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Colonial Farmer.

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Correspondence.

For the Colonial Farmer.

RURAL TOPICS.

WHAT A NEW JERSEY FARMER SAYS.

He wrote to the "Country Gentleman" as follows, in regard to Hungarian grass: "My soil was a dry, gravelly loam, the field containing 19 acres. In 1875 I had cut on this field 5 loads of hay; to be sure the season was excessively dry, but the land was poor and the grass pretty well run out. Early in May last I plowed it thoroughly and and rather deeper than ever it had been plowed before; thence to the 6th of June whenever a weed appeared it was harrowed. There had been considerable sorrel and the weed commonly known here as "five finger" —in fact these had taken almost entire possession of the ground. On June 6th I sowed 15 acres of the field with Hungarian—sowing a bushel to the acre broadcast by hand, and at the same time applied with a broadcasting machine 500 pounds of Lister's ground bone to the acre and harrowed all in together with a Thomas harrow. The bone cost me $8.50 per acre on the ground. The rest of the field was put in with other crops. Again the season was exceedingly dry, but one good rain falling from the time the seed was sown until it was cut, and only other two slight rains. We finished taking it in on August 12th, and had twenty-six loads of fine hay —not less than 28 tons off the 15 acres, against 6 tons of the whole the year before. The Hungarian was fine in appearance, quite equal to any hay I had, and the experience of the winter is that all stock—horses, cows, sheep and calves—eat it as readily and have done as well on it as any fodder we have. The ground was left in splendid condition, clean and mellow, and in September was seeded to wheat with a drill, again drilling in about 300 pounds of ground bone per acre. We commenced cutting the grass in nine weeks from the day it was sown. In an ordinary season it should not stand longer than 50 to 56 days. A wooden revolving rake should be used in raking it, the wire teeth of the wheel-rake tearing many of the stools out by the roots on mellow ground." This statement is a fair representation of what can generally be done with this kind of grass. In this case the land was poor, and a bushel of seed to the acre was sown; but in many cases a half a bushel seems to be enough. It sells in New York for $1.00 per bushel.

SETTING RASPBERRIES.

In field culture raspberries may be grown without any trellis to support them. Set them six feet apart, and cultivate both ways with a horse. As the canes grow up clip them off when about two feet high the first season, to cause them to grow low and bushy. When they are older and the canes grow with more vigor, clip them off at two and a half or three feet high; and the mere pinching off of the ends of the canes suffices. It is necessary to pinch back the canes once in ten days till they cease to grow tall. If this system of pinching back be carefully attended to, the canes will grow short and stubby, and stand up against any wind. Another way is to set the plants three feet apart in rows six feet wide, and make a trellis for each row from four to six feet high, the latter height being best, but rather expensive. The posts need not be over three inches square at the base, if the wood be durable. Set them eight feet apart, and put on only three or four slats 16 feet long, one and a half inches wide, sawed from inch boards; or the posts may be set twelve feet apart, and wire used instead of the slats. I notice some rather extravagant accounts of large crops of raspberries as follows:—" Mr. —— sold from 650 hills of the Highland Hardy that netted $400. He picked 360 quarts at one picking. Mr. —— from 1,000 hills picked 2,000 quarts which sold in New York for $600." This is published in one of our most reliable agricultural and horticultural papers, but the probability is that it is a gross exaggeration. If this statement is true, there is no certainty that the Highland Hardy will produce such crops away from the Hudson river, where the above crops were said to have been grown. There is no certainty of any variety being a success anywhere till fully tested, as the soil and climate settle that question, consequently, I advise fruit growers to buy small quantities of varieties of raspberries to test them before making large plantations.

IMPROVING FARMS.

