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Colonial Farmer.

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Correspondence.

For the Colonial Farmer.

RURAL TOPICS.

PROFESSOR VILLE'S COMPLETE FERTILIZER.

Some thirty years ago, Prof. Ville, of France, introduced what he called a "complete fertilizer"—that is, one that will answer for all crops, the same as stable dung; and he claimed that it was considered cheaper than barn-yard manure, while the crops grown by its use were much larger than those produced by an equal value of such manure. This result is claimed also by others, who sell Prof. Ville's fertilizer; and by other agricultural chemists, in regard to their own compounds, composed of the same constituents as a basis, but not in the same relative quantities, so that dealers in commercial fertilizers in our large cities are now offering to sell to farmers, not only various "complete fertilizers" (including Prof. Ville's) but also special compounds for different crops.

Prof. Ville's consists of the following constituents in 100 pounds:—

Ammonia 7.50 per ct., worth 17½ cts., per lb..	$1.31
Phos. acid 4.00 per ct., worth 9 cts. per lb.....	.45
Potash...7.50 per ct., worth 7½ cts. per lb..	.57
20.28 Cost per 100 lbs.....	$2.33

These constituents are based on the fact, that in about the same value in stable dung, about the same relative quantities of ammonia, (nitrogen) phosphoric acid, and potash exist, as found by analyses and *nothing else* of any special value to crops. This is the result of analyses made in Europe and this country hundreds of times; and, therefore, we must consider that question settled, so far as it is possible for analyses to show; and agricultural chemists claim that such tests are correct. But, unfortunately, the use of Prof. Ville's "complete fertilizer," during the last 30 years, does not seem to satisfy farmers that it is equally as cheap and beneficial as stable dung. The New York manufacturer of it says:—

"By the use of 1036 lbs. every other year, alternate with 662 lbs. of ammonia, the yield of wheat was increased from 15⅔ bushels to 44 bushels per acre; and on very poor land, from 3⅔ to 40½ bushels, while 17 tons of barnyard manure, only increased the product to 12 bushels per acre."

Now, I have no hesitation in saying that it is evident to me, and I think also to every well-informed farmer, that no such results ever took place. "But do you think that the venders of this fertilizer," one may ask, "lie outright, for the purpose of effecting sales of it?" I think that some of them are not too good to make false statements, while others may merely take the statements second-hand, and publish them as true, while they have no *proofs* at all of their truth; and farmers should believe but very little of what they read about commercial fertilizers that come from *interested parties*.

Special fertilizers for different crops, based on the account of phosphoric acid, nitrogen and potash, that crops draw annually from the soil, are now sold by dealers in commercial fertilizers. Wheat, barley, rye, oats corn, tobacco, carrots, cabbage and grass, draw heavily on the ammonia and phosphoric acid, and less of potash. Turnips and buckwheat draw more phosphoric acid and potash than nitrogen; and beans, peas, potatoes and clover draw heavily of potash, and less of phosphoric acid and ammonia, the exact quantity that each crop draws from the soil being shown by tables, with an exactness, or an assumed exactness, that is remarkable. Agricultural chemists obtain their figures for these tables as follows: For instance, they take wheat in grain, and assume that 30 bushels are grown to the acre. Then a certain very small quantity is analysed; then they analyse a certain quantity of wheat straw, assuming that so much straw grows with 30 bushels of grain; and the result is as follows:—

"Ammonia, 63 lbs.; phosphoric acid, 24 lbs.; potash, 38 lbs."

These constituents, note, are what a crop of 30 bushels of wheat, as is claimed by agricultural chemists, will draw from the soil every season; and it follows, if they are correct, that when a farmer sows wheat, unless the land is very fertile, he should apply the above fertilizer in the proportion here given, and this is the basis of the claim that commercial fertilizers are as cheap, or cheaper than stable dung.

Now, the difficulty, or uncertainty in results, comes in here: There is no way to know how much potash, nitrogen and phosphoric acids are left over in the soil, after taking a crop from it. Analyses cannot do it; and I have very little faith in the analyses of the *ash* of the grain and straw as above; and when a farmer buys, and applies his "wheat formula," based chiefly on the above analysis, it may prove to be profitable, and it may not; and so it is with all commercial fertilizers in the market. A. may have a fine crop, B. may meet with a partial failure, and C. may see no benefit at all, all using precisely the same formula of ingredients.

