Then they told or gold and silver altar ornaments, among them a superb Ostensoir. The Ostensoir of which they spoke is one that was made many years ago by that prince of Orefici, Castellani, the tather and grandfather of the present distinguished members of that remarkable family. It was ordered by the Duchess Grazioli of that was ordered by the Duchess Grazion of that day. No expense was spared upon it; it was made of fine gold and silver, and had diamonds and other precious gems set in it; the whole suriously and beautifully wrought with all the skill and finish peculiar to the words of that veritable artist. liar to the words of that veritable artist. The Grazioli Ostensoir and the other gold and silver articles were, as I said above, the objects the frati expected to find; the unexpected trouvaille, however, is of as great value and more interest to students of science and history, to book-lovers and bibliographers, as the artistic Ostensoir and other could be observed.

other costly church vessels.

I have been in the very room and touched with my hands the parchments, the books, the precious lapis lazuli and other objects.

Among them is a curious assuccia or box the precious lapis lazuli and other objects, Among them is a curious astuccia or box for maps, This astuccia alone, without the maps, is valued at 3,000 francs. It is of stamped leather, stamped in gilt and colours, and of that workmanship so highly prized by connoisseurs of the Henri Deux period. The large, round head of this fine map-case opens with a hinge and has a decorated lock. Inside it is divided into compartments, like a knife-case; outside these divisions are visible. It displays three round sheaths, unequal in length, united in one head; the longest sheath is about two feet. Into these sheaths are placed the maps rolled up. They are all on parchment, and hand-made with pent and brush. They are of the kind called portolani, because of their liaving the principal ports represented prominently on them. There is one smaller than the rest which is very handsome. It is dated 1455.

"Before you were discovered," said one of the gentlemen present when I examined the objects. Yes; thirty-seven years before "Columbus sailed the ocean blue" and discovered our continent, it was made. It was the year Calixtus III. was elected Pope—Alfonso Borgia, the uncle of Alexander VI. that other Borgia Poge. who

ander VI. that other Borgia Poses who was rected Fope the very year Columbus discovered the Western hemisphere, in 1492. There on that beautiful portolano of 1455 lies the world as it was then imagined to be. The principal city is Genoa. It is displayed boastingly in rich red coloured castles and domes, and spreads over the whole top of the peninsula. The boot of Italy stretches down into the Marc Mediterraneo, and has nothing on it but's a collection of red ecclesiastical buildings with a flag and a cross. They run lengthwise along the centre of the peninsula. Rome is written in red letters above. Venice, strange to say, is placed where Trieste is now. But on the whole parchment there is no sign of the great Western hemisphere. The other maps have the New World on them.

There is an extremely interesting book in this tesoro nascosto. It is the constitution of the Society of Jesus, printed on parchment, date, 1583, I think; at all events it is the only copy known, and is of great value. The parchment is exquisitely fine and the printing as perfect as possible. Another book, a great folio, is very beautiful; it is a Florilegium, a Flora, or collection of all the then known garden flowers, beautifully coloured by hand. The titlepage is a painting that represents some figures holding up the title and name of the author, "François de Geest," to Fame, who is proclaiming it by her triumpet. The leaves of the book are nearly all closely covered with delicious flowers that look as if they were real ones pressed on the pages. The date of this charming book is 1678. There are pages and pages of roses; then lovely files; every kind of iris; rich scalet and delicate white, pink and illac anemones; some are so transparent they look as if you could blow the soft filmy petals off the page. Ranunculus, lilkes and under georgeous tulips—all those lovely flowers that were quite new in that day to European gardena, for they had been brought venice and Vienna to the Western world. The manuscripts on parchments are over four thousa

AGRICULTURAL.

OUR FARMERS' CLUB.

hard round good sized head and no loose leaves. Onions, thick and round with a small neck. Parsnips, small top, large smooth root. Squan, seed I select from those I use. I take such as are fine grained and dry. Tomatoes and corn, I take the first fruit and first matured ears. This makes them earner write to you again. KINGSTON.

Mire to you again.

KINGSTON.

Here is another letter from "Westminster:"—Dear Sir,—Thanks to E. Baker for his answer to my inquiry, but I hope to read many more answers. The Fife is worn out with us as well as in his vicinity, and I want to know what to replace it with. What do you think of the Red River wheat? I saw advertisements of itlast fall, and had some idea of trying it, but heard that it was dirty seed. Is it so? About "farmers saving their own seed," I quite agree with you in the main points. I save all my own seed as far as possible, but must have a change sometimes, or, like the Fife wheat, it runs out. I am very much pleased with "our Farmers" Club." WESTMINSTER.

In reply to the above, we examined samples of Red River wheat a year ago, and certainly the seed was dirty—not bad weed seeds, possibly, but we do not need any weed seeds at all. The grain also was very much mixed. You could pick a dozen varieties out of a handful of it, although the greater part was Fife. No doubt the change of soil and climate improved it, and by careful selection and cleaning something might be made of it. Why does not some enterprising Manitoba farmer get some pure clean seed of some good variety, and then, by care and good farming, keep it so. He could sell great quantities of it to Ontario farmers for seed, and at good prices too,

THERE IS MONEY IN IT.

Let some of our Manitoba subscribers take hold of the idea and carry it out.

"Westminster" is right in saying that it will not do always to raise our own seed. We must have a change, but when we have a change let it be seed we are sure of. No danger of dirty weed seeds and no mixture of different varieties of grain. THERE IS MONEY IN IT.

BUTTER AND MILK PRODUCE.

smooth root. Squeek seed I select from those I use. I take such as are fine grained and dry. Tomatoes and corn, I take the first fruit and first matured ears. This makes them earlier every year. I will with Pat ready to give him a warm re-



LADIES' CORNER.

The control of the co

HEALTH IN THE HOUSEHOLD

How to Use Stimulants.

The control of the co