

TEXAS FARM AND RANCH

VOL. XIV.—No. 49.

DALLAS, TEXAS, DECEMBER 7, 1895.

WEEKLY (51 A YEAR, 5c. a Copy.)

THE FARMER AND THE OIL MILL.

R. J. Redding, in Atlanta Constitution.

There is no doubt of the fact that the advent of the cotton oil mill has been of considerable benefit to farmers in enhancing the market value of cotton seed. At times there has been a disposition on the part of some of the mills to squeeze the farmers, as well as the seeds, in the terms they offer. It is well, therefore, for the farmer to understand the actual and relative commercial values of whole cotton seed and cotton seed meal, both for food and for fertilizing purposes. According to the best authorities the following are the fertilizing contents of one ton each of cotton seed and cotton seed meal, and the commercial value of one ton of each, based on a valuation of 15 cents per pound of available phosphoric acid and 5 cents per pound of potash.

In one ton of cotton seed there are 61 pounds of nitrogen, 20 pounds of phosphoric acid, 23 pounds of potash. The value of one ton is \$11.40. The value of 100 pounds is 57 cents.

In one ton of cotton seed meal there are 142 pounds of nitrogen, 56 pounds of phosphoric acid, 36 pounds of potash. The value of one ton is \$25.85. The value of 100 pounds is \$1.29.

By an easy calculation we find that one ton of cotton seed is equal in fertilizing value to 880 pounds of cotton seed meal. This estimate takes no account of the superior mechanical condition of the meal, nor its greater concentration, which involves less labor in hauling, mixing, etc., and greater promptness of action when applied to the soil as a fertilizer. The calculation is based solely on the contents of fertilizing elements in the seed and meal respectively, as shown by many analyses. The advantages of this superior mechanical condition and concentration are certainly worth something to the farmer. In addition to these advantages the cotton seed meal is in better condition for feeding to milch cows and other cattle. Suppose we grant that these advantages are together equivalent to 10 per cent. of the value of the meal. Then deduct 10 per cent. from 880 and we have 880 less 88—792 pounds of meal as the approximate fertilizing equivalent of one ton of cotton seed. In round numbers we will call it 800 pounds. Then we have 800 pounds of meal, equivalent to 2,000 pounds, or one ton of cotton seed, the change to be made without expense of hauling to the farmer. It seems then quite clear that a farmer cannot afford

to exchange one ton of cotton seed for less than 800 pounds of meal, free of the expense of hauling. With these simple data it should be in the power of any farmer to decide for himself whether a given offer would be reasonable or profitable for him. Valuing cotton seed meal at \$20 per ton, the farmer would have a margin of \$2 to cover hauling expenses when the mill man offers him 1000 pounds of meal for one ton of seed. How far can he afford to haul one ton of seed toward the mill and 1000 pounds of meal to his farm. We learn that some of the mills are offering just the exchange above suggested, viz., 1000 pounds of meal in exchange for one ton of seed, the mill to pay railroad freight on the

some part of the value of the oil that is expressed from the seed and sold. Certainly, we would say, unless it be true that the expenses of the mill plant, the operating expenses and the exigencies and uncertainties of the trade—to which should be added a fair percentage for profit in capital invested—shall require the full value of the oil extracted and the value of the remaining by-products—the hulls and linters. We learn that one ton of seed yields the following products:

Meal.....	750 pounds.
Oil.....	33 gallons or 220 pounds.
Hulls.....	916 pounds.
Linters.....	20 pounds.
The 33 gallons of oil at 17c.....	\$5.61
The 916 pounds of hull at \$3 per ton.....	\$1.47
The 20 pounds of linters at 3c per	

United States, but it has been sold at lower figures than that coming from any other quarter. We surely ought to improve our dairy methods. Filled cheese has destroyed our export trade in that product, and bad or adulterated butter will go the same road, if we do not reform.

AN EXPERIENCE WITH ABORTION.

A. O. Dinsmoor in Breeder's Gazette.

In a late issue a dairyman inquired if he should sacrifice his Jersey cows to get rid of abortion. I say no, and the only reason I can give for saying so is the following bit of experience:

For several years we have kept quite a herd of cows, from twenty-five to fifty

head, dickering continually with the same, and never had abortion till the spring of 1894, when we lost at least two-thirds of our calf crop, or about twenty-five head. For quite a while we were at a loss to understand it, as conditions of care, feed, stabling, etc., were the same as usual. We had over one hundred head of cows, steers and heifers running together through the day and stationed at night. At first we thought the steers started the business by riding and injuring pregnant cows, and that the thing was kept up by infection. Finally we were told that one day in the middle of the preceding winter a man brought a cow to our bull (which



seed and the farmer the freight on the meal.

We understand that the mills at present prefer to buy the seed for the cash and store away the meal for future consideration—and higher prices. We have heard that the oil mill combine has adopted \$7 per ton as the maximum price to be paid for seed until further orders; and we have not heard of higher offers than 30 cents per hundred pounds, or \$6 per ton. But we have previously shown that for manuring purposes cotton seed are worth 57 cents per 100 pounds, or \$11.40 per ton. It is manifest, therefore, that \$6, nor even \$7, is a fair cash price for a ton of cotton seed. Now, if the oil mill will make a corresponding reduction in the price of meal, and the farmer shall avail himself of the same at once no harm will be done. It makes little difference how small the price offered for cotton seed if the farmer can get the meal at a corresponding price. At \$6 per ton for cotton seed the farmer should not be required to pay more than \$15 per ton for meal—the mill paying for hauling and delivery both ways.

But should not the farmer receive

.....	\$.60
Total, exclusive of the meal..	\$7.68

If the mill man gives the farmer 800 pounds of meal for one ton of cotton seed (only 50 pounds more than the ton of seed contains) he still has marketable products to the amount of \$7.68, less the value of the fifty pounds of meal, or about \$7.30. Out of this margin of \$7.30, net products of each ton of seed, how much will be required to pay mill expenses, interest, wear and tear, profit on capital, etc? We are not prepared to say, but there is a good wide margin, and that the farmer should have at least the value of 400 pounds of meal, or say \$3 worth, which would leave \$4.30 per ton to the mill out of which to pay the above recited charges. This would be equivalent to a basis of exchange of 1200 pounds of meal for 2000 pounds of seed, freights to be paid both ways by the farmer. We may be in error, but think not. If in error, let the mill man point it out.

The American Consul at Leith reports that "considerable quantities of butter have been imported from the

ran at large) and that this cow had "slunk" a calf not long before.

Now, readers, observe some of the points noted. Some of the cows which aborted were in calf when brought to our farm. I do not think that the first case was of a cow bred after this infected animal came in our yard. Of a number of cows and heifers sold by us in calf, but one aborted. These were all bred, though, before the trouble began. We put a bunch of heifers in a remote pasture the last of May, and but one of these miscarried. I do not know whether she was bred before or after. Well, we did nothing except to get rid of our bulls and get others. This year we lost one calf out of twenty-five.

I will say to the Jersey man that I should change bulls. Also that I should do no breeding till all pregnant cows had calved—not until some time after, and give the infection (for such I consider it) a chance to die out.

We have heard nothing lately from the war between the Secretary of Agriculture and the cattle trust. There ought to be more correspondence between the manifesto and performance.

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Orchard and Garden

Edited by Dr. A. M. Ragland, Pilot Point, Denton Co., Texas, to whom all communications for this department should be addressed.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Missouri State Horticultural Society will hold its next session at Neosho, Missouri on the 5th of December. We understand that President Kerr and Secretary Huffman, of our State Society, are preparing to attend. We hope to hear something of their impressions.

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In another column appears an interesting communication from A. Rawlins, Midland, Texas. He discusses the merits of the Mustang grape as a means of future improvement of the grapes for the Southwest, especially the arid regions of the far West. Some efforts have been made to hybridize the Mustang (V. candicans) with cultivated sorts, but so far with indifferent success. Prof. Munson has offered one as a cross of the Elvira and Mustang, which he has named Elvicaud, and recommends very highly for the black land country. We know nothing of it personally, but believe it should be tested as the pioneer variety of a new race of grapes specially suited to the South.

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Last week we quoted quite freely from bulletin 99 of the Cornell Experiment Station on planting blackberries. We draw further upon Prof. Bailey's excellent monograph. He discusses the subject of cultivation as follows:

"No fruit profits more from careful tillage than the blackberry. This is largely because the fruit requires so much water, if it reaches its full capabilities, and the crop matures in the driest part of the season. The moisture of the soil can be well conserved only when tillage is begun very early in the spring. We generally plow our patches in the spring and thereafter keep the land in fine shape by running over it every week with a cultivator. We generally prefer a spring tooth cultivator. It is especially important to cultivate as soon after a rain as the soil is in condition, before it breaks. This tillage is continued until within a day or two of picking time. After the crop is harvested, one good cultivation is given to loosen up the ground which has been tramped down by pickers. With us this last cultivation occurs about the middle or last of August.

"These frequent light cultivations are really cheaper than one or two, because the weeds never get a chance to grow, and little hoeing is necessary. Stable manure is the most popular fertilizer for blackberries."

Our experience agrees with that of Professor Bailey. Relative to the productiveness of blackberries, he says:

"The blackberry is probably the most profitable of the small fruits. Owing to its firmness it can be kept much longer than the raspberry or strawberry, and often bring higher prices. The best varieties are enormously productive; their cultivation is comparatively easy, and a well kept plantation of them will last an ordinary life-time."

We do not find the berry nearly so long lived here as he represents it in New York. One point referred to by Professor Bailey we would call attention to, namely, that blackberries require much water to mature a good crop of berries. Drouth, which often prevails after the middle of June in Texas, cuts short the crop on late maturing varieties, such as the Kittatinny, Erie and New Rochelle. To avoid this disaster to the fruit some means of irrigation should be provided, where the product is grown extensively for market. Cultivation alone will not meet the requirements of a ripening crop of berries in the midst of a drouth. No crop of fruit grown for market can be relied on with more certainty for an annual crop than the blackberry, provided some means of irrigation is provided to meet such an emergency at the time of ripening. One hundred to two hundred dollars per acre is no uncommon yield from a properly managed blackberry patch.

In describing the different types of blackberries, he says:

"Garden, or cultivated blackberries, as I understand, fall into five categories: 1. Long cluster blackberries (Rubus villosus).—Best represented by Early Cluster, Taylor and Ancient Briton. They represent the commonest large fruited form of the wild blackberry, which grows in moist, shady copses, or in woods. This variety is

distinguished by a long, loose, open and leafless cluster of long stemmed elongated fruits; very tall growth, leaflets mostly long stalked, rather thin, evenly and rather firmly serrate, and taper pointed. Typical fruits of this class are rather cylindrical, thimble-shaped, the drupelets rather small and uniform.

"2. Short Cluster Blackberries (Rubus villosus, var. Sativus).—This is the commonest form of cultivated blackberry, and includes such varieties as New Rochelle, Kittatinny, Snyder, Agawam, Erie, Minnewaski, etc. The fruits are rounder than in group 1. The drupelets larger, and mostly softer, and less uniform in arrangement. The varieties of this type have a strong tendency to produce a few later fruits on the tips of the new growth.

"3. Leafy Cluster Blackberries (Rubus villosus, var. Frondosus).—These are dwarf, strict bushes, generally growing on dryish soils, bearing the flowers in short, leafy clusters. Fruit early, roundish, medium to small, grains large and rather loose. This is a very leafy plant, and is, no doubt, a distinct species of the blackberry. In cultivation it is known as the Early Harvest and Burton's Early.

"4. Loose Cluster Blackberries (Rubus villosus, R. Canadensis).—A mongrel class, comprising Wilson's Early, Wilson Junior, and others. [Dallas Doubtless is of this type.—Ed. O. and G.]

"The class is characterized by a low and often diffused growth, broad, jagged and notched leaves, mostly loose branched, roundish, or roundish-oblong fruits, which are sometimes very large and particularly by the few flowers scattered on long stems toward the ends of the canes. Sometimes the canes have a distinct tendency to root at the tip after the manner of the dewberry. These blackberries are hybrids of the common blackberry and the dewberry. All of the cultivated sorts, so far as I know are natural hybrids, or, like the Wilson Junior and Sterling, offsprings of a natural hybrid (Wilson's Early). Natural hybrids are common along the roadsides in Central New York."

[The new berry originated near Pilot Point, Texas, named the Mayes Hybrid, is doubtless a hybrid between the Native Texas hybrid or Dallas berry, and the Rubus Candicans, or dewberry, with the difference that its type resembles more closely the dewberry. It is a remarkably strong grower, and its foliage is thick and closely set; the leaves are large and thick, quite distinct from any variety of the dewberry. It has runners like the dewberry, but has, also, canes that grow one and a-half to two feet high as the vines get older. We do not think we are at fault in classing it as a hybrid between the Dallas or Texas native and the dewberry.—Ed. O. and G.]

"5. Sand Blackberry (Rubus cuneifolius).—The tree blackberry of Childs, and the Topsy, are forms of this viciously thorny species which grows wild in sandy lands from Southern New York southward. It is a low plant, two to three feet high, the cultivated forms suggesting the Early Harvest type. The fruit is borne in loose, leafy clusters, and the globules loose grained, very black, often sweet, and of excellent quality. I do not know of any cultivated varieties more valuable."

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Mr. E. L. Huffman, Secretary of the State Horticultural Society, is trying to have the proceedings and papers of the last annual meeting issued in book form. He outlines the plan in the last issue of the weekly Gazette as follows:

The Texas farmer is not burdened with public reading matter on agricultural subjects. The state issues a limited number of annual statistics on crop production and advertisement of counties, cities and towns. This peculiar annual effort exhausts the state. There are some agricultural societies which annually prepare matter that would make an excellent agricultural report, but the state will not print it, and the societies are not able to prepare, print and distribute these reports for the public good. In this matter Texas, of all the agricultural states, stands alone.

The Texas farmer, however, has need of every avenue to information that the farmer of any other state enjoys. He has as many difficult questions to solve, and he has as direct pathway to wealth along progressive routes as his brother elsewhere. He is as intelligent, can adopt new methods, and conform to conditions as they come as well as those of other states. What then? The Texas farmer should have the benefit of an annual agricultural report, con-

taining information on agricultural subjects and up to date in its completeness.

Now we know of no way by which the Texas farmer can secure a complete report on Texas agriculture; but we do know how he can secure about all the reading matter there is on that subject. We are going to tell you of this way and about this reading matter. At the Bowie meeting of the Texas State Horticultural Society a plan was suggested to see if the reports of the Society could not be printed and distributed. The Society is not able to do this, and its members wish to join interests with you and print them.

You will want this book on Texas horticulture, and you also need some nursery stock. Now here is the plan: Send \$2 to E. L. Huffman, Secretary of the Society, Fort Worth, Texas, and he will give you an order on any of the nurseries named below for that amount of nursery stock at catalogue prices, and also will mail you one of these reports as soon as same are printed.

This report will contain a paper on vineyards, by T. V. Munson, and the best one ever prepared for the Texas grape grower. It will contain a full report on fruits for Texas, by Dr. A. M. Ragland, chairman of the State Fruit Committee. It will contain a complete treatise on insects, and diseases of fruit trees, vegetables, and flowers, affecting such plants in Texas, by Hon. Fred W. Mally.

It will contain all the questions propounded to E. W. Kirkpatrick, and his answers to same. This is the most elaborate expose of fruit growing in Texas ever presented.

It will contain the discussions on all papers read. It will contain papers on gardening and flowers. The following are nurseries from which you can select:

T. V. Munson, Denison; Jno. S. Kerr, Sherman; E. W. Kirkpatrick, McKinney; A. M. Ramsey & Son, Austin; J. M. Howell, Dallas; Whitaker & Bailey, Tyler; John F. Sneed, Tyler; Fred W. Mally, Hulen; E. W. Adams, Bonham, and J. A. Taylor, Wynnewood, I. T.

These are the best known nurserymen in the country, and this offers you a chance to get trees and information at a low rate.

No one possesses all the knowledge there is on any subject. Some people do not care to know it all, and yet they desire to know something. It is to this class of persons the above offer is made. It embraces, trees, information, and a way to so expend your money as to benefit yourself and many others.

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STRAWBERRIES IN SOUTH TEXAS.

Mr. A. Whitaker, of Houston, gives his impressions and experience in the cultivation and production of strawberries, in a recent issue of the Houston Post. His opinions upon this subject are worthy the consideration of the readers of Orchard and Garden, who dwell in the Southern part of our State. He says:

"This most delicious of all the fruits is just as easily and profitably grown in South Texas as any where else in the world. It is, in fact, so easy of growth that many people allow it to revert into a condition of wilderness. It is tolerably certain that the modern cultivated strawberry has been developed from the wild berry in a limited period, as the first records we have of it are the times of Shakespeare and Izak Walton. There is no record of it in Roman history, or any other previous history that we know of, and yet the wild strawberry is indigenous in every quarter of the world. Those wild varieties crossed with one another and cultivated, have developed the varieties of Great Britain, the Hautbois of France, the Alpines of the European continent, the Virginian of North America, and the Chilian of South America, as well as the Natal varieties of South Africa, besides many more varieties. The wide dissimilarity of these varieties account for the limitless variations of their progeny. And how great this variation really is, is known only to those familiar with the countless new varieties that bid for popular favor. Strawberries range in size from Guinea eggs down to buckshot. In productiveness they range from 5000 to 10,000 quarts per acre down to nothing. It is of paramount importance, therefore, in growing strawberries for profit to plant the best varieties, and give the most thorough cultivation."

INTENSIVE CULTURE

means working and manuring the soil up to the very highest pitch of culture. This is accomplished about as follows:

Apply to one-fourth of an acre at least twenty wagon loads of good, well-rotted manure, and whatever wood ashes one can get, to the extent of twenty-five bushels. Wood ashes are especially commendable for strawberries. Plow and harrow the bed until it arrives at the condition of good garden ground. Then set the plants in two-foot rows, and twelve inches apart in the row. Then keep all runners clipped off, and keep stirring the soil weekly with either cultivator or hoe, and especially after every shower of rain. The very best time to reset strawberry plants in the coast country, is in the month of November. If re-set before that time, they are liable to bloom in mid-winter, and these blooms are, of course, lost. The best strawberry growers annually re-set young plants, throwing the old ones away. The poorest strawberry growers keep pottering with the old beds until they absolutely run out. This is the reason we see in the Houston market such inferior berries, and this is the reason the reports of the industry are so conflicting. Young plants well cultivated have been known to produce 10,000 quarts on an acre of ground. Every strawberry grower should, therefore, reach out to attain the highest degree of excellence. The writer has tried irrigation to strawberries, and wishes to state that while irrigation in some seasons may be of use, it is injurious in others, and had better be abandoned, and rely more on thorough stirring and cultivation of the soil, and the customary abundant rainfall.

TO PROTECT FROM FROST.

Strawberry plants re-set in November will commence to bloom in February, and the great foe to contend with at that time is frost. It is worth, therefore, a great deal to a strawberry grower to know how to protect them simply and effectually. Our method is as follows: In January we have a large quantity of pine-needle straw hauled and scattered between the rows of plants. When frost threatens, and of which the weather bureau gives warning, the straw is rapidly drawn on the blooming plants with rakes. It is covered thick enough to hide the blooms entirely. They are then safe. This straw remains on until the wind changes, and we take the opportunity to run the cultivator up and down the middles, then rake back the straw. When all danger of frost is over, that is in April, the straw is on hand for summer mulching, thereby to keep the ripe berries clean and free from grit—a gritty strawberry is no good, as washing causes it to wilt at once, and it will not keep twelve hours.

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The Coast Country Fair and Exposition just closed at Dickinson, near Galveston, was from all accounts a decided success. Our friend, Professor Mally, was one of the active factors in projecting and carrying the enterprise to a successful issue, and so we are not surprised at the result.

THE JAPANESE PERSIMMON FOR TEXAS.

H. E. VAN DEMAN.

There is no doubt of the success and value of the Asiatic species of the persimmon, *Diospyros kaki*, in Texas. It has passed beyond the experimental stage, for, as in other Southern states, there are plenty of bearing trees of many varieties that attest their hardiness and fruitfulness. In your issue of October 19th reference is made to this subject and a few varieties mentioned, but a few further remarks might be of service to your readers.

The nurseries are offering grafted trees of some of the best kinds, some of which are imported yearly from Japan. But I am sorry to say that in many cases they are not true to name, for the native Japanese are very careless and ignorant, if not dishonest, in regard to keeping the varieties pure. They also graft on native stocks, which have been proven to be of less value for this purpose than our own native persimmon. This fact some of our American nurserymen have learned, and they are therefore producing superior grafted trees of the best varieties. Some of the importers have trusty persons in Japan who look after the propagation there, and their trees are, of course, true to name. Some of our own nurserymen have used "old field sprouts" to graft on, which make poor stocks. It is best to grow seedlings from our wild trees, which may be taken up and root-grafted as we do apple seedlings, or be grafted just beneath the ground as they stand in the nursery row. Budding is more difficult,

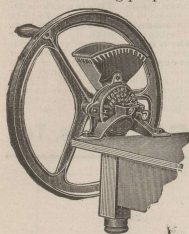
FAMILY MILL.

Adjusted by one thumb-screw in a moment to grind from fine flour to hominy. Adapted to grinding corn, wheat, coffee, spices or grain of any kind for domestic use or feeding purposes.

