen, free by mail. Address
C. H. CUSHING,
 10-6-1f Box 38, Leavenworth, Kansas.

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