

## EXPERIENCE THE BEST INSTRUCTION IN AGRICULTURE.

Extract from a communication from the Hon. Geo. Geddes in the *Country Gentleman*:-

"The house for caring for the poor of the county of Onondaga, State of New York, has for some thirty-five years or more been connected with a garden of several acres, in which the vegetables for the establishment were raised. About three acres has especially been devoted a large part of this time to corn (maize) and potatoes. The pig pens and horse stables connected with the establishment furnished an abundant supply of manure produced by grain-fed hogs and horses. Certainly these circumstances were all favorable to continued production; and, when we add that the soil was made from the disintegration of the Marcellus shales mixed with drift consisting of broken down lime rocks and the gypseous shales of the salt group that outcrop not far to the north of the locality, which had been transported by

the currents of the drift-forming period to, and mixed with, the underlying shales, we learn that the soil was, chemically and mechanically considered, of the best of the lands of central New York. It had every advantage of exposure to the action of the morning's sun, and, in fact, every advantage consistent with this climate belonged to this favored piece of land that would have been described in the ordinary language of farmers as a dark, clayey loam.

"This land, with all the advantages it possessed, has at last failed to produce reasonably good crops of corn or potatoes. The land became dry, broke up into heavy, massive lumps too hard to break and pulverize by any ordinary tools used on a farm. The corn would start well in the early part of the season and make considerable growth, then take a sickly appearance, and prematurely ripen, and produce but a small crop of inferior grain, and this was very nearly the history of the potato crop, till finally both had to be abandoned as no longer paying for the use of the land and labour devoted to it.

"The managers of this land, instead of consulting a chemist, resolved to try another crop, and see whether the land would refuse to mature it. Wheat was sown in the spring of 1872, and a crop of nearly thirty bushels to the acre was harvested, of a quality so good that a considerable portion of it was sold at \$2 a bushel for seed. With the wheat was sown some red clover and timothy, and now (May, 1873) the clover is most promising.

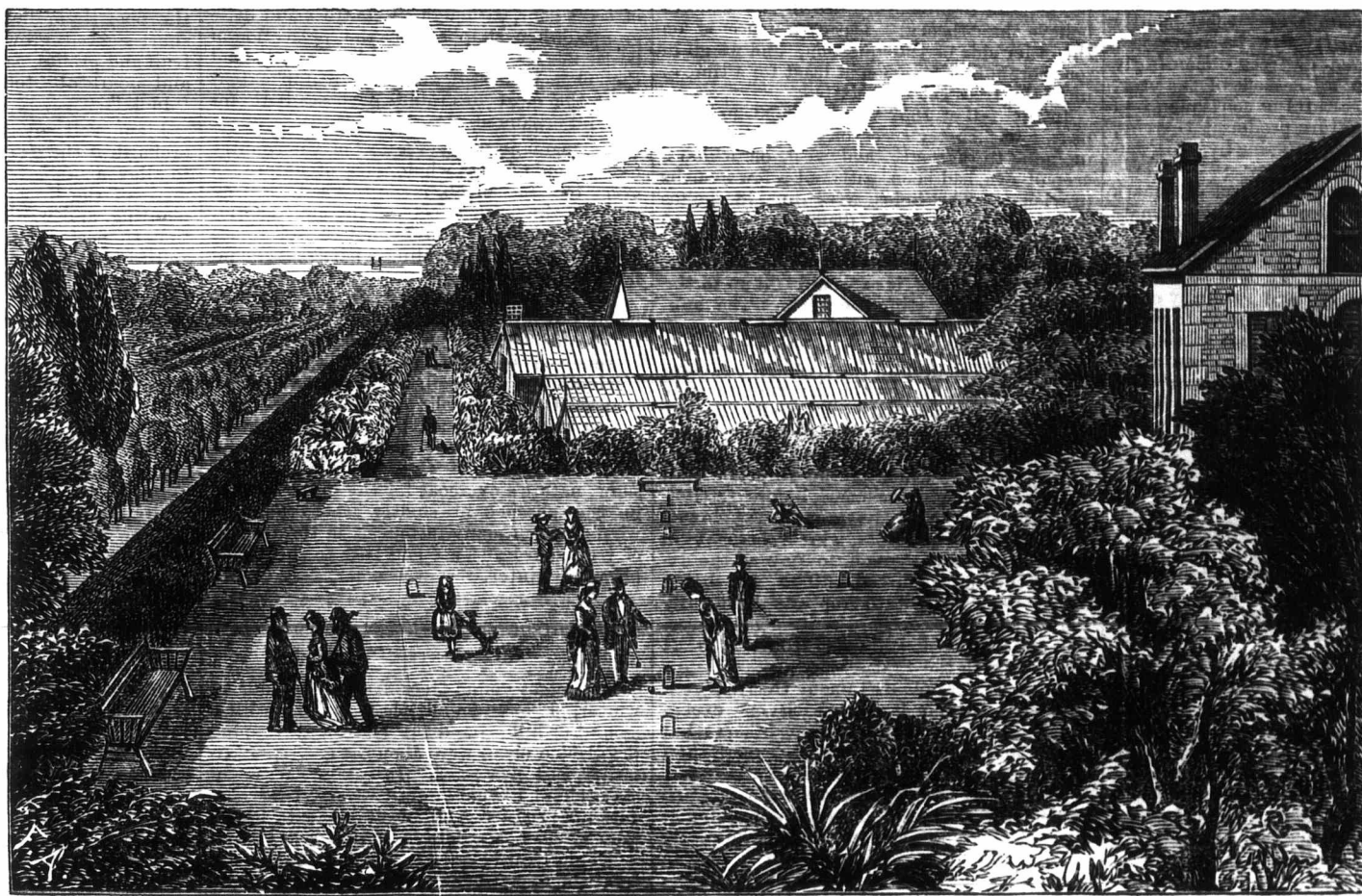
"How does science account for the facts set forth in this statement of the failure of this garden to continue the production of paying crops of corn and potatoes and for its production of such a superior crop of wheat?