How few farmers improve their farms to the extent they might do, if they had the requisite energy and perseverance! Let us suppose a case, Mr. A. buys a farm that is "run down," the land is poor, the farm out of repair, the house going to ruin, the barn leaky, no orchard, no garden worthy of the name, fields grown up to briars, no underdraning ever thought of, swamps in various places, land rocky, or too rough for a mowing machine—all the typical character of a man who is not fit to own a rod of land. Ten years pass, and we again examine this farm; and what do we behold? The rocky and rough fields are as smoothe as a lawn; the grass is luxuriant; marshes and swales have disappeared by ditching and underdraining; fine fences over the entire farm greet the eye; a young orchard is just coming into bearing: the dwelling is painted and blinded; shade and fruit trees adorn the yard; the barn and out-houses look comfortable, and are in good repair; a substantial picket fence surroundes the house and garden, and everything denotes thrift and comfort! How was this great improvement effected? Simply by persistent labor at odd times, when crops did not need special attention, and the improved crops from year to year, obtained by a thorough system of farming, paid the entire expenses. Had Mr. B. or Mr. D. bought this farm, it is probable that it would today be the same old forlorn and "run down" place. It is *energy and brains* that effect such results; and many farmers could do the same if they would *wake up* and bestir themselves.

GROWING CARROTS.

Of all root crops carrots are the most nutritious and best for cows and horses. They give a richness and fine color to the cream that nothing else fed to cows ever equalled; and in the winter a peck or half bushel, fed to cows daily is as good as, or better than an ordinary feed of meal; and when we consider that from 500 to 1000 bushels can be grown from an acre, it needs no lengthy argument to show that they are profitable. "But," says farmer A., "I've tried growing them, and it cost me more to weed them than they were worth." Yes, I know how you managed. You did not prepare your land for them, by heavy manuring the previous year, and growing a crop of potatoes on it, and thoroughly destroying the weeds, and allowing none to go to seed. If you had done this, and had put on manure enough for two crops, your potatoes would have paid all or more than the expenses, and then the land would have been in good condition for the carrots, as it would not have required any manure that season, and you would not have found it troublesome and expensive to keep the weeds down. I have frequently mixed the seed with sand and kept it moist a week, setting the pan in the sun by day and in the house near the kitchen fire by night, applying a little tepid water from time to time, and as soon as the least sign of sprouting appeared, I had the land made ready, then I dried the seed in the sun by spreading it on large trays, then sowing it by hand; and in three days it was above the ground and the carrots grew rapidly ahead of the few weeds that appeared, and the crop was kept free of weeds with very little labor. Carrots require a deep, mellow soil, and should be sown in drills about 15 inches apart for hand hoeing and 30 inches to be cultivated with a horse. Sow at the time of planting corn, or a few days earlier.

MANGOLDS OR BEETS.

Mangolds (sugar beets) are quite as profitable to grow as carrots. They require the same rich, mellow soil free from an excess of weeds, to be sown in drills 18 inches apart for hand-hoeing, and 30 inches for the horse cultivator. Sow the seed with a seed-sower, to drop about two inches apart, and the plants to be thinned out to stand about ten inches apart. The variety that is most profitable to grow is the yellow globe. Sow from early in May to June 1st. An acre often produces 1,000 bushels to be fed raw to cows and other cattle, and cooked with meal to swine. The weeding is not troublesome, if you take them in hand before they get ahead of the beets; but never use fresh stable manure, full of the seeds of weeds and grass, on land sown the same season to root crops, but enrich it the year previous.

REVERSE THE PLOUGH COTTER.—Below I give what I consider one of the grandest improvements in using the coulter on ploughs. A Shaker farmer at Mount Lebanon told me that in breaking up and deeply ploughing an old pasture, where he was using three yoke of oxen, the reversal of the coulter, so as to give it a drawing instead of a pushing cut, made the difference of draught of one pair of oxen. The idea is not patented—it belongs to farmers.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

The fall wheat crop in the vicinity of Guelph, Ont., is in a healthy state, very little having suffered during the winter.

Selections.

What Peter Henderson Knows about the Effect of Blue Light on Plants.