A farmer may ask: "How am I to obtain phosphoric acid, nitrogen and potash for crops—that is, what shall I order, if I want to apply the above 63 pounds of ammonia, etc., to an acre of wheat?" You cannot buy the *pure* articles. For ammonia, you would have to buy *sulphate* of ammonia at 5½ cents per pound, containing 25 per cent of actual ammonia, or nitrogen, which is nearly the same thing. Or you can order nitrate of soda, at 4½ cents, containing 19 per cent of ammonia. The phosphoric acid is bought in superphosphates, or in ground bone; and the potash is cheapest in *muriate* of potash at 2½ cents, containing fifty per cent of actual potash. Some farmers purchase *nitrogenized* superphosphate as the main fertilizer, at about $45 or $50 a ton, and made soluble (fit for immediate plant food) by the use of oil or vitriol (sulphuric acid). There is plenty of such made, but not ordinarily, as it costs more than plain superphosphates. That which sell at $50 a ton contains potash also; and the percentage of constituents are, as reported, as follows: "Soluble phosphoric acid, 10 per cent; potash, 3 per cent.; ammonium, 3 per cent." In such a fertilizer, one has a reliable compound, much better than the ordinary superphosphates; and, probably, as cheap in the end. But the question is, can persons afford to pay the prices asked? The profits on all commercial fertilizers are very large, as it has been shown by many analyses, that the actual value of them is from $25 to $30 a ton, for what is sold at $40 a ton. The above named superphosphate at $50 a ton, taking its constituents as rated by the manufacturers, shows a very large profit, as follows:—

Ten per cent., or 200 lbs. phos. acid, 9 cts. lb..	$18.00
Three " or 60 lbs. potash, 7½ cts. lb..	4.50
Three " or 66⅔ lbs. ammn., 17½ cts. lb..	11.67
	$34.67

From this statement it appears that a ton of 2,000 lbs. costs the manufacturer only $34.67, not estimating the absorbents used, as plaster, and perhaps dried muck, being 1666 lbs. of *something* of no great value.

In a future article, I will discuss the question: "Can farmers mix their commercial fertilizers themselves, and thereby save money?" This measure question is becoming an important one, and farmers, sooner or later, probably, will be compelled to buy more or less commercial fertilizers.

HOW SOME FARMERS MANAGE SWINE.

A farmer bought of me some pigs of a choice breed, paid a high price; and after keeping them a year or two and breeding them, he came to me exclaiming: "You remember that I bought some of the——breed of pigs of you?"

"Yes," replied, "and how do you like 'em?"

"Like 'em! Why, I'm disgusted with 'em—can't get 'em up to 300 lbs. at 18 months; and you said they would scale 600."

"Come and look at mine," said I, and he accompanied me to my pen.

"Now," said he excitedly, "do you pretend to say, that the pigs you sold me are of *this breed?*"

"I do, the same stock and breed."

"Why, you must take me to be an ignoramus. Come over and see them, and you'll find 'em as *mean*, rawboned, scrawny a lot of hogs as you ever laid eyes on; and I shall expect you to refund my money."

I went with him and found his hogs in December in pens where the mud was 18 inches deep, into which their food (corn in the ear) was thrown; and the only shelter they had, as a sleeping apartment, was a few poles laid across one end of the enclosure, over which a few old boards were laid horizontally, so that the rains kept the swine drenched in wet weather. Not a particle of straw was given them as a bed; and I turned away wondering which had the most common sense, the hogs or their owner!

"Neighbor," said I, "you ought to be indicted for cruelty to animals! Can it be possible that you don't know any better than to treat your pigs in this way? In the first place, they are half starved, as one half the corn fed to them is lost in the mud, and the other half is eaten with so much filth that it barely keeps life within them. You should lay a plank floor over the entire enclosure; then you should build a warm sleeping apartment, with a shingle roof, and then feed your hogs on cooked food mostly, but never on corn in the ear. Corn meal may do, but it pays well to cook it. Get a furnace kettle that holds from 40 to 60 gallons, set it in bricks and mortar in an out-house where there is a chimney, or build one if you have none, and then mix Indian meal with potatoes, carrots, parsnips or beets, and cook all together, giving the feed warm as often as you can conveniently—all they will eat to those you are fattening (the others keep separate), and after following my advice a season, come to me and report the result."

