

tin, rub the surface with a mixture of muriatic acid and alcohol; apply the label with a very thin coating of the paste, and it will adhere almost as well as on glass.

PAINTING, or charring, *green* timber will hasten its decay.

A GALVANIZED wire clothes-line will outlast a dozen cotton or hemp lines, and, as it can be left out-of-doors without injury, will save a great deal of time and trouble now expended in putting out and taking in the common ones. The wire lines are much cheaper in the end than the others, and it will pay the farmer to set some strong posts and buy a suitable line. As the clothes will not freeze to the wire, and there is no danger of its breaking and letting the clothes upon the ground, his wife will be greatly pleased with the change.

A LARGE block cut so as to form two steps, and located at the front gate, will prove a great convenience to the ladies in getting into or out of a wagon.

WATERING TREES.—A correspondent of the NEW YORK TRIBUNE recommends the following method. When trees dry up in summer, never water the top of the ground and thus hasten death, but make a hole with a crowbar, near the trunk, and reaching to the bottom of the tree, pour in water until the whole space under the surface is thoroughly soaked. Then fill the hole with dry earth, and cover the top of the ground with manure or boards to keep it from drying. One such watering will last for a long time.

AMMONIA FOR HOUSEWIVES' USE.—In a farm-house the pantry-shelves will get grimy, and there are very apt to be finger-marks around the door-latches and knobs. It is hard work to scour all the time, and it wears off the paint too. Now if the housewife has a bottle of spirits of ammonia to use, she can take a basin of water and a clean cloth, put on a few drops of the fluid, and easily wipe off all the dirt. This is worth more than half a day's labor, and does not injure the paint. By putting a few drops in the dish-water, the dishes can be easily cleaned. By rubbing the windows with a sponge moistened with ammonia, they can be made to shine like crystal. Ammonia will take the stains off the teaspoons, and a teaspoonful in the mop-pail will do more in washing the kitchen-floor than a large amount of hard labor performed in the ordinary manner.

## RED-LETTER DAYS.

**I**N the old calendars the saints' days were marked with red letters. These days were considered peculiarly fortunate and auspicious, and were often kept as holidays by the people. Had they not been marred by an undue veneration of men the principle and practice would both have been worthy of commendation. The custom is worthy of re-establishment upon a better basis.

In the bustle and haste of modern life there are too few holidays, and these are too often allowed to pass by unobserved. If other generations have paid too much attention to times and seasons, and unduly magnified the days which they have observed, the present generation has certainly gone to the other extreme. We need more holidays—not for popular observance; but for the family circle. We need them to prevent the excessive wear of constant toil, and also to strengthen domestic ties. Each family should have its own days, and a few of the public festivals should be observed.

BIRTHDAYS are entitled to a prominent place in the list of the red-letter days.