Five years ago, (though utterly skeptical to its value,) I, at the earnest solicitation of a friend, used a *blue* transparent wash on the glass of one of my greenhouses, thus changing the glass practically into blue; on the glass of another house, of similar size, I used whitewash. Both greenhouses were filled with plants of a similar character. In a few weeks we found that the plants in the house under the blue glass were "drawing," or spindling up, more than the white, and on examination of a thermometer, placed in each house, it was found that, during the first two weeks in June, the average temperature, under the blue glass, was 90°, while under the white it was 80°. This was just such a result as might have been expected, the darkened glass *absorbed* the sun's rays, and the heated glass gave off its heat to the interior of the house, while the whitened glass *reflected* them, that was all. The temperature was simply increased under the blue glass, and to the great detriment of the plants, for all cultivators know that in our hot summer months, the difficulty we have to contend against is too high a temperature. If Gen. Pleasanton started to force his grapery in midwinter, his blue glass would be apparently beneficial—not because it was *blue*, but because it would assist him in getting a higher temperature, which would, *at that season*, be desirable; or, for the same reason, his pigs might feel somewhat more comfortable and fatten more quickly. But were he to carry on the culture of either under the blue glass into midsummer, both pigs and grapes would be likely to remonstrate. Upwards of 30 years ago, it was claimed that seeds would germinate, and cuttings root, quicker under dark-colored than under light-colored glass; this is no doubt true, and from the same cause—an increased temperature under the dark glass, but all who have had experience in such matters, well know that this "forcing" process is at the health of the subjects so treated, unless indeed they are plants indigenous to tropical countries, to which a high temperature is natural. To claim that blue glass, or any other colored glass, has any properties capable of affecting health, in other manner than what is due to an increased temperature, produced by any other means is undoubtedly false.

Mr. Henderson no doubt assigns the proper reasons for whatever seemingly favorable influence blue glass may have upon the plants growing beneath it. That there is any peculiar power in the blue ray to accelerate plant growth, which our readers are well aware depends primarily upon the decomposition of carbonic acid, liberating the oxygen and the assimilation of the cabon, is disproved by the results obtained by various careful experimenters. Indeed, the rays of the blue end of the spectrum are much less favorable to the decomposition of carbonic acid by plants, than yellow rays, and either alone greatly inferior to all the rays together—or white light. The experiments of Pfeffer (Sachs's *Lehrbuch de Botanik*, 1875), show that the amount of decomposition under white light being 100, the red-orange rays had a decomposing power equal to 32.1; the yellow, 46.1; green, 15.0, while the blue and violet rays are only 7.6. We were quite amused with the strong common sense view of a friend, who, in speaking of the subject, remarked: "if blue light were best for plant growth, the Creator would have provided it in the beginning." Should any of our readers desire to give their plants blue light instead of white, we would warn them that its application is patented! Blue rays are an essential part of white light, and some court may yet decide that the use of the greater involves the less, and we are all infringing upon the patent. At last accounts white light is not yet covered by a patent, but one can not tell what may happen. —*Am Agriculturist.*

Cooling off suddenly when heated sends many of our farmers' youths to an early tomb. It is often a matter of surprise that so many farmers' boys and girls die of consumption. It is thought that abundant exercise in the open air is directly opposed to that disease. So it is; but judgment and knowledge of the laws of health are essential to the preservation of health under any circumstances. When over-heated cool off slowly—never in a strong draught of air. Gentle fanning, especially if the face is wet with cold water, will soon produce a delightful coolness, which leaves no disagreeable results.

Heavy frosts and great damage to fruits are reported in Central and Southern Illinois.

Economy of Green Manuring.

The economy and desirability of green crop manuring over all other methods, excepting irrigation, is evident from their low cost and availability to all; from the large quantity of nitrogen and valuable chemicals obtained at lower cost than by any other manure; from the superior cultivation the land receives during this process, and finally because the poorest land can be redeemed in one year by the ability to plough under three crops in a single season, or by planting rye, buckwheat and corn, thus supplying all the minerals demanded by any crop.

The best practical illustration of the value of green manuring is furnished by some of the finest farming lands in New York State, that are producing more now than they did twenty-five years ago, and yet have been treated with clover only during the past seventy-five years, furnished excellent crops in the rotation of wheat, oats, corn, barley and grass. The best method of handling clover for green manuring is to sow the seed early and mow or plough under about the middle of June; if mown, let it remain spread over the ground as a mulch and top dressing, and a second crop will mature sufficiently by the last of August to mow again and plough under in September.

Clover and its roots average a washed weight of two and one-quarter pounds to the square foot, or forty-nine tons per acre. Rye and corn will furnish two crops in one season by ploughing the rye under when in the milk, then sowing one and one half bushels of corn per acre, cutting it and permitting it to remain as a top dressing during the winter.

