

LEAP YEAR.

We extract the following:

The ladies have, for the past eighteen centuries, enjoyed special privileges during leap year. In an ancient Saxon law it is enacted: "Albeit, as often as leap years dothe occure, the woman holding prerogative over the menne in matter of courtship, love, and matrimonee; so that when the ladie proposeth it shall not be lawful for menne to say her nae, but shall receive her proposal in all good courtisie." Girls, this law is still in force.

Perhaps in former ages they considered that men were three times as fast as the girls, and that one quarter of the men would not marry unless induced to do so by the ladies. If that was the reason of such a law being enacted, we think it not far wrong that they should be allowed some privileges. We know not whether to say a quarter, half or three-quarters of the men have to be induced by the ladies to marry, but we do say that the ladies who step beyond the proper limits of inducement are often those that make the worst of wives, and instead of being helps to man are the causes of necessary poverty, sin and degradation.

Girls be not hasty, be modest, industrious, frugal, dutiful, and the men will find you out. Such are wanted. If you are indolent and extravagant, seeking only after gaudy show and flippant pleasures, you are on the wrong track for matrimony.

Protection of Game.

Farmers and the public generally will bear in mind that the new Game Act protects game of any description from being trapped or snared under a heavy penalty. Quite a number of Quail have recently been brought to this city by farmers, having been caught about the barn yards, &c., by means of traps or snares, consequently laying themselves open for a heavy punishment.

We would be glad to hear of a few of such miserable, mean, low creatures being brought before the Chief Magistrate. It would be a warning also to those that are in the habit of purchasing.

A wolf made a descent on a pig-pen in Washington, Iowa, in search of fresh pork, and was himself made food for pork by two old sows, who attacked and soon killed the invader.

The New York Express calls attention to the fact that the ship builders of the States are quite unable to compete with the Canadian ship-builders, and that a vessel which would not cost less than \$85 per ton in the States, can be built in Canada for \$50 per ton.

A CHAPTER ON WORDS.

Agriculture is primarily from two Greek words—but incorporated into English through the Latin—which still retain their original signification, viz., "field" and "tilling." Colony is from the same root as "culture," and the original word is often used by Virgil in the sense of "inhabiting" or "founding" a State. Culture has a higher signification when applied to the mind. By an appropriate figure, we carry up the idea of tilling the soil to the mind, and make it the field whereon to plough, sow and reap. From "ager" comes acre, which, in all languages except English, means any open plowed field. Hence the beautiful conception of the Germans of calling the burial place "God's acre." Its use was first prescribed to a definite portion of land in the time of Edward III. The terms "Agriculturist" and "Farmer" are nearly synonymous in the United States. In England the agriculturist is one who merely advances theories of farming, and the farmer is he who actually holds the plough. Farm, is a Saxon word, and originally signified "provisions," "produce." Rent being paid in the productions of the soil, the word was gradually transferred from these to the soil itself.

All the ordinary and most common farming utensils are Saxon words, as "plough," "rake," "spade," "hoe," "drag," "harrow," "cradle," "scythe," &c. The elementary idea in the word plough, is to "plug," "thrust," showing the simplicity of the origin of the word, and the connection of the meaning with its use. Arable, and the Latin word for "plough," have the same root. Harrow and rake have the same derivative origin. "Cradle" receives its name from its rocking motion while in use.

Some words are a small volume of history. In the early ages, before money was employed as a representative value, exchanges were made by means of cattle and flocks. Servius Tullius first issued coin with the image of cattle stamped upon it. The Latin name for cattle is "pecus," whence is derived our term "pecuniary."—[Educator.

Education is a companion which no misfortune can depress, no clime destroy, no enemy alienate, no despotism enslave. At home a friend, abroad an introduction, in solitude a solace, in society an ornament. It chastens vice, it guides virtue, it gives grace and government to genius.

Shall we Continue to Wash our Sheep.

Though this may appear rather a cool subject for this season of the year, still it is one which may be profitably talked about at any time. While the practice is admitted by all to be an unmitigated nuisance, with scarcely a redeeming feature, it still prevails with the great majority of wool-growers. The case of the Ohio farmer who sent extra men into the

brook with poles to stir up the mud while his sheep were being washed, and the Vermont man who drove his flock through the stream may be extremes, still the widely disseminated practice and belief seems to be that sheep should be hustled through so unnatural an element as cold water with extreme celerity. While all will admit the practice to be injurious to the sheep, how many of our middle-aged men now tortured with rheumatic difficulties, or tottering in the infirmities of decay and death by that scourge of our Northern climate—consumption, can trace the first cause to a cold contracted by exposure while washing sheep. The experience of the writer has been that sheep sheared the first of May will come into the winter in better condition, than when sheared about the middle of June, that quite a percentage of wool, always lost off when sheep carry their fleeces till late enough in the season to admit of washing, is saved by early shearing.

With sheep shearing but two or three pounds of wool, it would not make so much difference; but, with the long and compact fleeces of the present day, any one who reflects upon it a moment will see that sheep carrying around such fleeces through nearly two of the spring months, washed half of the time with rains, cannot thrive as they would if relieved of them.

To sum up, then, in favor of early shearing: the hard and injurious process of washing is entirely saved; there is no loss of wool through the spring months, which is large, especially in bushy pastures; and the sheep are all the time improving instead of losing in condition. Other considerations suggest themselves; but, while nearly all agree that it would be better to shear all our sheep unwashed, what consideration can there be sufficiently powerful to induce people to adhere to the old practice? Simply the unjust discrimination made by wool dealers and manufacturers between the washed and unwashed article. Farmers very well know that wool which has been wet in the brooks whether washed or not, will command current rates as washed wool, while of the man who omitted the wetting process, buyers will demand one-third shrink, when the wool is really worth almost as much as the so-called washed article. Manufacturers will soon learn, it is hoped, that they are thus paying a premium for fraud, and exacting a bounty of the man who omits the very purifying process of ducking his sheep in a puddle. The day is soon coming when wool, whether washed or unwashed, will be bought, like any other article,—according to its real value; and if manufacturers instead of adhering to the odious one-third shrinkage rule, would buy unwashed wool and claim only a fair discount, they would obtain better bargains than they do under the present practice, and would thus encourage farmers to put up their wool in this manner, which I know would be more satisfactory to them and all concerned.—Vermont Chronicle.

There is a strong counter-current in the tide of Irish emigration, and nearly every steamer bound for the old country takes out four hundred or more returning emigrants.