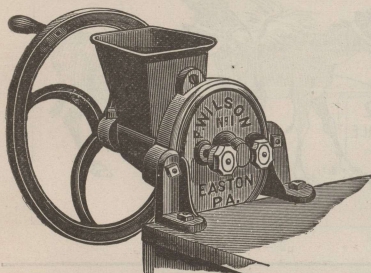
Corn meal, hominy and Graham flour produced fresh and pure in your own home. Grinds one pound of coffee in one minute; flour or meal in a longer or shorter time, as the mill is set to grind fine or coarse. It has large, chilled-iron burrs, 4½ inches in diameter, which are ground perfectly true. Steel shaft and fly-wheel 20 inches in diameter. Can be quickly fastened to the edge of a table or counter. The workmanship on the mill is first-class, all parts being made to duplicate.

We will furnish this mill and TEXAS FARM AND RANCH one year for \$5, receiver pays freight charges from Dallas, or we will give it for a club of seven new subscriptions to this paper at one dollar each. Address

Texas Farm and Ranch, Dallas, Texas.



No. 1 POULTER'S MILL.



This mill is especially made for grinding dry bones, shells, grain and many other substances for poultry.

Weights 35 pounds. No family is at home without one of these mills. Price, with TEXAS FARM AND RANCH one year, \$5 each. Purchaser pays the freight from Dallas. We use them on Texas Farm and Ranch Experimental Farm and can fully recommend them.

This mill will be given as a premium for seven new subscribers to TEXAS FARM AND RANCH at \$1 each.

Address Texas Farm and Ranch, Dallas, Texas.

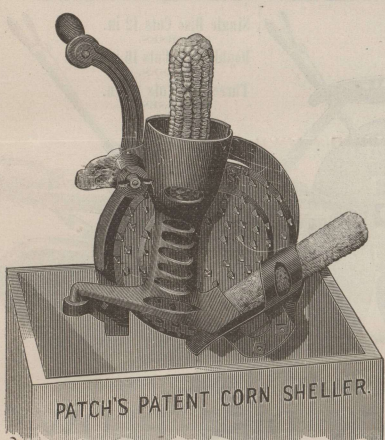
SHELL OUT

Not a toy, but a machine which does the work, and all a farmer needs for shelling corn for home use.

*It Won't Choke.
Simple in Construction.
It is Durable and Cheap.*

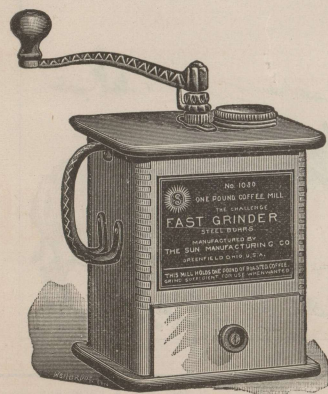
We will furnish this Sheller and Bone Mill purchased from you some time ago. It came all O. K. I have thoroughly tested both, and if I could not get others like them, I would not take one hundred dollars for them. Every poultry fancier ought to own a Bone Mill. I grind all the corn my stock eats. And the Sheller—it is a perfect daisy. Can easily shell a bushel of corn in five minutes.—J. J. COLLINS, Belton, Texas.

I should have acknowledged receipt of the Corn Sheller and Bone Mill purchased from you some time ago. It came all O. K. I have thoroughly tested both, and if I could not get others like them, I would not take one hundred dollars for them. Every poultry fancier ought to own a Bone Mill. I grind all the corn my stock eats. And the Sheller—it is a perfect daisy. Can easily shell a bushel of corn in five minutes.—J. J. COLLINS, Belton, Texas.



Address TEXAS FARM AND RANCH, Dallas, Texas.

The Best Coffee Mill in the Market.



Something Needed in Every Home.

This mill holds one pound of roasted coffee, which can be ground out in quantities desired as needed. Air-tight canister with screw cap top.

Hardwood box, rounded corners, finely finished with three coats of varnish.

Mountings, copper bronzed and lacquered.

The advantages—convenience, rapid and easy grinding—commend this mill as in every way superior to the old style ones.

We will send this mill (purchaser pays express charges) and TEXAS FARM AND RANCH one year for \$1.50. Or we will send the mill alone for 75 cents.

From the above brief description and the illustration you get a fair idea of the mill. Every family needs and should have one. Address all orders to

Texas Farm and Ranch, Dallas, Texas.

HERE IS AN OFFER

That is worthy of your consideration and prompt acceptance.



Texas Farm and Ranch Cook Stove.

Absolutely First-Class in Every Particular.
The Operation is Guaranteed.

Made expressly for us by one of the most prominent and experienced stove manufacturers in the United States, of the best quality of iron and by the most skilled workmen.

Oven doors have nickel panel on them.

T. K. shelf and outside oven shelf are nicked.

Has nickel name plate and towel rod.

Oven doors are tin lined.

No. 70 has four 7-inch holes. Oven 16 inches. Price, with articles of ware named below.....\$20.00

No. 80 has four 8-inch holes. Oven 19 inches. Price, with articles of ware named below.....\$25.00

We pay the freight to your nearest railroad station east of the Rocky Mountains and send you TEXAS FARM AND RANCH free for one year.

What More Could You Ask?

Do You Want a First-Class Stove for Absolutely Nothing?

If You do, we will send it on the Following Conditions:

Send us FORTY new yearly subscribers to TEXAS FARM AND RANCH at \$1 each, and we will then present you with the No. 70 stove and ware.

For FIFTY new subscribers at \$1 each and we will give you the No. 80 stove and ware.

The Following are the Articles of Ware Included with the Stoves in the Above Offers:

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Tin Wash Boiler, copper bottom, | 1 Molasses Cup, |
| 1 " Coffee " | 1 Match Safe, |
| 4 Sheet Iron Drip Pans, | 1 Egg Whip, |
| 1 Tin Coffee Pot, | 1 Japanned Coffee Canister, |
| 1 Stamped Tin Dish Pan, | 1 Cake Turner, |
| 3 Pie Plates, | 1 Beaded Edge Pot Cover, |
| 1 Cast Excelsior Baker, | 1 Biscuit Cutter, |
| 2 Joints Pipe, | 1 Cake Cutter, |
| 1 Elbow, | 2 Cast Iron Pots, |
| 1 dozen Tinned Table Spoons, | 2 Cast Skillets, |
| 1 Flesh Fork, | 2 Cast Griddles, |
| 1 Pint Tin Cup, | 1 Scraper, |
| 1 Cake Stove Polish, | 1 Lifter, |
| 1 Pepper Box, | 1 Cast Iron Tea Kettle, |
| 1 Wash Basin, | 1 Scolloped Cake Pan. |
| 1 Tin Dipper, | |

Address all Orders to

TEXAS FARM AND RANCH, Dallas, Texas.

Correspondence

MANY THINGS.

WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS.

Editor Texas Farm and Ranch:

Yes, I want to say a good many things, and if you will just hold your breath and give me space, I am going to say:

I left the Coast Country Fair Saturday evening, the last day of the Fair, and now wish that I had staid a week longer. The rain began pouring down upon us about noon Saturday, and I tell you that that Coast Country Fair was the wettest fair that I ever saw. I have not quit feeling sorry for that people yet, though I really hope that none of them got drowned; but if I had my way with that conductor on the I. & G. N. train, he would wish he had drowned. He kept us waiting, wet and cold, with no fire on board till it was good dark when we got to Houston, the rain still pouring down upon us. It was impossible to get a bus; the next best thing was to board a crowded street car and ask for the Katy depot. Well, by riding a part of the way, and wading through mud and water, I finally reached the Katy depot in due time to be left.

No, I didn't cuss, I simply made the best of it, and laid over for the next train, which I caught about 7 o'clock the next morning and reached home that night about 12. But I didn't regret going to the Dickinson Fair, for if I don't live the longer on account of it, it will ever be pleasant to think of my stay among that good people, and of the good time I had eating fresh oysters, fresh fish, and admiring the grand country.

The Coast country is a grand country, and it is my opinion that it will one day be the California of Texas, if not far superior to California, though there is much yet to be done before it is made a garden of Eden. The land owners and land agents must want home builders worse than they seem to want them now, considering the price they are holding their lands at. To me it seems to be out of the reach of the ordinary home seeker, though they tell me that one man does not need more than five acres, or ten acres at the outside limit. That may be true, but it is hard to get most men to see it that way. I can't say much of the country, for I did not see enough of it, but one thing I can say, and that is that everyone seemed to be satisfied and happy. I only heard one man say that he wanted to sell out. I saw some beautiful homes, but I can't say how much money was spent in making them.

I had while there many pressing invitations to come down in the spring and travel over that country, and I live it is my intention to go, and then I shall give my opinion of it, whether it be good or bad, though I can't think that it will be bad. No country can be bad where so many good people live.

Life has been a little pouty ever since I got home. I told her that some one promised me, when I was ready to leave there, a nice bouquet of flowers, but somehow or some other how I did not get the flowers. It may be that I was like the gentleman's parrot—I talked too much, and the only way I can get off now is to tell her that I will do better next time.

I helped to judge the hogs and cattle while there, and we gave every cow and every hog a premium, and then some of the fellows got red-headed because we didn't give two premiums to each one. We gave one man a premium on a sow with litter of pigs, not because the sow and pigs deserved a premium, but to the man, for having the courage to take such a lot to a fair. I hope other fair people and judges will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Say, I wish you would tell those fellows north who are sending so many carloads of hog cholera medicine down here to sell to us poor fellows, better cure their own hogs first. While it is true that there is a guarantee with every package to cure every time, some times, yet we would like better if they would first cure the cholera hogs in their own states. We feel like saying, "Physicians, heal your own hogs." If their remedies will do what they claim

for them, there are more fools in the Northern and Western states than I am contacted for.

Again I am asked, "Will it hurt hogs to let them run on green wheat pasture?" No, sonnie, it won't hurt your hogs; it is the very thing for them.

Some one wrote me some time back to know if it would injure hogs to run in cow pens where cattle were fed on cotton seed, but I was on the wing and could not answer. I will now say, yes, my dear boy, you are liable to lose every hog you have at such folly as that. I have received a pile of letters asking for June corn and pie melon seed. Be patient. I will send them in due time. Wife is trotting me around just now, and that ain't the worst of it, she shakes a board at me occasionally.

I do wish people would quit talking such a bunch about woman's rights. I really don't know now whether we poor well-boarded husbands have any rights or not. It seems to me that I have one right, and that is to furnish the subject.
UNCLE SNOOT.

THE COAST COUNTRY FAIR.

DALLAS, TEXAS.

Editor Texas Farm and Ranch:

It was a decided success in every department. It was opened on Tuesday, November 19th. The weather was delightfully bright and balmy, and continued bright throughout the week, until on Saturday, the clouds gathered, the rains descended, as if to weep over the end of so auspicious a beginning. To one who had never visited the little town of Dickinson it was an unending marvel, how so much of interest and value could be gathered together in so short a time, and in such quantity and quality. The main building is commodious and well arranged, and was well filled with everything which served to make a successful exhibit of a people's industry, skill, ingenuity, and pluck.

Towns in the immediate vicinity entered into a pleasant and laudable rivalry for the best town exhibit. Alvin, Alta Loma, Arcadia, Hitchcock, Dickinson, Texas City and Lamarque, vied with one another in tasteful and beautiful exhibits of all kinds of needle work, plain and fancy crochet, painting, etc., together with jars of delicious sweet meats.

There was a general exhibit of woman's work, presided over by Mrs. Elder, and assisted by Miss Zoe Deats, which was very full, and embraced a lot of very handsome quilts in cotton, worsted and silk, handsome specimens of point lace, and drawn work, and plain and fancy sewing.

The Culinary Department, under the management of Mrs. Hart Settle, assisted by Miss Lucile Evans, made a tempting display of all kinds and styles, of cakes, light bread, rolls, corn bread and pies; elegantly decorated dishes of salads, Boston baked beans, preserves, jellies, pickles, and above all, a quantity of the most beautiful and delicious Jersey butter. That all these were as toothsome, as tempting in appearance, the writer can testify, as they were sampled by her, and found to be superlatively good.

The Art Department, under the superintendence of Mrs. Henry Sampson, was very full, and many handsome pictures, both of professionals and amateurs, were on exhibition. Mrs. Kimball, of Galveston, a professional artist, who has had the advantage of several years travel and study in Europe, exhibited many of her best works, without competing for premiums. Mrs. Cherry, of Houston, also professional, made a fine exhibit. There were other individual exhibits of merit, and many pictures entered by amateurs, which would do credit to professionals. Among these were many delightful bits of seashore, taken around Galveston, some still life pieces, flowers and landscapes. The Art Gallery is constructed on correct artistic and architectural plans, the light falls from the north and from above.

Prof. McArdle, of Galveston, has on exhibition his large picture of the battle of San Jacinto. The picture depicts the battle in the hour of the Texans' triumph, when Santa Anna is fleeing to save himself. The dead and dying are scattered over the sword, and the smoke of battle ascends from every part of the field. The hour is near sunset, and dark clouds hang over the western horizon, except in one spot, where the setting sun bursts through as if to inspire hope in the heart of Texans, an omen, perhaps, of the bright future of the grand State. Prof. McArdle was a participant on the field, and has spared neither trouble nor pains

to assist memory in the execution of this great picture, which occupied seven years of constant labor to produce.

An excellent band was in attendance to the delight of many visitors.

There was a distinctively new and unique feature added to the Woman's Department of the Coast Country Fair, which was a reception room, arranged and handsomely decorated with consummate taste and skill, by Mrs. Fred Nichols, who presided over its elegant appointments, with the impressment and cordiality of a grand dame. The walls were hidden from view by branches of magnolia, native smilax, and other sub-tropical foliage plants. Overhead a pendulous, swaying fringe of gray moss hung from, and entirely concealed the rafters, and suspended from its misty depths, were cages of canary birds making the air vibrate with their sweet songs. The floor was carpeted with handsome velvet carpets, and numbers of elegant chairs and sofas wooed the tired passer-by to rest in their luxurious depths. A handsome piano added to the attractions of this elegant parlor, where all were made welcome. Mrs. Nichols shares the enthusiasm of her husband, by whom the idea, we think, of the Coast Country Fair was conceived; at any rate he has been a prime factor in the building up of this great success.

We are pleased to acknowledge our obligations for a most delightful visit to Prof. F. W. Mally, who entertained us pleasantly in his bachelor home, and to the kind offices of his good housekeeper, Mrs. McCallum; to Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Willis, Mr. and Mrs. Settle, Mr. and Mrs. Sampson and their lovely daughter, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Benson and Miss Deats, Mr. and Mrs. Mayo, around whose hospitable boards we enjoyed many social courtesies, and formed friendships which will add pleasure to coming years. Mr. and Mrs. Lowry, and Mrs. Elder, were among the delightful acquaintances formed, and our intimate association for several days makes us feel as though they were not new friends.

THE WHEELER FRUIT COMPANY'S EXHIBIT.

For three years, Mrs. Wheeler, Miss Florence Wheeler and Mr. Wheeler, daughter and son, have been doing business under the chartered name of The Wheeler Fruit Company. They have forty acres in strawberries, 110 in pears, and 1100 trees set to orchard. The individual exhibit of this company was full and complete, and carried off many premiums. There were Kiefer pears weighing 23 ounces, from trees six years old. LeContes weighing 163 ounces, beautiful Japan persimmons in variety, a seedling peach, Lowery's best, attained a growth of seven feet in three months. In fresh vegetables there were beans, four varieties, butter beans, corn, tomatoes, lettuce, endive, Jerusalem artichoke, egg plant, sweet and crisp potatoes, beets, squashes, turnips, onions, red pepper, sage and parsley. In nuts, peanuts and pecans. This farm is cultivated by the Italian system of inter-culture, which is proving very successful.

Dr. Beaty, of Dickinson, had a very fine exhibit of canned, processed and preserved fruits and vegetables.

Concordia Nursery, Mr. Doeg proprietor, had a very pretty exhibit in a floral carpet bed design, and many handsome flowers and shrubs.

Galveston Nursery Company, of which Prof. F. W. Mally is the head, made a splendid exhibit of fruit and ornamental trees, plants and flowers. The roses and tuberoses in bloom were especially fine, as was the Japan persimmons. Prof. Mally's energy, skill in management, and untiring effort has made this nursery, situated at Hulene, to bloom as the rose, and the same potent factors have made an assured success of the Coast Country Fair.

For the most delightful visit we ever had, among strangers, we are indebted to our trip to Dickinson, and we pray that prosperity may attend every effort made for advancement of the country, and when another Fair rolls round, we have but this one wish,

"May we be there to see."

MRS. S. E. BUCHANAN.

SHALL WE TAKE THE BAIT?

SEALY, TEXAS.

Editor Texas Farm and Ranch:

I am full of something which makes me feel as if I should like to have a few words with every farmer in Texas, and all the states. This year there has been a trifling advance paid on cotton. Now I want all cotton growers to bear

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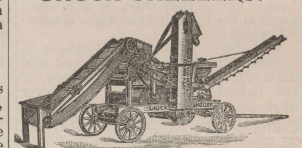
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essary. We have often noticed the fact among people that those who are fat always drink very little. They often finish the meal without drinking, eating slowly and chewing the food thoroughly. In this way the food and saliva are mixed so that digestion progresses rapidly. To drink much while eating reduces the saliva so that digestion is retarded, and the food lying in the stomach which is warmed to 78 degrees soon ferments. Excessive drinking while eating, or soon after, is often the cause of dyspepsia.

BUTTER AND OLEOMARGARINE.

The following is translated from the Berlin "Pharmaceutical Times."

On treating a sample of rancid butter with bicarbonate of soda, Rolfs observed that on the addition of water for washing out the butyrate of soda, the butter assumed a crumbly white appearance. The rancid smell had disappeared, but so, in the strict sense of the word, had the butter also. Margarine, on the other hand, when subjected to the same test, remained unaltered, and a mixture of the two, similarly treated, showed that the butter after awhile, adhered to the side of the testing glass, but that on the addition of water the mass exhibited neither the appearance of butter nor the crumbly state observed with butter alone.

By substituting potassium carbonate for the sodium salt, and working with 2 grammes to 5 grammes of butter and 20 grammes of washing water, these results were obtained:

1. Butter gave a fine, white permanent emulsion separable by means of an equal volume of ether into two layers with a sharply defined zone, the ethereal solution of butter being perfectly clear.

2. A mixture of butter and margarine in equal parts gave the same emulsion, but no zone after the addition of ether. The lower part of the ethereal layer contained a flocculent precipitate, only subsiding after a long standing.

3. Another mixture, of one part butter to three parts margarine, only gave an emulsion after prolonged agitation, and this was destroyed by the addition of 10 grammes of water, whereas in 2 and 20 grammes of water did not affect the emulsion. The ethereal solution was almost filled by the flocculent precipitate.

4. Pure margarine produced neither emulsion nor clear ethereal solution.

To sum up:

Pure butter can be distinguished from margarine by its property of forming an immediate emulsion when treated in the above manner whilst the latter substance remains intact, and, in the case of adulterated butter, the addition of ether to the emulsion reveals the presence of insoluble particles in the ethereal solution, whereas pure butter fully dissolved to a clear liquid, showing a sharp line of demarcation between the two layers.

CARE OF THE BOAR.

From Bulletin No. 35, of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, by Dr. Tait Butler, we copy the following:

In another place we shall discuss the feeding of breeding stock, therefore in this connection we shall merely consider the care of the boar from pigchew up to maturity, and during the time he is kept from service. At about four or five months old he should be separated from any females that are likely to come in heat. By all means keep the boar in a lot by himself. He should no more be allowed to run with the sows than a stallion with mares. It is not too great an expense to do this, but on the other hand, it is the greatest economy. It will save feed for both sows and boar, if kept free from the excitement that always occurs when they run together, and they will keep in better condition on much less food. It pays, because the boar can be kept in better condition, and will therefore, get more and better pigs. Again, if the sow is put with the boar to be bred, the exact time of farrowing can be calculated, the sow watched, and more of the pigs saved. It is better for both sow and boar to permit only one service, instead of allowing them to run together for two or three days and nights. The sow will have more and better pigs, and the boar will keep in better condition for service. At four months, the boar should be put in a lot of not less than a quarter of an acre. The fence should be such as to preclude the possibility of his getting out, for on this depends the ease with which he can be kept in after life. Every time he gets out it will re-

quire a better fence to confine him afterwards. Keeping in too close a lot is almost as bad as allowing him to run with the sows. He does not get sufficient exercise to keep his muscles in good condition, and the result is, he becomes inactive, lazy, and a bad performer. By all means keep the boar pig from any sow until he is at least eight, and if possible, until he is ten months old. I know it useless to advise the average man to keep a choice boar until he is eight months old before using him, but it would pay him to do so. If used too young he becomes restless, and does not grow well, and his development and future usefulness are thereby impaired. A matured boar in vigorous health will get much better pigs than can be hoped for from an immature pig. His lot should contain shade, and an open shed or trees will serve the purpose. In winter a comfortable house should be provided. One eight feet square, with the south side, and closed on three sides, the south side being left open, will serve the purpose well. Unless the ground is exceptionally well drained, and great care be taken to keep it free from dust, a plank floor is best. The animal heat of the body is kept up by the burning of the food eaten, therefore if the hogs are not sheltered more food is required. It costs less to keep a hog warm with lumber than with corn, and it will pay to shelter him. He needs but little shelter in winter, but needs that little very much. If this sort of treatment is too expensive, then no man can afford to keep a boar, because experience proves it to be the cheapest method. One boar may be kept in a neighborhood in this manner, at a trifling expense to each of a dozen men, and if such a co-operative system could be practiced by our farmers, a first class boar will pay for himself in one season, even though he cost what seems the large price of \$50.

THE NEW HOG.

Farmers' Review.

