

## Miscellaneous.

## Preservation of Meat by Paraffin.

A process of preserving meat by paraffin has been invented by Professor Redwood; and, from the success which has attended its operation, is likely to acquire for it considerable popularity. A circular, which we have received on the subject, says:—"The process consists in the immersion of fresh meat in melted paraffin, at a temperature of 210° Fahr. (110 centigrade), for a sufficient time to effect a concentration of the juices of the meat and the complete expulsion of air; after which, the meat in its condensed state is covered with an external coating of paraffin, by which air is excluded and decomposition prevented. The concentration of the juices may thus be carried to any required extent. If the meat is to be kept in hot climates its weight should be reduced by evaporation to about one-half, in which state it will contain all the nutriment of twice its weight of fresh meat, the portion driven off by evaporation consisting only of water. Thus prepared it will be fully cooked (by the heat applied in the process), and it may be eaten without further preparation, but it will also be applicable for the preparation of a variety of made dishes, including stews, hashes, soups, gravies, &c. For cold climates, a less amount of heating and concentration will suffice, so that the meat may retain its original juicy condition, and when further cooked present the appearance and possess all the characters of fresh unpreserved meat. The paraffin used in the process is a perfectly innocuous substance; it is entirely free from taste and smell, and is not subject to change from keeping. It may be removed from the surface of the meat by putting the latter into a vessel containing boiling water, when the paraffin as it melts will rise to the surface of the water, and may be taken off in a solid cake when cold, while, at the same time, the meat will become softened and prepared for cooking in any suitable way. Among the advantages of the process may be mentioned its great simplicity, the facility with which it can be performed by unskilled workmen, and its inexpensive character, as the same paraffin can be used for an indefinite number of times, and the quantity required for cooking the meat is very small. When the meat is concentrated as described for hot climates, it is rendered very portable, and no special care is required in packing it."

## Nails, Nuts, Screws and Bolts.

One of the most component parts of a good farmer is mechanical ingenuity. Some lose half a day's time, for want of knowing how to repair a breakage, which an ingenious person could do in five minutes. A team and two or three men are sometimes stopped a whole day, at a critical season, for want of a little mechanical skill.

It is well for every farmer to have at hand the facilities for repairing. In addition to the more common tools, he should keep a supply of nails of different sizes, screws, bolts, and nuts. Common cut nails are too brittle for repairing implements, or for other similar purposes. Buy only the very best and anneal them, and they will answer all the ordinary purposes of the best wrought nails. To anneal, all that is necessary is to heat them red hot in a common fire, and cool gradually. Let them cool, for instance, by remaining in the fire while it burns down and goes out. One such nail, well clinched, will be worth half a dozen unannealed.

Nothing is more common than for a farmer to visit the blacksmith shop to get a broken or lost bolt or rivet inserted, and often a single nut on a bolt. This must be paid for, and much time is lost. By providing a supply of bolts, nuts and rivets, much trouble may be saved. They may be purchased wholesale at a low rate.

These should all be kept in shallow boxes, with compartments made for the purpose, furnished with a bow-handle for convenience in carrying them. One box, with half a dozen divisions, may be appropriated to nails of different sizes; and another, with as many compartments, to screws, bolts, rivets, etc.

Every farmer should keep on hand a supply of copper wire, and small pieces of sheet copper or copper straps. Copper wire is better than annealed iron wire; it is almost as flexible as twine, and may be bent and twisted as desired; and it will not rust. Copper straps nailed across or around a fracture or split in any wooden article, will strengthen it in a thorough manner.—S. E. Todd.

## Agriculture in our Common Schools.

This is a matter of some importance in view of the future of agriculture in our country. Some years ago the plan of instructing the children of the rural population in the elements of agricultural science, while attending the district school was introduced. A text book explaining in a concise and lucid manner the nature of the plants the farmer cultivates, the animals he raises, the character of the soil he cultivates, the process by which its fertility can be maintained, the action of light, heat, etc., upon both animal and vegetable life, and intending by its study to lay the foundation for a higher agricultural knowledge as the pupil advanced in age and his circumstances would allow its prosecution, was prepared under the auspices of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture. We do not know with what success the attempt has been attended, but are satisfied that the principle is a right one, and one that may be adopted with profit to the rising and future generations. It is not of one half the importance for the farmer's boy to know the capitals of all the Empires, Kingdoms, Confederations or States, of the world, to have at his tongue's end the names of all the rivers, where they take their rise, and where they empty, as it is to know the way to make a barren soil productive, or to be able to prevent the failure of a crop, to save a valuable fruit from blight or insects, or know how much seed is needed per acre, and when and how to plant it. As preparatory to entering the agricultural colleges, the influence of such a primary education would also be invaluable. The seeds thus sown in the district schools might lead to greater prominence and usefulness in the recipient. As the management of these schools is principally in the hands of farmers, it will be an easy matter for them to make the trial of introducing some text book, of the kind we indicate into them the coming winter term.—*Prairie Farmer*.

