

he says, "For my own part I could not bear to live with servants who were to see none of their friends and relations. I should feel I was keeping a prison, and not ruling a household.—*J. J. B., in The Queen.*

A TESTING APPARATUS FOR EXPLOSIVE OILS.—At a recent meeting of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Mr. Howson exhibited a patent naphthometer, or benzine detector. This is the invention of Messrs. H. J. Smith and Woodruff Jones of this city. The instrument consists of a reservoir with a tightly-fitting cover, from the top of which projects a tube, surrounding a wick tube. A thermometer also passes through the cover, and occupies such a position that its bulb comes within a short distance from the bottom of the reservoir. In order to determine the temperature at which the oil gives off sufficient vapour to cause an explosion, the oil to be tested is poured into the reservoir, the wick is lighted, and the instrument is placed on a stove, or over the flame of a lamp. At a temperature which varies in proportion to the quantity of explosive ingredients contained in the oil, the vapour is given off, and, mixing with the air in the reservoir, passes up through the space between the wick tube and the larger tube, and explodes when ignited by the flame, thereby extinguishing the light. The height of the mercury in the thermometer will determine the quality of the oil. The contrivance is very simple and cheap, and enables anyone to ascertain in a few minutes whether an oil is of a quality to be burned with safety.

THE WREN—ITS VALUE.—Among the insect killing birds the wren is perhaps the most useful, for its habits are of the most industrious character. The European wren is nearly the smallest bird there known, and is found prying into holes and crevices, and about old buildings searching for insects. The winter wren, to be found in the Northern and Middle States in winter and often remaining until spring, is thought to be identical with the European wren. Our wrens have a larger tail, and are familiarly known in all parts of the country. They will reside about dwellings and even in crowded cities. We have found that however great the number of wren houses we may place in trees, that every one will have a tenant, and "the more the merrier," for they consume insects only, and are most indefatigable in finding them.—*Working Farmer.*

LOVE OF THE FRENCH FOR FLOWERS.—The passionate love of flowers is a marked characteristic of the Parisians, and the sale of flowers is in Paris an extensive and lucrative branch of trade. It is computed that the various little patches of ground in the vicinity of the French capital, appropriated to floral cultivation, realize an annual income of 32,000,000 francs, and give employment to 500,000 per-

sons. In Paris alone there are no fewer than 284 florists; and on occasions of public festivity their conjoint traffic not unfrequently amounts to 70,000 francs. At a *fete* given last season by one of the foreign ambassadors the cost of the flowers was 22,000 francs.

NATURAL BAROMETERS.—Chick-weed is an excellent Barometer. When the flower expands fully, we are not to expect rain for several hours; should it continue in that state, no rain will disturb the summer's day. When it half conceals its miniature flower the day is generally showery; but if it entirely shuts up, or veils the white flower with its green mantle, let the traveller put on his great coat. The different species of trefoils always contract their leaves at the approach of a storm; so certainly does this take place, that these plants acquire the name of the husbandman's barometer. The tulip, and several of the compound yellow flowers, all close before rain. The tulip, and several of the compound yellow flowers, all close before rain. There is a species of wood-sorrel which doubles its leaves before storms. The bauhinia, or mountain ebony, capial and sensitive plants, observe the same habits.

HAY AND CORN SHRINKAGE BY DRYING.—The loss upon hay weighed July 20th, when cured enough to put in the barn, and again Feb. 20th, has been ascertained to be 27½ per cent. So that hay at \$15 a ton in the field is equivalent to \$20 and upward when weighed from the mow in winter. The weight of cobs in a bushel corn in November ascertained to be 19 lb was only 7½ lbs. in May. The cost of grinding a bushel of dry cobs, counting handling, bagging and miller's charge is about one cent pound. Is the meal worth the money? *Scientific American.*

Genuine tea is said to be growing on a tract of land in Clinton county, Penn. A gentleman, who owns a farm on which the tea is indigenous, says that his attention was called to it by a native Chinese, who declared it to be the genuine China tea plant. The gentleman uses it on his table and no one suspects it not to be the imported article. A gentleman of the medical profession, residing in Crawford county, informed us that he had tested Clinton tea and pronounced it simon pure.

Editorial Notices, &c.

THE MUSEUM.—The Secretary of the 1st of Agriculture has to acknowledge with thanks the receipt from Mr. John Waddell, Bur Farm, Township of Sarnia, County Lanark, of wheat in the