As compared with years ago, we have a new hog. He is new in his make-up, lives fast and dies early for profit, and hence is handled differently than he used to be. The demands on him are new also. Instead of a year and a half old, he must mature in seven or eight months. A writer on this subject says that now the feeding weight of the hog of commerce is 175 or 200 pounds, instead of 300 or 350 as formerly. This writer says that hogs of 300 pounds of dead weight and upward could hardly be produced without their being wintered over. This took all the guiding off the ginger bread, unless prices were abnormally high. But hogs weighing 175 to 200 pounds can be brought to salable maturity in the course of one season. An early spring litter of them can be fitted for market before cold weather begins to make feeding unprofitable. Then, when the young pigs are sold off, there is only the breeding sow, or possibly two of them, to keep over winter, and she or they, can roam the barnyard, picking up waste grain, working over manure, and taking comfort beside the straw stack.

CLEANLINESS IN BUTTER MAKING.

Montana Stockman.

A German scientist, in an address before a convention of co-operative creamery delegates of this country, stated that all the results of scientific investigation are almost entirely ignored in milking. This ignoring was due more largely to the disregard of cleanliness than any other thing. This uncleanness pervades nearly every stage of milk, and results in an inferior product. In parts of Bavaria creameries always decline strained milk, as it does not permit them to determine the degree of cleanliness exercised in the stable of patrons. This unstrained milk, the scientist told the convention, was cleaner and kept better than the carefully strained milk received at the average of creameries represented by the delegates. He stated this condition was arrived at because of the strict enforcement of the rule forbidding straining, as it necessitated perfect cleanliness of stables, cows, and milkers, and this resulted in an untainted article, that in turn permitted the making of the highest grade of product when the milk was not consumed in its fluid state. One of the things this scientist protested against was the style of milking that permits the fluid to come in contact with the hand, and cited with approval the Swiss method of milking with the bent thumb and first two fingers, as a means of overcoming the objection.

Another thing that he disapproved of and regarded in the light of a serious error, was allowing milk to stand in the cleanest stable after milking, and the mistake was intensified if it was cooled there. According to the dictum of this scientist, neither cows, milkers, nor stables can be too clean, if the highest quality of product is desired, and the man that gets closest to these things is the most progressive.

BUTTERINE LICENSES DECREASING.

Creamery Gazette.

It will be a matter of profound congratulation to our readers who are all interested in honest butter, to know that the butterine licenses in Chicago during October, have fallen much short of those of the year before; 201 licenses were issued during the month, while during the month of October, '94, 252 were issued. The receipts from the sale of stamps were \$71,030.34, while the receipts in October, '94, were \$82,968.04. The falling off is not limited to the month of October. During the month of September, but 97 licenses were issued, as against 230 during the same month in '94. For August, the number was 70, and for August, '94, 192; 400 hundred licenses will have to be issued in November if the butterine business is to equal that of '94. We called the attention last week of our readers to the great decrease of the use of oleomargarine in Boston, the result of the workings of the Massachusetts law. All that is necessary to confine the business to its legitimate channels is the enactment of similar laws in every state, which can be done only by continuous vigilance on the part of dairymen, resulting in national legislation and enforcement.

FARM DAIRYING.

Prof. Wing, of Cornell University, says of farm dairying:

"Many think that the creamery butter is better than can be made on the farm."

Now, this is entirely erroneous. Not only is it perfectly possible to make as good butter on the farm as can be made, but it is a matter of no great difficulty and does not require an expensive or elaborate equipment. The principles that govern the manufacture of good butter are the same in either case; their observance will result in good butter on the farm just as surely as their neglect will result in bad butter in the factory. That this is so is seen in the fact that numerous private dairymen, having recognized these principles, are getting more for their butter made up in a small way in private dairy than is given for the very best grades of creamery butter. Indeed, from the fact that the private dairymen can control the cows, their feed and care, and the milk from the time it leaves the cow until the finished product goes on the market, he should be able to make a finer and more uniform product than the factory man, who cannot control these important conditions. Notwithstanding the possibilities of the case, the facts are that to-day the great mass of butter made on the farms is sold for a less price than that made in creameries. Let us look for a moment at some of the reasons for this condition of affairs.

BAD METHODS.

In the first place, there is a large amount of butter made on farms that is not good to begin with, and justly should not bring any more than it usually does. This sort of butter is made where the cows and butter making are a sort of side issue of the farm, where the milk and butter must await the demands of all the other farm and house work before they receive attention. It is made where the maker is ignorant, careless and dirty. The cows are milked at the convenience of the hired man, and the milk is strained and put into the creamery at some indefinite time thereafter, when the hired girl gets ready. Sometimes the cream is removed in twenty-four hours, and sometimes not for four days. In hot weather the cream gets too sour, and in cold, it sometimes never gets sour at all. It is churned at a temperature sometimes too low, but oftener too high, and never twice alike. The buttermilk is not completely removed, salt is added by guess, and it is worked by hand strength till the dairy maid gets tired. During the whole process it associates more or less intimately with the cooked and uncooked food in the family pantry, and the wonder is, not that it is bad, but that it is so good as it is.

TO IMPROVE THE DAIRY.

Now let us look at some of the ways

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GOLD DUST

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Texas Jersey Cattle Club—J. D. RUDIN, President, Waskom; W. R. SPANK, Secretary, Dallas.

State Farmers Institutes—R. F. BUTLER, Organizer, Waxahachie.

The Pasteur Anthrax Vaccine Co., limited, have moved their headquarters to 315 Rialto Building, Chicago. The New York office will be retained as a supply depot for the Eastern States.

POUND STERLING MORTON says, in his official report concerning the marketing of farm produce, "He who brings the best and cheapest will find approval in welcoming purchasers." The idea evidently implied is that cheap products are best for the farmer, because such prices will prevent him from becoming rich, proud and corrupt. The solicitude of Pound Sterling for the welfare of the farmer is touching.

REV. G. W. COMSTOCK, of Little Rock, Ark., Superintendent of the Children's Home Society for Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana, made us a pleasant call on last Wednesday. He is in Texas to organize a state board for the extension of his good and great work in our state. He reports his work growing in interest and importance. The best people regard this placing of orphan children in good homes, the surest way to save them.

This country, while the greatest producer of good corn, has not a monopoly of the foreign trade in the great staple. The imports of corn into Germany from Roumania alone exceeded that imported from this country. All around the Black Sea corn growing is increasing, and larger quantities are shipped into Western Europe from the Black Sea and Danubian provinces. To preserve our hold on this trade, it is important that none but good, sound corn be exported. If this is done, the superiority of the American grain, as shown by the analysis, will enable it to hold its own and compete with the cheap labor of Southern Europe.

A GOOD TIME COMING.

When it is generally accepted by all parties concerned that brains and education are as useful and necessary on the farm as anywhere else; that a cultivated mind can be made as remunerative in agricultural pursuits as in any other field of effort, then farmers will prosper, and the country will prosper, and the gilded allurements of the city will lose half their charms and the other half will not be near so seductive as at present. This time is coming, slowly perhaps, but it will be here when the people interested are fully ready for it. What we all want is less hard labor and more remuneration; not that we are a lazy race, but we want to see the reward at the goal—the purse hung up at the end of the race course. Training will enable us to accomplish this. A great deal has already been done on this line. Farmers make more products with less labor than they did some years ago. Education is more general; training has been better directed; new discoveries have shown us better methods, all tending to the same devoutly wished for consummation; less hard, exhausting, never ending labor, and better returns in the way of products. The old-time farmer worked from daylight until dark, and chopped wood, fed the stock and shelled the corn after night. When the moon was at her first quarter, he often tied fodder, piled brush, or built rail fence until ten at night; and during full moon he almost turned night into day. The change has been great already, but so slow that the gradual stages were passed without notice. The change is still going on. The cultivation of the mind is the only thing that can develop the desirable possibilities of agriculture. There are now many persons engaged in the pursuit who are eminently successful. These are the men who have cultivated and trained their minds to take every advantage that nature offers, and as a rule they are not bent with hard labor, nor worn out with unremunerative toil. Their heads do more work than their hands, and consequently their bodies last longer and fare better. When the facts here stated are fully realized it will be better for the country.

HEAR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

The report of the Secretary of Agriculture has been received. It contains much valuable information, statistical and otherwise, compiled by the department subordinates, and the usual lot of jumbled nonsense by the Secretary, under the head of "The Future of Farms and Farming in the United States," embracing his usual plea for the single gold standard, and the great blessing it is to farmers. He shows to his own satisfaction that the farmers of the United States have supplied the home market and exported \$500,000,000 worth of products to foreign countries, which would have been \$19 each to every farmer for the year, if there was any correspondence between the export price and the price paid the farmer for his products. He also shows that the value of farm products in 1870 was \$2,447,538,758; and in 1890, with a production nearly double, the value was only \$2,460,107,404. Of course he did not expect this use to be made of his figures, but there they are. He shows that the farm mortgages only amount to \$1600 on each \$10,000 of value, and then compares that happy condition with the condition of the poor bankers, who are indebted to their depositors in the sum of \$4,904,843,721.43. It will strike the average reader as a new idea that bank deposits are a debt owed by the banks to their depositors. True, the item appears on the debtor side of the bank

ledger for the purpose of keeping the accounts straight, but anybody but an idiot or a cabinet officer with a tottering cause to maintain knows that most of these deposits are merely other people's money which the banks have the use of without interest, and that the greater the deposits the sounder the condition of the banks. If the Secretary's theory had any sense in it, then the more a farmer owes the better off he is. But the height of absurdity is reached when the Secretary, with an air of triumph, asks: "How can the 42 per cent of the population of the United States which feeds the other 58 per cent, and then furnishes more than 69 per cent of all the exports of the whole people, be making less profits than those whom they feed?" Only when the size of the farmers' crop, and not the price of it measures his profits, can there be found any sense in the Secretary's question? A crop of wheat, for instance, will feed as many people, whether the farmer gets nothing or a dollar per bushel for it. The Secretary then proceeds to settle, once for all time a question in political economy, which he has invented for the occasion, and which had probably never entered the mind of any previous political misfit. Hear him: "No legislation, however encouraging or protective, will be able to create an American demand, appetite and digestion of sufficient magnitude to consume all that American farmers produce." The great truth here enunciated will be the more apparent when we mention among the farm products which the Secretary probably had in mind when he penned the above heroic sentiment, 3,250,000,000 pounds of lint cotton, 9,175,000,000 pounds of cotton seed, besides the wool, hides, horns, bones, hemp, flax, and many other farm products, all difficult of digestion. Verily Secretary Morton is a sage, a savant, a humorist, and ghastly satire upon the wisdom of the President, who put him in a place several sizes too large for him.

REV. MR. SCOTFIELD, of Dallas, predicts that, according to his construction of Biblical prophecy, from the firing of the first gun in the apparently probable war in the East, it will be just seven years until the second coming of Christ and the establishment of the millennial kingdom.

CONGRESS assembled on Monday last, somewhat changed in complexion, owing to exposure to the political weather, but ready for another long wrangle over problems of state, wherein each party feels in duty bound to oppose any measure proposed by the other, regardless of the merits of the case. In the House, Reed again has the gavel, and the organization is distinctively Republican. The Senate met and a count of noses shows a tie between the two overgrown parties, with the balance of power in the hands of the Populists, who are expected to vote with the Republicans. The President's message was presented on Tuesday. Its contents have been fairly indicated in advance by the press of the country. The President's financial views are well known to the country, and the critical condition of the national money question is generally understood. These subjects are strongly stated in a very lengthy paper. The retirement of the greenbacks is again urged, thus shrinking the circulating medium about \$500,000,000, and necessarily adding proportionally to the purchasing power of the balance. To replace this money it is suggested that the National banks issue their notes. The currency question has been discussed until it is threadbare—until

nothing new can be said on the subject. The people have read it all, and each individual has his mind made up, and it is not likely that either the President or the papers will be able to change the status of public opinion on the subject.

FRUIT growing in Florida and Texas has been proven very profitable—to the railroad companies, who are not as liberal as the traditional miller who gave his customers the toll and kept the grist. In the transportation of fruit the railroads take both toll and grist.

A GOOD way to prevent gold from going to Europe would be for Congress to create an order of nobility. This would be unconstitutional of course, but any shrewd lawyer could, for a good round fee, have the constitution declared unlawful. Or Congress could use the general welfare clause, as it usually does when doing something not authorized by the fundamental law. If we had some effete and scrofulous noblemen of our own we could, perhaps, keep our heiresses and their fortunes at home.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Will you please tell me something to do for my cabbage? The lice are about to take them. Also how to keep them in winter. Are heading up nicely, but are very lousy.—SAMUEL WAGNER, Huntsville, Texas.

ANS.—1. Kerosene emulsion well made will destroy the lice and not injure the cabbage. Warm a gallon of sour milk and add to it one gallon of kerosene and churn until a perfect emulsion is formed, of this use one pint to a gallon of water, stir and apply with a sprayer. 2. There are two ways to have fresh cabbage for winter; raise a fall crop by planting a good variety early in September. Plant collards. They are better for winter than any white head cabbage. They ought to be in every southern garden.

I am requested by several of your readers here to inquire of you and have you answer through the columns of your paper, whether there has ever been a machine perfected that will successfully crush corn cob, husk and all, and turn it out in suitable condition for feed. You will accommodate us by so replying, giving make of such machine, probable price, amount of power necessary to operate it, etc. Yours truly.—T. J. SKAGGS, Beville, Texas.

ANS.—Yes. The Kingsland & Douglas Mfg. Co., of St. Louis, make and sell such a grinder. Send for their catalogue, or address Keating I. & M. Co., Dallas, and you can get what you want.

Has ever one of our brother farmers tried the spaying mixture mentioned in your paper? I like to know more particular about it, how it is used and how many applications are necessary to do any good. I want to try it on sows, and if sprayed once, will it do for life time?—CHAS. FUCHS, Fisher's Store P. O. Comal Co., Texas.

ANS.—Howley's Spaying Mixture has proven satisfactory to some of our subscribers whom we have heard from. Full instructions accompany each package. See the advertisement in this paper.

I notice TEXAS FARM AND RANCH of October 29th, an article on Proso millet. Where can I obtain some Proso millet seed, and at what price.—W. F. FLYNN, Anson, Texas.

ANS.—Don't think the seed can be had here. Better write to T. J. Olson, care Hospodar, Omaha, Texas.

When and how are peanuts planted? What soil is suited for them? What is the best and most prolific variety for Texas? What is the best fertilizer and how is it prepared and applied, that is, how mixed, and how applied to drills? How cultivated; how gathered and stored; how prepared for market, and what is the nearest market and average value for polished? What is a good yield?—SEKKER, El Paso, Texas.

ANS.—Rich sandy loam anywhere will produce good peanuts. Plant in rows 3 1/2 feet apart and 20 inches in the row. Wood ashes, and stable manure if land is thin. Keep down weeds and keep surface well pulverized with shallow cultivating. Bar off and pull up, turning tops down; when vines are cured, stack and pick off nuts at convenience. On a small scale, put a shaft through a barrel, and add a crank, and place on bearings, bore a number of one-quarter inch holes around middle of barrel, fill two-thirds full of nuts, and turn until clean and polished. When peanuts are raised for market on large scale, machinery for threshing and cleaning, made for the purpose, are used. The Spanish is the best nut and most prolific, but not as salable as the common "Georgia." The price for polished is \$6 to \$6.50 per hundred in Dallas.

Sallie and the cousins.—ROBERT M. RAINEY, Abner, Texas.

[A girl's or a boy's progress is usually according to the careful attention they give to their studies. Of course, some learn much faster than others, naturally, but if pupils will apply themselves diligently they will reach the same point, usually.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie: Here I sit in the chamber of my dearest auntie, Margy. Pen in hand, I write to inform you I am in the best of health, and hope these few lines will find you in the same good condition. Every Sunday I come out to Hillside ranch to call on Josephine, who is a little beautiful brunette; has small feet and fat dimpled hands. She is her mamma's pet, though she is eleven years old. I am afraid I have neglected telling of myself, of which I know you are quite anxious to hear. I have long, golden curls, beautiful blue eyes and a beautiful figure, made beautiful by my small waist, which every one admires. My music teacher says I am the brightest scholar he has, and at school I am considered the belle. I met a very nice young gentleman while in San Antonio. He is Mr. Wilson; very handsome and quite charming and agreeable. Dear Aunt Sallie, though this is a sad parting, I must stop writing, as it is quite late. Please publish this, as it is my first letter. Good-bye. I am Your niece—ELLEN MAVERICK, Hillside Ranch, San Antonio, Texas.

[Ellen, I am glad to know that you are so fair, and that you give your teacher so much pleasure in the school room. You must not let your beauty turn that golden head.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Mrs. Buchanan and Cousins: Here I am, knocking for admittance once more. If you will open for me I will come in and stay a little while this beautiful evening. Our school is approaching to the very verge of its close. Do all the cousins like to read? I do. I read every good book I get hold of, but take time to read the cousins' letters, which I think are real nice. I have just read Edmond Taylor's letter, and think it is full of truth. I am one who doesn't differ with him. Oh, if we could get rid of intoxicating drinks, there would be more happiness than there is. For it destroys both soul and body, and will cause grief and sorrow. I think if all the League cousins would do all in their power against it, we could in time stop it. I notice that the girls keep asking, "What makes the boys so slow in writing?" Girls, we are in the same place that Col. Bowie was, when Travis made his speech at the Alamo. You know he said, "Lads, I can't come over to you, but won't some of you be kind enough to lift my cot over the line?" Now, girls, if we can't keep up with you, won't some of you be kind enough to help us up? You know we are afraid we won't write interesting letters, and then you will laugh at us. Now, if you want us to keep up, just help us a little and then we will try and do better. I think the boys will catch you yet. They will soon be done work, and then you may look out for them. I will answer two of Roy Parris' questions. The longest Psalm is the 119th one. Eve was the woman who had no mother. I will come again at a more convenient time. Love to one and all.—CHARLIE CUMBER, Hatton, Texas.

[This is a very interesting letter, Charlie, and your principles deserve credit. The boys have been redeeming themselves of late. I knew the boys could write good letters, if they would, but they have so many pleasures outside which girls do not have. Come again.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Haskell Free Press: TEXAS FARM AND RANCH was two days late in reaching us this week, and we had begun to fear that we had lost a copy. But when it got here we found it it had twice the usual number of pages, and with its beautifully illuminated cover, its numerous half-tone photo engravings of Texas Jersey Herds and farm scenes—one a tobacco farm in Waller county—and a fine group of the contributors to its Household department, and its splendid typographical execution, it was a gem of the first water in the field of agricultural journalism. It was truly an artistic production of which Texans should show their appreciation in a substantial way.

You can make money getting subscribers to TEXAS FARM AND RANCH.

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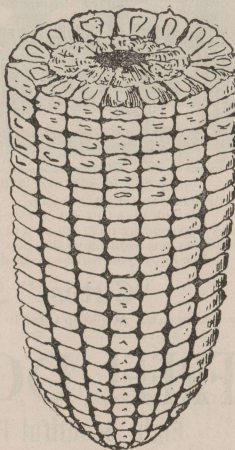
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Guess number of grains on the ear of corn and get

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Send in your subscription and guess, with 50 cents, today.



A sealed package containing one average sized white ear of corn has been placed in the vaults of the Mercantile Bank by The Commercial Appeal and on Jan. 10, 1896, the package will be turned over to them, the number of grains will be counted, and the successful guesses announced by The Commercial Appeal and the gifts promptly paid. It is unshucked and no one can possibly know the number of grains on it. Mercantile Bank.

The Weekly Commercial Appeal

wants to increase its circulation to 100,000 at once, and

in order to do so we have decided to give away \$3,480 00 in cash and valuable gifts to subscribers and agents. The Commercial Appeal has placed in the vaults of the Mercantile Bank of Memphis, Tenn., under seal, one average sized white ear of corn, and the grains are of an average size, and to the subscriber first guessing the correct number or nearest correct number of grains on this ear of corn—

We will give in cash.....	\$500 00
Second correct or nearest correct guess, in cash.....	200 00
Third correct or nearest correct guess, 1 Bicycle.....	125 00
Fourth correct or nearest correct guess, 1 Bicycle.....	100 00
Fifth correct or nearest correct guess, cash.....	75 00
Sixth correct or nearest correct guess, Gents' Gold Watch.....	50 00
Seventh correct or nearest correct guess, Ladies' Gold Watch.....	50 00
Eighth correct or nearest correct guess, Cash.....	25 00
Ninth correct or nearest correct guess, Cash.....	10 00
10 to 20 twelve months' subscriptions to Daily and Sunday Commercial Appeal, \$7.50 each.....	82 50
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51 to 100, Commercial Appeal Almanac and Cyclopaedia of Useful Information, 25 cents each.....	25 00

To the first 1,000 subscribers received, whether correct or incorrect guess is sent, we will mail, post paid, an engraving showing the National Capital at Washington, and portraits of all the Presidents, stating when and giving length of time each one occupied the presidential chair, valued at \$1 each..1,000 00

Total to subscribers.....\$2,300 00
Amount offered to agents is \$1,180, making a total in all of \$3,480.

SPECIAL NOTICE—50c must accompany every guess for 12 months' subscription to The Weekly Commercial Appeal.

The Weekly Commercial Appeal contains all the news of the week. Talmage's sermons, a complete Farm and Garden Department, a Question Department, to which every subscriber is welcome; a Friendly Circle for the young folks. IT IS INTENDED TO MAKE IT BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE. And all this for only 50 cents, allowing guess on number of grains on the ear of corn.

