

## Scrap Basket.

It is the opinion of the doctor that the lawyer gets his living by plunder, while the lawyer thinks that the doctor gets his by pillage.

Longfellow said that the talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well, and doing well whatever you do without a thought of fame.

**FEELS SMALL WHEN TAKEN IN.**—It is said that a watch-dog is not so large in the morning as at night, because he is let out at night and taken in in the morning.

'Ah,' said an Englishman, 'I belong to a country upon which the sun never sets.' 'And I,' said a Yankee, 'belong to a country of which there can be no correct map—it grows so fast that surveyors can't keep up with it.'

At a late trial, the defendant, who was not familiar with the number of words which the law employs to make a trifling charge, after listening a while to the reading of the indictment, jumped up and said: 'Them 'ere allegations is false, and that 'ere alligator knows it.'

The Electric Telegraph Company of London propose to establish a wire communication between individual and individual, at any distance apart in the metropolis, so that they may gossip or comfort each other, 'ad libitum,' for fifteen pounds sterling per year.

**THE DEAD MARCH.**—The evening before Crabbe died, his physician, feeling his pulse with much gravity, observed that it beat more evenly than upon his last visit. 'My dear friend,' said the patient, 'if you don't know, or have not a technical expression for it, I will tell you what it beats; it beats the Dead March.'

**CHRISTIAN UNION.**—There is a morning coming when Episcopalianism, and Methodism, and Congregationalism shall be abolished, and all shall stand on a sea of glass, and worship Him that sitteth on the great white throne. I belong to the church of that morning. I like that saying of Whitfield's—'Father Abraham, have you got Episcopalianism up there?' 'No!' 'Have you got Methodists up there?' 'No!' 'Have you got Independents?' 'No! none but Christians, my son!'—Dr. Tyng.

**THE MISCHIEF MAKER.**—When the absent are spoken of, some will speak gold of them, some silver, some iron, some lead, and some always speak dirt, for they have a natural attraction towards what is evil, and think it shows a penetration in them. As a cat watching for mice does not look up though an elephant goes by, so busy are they mousing for defects, that they let great excellences pass them unnoticed. I will not say it is not Christian to make beads of others' faults, and tell them over every day; I say it is infernal. If you want to know how the devil feels, you do know if you are such a one.—H. W. Beecher.

**LIFE'S HAPPIEST PERIOD.**—Kingsley gives his evidence on this disputed point. He thus declares: There is no pleasure that I have experienced like a child's mid-summer holiday—the time, I mean, when two or three of us used to go away up the brook, and take our dinners with us, and come home at night tired, dirty, happy, scratched beyond recognition, with a great nose-gay, three little trout, and one shoe, the other having been used for a boat, till it had gone down with all hands out of soundings. How poor our Derby days, our Greenwich dinners, our evening parties, where there are plenty of nice girls, after that! Depend upon it, a man never experiences such pleasure or grief after fourteen as he does before, unless, in some cases, in his first love-making, when the sensation is new to him.

**THOMAS HOOD AND HIS WIFE.**—I never was anything, dearest, till I knew you—and I have been better, happier, and a more prosperous man ever since. Lay by that truth in lavender, dearest, and remind me of it when I fail. I am writing fondly and warmly; but not without good cause. First, your own affectionate letter, lately received; next the remembrance of our dear children, pledges—what darling ones!—of our old familiar, love; then a delicious impulse to pour out the overflowings of my heart into yours; and last, not least, the knowledge that your dear eyes will read what my hands are now writing. Perhaps there is an afterthought that, whatever may befall me, the wife of my bosom will have this acknowledgment of her tenderness—worth—and excellence—all that is wisely or womanly, from my pen.—Memorials of Hood.

**WHAT BUSINESS SHALL I FOLLOW?**—This question is often asked, and the proper answer may be, any useful and legitimate business. That is usually the best business for a man which he can perform best. He must be well fitted for whatever he undertakes. After that, success depends upon the man, and not on the business. We have known some men of deficient energy and capacity who failed with the most favorable commencement; and others who, under great difficulties, persevered without faltering until eminently prosperous. But it is all-essential, stick to your business. Several years are often required to attain a proper knowledge of all the ramifications of a trade. A man who was clearing five thousand dollars a year, remarked, 'for the first five years I made almost nothing'—by that time he had accumulated great experience. Another, a person of high capacity, changed his occupation eight times in fourteen years—he began rich and is now poor.

### THE SOLDIER'S BABY.

BY C. CHAUNCEY BURR.

A baby was sleeping,  
A mother was weeping,  
Pale vigil was keeping,  
For slumber had fled.  
Had news from the battle,  
Where death's cannon rattle,  
O news from the battle!  
Its father was dead.

