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VII.

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LEAVENWORTH.  
APRIL 15, 1870.

THE KANSAS FARMER

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My Warranted Seeds.  
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SUMMER ARRANGEMENT.  
On and after April 1, 1870, trains will run as follows:  
Going West.

LEAVE	ARRIVE	LEAVE	ARRIVE
Wyandotte	8:55 P. M.	St. Louis	6:00 A. M.
W. Kansas City	9:00	St. Louis	6:15
State Line	10:00	St. Louis	6:30
Leavenworth	5:50	St. Louis	6:45
Stranger	11:00	St. Louis	7:00
Lawrence	11:55	St. Louis	7:15
Ferryville	12:35 A. M.	St. Louis	7:30
Topeka	1:30	St. Louis	7:45
St. Mary's	2:35	St. Louis	8:00
Georgo	3:05	St. Louis	8:15
Marion	3:35	St. Louis	8:30
Emporia	4:35	St. Louis	8:45
Union City	5:35	St. Louis	9:00
Atchison	6:35	St. Louis	9:15
St. Joseph	7:35	St. Louis	9:30
Fort Scott	8:35	St. Louis	9:45
Ellipton	9:35	St. Louis	10:00
Hays City	10:35	St. Louis	10:15
Sheldon	11:00	St. Louis	10:30
ARRIVE AT	12:00 P. M.		

LEAVE	ARRIVE	LEAVE	ARRIVE
Carson	8:00 A. M.	St. Louis	6:00 A. M.
Sheldon	8:15	St. Louis	6:15
Hays City	8:30	St. Louis	6:30
Ellipton	8:45	St. Louis	6:45
Fort Scott	9:00	St. Louis	7:00
Union City	9:15	St. Louis	7:15
Atchison	9:30	St. Louis	7:30
Emporia	9:45	St. Louis	7:45
Marion	10:00	St. Louis	8:00
Georgo	10:15	St. Louis	8:15
St. Mary's	10:30	St. Louis	8:30
Topeka	10:45	St. Louis	8:45
Ferryville	11:00	St. Louis	9:00
Lawrence	11:15	St. Louis	9:15
Stranger	11:30	St. Louis	9:30
ARRIVE AT			
Leavenworth	6:20	St. Louis	6:55
State Line	6:40	St. Louis	7:15
W. Kansas City	6:50	St. Louis	7:30
Wyandotte	6:55	St. Louis	7:45

Mail and Express trains leave State Line, West Kansas City and Leavenworth daily (except Sunday).  
Trains leave Carson daily (except Saturday).  
Accommodation train leaves Wyandotte, State Line, West Kansas City and Topeka daily.  
Connecting at Lawrence with the L. L. & G. R. R. for Baldwin City, Frairie City, Ottawa, Garnett, Humboldt, Fort Scott, and all points in southern Kansas.  
At Topeka with the A. T. & S. F. R. R. for Burlington, Emporia, and Southwestern Kansas.  
At Junction City with the M. & T. E. W. for Council Grove, Emporia, Burlington, Neosho Falls, etc.  
At Carson with the Southern Overland Mail and Express Co.'s daily line of coaches for Pueblo, Trinidad, Los Vegas, Fort Union, Santa Fe, and all points in New Mexico and Arizona.  
At Carson with Hughes' Overland Passenger and Express coaches for Denver, Central City, Georgetown, and all points in Colorado.  
At Leavenworth with Packets for points on the Missouri river, and with the Missouri Valley Railroad for Atchison and St. Joseph.  
At State Line with trains of the Missouri Pacific Road, and at W. Kansas City with the North Missouri and Hannibal & St. Jo. Railroad for Chicago and St. Louis, and points South and East.  
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Corner Third and Main, Cincinnati.

# THE KANSAS FARMER

DEVOTED TO THE FARM, THE SHOP AND THE FIRE-SIDE

VOL. VII.—NO. 4.]

LEAVENWORTH, APRIL 15, 1870.

[\$1.00 A YEAR.

## The Kansas Farmer

GEORGE T. ANTHONY, Editor.

Published Monthly, 75 Delaware Street, Leavenworth.

### THE STORY, AND WHO TOLD IT.

Our Title-page, like THE FARMER itself, is a Kansas institution, designed and sketched by a Kansas artist, under the inspiration of Kansas facts. The story it tells is both simple and truthful, easy to understand, and impossible to deny.

Kansas is the bright particular star of the Agricultural world; hence its position, holding the covenant seal of the Commonwealth, and the emblems of its diversified products—grain, fruit and stock. Nothing could be more expressive of its position and its possibilities.

But the artist does not stop with this simple declaration. He tells us that, with plenty of modern implements, represented upon the left, used in the light of intelligence and science, to be found in careful reading of such works as are presented below them; and with the constancy of the bee, content in securing Summer sweets for a Winter's feast, by honesty and industry, the farmer shall have all the rich reward of abundance and variety, showed upon the right; these blessings and comforts to be enjoyed by himself, in the model farmhouse, and perpetuated for his children, in the school-house, pictured in the back-ground.

The vignette in the center is from a photograph of Kansas Fruit at the Philadelphia Exhibition. It is quite a different view from the one before presented to our readers. It takes in the great stage of Horticultural Hall, as it was arranged for the occasion by a committee of accomplished florists, members of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. The decorations of the stage, with the Century Plant standing between it and the Kansas fruit stand, are admirably brought out by the engraver. This rare plant bloomed during the Exhibition; yet its attractions were tame compared with those of Kansas fruit. Everybody expects a Century Plant to bloom *some time*; but no one had been disturbed by so wild a dream as that of seeing fruit from Kansas. It is no wonder, then, that when POMONA's crown was awarded to Kansas, in a National contest, that Mrs. CARPENTER's Century Plant was for the time forgotten.

But there is no rose without its thorn. In pointing with pride to our Title-page, and informing its admirers that they are indebted to the distinguished artist of Kansas, Mr. WORRELL, of Topeka, for it; and that everything about it, from the river that cuts the surface of the globe, to the turnips and cabbages, that look so tempting, are of Kansas, we are obliged to add, that it was *not* engraved by a Kansan.

EDWARD SEARS, 48 Beekman street, New York, is one of the cleverest men in this country. His father stands at the head of the engraving corps of

the HARPERS BROTHERS, and the son is equal to the father. Mr. SEARS engraved our Title-page; and although we paid him all he asked, without the deduction of a five-cent nickel in consideration of a puff, agreed or implied, we most cheerfully recommend all who want *good* work, at its real value, to do as we have done—patronize Mr. SEARS. We know of but a single thing against him; he stupidly insists upon "wasting his sweetness upon the desert air" of New York, instead of coming to Kansas, as he should do, and as we hope he, or some as worthy a master of the art of engraving, will do soon.

### THE SEASON OF BLOOM.

Spring-time is the season of bloom, when foliage and flower unite in a picture of perfection and promise. It is the time for Spring bonnets and new dresses, with women as well as tree, shrub, and meadow-lawn; and men, stern, practical men, expect to "fix up" in new clothes, fitted to the world-change from sober brown to smiling green, from withered leaf to fragrant flower.

THE FARMER, respecting time-honored usage and Nature's fixed rule of Spring adornment, goes out to its many friends all "dressed up" and smiling in its new "rig," as much as to say, "How do you like the style of goods and make-up of my new dress?" and like many a little girl—large girls are never so frank and truthful—anticipates your reply, by declaring, "I think it is real pretty; don't you?"

The patrons of THE FARMER have sustained it with a liberal hand, and given us assurance that they want a paper equal, in all respects, to the very best. In response to this we have, as far and as fast as its earnings would warrant, added to and labored to improve it in every respect. Of the three numbers before issued this year, two have contained twenty pages each, and all have been filled with original matter, of prime interest to the agriculturist. Full reports of important meetings and discussions have been published, and correspondence full of living interest given, in place of careless clippings from exchanges. We believe no subscriber will say he has ever bought more for the money than has already been received for his subscription to THE KANSAS FARMER for 1870; and yet, he has received but a fourth of what has been guaranteed to him.

The addition of a Cover is an expensive one. Its first cost is not inconsiderable, and that entailed in its monthly reproduction still more. It was not bargained for by subscribers, nor promised by us, at the commencement of the year. Its cost is not sustained by accrued profits. It is no more, however, than our readers deserve, and Kansas is worthy of; nor is it more than an appreciation of our humble, but earnest, efforts in making an Agricultural organ worthy of the grand interest it represents, will provide an ample return for. We confidently expect that each subscriber will show his FARMER to a non subscriber, and assure him of its value and progressive spirit, thus doubling our

subscription list. Reader, will you do this, and thereby enable us to execute still further and more important improvements, already in contemplation.

### THE TRUTH APPRECIATED.

From every direction come letters of thanks for the article in last FARMER upon the MCAFEE's NONSUCH, *Park, Park's Keeper, Zeke, Missouri Superior*, and other variously named apple. The time has arrived when men will not submit to the tricks of trade, so extensively practiced heretofore, and its advent signalized by a clear appreciation of plain truth frankly and fearlessly spoken.

It has been too much the practice of Agricultural and Horticultural journals, to laud and endorse nurserymen for nurserymen's sake. In fact, such papers have been brought out in the interest, if not under the ownership, of that or some kindred business. The result has been deception and wrong to confiding patrons, who read elaborate editorials upon this or that plant or tree, vegetable or fruit, little suspecting them of being advertisements—their true character.

It is not saying too much to declare it utterly impossible for a man to own a nursery, or manufactory of agricultural implements, and publish a paper at the same time, without subordinating the latter to the interest of the former. It cannot be expected that a man will advertise his own stock as worthless, so long as it will have a market through his silence. Good and shrewd men publish journals in the interest of a business, rather than for the sole benefit of their reading patrons. The wrong lies in a want of public discrimination between an advertisement and an editorial.

We have lost much in advertising patronage, by an unqualified refusal to sell our endorsement of the thing advertised. No man can buy an editorial notice of himself or his business in THE KANSAS FARMER, nor will a fact of interest to its readers be withheld for the sake of policy. It looks to its readers for support, and is in honor bound to work for their interest, and theirs alone. This is not only right, but it is "business." "Honesty is the best policy."

We cannot close this article without quoting from a letter received from the Secretary of the Miami County Farmers' Club:

The Miami County Farmers' Club No. 1 return you a vote of thanks, for exposing PARE, of Parkville, Mo. There certainly should be some severe penalty, when men will knowingly disseminate old varieties under new names, to fill their own pockets at the expense of honest men.

### FRUIT PROSPECTS.

FROM every quarter comes information encouraging for a full fruit crop the coming season. Enough peach buds are left, except in the case of a few budded varieties in unfavorable localities.

ATTENTION is called to the cartoon of Leavenworth City, herewith, in connection with the article on page 58.

# The Kansas Farmer

GEORGE T. ANTHONY, Editor.

## LEAVENWORTH CITY, KANSAS.

Every State has its commercial city, its business heart, which receives and sends out the life-blood of trade. The pulsations of this central organ are felt in every channel of enterprise, however minute, and in every portion of the commonwealth, however remote. Everywhere its health-giving, invigorating power is felt, and gratefully acknowledged. Such is the relation of Leavenworth to the Young Giant State of Kansas.

## THE STATE.

No other State of the Union has made such strides in the path of material progress, in civil power, educational development, and social refinement. No other State has at any time commanded the admiration and interest of the masses of mankind in this and all countries, that Kansas does at this hour. It is the sunlight of hope and the bow of promise to the emigrating world.

## THE METROPOLIS.

Leavenworth City, as the Metropolis of Kansas, commands an admiration equal to the post of honor a great good fortune has assigned to it. Its history is one of the marvels of American enterprise. Its growth is without a parallel in the history of this or any other country, San Francisco (Cal.) excepted.

## ITS WATER CONNECTIONS.

Situated upon the Missouri river, it commands the advantages of ten thousand miles of uninterrupted inland navigation, connecting and traversing twenty States and Territories, opening out to ocean commerce, in unbroken bulk, through the Gulf of Mexico. It is no trifling consideration in determining the future of a city, that the same steamer may bring to its levees the products of an area included in twenty degrees of latitude, and thirty-two parallels of longitude.

## ITS RAILROAD CONNECTIONS.

In perfecting the system of trans-continental railroads, Leavenworth was at once recognized as an initial point in building westward from the Missouri Valley, and was made an eastern terminus of the Kansas Pacific line. The want of Leavenworth has been a bridge across the Missouri, upon which could center all the diverging lines of constructed and projected roads running east and west. This want is soon to be supplied, by one of the finest structures of modern times. A description of this bridge is of interest to all, as it is a novelty of engineering skill.

The superstructure is to be of wrought iron, resting upon cast iron piers, formed of large pneumatic piles sunk to a bearing on solid rock. These piles are eight and one-half feet outside diameter, with a thickness of metal of one and three-quarters inches, and weigh about one ton to the foot in height. They are manufactured in sections of ten feet in length, with inside flanges at both ends, to enable them to be connected together during the process of sinking, and thus form a continuous cylinder from foundation to bridge-seat. These columns will be filled with cement masonry and concrete from the bottom to an elevation ten feet above high-water line. There will be two piers of this kind in the river, and one on the eastern shore. The western end of the bridge will rest on a stone abutment. The three spans, thus formed, will be each three hundred and forty feet in length, and the bottom of the lower chord will be fifty feet above extreme high water, thus leaving ample space between the piers, and sufficient height above the surface of the water, for steamboats to pass at any stage of the river. The approach to the bridge at the eastern end will consist of a substantial trestle-work 1,500 feet long, connecting with an earth embankment extending 2,500 feet further.

The work on this structure is now far advanced the shore piers being down, and one in the river bed also. Connecting with this bridge, and antici-

pating a common union in crossing it, are the following Railroads:

1. *Missouri Pacific and Missouri River Railroads*, from St. Louis via Kansas City and State Line to Leavenworth—Completed.

2. *North Missouri and Missouri Valley Railroads*, from St. Louis via St. Charles and Harlem to Leavenworth—Completed.

3. *Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, Hannibal & St. Joseph, and Missouri Valley Railroads*, from Chicago via Quincy and St. Joseph to Leavenworth—Completed.

4. *Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, and Chicago & Southwestern Railroads*, from Chicago via Rock Island, Washington and Cameron, to Leavenworth—Completed from Chicago to Washington, and from Leavenworth to Platte City; the intermediate distance to be completed by September 1, 1870.

5. *Missouri Valley and St. Joseph & Council Bluffs Railroads*, from Council Bluffs to Leavenworth—Completed.

6. *Leavenworth, Atchison & Northwestern Railroad*, from Omaha via Nebraska City, White Cloud, and Atchison, to Leavenworth—Completed from Leavenworth to Atchison, and work progressing rapidly on other portions of the line.

7. *Leavenworth, Atchison & Northwestern, and Central Branch Union Pacific Railroads*, from Fort Kearney (on the U. P. R. R.) via Waterville and Atchison, to Leavenworth—Completed from Leavenworth to Waterville, leaving a gap of one hundred and fifty miles to construct, which link has only awaited Congressional action, now a fixed fact, for construction.

8. *Leavenworth & Topeka, and Leavenworth, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroads*. This is intended to be the great Southwest Line from Chicago to the Pacific Ocean, at San Diego—Completed from Topeka to Burlingame, and work progressing rapidly south west of the latter place. The link between Leavenworth and Topeka is to be completed by the time the Chicago and Southwestern reaches the former place.

9. *Kansas Pacific and Denver Pacific Railroads*, from Cheyenne (on the U. P. R. R.) via Denver and Sheridan to Leavenworth—Completed from Leavenworth to Sheridan, and work progressing on the remaining portion of the line.

10. *Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston Railroad*, as its name indicates, from Galveston, Texas, via Lawrence, to Leavenworth—Completed from Leavenworth to Garnett, and work progressing south of the latter place.

11. *Olathe & Leavenworth Railroad*, connecting these two places by a direct line—Projected.

12. *Missouri River, and Missouri River, Fort Scott & Gulf Railroads*, from Galveston, via Preston, Fort Scott, State Line and Wyandotte, to Leavenworth—Completed from Leavenworth to Girard, twenty-five miles south of Fort Scott, and work progressing south of that place.

An inspection of the map, together with the above list of railroads, will show that this system resolves itself into—

1. Two competing lines between Leavenworth and St. Louis.

2. Two competing lines between Leavenworth and Chicago.

3. Two competing lines in the Missouri Valley, and south to the Gulf of Mexico.

4. Two great lines from Leavenworth across the continent to the Pacific Ocean—the one connecting St. Louis with the Union Pacific Railroad, and the other connecting Chicago with the Southern Pacific Railroad.