I did not happen to see this man till the next fall, at the State Fair, where I found him with a group of farmers admiring some fine hogs that they said had taken "the first premium;" and they were fine, weighing over 600 pounds each! "Whose are they?" I asked. "They are mine, from stock I bought of you," replied my neighbor, adding, "I did as you directed, and am satisfied now that the pigs you sold me were the pure breed, just as you represented."

The *moral* of this result is, that it pays well to take care of all animals, to provide comfortable quarters for them, to give them plenty of straw for their beds, and to feed them in a rational way.

CIDER AS A MEDICINE.

A physician, who takes charge of the Hygienic department of the Rural New Yorker, says: "That cider has wrought some remarkable cures, is susceptible of the most positive proof. Its hourly, or even daily use as the most common drink is not what I here refer to, but its use in certain cases of debility, derangement of the liver, and chronic diarrhea, has, in many cases, had a most marked effect. Especially in the long lingering debility that follows intermittent and remittent fevers, has been used with decided success. * * * The writer was witness to the cure of a case of the most obstinate chronic diarrhea, effected in one day by a pint of hard cider administered in two doses, while another sudden and violent attack in another person, was cured the same day by a small dose of bi-carbonate of soda. Two other cases of remarkable cures from cider I will relate. Mrs. H., as reported to me by herself, had a lingering cough with loss of appetite, and a general decline, and was supposed by herself and friends to be rapidly approaching her end, with consumption. On a visit to her father, she saw him come from the cellar with a pitcher of cider, and asked for a drink, which had so good an effect that she continued its use for a few weeks, in which time she fully recovered. This and the following were doubtless cases of affections of the liver. Some fifteen years since, in my walk from my residence to my place of business, I met S. M., whom I knew to have lately returned from the army. His countenance showed a bad condition of the liver, his gait showed great debility, and I looked forward to the day when I should meet him no more. In answer to my inquiries, he said he had been treated by several physicians without benefit. I advised him to try some hard cider, but to be very cautious, for I thought him far gone. Meeting him a few days after, and asking him of the effect of his new medicine, he replied: "First-rate! I drank a full glass of what you brought me with a keen relish, went to bed and slept soundly all night, a thing I have not done before for months." He then told me that his case was one of chronic diarrhea, contracted in the army. I had the satisfaction of seeing him fat and hearty in a few weeks, and of hearing that his physician said to him, "It was the cider that cured you; I had done all I could for you."

Miscellaneous.

Let the farmers see that they work their land scientifically, intelligently and profitably. Time saps the strength of your farms, as well as yourself. Nature has provided a means to restore lost strength. The farmer needs to study, and keep apace with the progress of the times. The Grange furnishes him with that opportunity. Through it an interchange of valuable ideas takes place. The value of a live, active Grange cannot be overestimated. Its usefulness is almost boundless. Within its ranks to-day are ladies and gentlemen whose voices can hold audiences spell-bound with interest.

THE GRANGE AS A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION.—The granges of the organization known as Patrons of Husbandry have done some of their best work in this direction. It is doubtful whether in New England thay have been of great use in any other respect, but some of the most prominent members of the order have felt from the first that this was not their true work, that it was more important that the bonds of fraternity should be comenced among the agricultural population, than that a few dollars a year should be made in the disposal of farm products or saved in the purchase of agricultural implements and groceries. We suspect there has been too much machinery about the grange to make its benefits general, but a more serious drawback has been in the indifference of the farmer to the opportunities which the brotherhood offer.—*New England Homestead.*

CANNING RABBITS IN AUSTRALIA.—An instance of the profitable use of what has been, and yet is, a most destructive post in Australia, is given in the new business of putting up the flesh of rabbits in cans for exportation to Europe. Formerly these rabbits existed in such numbers, that not only were the farm crops completely destroyed in some districts, but the grass was devoured, and the sheep pastures rendered useless. Many devices for their destruction were tried without success, until the idea of turning them to account was put into practice. A company was formed which steadily employed a number of hunters to trap the rabbits, for the purpose of dressing the flesh for canning. About 200 tons of the meat have so far been put up, and 5,000 rabbits per day are now canned. The heads are boiled down to glue, and the skins are preserved for sale to hatters, who use the fur. The farmers are still troubled with the pests, but such wholesale destruction must in time have the effect of reducing their ravages. In parts of Oregon, rabbits have caused *very extensive* destruction of crops, and a hint may be gathered from the Australian plan, which may lead to measures of relief and turn the pests to profit.

