

for shipping. We think any farmer who is within easy access to a railway station could not make a better investment than planting a few acres of his farm to apple trees.

Too much care cannot be taken in picking and packing, and any farmer who has a good respectable lot and who knows how to handle fruit, need have no hesitation in shipping his apples through on his own account. But before doing so be sure you are sending them through a thoroughly responsible and honest house.

When in England the past summer I was repeatedly told that we need not be afraid of sending too many apples. But the rejoinder always was, be sure they are nice and well packed. I was informed that there was a very bad practice among a great many packers of doing what they termed facing the barrels. This consisted of putting a few very choice apples in the top and bottom of the barrels, and then filling the rest of the barrel with much inferior fruit. A dealer who once buys a brand put up in that way will never touch another of the same brand. Another improvement very much needed is neatly cut stencils of the names of the kinds of apples, and the barrels neatly marked with these, instead of, as in many instances, a common lead pencil, which, long before the apples get to Liverpool, is so badly obliterated that the name of the apple cannot be known without opening the barrels. Another very great improvement would be for each packer to have a neat shipping brand, and use the same from year to year, and by so doing his apples would soon become known and sought after.

With the new year should come new thoughts, fresh aspirations, and fresh resolutions. The great and all-wise Creator did not place us in this world to be idle, indolent, or indifferent to what is going on around us. Neither should we be indifferent about ourselves. Each and every one should have a certain amount of self-respect, dignity and ambition. Self-culture and self-improvement are very important things, and he who loses sight of these will be very apt to descend instead of ascend in the scale of life. We cannot stand still in this life; we are either advancing or receding, and it should be our constant aim to better our condition mentally, morally and physically. By keeping these things before us constantly, many little things and opportunities are embraced that might otherwise be lost.

#### Glanders.

We extract the following from the *Bothwell Times*:

"At the recent session of the Kent County Council a letter from the Chief of Police of Chatham was read, drawing the attention of the Council to the fact that the contagious disease of glanders was prevalent among the horses of the county."

Immediate and vigorous steps should be taken; every animal should be shot in which the disease is developed, and be buried or burned. A heavy penalty should be imposed on any person who takes any horse off his premises in that county which shows the least symptom of mucous on the nose. We cannot be too cautious, as this disease is easily communicated from one animal to another. Man has taken it from horses, and death has been the result.

A writer in the *Atlantic Monthly* for December has been on a visit to Kansas, and gives a very doleful account of the farmers in that State. The date of the writer's visit was in June. He found the people living in shanties, discouraged and suffering many privations; those who bought land of the railroads hopelessly in debt, while those who took up homesteads were equally miserable. He found crops uncertain, the prices unremunerative, and the farmers only staying because they lacked the means to leave the country.

#### Agricultural Societies.

The present month the election of officers of the different Societies will take place. It is the duty of every farmer to attend the annual meetings, to independently exercise his judgment and ascertain all he can about the standing of the society; and if there be any grievances to complain of, to let them be known; to suggest any measures he may deem proper for the advancement of the interests of the society in his locality. All observing men must notice that in most sections many good farmers do not attend the annual meeting; they complain that they could do no good. The packing of meetings by secret societies should by all means be prevented. They are apt to discourage men who would be a credit to the society and tend to advance the prosperity of your calling. Every good measure or suggestion should be taken up and treated on its own merits. Every attempt to silence free discussion tends to the injury of all agricultural societies. Some of our readers may be vigorous supporters of private societies, and may be offended at such remarks; but you may depend that the upright and truthful men will approve of the suggestion—that is, to discard all secret bonds and act unanimously for this great cause, the advancement of our agricultural prosperity. It is of importance that you should elect honorable men as directors. Encourage those who have endeavored to do the best they can for your interests; your presence and sanction encourages good men. We never can expect to have anything perfect on this earth, therefore look over all small defects if the main objects of the societies are pursued for the best.

It is most probable that the Government will enact a new law to govern the Provincial and other societies. The acts of the Provincial Board should be, and will in time be fully discussed; their money has been squandered or stolen; their honor cannot be maintained by law or by the free, independent observers of public affairs. The various devices to conceal their acts will be unveiled; if not, we can only pity the honest workers of the soil. Be up and doing. Show yourselves to be free men, unchained and unbiassed; do your duty to yourself, your family and your country boldly, and you will have nothing to fear. It is your duty to attend the annual meeting and to be heard there. If you are right in your views be not afraid of expressing yourself. Those that may for a time attempt to keep you silent will take up your cause. You will be able to discern a dishonest man in this manner; they cannot look an honorable man squarely in the face.

