

Around the Hearthstone.

This is real cosy now. We are all sitting quietly for once—father, mother and brothers reading, sisters knitting, the little folk gone to roost, and I writing to my dear friend the ADVOCATE. I finished that tedious piece of knitting work about an hour ago, and then undertook the delightful task of "putting in their little beds" two little sisters, aged two and four. Such mischievous little monkeys they are, to be sure! They had quite a scuffle to see if they could't tumble me on the floor. Although it won't add much to my dignity, I must confess we had quite a scramble over the floor. We weren't very quiet then, I tell you. No sooner were they arrayed in their night-gowns than they ran away from me; and such a game of bo-peep as we had under the table and round the chairs before I caught them! I got them upstairs at last, with one little pair of arms around my neck and little lips pouting, "I love oo, sister!" while the other little pet, trotting along by my side, sang, "Birdie, I am tired now!" After they had said, "Now I lay me down to sleep," one said, "Dat'll do now!" and both turned a summerset over the pillows. Oh! those little sunbeams! what would we do without them?

I was feeling weary and sad to-day, weary of the world and its ways; but who does not forget all care in the presence of innocent childhood! and hard-hearted indeed must the person be who cannot take pleasure in the frolics and gambols of kittens and babies!—I beg ten thousand pardons! I forgot that some of my friends object to my writing about such commonplace things as my own home and family; but I couldn't help it this time, so they will have to forgive me as usual.

Now, ladies, and womenkind in general, do try and make your homes attractive and comfortable in the evening. Supposing you have a great amount of work to do, try and have it finished before dark, if possible. Those big, petted babies we call men, are very fond of a warm, tidy room to sit in, in the evening, after their hard day's toil. They are also very fond, too, of seeing their wives and daughters with a clean dress, a smiling face, and a clear eye. I know it is hard sometimes for a woman to look and speak pleasant after working hard all day over the wash-tub, especially if she has nothing but green, wet wood to make the fires, and there is a hole worn through the boiler, so that the fire is drowned in the attempt to scald the white clothing. But try hard, dear sisters, and every evening, before supper, say this little prayer: "O Lord, help me to keep a pleasant countenance, and make home cheerful and happy." We need to pray sometimes; but let us persevere, and we shall have our reward by having our fathers, husbands and brothers prefer home to the club; and they will be kinder and more thoughtful of our comfort if kept from the influence of bad company and win-key. J. F. INCH.

BEEF SUGAR.

SIR,—In discussing or planning the operations of the farm, we have to consider not only the best and every means to raise a crop, but also does it pay us for our time, labor and outlay, if we do succeed in raising it. Now, sir, with regard to the grain crops of this country, wheat naturally stands first, and it finds a pretty ready sale at a fair paying price. As to the spring grains, barley, oats and peas, we have, in reality, no market for them in Canada to any extent; our hot summers are not well adapted to raising them, and they are seldom worth above one cent per lb. I think most farmers will agree in pronouncing this a very poor business. Some will probably say, Grow more roots. Well, these have to be converted into beef and mutton, which bring about five cents per lb. Not much money to be made in that line!—Now, there is a root crop for which I think our hot summers are well suited—I mean the sugar beet. The Hon. J. Skead, in his address at Kingston, says:—"In many parts of the continent of Europe, beet sugar has nearly if not quite driven cane sugar out of the market." Why should it not be so in this country? If some enterprising men with capital would start a few sugar factories in the country, offering farmers a fair price per ton for the roots, we should soon have a new industry opened up which would be of immense benefit alike to producers, manufacturers and consumers. Sugar is an article of every-day use in every family in the Dominion, and if it could be produced by native industry, and only a portion of the millions of dollars annually sent out of the country to purchase it of the foreigner diverted into the hands of our farmers and home manufacturers, it would be a saving most important to a new and

comparatively poor country like Canada. It has been started in England, and is going on successfully. The farmers there are receiving, I believe, one pound per ton for their roots, delivered at the factory, and have the option of loading back with the pulp from the roots at 12s. per ton; this most of them do, as it is excellent cattle feed.

I have ventured to make these remarks in the hope that some of your correspondents, more able to handle the subject, might take it up.
WILLIAM KING.
Port Robinson, Feb. 20, 1872.