The great value of rye as a green manure consists in the fact that its component parts are nearly the same as stable manure, ton for ton, except a slight differing in phosphoric acid. Rye will grow where no other crop can; rye and buckwheat do well together, and cutting the buckwheat when in blossom will furnish a second crop. Oats and barley are valuable as green manures, barley being richer than any grain or grass in potash or phosphoric acid. Oats will yield the greatest weight in straw and grain if cut in the milk.

Green manures gather daily supplies of moisture, especially if on the surface, feeding the organic world with nourishing food or blood, which cannot be obtained from ordinary manure when ploughed under. The latter often remains worthless from dry rot, or heat produced from lack of moisture needed to bring out its value. Another decided advantage possessed by green manures is the large amount of water they contain for supplying the growing plants through drought, while other manures only consume the water in the soil.

WHEN TO SEED DOWN TO GRASS.—I have not a doubt that August is the best time. Grass sowed then looks well now, though it hardly started perceptibly before frost, and it appeared to grow but little after that. Even that sowed with late rye is starting now finely, and will stand a drouth much better than any spring sown grass possibly can. Oats seem so much a necessity to horses, that I have favored seeding down with that crop, and raise generally only rye enough for what straw we need. But last summer's experience is a warning. I met Mr. Barstowe, of Norwich, Ct., a life-long dealer in implements and seeds for farmers, and he appealed to me to know what time of the year it was best to sow grass seed. With the manner of Sir Oracle I said *August*,—and, it seems, confirmed some advice which he had just been giving. For my part I was very glad also to be confirmed in my view by so experience I an observer. Rather than sow grass seed with oats, and take the chances of the summer, I think it will pay to plow the oat stubble, and sow the grass and clover together as early as the oats can be gotten off the land. —*Am. Agriculturist.*

The following, though not new, is said to be a sure way to thin out hawks, if not to get rid of them entirely:—As the season is approaching when hawks are most destructive to young poultry, a method of catching and killing these marauders will be in order. It is a well-known fact that a hawk will always alight on some conspicuous place close to the poultry-yard, from which to swoop down upon his victim. Taking advantage of this, erect a pole with a flat surface at the top just large enough to hold a strong steel trap. Fasten this trap by a chain to a staple in the pole, and await results. No bait will be needed, for the hawk will be quite certain to alight on the trap and be caught. A gentleman who has tried this method has succeeded in killing all the hawks in his neighborhood, and now can raise poultry without loss except by accident.

Trees for Shelter on Farms.

As the wintry blasts whistle around our dwelling, we thank God for His many gifts, and, above all others, for fire and shelter; and as the winds moan through the pines and spruces, and spend their force on them, we think of the many farm-houses on bleak hill-sides, where the primeval forests have been cut down to make way for the plough, and regret that so many houses are left without trees or shrubs to break the wind or relieve the eyes, though here and there one does meet a house nestling cosily in a group of evergreens, but they are the exceptions, not the rule, as they ought to be. Much has been written of late about the wholesale destruction of forests, and the climatic changes which result therefrom: protracted droughts in summer, the drying up of water courses, the destruction of fruit by late frosts, and even the scarcity of insectivorous birds, which may be partly attributed to this cause, for we know by experience that birds always select localities where they can find the best shelter.

The intelligent farmer regards the birds as his friends, even those who are not purely insectivorous; but if he wants their help he must provide for their protection, not only by excluding from his fields those thoughtless marauders who scour the country with dog and gun, but by the provision of suitable shelter for them. There are few farms of such limited area that space enough could not be spared for this purpose, and that with actual profit in the long run. A group of cedars on some bare knoll on the farm will pay for itself in the increased comfort afforded to cattle, to say nothing of the improvement of the landscape and the benefit derived from the birds that are sure to come for the berries they yield, and probably to build their nests and cheer the husbandman with their sweet notes.

There are many fence corners and headlands allowed to be grown over with poison ivy and noxious weeds, whose seeds are annually wafted over the fields to make additional work on the farm, where a few spruces or arbor vitæs, if planted, would be both useful and ornamental. Cold winds generally prevail from the north and north-west, and belts of evergreen planted on the exposed sides of buildings and stock-yards will prove a comfort to man and beast. An evergreen hedge will turn more wind than a board fence.