## SITUATION AND SURROUNDINGS.

The site of Leavenworth City is one combining great natural advantages. It is a beautiful plateau, considerably elevated above the river, and surrounded by a circle of picturesque hills, the radius of the circle being about three miles. The undulations of surface are so uniform and easy as to make nearly every foot of it eligible for building sites, without the cost of cutting or filling.

## FORT LEAVENWORTH.

Adjoining the city, upon the north, is Fort Leavenworth, the headquarters and distributing post of the grand military department north of Arkansas and west of the Mississippi. The military reservation surrounding the Fort, consists of six thousand acres of land as beautiful as the sun shines upon. The attention of the country has very generally been attracted to this reservation as the future seat of the General Government. That it is a fit place, commanding unusual advantages for the new National Capital, there can be no doubt.

## THE COUNTRY.

The country about Leavenworth, on either side of the river, is unsurpassed in beauty and productiveness. It is the most inviting of all localities for settlement by well-to-do agriculturists and horticulturists, who seek to combine refinement and culture with profit and comparative ease. It has all the advantages of fresh, new soil for cultivation, within easy reach of a large city, with its educational and commercial facilities. Timber is abundant, and of the best quality for manufacturing purposes. Oak, hickory and black walnut lumber is plenty and cheap.

## MANUFACTURES.

Manufacturing has been retarded by the high price of fuel; yet the necessities of the country and peculiar advantages of the locality have built up an extensive manufacturing business, which yields a large return upon the capital invested. The records of the Revenue Department show one hundred and six manufacturers in the city, who make returns and pay a revenue tax as such. The aggregate product of these manufactories for the year 1869 exceeded \$2,000,000.

This important interest is now relieved from its embarrassments. Cheap fuel, as well as material for manufactures, is made a fixed fact by a successful mining enterprise.

## LEAVENWORTH COAL MINE.

The Leavenworth Coal Mining Company, upon the strength of geological data deemed reliable, commenced the work of sinking a Coal Shaft some years ago. Numerous delays, incident to the undertaking, have deferred its completion until midnight of March 21, 1870, when a working vein of coal over two feet thick was reached, at a depth of seven hundred and ten feet. Masses of the coal were raised the following day, and put to the test as fuel and for mechanical purposes. It proves to be superior to any bituminous coal yet found west of Pittsburgh.

Underlying this coal is a bed of fire-clay, of very excellent quality, which will pay for raising to the extent necessary in mining the coal. Cheap fuel in inexhaustible beds underlying the city, added to the facilities before named, marks Leavenworth as a manufacturing center in the Missouri Valley, beyond the possibility of a doubt or failure.

## MERCHANDISING.

Referring to the records of the Revenue office, we find sixty wholesale dealers, merchants whose sales exceed \$25,000 a year. Of these a large number pay taxes on sales in excess of \$50,000—some of them reaching a sale of three-quarters of a million dollars in the year 1869.

The same records show the number of retail dealers, or those whose sales exceed \$1,000 and do not reach \$25,000 a year, to be four hundred and fifty-three.

The aggregate sales by wholesale dealers will not fall short of \$20,000,000, while those of retail dealers will considerably exceed \$10,000,000. Thirty millions per annum will do for the sales of merchandise in a city not fifteen years old.

## BANKS.

Two National, one Savings, and four private Banks, with an active capital of \$1,500,000, are found none too much for the present business wants of the city. The records of the Comptroller of the Currency show no bank of its capital that has done an equal amount of Government business with the

1870.

First National of Leavenworth, and no other of any size or location, that has earned so large a per cent. for its stockholders. More than \$20,000,000 have been disbursed over its counter for the Government.

CHURCHES.

Leavenworth can point with just pride to its religious organizations. It has nineteen churches, seven thousand members, three thousand Sabbath-school scholars, seven thousand volumes of Sabbath-school books, and church property to the value of \$650,000.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Leavenworth has a system of graded schools, not inferior in management, instructors or pupils, to any found in New England or the older States.

It has seven school buildings, costing, with real estate, \$150,000; philosophical apparatus, \$2,500; and \$1,200 in a chemical laboratory. The number of school children September 1st, 1869, was 4,163.

NEWSPAPERS.

The papers published in Leavenworth are as follows: *Evening Bulletin*, daily, semi-weekly and weekly; *Times and Conservative*, daily, tri-weekly and weekly; *Commercial*, daily, tri-weekly and weekly; *Evening Call*, daily and weekly; *Freie Presse* (German), daily and weekly; *KANSAS FARMER* (Agricultural), monthly; *Medical Herald*, monthly. A weekly religious paper is to be issued soon, making five daily, one weekly, and two monthly journals.

HEALTH.

Above and beyond all other considerations, is the prime one, *health*. With water pure and abundant, drainage thorough and complete, mild Winters, and Summers modified by constant and strong air currents, no spot of earth upon this continent can boast of a better health record than the city of Leavenworth. The visit of Cholera in 1866, which was so severe in St. Louis, Kansas City, and many other places, passed by Leavenworth, not a single case *originating* in the entire city. Kansas, as a State, is one of the most healthy; Leavenworth, its metropolis, is pre-eminently so.

HOMESTEAD AND PRE-EMPTION.

The tide of immigration is setting with increased force toward Northern Kansas. Washington county seems to enjoy great favor in the sight of homesteaders. Some idea of this may be formed from the following statement, as published in the *Union*. Entered during March in Junction City Land Office:

Under the homestead.....	81,683 acres.
Purchased with cash.....	11,768 "
Located with warrants.....	2,440 "
Total.....	96,976 acres.

This is a very large increase, and indicates the feeling of confidence in that portion of the State, than which nothing can be better.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FARM NOTES—NO. XV.

Easier to Give Advice than to Act upon it—The Rusty Plow—"Delay not till To-Morrow what should be done To-Day—Sound Business Principles applied to Farming—Farmers should keep Accounts—Keep the Boys on the Farm—How to Interest them in their Profession—Barley and Rye as Field Crops—Winter Pastures for Young Cattle—Cutworms, and how to Destroy them—Wheat Prospects, &c.

BY "CARLOS."

If it were as easy to *do* the work on the farm, as it is to *advise* how to do it, what a capital farmer I would make. This is, perhaps, true of almost everybody; but the "knowing how" is the small half.

There must be a willing mind to execute; and it is this we all lack most. We don't like to admit that we are lazy, nor yet careless; but how sadly do we neglect palpable duty. If we are accused of neglect, face to face with our neighbor, we bring our ingenuity into play to invent an excuse, and it is *surprising* what an ingenious people we are.

Yesterday, a neighbor remarked, "How rusty that turning-plow of yours is." "Yes," I admitted; and immediately my lips framed an excuse for allowing it to remain out all Winter. The truth was, I had coated it with axle-grease last Fall, after we got

done using it; but a neighbor borrowed it, and when done, set it inside the fence, and there it has stood all Winter. I passed it every day, thinking each time, "I'll attend to that to-morrow;" but to-morrow never came.

As I sit here, I can count half-a-dozen little jobs that *ought* to have been done, but are not. This neglect is almost criminal. We look at the drunkard, and see him stumble time after time, over his besetting sin, and wonder, "Why *don't* he quit drinking?" But here are we, with no depraved appetite to excuse us, with none of the temptations that allure the inebriate, constantly stumbling over our faults, with apparently little effort at reformation; yet, I doubt not *our* negligence costs us as much in dollars and cents, perhaps more, than does the error of our unfortunate brother. Why *don't* we reform?

Spring is with us. Again the tender blade of grass looks up with caution, as if to "make assurance doubly sure," that blighting frosts are gone. Our symbol of modesty peeps out from its covert, welcoming the genial warmth of April's sun. The forests are clothing themselves with new beauty, to rejoice the eyes of man. The twittering of the blue bird, the song of the redbreast, the call of the lark, tell us, as plainly as *words* can tell, that Spring is here.

Now comes the preparation for the conflict, which is to decide who is the better captain. The victory will not fall to him who follows the old ruts. No! The farmer of the present day, if he succeeds, must adopt the ideas which the lights of education shed over his pathway. He *must* conduct the business of the farm as successful men conduct other business, or else he will simply *live*—nothing more. The day laborer does *that*; and if *he* can do it, it is a burning shame that the farmer, owning one hundred and sixty acres of our beautiful prairie land, with sufficient stock to run it, does no more. Do we forget that every yearling steer grows to be an ox? Do we forget that every cow is worth forty dollars a year over her expenses? Do we forget that, with a little labor, generous nature supplies an abundance to bring about these results? We certainly do; else, we would profit by them. But, it is said, "It takes money to buy calves and cows." That is true; if it *did not*, we certainly should not recommend our farmers to deal in them. But we who live in the country, know that the doctor, the blacksmith, the shoemaker, and many others, keep a cow or two for the milk, and care nothing for raising the calf. We know that a few bushels of corn, oats or potatoes, a few cabbages, or other farm products, will be taken in exchange for the calf; and it is the business of the farmer to be on the look-out for these little trades: In this way, he can build up a herd. Three years brings a calf to a cow or a steer, and changes the price from ten to thirty dollars; the same period brings a colt from thirty to ninety dollars; it brings a sheep from almost nothing to three dollars, and a pig from one to twenty dollars in much less time. These are the golden facts which we must learn, and learning, *practice*. We must have more energy in the management of farm affairs, ere we can be equally successful with other pursuits; and with energy, we must couple system. We should reduce all of our operations to writing; *i. e.*, we should know the cost of every crop and animal raised upon the farm; we should know what our exact expenses are; we should take an invoice every twelvemonth, of every movable article on the farm (be sure to value wife and babies *high* enough); and by this system of book keeping, not necessarily elaborate, be able to tell just how much we have made or lost during the year. There are several books published, designed to cover this very ground, so arranged that any farmer who can read and write may be able to keep his own books with tolerable accuracy. We have never seen the books, and cannot speak from personal experience of their value; but if arranged properly, we would consider them of great value to

every farmer. Advertisements show where they may be obtained.

We are pained to see so many of our farmers boys deserting the farm, for precarious pursuits. If those boys could but see that, in nine cases out of ten, their only hope of growing into honored and respected citizens lay in their adherence to agricultural pursuits, we opine they would not be so ready to hire out as clerks, teamsters, saloon-keepers, &c., that promise some present relief from the labor and toll of the farm; nor would they be so ready to rush into the professions, illy prepared, by nature and education, could they see the mediocre condition they must occupy. But the boys are not altogether to blame; much is due to the parents. We have referred to this subject before; but the incidents we see around us every day bring the subject to our mind more forcibly. Parents, if you would save your children from a misspent life, if you would have them grow into honored and respected citizens, save them to the farm. To do this, you must offer them some inducement, if filial duty is not enough. Teach them habits of economy, but not parsimony. Show them that you have an interest in their temporal welfare, in something more substantial than words. Take them in as partners in the farm, or a portion of it, and let them be laying up something for themselves; and my word for it, they will appreciate its value more than the same amount given to them when they reach their majority, or marry.

Why won't barley pay as a field crop? It is undoubtedly more certain than wheat, as well as more prolific, and the average price is better. The cultivation and handling are the same as wheat; and it occurs to me that ten or twelve acres of Fall barley would pay well—not as a single crop, but as a regular, every year crop. To a certain extent, the same is true of rye. As a feed for any kind of stock, there is nothing that excels ground rye. But rye is worth as much for Winter pasture, as it is for its grain. I am afraid we do not appreciate the benefits of Winter pastures as much as we ought. For young stock, a rye or blue grass run, in Winter, is worth more than all the grain you can feed them, and is much cheaper.

We were troubled very much last year with cutworms, which destroyed cabbage, tomato, and sweet potato plants. They may be troublesome this year. Around the edge of your plant beds, lay down pieces of boards; the worms will congregate under these, and may be easily destroyed.

Our prospects for a full crop of Fall wheat are unusually good, even for Kansas. Never in our lives have we seen such a rank, luxuriant growth as nearly all the crops present now, with scarcely a spot to show that it has been winter-killed. The price may be down, but with no unforeseen accident, we will demonstrate to the world again, that Kansas is the wheat country, *par excellence*.

THE FENCE QUESTION.

"Push Things"—A Hedge should be a Lawful Fence as soon as Planted—Homes for All—Difficulties in the way of securing them—Questions about Hedges—When and How to Answer them—Wine-Making—The Editor's Position Endorsed, &c.

BY HENRY G. SMITH.

EDITOR FARMER: We farmers, you know, must write and run, or not write at all. It requires some courage for a man to write an article, when he is worn down with labor, and feels that the bed would be the most comfortable place on earth; yet, my desire is such to make THE FARMER—our paper—one of the most desirable Agricultural papers in the world, that I am willing to forego a little lazy indulgence, and write when it hurts just a little; and indeed, farmers, if we ever attain to anything extra in our profession, we must *push* things.

After having re-read the article of NORMAN, in the February number of THE FARMER, I concluded to strike another blow at the Anti-Fence—no, the Fence men, and come to the rescue of the good, big-souled Anti-Fence philanthropists. Now, such a law as I favor, namely, making a hedge a lawful

fence as soon as planted, would disadvantage, rather than benefit me, for the present; because I have a small, well-fenced farm, can bid defiance to the brachiest cattle we have, yet have few cattle of any kind, and have timber enough to fence me up for life; but I tell you, my friends, the man who would not rise above self and self-interest, when he sees it would be a great blessing to the majority, especially the poor, is no man at all, in the true sense of the word, and is unworthy any office in our good and great State. Is not this true? Will any writer for THE FARMER dispute it? If so, let him come out.

Now, I have always thought, from a child, that I could see the right, so far as my duty was concerned, and can't we all see the right, if we look at a question from an unselfish stand-point, so far as the good of the people is concerned? We certainly can.

I wrote two letters to THE FARMER, which the Editor says he never received. In one of them I wrote on the Fence question, but have forgotten what arguments I used at the time. The Editor hits the nail on the head, and I would that he could hit it hard enough to drive it up to the head, and clinch it, when he says a law should be made making a hedge-row, set and cultivated as provided for in the act, a legal fence from the time of setting the plants, until four years old. This is of vast importance to the State of Kansas. As it is, improvements are slow and painful, simply because, the majority of the farmers being poor, are unable to fence their land, fencing being the first and most important improvement; and failing in this, they fall in everything—leave their land, and very likely the State, and go off to tell bad tales on our legislators, and on the country. And if we fail to make a law of this kind, it seems to me we ought to be bad-taled. To tell just exactly what kind of a law we need, in every particular, is not my object. This I deem unnecessary, and even foolish. This remains for the Legislature, of course; but ANTHONY hits the nail spot, in essence.

The great object of most of us is improvements; yet, legislators, officers, merchants, editors, and men at ease in high places, brag of the laborer, especially the farmer, because they know they are the backbone of the country, and to the success of agriculture they stay up or come down; yet, they make laws, and fail to make laws, which effectually crush out thousands of farmers, and thus keep thousands of dollars' worth of improvements out of the State.

Again: If it be true, and I reckon no one doubts it, that the amount of hedge fence thus caused to be built (by such a law, I mean), would modify our climate, retain moisture, and make better crops, besides fencing in each man's farm, it is certainly of the utmost importance to the people in common, that we have such a law. It don't do well to enact a lazy law; in other words, to enact a law enabling men to farm without any fence at all, for many men are so negligent that under such circumstances they would neglect to build a hedge fence, or plant a grove, and thus our country would remain without those valuable auxiliaries to beauty and crop-growing. We might just as well enact a law requiring men to build a hedge, as to leave that out; because all men, no matter how poor, could secure hedge seed, enough to fence all the land they could buy, or take as a homestead. And any man who sees what a help it would be to himself, to his family, and to the country, to fence his farm, and was too lazy to secure that amount of seed, and plant and cultivate it, ought to be whipped with a brier.

We talk eloquently, sometimes, of making a government under which every man and his family may sit under his own vine and fig-tree, on his own chosen spot of God's green earth; and perhaps we really think it would be a nice affair, and desire such to be the case; yet how, O how inconsistent we are! We take the mechanic's tools from him, and tell him we will hang him if he don't build us a house. We tie a man to a hickory, tight and fast, then call him in to breakfast, and make fun of him because he can't come. So it is with thousands of

poor men. We say, if they can't take a piece of land and make a farm, when it is given to them, they are of no account; yet we take, or rather keep from them one of nature's best laws, the very tool, so to speak, which is absolutely necessary to make a farm, namely, a fence. Now, as it is an acknowledged fact that more timber, and more planting and protecting of groves, would make this a better farming country, and that, as hedges would answer this purpose, to a great extent, at least, it seems of importance to inquire whether or not hedge or Osage Orange is the thing with which to build fences; whether or not hedge will grow to such a height, unless cut off repeatedly, as to shade the fields; or whether the roots, if broken off by the plow, will sprout and run and spread, like locust, and thus become more costly than profitable; or whether the birds, as EDWARDS says, will light on the hedge, drop brier seeds, which will grow, and it being impossible to remove the hedge and plow the hedge-row, as with other fences, whether the briers will spread and everlastingly trouble men, till they wish they had no hedge, &c.

