

Isla de Isolote de Ballesta.—Its surface is covered with a coating of guano.

Isla Blanca.—Summit covered with a coating of guano.

Isla de Chinchu.—Very little guano.

Isla de Asia.—Covered with thin coatings of guano.

Punta de Chocalla.—White Patches of guano.

Isla Pachacamac.—Covered with thin coatings of guano.

Punta Solar.—Covered with a thin coating of guano.

Hormigas de Afuera.—One of these islands contains a little guano.

Punto de Pancha.—Thin coatings of guano.

Isolotes de Pescadores.—Thin coatings of guano.

Isolotes Chiguitina.—Covered with a thin coating of guano.

Isolote Bravo y Quitacalsones.—Covered by a thin coating of white guano.

Isla Mashorca.—Contains a fair quantity of guano.

Isolote de Carguin.—A thin coating of very white guano.

Isla Blanca.—Thin coatings of light colored guano.

Isla de Chao.—Slight coating of white guanos.

Isla de Guanape.—Considerable deposits of guano.

Isla de Macabi.—The southern island is entirely covered with guano; the northern island contains less.

Babia del Ferrol.

Isla de Lobos de Afuera.—These are entirely covered with guano in great quantities.

Isla de Lobos de Tierra. These contain a great quality of guano.

### Superstition Among Farmers.

It would seem, says a writer, that if any man should have a correct understanding of the workings of nature and be able to read all her varied handwritings, that man should be the farmer, whose occupation leads to constant intercourse and communion with her at all seasons of the year. And this is true when he goes out free from prejudice and with an intelligent purpose to read and understand her teachings. But, unfortunately, such cases are comparatively so rare as to give countenance to the charge that farmers, as a class, are an ignorant and superstitious set of people. A large proportion of farmers believe that the moon rules and controls this lower world. They worship it as a kind of deity that prevails over the vegetable world. They labor under the impression that the moon is constantly "changing" and producing corresponding changes in the vegetable and animal kingdom. They not only hold these notions theoretically but they are influenced by them in the practical operations of their business. One man will plant potatoes, beets, carrots and other root-producing plants only when the moon is waning or "going down," that the vigor of the plant may go down to form roots, corn, cabbage and other top-growing crops must be planted when the moon is increasing, so the growth may be upward; the fence must be built when the moon is increasing so it will not settle into the ground; the house must not be shingled in the dark of the moon, so the shingles will not curl up; hogs must be butchered in the increase of the moon, so the meat may increase in the process of cooking; and in a hundred other equally absurd forms does this superstition manifest itself. As above stated such persons believe the moon really undergoes frequent changes. But this is not the case; the moon does not change at all. Its apparent changes are produced by a change in the relative position of ourselves to it and the sun, which change is produced by the diurnal revolution of the earth and the fact that the revolution of the moon around the earth does not exactly coincide with the daily revolution of the earth itself. All the change there is about it consists in the fact that this week we stand where we see the side that is turned toward the sun; next week we have moved over so we see part of the light side, and part of the dark side, the next week the whole of the dark side is turned toward us. How absurd to suppose that the mere change of relation between us and the moon should produce such changes in the material world as are mentioned above! Observation, as well as reason, teaches that no such influence is exerted by the moon. Out of more than one thousand recorded observations of the moon's change, considerably less than one-half were followed immediately by any change in the weather. In a careful observation of twenty years, I have found all the moon signs governing the weather have failed oftener than they have been fulfilled. What reliance can be placed in a sign that fails twice out of every three times that it occurs? Does it not fail to be a sign at all, except to the superstitious? Many people, otherwise sufficiently devout, and having strong faith in an over-

ruling Providence, become practical atheists on Friday. They seem to think on that day of the week the Great Ruler lets go the reins of the universe, and permits the forces of nature to run riot, without any control or hindrance. Hence they fear to enter upon any new enterprise, or begin any new job of work on Friday, lest they have bad luck. Perhaps a majority of the farmers of the country believe that wheat will turn to "cheat" (chess). While such absurd and nonsensical notions exist, and prevail among farmers, it is not strange that we are, as a class, branded with ignorance and superstition. It is the work of the agricultural press to dispel this darkness, and shed forth the light of true science.

### A Convenient Way to Measure Land.

It is frequently desirable to measure a given plot of ground, or a portion of a field, and a simple method, such as the following, for which we are indebted to an exchange, will be of use to many of our readers. Surveyors are not always at a convenient distance to attend to such little jobs; and even when they do reside in the immediate vicinity, one does not always care to incur the expense incident to such a small job. If the lines are already established, the plot can be measured with sufficient accuracy for all practical purposes by means of a neat rod-pole, made as follows:—Procure a stick of pine, white-wood, bass-wood, or almost any other timber, one and a half inches square, and sixteen and a half feet long. Dress each end tapering from the middle, so that the pole will be one and a half inches square at the middle, and about half an inch square at each end. Such a pole will be light, and quite stiff. Now, graduate one side with the marks representing feet and inches, and graduate another side to indicate a surveyor's links. A pole one rod in length must be equal to twenty-five links. To divide one side correctly, let a mechanic's compass be adjusted, so that the points will divide the distance into twenty-five equal spaces or links. A line can be measured with such a pole nearly as accurately as with a surveyor's chain.