Remember that both guess and remittance must be sent in same letter. By sending \$1.00 you can have two years' subscription, or two guesses, or one year's subscription and guess for every 50 cents you send. Those who wish to send The Weekly Commercial Appeal to a friend can do so, and the guess will be credited to the sender if so requested. Send in your subscription and guess at once. Remit only by registered letter, money order or express order. Money sent in common letter is not safe. DO NOT SEND STAMPS. Contest closes January 10, 1896. Address

COMMERCIAL APPEAL, Memphis, Tenn.

VETERINARY.

When veterinary advice is desired by mail and without delay, Dr. Folsetter (Dallas, Texas) should be addressed directly, and one dollar enclosed to secure prompt attention. Queries addressed to TEXAS FARM AND RANCH for publication will be answered, each in turn.

I have a horse that was injured by saddle galls on top of withers, near the point of the shoulder blade. It has been running bloody water and pus for about sixty days and all attempts to heal up the sore have failed. The opening is five inches from the point of the shoulder blade on the back bone. Some have told me that it was fistula. The matter can be run from the shoulder blade to the opening by passing the finger over it. Can you give me a remedy?—B. T. SHARPS, LaPorte, Texas.

ANS.—Cut the abscess so as to give it a dependent opening so that all the pus will drain out. Then inject a little of the following lotion twice a week, into the bottom of the abscess: bichloride of mercury, one drachm; alcohol, two ounces; and wash out once a day with soap and water.

In dressing a hog to-day, I noticed that the intestines contained some slender white worms about two and a half or three inches long. Do they render the flesh unwholesome, or is it a common occurrence for such things to inhabit the intestines of the porkers we use for food? A day or two since I found one of my fine pigs dead, and my next neighbor also lost a very fine sow. We believe that cholera caused these deaths.—G. W. JENKINS, Stephenville, Texas.

ANS.—Such worms do not injure the pork, but interferes with the assimilation of the food consumed by the hogs, and prevents their thriving and in many cases leads to the development of other diseases and sometimes death of the hog.

Will you please tell me through TEXAS FARM AND RANCH what is the matter with my horse and what I can do to cure him or better his condition? He is eight or nine years old, in good condition, except lameness in his right hind foot, leg, or hip, I can't tell which. He never shows any lameness until after he has been ridden several miles or runs a short distance and stops. When he starts to walk after standing a while after he has run or been ridden, he is all right until he stops again. I have kept him in a very fine pea field since I traded for him in the fall. He was not lame when I got him.—A. SUBSCHER, Mt. Carmel, Texas.

ANS.—Cannot say from your description where your horse is lame. Examine the lower part of the hock joint on the inside for spavin; also between the fetlock and hoof for ring bone. If you find any heat or enlargement, apply a cantharidine blister. If you find no indications of any of the diseases mentioned, apply a blister in the hollow of the heels over the coffin joint.

I have a mule that was cut on a wire last summer, between fetlock and hoof on fore foot. The cut in a year has gotten worse but he keeps it gnawed until it is raw. How can I keep him from gnawing it?—G. B. WADSWORTH, Tashum, Texas.

ANS.—Apply ounce of zinc ointment, then cover with lint cotton and a bandage, and change once every day.

I have a mare eight years old, and for the past two months she has had a thick, greenish, offensive smelling discharge from the right nostril. About a week ago she began to cough. She has had the run of a good pasture for the past three months and has done no work until the last two weeks. She is fed liberally on corn, oats, rice, white bran and rice straw, but keeps very thin in flesh and seems to be growing thinner. She does not seem to be in any pain. What is the matter and what is the remedy?—S. S. MUNSON, Winnie, Texas.

ANS.—A diseased tooth. Having it extracted is the only remedy.

I have a young horse which has bony enlargements the size of walnuts just below the knee on inside and outside of leg; limps badly from it after hard driving. I purchased him last February; the knots were on him then. Would you be so kind as to inform me what will remove them and prevent his limping?—D. M. WILSON, St. Elmo, Texas.

ANS.—Nothing will remove the enlargements. Blistering them occasionally with cantharidine ointment will remove the lameness.

I have a cow that brought a calf about three months ago, and she had the lockjaw. The calf was very large, she eats very little and is getting very poor. She was very fat up to the time she brought the calf. Tell me what to do for her and oblige.—D. J. EASLEY, Gatesville, Texas.

ANS.—Dissolve one and a half pounds of sulphate of magnesia in a half gallon of hot water and drench her with it. Then take one ounce of dried sulphate of iron, two ounces of powdered gentian and one half ounce of powdered nux vomica. Make into eight powders and give one once a day in a pint of water well shaken up and feed her on the best of food.

Please give me information about my sow. She brought pigs on last of August. She was in thin order; she got poorer every day, and in about one month she became so weak she could not get up. I gave her buttermilk and condition powders and a little copperas. I took the pigs from her and she is getting better, but she is still in the hind legs. Would it be advisable for me to breed her again?

She is a good mother. She raised ten pigs.—J. W. VEATCH, Hall, Texas.

ANS.—Yes, breed her again, but let her get entirely well and strong before doing so.

I have a horse twenty-two years old, and he chokes very badly while eating. Please inform me through your paper the cause and how to cure it, and oblige.—S. M. MILLER, Melissa, Texas.

ANS.—There are sharp corners on his teeth that irritate his tongue and cheeks while eating. Have them filed smooth.

I have a colt eighteen months old and I think she is taking the fistula. You will greatly oblige a subscriber by giving a remedy.—E. D. SHERMAN, Menlo, Texas.

ANS.—Lance the swelling so as to give the abscess a dependent opening; then wash out once a day well with soap and warm water and inject a little of the following lotion once every three days: Alcohol, three ounces; bichloride of mercury one and a-half drachms. Any that runs down on the shoulder should be sponged off.

I have a horse six years old. Some sixteen or eighteen months ago he sprained his right knee, as I thought then, by another horse running him over some logs. He was lame a few days, but soon got all right, excepting the pastern joint was a little enlarged. Since that time the pastern has increased in size until now it is 3½ inches larger around than the other. What can you advise to reduce this enlargement?—F. J. CARTWRIGHT, Van Alstyne, Texas.

ANS.—If lame, blister with cantharidine ointment. If not lame, paint it once a day till well blistered with strong tincture of iodine.

Farmer Shaw, Dallas, can sell you as good a Berkshire pig as can be found anywhere. Write him for particulars.

Wanted.—One car load of milch cows, Jerseys or graded Jerseys. Address ISAAC ELLIS, Lincoln, N. M.

If you want a first-class Jersey cow, write to Farmer Shaw, Dallas, stating particulars. He will send you a long list of pedigrees to select from.

HORSE BLANKETS.

The one great object in the feeding of animals is to create an inward heat, to build a fire within, to create steam, so to speak, with which to run the animal system. Anything that saves the fuel, (feed) is a measure of economy. That is one reason for putting a roof over our heads, for affording some measure of protection to our domestic animals; for putting a blanket on the horse; applying that makes the horse comfortable, that conserves the inward heat makes him profitable.

The Burlington "Stay On" blanket has advantages over all others. They are made to fit a horse of any size, and in a great variety of styles, and seem to us, to offer about everything that is required in a horse blanket.

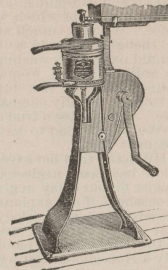
It gives us pleasure to call our readers' attention to an article that has solid merit, namely, Brown's Bronchial Troches. For more than a hundred years a sterling character, honesty of purpose and wise dealings have characterized the house manufacturing this excellent and popular article. The same determination to do everything well has marked for nearly fifty years the manufacture and sale of these famous troches. Every speaker and singer knows their immense value, and all are ready to tell of their worth for colds and sore throats. But public speakers and singers are not the only ones who derive great benefit from the use of Brown's Bronchial Troches. The general public are not slow to show appreciation of a good thing. The immense sale of these troches proves the truth of this statement. We can unhesitatingly recommend them to our readers, thus following the example of ministers and regular physicians who know their value for affections of the throat.

Very simple.—Prof. A.—Do you know, I find it difficult to remember the ages of my children?

Prof. B.—I have no such trouble. I was born 2300 years after Socrates; my wife 1800 years after the death of Tiberius Caesar; our son John 2000 years after the entrance into Rome of Titus Sempronius Gracchus for the re-enactment of the leges Licinia; and our Amanda 1500 years after the beginning of the Folk-wandering—that is perfectly simple you see.—Fliegende Blätter.



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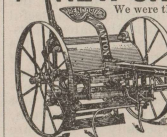
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A NEW FAST TRAIN

FIRST CLASS SERVICE
TO
ST. LOUIS
AND
CHICAGO
WITHOUT CHANGE.



Household

Edited by Mrs. S. E. Buchanan, Dallas, Texas, to whom all communications for this department should be addressed.

DREAMLAND.

WANDERING BACHELOR.

She is dead, the watchers softly murmured,
As one by one they sadly turned away.
They little knew the cruel words they uttered
Darkened my life forever, that sad day.
I saw her eyes like violets with dew laden,
Looking their last on home, and earth, and sky;
I saw her rose-leaf cheeks grow cold and waxen,
I heard her lips breathe out their last faint sigh.

They clasped her hands above a heart as loyal
As ever throbbed within a woman's breast,
They filled her snowy hands with roses royal,
And then they bore her to her dreamless rest.
They laid her gently where the sunbeams linger
In golden gleams, where sinks the god of day,
And when the earth from mortal eyes concealed her,
Forlorn and desolate, I sadly turned away.

Why does the heart the lost affection treasure
Of happy days, alas, long past and fled,
As the perfume of roses still will linger
After the blossoms are withered, brown and dead?
Can we forget, or would we if we might,
The loving words once so gladly heard,
The parting kiss in the cold, pure starlight,
The snatch of song that once our hearts have stirred?

In memory's garden still we love to wander
With our lost loves, and buried hopes and joys,
Our hearts are never lonely while we linger
In that dear dreamland of unclouded skies,
There we again meet those whose faces haunt us,
Whose loving voices linger in our ears,
And love-lit glances again in dreams are ours,
From sparkling eyes undimmed, unstained by tears.

Then let me in that mystic dreamland linger,
The world is lonely, sad and desolate,
My heart and I grow sadder still, and sadder,
And wearily the final summons wait,
Shall it be long till in his tender mercy
The master bids this weary heart be still,
And rest forever in that land of glory,
Never again to feel a painful trial?

I know that at the beautiful peary gate
Of that bright and joyous happy sea,
My bright-eyed darling patiently does wait
Till death will kindly give her back to me.
'Twill not be long, the sunset skies grow brighter,
And longer grow the shadows of life's way,
A few more days, and the blissful future
With my lost love in realms of endless day.

CALHOUN, TEXAS.

CHAT.

We extend Rose Seelye-Miller a very cordial welcome to our columns, and commend to our readers her very practical and economical suggestions for making Christmas presents. Many enjoy preparing their gifts with their own hands, and to many, such gifts are more valued than the costliest gifts bought from the stores. Thank you, Mrs. Seelye, for this excellent contribution. We hope to have the light of your countenance shine in upon us again.

Wandering Bachelor, your surmise is incorrect; no communication of yours finds its way into the waste basket. We sincerely hope that last week's blustering norther blew away the last cloud of the vapors which enveloped your usually cheerful heart, and that ere this the sunshine of cheerfulness is restored. We regretted very much that we failed to meet you at the Fair.

Mrs. Mills contributes her quota of suggestions for the Christmas festivities, which are also excellent and timely. We commend Mrs. Mills to the sisterhood, if they desire Christmas decorative material. The palmetto leaves are large, and one or two dozen will make a very pretty and elegant display. To those who are not acquainted with the Spanish moss, would say, it makes a very attractive and graceful decoration, and is much prized by a great many people.

Aunt Sabra's interesting letter, giving the origin and objects of the Heart-ease Circle, was received some time ago, but, unfortunately, was crowded out of a former edition. It may be well to offer a word of explanation to our members just here. Very often too much copy is sent in for our space, and some article must be left out. If the editor is article, the foreman uses his discretion in setting it up, consequently some contributions are carried over one or two issues. We are very glad Aunt Sabra has given us this explanation of this modest, but delightful and helpful society. What grand possibilities lie within its gentle ministrations! Leo was entirely correct, Aunt Sabra, you are

needed, and we hope to have you with us often.

Josephine, in a private note, says some very pleasant and complimentary things of the Household, for which we feel very grateful. We very much appreciate her thoughtfulness in sending us the splendid recipe for washing flannels. The ordinary wash woman converts a flannel skirt or vest into leather like substance, usually one-half the original size. We propose a trial of this method. We will be glad to have Josephine a frequent visitor.

I fear Dean Hill feels that her excellent contribution has been neglected. We must apologise for our delay in giving it to the Household, if our explanation may be received as an apology. We have a great amount of mail, and we try to keep the letters well in hand, but occasionally a Household letter will be misplaced among a lot of personal letters and other papers, and is only found in a general "round up." This is what happened to Dean Hill's good letter. It is refreshing to read from the pen of a young girl such expressions, and we hope to have the pleasure of her company again.

"CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR."

MINNIE GILMORE MILLS.

It is not too early for those who make elaborate preparations for Christmas festivities, to begin the presents for relatives and friends, and to make at least a mental programme of arrangements for the holidays. Many who have been lavish in giving entertainments and expensive gifts, will this year have to content themselves with fewer and less costly ones. But, remember, it is not the price of a present that makes it of value to our dear ones, but the knowledge that there is in the heart the wish to make them happy.

The trifling gift made with your own fingers, that carries with it the kind thoughts and memories that were welling up and floating through the mind as the needle flew in and out, that now brought a smile to the lips, and now perhaps, a short-lived sigh, will be prized beyond expression; while a handsome souvenir worth ten times as much in money, bought at the bric-a-brac store, would be thought of only when the parlor mantel was dusted.

Let not the festive season pass with no remembrances of your love; even though it be but a useful bag for mother's room, (which may be made as you please, also), a pin cushion for sister's toilet table—one for brother, as well, or a new necktie, fashioned from pieces of silk—an apron for some other member of the family, which will be appreciated, however plain it may be, not forgetting for the old gentleman a useful newspaper rack, where the latest newspaper or magazine may be ready to his hand, or paraphernalia for shaving if he dislikes going to the barber—something convenient for him, but not elaborate or "too nice to use." Let not these anniversaries pass in humdrum, careless way, especially if there are young people in the family, or little ones, for youth soon flies. These are bright spots for them to look back upon when age shall have dimmed the eye.

And if there are no children, let us, at least, try to make some others the happier, if not the merrier. "The poor ye have always with you." Gladden their hearts for once with some unexpected pleasure.

Decorations, out of the usual way, add a festive air to the house, greenery and flowers, whenever obtainable, especially. I have made a point of hanging evergreen vines here and there, placing glasses of flowers in the rooms, a more elaborate bouquet on the table, even though for many years the Christmas tree has been a thing of the past, and the holiday "festivities" and noise, name than anything else. For whom? you ask. Well, in memory, first of the day when the angels sang of peace and good will; when the Christ child lay in the manger; then, of years when a merry band gathered in the old parlor, under wreaths and vines, amid the gleam of firelight and waxen candles, and robbed the green branches of the well-laden Christmas tree; and last, but by no means least, because my simple preparations and flourishes bring new light into a pair of eyes that always smile upon me in the new "pinewood" home, one into whose workaday life few festivities enter.

The palmetto leaves and honeysuckle vines, (the evergreen white flowered variety) lend themselves easily to artistic arrangements and beautifully decorate the plainest room. They may

be tacked on the walls, gracefully grouped on the tables, wreathed around pictures over doors, and windows, pinned on curtains, and if there is not a flower to be found, here and there the vines may be tied with a bright ribbon. To most of our homes here in the woods these arrangements give a rustic effect, charming in its very simplicity; and if no eye but my own will have to look upon them, I think I should continue as long as I live to decorate the house for Xmas. The red-berried holly branches and mistletoe should have places when they are obtainable; but evergreen vines and branches of some kind are always to be found.

On the dinner table should be a vase of flowers. In our Southern lands we have them every day; but a glass bowl of fruit may be used as a centerpiece, wreathed around the edge with evergreen leaves, a small trailing vine here and there falling to the table cloth. A pot of growing ferns may be placed in the center, a handsome begonia, or other plant. If I had no flowers, however, my next choice would be a bowl of green palmetto leaves (the pot or bowl filled with wet sand first) and some graceful vines falling from it, as they keep their color and texture a long time. Ferns speedily wither—the one drawback to their use.

Many like Spanish moss for draping around pictures, brackets, etc., but the evergreen honeysuckle is much more cheerful in appearance; the leaves are of a rich, glossy green, and if one end of the vine be placed in water (a bottle hidden behind a picture will do admirably; it may be hung to nail tiny rootlets will appear, and the honeysuckle may be planted in the ground after it has served its purpose.

To those who wish to try palmetto leaves as Xmas decoration, I will send a dozen medium size, for 30 cents, postage free; or two dozen leaves for 50 cents, with a nice lot of Spanish moss, in either case. The latter will keep fresh until spring, if occasionally well soaked with water. Many like it for draping flower pots and boxes. If the palmetto leaves are occasionally wet, they, too, will keep green a long time.

I have numerous plants and flower seeds to dispose of, but knowing this department is not intended as an advertising medium (though dear Mrs. Buchanan is certainly very kind) will simply say my prices will be sent on application to all who send me a self-addressed and stamped envelope. Better state, also, the plants wanted.

I have not grown plants for sale during the past year, but have many fine, thrifty ones which I am not prepared to properly care for during winter.
St. Thomas, Fla.

A VALUABLE RECIPE.

JOSEPHINE.

To the Household: I come with a recipe. Some of the sisters have called a halt on recipes and babies, but having gleaned this from no less a source than the Scientific American, to say nothing of having tried it myself, with perfect success, I hope some of you will give it a trial. This article deals with the washing of flannels, and substantially, is as follows:

The liquid used for washing must be as hot as possible.

For the removal of greasy dirt, sweat, etc., borax is of so little value that its application would be mere waste. Soap lye alone is better, but preference must be given to soap lye and ammonia. This mixture works wonders by quickly dissolving dirt. It raises and revives bright colors, and is altogether excellent.

On the other hand, for cleaning white woolen goods, there is nothing which even approaches borax. Soap lye and borax applied boiling hot, give white woolens a looseness and dazzling whiteness which they often do not possess when new.

If shrinking is to be entirely avoided, the drying must be accelerated by repeatedly pressing the woolens between soft cloths. In no case should woolens be let dry in the sun. They are best dried in a moderate current of air, and in cold weather in a warm place, not too near the stove.

For colored woolens, there should be prepared a lye of seven quarts soft water to two ounces of best soft soap. Dissolve the soap over the fire. This lye must then be divided into two parts, to one of which is added a teaspoonful of ammonia for each quart of lye. The woolens must be entered at a heat which the hands can not bear, and turned and pressed with a smooth wooden paddle, then pressed out as

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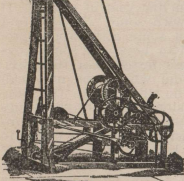
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"I could have laughed outright," said Mrs. Brown, "when we were going around Barnum and Bailey's menagerie on Friday."

"Why, what happened?" asked Mrs. Jones.

"Well, Mrs. Smith called an animal a seraph. Of course she meant a giraffe; but the fun of it was, it wasn't a giraffe at all. It was a camomile!"—Selected.

About Bees

KEEPING BEES.

An exchange says: Modern bee-keeping at first repels beginners, because it is made to look like a difficult and unprofitable pursuit, with a great probability of a physical discomfort from stings. We have found, whenever the subject has been brought up, the very first objection to be, "There is too much trouble about bees."

If you were intending to make bee-keeping your business, then it would be well to consider these objections and show how tender handling, an intelligent study of methods, large and convenient hives, the most approved locations and the most suitable protective bee veils, have rendered these objections of no force.

But for bees on the farm, to gather the sweets which frequently go to waste, we need only say, the frame hives with sections for honey, and a few swarms of bees, will not involve either difficulty or damage to any, and will afford for the table a delicacy which both old and young will appreciate. Besides, the cases of being stung may be said to be of rare occurrence, and if you chance to be a subject of stinging it will soon be of little consequence, as many testify that it soon becomes of no greater inconvenience than the bite of a mosquito.

RIPE HONEY.

Arkansas Farmer.

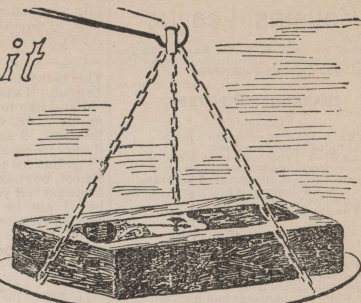
Some bee-keepers think they can ripen honey as well as the bees, if not better. So they provide tanks where they leave the honey to undergo the evaporating process. The hive is the best place for this purpose, says the American Bee Journal. It is very doubtful if a large body of honey in a tank will evaporate as perfectly as it does by the cell full. Neither is the changeable temperature of the outside air as favorable for the ripening process as the steady, warm temperature of the interior of the hive. There is a large proportion of unripe honey put on the market, to the great injury of the business of bee-keeping. This unripe honey is thin, watery, and liable to sour. It is supposed by a certain class of bee-keepers that they are doing a cute thing to get the honey extracted before the bees go to the trouble of sealing it over. This is the poorest policy imaginable. It is an attempt to gain profit at the sacrifice of quality, whereas it should be the constant aim to get the highest quality, because that invariably commands the best price, and gives the most satisfaction to customers.