As the season for planting trees and evergreens is approaching, we would try to impress on farmers the advantages to be derived from them for shade and shelter. Plant plenty of them. Cattle love to feed in their shelter in stormy weather, and to rest in their shade in summer. Where stock-raising is carried on, shade and shelter are as essential as plenty of water. Norway Spruce, American Arbor Vitæ, Australian and white Pine, are about the best to plant. April and May are good months to plant in. The trees above mentioned are not expensive, and the labor involved not heavy. I would close with the advice of the old Scotch Laird to his son, which I anglicize for the benefit of your readers: "Be always sticking in a tree, Jock; it will be growing when you are sleeping."—*Cor. American Farmer.*

Hints on Transplanting.

The art of transplanting trees, shrubs, and vines is only learned by experience, close observation, and a strict adherence to the laws that govern vegetable growth. Any unskilled laborer can dig up and re-set a tree or a vine; but this does not insure life, health and vigor. There is a well-adjusted balance between the roots and branches of every tree or vine. Trained practical gardeners recognize this fact, and the importance in transplanting of removing carefully all the roots possible, and especially the fine, fibrous ones, such as take up and furnish the nourishment. To save enough of these roots in transplanting large-sized trees, it is necessary to know the habits of growth of trees and vines. For instance, the Scotch or white pines, with their long, fleshy roots, and comparatively few fibrous ones near the body of the trees, need more care in removing than the Norway spruce with its mass of fibrous roots clustered around and near the body. The best way in all cases is to dig a narrow trench around the body, some distance from the tree, deep enough to get below the lower tier of roots. In making this circle, the flat of the spade should not be faced toward the body of the tree. The top soil on the "ball," near the body, should be removed by a digging-fork or other implement that will not cut or injure the small roots. In case the trees or shrubs are to be moved only a short distance from where they are growing, as much soil as will adhere to the roots may be left on with advantage.

The second important point to be observed in transplanting is not to leave the roots exposed for a moment to the rays of the sun, or to a blowing dry air, which is quite as injurious to the tender rootlets. If not set out at once, the roots ought to be kept damp and covered over with a cloth, or "heeled in." Trees coming from a distance, when the roots show signs of being left exposed, and the fibres are dry and somewhat shriveled, will be much improved by plunging them into a stream or pool of water, and then heeling them in, covering the roots carefully with moist soil, and so leaving them until ready to plant out. —*P. T. Quinn, in Scribner for May.*

EARLY CHICKENS.—The *Golden Rule* says: "We think there is more value to be attached to early chickens than farmers, at least, are apt to consider. The market for poultry is always lively in August, and it may not be known to many that there is a period in the process of chickens' growth when they are much better for the table than at any other, except at full maturity. That period is at the age of three months; they have not then run up, stretched out [illegible] taken on breadth of frame, but are compact and fine of fibre, and are in the [illegible] age when young chicke[illegible] eatable. Now, if they are hatched [illegible] the first of April, the middle of July, when prices are high, will find them at the best age for marketing. Then for late fall and winter layers you must have early pullets. It is not an uncommon thing for Leghorns to lay at four or four and a half months old. Yet, as a rule, no breed of fowls will do good laying service until they have reached full maturity. This, with small breeds, is at about six months, and with large breeds from seven to nine months. June is the great month for chickens to grow, and if they have had a few weeks to get ready on this third month they will come on with astonishing rapidity."

RATS AND MICE.—The vermin do not agree, and rats will soon drive mice away, so that, when the latter get really numerous, and shrewd enough not to enter traps, as they often are, the incoming of rats may be hailed with gladness, for they are much more easily destroyed. Last winter a neighboring farm-house was nearly overrun with rats. They were undermining the foundations, destroying a basket or two of turnips and of apples every night. They would not look at traps; they were too numerous for cats; they could only be poisoned at the risk of destroying the chickens, for all ordinary poisons make the creatures sick, and they run out of doors and throw off the load upon their stomachs, and this it is that poisons the chickens. Some one mentioned the use of plaster of Paris (calcined gypsum), so I brought some up from town for them. It was mixed dry with wheat flour and Indian meal. The rats ate this; it *set* and *settled* them, and we laughed over this mortar mortality; but it does seem cruel—no worse, however, than poisoning with arsenic.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

LETTUCE.—One secret of getting lettuce forward early consists in planting or sowing in a very light and rich, but not a rankly manured soil, and in a warm situation. A strip of good soil along the front wall of a hot-house is an excellent place to sow if there is a sufficient depth of soil. The heat from the wall makes a sensible difference in the temperature of the ground for several feet outside. The seed should be sown in drills six inches apart and the young plants should be thinned out as soon as they can be laid hold of—first to one or two inches asunder, and the last three to six inches. This is not allowing much room, but it is enough to produce nice little compact heads. When the plants are growing they should never be allowed to get dry at the root, but kept constantly moist, to encourage a quick succulent growth and early heading.