Now, then, if a person does not understand how to multiply chains and links, let him compute the measurement by square feet. In one acre there are 43,500 square feet. Any intelligent school boy can measure the length and the breadth of a square plot, multiply one by the other, and divide the product by 43,500, which will give the number of acres, and the number of square rods representing the fraction of an acre. If it is desirable to measure a triangular plot, two sides of which lie at right angles, measure these two sides, multiply the distance in feet one by the other, and divide that product by two, which will indicate the number of square feet, by 43,500, and the quotient will represent the number of acres.

### How Raisins are Manufactured.

Charles Nordhoff, writing from California to the *New York Tribune*, speaks of the manufacture of raisins as follows:—"For making raisins, they wait until the grape is fully ripe, and then carefully cut off the bunches and lay them either on a hard clay floor, formed in the open air, or on brown paper laid between the vine-rows. They do not trim out poor grapes from the bunches, because, as they assert, there are none; but I suspect this will have to be done for the very finest raisins, such as would tempt a reluctant buyer. The bunches require from eighteen to twenty-four days' exposure in the sun to be cured. During that time they are gently turned from time to time, and such as are earliest cured are removed to a raisin-house. This is fitted with shelves, on which the raisins are laid about a foot thick, and here they are allowed to sweat a little. If they sweat too much the sugar candies on the outside, and this deteriorates the quality of the raisin. It is an object to keep the bloom on the berries. They are kept in the raisin-house, I believe, five or six weeks, when they are dry enough to box. It is as yet customary to put them in twenty-five pound boxes, but no doubt, as more experience is gained, farmers will contrive other parcels."

**CURE FOR CORNS.**—Dr. Darbier, says the *Lyon Medical Journal*, reports the cure of the most refractory corns by the morning and evening application, with a brush, of a drop of a solution of the perchloride of iron. After a fortnight's continued application, without pain, a patient who had suffered martyrdom for nearly forty years from a most painful corn on the inner side of each little toe, was entirely relieved. Pressure was no longer painful, and Dr. B. believed the cure radical.

### Dangers of Well-Water.

The dangers of bad milk are engrossing so much attention just now, that there is reason to fear lest the far greater dangers of bad water should for the time be overlooked. We trust this serious error will not be committed. For one sample of dangerous milk a thousand of dangerous water could be obtained in almost any part of the country. Let it never be forgotten that very few rivers or wells are safe sources of water supply, and that many are as unsafe as loaded fire-arms. The shallow wells of villages are among the pests of the country, and it is high time that a zealous and well organized crusade should be brought to bear upon them. It is sickening in most country places to observe the uniformity with which the cess-pool and well are made to stand side by side, as though each was necessary for the other; and to think of the twenty feet or so of foul, sewerage-reeking soil through which the water percolates to its fetid bed! The question should engage the earnest attention of every health officer, and will, in too many cases, tax his energies severely, for it is one of the hardest sanitary problems. It is always possible to provide a city or town with good water, but in a village, where houses are few, money scarce, and intelligence scarcer, it is a matter of exceeding difficulty.—*London Lancet*.

### The Lumber Trade.

We clip the following item on the above subject from one of our American exchanges:—

"Owing to the recent panic, productions in excess of demand, and other causes, it is estimated that transactions in the Albany lumber trade this season will be 25 per cent. less than in 1872. Probably 100,000,000 feet of stock will remain at the close of navigation, although the receipts this year will be 60,000,000 feet less than in 1872. Prices are very low; common grades are offered at cost, dealers refusing to sell lower. About 3,000 men and 200 carts are generally required to land, pile and ship the lumber."

Mr. JOHN STEWART MILL, we learn from *Nature*, has left his herbarium of European plants to the Royal Gardens, Kew.

ACCORDING to an Alabama newspaper, the shooting of insectivorous birds has cost that state £2,000,000 this year alone, in the ravages made by the "cotton caterpillar."

Over the shop door of a pork butcher in a village in the Eastern counties may be seen a signboard representing a man in a black coat, brandishing a hatchet, with the inscription,—*"John Smith kills pigs like his father."*

"Mary where's the frying-pan?" asked a worthy old woman in the far west. "Jemmy's got it, carting mud and clam shells up the alley, with the cat for the horse." "The dear little fellow! what a genius he will make! but go and get it, we're going to have company, and must fry some fish for dinner."

A remarkable illustration of the power of a growing mushroom can be seen at Keene, N. H., where a coal-stool has grown up under the concrete walk, breaking and pushing it until it has made room for itself. The concrete in that place is nearly an inch thick, and would hold up a heavily loaded team.

**HOW TO CATCH OWLS.**—A Jersey paper says:—"When you discover one on a tree, and find that it is looking at you, all that you have to do is to turn round the tree several times, when the owl's attention will be so firmly fixed that, forgetting the necessity of turning its body with its head, it will follow your motions until it wrings its own head off."

For refinement of horse thief strategy go to *London*. Down there these gentlemen go in gangs, headed by a pretended clergyman, who gets up protracted and zealous meetings, and while he is taking the congregation upwards on the wings of his eloquence the rank and file make a descent, steal all the horses, and are off before their presence is known.

"James Jenkins," said a schoolmaster to his pupil, "what is an average?" "A thing, sir," answered the scholar, promptly, "that hens lay eggs on." "Why do you say that, you silly boy?" inquired the pedagogue. "Because, sir," said the youth, "I heard a gentleman say the other day as a hen would lay on an average 120 eggs a year."