I think now is a good time to settle these questions, before we compel men to build this kind of fence. Will some correspondent of THE FARMER, who is well acquainted with hedges, tell us whether or not these things are any objection to hedges. Please let us know, for we are preparing to build hedges, because the law is coming; yes, just as sure as this is a progressive age, and just as sure as right and negro and female suffrage prevail, just so sure will such a fence law prevail.

You are right, Editor, on the wine question; that is, that the State Agricultural Society is wrong in stimulating men to raise grapes as a means of profit and wine-bibbing. A little pure wine from the grape, as PAUL says, "for thy stomach's sake, and thine often infirmities"—in other words, in case of sickness—wisely administered, will do us no harm; but the great danger of wine-bibbing is creating a habit of tipping and a thirst for strong drink. That many men have a natural taste, perhaps hereditary, for strong drink, no one will understandingly deny; and how hard it is for the man once in the habit of drinking to break off, let the poor drunkard answer.

Ottumwa, Coffey County, Kansas, April, 1870.

#### STOCK LAW—No. II.

Every Man should take care of his own Stock—Injustice of Feeding Cattle on other People's Crops—Let the Thieves, Biped or Quadruped, be Fenced IN—Cost and Disadvantages of Fencing—Destruction of valuable Timber—A Ruinous Policy—Immigrants with Limited means cannot afford to make Fences—Judge Hanway Answered—Abolish all Laws on Fencing—The Argument of "Carlos" Answered, &c.

BY S. T. KELSEY.

EDITOR FARMER: I am often told that, "in the abstract, it is right that every man should take care of his own stock; but, practically, it won't work well." In this article we will consider the practical question.

The gist of the whole matter lies in a nut-shell, and is simply this: Some men want to buy and pay taxes on very little or no land, and appropriate the crops growing on the balance of the land in the country. For this class of men, it don't practically work well to be compelled to use only the crops on their own land.

Some men don't think it works well, in any case, to be deprived of other people's things; but I believe society long ago decided that it was better to make a few very strong barricades, to fence such people in, than to try to fence them out. But, while we would take care of the thief who comes in person, we are still foolish enough to give free range to all thieving stock that may be turned upon us, and tax ourselves enormously to fence them out. In trying to do this, we have built probably not less than twenty thousand miles of fence, at an average cost of three hundred dollars per mile, or six millions dollars. The interest and expense of keeping in repair cannot be less than one million dollars annually.

This is the heaviest tax the farmer has to pay, but it is not the worst feature of the case. We have only timber enough to fence in a small portion of the farming lands of the State; and the balance must go unfenced, or expensive material must be brought from abroad to do the fencing. Already we have cut a large portion of our little forests and timber belts, every stick of which, and ten times as much more, is needed for wind-breaks, fuel, building and manufacturing purposes, &c. We are annually cutting vast quantities of the finest oak, and even walnut, timber for fencing. Settlers have already taken most of the timber land in the State, and those who now buy prairie lands can seldom get timber land or timber for fencing, except at ruinous prices.

The majority of immigrants come to Kansas with but small means. If they could buy a small piece of land, and cultivate it without the expense of fencing, they could get a start and soon make comfortable homes; but when they must expend from three to five times the value of the land in fencing, before they can use it, it becomes a serious matter, and often an impossibility, to start a farm. Thousands are annually deterred from coming to Kansas for this reason, and a large proportion of those who do come to engage in farming, find after purchasing their land that they are unable to fence it; so they sell their land, get a little nook in some town, where they drag out an existence, and keep soul and body together, by working for somebody else. Every considerable town in the State has hundreds of just such cases. They cannot go out on their land and grow stock to support their families. It takes too much to start, and the returns are too far off, for a poor man to depend upon entirely.

Judge HANWAY seems to think he has solved the question, and annihilated the stock law men, by showing that a hedge can be grown on the open prairie under favorable circumstances. But the Judge fails to tell us how the poor man will make a living on his farm and support his family for four or five years, while he is preparing his hedge-rows and growing his hedge; neither does he tell us how he can start the orchard and forest which every man should have on his prairie farm. I do not wonder that the Judge is "fully aware that this project will be pronounced visionary." I know that a good hedge can be grown out on the open prairie, where but little stock is running, and it is a good speculation for a man who can afford to lie out of his money, and run the risks which a person must take of having his hedge destroyed by too much stock being turned upon it. I have known many failures of this kind.

But the great mass of settlers on Kansas prairies must depend upon the produce of the soil for a living. This class of citizens are doing more to improve and develop the resources of the State than any other class, and it does seem that they should have at least an even chance with other people; yet the law places heavier burdens upon them than on any others.

Now, I am in favor of lifting this heavy burden from the farmer's shoulders, and giving him an even chance. Abolish all laws on the Fence question, and make stock and their owners liable for any damage they may do on other people's premises, letting every man take care of his own stock—and not his neighbor's—as seemeth best to himself; provided, only, that it shall not trespass on the premises of others.

The poor man can then homestead, pre-empt or purchase his quarter-section of land, and own it. With a little labor he can prepare his hedge-rows, plant and tend his hedges, and in a few years have all the fences he needs, and where he wants them, to take care of his own cattle. He can immediately plant out his orchards and forests, and in four or five years his farm is made, and he has a home for him and his; and while his hedges and trees are growing, he can also be growing crops on his land, to feed his family, and pay his taxes and store bills. If he has the means to fence in a piece of land for

pasturing a few head of stock, it will be much cheaper than to spend one-third of his time running over the prairies hunting cattle, and not always finding them. If he is not able to fence in a pasture, he can put his stock in a herd with his neighbors, at little expense, or he can tie them out with a long rope, and remove each day, so that they can get fresh grass. *There are plenty of cheap ways to take care of one's own cattle, till hedges can be grown to fence in pastures.*

I want to notice some of the objections that have been urged against a Stock Law, but I am making this too long already. I must, however, notice the objection that "CARLOS" makes, that he could not sleep well with his crops all exposed without fences. Of course he could not, with the highways infested with hungry cattle; neither do I think he could sleep well if the country was infested with thieves and robbers, and no law against their taking whatever they could get hold of. But, with the cattle and thieves cared for, I see no reason why either should disturb his nightly slumbers.

Such a law as here recommended is no new thing. It has already been adopted by several States, and works well wherever it has been tried. Such a law might drive some of our poorest scrub stock out of the State, and possibly a few stock-owners of the same sort; but for every one it drives out, it will bring in a half-dozen of the better class; and I believe it will be worth millions of dollars, by bringing hither industrious immigrants, and giving them a chance to make farms and homes upon all of our bare prairies.

Pomona, Franklin Co., Kansas, April, 1870.

#### EXPERIENCE IN TREE PLANTING.

The Time to Plant Fruit Trees—Buying an "Improved" Farm—Grafting—Fruit in two years from planting—Importance of having a good supply of fruit—Hedges—Gophers, and how to deal with them—How to destroy worms on Fruit Trees—Value of an Orchard—What the Writer thinks of The Farmer.

BY M. B. DUTTON.

EDITOR FARMER: As it is now time to set out trees, I wish to add my mite to your continued and well directed efforts to induce every one who has any land in Kansas, to plant fruit trees. To show the faithless ones the reason of the argument, let me relate my brief experience. Five years ago I concluded to go to farming here, on a small scale and purchased what was called an improved farm, but without an orchard, excepting three or four apple trees, which by their appearance showed how great an amount of neglect by man, and abuse by animals, they could stand, and live. I was only able to purchase one hundred and fifty small sized (two year old) trees, for a commencement of an orchard I proposed to contain five hundred when filled up. I had heard DAVID NEWHOUSE, a nurseryman at Oskaloosa, advance the idea that trees grown from grafts of bearing wood, came into bearing much earlier than others; and being satisfied I could rely on his word as to what he sold, I bought of him, and set the first trees in April, 1865. I took care that they should not be injured by rabbits, or animals of any kind, and cultivated the ground, raising alternate crops of potatoes, oats and sorghum, which abundantly repaid all cost of culture and harvesting, leaving the trees in good condition.

Now, as to the result in trees and fruit. Of the one hundred and fifty first set, all except five killed by gophers, are alive and in good shape. In 1867 (two years from setting) we had some fine samples of fruit from several trees; in 1868, some trees perfected about a peck each, while many fell off while green; in 1869, some varieties, for instance Mo. Pippin, Wine Sap, Baldwin, Golden Russet and Spitzenburg, perfected a barrel or more to each tree, the limbs so bent down, the fruit could all be picked by a person of ordinary height standing on the ground; while various other kinds bore quite liberally, but smaller quantities. Our family has made free and daily use of the fruit since some time

in August, and we have had considerable company that enjoyed the fruit at least, frequently taking some home to the friends who could not come; and we still have apples left. What richer treat, I would like to know, than good fruit, always near at hand, whenever wanted! Then, to see the children enjoying it, as they always do: much cheaper than medicine. If there can be a greater treat than the free use of the fruit, it consists in beholding it growing upon the trees: how the sight of it will rest a weary man, as he stops in the shade of a tree to whet his cradle scythe in harvest.

Since commencing my little orchard, I have planted an Osage Orange hedge around it, and from year to year, as I could afford, have filled it up with about five hundred trees, from different nurseries in this State, but always remembering to get a good proportion from the one I started with. My hedge has been set three years this Spring, and will now turn stock, excepting a few gaps made by the miserable gophers. Why did not the Legislature, three years ago, let "the gentleman from Doniphan" exterminate the "critters" with his little bill? No doubt the gopher is the "vilest varmint" we have to contend with; but even here, "an ounce of prevention is worth many pounds of cure." A common steel trap, properly set in his track, will bring him to grief, and I have recently learned that grain, or any thing they will eat, if soaked in extract of the root of may apple, (mandrake) put in their holes, will poison them. "Eternal vigilance" is the price of everything good.

I wish to remind all who would raise good fruit of the necessity of destroying the worms that infest the trees. About a year ago, before the leaves began to start I spent a few hours examining every tree, and removing all the eggs that produce the "tent caterpillar," which are very numerous in this section, owing to there being so many wild plum trees, on which they breed unmolested. The few that I failed to save that way, were soon dispatched after hatching, before doing any damage; and for that, or some cause, I have not yet found a wormy apple, or one beginning to decay. Why is it?

If what I have related of my experience is not enough to encourage any one to begin planting trees, perhaps when I tell them I am satisfied from offers made me last Fall by men who saw for themselves, that, were I disposed to sell my place I could get \$2,000 more for it than I should without the little start of an orchard I have. Men from the East, coming now with money to pay for homes, in Kansas, are willing to pay for such a little start.

Well, Mr. Editor, this is already too lengthy, but I cannot stop without letting you know how much I esteem your paper. It is just what every farmer and fruit grower needs, and coming as it does, in the middle of the month, just fills up the time good, after the New York *Agriculturist* (which I cannot get along without) is disposed of. Every number of THE FARMER is worth to me more than the price for a year.

Grantville, Jefferson Co., Kan., April, 1870.

#### FENCES AND HERD LAWS.

Hear both Sides—The Four Classes who Advocate a Herd Law—Self-Interest at the Bottom of it—Kansas Subject to Dry Seasons—This is a Stock-Raising Country—Cost and Inconvenience of Herding—Shall "Land Sharks" and Speculators Control the Legislation of the State?—Let the Farmers Decide.

BY E. CAMPFIELD.

EDITOR FARMER: As the probabilities of a general herd law being passed by the Legislature of Kansas begin to brighten, and I hear the subject discussed, besides having beheld with awe that several of our State papers are advocating the passage of a bill to that effect, I think it probable that the subject may be brought before the people, and that those who have had no experience with herd laws may hear from both sides of the question, I will endeavor to state a few reasons for not passing a herd law.

There are but four classes of people who advocate a herd law.

1st. Land speculators and railroad monopolists.  
2d. Men who are too poor to farm, even if the land was fenced, and never expect to become the fortunate possessors of even one cow. These make the most noise about a herd law.

3d. People living in cities, who keep no cow.  
4th. People living in thickly settled counties, who own no stock excepting one pair of horses, and possibly one cow, but the calf they are obliged to sell when only three or four weeks old, because they have no land to pasture the same upon.

When such able men as Prof. PLATT, of the State Agricultural College, declare that "Kansas is, and will be, subject to dry seasons." \* \* \* I have heard many farmers say that, taking one year with another, it did not pay to hire hands at \$20 and \$25 per month, and trust to raising grain for profit. "If it will not pay to raise grain for profit, paying the above wages, what can the people of Kansas turn their attention to that will pay them a profit, and a handsome profit at that? Every one must answer, Stock-raising.

Prof. PLATT further says: "But Kansas has never seen the year so dry that stock did not grow well. These facts go to show that Kansas is naturally a stock-raising State." Now, when such men as the Professor, whose business it is to instruct people in Agriculture, declare against Kansas as a grain-growing State (and so will every man who has tried it for the past eleven years), I think it pretty conclusive evidence that there must be some foundation for such assertions.

Even admitting (which we do not) that a herd law will induce immigrants to settle in Kansas, say in a two-fold ratio as compared with the present tide which is now pouring into our State from all parts of the civilized world, how much better off will the finances of the State be at the end of one year? At least one-fifth of our present population would move out of the State, taking all their movable property with them; while all of those new settlers would bring but little, and nearly every one would become a homesteader, having no stock except one pair of horses and possibly one cow. In that event, hemp would be a good crop, for rope would be in great demand.

Suppose we ask every man who emigrates to Kansas, what he thinks of our rapidly-growing State as a stock-growing country; and he will tell you that for raising stock it is one of the best in the Union.

Since it is a self-evident fact, that "Kansas is naturally a stock-growing State," let us make a few figures regarding the number of cattle and horses, and the relative cost of herding the same for one year. I think we may safely estimate the number of horses and cattle in Kansas at 450,000, which are worth, on an average, \$25 per head—equal to \$11,250,000. The cost of herding, at \$2.50 each, which is far below the actual cost, will be \$1,125,000. Thus, it will be seen that it would tax each person in the State, on an average, \$2.50 for herding our stock, besides the endless litigation that would result from the stock trespassing upon open fields.

But the worst feature of the proposed bill is, that it compels us to herd upon our own lands. None but "land sharks," and those members of the Legislature who are controlled by them, would want to compel every man to buy land, in preference to using the grass growing upon speculators' lands, and also upon Government lands in our vicinity.

I, for one, enter my protest against a Herd Law; but if we must have one, let it be submitted to each county, to vote whether we will have a Herd Law or not in said county.

Centralia, Nemaha Co., Kan., April, 1870.

#### AN INDIANA FARMER'S OPINION.

How to Plant Asparagus—Indiana Stock Laws—Exorbitant Railroad Charges, and what results therefrom.

BY JAMES M. MULLIKIN.

EDITOR FARMER: Some friend sent me the January number of your paper, and yesterday I ordered it. A correspondent asks how to make an asparagus

bed: Dig the ground at least twenty inches deep; no water should stand on it; put plenty of strong manure at bottom; make the soil rich and fine; set the roots fifteen inches apart, with the crown four inches below the surface. Roots two or three years old are best, and the best time to set them, Autumn.

There is a controversy in Kansas about a Stock law. Here in Indiana each farmer has to fence against *other people's stock*—not his own. It costs us millions, but we have become so used to it that it even seems right and sensible to us. I have around my farm three miles of *outside* fence, which would cost me now \$1,100. None of this, hardly, is so far my own stock, but that which is turned into the road, or "range." Each of my neighbors, to the utmost limits of the State, is taxed in the same way. The fence tax on farmers is more than any other and all others put together, and is breaking many down, without their knowing the cause.