The wife still is weeping,  
The baby is sleeping,  
Good angels are keeping  
Watch over its bed.  
Too young to know sorrow,  
Or life's woes to borrow,  
Must learn, some to-morrow,  
Its father is dead.

Home Journal.

**AN ECCENTRIC PHYSICIAN.**—Dr. Sydenham, a celebrated physician, having long attended a rich patient with little or no advantage, frankly avowed his inability to render him any further service, adding, at the same time, that there was a physician of the name of Robertson, at Inverness, who had distinguished himself by the performance of many remarkable cures of the same complaint as that under which his patient labored, and expressed a conviction that, if he applied to him, he would come back cured.—This was too encouraging a proposal to be rejected; the patient, with the necessary letter of introduction, proceeded without delay to Inverness. On arriving he found, to his utter dismay, that there was no physician of that name, nor ever had been in the memory of any person there; so he returned, vowing vengeance on Sydenham, and, on arriving at home, he sent for the doctor and expressed his indignation at having been sent on a journey of so many hundred miles for no purpose. 'Well,' replied Sydenham, 'you are better in health?' 'Yes, I am now quite well; but no thanks to you.' 'No,' says Sydenham, 'but you may thank doctor Robertson for curing you. In going you had Dr. Robertson and his cure in contemplation, and in returning you were equally engaged in thinking of scolding me.'

### WISE RULES FOR CONDUCT.

Dr. Franklin laid down for himself the following rules to regulate his conduct through life:—

**TEMPERANCE.**—Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation.

**SILENCE.**—Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.

**ORDER.**—Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.

**RESOLUTION.**—Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.

**FRUGALITY.**—Make no expense but to do good to others, or to yourself; i. e., waste nothing.

**INDUSTRY.**—Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.

**SINCERITY.**—Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly; and if you speak, speak accordingly.

**JUSTICE.**—Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty.

**MODERATION.**—Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.

**CLEANLINESS.**—Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.

**TRANQUILITY.**—Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable, and 'be temperate in all things.'

## Agricultural.

The cultivation of flax in Canada offers to our farmers three high advantages: first, the largest remuneration to be obtained for anything that the soil of Canada can produce; second, the proper culture of the flax plant demands that the land be kept thoroughly clear of weeds; third, the fibre sells readily for ready money. During the summer the Canadian Illustrated News will contain pictorial illustrations of the plant in its different stages of growth, and of the several modes of preparing the fibre for market, with minute directions in print easily understood and easily practised. This week we present the agricultural reader with a general outline of the requisites for flax culture:

**SOIL AND ROTATION.**—By attention and careful cultivation, good flax may be grown on various soils; but some are much better adapted to it than others. The best is a sound, dry, deep loam, with a clay subsoil. It is very desirable that the land should be dry, as, when it is saturated with either underground or surface water, good flax cannot be expected.

Some persons have the impression that the richest soil that can be obtained is the most appropriate, and should produce tall, heavy flax. But this is not the case, for where the soil is too rich the fibre is not of as good formation, and the stalk grows woody and coarse; whereas, on the dry loam, with clay subsoil, the coating of fibre grows finer, and more in proportion to the woody part, and renders the flax more valuable.

Flax should not be sown in valleys, if other places can be obtained. When sown in valleys it inclines to grow rapidly, and the stalks lean across each other; and where they come in contact that part becomes rusty and readily gives way when dressing, which renders the flax of little value.

It is of importance not to grow flax, or indeed any crop, too often on the same space of ground. An excellent crop of flax is generally obtained after wheat and of wheat after flax. A regular system of rotation in cropping is strongly recommended, as the surest method of preserving the land in good heart, and of securing abundant crops.

**PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.**—One of the points of the greatest importance in the culture of flax is, by thorough draining where the land is wet, and by careful and repeated cleansing of the land from weeds, to place it in the finest, deepest, and cleanest state. After wheat, one ploughing will suffice on light friable soil, but two is more efficient, and on stubborn soils three may be found necessary. The second ploughing should be given late in November, that the soil may be exposed to the ameliorating influence of the winter's frost. As no crop requires a more thorough and minute pulverization of the soil than flax; it is indispensably necessary to have it exposed to the winter frost, by which it is crumbled down finely. In spring, this fine winter's surface must be harrowed, and in order to consolidate it, it is of advantage to roll it. When the soil is not a heavy clay, it is better to use the cultivator than the plough in the spring, in order to avoid as much as possible the turning down of the fine surface mould, which is so necessary for the flax seeds. After harrowing, and before sowing, care should be taken to collect weeds of all kinds.

