

Braes! Your last speculation is the most mar-  
rowless and sapless of the whole hypothec!

DOCTOR.—You never said a truer word Crab-  
tree! Being confined for a brace of hours to the  
parlour of a country Inn, lately, I was con-  
strained, for lack of better nutriment, to solace  
myself with "The Secretary"—and a more unre-  
deemed cento of trash it was never my misfor-  
tune to peruse!

MAJOR.—The writer does not possess a single  
spark of fancy or imagination. He unwinds his  
transparent plot with all the matter-of-fact sto-  
lidity of a farmer scalding the bristles off a pig,  
or our friend Richard Brown, dispensing a gross  
of steel pens to one of his clients!

LAIRD.—Catch me ever putting trust in a  
newspaper criticism again! But may be after a  
the thing may turn out to be for the best! Wha  
kens but that the coarse common provided for  
puir Girzy's sustentation, may have the blessed  
effect o' sumnering her into a mair nutritious line  
o' reading? Just on the same principle that  
hairs are weaned by rubbing the maternal nip-  
ple wi' bitter aloes, may my sister, honest woman,  
be reformed by the perusal o' "The Secretary,"  
and the lave o' my thriftless stories!

DOCTOR.—At least let us hope for the best!

LAIRD.—So far as I am concerned, the March  
number o' the "*Art-Journal*," abundantly con-  
soles me for the misadventures aforesaid. There  
is a balmy fragrance about Landseer's picture o'  
"*Peace*," which might hae wiled a smile o' plea-  
sure frae Peter Pindar's Pilgrim, when hirpling  
alang wi' his pea-blistered trotters!

MAJOR.—Were you at the Philharmonic Con-  
cert last night Doctor?

DOCTOR.—I was, and very much pleased I was  
with it, some of the singing was really very  
good, and the Instrumental department was ex-  
ceedingly effective.

LAIRD.—What did they gie ye?

DOCTOR.—With every inclination on my part  
to do full justice to the Society, you must excuse  
me entering at present into particulars. I gave out  
a selected tale too many, and the consequence  
is that our statement must be of the shortest.  
Major, I regret very much that I have been  
forced to leave out, for want of room, Mr. Clarke's  
pretty song. The same thing shall not again  
happen, however, Laird you may have just one  
page for Facts, and I shall reserve for Mrs.  
Grundy not more than half that space—and now  
Gentlemen to work.

#### HINTS FOR THE SEASON.

The winter over a great portion of the country  
has been very changeable, and on the whole

what may be called severe upon trees and plants  
ranked as tender; yet up to this time we are not  
aware that fruit-buds have suffered seriously, but  
the most trying periods for these are coming.

Mistakes are often made in uncovering trees  
and plants too early—subjecting them to cold,  
biting winds, and the blighting influence of warm  
days and cold, frosty nights. We advise a *slight*  
covering to remain until the weather be soft and  
genial.

Pruning should be completed as soon as pos-  
sible, so as to be out of the way before trans-  
planting and general garden work comes along.

A sure foundation for successful gardening  
during the coming season, is to be well prepared  
to execute every operation promptly in its sea-  
son. Seizing the very first opportunity for  
planting, and taking time to do it well, is a cer-  
tain means of success.

Roses, flowering shrubs, &c., should be pruned  
and dressed. Many people suppose that Rose  
bushes and shrubs when well established may be  
left to themselves; and the consequence is, they  
become bushy and twiggy, the growth is feeble  
and the flowers indifferent. They need frequent  
prunings, and top dressings of good rich compost  
about their roots, to give them vigorous growth,  
luxuriant foliage, and a profusion and perfection  
of bloom. In pruning both shrubs and Roses, it  
should not be forgotten that some produce  
their blossoms on young wood, and some on wood  
of last year. In the latter case a sufficient quan-  
tity of flowering wood must be left, cutting out  
the older parts.

#### NATIONAL CONSUMPTION OF CROPS.

It seems absolutely astonishing to any one not  
acquainted with the tenacity with which the  
English hold fast to the habit of beer drinking, that  
the enormous consumption of grain in this worse  
than useless beverage, should not engage more  
attention. We have not now at hand the statistics  
showing the amount of this consumption; but  
when we reflect on the millions of laborers that  
daily use large quantities of beer with their  
meals and otherwise, year in and year out, it be-  
comes self-evident that the amount consumed in  
the manufacture of this drink, must far exceed  
the present deficiency in the wheat crops of the  
British kingdom—a manufacture which, as chemi-  
cal analysis has shown, nearly destroys all the  
nutriment of the grain, and, converting it to a  
mere stimulant, increases the strength of the  
labourer about as much as a whip increases the  
strength of a feeble horse.

Independently of the mere consumption of  
grain, so great is the injurious results produced  
by this practice, that many have attributed the  
degradation of a portion of the English laborers,  
to the British aristocratic system. We are sorry  
to see that one of our own countrymen,—the  
editor of the Michigan Farmer,—has fallen into  
this mistake, and written a book called the "Mud  
Cabin," unwisely attacking the most liberal govern-  
ment in Europe, as the cause of this degradation,  
and almost the only one where knowledge is  
generally diffused among all classes so far as they  
choose to acquire it, and where a man may say  
his soul is his own, without endangering his  
liberty or his head. The editor of the Ohio