EFFECTS OF GOOD MANURE, EVEN IN A BAD SEASON.—The profits from good culture and heavy manuring are more fully shown in unfavorable seasons, such as the last was in England. J. R., a Yorkshire farmer, writes to the *Agricultural Gazette* as follows:—"Three weeks ago I threshed an 11-acre field of white wheat, out of stook, and it yielded 5 qr. 1 bush. of marketable corn per acre, which I sold to a local miller in Ripon market just three weeks since for 55s. per qr. of 36 stone, making a little over £14 per acre. The field, which is a strong loam, was black oats the previous year, yielding 8 qr. per acre. I should not have expected such a crop of wheat, and no doubt it would have been greater if the summer had been favorable—if I had not manured heavily, which I did, to the amount of £3 per acre—viz., guano, rape dust and salt, sown broadcast and plowed in. I then afterwards sowed 5 pecks of seed per acre. I am a firm believer in thin sowing, which I think is one cause of successful farming. I may say that the crop was not in the least laid. It is remarkable that out of the whole field I had only 1 qr. of tail corn."

#### Butter-Making Revolutionized.

The following article, which we abridge from the *Mail* (England)—a very high authority—treats of a new discovery in butter-making. Dairying is admitted to be the branch of agricultural industry which the farmers of Britain look upon as the mainstay against foreign competition. New processes, new apparatus, new systems are introduced in the cream-raising, butter-making, and cheese-making of the dairies and the strictest attention of the proprietor is being given to the entire process. The improved practice is extended and people are awakened to the importance of keeping at home the millions of money now spent in foreign dairy produce, so that even gentlemen by no means dependent upon farming are starting herds of dairy cows.

Innumerable trials have been made of the proposals of inventors, and at last, a process of preserving butter has been proved successful, the result involving great consequences which no one yet can adequately foresee. On the 24th of July, Mr. G. M. Allender, the managing director of the company, put a churning of butter to the test, treating it in accordance with a new patent brought before him. The butter, in a muslin cloth, was placed in a firkin, without a particle of salt, and every precaution taken to insure that there could be no tampering with the experiment. The firkin remained on the premises for three months, and, when examined on October 24, it was as sound and sweet as when first put in. Practically this butter was exposed to the atmosphere the whole time, seeing that air found free admittance into the firkin. Without treatment the butter would have gone completely putrid; but on smelling and tasting it we found it perfectly sweet, firm, and so excellent in flavor that we could not tell it from butter made the day before. Experts in the business, both in this country and in Ireland, have had samples, and pronounce the preservation wonderful; the only difference they find being that newly made butter (and this first-rate of its kind) has a peculiar aroma not quite equalled in the preserved butter; while the latter is considered a little "dead," so that just a trace of salt in it would be an improvement.

The effect will be to drive all salt butter out of the market. In order to make it keep, the Irish and all imported butter is now mixed with 5 or 6 per cent. of salt. Under the new system 1 per cent. of salt will be ample for the purpose, and the cost of the preservative will not exceed half-a-crown for a 56lb. firkin, or little more than a half-penny per pound. The difference in value between a very mildly-salted and a coarse and strongly-pickled butter is at least 4d. per pound, and hence it appears possible that fortunes may be made by substituting preserved for salted butter, alike in the immense quantity shipped from Ireland and in that brought from foreign countries. It is not possible to estimate the gain of being able to displace from our tables and from our cookeries the objectionable salt butter, the change being especially grateful to voyagers on ship-board and to countries, such as Brazil, which import the whole of their butter.

One great feature of the trade in future will be the purchase and storage of butter in summer, when prices are low, for sale in winter, when prices rule higher—with considerable effect towards equalizing the two seasoned prices to consumers. Preserved butter, of course, will not be able to compete with the choicest new fresh butter; but, nevertheless, the result of displacing salted butter must be immense. The great merit of the invention consists in its simplicity. The butter, worked with a trifling quantity of the patent (alleged to be perfectly harmless) directly after churning, keeps good and sweet for months without any particular packing or any care bestowed upon its situation or temperature, except that like other butter, it has to be kept in a moderately cool place.

Probably this new odorless, tasteless and innocuous antiseptic may work other wonders with meat, fish and like perishable food commodities.

The 25 Arostock (Maine) starch factories have made nearly 10,000 tons of starch this season. Fully \$500,000 has been paid to the farmers for potatoes.