

considerable height. If the weather is calm, their movements are continued during the hours of darkness, and at such times the noise produced by their wings is sometimes heard at a considerable distance.

The nest of the robin is composed of leaves, straw, moss, wool, cotton rags, paper, and grass, plastered inside with mud, and lined with fine dry grass. The eggs are generally four in number, and of a light green colour. It feeds on various kinds of worms, insects and their produce, as well as on various species of seeds and small ripe fruit; and at the time when currants and cherries are ready for use, it must be admitted that it is not friendly to the interests of the farmer in either town or country. But in the spring it may often be seen in the fields following the plough, and feeding on those lower forms of animal life which, if left to remain and increase, would be very detrimental to the interests of the agriculturist. The following sketch will convey to the mind of the reader a lively and natural description of the robin when searching for its morning meal in the early summer hours:—"Watch an old robin pounce down on a lawn or pasture moistened with dew or rain. At first he stands motionless, apparently thinking of nothing at all, his eye vacant, or with an unmeaning gaze. Suddenly he bends his ear on one side, makes a glancing sort of dart with his head and neck, gives perhaps one or two hops, and then stops again, listening with attention, and his eye glistening with animation. His beak almost touches the ground; he draws back his head, as if to make a determined pick. Again he pauses and listens, and again hops a few steps, scarcely moving his position, then is once more motionless as a stuffed bird. But he knows well what he is about, for after another moment's pause, having ascertained that all is right, he picks away with might and main, and soon draws out a large worm, which his fine sense of hearing had informed him was not far off, and which his hops and previous picking had attracted to the surface, to escape what the poor worm thought might be his underground enemy, the mole." The robin is nine inches in length, and its plumage, though not the most attractive, is nevertheless not devoid of beauty. The breast of the male is of a beautiful red, the lower parts are whitish, or ash colour, and the upper parts of the wings, body, and tail are of a light brown, or earthy hue, the head is blackish, the eyes are encircled with a ring of white, and the beak is yellow.

The wire-worm has made a raid upon a ten-acre field of White Russian wheat, owned by David Henry, of Ramsay, Lanark county, and entirely destroyed one-half of it.

It is remarkable that more pears are not planted. They are easy of culture, and always command ready sale at high prices. It is not often that they go lower than \$1 or \$2 per bushel, and they usually bring from \$4 to \$10 per bushel, if choice.

An Illinois farmer has found a way of getting three prices for his pork. He has built a curing house, and created a market at his own door for the smoked meat, at fifteen cents per pound. Of course the curing process is managed so as to turn out first-class bacon and hams.

"I see the collars of your new harness are too large for your team." "Yes, but I have eight horses of different sizes, and when I buy a harness I must get collars that can be used on the entire herd of eight." As I observed the scars on the shoulders of his team I wondered how his family of boys would like to wear the same sized boots, from Johnny, six years old, up to William, ago thirty five. *Charles A. Green, in N. Y. Tribune.*

### CURRENT NEWS ITEMS.

TRACTS of land have been allotted to the Scottish, Ontario and Manitoba, and the Primitive Methodist Colonization Company.

A SKUNK hunt is an innovation amongst sportsmen at Rat Portage. The attire is a novel one, being an oilskin suit. The hunt got on the wrong scent in a chase last week.

MR. JOHN McQUEEN has sold his farm, lot 22, 3rd con. of Stanley, to Mr. Peter Campbell, of Clinton, for the sum of \$8,000. This is an excellent farm, containing about sixty acres cleared and forty of bush.

THREE children in the township of Grey climbed into an oat bin on the 17th ult. The lid closed upon them and got fastened, and when the hired man opened the bin to feed the horses, he found the children dead.

THE *Stirling News-Argus* says: "Mr. James W. Butler has left at this office a potato leaf which measures no less than 6½ inches in length, exclusive of the stem, by 5½ inches in breadth. It is from an Early Vermonter vine, and would feed a family of bugs nearly the whole season."