I have sold out, and am going to Kansas. D. B. LONG, of Ellsworth, says he paid the Pacific Railroad Company \$187.78 freight on one car-load of lumber, and \$91.85 on a threshing machine. *My God!!!* I am in favor of railways, and like to see enterprise *well paid*. I thought I would go out on the Pacific Railroad, to about the Blue river; but I deem it better to keep off that line. THOMAS H. BENTON said: "A man in the wrong is always *unaccountably* foolish; a man in the right is always *unaccountably* wise." As with a man, so with a corporation; Providence has fixed things for this. *Eaglefield, Indiana, April, 1870.*

#### DAVIS COUNTY AHEAD.

A Growth of Seven Feet in one Season—The Wheat Crop—Spring Planting—Fruit Prospects, &c.

BY E. W. F.

EDITOR FARMER: I will just say that THE FARMER comes regularly to hand, and that it is the best paper of the kind with which I am acquainted; and I wish to thank you for furnishing us so good a home agricultural paper.

I am not in the habit of writing for the papers; but I saw in the March number of THE FARMER some bragging on big peach trees of one year's growth, and as I can beat that, I thought I would tell you of it. I have two peach trees, the growth of last season, that measure seven feet from ground to top, and one and a half inches in diameter; also, twenty-five others that measure six feet each from ground to top—all nice, fresh, vigorous trees. Now, let whoever can beat that, do so. These trees are one year old from seed, and grow in Washington Creek Valley, Davis county, Kansas.

Wheat looks well here. Farmers are busy putting in their Spring grain. The prospect for fruit is excellent.

*Washington Creek, Davis Co., Kan., April, 1870.*

#### REMARKABLE GROWTH.

A Peach Tree Grows Seventy-four Inches in One Season—Apple Trees over Five Feet the First Year—Large Yield of Harrison and other Potatoes.

BY J. Q. COWEE.

EDITOR FARMER: I notice in the January number of THE FARMER an account of large peach trees of one year's growth, and in the March number of others of still larger growth. Now, I wish to put Osage county on the record; for Osage is always ahead.

I have peach trees grown from seed, planted last Spring on upland broken the previous year, which, by actual measurement, are six feet two inches, or seventy-four inches, from the ground up, and over an inch in diameter at the base. How far the roots extend toward China, I never looked to see. I have several that measure over six feet, and hundreds of them over five feet high. I also have apple trees, grown from common nurserymen's root-grafts, set out last Spring on the same soil, over five feet in height. I also raised, on the same soil, three and a half bushels of Harrison potatoes, from one potato weighing about half a pound. The ground being measured, the product was at the rate of seven hun-

dred bushels per acre; and I raised from one barrel of seed (containing about two and a half bushels), three hundred bushels of splendid potatoes.

*Burlingame, Osage Co., Kansas, April, 1870.*

#### PEACH TREES IN FRANKLIN COUNTY.

A Growth of Five Feet Four Inches from the Seed in One Year—Be Careful in Selecting Seed Corn.

BY H. IMES.

EDITOR FARMER: I saw an account in the January number of THE FARMER, from Saline county, and one in the March number, from Coffey county, of some large peach trees of one year's growth. As Coffey county is ahead, here goes for Franklin.

I planted some peach seed in the Spring of 1869, from which I have about one hundred trees. Ten of them are five feet high above ground—three or four of the number reaching sixty-four inches. One half the number will reach fifty-five inches, and none are less than forty-five. The largest measures four and a half inches in circumference at the top of the ground.

While I am writing, I would advise farmers to be very careful in selecting seed corn this Spring, as the extreme cold weather in October last injured corn more than farmers are generally aware of. There is a great deal of corn that looks sound, that will not grow; therefore, we should use great care in selecting it. Early planting and seed that *will* grow are important points gained in a corn crop.

*Poria, Franklin Co., Kansas, April, 1870.*

#### "WOMAN'S PLACE IN AGRICULTURE."

A Woman at Home—Her Interest in Agriculture and Horticulture—Professor Lee's Lecture—Household Affairs should have a Department in Agricultural Journals—A Woman's Difficulties in commencing House-keeping—"Harriet" and "Conliff" Wanted.

BY JENNIE, OF MIAMI.

EDITOR FARMER: While shaping a tiny stocking, or when two little busy feet have got tired of their out of door play, these bright and sunny days, and have crawled up into Mamma's lap to take a ramble in dream-land, I have read the last FARMER through.

Though a woman, I have been intensely interested in the various reports of the Agricultural and Horticultural meetings, and especially in this number, the space occupied by Prof. LEE. While I endorse it all, one paragraph, which I will quote, could it be put into execution, would supply the one thing lacking to our paper: "Why should we not have in our Agricultural paper, a department entirely devoted to treating, from week to week, or month to month, in detail, all the topics belonging to household management, and containing the experience and suggestions of the ablest womanly intellects in the land?" There is a great hue-and-cry at present over the *Hearth and Home*, as being the paper of the day; but could we have "Mrs. Hunnibee's Diary," or its equal, transferred to the columns of THE FARMER, I would not exchange it, though it is four times its subscription price. His remarks in reference to the Farmhouse being attached to our Agricultural College, I hope yet to see realized (for what State has made more rapid or liberal advancement in necessary institutions since the close of our unhappy war than our own?) in order to train the rising and future generations in housewifely duties; but it will not be of much avail to the present one. Our only hope will be in effecting the first mentioned plan.

Many of us leave the ranks of seamstress, scholar, teacher, &c., without any chance oftentimes to prepare ourselves for the many difficulties and perplexities awaiting us; many having the supervision of servants; but good and efficient servants in all their different departments are as hard to find as good and efficient housewives. Then, how are we going to hold our place as mistress of our own house, in the estimation of our servants, if we are ignorant ourselves of what properly pertains to their vocations? Then, too, they often take "French leave," and under the most try-

ing circumstances, thereby bringing down on their heads numerous invectives, which would better apply to ourselves.

I believe there are as many able and talented women, in proportion, in Kansas as any other State in the Union, that are well posted in household matters, if they would only *write*; and as for that, in other matters, also. If the husband and wife are a firm, are not THE FARMER's columns open to the latter as well as the former.

Flowery Spring is coming, heavily-laden with her garlands of Nature's inexhaustible beauties; and with her shall we not have the pleasure of welcoming "HARRIET" and "CONLIFF" back again?

I don't hardly think, Mr. Editor, I really intended to have this published. My principal thought was to see if there could not be a remedy for the want that now exists; and as my husband was sending you another subscriber, I thought I would put that thought on paper, and send that too.

*Spring Hill P. O., Kansas, April, 1870.*

#### FROM REPUBLIC COUNTY.

A Western Lady inquires for "Harriet"—What She Thinks of The Farmer—Flowers necessary to make Home pleasant—Improvements in Republic County.

BY "ELLEN."

EDITOR FARMER: Having read "HARRIET's" letters in your paper, and as I wish to write to her for some seeds and roots of her nice flowers, and as I do not know her address, I send the letter to you, with the request that you send it to her, which will be a great favor to me.

We have been taking THE FARMER for the past year, and I always look forward with anxiety to the time for another paper to come. I have always found it very interesting, especially "HARRIET's" letters in regard to flowers. I never failed to read her letters from two to three times, and every time found them interesting. I think if every farmer would take your paper, and follow its good advice, at the end of the year they would find a great improvement on their farms.

We have a beautiful country here, and everything is prospering finely. Our county is settling up very fast. The farmers, generally speaking, are improving their farms as fast as their means will permit; but they almost all lack the sweet flowers at their homes. How much more cheerful the sweet flowers make a home, than to see no green shrubs or blossoms there. If we have nothing more than the cypress, morning-glories, touch-me-nots, roses, moss, and others that are common flowers, still it shows a love and taste for beautiful things. We are almost all new settlers in this county, and have not got fairly started in our new homes; but if health and life are spared us, in two or three years from now we hope to have as pretty a home as friend HATTIE.

Enclosed find one dollar, for which please send THE FARMER; also, back numbers to present date. *Salt Marsh, Republic Co., Kan., April, 1870.*

#### A CORRECTION—GRAFTING-WAX.

A Printer's Blunder Corrected—Recipe for Making Grafting-Wax—Pattern of a Grafting-Knife, &c.

BY MICHAEL TAIT.

EDITOR FARMER: I notice that you published the note I sent you, in reference to the "Red Cedar." Now, I supposed it was the habit of Editors to correct errors made by those who are not accustomed to writing for the papers, if they should place things wrong end first, as I did in my last, in regard to the cedar tree I measured. I hope you will correct it, so that your readers may understand that thirteen feet was the diameter of the top, or foliage, four feet above the ground; the real diameter of the wood was a little over six inches.

I also notice that you call my place "Forest Hill." Now, it has been known for ten years as *Flower Hill*; however, anything sent to the address of "MICHAEL TAIT, Joliet, Will county, Illinois," will always find me.

While I am writing, I thought I would give you



a recipe for making grafting-wax, which I have used successfully for many years; and also a pattern of my grafting knife, on paper, which is the best tool for the purpose I ever saw. The circular edge is the grand success for splitting the bark when the bark is generally loose; and when a straight edge would press the bark from the cut, the circular edge contracts and keeps it fast.

The following recipe for making grafting-wax is just right for this latitude; but in Kansas, perhaps a little more rosin would be needed, as the sun with you is more powerful:

Take six pounds of rosin, two pounds of tallow, and two pounds of beeswax; pulverize the rosin first, and put into a clean, dry iron pot, over a slow fire; stir constantly, until it is all dissolved; then pulverize the tallow and wax, and put them in; stir constantly, with a simmering heat, until all is thoroughly melted and mixed; pour into a vessel containing cold, clean water; commence immediately at the edge of the mass, and pull pieces of it, as you would pull molasses candy, rubbing your hands first with tallow, and continue to do so now and then until you finish, but work no longer than is necessary to take the water out. Make in rolls six inches long and a little thicker than a candle. Put these rolls on a dish or pie-pan in the cellar, until wanted to use. They will keep for years. One day before using, hang them in the kitchen, not near the fire, and they will become pliable and fit for use. Always have a piece of tallow near, to rub the hands while grafting.

*Flower Hill, Joliet, Illinois, April, 1870.*

#### SOUTHERN KANSAS.

The Farmer—"It is Our Paper"—The Weather in Southern Kansas—Causes that produce Drouth—The "Old Fog" and the "Immigrant"—"Harmonize with Nature," and with Common Sense.

BY DAN FOLLMER.

EDITOR FARMER: I renew, and shall try to do all I can to introduce your very valuable KANSAS FARMER. *It is our paper.*

The weather has been very changeable here all Winter; and this Spring (up to March 20th) it has been very disagreeable—windy, cold and rough, and very dry. Not much prospect for a big corn crop. I have noticed the seasons since 1859, and every Fall and Winter that the prairie grass was all, or the greatest part of it, burned off, leaving Mother Earth without her comfortable Winter cloak, at the mercy of the winds and the sun, evaporation draws all the moisture out of the ground, and the winds beat it so hard that it takes four yoke of good big oxen to break prairie with a twelve-inch breaker. Now, all this bad work, and bad weather, and bad seasons, and bad chills and fever, and bad farming country, are the direct results of criminal disobedience to the laws of nature, by the very bad people living in this (would be, if it had a chance) good and beautiful Garden State of Kansas.

A mover comes along, and is met by one of the so-called frontier settlers, and is asked where he is going. He replies: "I have come to Kansas, to get me a home." "Well," says Foggy, "how are you going to make a living?" The immigrant replies, "By farming, of course." "Oh—U! you'll have to be taken away by the Sanitary, or the U. S. Government!" "Why?" asks the immigrant. "Why? You will never raise anything! A drouth here every year!" "Well," inquires the immigrant, "how do you live here?" "Oh, raise cattle. That's all the country is good for."

The old foggy passes on, and the immigrant feels gleomy—of course he does. All he has is his team and wagon, and a large family to support.

Now, good people of Kansas, I have heard just such talk. I have seen the prairie fires, and the legitimate results, dry seasons. Let us be guided by reason, and harmonize with nature—not sounding discord, for ourselves to complain of.

*Buffalo P. O., Wilson Co., Kansas, April, 1870.*

TIME is the cradle of hope and the grave of existence. It deprives beauty of its charms, while it transfers them to her picture.

#### KANSAS FRUITS.

[By ALEXANDER HYDE, Lee, Mass., in Tilton's Journal.]  
The award of a gold medal, by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, to Kansas, for her display of fruits at the recent session of the American Pomological Society, in Philadelphia, has turned the attention of fruit raisers to this land of promise. We have been accustomed to think that California was the Paradise of fruit-growers, as well as the Eldorado of gold-seekers; but a formidable rival to this distant sunset land has sprung up in the very heart of the country. We have recently made a flying trip to Kansas, have examined her fruits in the cellars of her farmers and the fruit stores, communed with some of her prominent horticulturists, studied her climate and soil as well as we could at this unfavorable season; and some of the lessons we learned may not be uninteresting to the readers of the *Journal of Horticulture*.

In the first place, the Kansas fruits, especially the apples, far surpassed our expectations. We had heard President WILDER expatiate on the beauty of the exhibition at Philadelphia; but the half had not been told us. It is not difficult in any State or county to select, in ordinary fruit seasons, specimens of pears, apples and grapes, which are large and fair, and will make, with the aid of "the art of putting things," a pyramid that shows off to great advantage. But when we went into the cellar of the Messrs. FARRELL, who are large fruit dealers in Leavenworth, and saw the bins of apples and pears, just as they were brought in by the farmers in their wagons without springs, and only a little straw on the bottom to keep them from bruising, we were convinced that the pyramid at Philadelphia was no humbug, and that the gold medal was well merited. The season for pears was pretty much over; but the apples were large, fair, tender and high flavored.

\* \* \* \* \* Most of the varieties that grow East also do well in Kansas; but it was a little difficult to recognize our old friends, as they had grown so portly by transportation to a more genial soil and climate. VIRGIL was not more astonished when, leaving Mantua, he first saw Rome, than we were to see the large Northern Spys and Yellow Bell-flowers. The poet thought that one city must be like another city, and we thought one Spy must be like another Spy; but the Kansas Spys seemed more like small pumpkins, and the ribs of the Bell-flower stuck out like the sides of a fat ox.

Late keepers with us are Fall or early Winter apples in Kansas; thus, the Rhode Island Greening is an Autumn fruit there, and the Roxbury Russet is best in January. \* \* \* The Spitzenberg we have always considered the highest flavored apple at the East, and for cooking unequalled, but have seldom tickled our palate with it uncooked, as it is tough and indigestible. We were delighted to find our old favorite so tender in Kansas, that we could eat it without any sensation of having swallowed lead.

We visited the farm of Dr. HOWSLEY, who was efficient in collecting the specimens for the Philadelphia exhibition. Kansas is much indebted to Dr. HOWSLEY for the development of her fruit interests, when the general impression of the first settlers was, that the State would have to rely upon Missouri for her apples. The Doctor attributes the excellence of Kansas fruits very much to the climate, which is generally moist till August, so that the fruit gets a large growth, when the season usually becomes dry, and remains so till November, thus developing the saccharine quality and vinous flavor to their highest extent.

The soil of Kansas must share with the climate the credit of producing her superior fruit. This soil is a black, deep, rich, clay loam, based on limestone, and having just sand enough in it to make it loose and friable. When dry, it crumbles in the hand, and feels as soft under the foot as a compost heap, and when wet, it makes mud of the consistency of putty. It gullies badly on the side-hills, and the little granules constantly rolling down the slopes of the ditches, indicate that porous nature of

the soil which is so gratifying to the eye of the experienced farmer. Wherever we find this granulated appearance, we know that the soil is easily permeated by the air, and is the receptacle of the rich stores of fertility which the air contains. The Kansas soil is evidently adapted to fruit, as well as the Kansas climate. For centuries the rank vegetation of the prairies has either decayed, furnishing a rich deposit of vegetable mold, or has been burned, leaving the ashes, with their various inorganic treasures, which now reveal themselves in luscious peaches, buttery pears, large, high-flavored apples, abundant strawberries, and clusters of grapes that rival those of Eschcol.

We have spoken more particularly of the apples, because we had ocular and gustatory demonstration of their excellence; but the pears and grapes were not all gone, and the canned peaches and strawberries proved what these had been in their season. The numerous vineyards bore evidence of proper attention to this most healthful fruit. Dr. HOWSLEY assured us that the White Doyenne pear matures perfectly in Kansas, never cracking. That country is to be envied where this old favorite's fair cheeks are not deformed with cracks.