## Marriage.

Look at the great mass of marriages that take place all over the world—what poor, contemptible, common place things they are! A few soft looks, a dance, a squeeze of the hand, a popping of the question, a purchasing of a quantity of muslin, a clergyman, a short journey, and the whole matter is over. For five or six weeks two sheepish looking persons are seen dangling about on each other's arms looking at water-falls, or making calls, and guzzling wine and cake; then everything falls into the most monotonous routine; the wife sits on one side of the hearth, the husband on the other, and little pleasures, little cares, and little children gather round them. This is what ninety-nine out of a hundred find to be the delights of love and matrimony. Pity 'tis, 'tis true. But why so? For these reasons, mainly, we opine:

- 1st. Marriages are founded too much on pecuniary considerations and those of convenience, and too little on mutual affection and congeniality.
- 2d. The married parties, instead of becoming wiser and better, usually become selfish, ill-tempered and mentally inert.

## Slothful Farming.

FROM AN OLD AGRICULTURAL BOOK.

I went by the field of the slothful,  
And by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;  
And lo, it was all grown over with thorns,  
And nettles had covered the face thereof,  
And the stonewall thereof was broken down.  
Then I saw and considered it well:  
I looked upon it and received instruction.  
Yet a little sleep, a little slumber,  
A little folding of the hands to sleep,  
So shall thy poverty come as one that travelth,  
And thy want as an armed man.

—Prov. xxiv, 30, 31.

A REMARKABLE BULLETIN.—In Fredonia, New York, the Health Board, in order to stir the people to action with regard to cleaning up, have posted the following notice:—"The cholera is coming! By order of the committee."

THE SCHOOLMASTER'S TOAST.—The fair daughters of Canada: May they add virtue to beauty, subtract envy from friendship, multiply amiable accomplishments by sweetness of temper, divide time by sociality and economy, and reduce scandal to its lowest denomination by a modest Christian deportment.

A country school master preparing for an exhibition of his school, selected a class of pupils and wrote down the questions which he would put to them on examination day.—The day arrived, and so did the hopefuls, all but one. The pupils took their places, as had been arranged, and all went on glibly until the question of the absentee came, and the teacher asked, In whom do you believe?—In Napoleon Bonaparte! was the answer quickly returned. You believe in the Holy Catholic Church do you not? No, said the youngster, amid roars of laughter, the boy that believes in that church hasn't come to school to-day.

SIFTED WHEAT.—Gothold one day looked on while a farmer's wheat was being threshed, and observed that the men not only stoutly beat it, but trod upon it with their feet; and finally, by various expedients, separated the good grain from the chaff, dust, and other impurities. How comes it, he asked, that whatever is of a useful nature, and intended to be profitable to the world, must suffer much, and be subject to every kind of ill-treatment; but that man, who himself does with other things as he lists, is unwilling to suffer, or to permit God to deal as He lists with him? Wheat, which is the noblest of all the products of the earth, is here threshed, trod upon, swept to and fro, tossed into the air, sifted, shaken and shovelled, and afterwards ground, re-sifted and baked, and so at last arrives upon the tables of princes and kings. What, then, do I mean in being displeased with God, because He does not strew my path with roses or translate me to Heaven in an easy chair? By what other process could the wheat be cleansed? and how could I be sanctified or saved, were I to remain a stranger to the cross and to affliction?

## Poetry.

## Our Mother's Grave.

BY RICHARD HOWITT.

Strew flowers upon the honoured grave  
Where our lamented mother lies,  
But let no gloomy cypress wave  
Beside it and bright summer skies;  
Let freshest verdure o'er it spread,  
Let purest light upon it fall,  
For these resemble most the dead,  
In life, in death, beloved by all.

Keep these memorial works away,  
Obstruct not Time's eternal grace:  
The Seasons there will tribute pay,  
And nature sanctify the place.  
In solemn autumn, glad some spring,  
Mute things to her will reverence show,  
And there the birds she loved will sing,  
And there her favourite flowers will grow.

The sun from out the amber west  
Will touch that spot with lingering rays;  
The moon upon her place of rest  
Will seem more tranquilly to gaze;  
The wind that through the welkin sighs,  
Gently as dies a summer wave,  
Will hither come and fold its wings  
To downy slumbers on that grave.

What'er is in its nature fair,  
What'er is in its spirit good,  
Around, diffused through breath or air,  
Or undimmed or understood,  
With whatso'er she loved to tend,  
On which she living love bestowed,  
Will flock to their departed friend,  
And cheer and grace her last abode.

Let there no painful tears be shed:  
A cheerful faith was hers, is ours.  
Of truth divine through all things spread;  
Of love divine in simplest flowers,  
Of goodness, like a sun above,  
Diffusing light and gladness far;  
The boundless confidence of love;  
And knowledge like a guiding star.

The "Life in Life" she made her own,  
By thought and word an I virtuous deed,  
Lived not nor died with her alone,  
But will through future years proceed  
Whilst what she was on us impressed,  
Is more to us than wealth and fame,  
Will more conduce to make us blest,  
And cause us most to bless her name.