Is it safe to take a lunch at bedtime, if I am very hungry?—A. E. Ans.—No, it is not safe; though you may feel the effects at first, dyspepsia and general stomach and bowel difficulties appearing in after life. You cannot be very hungry at that time, if you take the three regular meals at the proper times and retire in good season. If you sit up very late you may be hungry, but it will be all the worse for you to eat then, as you cannot get the proper amount of sleep, besides so exhausting yourself that the stomach will not be able to digest any food. You cannot have refreshing sleep when the stomach is hard at work. If you do sleep, the food will remain undigested till morning, when you will have a poor appetite. Again, to give the stomach additional labor after the toil of disposing the three regular meals, even if the supper is then digested, would be as cruel as it would for you to be required to do a third of a day's work, commencing at the same time. Like the stomach, you would soon break down. This will be particularly true if rich pastry, pie and cake are taken, unwisely, for supper. The safest time for these is in the morning, after a night of refreshing sleep, when the stomach ought to be well rested and refreshed by a good night's sleep. You cannot sleep too much, and the best sleep will be when the stomach is at rest.—Medical Editor Farmers' Voice.

Tourist.—Dr. Slade, the coroner, seems to be a very enterprising man.

Colonel Handy Polk.—Enterpriser! Yer bet! Tell you what he done last summer when the circus was here. One of the curiosities in the side show was an Egyptian mummy. Slade seized the mummy, rounded up a jury, brought in a verdict of "dead from unknown causes," and charged the county his regular fee with compound interest from the time of Moses.—Truth.

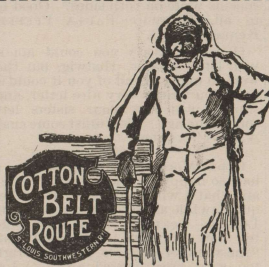
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Cousins' League

Edited by Mrs. S. E. Buchanan, Dallas, Texas, to whom all communications for this department should be addressed.

THANKSGIVING PICTURE.

Exchange.

What if the gold of the corn lands
Is faded to sombre gray?
And what if the down of the thistle
Is ripened and scattered away?
There's gold in the gathered harvest;
There's homely and heartsome cheer;
And so we will be full joyous—
The day of thanksgiving is here.

A sigh for the vanished splendor
Of the autumn's purple and red—
For the goldenrod that is whitened,
For the geranium bloom that is dead;
Then turn to the hearthstone cheery;
Behold, 'tis the time of year
To found our blessings and mercies—
The day of thanksgiving is here.

Bare and brown in the shadows,
The meadowland meets the gaze,
Where the bold, blithe bee went seeking
Its sweets in the summer days;
The honey is stored in plenty
So what if the winter is bleak;
The time is not one for repining—
The day of thanksgiving is here.

The fruit has matured in its season,
The sunshine has ripened the seed,
Then sing to the Lord of the harvest
A song of thanksgiving indeed.
The morn and the noon have passed by us;
'Tis the sweet afternoon of the year;
So let not your tribute be lacking—
The day of thanksgiving is here.

Dear Mrs. Buchanan and Cousins: I have been a reader of TEXAS FARM AND RANCH for more than four years and have longed to be one of the cousins, and have at last decided to write. I wrote once when Uncle Mike and Aunt Emma had charge of this department. I see one cousin's name, who has written to the Cousins' League, whom I know. It is Mary Crawford, of Waxahachie. I have never been to school much as the cousins will see before I get through. Aunt Sallie, I hope you will accept this bad writing and I will try to do better next time. Cousins don't you think Aunt Sallie is kind to give a page in this paper for the benefit of the young. I will come again.—EDDIE TRICE, Midlothian, Texas.

[You find it is not so hard to write after all, do you not, Eddie. Girls and boys sometimes think it is very hard to accomplish something really simple.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Auntie: I thought I would write the Cousins' League a letter after so long a time. We have been taking TEXAS FARM AND RANCH for two years and this is my first attempt to write. I enjoy reading the Cousins' League and the Household. We have but one pet and it is a baby brother three months old. I have four sisters and three brothers, and I am the oldest of all. If any of the cousins will send me the song "Charles Gatau," I will send in return any of the songs I have. I have one hundred and eighty songs which I received a year ago. Question:

What is it that is better to eat when it is green than when it is ripe?
Goodbye.—LILLIE JEFFREY, Ray, Texas.

[I cannot think what is better when green than when ripe; not a persimmon sure. You will have to pass that to the next one.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie: I have often thought of writing to the Cousins' League, but this is my first attempt. I am a little girl twelve years old. My papa takes TEXAS FARM AND RANCH. I read the Cousins' League and enjoy it very much. I have no pets to write about. Love to Aunt Sallie and the cousins. I will ask a question. In what chapter in the Bible are the ten commandments?

Good bye.—MAGGIE RAGLAND, Commerce, Texas.

[Well, Mattie, I am glad to have you come into the League, and thank you for your love.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie: I thought I would write you a few lines. I enjoy reading the Cousins' League very much. This is my first attempt to write. I am a little girl ten years old. My papa takes TEXAS FARM AND RANCH. I broke my arm last winter and can't write well. We started to picking cotton yesterday. We had no school this summer and I was very sorry. But I will go to school this winter. I am afraid I am getting my letter too long. Best wishes to Aunt Sallie and cousins. Good bye.—EDNA JEFFREY, Ray, Texas.

[You need not be afraid of getting your letter too long, Edna. Such a

pity you had so painful an accident. I hope by this time your arm is well.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie and the Cousins: This is my first attempt to write to the League. I am a little girl eleven years old and like to read the League very much. I have got a sister and three brothers. I am from the city and think it very lonesome out in the country. Papa has 700 pear trees out. I go to school, but our school is in grades so I can't tell you what grade I am in, but I am in Reed's Speller, Holmes' Fourth Reader, etc. If I see this letter in print I will write again. I will close with love to Aunt Sallie and the cousins.—BESSIE LOGAN, Alta Loma, Texas.

[I have just returned from a visit South, Bessie, and passed through your town. I saw the nice exhibit Alta Loma had at the Coast Country Fair. You live in a beautiful portion of the state, but last Sunday morning when I left it, it was very, very wet.—AUNT SALLIE.]

My Dear Aunt Sallie: Here comes another cousin, or one who wants to be. I am a little girl eleven years old. My papa is a farmer and I have to pick cotton, and I help mamma in the house too. I have no pets except a sweet little sister. Aunt Sallie you said you had three girls. What are their names? I will close for fear of that awful waste basket. Your niece.—LEE GIFFORD, Lancaster, Texas.

[I believe you are the first girl who has written that she loved to pick cotton. My girls' names are May, Jessie and Laura.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie and Cousins: As it is a lonesome afternoon, I thought to interest myself in making my first visit to this department. I have written several letters to Mr. Big Hat's department. Aunt Sallie, my sister Fernand wrote a letter to the Cousins' League on the Fourth of July, but it has not been in the paper yet. What is the matter with it, Auntie? I wish the cousins could be here to see the little birds in our prickly ash trees. The trees are as full of birds as they can be, and we can hear them flutter and fight and fight over the seed all day long. We cleaned some seed for our little caged mocking bird. Papa bought a new cage for him. Sister Gustie is married, and Tonia went on a visit to her last fall, and is there still. I have one nephew and two nieces. Little Eddie is five years old, Hilda three, and baby Bertha is two. I love all my nieces and nephews. I wish Aunt Sallie and the cousins could see them, how sweet they are. Everybody who sees them say that they are the prettiest children they ever saw. Little Emma Malone, I wish you would be so kind as to send me the song, "I Want a Piece of Calico to Make my Doll a Dress." I will send you any song you would like, but please, little Emma, send the music of the song, too. I would like to hear my sister play it on the organ. I wish I could see all my letters in print, soon, and I also wish cousin Emma would send me the song. Aunt Sallie do you care whether the cousins write on both sides? Good bye to all.—HEDWIG PAULA PFEFFER, Kenney, Texas.

[I am very sorry you could not see your letter sooner, Hedwig, but there were so many ahead of you it could not be. You write a very nice letter, and I suppose you saw your sisters letter some time ago. You must come again.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Good Morning Cousins: You all look so happy; I believe I will come in and chat a while with you. It has been quite awhile since I last wrote to the League. I expect you all have forgotten me. Autumn has come again. "The summer days, so fair and bright, too soon have passed away." I am going to school now. I have eight studies and they keep me busy. There has been an abundant fruit crop this year. Papa plays on the violin, and my brother Walter and myself accompany him on the organ. We have plenty of music. I enjoy reading TEXAS FARM AND RANCH, especially the Household Department and the Cousins' League. I love birds. I am listening to the song of a little bird now.

"The gay little feathered songsters
Are singing ever melody
Their sweet and thrilling melody
Fills all the balmy air."

I don't think anyone ought to kill little birds; neither ought they to treat them cruelly. We should be kind to everything and everybody. "A little

word in kindness spoken often heals a heart that's broken." For fear my letter is too long, I will bid you all adieu.—ANNIE MAY LANGFORD, Gilsland, La.

[You have found the keynote, Annie May, to make yourself and every one happy, it is, be kind.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie: I have seen so many nice letters in TEXAS FARM AND RANCH I thought I would write one. I am a little boy thirteen years old. I used to live in Western Texas. We lived in San Antonio and San Angelo. My father died in San Angelo. We take TEXAS FARM AND RANCH. All like to read it, and I also like to read Uncle Snort's letters. He writes something like Bill Arp. I read the Cousins' League. I see from some of the cousins letters that the girls think that they are ahead of the boys. Well they are in some things. The girls wear bloomers here, and the boys don't. Mamma says, "let them wear them, for the girls are having to take the boys place in other things." But I don't intend for them to take my place. I go to school. My studies are, history, grammar, geography, physiology and arithmetic. I hope I will see this in the next TEXAS FARM AND RANCH. So cheer up boys.—ROBERT MCCLUNG, Morrilton, Ark.

[Aha, master Robert, mamma takes the girls side, does she? You are brave boy to do so, too.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie: May I come in and sit by the fireside with you? I am a little girl of eleven hard springs and summers and eleven hard falls. I have dark eyes, rosy lips and dark curly hair. My little friend, Ellen Maverick, is visiting me. We live five miles from San Antonio, Texas. We go in to school every day. I have several pets. First comes dear little Wooley Dick; then comes a little yellow kitten and a rag doll that I love best of all, and I wined it all day Saturday in a little carriage. I like the pictures of my papa and the pictures of the ranch. I say good bye.—JOSEPHINE VANCE, Hillside Ranch, Texas.

[So you are a red rose, Josephine, with your dark hair and eyes, and jolly ways. You are an everbloomer, too, with your smiles and pleasures. Come again.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie: I wish to join the League. I am ten years old. My school was out the 6th of June; we all went down on the creek and fished all day. We had a little picnic to ourselves. We all enjoyed ourselves. Our teacher's name is Mr. Gibbons Bleet. He is a good teacher. Hoping to see this next letter in print, I will close.—SALLIE MILLING, Birdstown, Texas.

[You might have written us more of that nice fishing party, Sallie. It would make pleasant reading this cold November day.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie: I have been a reader of the Cousins' League for a long time, and wish to join your happy band, if you will allow my name on your list. My papa takes TEXAS FARM AND RANCH, and is well pleased with it, and I enjoy reading the letters from the cousins. I am a little girl twelve years old. I have one sister and two brothers at home. I am the youngest child. My papa lives on a farm in Collin county, two and one-half miles southeast of Van Alstyne. Well, as this is my first attempt to write, I will not make it too long, so good-by to Aunt Sallie and all the cousins.—BEATRICE PARISH.

[Beatrice, a farmer's girl should be a very happy girl, with so many pleasures, and so few things to disturb your quiet and enjoyment, and I hope you are one.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dearest Auntie and Cousins: As this is my first attempt to write to the league, I will not stay long. I have been going to school, but have now quit. My teacher offered a prize in school. I think I would have gotten it if I hadn't had to quit. He offered \$1; I didn't care anything about the dollar, but I wanted the most head-marks. I only went two months. I have only one pet, a doll, and am going to get a big doll Christmas, I suppose. I have two friends; their names are Bella Wood and Laura Harrell. I like them very well. Aunt Sallie, you just ought to have been here last summer, we had plenty of peaches and apples. I wished for you when I was eating them. My mother is dead; she died when I was seven years old. I am at

my sister's now; she is sick. I have a step mother; I love her so dearly. Oh, I had the sweetest little brother, but he died. I know you all can sympathize with me. He was the sweetest little thing I ever saw, but he is in the brightest world. I hope we will all meet him up there. But think, I have seven little brothers dead, and the best mamma that ever was on this green earth. Aunt Sallie, I reckon you are tired, so I had better close. I hope my letter won't reach the waste basket. Write to me, Aunt Sallie. Your truly little friend, MINNIE LEE RAIFORD, Ralford, Ark.

[It is a pity you could not stay in school to strive for that prize, Minnie, if you felt sure of it. I thank you for remembering me when you were so happy, and enjoying your fruit so much. I would have enjoyed it too.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie: I have been a reader of TEXAS FARM AND RANCH for several years, but have kept quiet since you became our editress. I now wish to join your happy band. It is a rainy day and we can't get out of doors to do our work, or play ball. I live five miles northeast of Vernon on a farm. Papa is going to sow a good deal of wheat this year, and says he will give brother Paul and I ten acres of land and let us have what we make. That will be nice, won't it? Well cousins, I am a boy twelve years old, but I can't agree with Henry Jennings on the subject under discussion. I will have to defend the girls and write on the other side of this question. I have not been to school a great deal, but my observation is, generally speaking, the girls beat the boys in their studies the first, and even the second years. Of course, girls, I am not speaking of myself now, but boys generally. Boys, if we had a judge appointed to decide which side was right, I think the girls would win. I have been thinking for some time that I would like to join your League. Am I a welcome visitor? I am not going to school now. I have a sweet little sister, her name is Mittie. I see some of the cousins telling about their pets; I haven't any. I would like very much to correspond with some of the cousins. With best regards to Aunt Sallie, the cousins, and TEXAS FARM AND RANCH.—BETTIE EDGEMORTH, Naches, Tex.

[Roy rather inclines to the opinion that the girls are ahead also. Well we can only wait and see.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie and Cousins: Will you allow me the pleasure of joining your happy League? Papa takes TEXAS FARM AND RANCH, and it is my favorite paper. I like to read any part of it, but my page is the Cousins' League. I have been thinking for some time that I would like to join your League. Am I a welcome visitor? I am not going to school now. I have a sweet little sister, her name is Mittie. I see some of the cousins telling about their pets; I haven't any. I would like very much to correspond with some of the cousins. With best regards to Aunt Sallie, the cousins, and TEXAS FARM AND RANCH.—BETTIE EDGEMORTH, Naches, Tex.

[Surely you are very welcome, Bettie. I am pleased to know you enjoy our corner so much.—AUNT SALLIE.]

Dear Aunt Sallie and Cousins: I am a little country boy, and I like to live in the country very much. I used to live in town. I have picked a great deal of cotton this year. Our school will commence Monday morning. I think Henry Jennings' discussion is wrong as to whether boys or girls progress faster in their first year of school. It is different with some. In my first year at school some girls would progress faster than boys and some boys would progress faster than the girls. There are some whom you may call dull-heads, who will stay in the same books two sessions, while brighter ones selves to higher classes. It is owing to whether they love to learn or not. If one likes to learn some studies better than others, I think he will advance faster in those studies than his class. It is also according to regular attendance. There are some little girls who cannot get to school on account of bad weather and sickness. They are not likely to progress as fast as the boys whose attendance is regular. Some girls say, "Boys, why don't you write? are you bashful, lazy, or blockheads and don't know what to write?" Girls, I don't think that is the reason. I think that it is this: The boys work in the field, and at night they are tired. Boys, let us get a move on us. I am thirteen years old. I will bid you good evening, and love to Aunt

much as possible, and transferred to the second lye, containing no ammonia. This lye has now become so cool that the articles can be pressed by hand, but no twisting or wringing must take place. They are then pressed between three or four soft dry towels until the latter no longer become wet.

All this seems tiresome, but when you have once tried it on baby's nice white flannels, and brought them through the struggle, finding them better than new, methinks you'll rise up and call "somebody" blessed.

Paris, Texas.

NOVEL READING AND CHRISTIAN DUTY.

DEAN HILL.

Dear Mrs. Buchanan: While reading TEXAS FARM AND RANCH this morning, among the rest, I was deeply interested in a letter from Mrs. Milner, which I hesitated not a moment to give assent to every word she had written. I feel like, though my language be poor, that I would be pleased to say a few words in connection with her laudable treatise; that is, if I be admitted into the Household, which I hope to be.

I do not advocate this novel reading for more than one reason; some may say that I'm not single and want to deprive the young of that enjoyment, but I am single and only nineteen, at home with my parents; but I can say, had I given run to my wrong desire, I would have been one of Arkansas' foremost novel readers. But the Christian influences of my parents thrown around me intercepted my novel reading to a great extent. There have been many tried mothers, whose hands could have been rested by a daughter's fulfilling her station in the household, had it not been for the novel reading that had to go on. I have a friend who is almost an incessant novel reader. She claims to be a Christian, which I have no reason to doubt; but she has gotten far from the path that a Christian should travel, just by indulging in that bad habit. You may try to hold a conversation with her, and it is first her novel, and then her beau, and her religious duties go unperformed generally. I have a sister just fourteen, and there are two habits I'm going to try to keep her from forming. They are reading novels and using snuff. I admit that there is a great deal depending upon one's disposition, whether such trifles will lead them astray; and I am one who could not indulge in such things to a great extent without getting that and my religious matters mixed, and I don't think they would agree very well. I hope I will treat no one harshly, but one of the sisters remarked that novel reading did not lessen her Bible interests. That was well said, for I've no idea that her Bible interests could be lessened if she is a regular novel reader. I had best desist, and if I see this in print I will try to be more interesting next time. Best wishes to all.

Nixon, Ark.

REVERIES OF A BACHELOR.

WANDERING BACHELOR.

Dear Household: I am afraid that my last epistle found its way to the waste basket, but as I am feeling oh, so blue, I will risk another rebuff and come again, hoping you will let me in just for a little while.

Hester Kirke, many thanks for kind words, in issue of Oct. 5. I have long since been convinced that it is much worse to be an old bachelor, than an old maid, for the latter always occupies a warm place in somebody's heart, and an old bachelor does not. Yes, I, too, have known of some lonely men having no homes nor willing hands to care for them during sickness. Of course, they are cared for, but it is with the same care that a sympathetic heart would bestow on a lame dog, or any other creature. There are no loving hands to smooth the pillows, no soft voice well beloved to while away the dreary hours, no cheering kiss to speed us back to health and happiness, and we know that when we are gone there are none to mourn for us and we shall be buried and forgotten.

And no marble stone shall grace that mound
No flowers blossom near;
No willows cast their shade around,
The graves that none holds dear.

We are in the world yet, not of it, and we are doomed to go through life with a mask over our hearts. Well be it so; the end will come some day.

Through the kindness of Leo Jenwyl I have been reading Olive Schreiner's Dreams. The book deserves all the praise that has been bestowed upon it. It is different from any book I have ever read, quaint, weird, and as the

Scotch would say, uncanny, it possesses a strange fascination, especially for a dreamer. And are we not all more or less dreamers of dreams? For my part I dearly love that strange, mystical dreamland. There, with the ruins of the broken shrines of the past, we build stately structures for the future. When the future becomes the present, then in turn is buried the past. We witness the crumbling crash of our fairy castles. Undaunted we build again, and this life, ever building, ever hoping, until at last we sink into the dreamless sleep that knows no waking on this side of the dark river.

Let us hope that in that bright land on the shores of the ethereal sea, some of our bright dreams may be realized.

Pinkie, come often; your letters are good.

Calhoun, Texas, Oct. 7.

FOR THE MERRY YULE-TIDE.

ROSE SEELYE-MILLER.

It is more the loving good will that is expressed by gifts sometimes than their intrinsic value that gives them worth in the eyes of the recipient. A great many gifts may be made, expensively, too, and we may add, vice versa. When we give we like to give things that will be nice, and yet not above that which we are able to afford. Now there are some lovely things among art fabrics. You will think right away that these will be beyond your purse. Let us suppose that you want to make half a dozen gifts, and have them cost something about half a dollar apiece, or maybe less. You can buy a square of silk-faced terry thirty by thirty inches (and this is one of the most beautiful art fabrics) for \$1.25. You can buy a yard of China silk of very good quality for 50 cents, maybe less. These have cost us \$1.75; then we will spend something for Asiatic embroidery silks, we will get some twisted embroidery silk, some Asiatic fillole, some Mediseval silk, and maybe a little couching cord.

Now let us see. We will say there are two gifts for men, two for women, and two for children, to be made out of this material. To make the most of what we have, we will get the terry in a lovely shade of ecru, or white—ecru is prettiest, perhaps. The China silk shall be in pink, yellow, or green—let us say pink; then we will have our embroidery silks all in pink.

For father we will make a book cover. This shall be ten inches by twenty, and shall be lined with the pink silk, with a sheet of wadding between the two materials. The front side of the cover we will embroider with a sprig of clover, or a clover leaf, and these words running diagonally across the front cover: "Your Heart's Delight." This cover is for some favorite volume, and will make even a paper covered book into a beautiful gift.

We will take another piece of the silk-faced terry, the same size as that used before—ten by twenty inches. Of this we will make a photograph holder. We will double it in the middle and have a pocket on either side into which photographs may be slipped. The lining is of the pink China silk, and as we have more of this than of the terry, there will be enough for the pockets as well. The case is embroidered with pink forget-me-nots, with the pink Asiatic fillole. This case should fold up like a book, or, rather, shut together. This will do for the college brother, and the family pictures may be placed within it if desired.

