THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE DEC. 22, 4876.

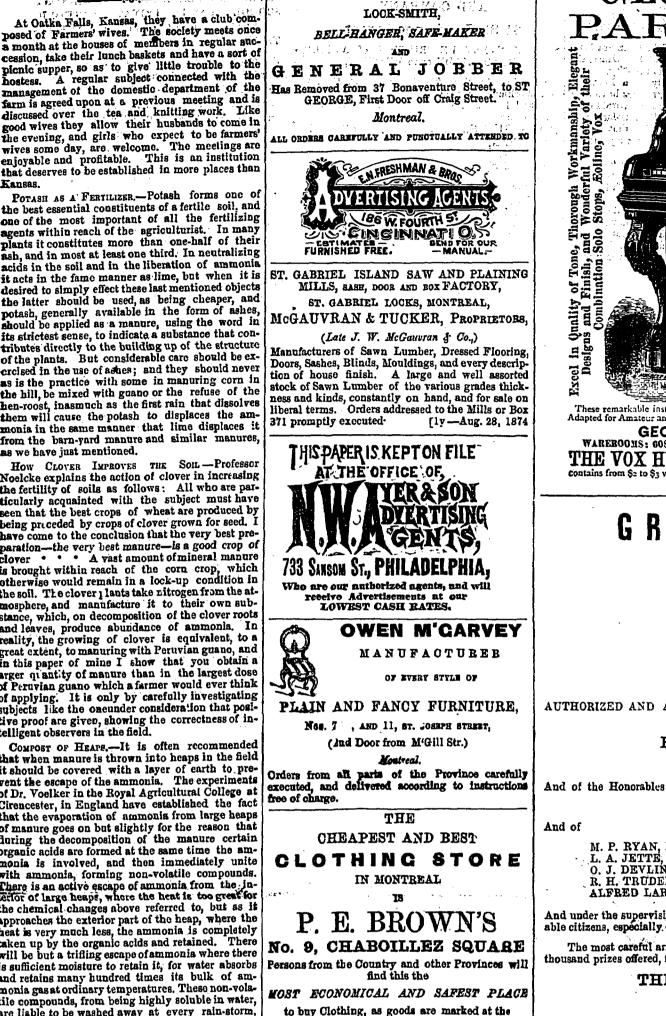
FARMERS' COLUMN. At Oatka Falls, Kansas, they have a club com. posed of Farmers' wives. The society meets once a month at the houses of members in regular suc-cession, take their lunch baskets and have a sort of picnic supper, so as to give little trouble to the hostess. A regular subject connected with the management of the domestic department of the management of the domestic department of the farm is agreed upon at a previous meeting and is discussed over the tea and knitting work. Like good wives they allow their husbands to come in the evening, and girls who expect to be farmers' wives some day, are welcome. The meetings are enjoyable and profitable. This is an institution that decays to be established in more places they

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Kansas. POTASH AS A FERTILIZER.—Potash forms one of the best essential constituents of a fertile soil, and one of the most important of all the fertilizing agents within reach of the agriculturist. In many plants it constitutes more than one-half of their ash, and in most at least one third. In neutralizing acids in the soil and in the liberation of ammonia it acts in the fame manner as lime, but when it is desired to simply effect these last mentioned objects the latter should be used, as being cheaper, and potash, generally available in the form of ashes, should be applied as a manure, using the word in its strictest sense, to indicate a substance that contributes directly to the building up of the structure of the plants. But considerable care should be excreised in the use of ashes; and they should never as is the practice with some in manuring corn in the hill, be mixed with guano or the refuse of the hen-roost inasmuch as the first rain that dissolves them will cause the potash to displaces the ammonia in the same manner that lime displaces it from the barn-yard manure and similar manures, as we have just mentioned.

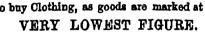
HOW CLOVER IMPROVES THE SOIL -- Professor Noelcke explains the action of clover in increasing the fertility of soils as follows: All who are particularly acquainted with the subject must have seen that the best crops of wheat are produced by being preceded by crops of clover grown for seed. I have come to the conclusion that the very best preparation—the very best manure—is a good crop of clover • • • A vast amount of mineral manure is brought within reach of the corn crop, which otherwise would remain in a lock-up condition in the soil. The clover 1 lants take nitrogen from the atmosphere, and manufacture it to their own sub-stance, which, on decomposition of the clover roots and leaves, produce abundance of ammonia. In reality, the growing of clover is equivalent, to a in this paper of mine I show that you obtain a arger quantity of manure than in the largest dose of Peruvian guano which a farmer would ever think of applying. It is only by carefully investigating subjects like the oneunder consideration that positive proof are given, showing the correctness of intelligent observers in the field.