**SOWING.**—It is of importance to procure good, clean seed, sifted clean of all weeds, which will save a great deal of after trouble when the seed is growing. Sow about two bushels of seed to the acre, or even a little more. It is better to sow too thick than too thin, as with thick sowing the stem grows tall and straight, and the fibre is found greatly superior in fineness and length to that produced from thin sown flax, which grows coarse and branches out, producing much seed, but a very inferior quality of fibre, and a small weight of straw to the acre, whereas, when sown thick, a much greater yield will be secured. After sowing, cover with a seed harrow, going twice over it—once up and down, and once across, as this makes it more equally spread, and avoids the small drills made by the teeth of the harrow.—Finish with the roller, which will leave the seed covered about an inch, the proper depth. Rolling the ground after sowing, or when the plant is about one inch above the ground, is very advisable, care being taken not to roll when the ground is so wet that the earth adheres to the roller.

Flax seed, to ensure a good crop, should be sown on a quiet day, and should not be permitted to be blown by the wind, which

will not leave the seed equally distributed on the ground.

In this country flax should be sown any time between the 25th of April and the 20th of May. It is recommended to sow, if possible, about the 10th of May. For fine fibres early sowing is necessary. Vegetation is more rapid in the latter part of the season, but for fine fibres there is nothing like steady growth.

**WEEDING.**—If care has been paid to cleaning the seed and soil, few weeds will appear; but if there be any, they ought to be carefully pulled. As the price to be paid for the flax must be regulated by the quality, it will be to the advantage of the farmer to pay particular attention to keeping it clear of weeds.

**PULLING.**—The time when flax should be pulled is when the seeds are beginning to change from a green to a pale brown color, and the stalk to become yellow for about two-thirds of the way up from the ground.

It is most essential to take time and care to keep the flax even, like a brush, at the head ends. This increases the value to the manufacturer, and of course, to the grower, who will be amply repaid by an extra price for his additional trouble. It is of great importance to pull the flax before it is fully ripe. Every day it is allowed to stand after it is ripe, it loses in weight and in value.—After the flax is pulled, it should be set in two rows, the seed ends up, inclined to each other, and meeting at the top. When it has stood for three or four days, it should be fully dry, (weather being favorable,) and may then be put up in small sheaves, and placed out for rotting, either by steeping, or by exposure to dew.

**SOAKING SEEDS BEFORE SOWING.**—This practice is not as extensively adopted in this country as it might be with advantage to the farm and garden. In this respect we are far behind a people whom we are apt to regard with feelings nearly approaching to contempt. There are few, probably, either in England or this country, who are not disposed to think themselves much superior to the Chinese, and yet, in one respect at least, we think they are much in advance of farmers in either England or America. Liebig states, in his 'Letters on Modern Agriculture,' that no Chinese farmer sows a seed before it has been soaked in liquid manure diluted with water, and has begun to germinate; and that experience has taught him that not only this operation tends to promote a more rapid and vigorous growth and development of the plant, but also to protect the seed from the ravages of birds and insects.

There would be not only some trouble, but some inconveniences arising from the adoption of this practice on an extensive scale; but we are pretty confident, notwithstanding, that those who commence it on a small scale will find it productive of advantage enough to induce them to extend their operations. We may suggest that we have, on more than one occasion, been informed by one of our correspondents, that he makes much use of hen manure in water as a soak for his seeds.—Country Gentleman.

**EXPERIMENTS WITH POTATOES.**—We transfer for Canadian readers the following from an American newspaper. The names of the persons and places may not be known on this side of the St. Lawrence, but that is immaterial. There is among farmers a great diversity of opinion respecting the most profitable way of planting potatoes. Some plant whole seed and some cut it. Mr. Alfred Lapham, of Burrellville, has for several years made experiments in this respect.—He planted twenty-three hills with whole potatoes; twenty-three hills with cut potatoes, three pieces in a hill; and twenty-three hills with two pieces. The seed was averaged by weight and size. The result was as follows: The twenty-three hills of uncut potatoes yielded fifty and one-half pounds; the twenty three hills with three pieces, twenty-seven and one-half pounds; the twenty-three hills with two pieces, thirty-four pounds. The potatoes were weighed in the presence of William E. Valet, who certifies to the above facts and figures. Mr. Lapham tells us the potatoes were all planted together in the same field, side by side, and the same quantity and quality of manure put in all the hills.

**TIME TO TRANSPLANT PERENNIALS.**—It is now time to remove, divide, and replant all varieties of perennials. Make the soil deep, and for manure, where possible, use turf, dug in four to six inches below the surface. This will decay next summer, and supply food and moisture to the plants when they come into bloom; will make the drainage better, prevent burning, which sometimes occurs, when animal manure is used.