Whitewashing.

The whitewash process is in order this month and next, for fowl houses and fences—inside and out. The common method of half cleansing the poultry premises, has been in vogue so many years, and farmers are so prone to adhere to the old furrow in doing these things, that they need to be reminded every spring and fall that complete cleanliness of fowl-houses and runs is essential to success. In whitewashing the interior of a poultry house do not leave a spot even as large as the head of a pin untouched anywhere. Plash the whitewash liberally into every nook and corner, crack and crevice. If the hennery has a floor of cement, stone, brick or boards, whitewash that also.

The plan of "whitewashing" is a very good and serviceable way to renovate the houses, and to purify the premises. But the use of lime alone, in this work, is not so good a method as the following:

Into the whitewash pail, when the liquid is prepared for application to inside work, while the lime-water is still hot, drop a tea-cup full of soft boiled rice, and mix it thoroughly through the mass. Then pour into a quart pot of cold water, say ten or twelve drops of crude carbolic acid. Mix this into the rest, and swab the interior of your hen house with it.

For outside work, use rock-salt disolved instead of boiled rice and dispense with carbolic acid. No other preparation of "whitewashing" ever equalled this, within our knowledge—and no one who tries this once, will ever be content with any other combination, for poultry building.—*The Poultry World.*

Fat Sheep for Heavy Fleece.

A writer in the *Dountry Gentleman* says:—"There is much said about ewes being too fat to breed well. In my experience of twenty years I have never seen anything that led me to think so, providing the flesh was put on with good pasture during the summer, and a few roots with good hay in the winter. The fatter sheep become under the circumstances, the more valuable I consider them. There is no time in the year when it pays better to feed a small allowance of grain daily than in the fall after the feed gets frozen, and it is not necessary to bring the flock to the barn.

"It is an old saying that 'sheep well-Novembered are half wintered.' Keep the ewes fat, and the lambs will be fat and the fleeces heavy. I do not say that it is better to have the lambs come early or late, but I do say that it is better to have them fat; but whether early or late, they are saleable. All ewes that with good care will not raise a lamb and shear four lbs. of washed wool, should be sold. I have some in my flock that will shear nine lbs., and raise a pair of twins, and it costs no more to keep one than a sheep that shears but three pounds. I think that no one will hear the man that keeps his flock in this way, complaining because his sheep are all 'run out,' and do not pay him, and the like.

"Ticks must be kept out of the flock; they are the worst enemies of the sheep. If they are not killed they will destroy the sheep. For killing them I have tried nothing better than tobacco juice."

How to Purify Rancid Butter.

The following methods of purifying rancid butter appear in Professor X. A Willard's "Practical Butter Book" recently published:—

For this purpose it should be melted in twice its weight of boiling water and well shaken with it. By this means the acids are dissolved and partly volatilized, the rancidity being thus removed. At all times butter may be purified by repeated melting with fresh portions of water, the pure oil raising to the surface, leaving the impurities in the water. The butter loses its consistence by this operation, but that may be restored to it, at least to a great extent, by pouring it, when melted, into a large quantity of ice-cold water.

A process for purifying rancid butter was invented a few years ago, which consisted in cutting the butter into small lumps and spreading them out in a great vat. Then hot water is thrown down from a considerable distance upon the mass. The melted butter rises to the surface and the impurities are drawn off with the water. Then the butter is subjected to a shower of cold water, and in this way, by repeated washings, according to the rancidy of the butter, it is freed from the objectionable taste and odour, and finally it is again worked and salted.