Now we will take a piece ten by ten inches, and this we will embroider with the pink Asiatic twisted embroidery silk, a waving line in feather stitching, with little branches running out from the main line. This piece we will line with the pink silk, and it shall be for a lamp mat, which mother may like.

Now we may take another piece that is ten by ten inches, and cut this into four little mats, to be made for biberac or toilet articles. If these mats could have a finish of lace they would be very handsome, and they might be given in pairs.

This makes five gifts, and we still have a piece of terry ten inches by thirty. We can make a lovely sachet for handkerchiefs out of half of this, and another one for gloves out of the other half.

This makes seven gifts, and we still have left a bit of the China silk, which we will make up into a little dress for some one's doll.

Eight gifts, and the cost of all amounting to little over \$2—about 25 cents apiece, instead of fifty, as we had

planned, and all of these gifts are handsome; something we are not ashamed to give, and our friends glad to receive. Surely here is a hint for some one who wants to give something and yet cannot afford much. Of course, less could be made, less expensive material could be used, and still pretty results be secured. But there is magic in the Asiatic silks, beautifying many articles, and Christmas giving seems a problem easily solved if we can but employ them.

Ipswich, S. D.

THE HEARTSEASE CIRCLE.

AUNT SADRA.

Dear Mrs. Buchanan: Permit me to thank you for the cordial welcome so kindly tendered me at my entrance. Your Household is unique and delightful; it is a social and literary treat; a medium of thought exchange that has no equal.

Will Leo Jenwyl and Emily Allen accept my most grateful thanks for kindly mention? Yes, let the echo rebound. Books and flowers are universal treasures. You told me so, Leo, did you? Well, I am not so sure that I am needed, but I am sure that it is a pleasure to be one of the band.

Illness has prevented me from answering questions in regard to heartsease sooner, and I fear now that I am unable to give a complete history of our Heartsease Circle, yet I can give a few facts of interest, hoping that others may be interested in the good work already begun.

The Heartsease circle was founded on Christmas, 1891, by Mrs. A. D. Sinton, of New Orleans, La., and is, therefore, of Southern origin.

Objects of the Circle—Social, benevolent and charitable.

Motto—The Golden Rule.

Text—Be ye also a helper.

Emblematic Flower—The pansy.

It is an association without dues. Members can assess themselves at any time, however, for some specific charity. This is often done. In fact, it is one great feature of the grand, good work.

We are as one happy family, banded together to give sympathy and heartsease to those in and out of our circle. Men, women and children can join us and aid us to carry out the principles of the Golden Rule.

Any member can form a circle and manage it in their own way, keeping our object in view, and making it a labor of love in the Heartsease cause.

It is a mission to lighten as far as possible the burdens of others; to do all little acts of kindness with heart and soul in them; to give our might to help those that are needy; to write letters to those of our band that are lonely, sick, or in need of them from any cause; to have a heart in the work and move it along.

The order has principles that can never die, and those that are already banded together can testify to its benefit. My hobby is collecting geological, mineral and marine specimens, and making a study of the same; anything pretty, plain, or odd is desirable if it is classified (or not, only so it has a value as a relic). Clippings on subjects scientific are also collected. My cabinet is already groaning beneath its load, and Oliver Twist like I cry for more.

Wonder how many of the contributors of the Household have such collections. There is solid comfort in collecting these friends that never deceive or wound your feelings in any way. They are treasures of earth and sea that always please.

Goodrich, Mich.

Awarded
Highest Honors—World's Fair,
DR.

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CREAM
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POWDER
MOST PERFECT MADE.

A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant.
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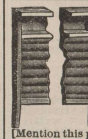
CONSUMPTION

TO THE EDITOR—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy free to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and post office address. T.A. Slocum, M.C., 183 Pearl St., New York.



DEAFNESS

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No need of it. The Quaker will do it for you and save time, hands, dishes, money, and patience. Scalded hands, broken or chipped dishes, no muss, Washes, rinses, dries and polishes quickly. Made of best material, lasts a lifetime. Sell tonight. Agents, women or men of honor desiring employment may have a very handsome salary by writing now for descriptive circulars and terms to agents.

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THINK
OF
THE
TIME
WE
ALL
SPEND
AT
THE
TABLE
DAILY.

Think of the still longer time that the women-folk of the household spend making ready what we eat?

Is it not worth while, for our own sake and theirs, to make sure that there is a good cooking apparatus in the kitchen?

are the best.

in which the quality of farm dairy butter may be easily improved: In the first place, the dairy work, and particularly the butter making, must be a distinct department of the farm work. It must be done at the proper time, regularly and systematically. And it must be done in a place devoted to it, and to nothing else. This need not be a separate building, or even a very large room, but it should be carefully fitted with ventilation and drainage, and should be so arranged as to be easily and quickly washed out, and then quickly and thoroughly dried. It should be large enough to hold the churn and butter worker, and the cream while ripening, for with the use of the separator, the milk itself need never go to the dairy room. It should not be necessary to say that scrupulous cleanliness is the all important condition of good butter making, and will merely pass it over with the hint that cleanliness is a relative term, and some may not be nearly so clean as they think. One thing I may perhaps call attention to, and that is to the use of steam, not only in removing dirt, but in killing the germs of all those fermentations and putrefactions that cause so much trouble to the butter maker. Scalding with hot water, particularly as it is usually done, can in no sense take the place of live steam in this respect.

Attention to a few general principles in regard to the temperature at which the various steps in the process are carried on, will have a great effect on the resulting product, especially so far as the texture of the butter is concerned. These, in brief, are to effect all necessary changes gradually, to hold the temperature in the intervals as uniform as possible, and to churn at as low a temperature as will bring the butter in a reasonable time.

MOLASSES AS CATTLE FOOD.

Louisiana Planter.

In a recent issue of the *Louisiana Planter*, it is stated that cold weather having set in at an early date this year has improved the demand for common sugar and low grade molasses, or treacle, for cattle feeding purposes, and as both forms are obtainable at extremely low prices it is surprising that a larger use is not made of this highly desirable addition to the ordinary winter food. This journal continues to say that on the continent, where the beet pulp is largely and cheaply obtained, there is an extensive use of it for feeding purposes, while it has been estimated that in the year 1894 no less than 100,000 tons of beet molasses were disposed of in that way. In England, where cane sugar is so cheap, the preference has been given to it, and it seems to injure animals less by scouring than does the beet sugar or beet molasses.

NOTICE.

Feeders of carload fat hogs to compete for \$100 prize offered by Fort Worth Stock Yards Company will have their hogs at Fort Worth on Wednesday, the 18th, ready for judges to pass upon them. Be on time, and do not miss this opportunity.—H. E. SINGLETON, President T. S. B. A.

BELL COUNTY SWINE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Bell County Swine Breeders' Association will meet at the court house in Belton on the second Tuesday in December, 1895. All persons who are directly interested in raising hogs are eligible to membership in this Association. We hope there will be a large attendance, and many new members at this meeting.

W. J. COOPER, Secretary. A. W. PARROTT, President.

TEXAS LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION.

Our next convention meets in San Antonio, Texas, January, 14, 1896. It has been decided that we will have an excursion to the City of Mexico at the close of the meeting and the undersigned was appointed chairman of a committee to work up the excursion.

After considerable correspondence I have selected the Southern Pacific as our route of travel and will enter Mexico via Eagle Pass. We will travel by special train, consisting of Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars, and all necessary adjuncts for the convenience and comfort of those who make the trip, and will leave San Antonio sometime during the night of January 15, 1896. The total cost of the trip will be about seventy-five dollars, which will include

railroad transportation, sleeping car fare and living expenses. This estimate is based upon the assumption that seventy-five persons will go.

Ladies are invited to be of the party and quite a number have already signified their intention of making the trip.

Upon receipt of this please write me at Fort Worth, if you will join the excursion, and whether or not ladies will accompany you, and how many.

Write me promptly whether you intend going or not as I must have an approximate idea of the number in the party so as to fix exact rate with the railroad people.

I have assurances from the officials of all lines on which we will travel that every effort will be made for our entertainment and pleasure, and that they will endeavor to have as many Mexican ranchmen meet as possible. The trip will occupy about ten days.

A. S. REED, Chairman.

The Midland, one of our religious exchanges, straight-laced, orthodox, Calvinistic at that, is responsible for the story of a woman who lived in Boston, and whose milkman all at once became a Christian. Two or three days after she said to him with great anxiety: "Something is wrong with your milk. There is a yellow scum all over the top of it this morning."

The milkman explained that he had been converted, and that he was going to deliver hereafter that kind of milk all the time.

"That kind of milk!" exclaimed the Bostonian. "Well, don't bring any more of it to me; I want the pure sky-blue."

Field and Farm: Hog killing time is here again and there is a scolding time of it all along the line. And yet how many farmers to-day know how to scald a porker? The claim is often made that water heated to 140° will scald a hog, but 165° and even a greater heat will be better if the day is very cold. The hotter the water the less time it will take to do the work, but at over 170° there is a danger of setting the hair. Put the head end in first, let the hog lay half a minute, turn it over, and in another half minute pull it up to air. If the hair is not loose enough to pull out easily, put the hog back in the water for another minute, turning as before. If the water is the proper temperature this will be scalding enough for the front part. Then clean the front part roughly—a corn knife is a good thing to scrape off the hair with—and put the hind part of the hog in a scalding barrel, using a hog hook inserted in the eye or roof of the mouth to turn the hog and pull it from the barrel.

The Youth's Companion promises to surpass itself during the coming year. There is hardly a famous man or woman in Great Britain or the United States who has not been among its contributors. Among the story-writers for the year 1896 who will contribute to its columns are Frank R. Stockton, Harriet Prescott Spofford, Clark Russell, C. A. Stephens, Mrs. Burton Harrison and Rudyard Kipling. It aims, of course, primarily to be entertaining, but this does not debar it from publishing remarkable contributions by such world-renowned men as the Lord Chief Justice of England, Judge Oliver Wendell Holmes, ex-Speaker T. R. Reed, Camille Flammarion, Gen. Nelson A. Miles, Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, and the Dean of Salisbury. It is not unlikely that The Companion will also have another contribution from Mr. Gladstone, who has written on three occasions for it.

Judge—"What is the use of appointing a receiver for this corporation? There is nothing left to receive." Lawyer—"Your Honor, I shall show by numerous cases that it is not customary to appoint a receiver while there is anything left to receive."—Brooklyn Life.

Do you know a good farm and fruit paper when you see it? Let us send you the *Rural New-Yorker* this week. Send your address; no money.

The Rural New-Yorker,
409 Pearl street, New York.



If you have FIVE or more Cows a Cream Separator will save its cost each year of use. Beware of imitating and infringing machines.

Send for new 1895 Catalogue.

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Large English Berkshire Swine and Mammoth B. Turkeys. Address: W. S. KARD, Henrietta, Tex.

WANTED.—Man and wife for dairy farm 1 mile from Dallas. Woman to cook and wash for small family, and man for dairy and farm work. German or Swede preferred. Box 124, Dallas, Texas.

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A. J. C. C. Jersey cattle for sale. Also English Berkshire Swine. W. A. FORDER, Denton, Texas.

A. W. HILLIARD, Kyle, Texas. Blanco herd A. J. C. C. Jerseys. Prices reasonable. Write for what you want.

A. J. C. C. Jersey Cattle. Merino sheep and Berkshire pigs. All stock registered. PARKS & PARKS, Ennis, Texas.

FOR SALE DUTCH BELTED CATTLE FULLY ACCLIMATED. Address J. E. WALKER, Palestine, Texas.

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I have for sale a few more pure bred Angora goats, billies and nannies, extra fine, at \$40 to \$50 per head, crated f. o. b. Address J. P. DEVINE, San Antonio, Texas.

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All stock acclimated and of the very best breeding. Write for what you want. PLATTER & FOSTER, Denison, Texas.

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A bunch of selected brood jennets and several fine blooded jack colts at a sacrifice. A good chance for some one to more than double his money by next summer, with little expense. HEVLY DREWTON, Sheldon, Texas.

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About seventy head heifers and cows, ½ to 1½ years. Will sell in lots to suit purchaser, and at bottom prices. If you want good milk cows cheap, write now to W. R. CAVITT, Bryan, Texas.

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Weight, 1250 pounds. 200 4-Year-Old Bees, Splendid Feeders. Apply to C. S. HILLBOLDT, Millheim, Texas.

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Jersey Cattle, Poland China and Berkshire Pigs, Saddle and Pacing Horses.

I will offer for a short while, at

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three very fancy registered Jersey heifers, heavy with calf; about 20 high grades, and a beautiful lot of thoroughbred Poland China and Berkshire pigs. Also a high bred lot of pacers, saddlers and combined horses. In the lot is the fanciest saddle and driving mare in Texas. Also aged stallions and fast young things of the celebrated Hal family.

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in mind that this advance was fixed upon long before anybody could see what the crop was going to be, fixed upon to be a bait to all cotton growers to extend our acreage. Last Saturday I was on the market, where I picked up a truth which I know to be a truth, and that is that all cotton buyers are gloating over the prospects of next years crop coming up to 11,000,000 bales. They think that we cotton growers have taken the bait. Another thing I learned, that there has been a great future business done, amounting to many thousands of bales at last years prices. Now if they have been sold at last year's price, what will be the price paid to us? Will some one answer this?

For thirty years we have been fooled; are we to be fooled again? Let me beg of you not to take the bait, but cut down your acreage.

Let us get the redress for our wrong by wresting the currency of the country out of the hands of the bankers.

A COTTON GROWER.

STORAGE OF STORM WATERS IN EARTH TANKS AS A MEANS OF IRRIGATION.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

Editor Texas Farm and Ranch:

Hundreds of land owners can avail themselves of the advantages of irrigation if they will arrange for the storage of storm waters, the run-off of the natural rainfall. This can be done by a system of earth tanks.

Along most of our Texas railroads, especially in the west and southwest part of the state, there are many large earth tanks in which storm waters are stored and held for use in the locomotive boilers, and though these tanks are constantly drawn upon, many of them have not been dry for years, some of them being stocked with carp and other fish.

Very few people know or realize the important part that a tank system for storm water storage can be made to play in the irrigation of Texas farms. There is a large amount of our Texas territory which is peculiarly adapted to this system. It will be interesting to many readers of TEXAS FARM AND RANCH to know the practical part tank irrigation is made to play in the grand irrigation systems of India, the topography of some parts of which is very much like Western Texas.

The natives of Central and Southern India constructed vast numbers of earth tanks for conserving storm waters many centuries ago. The English found great numbers of these in Madras, Mysore and Deccan, and the English engineers have, in recent years, constructed some very large tanks for the purpose of increasing the irrigated areas. In the 11 years, 1835 to 1846, inclusive, there were 2500 tanks constructed and over 4000 wells put in for irrigation purposes in Marwara, Central India, transforming that province from a wild, arid tract to a prosperous agricultural country. There are 37,000 tanks in Mysore, Southern India, and Sir Robert Temple says of these: "Wherever there is a depression in the land an embankment with waste weir and sluices is thrown across, the water is held up above it, and below it, a few acres are sown with rice, sugar cane, etc., and irrigated by means of the sluices. Lower down the depression comes another, and so on, increasing the size until a series of tanks may consist of more than one hundred, all connected together, the overflow from the waste weir of each being the chief feeder of the one below, and the stream that comes from the bottom one being sometimes a river in magnitude. The tanks at the top of the series are more ponds and those at the bottom are often good sized lakes, and the area irrigated by them is often very large."

Mysore included, there are about 75,000 tanks in Madras Presidency. Many of the larger tanks contain a supply of water sufficient for a year's service or more, while smaller ones serve only in the rainy season to supply during intermissions of the rains.

Major H. R. Sankey, R. E., reported early in 1886 that nearly 60 per cent (59.7 per cent) of the total area of Mysore (total area 27,300 square miles) was under the tank system of irrigation, and that it was only under most exceptional circumstances that any of the drainage or storm waters of this part of area was allowed to escape. In 1854 Major Sankey reported that "one-third of the tanks then existing in Mysore were large irrigation reservoirs." He found an average cultivation of about ten acres to the tank, and one tank and one village to each square mile.

Exclusive of Mysore there were in

Madras Presidency in 1882, 53,000 tanks, the construction of which required 30,000 miles of embankment and over 300,000 separate masonry works, gates, weirs, etc. There was invested in these tanks over seventy-five millions of dollars, and the annual revenue derived from them was about seven million six hundred thousand dollars, ten per cent of the investment.

The area irrigated was 2,525,000 acres in first crops, and 675,000 acres in autumn crops. Some of these tanks are of immense size; a very ancient work, the viranum tank, requiring an embankment 12 miles in length and covering an area of 35 square miles. The average rainfall for Central India is 20 to 24 inches, about what it is in the west half of Texas.

I am indebted to the report of Herbert M. Wilson, of the U. S. Geological Survey, on "Irrigation in India," for the figures and data given above, regarding the tank system of India.

My excuse for drawing so largely upon it is that the system is so applicable to such a large portion of Texas that I believed a knowledge of the extent to which it had been employed in other parts of the world might stimulate some reader of TEXAS FARM AND RANCH to utilize the system for his own advantage.

The irrigation of an acre or two will often make a good year's profit for the farmer who, without it, might come out loser. I wish to suggest here that the tank need not necessarily be located in such manner that it is above the land to be irrigated. Impound the water, and if you cannot take it on to the plot by gravity, it can be pumped on by wind or other power. It will be found that when the country is looked over with a view to locating available tank sites, many of them can be found, and by a little engineering, the water can be directed to such tanks for storage at a trifling cost, compared with the benefit to be derived from the use of the water. It will pay you to study the topography of your farm, with a view to locating an irrigating tank, if you have no other source of water supply for irrigation. If you do this, and discover and use the site, you will never regret it. W. S. MARSHALL.

A TRIP TO THE PLAINS.

CALVERT, TEXAS.

Editor Texas Farm and Ranch:

Just returned from Western Texas, where I have been on a hunt for some game, but while there I did not fail to observe a few things that may be of interest to your readers.

We went to Midland and from there north 55 miles to Frank Crowley's ranch. On our way up we stayed one night at Mr. Scarbrough's ranch, and it was a stay that we shall not soon forget. The boys fed us on fine full-blood Hereford calf, and if a man does not think it is better meat than the common Texas calf, let him eat a half-dozen, and he will certainly decide in favor of the Hereford. Most everywhere you go on the cow range in Western Texas, you will now see the beautiful ball-faced cattle in fine condition.

On our way up to Crowley's ranch the next day, Rev. R. T. Hanks and I killed a few antelopes, and found our way to the headquarters sometime after dark. We were surprised next morning when we found that we were in Dawson county, and in "Chicago." Chicago post-office was established here, and people for miles around get their mail here, for it is fifteen miles to the nearest neighbor. Dawson county is thirty miles square, and there is not a native tree in it fifteen feet high. Land in that county can be bought for \$1 per acre, and a great deal of it is good land, but the great cry is that they don't have enough rain. However, they have had fine rains out there this year, and the grass was never better and stock was never fatter. There is no need of cattle dying on the plains this winter.

Crowley, and those who are interested with him, have one of the best equipped ranches in all Texas. We took charge of his room at the headquarters at night and looked for game during the day. We found that the market hunters had just been there ahead of us, and while there were only three of them, they took away the hams of seventy-two antelopes.

How much we need a law to protect our games, and if we do not do something very soon the antelope will go as did the buffalo.

We remained in Dawson county, and had four days' hunt, during which time we saw thousands of fine cattle, some

300 antelopes, and too many wolves. We were treated well by all the stock men, and we are under special obligations to Frank Crowley for his great kindness, and if a man thinks he hasn't got a heart as big as the plains of Western Texas, let him go out and look at him.

While in Midland I noticed a number of fine orchards that have been grown by irrigation. Some have both orchard and garden, and by the use of one good mill they could irrigate four or five acres. I am fully convinced by what I saw there that a man can make more on five acres of land, by the use of a good windmill than he can on twenty-five without it. There are millions of acres in Texas that are almost worthless, so far as farming is

concerned, because of the lack of water, which, some day, will be made valuable, when the mill is put to work. Much success to your valuable paper. J. C. BURKETT.

JUNE CORN.

SEYMOUR, TEXAS.

Editor Texas Farm and Ranch:

Seeing the article from Uncle Snort, I agree with him on the Mexican June corn; in fact it is a good corn for this country. It is still green. What I planted late makes fine fodder, also nice, large ears. It is a solid corn. Worms have not hurt it like they did my early corn. I would not do without it. MICHAEL HILTI.

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makes the nerves strong, and brings back the feelings of youth to the prematurely old man. It restores lost vigor. You may gain ten pounds in ten days.