—The following may be of interest to parties in Ontario who propose emigrating to Manitoba: The secretary of the United States Treasury has decided that an emigrant from the Eastern Provinces of Canada may pass with his team, vehicle, and household effects through the Northwestern States to Manitoba without payment of duty on giving his personal transportation bond, properly secured, on any route or in any manner he chooses. Circulars to collectors at ports of entry, giving full instructions, are in course of preparation, and will be issued in a few days.

VALUE OF ASHES.

It is a too common practice even with good farmers to let the wood ashes made during the winter season either go to waste, or sell it for a mere trifle to the soap-maker, who sends round his team to collect them. Their value as a manure to apply to grass crops or fruit trees is scarcely known. Usually they are sold for from five to ten cents per bushel, for soap-making; when their real value for manure purposes, if kept stored away in a dry place till they can be applied to the land, is not less than forty cents per bushel. To the fruit grower they are worth even more. If the ashes are used for soap-making, and the potash contained in them thus extracted, they are then of little manure value, though still well worth the trouble of spreading on the soil, for the sake of the mechanical effect produced, which is to make hard clay more friable, and light sand more compact. Mixed with Plaster of Paris at rate of a bushel of ashes to fifty pounds of plaster, the manure value of the combined materials to pasturage or meadows intended for hay is fully double that of the plaster alone. In fact, we consider the addition of unleached ashes—especially if made from hard-wood—to the plaster, greatly increases its manure value, by assisting decomposition, and, as it were, makes three values out of two. In the compost heap for garden use, or the manuring of fruit trees, unleached ashes play an important part, both in assisting to decompose the vegetable matter that goes to make up a large portion of such compost, and in giving what is called a "kick" to the plants, which cannot thrive, viz., potash. For fruit trees, especially when they are set in grass land, it is not thought to be in vain to break up the soil about one foot, there sowing equal parts of a good coat of ashes, spread half an inch thick over the surface of the ground about them; but not piled up about the trunks as we have often seen. That is a common mistake too much just when it is not needed, and costs of little material value. Old orchards are particularly benefited by a liberal surface dressing of unleached ashes, which, in addition to acting as a manure to the trees, also keeps a great many of those insidious enemies that harbor in the soil.

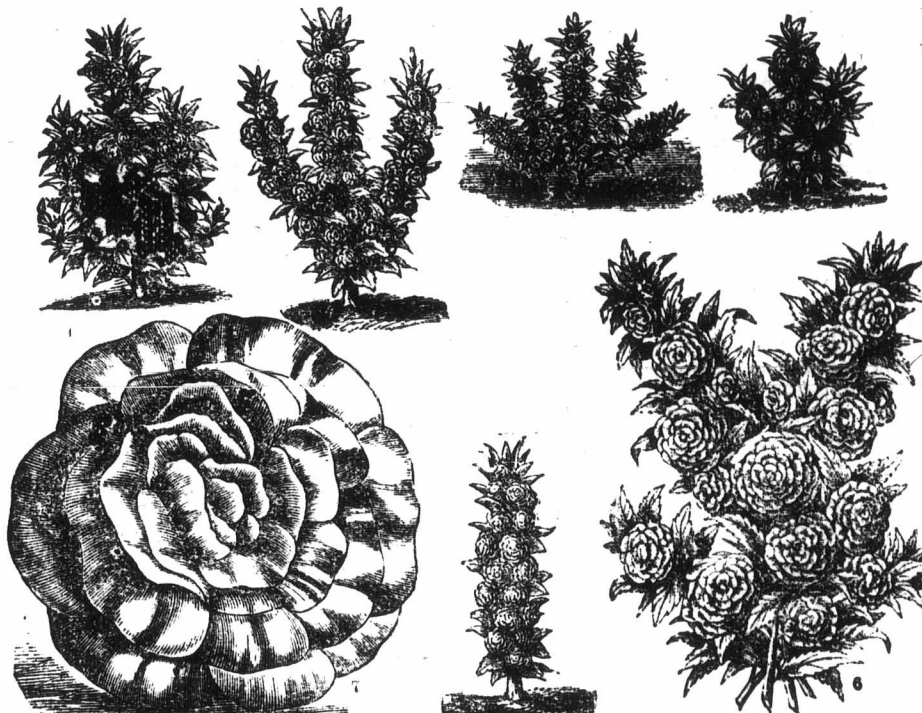
Good as they are of little value, in fact, should not be applied to the soil in any way. In the farmer's waste but fully an acre and the value of good unleached wood ashes, and make the trouble to go round collecting them in the towns and cities, they would find much easier sale and more valuable than many of the so-called artificial fertilizers they too often throw away their time and money upon.

