

CHURCH OBSERVATIONS

young fellow who will distance his competitors in his own business, who preserves his integrity, who lives clearly and purely, who never gets in debt, who gains friends by deserving them, and puts his money into the saving bank. There are some ways to fortune that look shorter than the rusty old highway, but the staunch men of the community, the men who achieve something really worth having, good fortune, good name, and serene old age, all go this road.

Farm and Garden.

The farmers in Freeborn and Faribault counties, Wisconsin, are successfully raising living fences. They use cottonwood, gray willow, white maple, black oak and wild plum. From three to five years are sufficient to raise a living fence, to protect the fields from stock, unless the stock is too unruly.

The stock of apples now stored in Boston is variously estimated at from 20,000 to 30,000 barrels, including eastern and western. It is not unusual at this season of the year to have 100,000 barrels on hand, but the small yield last season cut them short. Although the demand is limited there will be none to carry over, and those on hand are in excellent condition. The demand is principally for the eastern Balwins and western greenings.

Hops.—The Wisconsin papers tell terrible tales of the effects of the collapse of the hop bubble and the fall in the price of hops. For some years past the hop crop has been so abundant, prices so high, and the returns so large, that hop growers were completely infatuated, and great numbers of otherwise sensible men were converted into hop maniacs, who thought of nothing, talked of nothing, and cared for nothing but hops. The farmers in the hop regions, since the magic reed on which they leaned has broken, are without money and without bread; in short, they are left with nothing but mortgaged farms, needy families and ruined credit. The area devoted to hop culture, in Wisconsin, in this year, is stated at about fifteen thousand acres, and the reports say that half the crop is destroyed by mould and lice; more than half the remainder is saved in a damaged condition, and prices are reduced from sixty cents in 1867 to seventeen cents in 1868. Perhaps there will be an opportunity for a more unprejudiced discussion of the morality of hop-raising, now.

FARM IMPROVEMENTS.—Every farmer should have a good, dry house, in which to store farm implements, which are out of place in the barn or wood-house. We have seen many very convenient wagon and implement rooms under the same roof. At any rate every farmer should have a room for implements somewhere, and now that harvest and corn tending are over, all rapiers, cradles, scythes, sickles, ploughs, harrows, rollers, hoes, shovels, forks, etc., should be put away in good order. Take off all dirt and scour away all rust. Then grease liberally. Much will also be gained by painting the wood-work of farm implements. This can be done at a small cost, and by the farmer himself. Every farmer should learn how to paint his own tools and implements. He should take a day in September and do his own painting. He can do it. There is no danger of failure. He can at least put on the paint so that it will preserve the wood, and this should be the chief object in view. But if the farmer should neglect to paint his farm implements, he must not, at least, neglect to place them all in a dry room, as we have recommended. Leaving ploughs, harrows, rollers, hoes, etc., in fence corners and scattered around loose in the yard, exposed to the weather through the winter is alike unprofitable and disgraceful.

THE WONDERS OF SEED.—Is there upon earth a machine, is there a palace, is there even a city, which contains so much that is wonderful as is enclosed in a single seed—one grain of corn, one little brown apple seed, one small seed of a tree picked up, perhaps, by a little sparrow for her little ones, the smallest of a poppy or bluebell, or even one of the seeds that are so small that they float about in the air invisible to our eyes? Ah! there is a world of marvel and brilliant beauty hidden in each of these. About a hundred and fifty years ago the celebrated Linnæus, who has been called the "Father of Botany," reckoned about 8,000 different kinds of plants, and he then thought that the whole number then existing could not much exceed 10,000. But a hundred years after him M. de Candolle, of Geneva, described about 40,000 kinds of plants and he supposed it possible the number might even amount to 100,000. Well, these 100,000 kinds of plants ever failed to bear the right kind of seeds? Have they ever deceived us? Has a seed of poppy grown up into a sunflower? Has a sycamore tree ever sprung from an acorn, or a beech tree from a chestnut? A little bird may carry away the small seed of the sycamore in its beak to feed its nestlings, and on the way may drop it on the ground. The tiny seed may spring up and grow where it fell unnoticed, and sixty years after it may become a magnificent tree, under which the flocks of the valleys and their shepherd may rest in the shade.

HOW THE FRENCH FATTEN THEIR POULTRY.—A large circular building, admirably ventilated, and with the light partially excluded, is fitted up with circular cages, in tiers rotating on a central axis, and capable of being elevated, depressed, or rotated, which are so arranged that each bird has as it were a separate stall, containing a perch. The birds are placed with their tails converging to a common centre, while the head of each may be brought in front by a simple rotatory movement of the central axis. Each bird is fastened to its cell by leathern fetters, which prevent movement except of the head and wings, without occasioning pain. When the feeding time comes the bird is enveloped in a wooden case, from which the head and neck alone appear, and which is popularly known as its palette, by which means all unnecessary struggling is avoided. The attendant (a young girl) seizes the head in her left hand, and gently presses the beak, in order to open it; then, with her right,

she introduces into the gullet a tiny tube about the size of a finger. This tube united to a flexible pipe, which communicates with the dish in which the food has been placed, and from which the desired quantity is instantaneously injected into the stomach. The feeding process is so short that 200 birds can be fed by one person in an hour. The food is a liquid paste composed of Indian corn and barley saturated with milk. It is administered three times a day, in quantities varying according to the condition of each bird.

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