As to grape culture, there can be no doubt of its success in Kansas. The same dry, warm air, which develops the sugar in the apples during the latter part of Summer, will mature grapes in perfection. This is not mere theory. We visited the vineyard of Mr. GRANT, some two or three miles west of Leavenworth. This is situated on the east side of a bluff, and seemed in a flourishing condition. The Concord is the favorite variety, though the Catawba also does well. Most of the grapes are sold for the desert, and the price varies from eight to twelve cents per pound. If the supply is greater than the demand, the surplus is made into wine, for which no sugar is required. The vineyard of Mr. RYAN, covering three acres, yielded an income, in 1868, of thirty-two hundred dollars; and MARCUS J. PARROTT, the past Summer, raised fourteen hundred pounds of Concorda on an eighth of an acre, from vines three years old. The numerous wild vines, some of them of great size, running up the trees, also prove that Kansas soil and climate are adapted to grape culture.

Of course, we tasted of the wines made from these grapes; but we do not profess to be connoisseurs in vinous beverages, and cannot give an opinion that will have authority. We can only say that they appeared to us light and pleasant, with little, if any, more intoxicating quality than our New England cider.

The Kansas fruit-grower is, thus far, ahead of the pestiferous insects which put in a claim to the first bite at so much of our Eastern fruit. We saw no crescent marks of that little Turk, the curculio, on the apples; but we were told the plums gave evidence that he was advancing westward with the march of empire, and was already across the Missouri. We do not, however, apprehend much trouble from insects for many years in Kansas. Where trees grow so luxuriantly as they do in this virgin soil, they have the power of resisting insects, just as a man of vigorous constitution resists disease. When an animal or vegetable becomes enfeebled, then the parasites make their attacks with success. If this deduction from our limited observation is correct, then the most successful mode of resisting insects at the East, is the thorough cultivation of our orchards, and keeping the fruit-trees in vigorous health. But even the careful cultivators at the East must labor at comparative disadvantage with those at the West, as the former are now surrounded with a multitude of old and neglected orchards, that are so many breeding-nests of insects. They may take never so good care of their trees, and still these trees will be much in the condition of a healthy man surrounded by those diseased.

On the whole, we were well satisfied that the gold medal was justly awarded, and that there is a glorious future for the Kansas fruit-grower. In developing this future the medal has greatly aided.

*January 10th, 1870.*

# The Kansas Farmer

GEORGE T. ANTHONY, Editor.

## OBSERVATION vs. EXPERIENCE.

The world cries for practical men and women. Theory and speculation were never at a greater discount than in this practical age; especially in this intensely practical country of ours. Those who write or speak as instructors are expected to know whereof they write and speak, and unless they can command confidence in this respect, the words of wisdom and the voice of enchantment themselves make no impression.

This is well; yet it has opened a door for another error to stalk in, almost as great as an unquestioning homage to high-sounding words and incomprehensible theories. Under the banner of *Experience*, an army of teachers has been marshaled, who hold the public ear, and control the popular mind, to an almost alarming extent. Its ranks are filled with unpractical, unharnessed genius, more erratic and unstable than the wind. "I speak from practical experience," is the last dodge of the chronic theorist, who will devote more years in efforts to sustain an error that is bone of his bone, than hours in developing truth for its own sake.

In no department is this fact more patent than in the field of Agriculture. The time was (and not long since, either) when the wisdom of a SOCRATES was of no account to a farmer, if applied in the form of a book to his profession. "Away with your book farming!" "What does an Editor know about Agriculture?" These and kindred expressions of contempt met the very best and most worthy efforts of Agricultural writers. "Write from experience!" was the arbitrary demand. Eyes were closed and ears sealed against everything not duly authenticated and accredited as "practical."

As a natural result, we find men ignoring observation, in a blind idolatry to experience, and attempting to dwarf understanding and limit demonstration to the petty field of "my experience." It is forgotten that it takes ten thousand springs and rivulets of individual experience, to make a single drop in the great sea of demonstrated truth. It is not remembered that a multitude of voices must be woven into a harmonious *Yes* or *No*, in answer to the simplest question the culturist may ask, touching the practice of his profession, before that answer can rightly command his respect.

If anything in this world is to be taken with careful allowance, it is the judgment of men based solely upon their own experience. Only the hopelessly opinionated or blindly self-complacent, will accept the result of their own experience as conclusive. Yet, it is just this class of men who play the "practical" dodge most successfully, and against whose assumed wisdom and volunteer instruction the producing public need to be warned.

One method, and one alone, will eliminate the truth, and present the net results of *aggregated* experience: Observation, careful, discriminating observation, by a mind untrammelled with prejudice and free from pre-determining motives. This is the only authority worthy of belief in such matters. The man who *observes all* methods of cultivating a given crop, not the man who *practices one* of the multitude of such methods, is the one to decide which is best.

The verdict of observation is the jury-test of merit, in agricultural methods and facts, as the voice from the jury-box is in matters of litigation. Observation arraigns the practice of every man, and patiently listens to testimony and attorneys on either side, deciding for or against, according to weight of evidence; and it would be no less preposterous to decide a case of offended law upon the simple evidence of the offender, than to decide a disputed question of Agriculture upon the unsupported testimony of a single experience.

Long after observation had established the fact that Kansas was a fruit State, practical horticultur-

ists were still in the "Slough of Despond"—their individual experience having demonstrated failure, to their own satisfaction, at least. Let the reader select the man who writes most and tells most of what he *knows* to be true, because demonstrated by his own experience, and then tell us if such man is not a blind guide and an unreliable instructor.

Observation is the broad and safe basis of correct conclusions. It sits in the judge's seat, and decides without fear or favor upon the conflicting testimony of experience. To place the [testimony of experience above that of observation, is to clothe the witness with the ermine of the judge.

The want of the hour in the conduct of our Agricultural Press, is men of observation, who will content themselves with *editing* and publishing the results of observation.

## CADETSHIPS.

The corrupt and disgraceful practice of selling Cadetships in the National Military Academy, by reckless, wicked adventurers, who too frequently lodge in Congress instead of a State Prison, has awakened a discussion that should not cease until the error by which such corruption was made possible is corrected.

"In time of peace, prepare for war," is a maxim never lost sight of in the conduct of nations, no matter how illogical and unnatural the practice may appear to individuals. It is upon this maxim that military schools are established by governments, and cheerfully maintained by peoples.

The object of such institutions is clearly that of selecting the best military taste, talent and genius, from the youth of the nation, and educating it up to the very highest condition of scientific and practical power, attainable in any other than the school of grim war itself. The tax for its maintenance is part of the price we pay, the sacrifices we make, for such personal and political rights and religious freedom, as the government guarantees to the citizen.

To attain the object sought, two plain conditions are demanded: The country must give to the school its best material for soldiers, and the school be so conducted as to make the most of good material. These conditions faithfully answered, and a West Point becomes a tower of strength, around which the hopes and confidence of a nation may unite in perfect security.

But the best machine in the world cannot change the character of the material it works. It may make a nice looking job, but flaws and defects will develop in failure, whenever the thing made is submitted to use. A school is no more than a machine, with the human organism as raw material, out of which is to be made implements for specific uses. A military school is a machine for making soldiers, and must have material with mental, moral and physical stamina, or its products will be as valueless as a confection crowbar or glass car wheels.

How a system of nomination to these military cadetships, so defiant of common sense and patriotism as the one in use, came to be adopted, is indeed strange; though much less important, at this time, than the means of abolishing it. It is utterly subversive of good morals in Congressmen, purity in politics, and usefulness in the Military Academy.

We do not believe that money, paid directly in hand, has been the price of many cadetships; but we do believe that considerations no less objectionable, so far as the merit of the selection is concerned, have governed and do govern nearly all, if not every such nomination. We have never known a single instance where considerations personal to the member of Congress were not patent. Services rendered in previous, or promised in future, political contests, strong personal relations, or family connection, will be found the turning-point in nearly every instance. These motives may be considered more honorable than money considerations; but they are not less disastrous to the military interests of the country, if, indeed, less creditable to Congressmen.

The question is purely an educational one, designed to be determined in favor of merit on the part of

the candidate. This being the case, competition should be open and fair, before an examining board composed of men competent to decide and fearless to act; men who are not in elective positions, or dependent upon a popular ballot in any way for place or power.

Congress wisely, we think, provided for a military school in each State, in connection with Agricultural Colleges. Here is a safe starting-point for an intelligent selection of cadets. Let the quota of each State be supplied from its own military school, such appointment being the prize awarded to superior scholarship in the branches of education peculiar to the military profession. In this manner there will be offered an incentive for effort and development, sufficient to call out the very best military material of the country.

As it now stands, this class of material cannot be obtained. It chooses some other and less congenial life-pursuit, because fitness to enter West Point Academy is not half so good a recommendation, as to have a political striker or ward politician for a father.

Let members of Congress have as much political patronage as may be deemed best; but when candidates for educational and professional life, particularly military, depend upon such election, the result will be as we see it—corrupted Congressmen and "shilly-shally" cadets!

## PLAIN ANSWERS TO PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

THE FARMER is sought all over the East and South, as a reliable source of information in regard to Kansas. We are constantly in receipt of letters, asking sample copies and presenting questions for specific answers. The following is a fair sample, and embraces inquiries so timely and pertinent, that we give it place, and respond in the manner suggested, through THE FARMER:

GAYLESVILLE, CHEROKEE CO., ALA., March 7, 1870.  
MR. GEO. T. ANTHONY, Editor *Kansas Farmer*:  
DEAR SIR: The copy of THE FARMER you sent me is at hand, and permit me to say it pleases me better than any paper of the kind I have seen.

Please find \$1.00 enclosed, on subscription, beginning with the number for this month, as I don't want to lose a number. If consistent, I would like to ask a few questions in regard to Kansas, which you will please answer through your paper. Is Kansas a healthy State generally? Do you have very severe Winters? Is the water good, and of what kind—lime or freestone? Is there any good farming lands that are timbered, that can be taken by homestead or pre-emption? If so, where are they located? Are they adapted to corn and wheat culture, stock-raising, &c.? And last, Are the Winters too severe for a person raised in this latitude, which is 34 degrees 30 minutes?

By answering the above, or giving us a treatise on Kansas, you will confer a great favor. I am endeavoring to make up a colony to settle in Kansas next Spring; and I find THE FARMER a great help, so far, as it gives the history of the country, habits, customs, &c.

I think I will have six or eight subscribers for you, by the time your next number arrives. I am introducing THE FARMER in our settlement, and the people like it. Please forward the March number, and oblige,  
Yours, respectfully, &c., B. R. LAWRENCE.

Our correspondent's questions are answered in the order of asking.

Kansas is "a healthy State, generally." It is peculiarly so, and we believe without a rival in the list of new States, in this particular.

Notwithstanding the immense return of unharvested vegetable matter to the earth by decomposition, the turning up of hitherto undisturbed earth by the multitude of new comers, and the privations and hardships of pioneer life, our State is still free from serious epidemics and malarial diseases. Residents upon the bottom lands, who live in temporary houses, set upon the ground and in the timber, and who use surface water, suffer more or less from chills and fever. The climate is no more to blame for this, however, than is the fire for burning a finger thrust into it, in defiance of well understood natural laws.

We do not have "very severe winters." The average temperature is mild, and the atmosphere is unusual, except for a few days at a time. Such vehicles as sleighs and cutters are "elephants," which everybody runs to see, when heralded by the "jingling of bells." The unpleasant feature of our Winters is sudden and severe changes; a few times each Winter, the mercury drops to or goes below zero, in many localities. At these times, a change of thirty to fifty degrees in

twenty-four hours is not surprising. These "cold snaps," however, are of short duration, ordinarily culminating inside of three days, followed by a resumption of mild, agreeable weather.

These sudden changes are incident to the wide range of country, unbroken by mountain ranges or forest-clad hills. When an ugly iceberg takes a notion to breathe upon us, there is nothing to prevent the execution of its cruel design. This will be greatly modified by the growth of forests and hedges, which are rapidly springing up under the hand of intelligent industry.

Water is good in Kansas, not as an exceptional case, but as a rule universal in its application. A very large portion of the State is lime formation, and necessarily lime water. Enduring water is reached at a depth of twenty to seventy feet, the average being but little above the first named depth. Springs are abundant and pure as those gushing from the sides of the Green Mountains. We cannot do better than quote the words of Prof. G. C. SWALLOW, the distinguished Geologist, who made a geological survey of Kansas. Prof. SWALLOW, as a citizen and State Geologist of Missouri, cannot be charged with sympathy or interest, as a motive or influence in fixing his opinions. He says, on page 68 of his official Report:

Kansas is well supplied with streams of living water. \* \* \* Almost every farm has a good supply of never-falling springs. \* \* \* But few countries are better supplied with running streams and perennial springs; and few have such easy methods of obtaining artificial supplies of pure water.

There are "good farming lands, that can be taken by homestead and pre-emption," and some timbered land so open; but timbered claims are not so easily obtained. They lie in the northwest and south portions of the State. For specific information touching the west and north, address GEORGE W. MARTIN, U. S. Register, Land Office, Junction City. For south and west, address WATSON STEWART, U. S. Register, Land Office, Humboldt.

These lands are "adapted to corn and wheat culture, stock-raising," &c. They are adapted to the most diversified, and therefore most desirable and safe, system of culture. Cereals, fruits and grasses, are produced, in quantity and quality equal to those of any country we have seen. Stock-raising is an after question, a simple question of economy, depending upon location with reference to markets. As a rule, the products of the soil should be converted into meat, to attain the highest profit, unless grown in close proximity to a great market of consumption.

Stock farming is sure in Kansas, if it is conducted with ordinary intelligence; but we would caution men who come with the expectation of keeping stock, particularly sheep, without protection or Winter feeding. As mild as are our Winters, stock should be protected by good and sufficient cover, and have plenty of hay, with some grain.

We do not believe our climate too severe for persons raised in the latitude of 84½ degrees; at least, we know many men from that latitude, and some from Alabama, who have endured (?) it longer than we have, and who have grown fat and rich in its enjoyments.

If Mr. LAWRENCE makes up a colony for Kansas, he will find a hearty welcome by a people second to none in intelligence and energy, in this or any country. He will find a people polite and generous, yet self-reliant, and bitterly hostile to drones. The man of indolence and indecision has no place in Kansas. Such may stay here, and think they live; but to the busy, bustling, whirling masses they are dead and buried, out of thought and memory.

DISTRICT FAIRS.

We notice, with regret, that exception is taken to the effort for District Fairs in the north and west portions of the State. The Topeka Commonwealth, with much less than its usual sagacity and good judgment, fears it will militate against the State Fair; in short, esteems all such efforts mischievous attempts at competition.

Nothing can be further from the facts. If we are to depend upon a State Fair as the only exhibition worthy of general attendance, progress depending on this source of life and animation will be slow, indeed. The political axiom, that a supply creates a demand, is as true of Agricultural Fairs as of anything else. The more there are, the more are wanted. A success at home only creates a thirst to go abroad to see. The Fair fever is contagious, and when once started, will go the rounds.

If counties individually, or united in districts, will get up exhibitions, let them do it. The more the better. The State Society cannot claim a patent on Fairs, nor expect the widely separated localities to stand still in such matters until it comes round to them. It is well located this year, and has a splendid field for success and usefulness. It will be attended by representatives from all portions of the State, but not by the masses. This latter class want a Fair that they can attend; and we mistake the temper of the farmers and mechanics, north and west, if they do not have one this year. And we insist upon it that no unfriendly feeling toward the State Society is even shadowed by these local enterprises.

The American Institute, of New York City, has for years held a great Annual Exhibition. In magnitude, it has frequently far outstripped the State Agricultural Society's effort; particularly when the latter, for the best reasons in the world, were held in extreme localities. Yet, we never heard a word of complaint or conflict on the part of either, or between these great Associations. We cannot see why Leavenworth, the chief city of the State, may not have an Association corresponding to the American Institute of New York, and be a co-worker with the State Society, as that is with the State Society of New York.

The period of paper cities and inflated town speculations has passed in Kansas, and with it should go down, out of sight, all the petty jealousies and unmanly warfare of town against town and city against city, incident to such period. Fort Scott secured the Fair this year by fair, honorable means. Let no one complain of it. Other towns, which bid and failed, as well as those which did not compete, may want the next best thing to a State Fair, in one of their own county or section. Let them do their best, and no one has just reason to complain. If Topeka, Lawrence, Atchison, Wyandotte and Leavenworth, each hold a Fair this year, and try to make them bigger and better than that of the State Society at Fort Scott, every good citizen should wish them success; for the best good of the State must be the result.

AN UNFORTUNATE ERROR MAGNANIMOUSLY CORRECTED.

Much has been said in the columns of the Agricultural Press, about the starless condition of the Kansas column in the American Pomological Society's Reports up to the present time, and the radical change, in this respect, that would characterize the Report for the year just closed.