NEW COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE AND ARTS.
—District No. 1—A. C. ibard McNab, Lochiel.
No. 2—Hon. J. Skead Ottawa. No. 3—And. Wilson, Montclair. No. 4—Lyne Diamond, Ameliasburg. No. 5—Nathan Choute, Port Hope. No. 6—George Graham, Brampton. No. 7—George Murton, Guelph. No. 8—J. C. Rykert, M.P.E., St. Catharines. No. 9—Hon. David Christie, Paris. No. 10—Robert Gibbons, Paris. No. 11—L. E. Shipley Falkirk. No. 12—Stephen White, Charing Cross.

PROFITS OF POULTRY.—In well kept poultry-yards the net returns of eggs and chickens will average about \$2 to each hen. With turkeys the profit will vary from \$3 to \$5 to each hen. This seems to be the usual average, as determined by various reports of actual experiments. In a communication to a Farmers' Club, a grower at Hamonton, N. J., gives the results of his poultry farm for 1871: "I have twenty-nine hens, which have laid 4364 eggs; and, if my arithmetic is right, they averaged 150 and a fraction over. I raised sixty chickens, worth \$30. The eggs averaged twenty-four cents per dozen, making \$87.8 for eggs. And \$30 for chickens, and you have \$117.28. Of the cost of keeping I am not so sure, as the count has not been kept so exact; but about \$55. The hens are a mixture of several breeds, but none pure. The White Leghorn and Brahma predominate. The feed has been corn and wheat middlings, with some hog-chest and wheat middlings, pounded oyster-shells, etc."

THE SUNFLOWER.—The Dutch, who live only by diking and draining their low lands, pronounce sunflower culture a specific for intermittent fever, the scourge of Holland. They assert that the disease has disappeared from every district where the experiment has been tried.

A schoolmaster in Ohio advertises that he will keep a Sunday-school, twice a week, Tuesdays and Saturdays.



BALSAMS.



DAHLIAS.

To the Ladies.

We often commend articles and subjects to the attention of the gentlemen, and in some things we guarantee them satisfaction. We know the ladies are all fond of flowers, but few of you are aware what a beautiful, interesting and instructive book Mr. Vick's Illustrated Catalogue and Floral Guide is. We would advise every lady that can afford 20 cents to procure one; you cannot help being pleased and satisfied, as the illustrations are charming, and the instructions most complete. His price is only ten cents, but the duty, postage and carriage makes them higher here. We will send them post paid for 20 cents. They are of no profit to us; the actual cost of the book is about 40 cents, and if sold at the general rate it could not be had for less than \$2; in fact you cannot get such a handsomely illustrated work at any bookstore for any money. It is worth five times its price to any mother that wishes to have refinement, neatness, beauty and adornment impressed on the minds of her family. Send for one; we do not write this to make one cent from the book, as we have to put a three cent stamp on each one. It

is for your benefit, and if any one should have confidence enough in our remarks to entrust us with 20 cents, and should not be more than amply satisfied on the first glance at the book, we will return the money by the next mail if it is asked for.

The engravings on this page are from his Catalogue, which contains over 100 illustrations of different flowers.

We have some beautiful Double and Camellia Balsams, and some very handsome Dahlias; we will send a Dahlia bulb or a package of choicest Double Balsams as a present to every lady subscriber whose name is now on our list, or to any whose names may be added to the list during this month. The bulbs will be sent as soon as the weather will permit.

These beautiful pictures that we give as prizes for club lists, are such as will astonish every person who procures one. They are only \$1.25, sent to your post office, or one will be sent for five new subscribers. There is a very handsome pair which we will give for nine subscribers, one picture representing a beautiful bouquet of lilies, and the other a basket of flowers. They are 19 3/4 inches each.