DESTRUCTION OF BIRDS BY TELEGRAPH WIRES.—It is the opinion of Dr. Elliott Coues that in the United States many hundred thousands of birds are yearly killed by telegraph-wires. To show that this estimate is not extravagant, he cites his own observation while journeying on horseback from Denver, Colorado, to Cheyenne, Wyoming, the road for a considerable part of the way coinciding with the line of the telegraph. The most abundant birds of that region at the time (October) were horned larks and Maccown's bunting. "Almost immediately upon riding by the telegraph-wire," writes Dr. Coues in the *American Naturalist*, "I noticed a dead lark; and as I passed several more in quick succession, my attention was aroused. The position of the dead birds enabled me to trace cause and effect before I actually witnessed a case of the killing. The bodies lay in every instance nearly or directly beneath the wire. A crippled bird was occasionally seen fluttering along the road. Becoming interested in the matter, I began to count, and desisted only after actually counting one hundred in the course of one hour's leisure riding—representing perhaps a distance of three miles." During the hour he saw three birds strike the wire; of these one had a wing broken, and another was dying in convulsions.

SAD DEATH IN PRISON.—Considerable sensation has been excited by the sad death in prison of Mr. Joseph Greenough, Town Councillor of St. Helens, Lancashire, and worth half a million of money. He was nearly eighty years of age, and in infirm health, and at the recent Liverpool Assizes was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment with hard labour. He claimed to have acquired by purchase, thirty-seven years ago, a certain piece of land at Parr, near St. Helens, which one of his tenants had enclosed and built a cottage on. Instead of proceeding by action of ejectment, Greenough, with six others acting under his direction, went unarmed in the middle of the day, and endeavoured to take forcible possession. The tenant resisted, and, in the course of the disturbance, he, together with his wife and son, was assaulted. A charge of tumultously rioting and assembling was brought against Mr. Greenough and the others, and the whole of them were convicted, the subordinates being sentenced to two months' and one month's imprisonment. The extreme severity of the punishment adjudged to Mr. Greenough, and his advanced age, awakened considerable interest at St. Helens, his native place, and where he had passed his life. Steps were being taken by his neighbours to lay the case before the Home Secretary On the 28th ult. the Under-Secretary of State was waited on by Mr. Greenough's London solicitor, who handed him two letters, one from a distinguished ex-judge, the other from a leading member of the Parliamentary bar, a Queen's counsel, who had known Mr. Greenough about twenty years, expressing his belief that the sentence would be the prisoner's death. Both letters expressed a hope that favourable consideration would be given to the case. Two days afterwards before any answer had been received from Home Office, Mr. Greenough died in Kirkdale gaol. He has left a fortune estimated to amount to nearly half a million.

"The *Daily News* remarks:—To die in a prison because of an act done in mistaken interpretation of one's legal rights is a pitiful termination of a life so long and, on the whole, so worthy of respect as that of the old man for whom Mr. Cross' kindliest intentions would now be too late."

A man calling himself, J. H. Milton, of Philadelphia has been arrested in St Louis for attempting to pass a bogus draft for $20-000 on a Philadelphia bank in payment for a planing mill which he had purchased there. During the day he opened an account with the Manufacturers' Bank by depositing two drafts, also on Philadelphia banks, one for $11,000 and the other for $27,000. He also attempted to effect a loan at the Fourth National Bank, but failed. He is now in jail. Drafts were drawn as follows: One for 27,000 on the Fourth National Bank of Philadelphia, and one for $11,000 and one for $1000 on the First National Bank of New York. Numerous blank drafts and checks of banks in different parts of the country, and bank books and other papers used by confidence men, were found on Milton's person, and there is no doubt that he had planned a big operation there.