It was known by the Committee having charge of Kansas Fruit at Philadelphia, that full justice had been done to Kansas by the Secretary in his Report, as made up at that time; but when it came to hand in published form, to the surprise of every one, and the grief of the Kansas Fruit Committee, our State was in nearly as starless a condition as of old, in spite of its great triumph.

Correspondence revealed the fact that the omission was due to carelessness in composition, and proof-reading without the supervising care of the Society's Secretary, F. R. ELLIOTT, Esq., who resides in Cleveland, Ohio, while the printing was done in Boston Massachusetts.

The regret of the officers of the Society may be judged by the following letter from President WILDER. It was a private letter; but we feel justified in publishing it, that our readers may better appreciate the kindly feelings entertained for us,

and how determined they were that the error should be corrected:

BOSTON, MASS., February 20, 1870.  
MY DEAR SIR: I was deeply grieved to find that the State of Kansas, so nobly represented by her fruits and men at our National Exhibition at Philadelphia, had not been started (?) in our Catalogue of Fruits. The proofs of the volume were read by me, all except the Catalogue of Fruits, which the printer said he could do in my absence. I have consulted with Mr. BARTT, who has just been here; and we think it will be best to issue a Circular, containing the facts, and request each member to star (\*) the Kansas column in his book, and we will do the same in the volumes still on hand. I have written Mr. ELLIOTT on the subject.  
Yours, with great regard,  
MARSHALL P. WILDER.  
HON. GEO. T. ANTHONY.

We now have the result in a Circular sent out to all who possess the Report, by Secretary ELLIOTT, which explains itself, and places our State under renewed obligations to the American Pomological Society. We give the Circular, with List of Fruits. One star (\*) recommends the variety for cultivation; two stars (\*\*) recommend the variety as of great superiority or value in the State:

To the Members of the American Pomological Society: GENTLEMEN: In printing the last edition of the American Pomological Society's Catalogue for 1869, an omission was made, the cause whereof it is not worth while to recount; but justice to the gentlemen who composed the delegation from Kansas, as well as to the State at large, require that the error be remedied as far as may be possible. That delegation, at our meeting in Philadelphia, gave special attention to noting the List of Fruits on our Catalogue, and starting (\*) the same for their State; but in printing the same, their labors were nearly all omitted.

Accompanying herewith, therefore, I have prepared their List, from papers in my possession, and now ask each member to either attach this sheet to his copy of the Catalogue, or, using this as a guide, to so star (\*) the same with a pen that his copy may be perfected.

F. R. ELLIOTT, Secretary.

APPLES.

The following varieties should have one star (\*) in the Kansas column of the Catalogue, viz:

Red Astrachan,	Large Striped Pearmain,
Bally Sweet,	Jonathan,
Yellow Bellefeur,	Lady's Sweet,
Ben. Davis,	Northern Spy,
Dyer,	Orley,
Early Harvest,	Porter,
Early Pennock,	Pryor's Red,
Fall Pippin,	Rome-Beauty,
Fall Wine,	Talman's Sweeting,
Fall Queen of Kentucky,	Wagoner,
Fameuse,	White Winter Pearmain,
Fulton,	Wincesap,
Gilpin,	Willow Twig,
	American Summer Pearmain,

And the following List should have two stars (\*\*), viz:

High Top Sweet,	Maiden's Blush,
Lowell,	Rawley's Genet,
	Carolina Red June,

PEARS.

The following varieties should have each one star (\*), viz:

Beurre d'Anjou,	Louise Bonne de Jersey,
Beurre Diel,	Onondago,
Beurre Easter,	Rostlezer,
Buffum,	Seckel,
Doyenne Boussock,	Sheldon,
Doyenne d'Ete,	Stevens' Genesee,
Flemish Beauty,	Tyson,
Glout Morceau,	Urbaniste,
Howell,	Vicar of Winkfield,
Lawrence,	Winter Nellis,
	Duchesse d'Angouleme,

And the following should have each two stars (\*\*), viz:

Bartlett,	Doyenne White,	Belle Lucrative,
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CHERRIES.

The following should each have one star (\*), viz:

Belle Magnifique,	Morello,	May Duke,
		Early Richmond,
Kentish, or		

PEACHES.

The following should have each one star (\*), viz:

Coolidge's Favorite,	Morris's White,
Early Tilloston,	Old Milton Free,
Haines's Early,	Ward's Late Free,
Heath Cling,	Yellow Alberge,
	Early Newington Free,

PLUMS.

The following should have each one star (\*), viz:

German Prune,	Imperial Gage,	Jefferson,
Lombard,	Washington,	

GRAPES.

The Concord should have one star (\*).

CURRENTS.

Red Dutch and White Dutch, each one star (\*).

GOOSEBERRIES.

Houghton, one star (\*).

BUTLER COUNTY.

We have never visited this county, but all who have, unite in calling it one of very uniform and excellent soil, well watered, and of great promise to those desiring homes.

Butler county has a county seat, too. Its name is Eldorado, and it is upon the banks of Walnut river. And Eldorado now has a newspaper, to speak for it, and the county of which it is the "hub."

This is a new term. It means the "head center." The name of the paper published at Eldorado, Butler county, is *The Walnut Valley Times*. Like

most Kansas papers, the *Times* was born full grown, and makes its first appearance in the vigor and strength of manhood. It is a seven-column paper, gotten up with marked editorial ability, and a degree of mechanical skill and taste surpassing many of our older weeklies.

Not one of the old wealthy counties of the East in ten can boast of so good a paper as *The Walnut Valley Times*. T. B. MURDOCK and J. S. DANFORD are editors and publishers, and if they do not have a cordial and paying support, it will show more stupidity and ingratitude on the part of the people of Butler county than has been recorded of any community in Kansas.

#### LEAVENWORTH CO. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting of the Leavenworth County Horticultural Society was held at the office of J. T. LOCKWOOD, on Saturday, April 2d. This being the busiest season of the year with fruit-growers, the attendance was not large.

The subject for discussion was announced by the President to be "Small Fruits." The first taken up was Strawberries; and the following Essay was read by C. H. CUSHING:

#### STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

The culture of strawberries is a subject so often handled of late, that I shall not hope to add anything to the mass of information already in print. Still, the schoolboy's lessons require to be often reviewed, and I find that older boys have frequently a "first-rate forgettery" of important facts. I shall make no apology, therefore, if I repeat what you have heard a thousand times before.

"Strawberry culture for the million" has been pretty well exhausted; and as I have myself written several articles on that subject, I shall at present speak only of high culture. By this I mean that treatment which will secure good crops of the largest and finest fruit. It is claimed by some that the slip-shod mode of cultivation is most profitable. They say, if the ground is well prepared, and the vines planted and afterwards left to themselves for two or three years, and then plowed up, and replanted, more clean money can be realized from an acre, in this region of costly labor, than by any other mode. This may be true, but it is not my style, and I leave the discussion of it to others. I choose horticulture for a pursuit, not only for profit, but because I enjoy it. The production of fine, showy fruit is a luxury worth working for; and I certainly could not derive much pleasure from growing an inferior lot of fruit, that would sell only because it was cheap. If a careless system of culture was the only profitable way, why, then I would grow something else. But I do not believe it. The greatest success achieved by any one in this country has been by Mr. KNOX, who will not even use a horse in his little patch of twenty acres or more. Everything must be carefully done by hand. And he gets big berries, big prices, and big profits.

The subject naturally divides itself into the selection of varieties, the preparation of the ground, mode of planting, after culture, and protection, or mulching.

In varieties, my experience has not been so extensive as that of some growers; but, after growing the Wilson for fifteen years, and testing some dozen other popular varieties, in connection with careful observation of many more, I have never seen any variety that will compare with the Wilson, taking it all in all. It has its faults, of course; and what has not? But the variety has not yet come under my notice that has so few defects. It is said that the Wilson will produce but two good crops, and is then exhausted. Very well; I would prefer to get my twelve thousand quarts from an acre in two years, instead of scattering it over four years. Still, tastes differ, and those who fear a surfeit of good things, and prefer a drizzle to a shower, can find a host of varieties to select from that will accommodate their fancy.

There are many, also, who consider the Wilson too acid; and so it is when unripe, and very few

who buy their fruit ever taste a ripe one. When well ripened, it has a richness and amount of flavor that I have never seen excelled. For near market, it can be gathered nearly or quite ripe; for long carriage, it is so firm and solid, and has such a smooth and varnished surface, that it always arrives in better condition, and will sell better than anything else, with all its acidity. It should not be forgotten that, in our hot climate, a certain amount of acid is an essential ingredient in fruit, and any attempt to popularize a sweet, but flat and flavorless variety, will be as unsuccessful as growing sweet apples for market. Of course, the coming strawberry must be of a rich, aromatic flavor, smooth, firm and solid, when ripe, and an enormous bearer; in short, must combine all the excellences of all known varieties, with none of their defects. But, until that phenomenon appears, I shall stand by my old favorite.

In this climate, I consider the preparation of the soil of the utmost importance. Unlike corn or grapes, the strawberry loves a cool, moist soil, and while fruiting, consumes a vast amount of water. With this fact in view, the soil should be very deeply plowed or trenched. I trench two feet, and would advise going still deeper, if you don't get through the bottom of your purse into the quicksand of debt. Our clay loams are mostly underlaid with a subsoil which, if undisturbed by the plow, is almost impervious to water, and in dry weather becomes like stone, so hard that none but woody roots can penetrate it; but when broken up in the Fall, and exposed to the frosts and rains of Winter, this same tough clay makes a splendid soil for the strawberry—mellow as an ash-heap, and yet very retentive of moisture. Such a soil, then, two feet in depth, will drink in like a sponge the heaviest rain, without becoming saturated, and will withstand dry weather wonderfully.

Having, then, the ground deeply dug in the Fall, in the Spring I harrow it smooth, and lay off the rows three feet apart, and set the plants eighteen inches apart in the row. Before planting, I usually clip off the longest roots. This can be quickly done, by holding say twenty-five plants evenly together, and clipping off the roots of all at once, leaving them four or five inches long. I then dip the mass of roots in water, and proceed immediately to place them carefully in the holes made with a dibble. The fine earth will adhere to the wet fibers, and start the growth immediately. Water is objectionable in our clay soils, and if the ground is in good condition, it is not needed. If very dry, half a pint of water may be poured into the holes and allowed to settle away; then the roots placed in position, and fresh (not wet) earth packed around them.

As soon as the plants are fully in blossom, and the fruit begins to set, I go through with a pair of shears and clip off all the fruit. Do not be deceived by the abundant blossoms and fine promise of fruit. It will be worthless for use; what few berries mature, lying close to the ground, will be covered with mud; but the injury to the plant will be serious. No plant, of any kind, should be allowed to ripen fruit the first year. Slash it off, then, without mercy.

The plants being now well established and growing, the work is well begun. Generally, however, this is the end, as well as the beginning. Here is the fatal error of most who attempt to grow strawberries. The Grecian orator, when asked what was the first and most important element of oratory, replied, "Action!" Being asked what was the second, he replied, "Action!" And being further questioned, what was the third, again answered, "Action!" So the first, second and third essentials in the art we are discussing, are, Culture, Culture, CULTURE. The man who would delight his eyes and palate with fine strawberries, but is afraid of labor, had better buy his fruit.

A steel rake, or pronged hoe, is the most effective implement for hand culture, and a light harrow for horse culture. Keep them running all Summer. A

hoe is seldom needed, for weeds ought never to get large enough to cut. As soon as they show their noses above ground, the sharp steel rake teeth should be ready to seize and destroy them. A weed with only the seed leaves is the easiest thing in the world to kill; but let it get a little start, and it has more lives than a cat. To-day, you can annihilate a great army of weeds in five minutes; give them a week to entrench, and you may fire away for an hour, and half of them will be on their feet next day.

Runners, however, are weeds that "will not down" so easy. They must be cut off. A sharp spade, or a tool shaped like a mincing-knife, or circular, will do it well. I generally allow a few runners to take root, and form a continuous row, not more than eight or ten inches in width, and not thickly set. Four or five plants to the foot are enough. Hill culture has not proved as successful with me as this mode. If some coarse mulch could be cheaply obtained, to cover the ground thickly in hot weather at fruiting time, I have no doubt the best crops could be grown in single hills; but it is difficult, especially in the city, to get suitable material for mulch, and without it, I prefer the row system.

For Winter protection, I use the coarsest material I can get—coarse hay, potato or tomato vines—any rubbish that is free from weed seeds. Corn-stalks alone would do first-rate, but when very dry, they are apt to blow off; hence, I prefer putting them through the stable, and by using plenty of swamp hay for bedding, a lot of very excellent material for mulching will be manufactured. This gives all the manure that is needed for strawberries. Our yellow clay loams are quite rich enough, but the mulch rotting on the surface mellowing it, and prevents baking and drying out.

In regard to the frequent complaint of winter-killing, I am satisfied that quite as much of the difficulty is due to feeble plants, as to exposure. Deep tillage, plenty of room, and constant culture through the Summer, will give you a plant with large, glossy leaves, a thick crown, and abundance of long roots, which is better prepared to sleep soundly and comfortably through the frosts of Winter, than the feeble, crowded weakling, though tucked up tenderly under a feather bed. All are improved, however, by a light mulch; for alternate freezing and thawing will break many valuable roots, and this is in a measure prevented by shading the ground with litter. I do not apply the mulch until the ground is frozen quite hard.

In the Spring, after danger of hard freezing is past, the mulch should be loosened, but not entirely removed at first, and as the weather becomes warm, raked off. Some advise leaving it on until after fruiting; but this conflicts with my cultivation theory. I prefer to remove it, cultivate thoroughly a few times, and then restore it. It is recommended by some to keep strawberry ground constantly covered with a heavy mulch; and it is claimed that, in addition to keeping the soil moist, and giving protection in Winter, it also saves the labor of cultivation and prevents any growth of weeds. I am greatly in favor of mulching, but I believe there is such a thing as running it into the ground, and there are many cultivators who formerly employed heavy mulch for orchards, and even vegetables, who have discarded it. Constant mulching draws all the roots to the surface, and exposes them too much to the changes of our variable climate; and if it once dries through the mulch, the plants perish suddenly. On the other hand, in wet weather, the soil becomes cold and sour, generating mosses and fungi, and giving an unhealthy growth to the plants. I am satisfied it has a wholesome and invigorating effect upon the soil to frequently expose its particles to the air; let it circulate through it, and deposit its moisture, gases, and perhaps impart an electrical snap. It is difficult to convince some people—especially those whose elbows are constitutionally stiff—that stirring the soil, with the mercury at 100 degrees, will moisten it; but nothing is

more certain, or easily explained on philosophical principles. Science and practice, then, both teach to mulch in very cold and very hot weather; but in the growing season, let the soil freely drink in the sunshine and air. We thus secure a healthy and vigorous growth, fitted to endure all extremes, and able to produce an abundant crop.

Strawberry culture has many attractions, and almost every one with a garden has, at some time or other, indulged in a "patch." But, for some reason, the majority do not meet with great success; many become disgusted, and abandon it entirely. The strawberry is a beautiful, delicious and most wholesome fruit, and I wish it were abundant enough to put to rout the whole barbarous horde of pies, pork and pastry; but it is not, and probably never will be. Why not? Simply because every son of ADAM seems determined to earn his bread by the sweat of the brow—of somebody else. In short, the matter is laziness. This peerless fruit only comes to perfection at the command of labor. If you will—

"Throw down the shovel and the hoe,"

you may also—

"Hang up the fiddle and the bow,"  
and quit strawberry culture.

Mr. CADOGAN agreed with most of the Essay, but grew his strawberries altogether in hills. Would not apply the mulch until the fruit begins to color; then keep it on till September, or during the hot weather. Would keep the soil well cultivated during the Spring and Fall.

Mr. WELLHOUSE concurred in the opinion expressed with regard to mulch. The roots should be encouraged to run down, and if the soil is pulverized deeply, moisture will rise up from a great depth by capillary attraction. This moisture, in its ascent, brings up with it in solution the organic and mineral elements which existed in the subsoil, or had been carried down by the rains.

In regard to varieties, the opinion of the members was that the Wilson was best. Dr. STAYMAN, however, thought French Seedling a very excellent sort; also, Scarlet Magnate. Had seen it bear better crops than the Wilson.

Dr. HOWSLEY had grown the Scarlet Magnate, and gathered great crops from it—more than from any other sort. It is, however, a pistillate variety, and some staminate kind must be planted near to fertilize it.