"Professor Charles A. Goessman, Ph. D., of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, in his lecture before the New York State Agricultural Society at its last annual meeting, said:-"The barnyard manure is quite deservedly still the main fertilizer in ordinary farm operations, yet its peculiar value rests to-day more on its beneficial influence on the physical condi-

tion of the soil than in its effect on the chemical composition of the latter."

To DESTROY BUGS on squash and cucumber vines, dissolve a tablespoonful of saltpetre in a pailful of water; put one pint of this around each hill, shaping the earth that it will not spread much, and the thing is done. Use more saltpetre if you can afford it—it is good for vegetable, but death to animal life. The bugs burrow in the earth at night and fail to rise in the morning. It is also good to kill the "grub" in peach trees, only use twice as much, say a quart or two to each tree. There was not a yellow or blistered leaf on twelve trees to which it was applied last season. No danger of killing any vegetable with it. A concentrated solution applied to beans makes them grow wonderfully well.—From Colonial Farmer.

If clover be sown alone, either for swine or seed, not less than fifteen pounds should be sown (twenty would be better) on a perfectly smooth surface, and without any other crop. The ground should be rolled flat, when in condition, and pastured when the crop gets sufficiently large, if the soil be firm. Do not allow stock to occupy the land when there is any danger of its being poached.



THE TORONTO NURSERIES.

## The Toronto Nurseries.

The above illustrates part of Mr. Leslie's house and grounds, situated on the Kingston Road, two and a half miles from the market square, Toronto. We took our artist to make a sketch of these premises. Of course all the buildings and grounds cannot be taken at one view, as they embrace 150 acres of land and are the largest nurseries in Canada.

The beautiful hedges to be seen on these grounds will repay a person's visit.—Fruits, flowers and vegetables are there in profusion; the novelties in plants, trees and shrubs, and the view of the different kinds as they appear on these grounds is quite pleasing and instructive. Should any of our readers have a half day to spare when in Toronto, we would recommend a trip for pleasure and profit to the nurseries. Mr. Leslie always takes pleasure in showing us around his nurseries, and will be pleased to show you also.

When last with him he showed to us the dwarf apple called the Hawthorn

Dean, known in England as the Poor Man's Apple. This tree is dwarfish in its nature, and admirably adapted to small gardens; it bears earlier than any other apple, in fact, some have borne the year after planting. The trees we saw were well laden. Mr. L. says they are the most prolific, the surest croppers, and the fruit is both suitable for the table and baking purposes. It is fit for and should be in every garden.

Mr. L. called our attention to his potatoes. On one piece of land, where he had raised a crop of evergreens, not a potato bug was to be seen, and on the potatoes that were planted in other parts the bugs were thick; perhaps some of our learned scientific writers might favor us with the cause of this anomaly. The potatoes were all the same kind.

Mr. Leslie does not believe in having unproductive ground on his place. If he is able to clear a piece of the land of trees, or has any small space left on his grounds, he puts in white beans. "Mr. Weld,"

said Mr. Leslie, "you should call the attention of your readers to the profits in white beans. They are profitable and nutritious, a good substitute for potatoes or meat, and more profitable than wheat-raising. The farmers do not raise half enough or use half enough of them."

Mr. Leslie has 35 varieties of new seedling potatoes which he is trying, having raised them from the ball; we think he will have a hard task to beat the Early Rose, though he may raise something that will open the eyes of our cousins across the lines.

Mr. L. showed us some of his crops that were manured from the hog pen; he says there is nothing like hog manure for giving a rank growth and strength to the land. We noticed the marked result; the growth was double where the hog manure had been used. Horse and cow manure were used side by side with it, but the superior growth was most remarkable where the hog manure had been used.—This, no doubt, is caused by the amount

of grain consumed by the hogs. If we farmers would put more grain into our stock and thus into our land, we might find our nugget in the shape of better crops, better samples, better stock and better prices.

If any of our stockmen, manufacturers, farmers, or others desire to have a sketch of their stock, implements, machinery, residences, &c., we have engaged an English artist to make drawings for us, who would do the work. Several are now made, and our engraver is employed in cutting some that will appear in future issues of this journal. Should you wish an engraving you can let us know.

LAST month we offered prizes for essays on three different subjects. For one of the prizes there has been as yet no competition, and among the essays for one of the others two were unsigned. For these reasons we defer the awarding of the prizes until next month.