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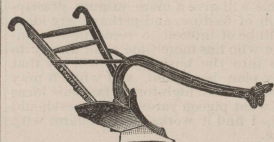
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to wash as clean as can be done on the washboard, even to the dirtiest wristbands and collar of a dirty shirt. This applies to Terrill's Perfect Washing Machine, which is guaranteed to wash from the finest linen or lace to the heaviest bedding and all with equal effect. Machines sent on trial at wholesale prices; if not satisfactory money refunded. **LIVE AGENTS WANTED.** For terms, exclusive territory and prices write **PORTLAND MFG. CO., Box 28, Portland, Mich.**

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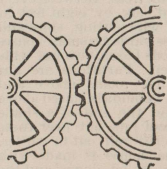


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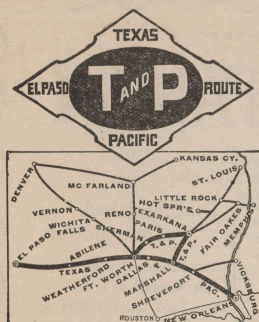
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There is no country that requires as strictly a first-class wagon as Texas, because its changeable climate subjects the material to much swelling and shrinking; therefore it is folly to buy any but the best. The **BAIN** Wagon has stood the test of forty years, and its quality has never been sacrificed to meet the demand for a low priced wagon. It is today the **KING** of wagons. The best finished, best ironed, most durable and lightest draft wagon made. Ask your dealer for it and take no other. Write us for circulars and prices, delivered if you can't get them from him, mentioning this paper. Also State Agents for **COOPER & STERLING**. **Wagons. We handle everything in Farming Implements, Buggies, Carts, Pumps, Wind Mills, Wagon Seals, Sorghum Mills and Pans. WRITE US FOR YOUR WANTS.** **PARLIN & ORENDORFF CO., State Agents, DALLAS, TEXAS.**





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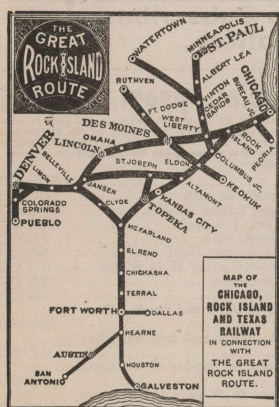
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This map shows a modern "up-to-date railroad," and how it has its own lines to the principal large cities of the West. It is the

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And has double daily fast express train service from Texas as follows:

No. 21 Lv. Fort Worth 10:40 a. m.
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No. 21 Lv. Fort Worth 8:10 p. m.
Ar. Kansas City 5:25 p. m.
Ar. Chicago 9:25 next a. m.
Ar. Denver 7:25 a. m.

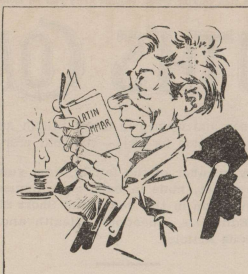
Through Pullman Sleepers and Free Reclining Chair Cars.

Dont overlook the fact that Train No. 2 saves you a whole business day en route to Denver or Colorado Springs.

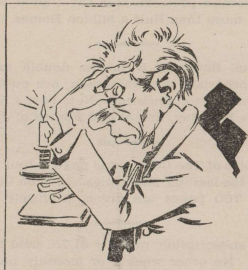
Your local ticket agent will probably want to sell you a ticket via the Rock Island, but if he dont—insist until he does.

J. C. McCABE, G.P.A.,
Fort Worth, Texas.

HOW IT HAPPENED.



Picture of the student who studied



until



he became



bald-headed!

The Third Time Proposal.—She (bored).—No, Mr. Lytely, I can never love you. I honor and respect you. I am sure you would make some other woman a good husband. I—
He—Well—er—could you—er—give me a letter of recommendation to my next place?—Vogue.

TEXAS FARM AND RANCH, Dallas, Texas. Gentlemen: Machine to hand a couple of weeks since, and has so far given perfect satisfaction. I consider it as good as any \$50 or \$60 machine sold by agents. It is light running, and does the work to perfection in any kind of sewing. Your truly—M. C. LUND, Mexia, Tex., Nov. 24, 1895.

Patrick's face was so homely that, as he used to say, it seemed an "offence to the landscape," and he was as poor as he was homely. One day a neighbor met him and said:

"And how are ye, Pat?"
"Mighty bad," answered Pat. "It is starvation that is shirarin' me in the face."

"Is that so?" said the sympathetic inquirer. "Sure, and it can't be very pleasant for ayther of ye."—Richmond Dispatch.

CHRISTMAS

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"Boys and Girls Series."

This series contains three of the most attractive, fascinating and interesting books ever published.

"Boys Book of Adventures," "Girls Book of Treasures,"
"Boys and Girls Home Annual."

The Boys Book contains descriptions of the heroic deeds of men on sea, in battle and in perilous situations, besides giving thrilling accounts of wild beasts and their ways, as related by daring travelers and dauntless hunters.

The Girls Book contains appropriate and suitable sketches and household stories by well known writers.

The "Home Annual" needs no description. It is a very instructive book, and is sure to please both boys and girls.

These are the books of the year. Over 75 full page and other illustrations in each book. Each book contains 178 pages. Bound with cloth back in varnished double lithograph covers. This series, postpaid, and Texas Farm and Ranch one year for \$2.25, or either book alone with Texas Farm and Ranch for \$1.25. The three books without Texas Farm and Ranch for \$1.75, or any one book alone for 75 cents, postpaid.

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"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland."

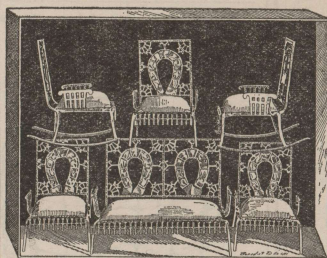
By Lewis Carroll, with 42 illustrations. This charming and ever popular work is bound in an attractive varnished lithograph cover, and contains 82 quarto pages. This book, postpaid, and Texas Farm and Ranch one year for \$1.25, or the book alone for 50 cents, postpaid.

"Youth's Own Book."

This is the book of the year. It includes entertaining and instructive stories of Travel, Adventure, Pastimes, Poems, Recitations, Indoor and Outdoor Sports, and Games for Boys and Girls. It contains 200 pages, 240 illustrations and 6 colored plates. Bound in double chromatic covers, varnished, and containing cloth hinge on back. This book, postpaid, and Texas Farm and Ranch one year for \$1.75, or book alone for 80 cents, postpaid.

Just the Thing for a Christmas Present.

TEXAS FARM AND RANCH SET OF FURNITURE.



SIZE OF BOX, 8x11 INCHES.

Bright metal, handsomely stuffed Plush Cushions, in red, pink and blue (ribbons to match), delicate in design, but strong, and practically indestructible. This is one of our grandest offers, and is a

Bargain at any Price.

It is one of the most unique and attractive toys on the market for children.

This set consists of 6 pieces: One Sofa, three Chairs and two Rockers, securely attached to cardboard, and neatly packed in box to insure safe delivery to any point in the Union.

Nothing that we can offer

will please the children better.

We will give this Set of Furniture and Texas Farm and Ranch one year to any one sending us \$1.50; or will send Furniture alone for 75 cents; or will give it to any one sending us five new subscribers at \$1 each.

We know you will be pleased with this offer. Do not miss it. It is the

"Cutest" Set of Furniture

you ever saw. We keep these in stock. All charges prepaid.

FREE! DOLLS. FREE!

Eight Beautiful Paper Dolls, in Full Dress, FREE!

Please yourself and please the children by sending us one dollar for Texas Farm and Ranch one year and securing the Dolls as a premium. Order at once, as the supply will last only a short time. We keep these in stock and prepay.

Address Texas Farm and Ranch, Dallas, Texas.

Farm Machinery

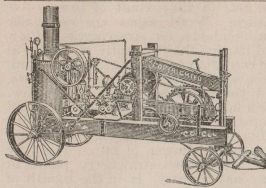


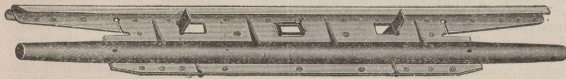
Figure 1553 represents a Mounted Steam Elliptical Well Drilling and Pros-

pecting Machine, manufactured by the American Well Works, Aurora, Ill., for 1000 foot work or less. They are also constructed for use with independent steam, gasoline or horse power; will handle as successfully and rapidly the hydraulic, jetting, rotary, cable or pole drilling tools, making it one of the best all purpose drilling machines manufactured.

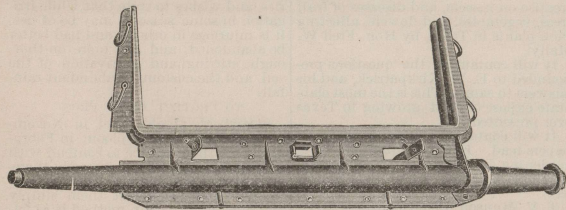
Every owner of a traction engine should have one of these machines, with which he can make a larger per cent of profit for capital invested than in any other way.

The manufacturers would like to correspond with any parties who wish to purchase a really practical machine.

BETTENDORF HOLLOWSTEEL WAGON AXLES.



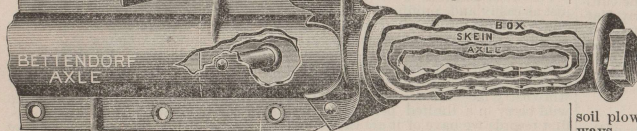
The above cut illustrates the axle riveted and flanged ready for the stakes to be bent up, and the following illustration shows the stakes bent up into position, with the malleable collar in place on one side of the axle, while the other end has been welded and forged to size ready to receive the malleable collar, which collar covers the opening left in bending the stake, and at same time adds to the strength of the stake and appearance of the axle.



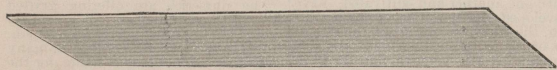
These axles are furnished with renewable steel skeins, which protect the axle spindles from receiving any wear, and are held in place by three projections on the skein which enter the malleable collar and are thereby held from turning, while a pin through the skein at the point of axle and the nut prevent them from coming off when wheels are removed. These skeins are readily replaced when worn out without the assistance of a mechanic, and in removing the skeins, the pitch and gather in the axle is never affected, as is the case in replacing a skein on a wood axle wagon. Another great feature of our axle is, that should it occur, either by over loading or in a runaway, that the axle should be sprung, the same can be placed in an ordinary blacksmith's fire, heated and bent back to its proper position, while in the case of wood axles they would be broken and beyond repair. The following sectional cut illustrates the inner bushing in position, with rivets passing through two outer plates and bushing, drawing them firmly together. The renewable steel skein can be seen in position, as well as the cast iron box which is fastened in the wheels.

The axles thus completed are now ready to receive the angle steel bounds, circle iron and corrugated steel braces, which are all secured in position in the axles by rivets which are driven hot, hence there are no bolts and nuts to

work loose and become lost, as is the case with the wood gear. These gears are now manufactured in twelve sizes, six of which are wide track and six narrow track, ranging in size of axle spindles from 2½x8 to 3½x12, with carrying capacity corresponding to size from 2500 to 10,000 pounds. They are also made either for drop or stiff tongue.

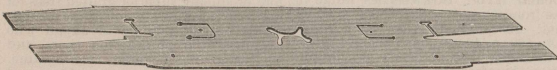


The Farm Truck which we are manufacturing has the regular hollowsteel axles and bolsters, as above illustrated and described, angle steel forming the reach, 30 and 34 inch diameter straight spoke metal wheels, with 4 inch width of tire and renewable box; the tongue and short extension of reach are the only parts made of wood.



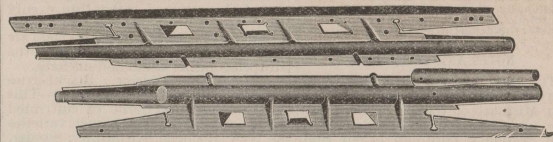
The above cut illustrates the blank sheet steel as it comes to us, cut to the proper length and of the required width. This steel must be of the very best quality to stand the severe treatment of bending and shaping it in the manufacture of our axles and gears, as the following illustrations and descriptions of the operations will clearly show.

In the manufacture of the axle, the first operation is to shear the plate to the form, as shown by the following illustration, which is done on a hydraulic



press especially built for the purpose. This cut gives the entire outline of the rear axle, showing the axle spindles, the stakes, openings for reach and the bound lips, which are, in the second operation, thrown out and flanged, as shown by the following illustration. This cut also shows the plates forming the hollow axle, the corrugations to give greater strength to the sandboard, and holes punched in one of the sheets while the other is left blank. The object of leaving one of the plates blank is, that the hollow rivet which holds the two

plates together is formed out of the plate which is not punched. This is done after the bushings are placed between the two plates. The illustration shows



one of the bushings in position on the plate and the other bushing ready to be placed in position, after which the two plates are put together (enclosing the bushings at each end) and placed in a hydraulic press, and the metal in the blank plate opposite the holes punched in the first plate, is forced through these holes and flanged over, thus forming the hollow rivet. The riveting is done under a pressure of 1800 tons. The bushings, as will be seen, are also formed out of sheet steel of varying thickness, according to the size of the axle and its carrying capacity. The object of these bushings, as will be plainly seen, is to reinforce the axle and give greater strength at the points where the load is carried on an axle. It is evident from the construction of the axle that it is not confined to a limited carrying capacity, but by increasing the thickness of the bushing, or placing a solid bar, extending from one spindle to the other, the carrying capacity can be increased unlimited.

THE PLOW OF THE FUTURE.

The physical effect of fertilizers in changing the relation of the soil to heat and moisture, is of more importance than the amount of plant food they furnish.

The effect of fertilizers depends largely upon the seasons. Changing seasons have more effect upon plant growth than does the plant food in the soil.

Physical conditions of heat and moisture largely determine the development and yield of crops.

Deterioration of lands is due not so much to loss of plant food as to changes in the texture of the soil in relation to heat and moisture.

Making use of the rain-fall is the most important consideration of modern agriculture.

Crop production is not directly limited by the amount of rainfall, but by the amount of moisture in the soil.

Production of crops depends upon the control of moisture and heat in the soil.

As heat cannot be controlled, the whole art of cultivation should be directed toward the control of moisture.

Present methods of cultivation are detrimental to soil and do not accomplish desired results.

The continued plowing at a certain depth causes a hard packing of the sub-surface which forms a water shed, causing surface drainage and erosion of the soil by which thousands of acres of fertile lands are rendered barren every year.

Subsoiling (loosening of the under soil to a depth of one and a half to two feet) admits the water to the subsoil, prevents the surface drainage and a consequent erosion of the soil; takes away surplus water without washing the surface and retains the moisture for future use of crops.

Subsoiling affords the only means for controlling moisture in the soil and is the key to successful crop raising.

The modern plow is but an improved type of the primitive forked stick, and does not accomplish satisfactory results, but, on the contrary is an enemy to fertility, and the common subsoil plow is unsatisfactory in many ways.

Existing conditions and the future prosperity of the farmer depend upon the production of an implement which shall be a radical improvement on the modern plow, and which shall revolutionize modern methods.

The future plow must not only thoroughly pulverize the surface to a proper depth, but it must leave the subsoil in condition to receive and retain moisture for the use of growing crops.

Where is the genius to invent, where is the skill to construct, and where is the money, backed by nerve and determination, to manufacture and push to successful use the future plow of the American farmer and of the world?

Tommy-Paw, why is it the good die young?

Mr. Figg—They don't die young because they are good, but they stay good because they die young.—Indianapolis Journal.

Matron—Now, is this novel a fit one for my daughter to read?

Bookseller—H'm. Well, candidly, madam, I think it a book of doubtful morality.

Matron—Well, I'll take it. Most of

those I've read lately have been of undoubted immorality.—Life.

Miss St. Upid—How many states are there, Mr. Jester?

Mr. Jester—Forty-four, I think, without counting matrimony.

Miss St. Upid—Matrimony?

Mr. Jester—Yes; its one of the united states, you know.

Miss St. Upid—No-o, I didn't know; but they've admitted so many lately that I never can remember all their names.—Harper's Bazar.

W. S. MARSHALL,
HYDRAULIC ENGINEER,
Irrigation Works a Specialty. Fort Worth, Texas.
Correspondence solicited.

Does All Nature Desire to Yield up her increase?
Yes; with half a chance, such as she gets when helped by a Dandy irrigator. We will sell all about any kind of Wind Mill work, make estimates of cost, and pay postage on same, to any one who may be interested enough to send their address to:
Challenge Wind Mill & Feed Mill Co.,
Austin and Pacific Ave., Dallas, Tex.
Main Office and Factory: Batavia, Ill.

ARE YOU GOING
Home FOR Christmas?
If so, see the Ticket Agent

Santa Fe Route.
who will give you full information regarding rates, time and connections.

ON DECEMBER
20th, 21st and 22nd, 1895,
Excursion Tickets can be purchased via the

Santa Fe Route
TO ALL POINTS IN
Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia,
North and South Carolina and Florida,
—AT—

HALF RATES.
Tickets limited to THIRTY DAYS for return.

In addition to the above, Local Excursion Tickets between any two points in TEXAS and INDIAN TERRITORY on the SANTA FE LINE can be purchased on December 23rd, 24th, 25th, 30th, 31st, and January 1st, limited to January 3rd, for return, at reduced rates.

W. A. TULEY, W. S. KEENAN,
T. P. A., Dallas. G. P. A., Galveston.
WM. DOHERTY, T. P. A., Fort Worth.

Farm and Stock

We have received the report of the Illinois State Dairymen's Association for 1895, a neatly printed and substantially bound volume, printed by the State. It contains a large amount of information valuable to dairymen. The report is a credit to the state of Illinois and her Association of dairymen.

The following named gentlemen have become members of the Texas State Swine Breeders' Association during the past week: Ex-Governor L. S. Ross, President Texas A. & M. College; Major A. J. Rose, ex-Master of State Grange, and now State Commissioner of Agriculture; Hon. Jno. B. Long, ex-Congressman and Master of State Grange, and Hons. G. W. Bowman and D. A. Paulus, Directors of the A. & M. College. A note from Maj. W. R. Cavitt informs us that these gentlemen expect to attend the spring meeting at Waco on the third Tuesday in January, 1896. We hope to see the largest and best meeting at Waco ever held by the Association. The increase in membership, and the largely increased correspondence of the Secretary indicate a rapid growth of interest in the hog. Between this time and the Waco meeting is a good time to join the Association. Candidates must be recommended by two members and pay an admission fee of one dollar and a year's dues of twenty-five cents. Send recommendations, address and fees to A. A. Pittuck, Secretary, Dallas Texas.

HOW TO BUILD UP AND MANAGE A DAIRY HERD FOR THE BEST RESULTS—No. 2.

RUCILD N. COBB.

After calftlood we have the heifer to develop into the cow. This is the most critical time in a cow's whole life, "just as the twig is bent so is the tree inclined." If the heifer is well developed she may be bred to come in at two years old. In the meantime, see that she is so fed that she is making a good growth without putting on fat. For winter month's feeding there is nothing better for her than corn silage with some oats and some hay. Make friends with her, handle her udder often, go out of your way to show her kindness and see that she is ever comfortable; she will repay you for all in time. When she is about due let her run with your milk herd. Give her a place in the stable so she will be accustomed to it before entering it as a milker. When the calf is dropped, take it at once away from her, and if possible out of her hearing. If this cannot be done, place it out of her sight. Take all grain away from her for a few days. Give her good hay and silage. Do not give cold water for twenty-four to thirty-six hours—give it warmed to 70°. Milk her out and if teats are inclined to be sore, use castor oil on them. Give her in charge of your best milker. When you commence giving grain feed be gradual in it, but work up to a liberal ration. Be generous in this, for in the feed is the breed to a great extent. A registered Jersey, if given scrub treatment, will give scrub results in eight out of ten cases, and vice versa.

We now have our heifer well in hand, and she should be giving us a profit on her feed. We now come to her product. It matters not how we care for our cow's or what their breeding is if we do not handle their products in a skillful manner. The first stage in handling the milk is milking. Have your stables so built that the cows' udders and flanks will be clean.

Let me stop at this point long enough to give my plan of cow barn, several of which I have built. Have cow barn 25 feet wide and as long as you wish. Let corner posts be 8 feet high, or, if you wish, they can be 14 feet, giving a hay loft and feed bins above cows. Have a five foot alley running the long way through center of barn, with a good tight floor on which you place feed boxes. Look up the advertisements of manufacturers of castings of swing stanchions. These are very comfortable and keep cows clean. Put a 2x12 plank floor under cows. It should be from four feet to four feet six inches long, according to size of cows. Six inches below and back of this floor should be a water tight trough, 14 inches wide. Back of this is your alley way, to be plank or gravelled, just as you prefer. Have building stand north and south. Put in plenty of windows on South side. Don't make cows stand in a dark, damp stable.

Plenty of sunshine will save grain and sickness.

I will now return to the milk. Get a pair of spring scales; hang them at the place where milk is emptied into the cans; have a smooth board on wall; tack on this a ruled paper, and give every cow credit for her milk in pounds and ounces. At the end of each month find sum total and enter it on your ledger together with the Babcock test. This test should be taken every month. In this way you can make an estimate at any time showing on which side of page your profit is.

In my next will give my manner of keeping set of creamery and herd books. Denton, Texas.

NUT GRASS, OR COCO, AND CHUFA.

Description and Methods of Eradication.

R. H. PRICE.

"I have a farm on the Gulf coast, near the Sabine Pass, and am bothered very much on part of the land with what I am told is coco grass. It has a long slender base resembling a date palm and round ball on the root. I would consider it a great favor if you could suggest a remedy or way in which I can get rid of it. I have noticed your several articles on agriculture from time to time, and believe that your experience is very beneficial to the farming interest generally.—J. T. K., Beaumont, Texas."

From your description it is very probable that the grass is nut grass, or coco (Cyperus rotundus). As this grass is quite common in the Southern states, especially along the coast, it might be well to call attention to it generally. The United States Department of agriculture has issued a special bulletin upon this subject, from which some of the following facts were taken:

This species is of sub-tropical origin, though it now extends to Southern Illinois. It is said to have been brought to New Orleans from Cuba among some garden plants.