A FARMER on the fourth line of Nottawasaga is the owner of a ewe which recently dropped a lamb. The lamb grew and waxed in strength for nearly two weeks, when lo! another lambkin came to share his pleasures. The farmer expects that the ewe will keep on, and that he will have a large flock before the fall.

THE Midland District correspondent of the *Lindsay Post* says: "A trio of young men went fishing the other Sunday on the Nottawasaga river, and captured one sturgeon; the bait they used is new to all anglers, and ought to be put on record, being a silver half-dollar. The bait has to be renewed every fresh fish hauled in."

THERE was great destruction of property caused by tornados in several States of the Union, especially in the State of Ohio, recently. Half the town of Grinnell, Iowa, was laid in ruins, sixty-four persons being killed, and over 146 wounded. There was great destruction of life and property also in several other towns in the State, as well as in several other States.

A YEAR eccentric man was Andrew Herster, who has just died in Easton, Pa. He never saw a steamship or a large sailing vessel; he never rode either by rail or on street cars, but he made over \$250,000 by cattle dealing. In death his eccentricity remained, for he left four-fifths of his property to one son, and cut off his other five children with next to nothing.

MR. GEO. BURNETT, of the 16th concession of Howick, sold seven head of cattle lately weighing as follows: 1,615, 1,550, 1,520, 1,480, 1,265, 1,355, and 1,950 pounds.—Also Messrs. Wm. Wallace and James Sudden, of the 17th concession, sold four head; the former three head weighing 1,545, 1,400, and 1,805 pounds, and the latter one head weighing 1,805 pounds.

A NEW YORK butter and egg firm has just got into trouble through counting its eggs before they were laid. It calculated on a big egg crop, and contracted to deliver 100,000 dozen eggs at 14½, 16, and 16½ cents per dozen. But the weather went back on the hens, and the hens went back on the eggs, and the firm went back on its contract. Now all parties are laying around cackling about the weather.

A ROOSTER was missing from a farmyard in Virginia for nearly three weeks. At last the cook said: "He in de well; I hear him crow down dar." A man went down with a light and brought up a rooster so thin that the light shone through him—feathers and all, but he was alive, and though scarcely able to walk, was around

next day as chirk as ever. He stood on a jutting rock in the well, unable to fly out.

A SHORT time ago a wood pile near the residence of W. H. McNeil, Lansdowne, was discovered on fire early in the forenoon. As no fire had been burning anywhere near the wood, it was quite a mystery how it started; but investigation proved that it was caused by the heat of the sun reflected from some milk pails standing outside the kitchen door near the wood pile. To make the matter sure, the reflection was thrown on another part of the pile, and a fire soon started.

A FRENCH officer of hussars quartered in the east of France, recently rode his mare from garrison to Paris, 100 miles, in twelve hours. After resting two hours, he took her to the show grounds of a large exhibition, and she pranced around the arena, apparently nearly as fresh as if she had not gone through such a severe performance. This is most extraordinary—her not seeming subsequently much fatigued by so long and quick a race. Horses have repeatedly been ridden or driven 100 miles within the time named, and even a shorter one; but they showed great exhaustion afterward, and sometimes were ruined or even killed by it. At best it is a hazardous and cruel force-put.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

From the Monthly Weather Review for May, issued by the Dominion Meteorological Society, it seems that there was more sunshine at Winnipeg during that month than at any other place in Canada. Constant sunshine is represented by 1, and the following is given as the mean proportion for the month at the principal points of observation:—Winnipeg, 0.58; Woodstock, 0.45; Toronto, 0.51; Montreal, 0.48; Fredericton, 0.52; Sydney, 0.46. The maximum daily amount of sunshine was:—Winnipeg, 11th, 0.95; Woodstock, 15th and 29th, 0.85; Toronto, 29th, 0.94; Montreal, 7th, 0.99; Fredericton, 6th, 0.97; Sydney, 6th, 0.95. The number of days completely clouded was:—Winnipeg, 2; Woodstock, 7; Toronto, 5; Montreal, 4; Fredericton, 4; Sydney, 8.

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