It was thought best, on account of want of experience, not to recommend a List of Small Fruits. A brief statement of experience with them was given by different members.

#### RASPBERRIES.

Miami, Doolittle and Mammoth Cluster, black caps, had been grown with good success. The opinion was decided that Mammoth Cluster was the same as Collinsville Miami, an old sort. Of the Red varieties, Philadelphia, Clark, Franconia and Purple Cane, had been experimented with, but the experience had not been long enough to warrant an opinion. Clark had killed down badly this Winter, but it may have been weakened by the attacks of grasshoppers. Philadelphia had been injured, but not entirely killed down; in some localities, it was sound to the tips.

#### BLACKBERRIES.

The Kittatinny, Wilson and Lawton, had been tried. All had stood the Winter well, and were nearly sound. In flavor, Mr. CUSHING believed the Kittatinny to stand first, Lawton next, and Wilson third, though they are all good when ripe. The Kittatinny is the best family berry, ripening its fruit a long time in succession, but not much at once. The Wilson ripens all its fruit in a short time, and therefore is best for market. Both had been produced of enormous size. The Kittatinny is a rampant grower, and requires a good deal of room. The Wilson is not so strong, and partakes of the character of the dewberry.

#### GOOSEBERRIES.

The opinion seemed to be general that gooseberries are so easily grown here, and so enormously productive, that it will not pay to grow them for

market. Other more palatable fruits, too, come in at the same time.

#### CURRENTS.

The experience with these had not been favorable. Dr. STAYMAN brought six thousand to Kansas, sold twenty-five, and had about twenty-five left. Dr. HOWSLEY, out of four or five hundred, had but few left. He had, however, grown them on the single stem plan, and the borers had destroyed them. He would much prefer the bush plan, cutting out old wood frequently. It was believed that the currant can be very well grown, by giving it a cool, shaded location, and mulching in hot weather.

A resolution was offered, and adopted, to invite the ladies to attend the meetings; and a committee was appointed to secure their presence and co-operation.

Dr. HOWSLEY exhibited specimens of McAfee's Nonsuch, from Independence, Mo., whose pedigree was very direct from the old McAfee orchard, in Kentucky; also, the apple grown here under the name of the Large Striped Pearmain. All present pronounced them the same apple, and a resolution was unanimously adopted to that effect.

Mr. ATKINSON exhibited a seedling apple, of fair size, great weight, and evidently a long keeper.

Mr. J. T. LOCKWOOD exhibited a Eumelan grapevine, showing strong growth and well ripened wood.

The subject for discussion at next meeting is the Cultivation of Pears.

The Society then adjourned till the first Saturday in May, at one o'clock, P. M.

C. H. CUSHING, *Rec. Sec.*

#### THE PRESS OF KANSAS.

[From the Kansas Commonwealth, Topeka.]

Kansas has no reason to be ashamed of her Press. Indeed, with the opportunity which we have to acquaint ourselves with the newspapers of other States, we do not hesitate to claim that in no State does the average character of public journals stand higher. Of course we have not, and do not claim to have, any great newspaper, which has acquired national reputation and influence; but out of the great number that we have, there is scarcely one that is not creditable to the State, and largely useful in its sphere.

In the first place, Kansas has a greater number of journals, of all kinds, than are maintained by any other equal population on the globe. This may sound like a boast, but if any one imagines that our assertion is not strictly correct, he will do well to consult the statistics. We are accustomed to regard Massachusetts as the great seat of learning and intelligence, the fountain head of literature and the arts. In many respects this estimate is not extravagant; and yet, we presume many will be surprised when we assert that the number of daily newspapers published in Massachusetts exceeds the number published in Kansas but little, if at all; while the aggregate of journals of all kinds published in Kansas greatly exceeds that of Massachusetts, in proportion to population.

The intelligence of a people may be accurately judged by their newspapers. Suppose that the institution of Slavery existed and flourished to-day, and that the conspiracy to extend it over Kansas had been successful, can any one who has noted the relative rate of progress under free and slave governments flatter himself that more than sixty newspapers would have existed in the State to-day, and most of them of a very superior class? The idea is preposterous. Nothing more clearly defines the boundary between freedom and despotism, than the character of the public press.

\* \* \* \* \*  
What other influence has done so much toward the development of Kansas? What else has made known to the world the superior advantages possessed by our young State, and turned the tide of emigration in this direction? Who has advocated railroad building so persistently, and to such large audiences, and done so much toward attracting the capital necessary to pursue these important enter-

prises? In the promotion of all worthy objects, political reform, educational advancement, the development of moral and material interests, what agency is the earliest invoked and the most implicitly relied upon? We answer, confidently, the public press.

That the people appreciate this power, is conclusively proven by the fact that in almost every new and ambitious locality, the early establishment of a local newspaper is considered an indispensable requisite. In all these little towns, the newspaper ante-dates the church; and sometimes, planted almost alone in the solitude of the prairie, it brings population, thrift and enterprise, to cluster in loving contiguity around it.

The vast improvements made in the press of the State within the past twelve months, is a matter which has received very general notice, as it has occasioned very general surprise. It is another and a strong proof of the popular appreciation, because improvements necessitate increased outlays; and outlays that are not justified by the patronage at present enjoyed or reasonably to be expected, are seldom made, and never ought to be made. \* \* \*

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING.

[From the Manhattan Standard.]

The regular meeting of the Blue and Kansas Valley Agricultural Society, was held at the County Hall, in Manhattan, March 12. The subject, Potatoes, was fully discussed by members present, some twenty varieties being on exhibition. Mr. MARLATT produced the largest number, some of which he recommended for cultivation, and others he pronounced of small value. Mr. E. L. FOSTER exhibited specimens of early Rose, of the second crop, which were the finest on exhibition. Some fine potatoes were also shown by Prof. HOUGHAM and HORACE EELLS. All who have tested the Early Rose pronounce it a very superior variety.

The next regular meeting will be held at the County Hall on Saturday, March 26th. Subject for consideration, Tree Planting.

J. S. HOUGHAM, *President.*

W. H. FAGLEY, *Secretary.*

#### VINES—KEEP THE BUGS AWAY.

[Selected.]

Perhaps our readers may find some of the following recipes useful in the bug complaint:

Make the hills about ten inches in diameter, plant the seed in a circle, and in the center plant four or five beans. When the vines are out of reach of the bugs, the beans may be cut off or transplanted to another place. This plan has been practiced many years, and was never known to fail.

Another plan is to sprinkle the vines with fresh charcoal, pulverized, mixed with ashes and a little plaster-paris; neither of these articles is in any way injurious to the plants.

But the latest invention is this: Saturate corn-cobs with coal tar, and place them in the hill, but not so as to touch the plants. The bugs are warranted to emigrate to a sweeter home.

A DELICATE REBUKE.—Mr. WEBSTER wrote, after continued provocation, to the editor of a newspaper which referred to his private affairs, and especially to not paying his debts. He said, substantially: "It is true I have not always paid my debts punctually, and that I owe money. One cause of this is, that I have not pressed those who owe me for payment. As an instance of this, I enclose your father's note, made to me thirty years ago, for money lent him to educate his boys."

A NOTION SELLER was offering a Yankee clock, finely varnished and colored, with a looking-glass in the front, to a maiden lady not remarkable for her personal beauty. "Why, it is beautiful," said the vender. "Beautiful, indeed! a look at it almost frightens me," said the lady, indignantly. "Then, marm," replied Jonathan, "I guess you'd better take one that hain't got no looking-glass."

IMPORTANT TO AGRICULTURISTS.

What we Import that Might be Produced in the United States.

In response to a resolution of the House of Representatives instructing the Commissioner of Agriculture to furnish certain information respecting his Department, General CABRON has submitted the following letter, giving the facts required:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 1870.

Hon. Jas. G. Blaine, Speaker of the House of Representatives: SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following resolution of the House of Representatives, bearing date of Jan. 26, 1870:

Resolved, That with a view of developing the agricultural resources of the United States, and of introducing into this country the cultivation of plants yielding materials valuable in the arts and manufactures, the Commissioner of Agriculture be instructed to inform this House of the extent and value of the imports of foreign commodities susceptible of production within the limits of this country, as plants useful for dye-stuffs, medicines, food products, and for textile and fibrous materials, and for other economic purposes.

I respond with pleasure to an inquiry so suggestive of new industries, agricultural and mechanical, by which the teeming millions of our future population shall earn their bread and enhance the national wealth, and for which we have millions of acres of suitable land in climates exactly adapted to such productions.

When the productions of a county or district are limited to one or two great market crops, there must of necessity recur seasons when the profit desired is reduced to a minimum, and consequent pecuniary loss is sustained. A large extent of land was last year placed under cotton cultivation. The price of the staple was high and the profits large. A continuance of this increase of area, and the consequent neglect of subordinate crops will, eventually, and possibly very soon, reduce the value and destroy the profit of the main production, and advance ruinously the price of essential, though neglected, minor productions.

The culture of wheat furnishes an illustration precisely parallel. The price of a bushel of wheat in Minnesota is to-day a little more than the cost of a pound of butter, because wheat fields have been unduly enlarged, while cattle have been neglected. So long as the production is not in excess of the home consumption all goes well, but when reckless cropping year after year upon the same land swells the product beyond that point, and a large surplus is thrown upon the foreign markets in direct competition with the cheap labor of other countries, the price falls below the cost of production, and the farmer must suffer a two-fold loss—of a depletion of his land and his year of toil.

Then arises a necessity, in a country so broad and fertile, for the culture of the greatest possible variety of useful plants, lest suffering and loss be the result of a total or partial want of a market for produce of one alone. To diminish these oscillations in market values, and to place our farming community above the risks arising from this cause, I propose a more extended cultivation of certain plants, and the introduction of others not yet tried. Such efforts are not only eminently within the province of this Department, but are the distinct requirements of its charter, and it is made its peculiar function to watch vigilantly over the progress of American agriculture, and to divert the rural labor into channels which may prove more profitable to private enterprise, and more productive of national wealth.

To offset the diminished value of an excessive production of cotton, a greater breadth of land should be devoted to the sugar-cane, coffee, rice and various fruits, especially grapes suited to wine making. In place of the almost exclusive yield of grain in many sections, the sugar beet and other roots should divide the occupation of the land.

There is but little variety in our agricultural production, and the soil, even under continual ordinary manuring, loses its productive capacity by the loss of one class of mineral food. The cultivation of another article on the land may yield a profitable return, and at the same time the soil is recovering its equilibrium of mineral elements.

For some time past the great object which this Department has had in view has been to point out to the farmers of the country the pressing necessity of diversion of agricultural labor. The great extent of our territory, its variety of soil, climate and capability, all point to the want of, and the benefit derivable from, a varied cultivation. Our people are apt to carry with them, to new localities whether they migrate, the same plans and processes of culture which they profitably pursued under very different climates, and to overlook the material barriers to profitable growth which nature has rigidly set for cultivation; and thus a barren uniformity exists over an extent of country susceptible of a great variety of vegetable growth. One of the great uses of this Department is to lead the way in this progressive agriculture, not only by pointing out new plants for introduction and test, but also by experiments extensively to ascertain what species may profitably be cultivated in certain sections where climate or other conditions are favorable. To carry this aim into successful practice, a system of exchange of seeds has been adopted with various parts of the world, by which it has obtained many valuable plants and seeds, natives of inter-tropical and south temperate zones. These seeds have been planted in our conservatories with the view of ascertaining within what limits of the country they may be profitably grown in open ground. Such experiments involved time and expenditure; but they may be essential to the education of our people up to the necessity for a cultivation varied according to the natural influences of climate and latitude.

The jute-plant (*Corchorus*), tea, coffee and cinnamon, can be grown in the United States. The cultivation of the latter should not be left to private enterprise at first, but ought to be conducted on plantations by the government until a large number of healthy and acclimated plants are obtained for distribution. The value of these four plants, if produced within our borders, is shown by the tables to be over \$40,000,000. I do not say that we can at this moment supersede by our own production foreign tea and coffee, but if we cannot it is solely due to the cost of labor, and not to climatic incapability. Sugar is one of those products which fortunately can be made from one end of our territory to the other, either from the cane or beet, and the value of this article of commerce is annually increasing, the importations for the year ending June 30, 1869, reaching \$72,398,320, gold value. The cultivation of beet sugar is in no way exhausting, but on the contrary beneficial in a rotation, and valuable as an aid of other industries.

Prominent among the substances which may be grown and made to constitute a new product of industry, are the various dye-stuffs, which yield either coloring or tannin. Such are the sumac trees and madder plants, the present imports of which are at a very high figure, as may be seen by reference to the tables and statement already made. The climate of many of the Southern and all of the Middle States is well adapted for the growth of these plants, and should be introduced at once into our ordinary list of crops. In addition to hemp and jute (already mentioned, and of as great importance, as this growth will be easy and profitable), there are many species of the nettle, and allied tribes, which have fibers remarkably strong and fine, and the growth of which may be well suited to certain sections. The China grass, or ramie, which has been grown to some extent in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida, are examples of the ease with which cultivation may be extended. In similar climates some varieties of the Agave, as the Sisal hemp, &c., may be attempted. The okra, as a paper material, might also be more extensively grown, as well as the Esparto grass, which now

occupies a leading position in Europe as a material for the manufacture of paper.

Among the oil-bearing plants, the Elaeo Guineensis, or palm-oil tree, may be attempted in Florida, and in the coast regions of Texas; and the culture of the castor-oil bean, *Palma Christi*, should be extended, while in the Northern and Middle States might be profitably raised those annuals, most umbelliferous and composite, which contain oil in their seeds or flowers, as caraway, anise, lavender, &c. The value of imported oils of this class is about \$314,000.

The list of substances herein recommended for growth and experiment by no means includes all the plants which may be grown, but only the more important members. The numbers might be increased, but as the extension of the list might not add materially to the force of the facts set forth, I hesitate to add more, believing that I have shown how desirable it is to increase the variety of our agricultural productions, and how this department may labor effectively in this direction.

The list of articles now imported annually, which should be produced in this country, some of which are already grown here to a limited extent, while others have not yet been introduced, though both soil and climate of some portions of our country are well suited to their growth, represent a gold value of at least \$175,000,000, and a few of these, introduced in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, are represented as follows:

Sugar (including molasses and candies), \$72,398,320; coffee, \$24,686,813; tea, \$13,600,826; jute, hemp, flax and similar fibers, \$23,211,590; raw or reeled silk, \$3,312,733; rice, \$1,326,327; fruits, \$7,055,658; madder, \$3,553,258; opium, \$1,068,872.

The imports of New York city alone during the year 1869, as reported by the *Journal of Commerce*, make a suggestive showing, both as to value and variety of these products of plants suited to our soil and climate, from which list the following table is prepared:

Table with 4 columns: ARTICLES, PRODUCT, AMOUNT OF IMPORTATION, and VALUES. Lists various agricultural products like Opium, Gum, Annatto, Mustard, Hemp, Castor Beans, Chicory, Madder, Do., Sumac, Peppermint, Caraway, Aloe, Flax, Esparto Grass, Asafetida, Indigo, Lemon, Linseed, Olive, Grape, Jute, Do., butts, Do., cuttings, Logwood, Tea, Pimento, Sarsaparilla, Croton, Sugar, Molasses, Lemon, Tobacco, Onions, Honey, Ginger, Raisins, Oranges, Prunes, Currants, Bananas, Citron, Figs, Nuts, and Wool.

For two years past I have been making collection of plants useful in the arts and in medicine, and have awaited patiently the action of Congress providing plant-houses for their propagation (for which estimates have twice been made), but have been obliged to defer active operations, to the disappointment of multitudes interested in the extension of the products of the soil, especially in the South, where information and co-operation are greatly desired by those who seek to utilize their

peculiar advantages of soil and climate. It is to be hoped the facilities will be furnished for the commencement of this important work, which is destined to add millions to the wealth of the country. It is a work which individuals cannot afford to do, involving some risk, which should be borne by the country at large, and defended in its prosecution by scientific and well-directed efforts. The growth of such plants by the Department, on its own grounds and propagating garden, aided by chemical research in its laboratory, cannot fail to answer the end desired, and prepare the way for individual effort.

#### KANSAS AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL ASSOCIATION.

This Association, through purchase of valuable real estate in this city, and unpropitious weather at successive Fairs, became financially embarrassed, and has omitted its Annual Exhibitions for two years past, devoting, in the mean time, its energies to recovering financial soundness, and preparing for more successful and useful action than ever before.