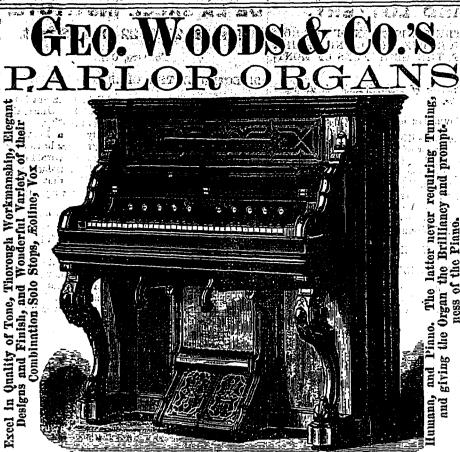
COMPOST OF HEAPS,-It is often recommended that when manure is thrown into heaps in the field it should be covered with a layer of earth to prewent the escape of the ammonia. The experiments of Dr. Voelker in the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, in England have established the fact that the evaporation of ammonis from large heaps of manure goes on but slightly for the reason that during the decomposition of the manure certain organic acids are formed at the same time the ammonia is involved, and then immediately unite with ammonia, forming non-volatile compounds. There is an active escape of ammonia from the in-terior of large heaps, where the heat is too great for the chemical changes above referred to, but as it approaches the exterior part of the heap, where the heat is very much less, the ammonia is completely taken up by the organic acids and retained. There will be but a trifling escape of ammonia where there is sufficient moisture to retain it, for water absorbs and retains many hundred times its bulk of ammonia gas at ordinary temperatures. These non-volatile compounds, from being highly soluble in water, are liable to be washed away at every rain-storm, giving the well known color to the draining of man-



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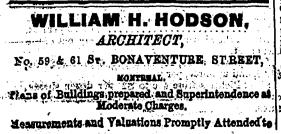
H. & A. ALLAN, Corner of Youville and Common Streets, Montreal Jan. 15, 1875

D. BARRY, B. C. L., ADVOCATE, 12 ST. JAMES ST MONTREAL.

ure heaps.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.-Deep Cultivation Ind. pansable;-Nothing is more essential to the success the kitchen garden than deep plowing and thoroug culture. The severe draught of the past summ has been a useful lesson on this point. It h opened the eyes of many carcless farmers, and h given new force to the argument for deep cultiv tion. It has shown conclusively that the be protection against the injurious effects of a d season is the su goil plow. Every gardener farmer who freely and fearlessly uses this impl ment, if he follows it up by a continual stirring the soil will find that he has comparatively litt to fear from the effects of a drought, and that il absence of rain is a less calamity and more easi mitigated than the opposite condition of long co sity of this kind of culture are not by any mean confined to the protection it affords during season of drought. It is no less efficient in the d struction of weeds, inaerating the soil so as to fa cilitate the access of both water and air to the reo of growing plants. The general principles involve in this treatment of the soil are of great practic importance, and hold good in every branch of hu bandry. They are equally vital and essential successful culture whether applied to a garden, small farm, or a thousand acres.

EXPORTATION OF LIVE STOCK AND FRESH MEATS. To give our readers some idea of the views on th other side of the "herring pond" with reference the shipments of live stock and fresh meats, which have been so extensively made within the past years or two, we give the following extract from a receissue of the Irish Farmer's Gazette :-- The import tion of live stock and dead meat from the Unite States and Canada is no longer an experiment. is rapidly becoming developed into a regular trad Various shipments of live stock have recently a rived in England from Canada in excellent cond tion. Of these 600 head were brought to Liverpoo much superior in point of condition and quality the cattle imported from Holland and other par of continental Europe. This is shown by the fa that 102 head of Canadian beasts, which were se to the London market, realized an average of £ 10s. each, and were chiefly purchased by the W End butchers. In addition to the importation living animals, there are also large importations fresh meat from the United States. On Saturd the Quion steamer "Idaho" arrived at Liverpo with 100 tons of fresh beef, consisting of lar joints. The meat had been nine and a half days sea, and was perfectly sweet. Messrs. John Sw & Sons, of Edinburgh, also notice in their circu relative to the Scotch cattle trade, last week, presence of 200 carcasses of American beef at Gl gow, on Thursday, which tended to impede sales a market over-stocked with home-bred and Ir cattle.



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