The following short description of the plant may be of interest to those who think they have this pest on their lands:

When mature the grass reaches six to twenty inches in height, with a triangular stem bearing on its summit about three unequal leaf-like bracts, one to three inches long, and several loosely arranged clusters of dark chestnut colored flower spikes, in each of which several seed grains are produced. These seed grains are rather long and narrow, with a light brown color. While this growth is being produced above ground, slender root stalks are penetrating the soil below and producing at intervals of two to six inches small potato-like tubers, one-fourth to three-fourths of an inch in diameter. In loose sandy soils the grass usually produces more tubers and less seed. The grass is propagated both by the tubers and by the seed. The tubers are scattered about over the field by cultivators, and also may be shipped with garden plants and nursery stock. The seed are so small as to be readily sold with impure clover seed. The seed is said to pass through the stomach of many farm animals without injuring the vitality, so that farmers and gardeners should be careful about using such manure on their lands, and also in feeding common prairie hay, which may have this nut grass in it.

COMPARISON WITH CHUFA.

Nut grass may be mistaken for chufa (Cyperus esculentus) when in the immature state. The distinction should be clearly made because chufa is an important food for hogs. I have received letters from farmers of the Coast country, who prize it highly for hog feed. It seems to me that with sorghum for summer feed, sweet potatoes for fall and chufa for winter feed—three crops which the hog can harvest itself—fine meat could be grown very cheaply. Chufa is usually larger than nut grass, growing 15 to 30 inches high, leaves slightly rough, one-fourth to one-half inch wide, and about as long as the seed-bearing stem. The most important point of difference is in the disposition of the tubers. In the chufas they are all clustered about the base of the parent plant, and are usually near the surface, where hogs could easily root them out. The tubers of nut grass are much scattered and often are found very deep down in the ground.

REMEDIES.

Do not let the seed mature. Stir the soil frequently during the growing period. The best time to fight both is between mid-summer and frost during

a dry time. Choke it out with a vigorous growing crop. After one crop is harvested in the summer, prepare the land immediately for another vigorous growing crop. Cow peas and sorghum are good crops for Southern localities to choke out these pests. College Station, Texas.

BACKLOG NOTES.

HUFF JERSEY.

I was asked a few days ago the best feed for hogs. I answered by saying that the worst was corn, and that corn had killed more hogs than cholera ever did. My questioner was very much surprised at my statement, and said he had been advised to feed corn, all his hogs would eat, yet they did not do well. I told him I could describe his hogs to a dot, if I had never seen them. He requested me to do so. I said, "Your hogs look gaunt; their hair is rough, and lacks the luster that a thrifty hog's hair shows; they are very costive, and their appetites are very uncertain. Am I not right?"

"Yes," said he, "you describe them exactly. Now tell me how to feed, and how long should a hog be fed to weigh 200 pounds; or, in other words, how old should he be?"

My reply to him was as follows:

"To make pigs weigh 200 at six months old one must begin with the dam. She must be of good blood, not too young, and her feeding carefully seen to. A good pasture with a slop made of bran, or shorts, with milk is the best for her. Do not let her have a grain of corn. A few days before farrowing remove her from all green foods, put her by herself in a dry place, and continue the bran and shorts slops in reduced quantities. When pigs come, let her be for twelve or twenty-four hours without any feed; then again give the above feed, gradually increase the feed till she gets all she will eat up clean. Let her have access to a box of wood ashes and salt (this corrects any tendency to sour stomach). Have a place where pigs can be given a feed of milk by themselves as soon as they show an inclination to eat. The bran feed is just what they want, with milk. Make barrows of your boar pigs at a week or ten days, not later; don't forget this. As pigs grow older they may have in their bran a small amount of ground, corn peas or oats, and be given the run of a pasture with their mother. When they are grown to about 100 pounds weight, then gradually increase their corn diet in the form of meal, or soaked or cooked whole grains; never dry."

I never have failed with the above treatment, to have 200-pound pigs at six months, and 300-pound pigs at eight months. Denton, Texas.

CUTTING FEED.

N. J. SHEPHERD.

The principal advantage in cutting feed is the saving of waste. There is less opportunity for the stock to pick over and select out the best than when the roughness is fed whole. Then, too, there is a better opportunity for making up complete rations, as bran, middlings, cotton seed and linseed oil meal can all be used to a good advantage, rather better than with the feed given whole, as in this case it is usually necessary to feed separate, while better results can be secured by mixing and feeding in this way. Clover hay and bran or middlings, or, in fact, any kind of hay run through a cutting box, and a small quantity of corn added makes a good ration for all kinds of growing cattle, sheep, or horses. Unthreshed oats can be fed to a good advantage in the same way. In nearly every case where any kind of ground feed is fed, it will pay to cut a sufficient quantity of roughness to mix with it in feeding. All will be eaten up clean, be more thoroughly masticated and better digested, and the animals will secure a larger amount of benefit. Eldon, Mo.

WATER AND FATTENING STOCK.

Hoard's Dairyman.

The fact that hogs fattening drink very little need surprise no one. During the process of fattening much of the water in the body is removed and is replaced by fat. This is particularly true in the later periods. We should advise having clean water, where the hogs can get it whenever they choose. They will drink a little every day, and this for hogs that are nearly ready to butcher, is better than giving milk, which will cause them to eat a larger amount of liquid than is absolutely nec-

Strange

waste of harness and shoe-leather! Vacuum Leather Oil is best. Get a can at a harness- or shoe-store, 25c a half-pint to \$1.25 a gallon; book "How to Take Care of Leather," and swob, both free; use enough to find out; if you don't like it, take the can back and get the whole of your money.

Sold only in cans, to make sure of fair dealing everywhere—handy cans. Best oil for farm machinery also. If you can't find it, write to VACUUM OIL COMPANY, Rochester, N. Y.

FANCY Poland-China Boars & Gils. J. H. TAYLOR, Pearl, Kansas.

HESTER GROVE BERKSHIRES. Registered stock for sale at all times. Write us. BARTH & HESTER, Box 123, Corsicana, Tex.

W. J. COOPER, Holland, Bell county, Texas, Breeder of Registered English Berkshire Swine, Milk Durham Cattle, Pigs in pairs not related. Correspondence solicited.

J. E. Williamson, Marshall, Texas. Breeder of registered Berkshire Swine. Pigs for sale at \$16 a pair.

DURCO JERSEY SWINE. Choose young stock for sale of the best strains. Breeders recorded. Write for Catalogue. JOSEPH VOGEL, Benson, Ill.

BERKSHIRES. Finely bred, Ang., Sept. and Oct. pigs at LOWER PRICES than ever. Have too many to winter. Write for bargains. E. LISTON, Virgil City, Cedar Co., Mo.

THE RED HOG.

FRAZIER & ANSELL, Kopper, Texas, breeders of registered Durco-Jersey Swine. Young stock for sale. Correspondence solicited.

Harwood & LeBaron Bros., FENTRESS, TEXAS. Berkshire Swine and Jersey Cattle of best breeding. Write us for pedigree and prices.

WILLOW STOCK FARM.

ALLEN T. MURCHISON, Prop'r. Breeder of BERKSHIRE HOGS and FINE HORSES, Farmersville, Collin County, Texas.

MAGNOLIA HERD IMPROVED POLAND-CHINAS. The home of some of the best. Finest and quickest maturing strains a specialty. Pigs and aged sows at living prices. Address W. W. STELL, Paris, Texas.

The EASTERN Swine Herd. The home of thoroughbred Berkshire and Poland-China Hogs. All stock recorded and eligible to registration. Pure blood and good quality stock registered. Pigs of different ages for sale. Address J. A. H. WELCH & SON, Minden, Rusk Co., Tex.

POLAND CHINA PIGS. From Texas Claude, one of the best sons of the great World's Fair Sweepstakes Claude. From sows of noted strains. Stock registered. Prices to suit the times. Satisfaction guaranteed. C. W. THOMAS, Pottsville, Texas.

J. R. MERRADON. McKinney, TEXAS. POLAND-CHINA SWINE. Stock the best. Prices reasonable. Write.

My Berkshire Herd contains the direct offspring of nearly all the prize-winning boars at W. Fair. My Poland-Chinas are of best strains. Essex hogs for sale. W. L. FOSTER, Shreveport, La.

Bell County Herd of Poland-China swine. Pigs for sale at all seasons. Stock the best. Come and see me and be convinced. A. W. FARROTT, Holland, Texas.

J. I. Richardson, RAY, TEXAS. POLAND-CHINA SWINE. PIGS FOR SALE. Write for prices.

W. H. PIERCE, Denton, Texas, breeder of large English Berkshires. Two boars, each winning 1st in class, 1st and 2d in sweepstakes, and stood head of 4 herds, winning 3rd and 1 2d. Another is full brother to sire of sweepstakes sow at World's Fair. Pigs from these boars and sows of equal blood for sale.

Fairview Stock Farm.

Of thoroughbred Holstein-Friesian cattle, Poland-China swine, Barred Plymouth Rock chickens. B. F. WEDEL, Heidelberg, Tex.

Christmas

THE BREEDER'S GAZETTE'S Annual Holiday Number for 1895 will be the handsomest agricultural paper ever issued. 64 pages. Colored lithographed cover. Portfolio of 16 full-page engravings.

Illustrated contributions. Leading writers. Single copies, 50 cents. Special offer—All December issues, including Christmas Number, 25 cents. Sample copy regular issue free. J. H. SANDERS PUB. CO., 358 Dearborn St., Chicago.

and must be done with great care. The ring system of budding is the most successful.

It is not easy to get trees true to name, except in a few of the nurseries, because they have been deceived at the start. In TEXAS FARM AND RANCH I see that some of the best nurseries in the South are advertising, and I know from having had numerous specimens of the fruit and much correspondence with G. L. Taber, of Glen St. Mary, Fla., (one of them) who is a specialist on this subject, that he has all the varieties carefully named. Having carefully looked up the whole subject of the culture of this fruit in America during several years past, I feel sure that the following varieties are the choicest that have so far been proven by experiment to be the best:

Tane Nashi (Tah-na Nash-y).—The most popular kind for market. It is good in both tree and fruit. About three inches in diameter, brilliant orange color, heart-shaped and seedless. The flesh is a mass of sweet jelly, but must be eaten only when soft and fully ripe.

Yemon (A-mon).—One of the largest and best in all respects. It is flat like a tomato, only quadrangular, often seedless, although this character is not permanent. Deep orange color inside and outside, and very soft and sweet when dead ripe.

Okame (O-kah-my).—Almost identical with Yemon, but the growth of the tree is different and the fruit has deeper sutures about the stem.

Hyakume (Hya-ku-my).—The largest of all, sometimes weighing over a pound. Oblong in shape, brick red in color, with brownish markings. Has eight or more long seeds. The flesh is dark brownish red, and of good rich flavor.

Hachija (Hah-chee-yah).—If this was not a shy bearer it would be very popular, because the fruit is large and highly flavored. It closely resembles Hyakume, except that there is a distinct point at the apex and the flavor is somewhat richer.

Yedo Ichu (Yed-o Ich-y).—About 2½ inches in diameter, nearly round and dark red. The flesh is dark brown, of the richest sweet flavor, and never astringent even when hard. Has eight or more seeds. The tree is one of the hardest, and altogether this is one of the very choicest varieties.

Tsuru (Tsu-ru).—Medium to large, very long, brilliant orange both in skin and flesh, and of good flavor when soft. Zang (Zen-ry).—This is the smallest of the popular kinds, as it is rarely two inches in diameter. Varies in shape on the same tree from flat to oblong, and in color is dull red. The flesh is dark brown, sweet, and never astringent. Usually quite seedless.

Parkley, Va.

GRAPES ON THE STAKED PLAIN.

A. RAWLINS.

Dr. A. M. Rawlins: I have read much lately in TEXAS FARM AND RANCH on the grape question, but as yet the half has never been told, nor will it be, for every generation seems to grow wiser. Twenty years ago it was a surprise to me to see on the river banks large grape vines loaded down with grapes, which would have been worth thousands of dollars, but to an unconcerned, careless Texan, was considered worthless. The same can be said, to a great extent, of to-day. Outside of a few men, the same old Mustang grape vine loaded with fruit is unmolested. The hidden mysteries of the hardest grape in the State are yet to be learned, for the half has never been told. We believe a public discussion in this direction would eventually be of much public good to disseminate scientific information that is only known to a few who have experimented in that direction. It has been said by some grape authorities that the blood of the European and American varieties will not unite, for what reason we do not know. There is no question but that climatic condition has much to do in the success of the grape, and that different locations has proven to be adapted to the different kinds. Now, under this method there must be a suitable location, where the climate will aid in the unity of these several species of grape. If such can be found, then we have found the pinnacle to which many may climb. It has appeared to me that if a very early grape and a very late grape united, may, by proper treatment, be made an everbearing. As there is much to be learned, some writers may tell us the why and wherefore. Out of the Staked Plains, the Mission, especially, reminds

me of the old Mustang in its rapid growth, but under a freeze of four below zero, the extremities of the vine will be killed. We have grown the European varieties which have grown a prolific growth, and its bearing qualities have been unexcelled.

Take a Flaming Tokay four-year-old vine, with three distinct crops of grapes on it, commencing in July to ripen and continuing till November; the Rose of Peru and Emperor continue to bloom until frost cuts them off. We have here twenty varieties of the European grapes, and all seem to make themselves perfectly at home. Then again, we take the American varieties. They are, when grown, perfectly contented for seven years, rain or no rain, they show their fruit in due season. We have seen the old Concord with matured grape and still blooming. We told this at the horticultural meeting at Bowie, when our Prof. Munson could hardly believe it, but all our people here can substantiate my statement. At my request, Chas. Brackton raised and sold from one four-year-old Muscat raisin grape, forty pounds, which he sold at ten cents per pound. He has 640 vines to the acre, yet Fort Worth and Dallas are shipping in from New York grapes by the car load. "What fools we mortals be." The Staked Plain has thus far proven herself the Eden for grapes, and free as she is from insect pest, we will be an all round fruit belt, under our system of windmill irrigation, and defy all competition. Every variety of our home fruits, apples and pears, have done well; last of all comes the prune. We will beat California 2000 miles on prunes without the use of sulphur or insect powder.

Midland, Texas.

STILL IN THE RING.

NATT STEVENS.

Editor Orchard and Garden: Prof. Munson, of Denison, comes out in Orchard and Garden with a string of refutations of different kinds that he finds in the papers. Some he seems to get from your paper, but he does not mention the writers by name, but leaves the readers to conjecture as to who he means. I have been one that has been experimenting with splitting buds, and uniting again different split buds on an apple tree, and that apple tree grew and produced apples that had no perfect seeds in them. Again, by the same system, I put six splits into three buds, and inserted each one above the other, so that each bud in time was two feet above each other. It took me two years to get them all inserted, so as to get the two feet new wood before inserting the next bud, to have a growth of wood to each inserted bud, so as to get the influence of each bud growth carried to the fruit that it produced. The effect of it was that the fruit was not like either one of the parent apples, with no good seeds in them at all, and only a very small, nearly closed cavity where they should be. These are some of my experiments made some fifty odd years ago. Thompson, of Quartz, California, says that by the split bud method of budding, he produced a seedless orange tree. These experiments are given for Mr. Munson's benefit.

I have not yet done any split bud budding with either the apricot or nectarine, so he can keep his \$5. I don't want it.

Now, friend Munson may call these experiments hybrids or sports, just as he pleases, but they were artificially made by bud grafting; but I have raised a good many nectarines on peach limbs beside of peaches, without either grafting or budding. These I call sports.

The next specification on the use of pollen is from me. Pollen, he says, is always male in character and functions; but does he mean that good fruit and fertilized seeds can be produced without it? If so, I don't see fit to hold my peace. The so-called Zante currants in Europe are seedless, but raised in California they have a few seeds in them, and the same way with the white and black varieties of Corinth grapes. "Again," he says, that "there is no known method by which seedless varieties can be raised; perhaps not, but we know that some are produced—apples, I mean, at different times for the last fifty-five years, still but few men would claim that there are any seedless apples grown at all now. In my boyhood days I did often count thirty seeds in one single apple, but now you can count more than a dozen in any one apple, and where have all of the seeds gone to out of our tomatoes in the last sixty years, if it is not caused by uncongenial stocks through cultivation.

Hosts of people go to work in the wrong way to cure a
SPRAIN,
when St. Jacobs Oil would cure it in the right way, right off.



The next complaint he made occurred over a historical statement that occurred at Anjou, France, and it was published in several European newspapers, one in Belgium, one or more in Germany, two in France, and some in the United States, and the question was considered by the Imperial Horticultural Society of France, at its last year's meeting, and for the benefit of Professor Munson, I will now copy the Missouri State Horticultural Society's account of it, as I am aware it is a hard pill for him to swallow, or digest it afterwards.

"A Pomological Wonder.—A queer case of natural cross fertilization is reported from Anjou, France. A grape vine, which grows in close proximity to a large apple tree of the Russet variety, has developed a full bunch of small apples on the stem which is usually set with grapes. There are twenty-nine of these queer grape-apples in all, and they are so thickly set on the stem that many of them, all, in fact, except those growing at the ends, are mashed out of shape, so that they are almost as angular as corn grains. Each of these freaks has its blossom end like true apples; and in the fine specimens which have been examined, eleven poorly developed seeds were found. The pomologists of Europe are greatly excited over the facts relating to this queer case, as they appeared in La Nature, and many who have never attended a meeting of the Imperial Horticultural Society, will do so this year in order to hear of the curiosity. Those who have ever paid any attention to fruit culture, and know how entirely dissimilar the blossoms of grape vines and apple trees are, will naturally doubt the genuineness of this freak."

Thus I have given one account of it, but I have still on hand three others, two of them are all French to me, the other is all like our botany (hog latin), confusing both in its names, and terms used to express it, and it is no wonder that as a scholar, he gets confused in English expressions about horticulture. Why not use pure English altogether, instead of Latin? Prunus Persica, Prunus Armenica, Prunus Arizona, and Prunus Californica, may, perhaps, do in botany, but it is hard to understand in English. To Mr. Munson, I may be hard to understand; so it is also for me to understand him. I claim that I have proved by actual experiments that the buds alone, do, under certain conditions, change the variety of fruit, and practically it was seedless. Here are two points that I have contended for. Mr. Munson says that seedlessness is accidental. I admit that in some cases it may be, but not always. The third question really is, can the pollen of one species of fruit enter and control, or mix, and control the fruit of another species, as in the reported case at Anjou, France? My information direct from there is that it did, and that the product was nearly seedless. Mr. Munson denies it. Now let him prove his negative through his French horticultural professors if he wants to. As for me, I am satisfied with my position until it is otherwise changed by more evidence from France. My information, so far, has cost me about \$5 in this case.

The seedless peach racket, by a tree peddler, was attempted near here. He approached a farmer with his fine specimen pictures; seedless peaches and pears were offered.

"But," said the farmer in reply, "Uncle Natt says there is no such a thing as a seedless peach." "Well, here is a seedless peach. Buy this and get a good one." "No, I don't want that."

"Why?" was asked. "Because, Uncle Natt has seven or eight that are about nineteen years old. He tells me that they have never borne a single pear yet." And the farmer dismissed him.

Thus ended one of his trials here; but the sad reflection to me is, these pear trees were bought of a Texas nurseryman, and there are quite a number of others here in the same fix; but they are all healthy trees. There are other pear trees here that are equally as old that are keeling out a miserable existence, having few roots, and have to be posted up to make them stand alone.

Forney, Texas.

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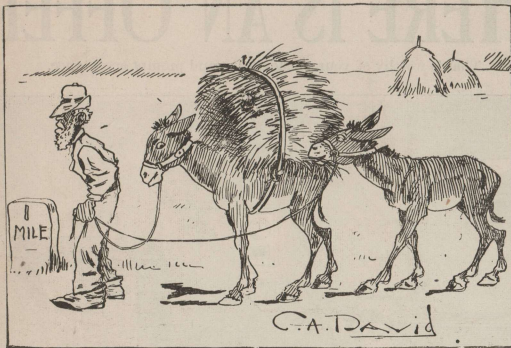
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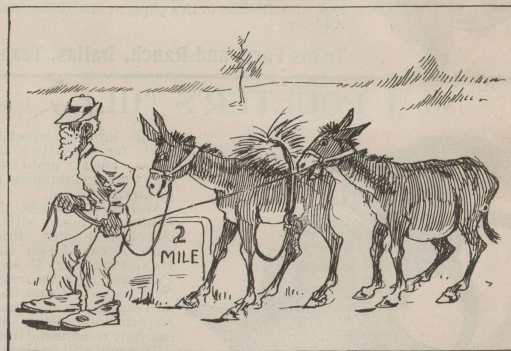
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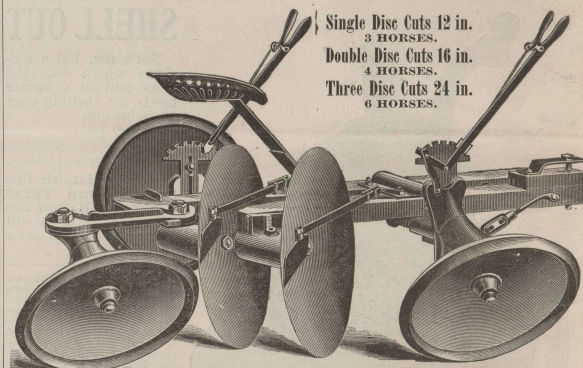
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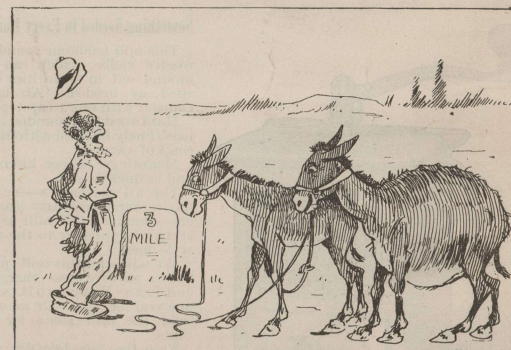
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