It now owns thirty-four acres of ground within the city limits, upon which are valuable improvements, in the form of fences, buildings, sheds, stables, and track, making it a very commodious Fair Ground, without further outlay. This property is free from any debt or incumbrance. In addition to this, the Society has a surplus of cash exceeding ten thousand dollars, which is earning a large interest.

Under these auspicious circumstances, it starts out for an Exhibition the coming Autumn, which promises to be the Fair of the season. The city and county of Leavenworth can make a great show alone, but aided by the country now open to it by diverging lines of railway on either side of the river, nothing but the necessary preparation and advertising is required to bring fifty thousand visitors, and an Exhibition worthy of such an attendance.

Sub-committees are at work, and we shall be able to present the outlines of arrangement in the next issue of THE FARMER. If inducements and attractions are not presented for attendance of exhibitors and visitors, to fully sustain these sanguine predictions, we are sadly mistaken in the men who have the enterprise in hand, with all the means of unqualified success at command.

#### ACTIVITY ALL AROUND.

It is pleasing to notice the rising tide of Agricultural interest manifesting itself all over the State. Fort Scott, by a liberality that made old foggy heads swim, secured the State Fair, which, under its energetic managers and the efforts of those interested in Southern Kansas, will meet the most sanguine expectations of its friends. It will be a success, and do honor to the State. It is to be held September 27th to 30th, inclusive.

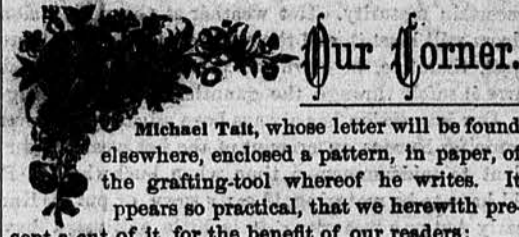
The Leavenworth County Society has resolved to hold a Fair, on its grounds, in the city of Leavenworth, September 18th to 18th, inclusive. This Society has the finest grounds in the State, and means in bank to make any extent of preparation perfectly safe. We shall be surprised if it does not call together the greatest number of people ever assembled upon any occasion in Kansas.

The Wyandotte County Society has been re-organized, secured permanent Fair Grounds, and resolved to hold a Fair. That this will be a creditable exhibition is a fixed fact. Its President is ALFRED GRAY, Esq., so long an active and efficient Director in the State Society and the Leavenworth County Association.

The Douglas County Society is active and resolute. It has decided upon a Fair, and authorized a committee to prepare a premium list, offering an aggregate of \$2,000. Douglas county has the material for an exhibition of agricultural products, manufactures and works of art, second to none in the State. We predict a success for it.

A District Society, embracing Riley, Davis and Pottawatomie counties, has been organized, with Prof. J. S. HOUGHAM, of the Agricultural College,

as President. This Society is cordially sustained by the press, and promises much. We shall look for a Fair, and a good one, too, from this Society this year.



Michael Tait, whose letter will be found elsewhere, enclosed a pattern, in paper, of the grafting-tool whereof he writes. It appears so practical, that we herewith present a cut of it, for the benefit of our readers:

The extreme length of this implement is thirteen inches, including handle. The blade should be one and one-half inches wide from ferule to end of first curve, the inner side of which is the cutting edge; the back of it three-eighths of an inch thick, reduced to one-fourth of an inch opposite center of cutting edge, increased to three-eighths of an inch opposite second curve, and one-half inch at extreme end, which forms the wedge which stands at right angles with the blade. Mr. TAIT describes its use as follows: "Saw off your stock, then one draw of your knife each way prepares it for the split; enter the wedge end in the split, and use the handle as a lever to open it."

**Confidential.**—Put your ear close down here, gentle reader, as we have a secret to tell you. Do you like Lima beans? Of course you do. Well, if you want to raise Lima beans, as rich as butter and as big as a "sarcer," just do as we tell you. Take empty nail kegs, and bore the bottom and sides full of small holes; then set them in the ground, open end up, so that the chimes will be about two inches below the surface of the ground. Now fill the keg with rich, well rotted manure—that from the hog-pen is best—and cover with dirt, leaving the surface dishing, to hold water. This done, prepare the ground outside and around the keg, by thorough pulverizing, for the seed; set five poles, six or eight feet long, equi-distant, close to the keg, the tops coming together, and plant one bean at the foot of each pole, using only the best of seed. Keep the keg of compost well supplied with water—soap-suds is excellent—so that it will percolate through it and out to the roots of your bean plants. Do this, and you will have the biggest, the fattest, the best, and the most Lima beans it is possible for good Mother Earth to produce. One thing more: This is not original, nor can we give you the name of the inventor; but it is genuine. We have tried it, and seen it tried. We've be(a)n there, and know whereof we speak.

**It Rages Everywhere.**—An Illinois paper (the *Decatur Magnet*) tells of a contagious fever raging in that locality, as follows:

A disease called the *Kansas Fever* is raging to an alarming extent in this city. Over twenty of our citizens have it today; and, to allay the same, they propose taking wagons in April or May, and visiting Topeka, Humboldt, and other cities and towns in the State of Kansas. If they can find suitable hospitals there, they will remain and call upon Drs. LAND and FORTUNE to protect them during their sojourn in that region.

This fever is contagious, and has already found its way to every nook and corner of the country. It has never yielded to any treatment except that of the celebrated Kansas Doctors named by the *Magnet*; but when the patient is removed to our prairie hospitals, he is rapidly restored, and enjoys a degree of health never attained by those who have not had the fever. It is a good fever. *Let it rage.*

**It May be Good.**—We have had two packages, each containing a twenty-five-dollar advertisement of "Lester's Perfected Tomato" and a bunch of cotton containing a dozen of its seeds. The insertion of the advertisement, as requested, would be equiva-

lent to paying two dollars each for the seeds. We are obliged to decline the proposition. The "Lester's Perfected Tomato" may be a very good thing, and well worthy of general cultivation; but the whole system of getting it before the public smacks of *humbbug*, so clearly as to call for a caution against it. If you have money, time and land for Tomato experiments, try the "Perfected;" but if you have a market garden, for profit, or a kitchen garden, for home consumption, plant seed the history of which is without *mystery*.

**A District Fair.**—Active movements are inaugurated for a District Fair in Northern Kansas, this Fall. A meeting was held at Troy, Doniphan county, on the 6th instant, attended by delegates from most of the counties interested. An adjourned meeting will be held at Muscotah on the 3d of May, when a complete programme is promised.

**A Meteorological Report** for the month of March, 1870, by Prof. B. F. MUDGE, of the State Agricultural College, Manhattan:

Average of the Thermometer for the month,.....	36.19
Maximum height (noon, 21st and 27th).....	68
Minimum height (15th, 7 A. M.).....	0
Average of the Barometer, inches.....	30.09
Total range during the month, inches.....	36.95
Amount of rain (including snow reduced to rain), in.....	1.45
Amount of snow, inches.....	4.5
Number of days on which rain and snow fell.....	19

Two days entirely cloudy, and one entirely free from clouds. Farmers plowing and sowing most of the month.

#### BOOKS AND PAPERS.

**The Manufacturer and Builder.**—To the great army of artificers, who give practical shape to the world in all its progressive steps, this is a mine of wealth and a source of satisfaction. To the manufacturer and builder it is an invaluable guide. To the general reader, full of interest and practical information, alike important to professional and unprofessional. WESTERN & COMPANY, Publishers, 37 Park Row, N. Y. Subscription price \$1.50, with liberal club rates.

**Sports and Games.**—This publication, from the press of ADAMS & Co., Boston, Mass., is issued quarterly, at twenty-five cents a year, and is a complete compendium of in and out door sports for all seasons.

#### THE HOUSEKEEPER'S TRAGEDY.

[From "Hearth and Home."]

One day, as I wandered, I heard a complaining,  
And saw a poor woman, the picture of gloom;  
She glared at the mud on her door-step ('twas raining),  
And this was her wail, as she wielded her broom:

"Oh! life is a toll, and love is a trouble,  
And beauty will fade, and riches will flee,  
And pleasures they dwindle, and prices they double,  
And nothing is what I could wish it to be.

"There's too much of worriment goes to a bonnet;  
There's too much of ironing goes to a shirt;  
There's nothing that pays for the time you waste on it;  
There's nothing that lasts us but trouble and dirt.

"In March it is mud; it's slush in December;  
The Midsommer breezes are loaded with dust;  
In Fall, the leaves litter; in muggy September  
The wall-paper rots, and the candlesticks rust.

"There are worms in the cherries, and slugs in the roses,  
And ants in the sugar, and mice in the pies;  
The rubbish of spiders no mortal supposes,  
And ravaging roaches, and damaging flies.

"It's sweeping at six, and it's dusting at seven;  
It's victuals at eight, and it's dusting at nine;  
It's potting and panning from ten to eleven;  
We scarce break our fast ere we're planning to dine.

"With grease and with grime, from corner to center,  
Forever at war, and forever alert,  
No rest for a day, lest the enemy enter:  
I spend my whole time in a struggle with dirt.

"Last night, in my dream, I was stationed forever  
On a little bare isle in the midst of the sea;  
My one chance of life was a ceaseless endeavor  
To sweep off the waves ere they swept off poor me!

"Alas! 'twas a dream—again I behold it!  
I yield! I am helpless my fate to avert!"  
She rolled down her sleeves; her apron she folded;  
Then lay down and died, and was buried in dirt.

**KANSAS IN THE LIGHT OF COMPARISON.**

The January Report of the Department of Agriculture contains a table, showing the yield per acre of the principal crops raised in the several States, in the year 1869. This table is an interesting study, as it presents each State in comparison with every other one, and affords the most conclusive evidence of producing merit in each of the leading crops.

We cannot give an opinion of the approximate accuracy of these statistics. We all know they can not be absolutely correct; but they are, no doubt, reliable as any that can be secured through volunteer agencies, and if not correct in fact, are so as a means of comparison; inasmuch as they all come through channels of the same character throughout the country.

Now, let us see how Kansas stands the test of comparison, by Commissioner CAPRON'S carefully collated statistics, as an Agricultural State.

**WHEAT.**

This embraces both Winter and Spring varieties, and refers to the aggregate product of each. Kansas, 19.5 bushels per acre. California alone exceeds this, and yielded 20.7 bushels. The average yield of thirty-two States was 13.5 bushels per acre, or about *thirty per cent.* less than the yield of Kansas.

**WINTER WHEAT.**

This is given in a separate item, in twenty-seven States, Kansas leading the list with 15.1 bushels per acre, her highest competitors being West Virginia and Kentucky, each of which produced 11.5 bushels. The average yield of twenty-seven States was 10.2 bushels to the acre—only two-thirds that of Kansas.

**RYE.**

Kansas produced 25.5 bushels to the acre. The yield of California, was 31.5, and it is the only State surpassing Kansas. Nebraska is next—19.4 bushels. The average of thirty-two States was 14.6 bushels per acre—showing the yield of Kansas to be *forty-six per cent.* above the average.

**WINTER RYE.**

Kansas yielded 12.9 bushels per acre of this grain, and was only beaten by Nebraska, which gave 14 bushels. Thirty States are represented, with an average yield of 10.1 bushels; or *twenty-two per cent.* less than the yield of Kansas.

**BARLEY.**

This embraces the entire product of Winter and Spring varieties. The product of Kansas was 30.6 bushels to the acre. California produced 35.3, and is the only State ahead of Kansas. Nebraska, however, is close upon her heels, having yielded 30.2—only four-tenths of a bushel less than Kansas. The average yield of twenty-five States was 23.2 bushels per acre, leaving the yield of Kansas *twenty-seven per cent.* above the average.

**WINTER BARLEY.**

Yield of Kansas, 11 bushels per acre; Georgia being the only State above this, it yielding 11.7 bushels. Only sixteen States are represented in the product of this grain, the yield being very uniform, with an average of 9.9 bushels per acre, or ten per cent. less than the crop of Kansas.

**OATS.**

In this important grain Kansas heads the column of thirty-four States, with a yield of 42.1 bushels per acre; the lowest being 13 bushels, and the average of the whole number of States 27.6, or *thirty-four per cent.* less than the yield of Kansas.

**CORN.**

Here, again, Kansas asserts her supremacy, and stands at the head of thirty-four States, showing a yield of 48.4 bushels to the acre. The next highest is Nebraska, with 42.2 bushels per acre, and California, 41.4. No other State touches 40 bushels. The average yield of the thirty-four States com-

bined was 26 bushels per acre, or *thirty-eight per cent.* less than the yield of Kansas.

**BUCKWHEAT.**

Few would anticipate a report of this crop flattering to Kansas. It is, at best, very capricious, and of uncertain maturity. Hot weather at the period of bloom will blast it, and the slightest frost kill it. It must, therefore, be sown at a period most likely to carry it safely through the gauntlet of heat and cold. Our impression has always been adverse to it as a crop for Kansas, on account of the hot weather incident to midsummer—a time when buckwheat would have to be maturing, if early sown, or put in for early Autumn maturity. It is little cultivated

Carolina, 38 bushels, and the average of the combined States 84 bushels—nearly twenty-five per cent. less than that of Kansas.

**HAY.**

Thirty-two States are embraced in the Commissioner's report—Iowa at the head, 1.83 tons per acre; Missouri next, 1.77; and then Kansas, 1.75; Maine and Massachusetts being the least, and yielding 0.91 and 0.99 tons to the acre, respectively. The average yield of the thirty-two States was 1.41 tons per acre, or twenty per cent. less than Kansas.

Perhaps in no other product does comparison do Kansas so great injustice, as in the yield per acre of hay. To put prairie against cultivated grasses, is

like comparing a savage with a civilized being. When Kansas meadows are covered with clover and other tame grasses, the yield will be immensely increased in weight per acre, and place her pre-eminently ahead of all other grass-growing States. At least, this we believe.

We have not exhausted this interesting subject, but have tried to condense and present it in a manner to convey a just impression of the capabilities of our soil, without prejudice to less favored localities. It embraces a class of facts that are sought with avidity beyond the borders of our State, and will, no doubt, be read with satisfaction at home.

**MOUNT VERNON PEAR.**

This pear is being disseminated by W. S. LITTLE, of Rochester, N. Y., and goes out with good endorsement. The fruit is medium to large, color cinnamon russet, with reddish cheek. The tree is represented as a strong grower, both as a standard and dwarf. MARSHALL P. WILDER, who has known it from first fruiting, says: "Its rich russet color, high flavor and handsome appearance, will give it a high place among our Autumn varieties." CHARLES DOWNING and F. R. ELLIOTT each pronounce it good. Its season is from November to January, and its appearance is faithfully represented by the cut herewith given. It is worth *trying* in Kansas.

**A BEAUTIFUL INCIDENT.**

When President GRANT took the oath of office, at his inauguration, he held the open Bible in his hand, and at the moment he was sworn, he touched his lips to the 121st Psalm. On the following day the Bible was presented to Mrs. GRANT, by Chief Justice CHASE, accompanied by the following letter:

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1869.

DEAR MADAME: My friend, Col. PARSONS, the Marshal of the Supreme Court, will place in your hands the Bible on which your honored husband took the oath of office yesterday. His lips pressed the 121st Psalm.

The book will, I am sure, be to you a precious memorial of an auspicious day; destined, I hope, to ever be associated in American remembrance with the perfect restoration of peace, and with the renewal and increase of prosperity throughout the country.

With an earnest desire that the aspirations of the Psalmist may be fulfilled to you, to him, and to our whole people, I remain, very respectfully, yours, S. P. CHASE.

MRS. PRESIDENT GRANT.

The following is the text of the 121st Psalm: A SONG OF DEGREES:

1. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
2. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.
3. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
4. Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
5. The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
6. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
7. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; He shall preserve thy soul.
8. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in, from this time forth, and even forevermore.

PHILOSOPHERS say that closing the eyes makes the sense of hearing more acute. A wag suggests that this will account for the many eyes that are closed in our churches on Sundays.



South, ten States being unrepresented in this report, and Tennessee only giving 8.2 bushels to the acre; yet, strange to say, North Carolina gives one-third larger yield than any other State, viz: 30.2 bushels per acre, against 23.5 in New Hampshire. The yield of Kansas was 18.5 bushels, against an average yield in the twenty-three States of 16.6, and with six States above her.

**IRISH POTATOES.**

Kansas stands fourth in the yield of potatoes, at 149 bushels to the acre; California yielding 165, Vermont 160, and New Hampshire 150. Virginia and Tennessee are the lowest, each standing at 50 bushels; the average of thirty-three States being 103.5, or *thirty per cent.* less than that of Kansas.

**SWEET POTATOES.**

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