The French Minister of the Interior has just completed the task of estimating the whole amount of damages caused by the German invasion, and deciding what indemnity can be made to the several losers. The total of the items included in the account amounts to about 887 millions of francs, or 35½ millions sterling. This gross total of loss is made up of about four millions sterling for the expenses of lodging and feeding the invaders, five millions paid in the way of requisitions of food and money, nine millions of contributions and "amendes" paid to the German armies, and no less than sixteen millions lost through the destruction of property by military operations, fire and pillage. The departments which have suffered most are, of course, those in the neighborhood of the capital, the Seine, Seine-et-Marne, and Seine-et-Oise, together figuring in the list for as much as eighteen millions sterling. These figures do not include the extra cost of armament necessitated by the war, the numerous works of defence, and a variety of other expenses not yet fully investigated, but which are being made the subject of further enquiry in the same department of the State.

PETTENGILL'S NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY.—A very useful and interesting volume of 376 pages has just been issued by the old and well-known advertising agency firm of S. M. PETTENGILL'S NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY AND ADVERTISERS' HAND-BOOK FOR 1877. The preparation of the work has involved much careful labor, information having been sought from every city, town, and village where even the smallest newspaper is published. The leading facts are given respecting 8,574 separate publications, designating the political or other distinctive character, the frequency of issue, the names of publishers, etc., and showing how many of each edition (daily, weekly, monthly, etc.) are published in each State and Territory in the United States and Provinces in British America.

The book is elegantly printed from new type, and, beside its mine of information, it contains portraits of leading New York journalists, and illustrations of the extensive offices where the publishers transact their business in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. It is sold at the low price of $1.00 per copy, and is certainly cheap at the price to any business man who does advertising, or to any person who is interested in the extent of the Newspaper business in America.

Some people do not believe in phrenology, but others think character may be read at touch. A Rome, (N. Y.) man's wife examined his head with the broken leg of a chair the other day, and at once pronounced him an old fool. He says that when he reflects on what a mistake he made in picking out a wife, he is convinced that she is more than half right.

APPLETON'S JOURNAL for June contains several noteworthy papers. The freshest, perhaps, is an article entitled "The War with the Turkomans," which is a racy and highly-enjoyable humorous picture of Oriental manners and Persian warfare, derived from the French of the Comte de Gobineau. This sketch has not only timely interest just now, but at any period its keen satire and racy humor would be highly relished. Eastern affairs secure further attention in an article called "The Suicide of the Ottomans," in which the causes that have led to the decline of the Ottoman power are investigated and graphically described. In the way of fiction there are the continuation of "Cherry Ripe;" a dramatic short story by M. E. W. S., called "Honor's Slave," in which figure a Russian Princess and English and American characters; and a Philadelphia sketch by Rebecca Harding Davis, called "Doctor Pajot," which is very charming. The illustrated article is a picturesque paper on "The Harbor and Commerce of New York," with numerous fine engravings. Mr. Towle gives a good paper, based on Mrs. Oliphant's "Makers of Florence," which he calls the "Reign of Poetry, Art, and Eloquence, in Florence." Junius Henri Browne tells in an effective manner the remarkable story of one of the French poisoners of the time of Louis XIV. Mr. Matthews makes the centenary of the comedy, "The School for Scandal," the occasion for an enterprising paper on that famous play. Among the poems we find "Forty to Twenty; a Drawing-room drama," by Kate Field, which is, we believe, that lady's first appearance in verse. Under the head of "Collectanea," a cluster of good, short papers on various topics is given; and the editorial departments maintain their usual standard.

Let us tell you what reached our desk this week. A magazine which supplies information on every article a lady or child can wish to wear, from the sole of her feet to the top of her head. Each article is richly *illustrated*; underneath stands the *description*, with the number of yards it takes to make it; and then comes the *price* at which you can purchase it. All classes are provided for. The wealthiest and the least wealthy—all can find qualities suited to their means. Interleaved between the Fashion descriptions we find page after page of *original* reading matter; not such as overloads so many publications, but bright, suggestive, instructive contributions by our best lady writers, on subjects in which every sensible woman takes pleasure and interest. "The Kitchen," "The Home," "The Cultivation of Beauty," "The Education of Children," "The Art of Dress-making," etc., etc.—all are standard articles on standard subjects.

Now when we say, further, that this magazine, a monster volume of 110 pages, is only the "Spring" number of a publication which costs but 50 *cents* for a *whole year's* subscription, our readers will understand why we consider it somewhat *remarkable*. It is published by Ehrich & Co., Nos. 287 and 289 Eighth Avenue, New York City, the enterprising merchants, who thus meet a great demand of ladies who live away from the great metropolis, and yet are eager to learn of the vagaries of Fashion and of the price for which these vagaries can be purchased. The accompanying directions, according to which goods should be ordered, are so clear and simple that a child could thus order its wardrobe. You will not regret subscribing to "EHRICH'S FASHION QUARTERLY."

HARPER'S MAGAZINE for June is a beautiful number; and for the uniform excellence of its illustrations and the variety and interest of its reading matter, it deserves comment as being a step in advance of anything hitherto undertaken.

The readers of the Magazine will find Mr. BENJAMIN'S paper on Contemporary Art in Germany even more novel and interesting than his previous contributions on English and French Art.

No thorough description has ever hitherto been published of the Androscoggin Lakes, and Mr. EDWARD ABBOTT'S paper on this subject, with its picturesque illustrations, will show that the region has unusual attractions for the artist as well as the sportsman.

In this Number, Miss LEDA M. SCHOONMAKER, a cultivated German writer, gives a very graphic outline of the story Niebelungen Lay, and its principal characters, which are also rendered by the masterly pencil of Mr. Fredericks in eight effective illustrations.

Mr. WILLIAM A. RIDING contributes a paper, also finely illustrated, on the "Wheeler Survey in Nevada."

Gibraltar—its history, its natural features, and its modern political and military significance—is the subject of a paper as interesting as a romance, by GEORGE M. TOWLE.

Those who have read with so much interest Mrs. TREAT'S papers on "Our Familiar Birds" will heartily welcome Mr. H. D. MINOR'S attractive and excellently illustrated paper on "Birds' Nests."

Lovers of downright humor will be delighted with MARC. E. OOOK'S story, "Moses Clymer's Business"—illustrated by Abbey—so graphically presented that it seems more like reality than the fiction that, of course, it is.

Dr. JOHN W. DRAPER continues his important series of illustrated papers, "Popular Exposition of Some Scientific Experiments," treating in this Number the methods of bringing phantom impressions into view, and the phosphorescence of diamonds and other bodies.

Fiction has, as usual, its generous allotment of space. CHARLES READE'S remarkable novel "A Woman-Hater" and BLACKMORE'S "Erema" are continued. Mrs. FRANK MCCARTHY'S short story, "The Professor's Victim," is well told, and is as novel as it is dramatic. A large installment of JULIAN HAWTHORNE'S "Garth"—full of interesting dramatic situations—concludes this very original novel.

Mrs. MACE, the author of "Israfil," contributes a poem, entitled "A Dream-land City." Miss FANNIE R. ROBINSON'S "An Order for a Cameo" is a poem of thoughtful meaning. WILLIAM GIBSON, in his poem, "La Festa dello Statuto," enters fully into the spirit of the festival.

The Editorial Departments furnish, as usual, a well-organized body of entertaining and instructive matter.

FROM CHAS. H. COLGATE, ESQ.,
Of the firm of Colgate & Co., Manufacturers of Flavoring Extracts, 21 Blackstone St., Boston.

Somerville, Mass., Dec. 6, 1876.

Messrs. Seth W. Fowle & Sons:

Gentlemen—Last Spring my little daughter, aged five, became very much emaciated with loss of appetite, and great prostration of strength, so much so that we were obliged to take her out of school. This continued through the Summer and caused us much anxiety. After trying various remedies without deriving any benefit, our family physician recommended the use of PERUVIAN SYRUP. After using it one week we saw a marked improvement in the child's condition, and in a month she was rapidly gaining in health and strength, her appetite being excellent. At this date she is perfectly well, with round, plump cheeks, and healthy color, and is again attending school regularly. I consider her restoration to health entirely due to the PERUVIAN SYRUP, and feel that I cannot too highly recommend it as a tonic.

Very gratefully yours,
CHAS. H. COLGATE.

Sold by dealers generally.