As the formation of the badly-smelling volatile acids depends upon the presence of caseine, this mode of purification removes the injurious ingredient. It must be remarked, however, that the butter becomes less pleasant to the taste, the water having taken up the small quantity of foreign substance which gives to fresh butter its fragrance and agreeable taste. Some of the compounds of caprylic acids have a fragrant odour like that of pine apple, but the smell of caprylime itself is little known.

Care of Sows When Littering.

An Ohio farmer who has been a hog breeder for the past twenty years, writes to the National *Live Stock Journal* his views on the above subject. He says:—Two or three days before the time they are to pig, I put them each in a separate pen, constructed as follows: I build low sheds on the south side of a board fence, with the front to the south, say from six to eight feet in width by eight feet in depth; to the front is extended an open pen, about eight or twelve feet, to allow them to have access to the sun and air. In each pen I place a little dry fine straw, or, still better, the straw run through the cutting box—not much straw is required, as they are apt to overlay the pigs if they have too deep a nest. Care must be taken to keep the bedding clean and dry, but always on the ground. A little ditch dug around the pens will keep the water from running into the sheds. While the pigs are very young, the sow should be fed light with but little grain, mostly a little thin slop, increasing the feed gradually till the pigs are able to eat some, then they can be fed quite strong of corn soaked in cold water from twenty-four to forty-eight hours. The sow and pigs should be kept in this pen till the pigs are old enough to know their dam, when they may be turned into a grassy lot together. At the same time, you should have a pen high enough from the ground to allow the pigs to pass under and exclude the sows. In these pens should be placed troughs long enough to give each pig plenty of room. In these troughs the soaked corn should be fed to the pigs, and the sows may have hard corn. I generally let my pigs run with the sow until I see some sign of the sow weaning them, when I turn her away on clover, to run without any additional feed until green corn comes. Having followed the above plan for over twenty-five years, I seldom have much trouble in rearing pigs.

Pasturing Meadows.

If I tell you, says a writer to the *Ohio Farmer*, that pasturing your meadows will make them more productive, you may doubt it. But such is the fact in many cases. It is my experience that this is the only way that very many meadows can be brought to full productiveness. But it must be done in the proper manner and at the right time. Do not pasture your meadows in the spring and expect them to produce a full crop; neither should you pasture off the aftermath too close. Nearly all of my meadows have failed to produce more than half a crop after from five to eight years, and after pasturing them one season, the next year they would produce a full crop. In one particular instance, I rented a meadow to a man for a pasture; it had only produced half a crop of hay for two or more years previous. He put about three times as much stock on it as should have been; it was grazed close to the ground all summer. I concluded that it would not amount to anything for meadow or pasture afterwards, any more, but the next spring it looked so strong and vigorous that I left it alone, and it produced a full crop. I have never seen this accounted for or seen anything in print in reference to it, but have no doubt that the experience of others will coincide with my own. I can account for it only in the following manner: It is a well known fact that many old meadows are so full of worms that they cut nearly all the green roots off, and in places you can roll the sod back like a fleece of wool. The worms are so near the surface that the crows and the red-headed wood-peckers destroy great quantities of them; the flicker or yellow-hammer mostly lives on them also. If the meadows are tramped all over with farm stock, these worms will all be tramped to death.

How to Make Hot-Beds.

A correspondent of the *Cincinnati Times* says upon the subject:—As it will soon be time to make hot-beds for early cabbage and tomatoes, I will give some of my experience in the last ten years. Any one not experienced might think it a very easy thing to make a hot-bed, but he will find after he has been in the business for years, he will sometimes fail. It requires a great deal more care and attention for early beds than for those later in the season. The first thing is to select a warm, sheltered spot, on the south side of some building, and it should be protected from the cold west winds.

After leveling the ground, haul your fresh horse manure (there should be considerable straw mixed with it), and put in a pile, off to one side, where you want the bed. In hauling be careful to have it well shaken apart, so there will be no lumps in it. After this has lain from one to three days, according to the state of the manure when hauled and the weather, commence and shake the manure evenly over the place prepared for the bed, till the manure is not less than twenty or twenty-four inches thick. It should extend eighteen inches beyond the frame on every side. Before putting on the frame, take a wide board, and begin on one side and go over the bed, laying the board on and pressing down by walking on it. This will keep the surface level. If the weather is cool, the manure should be covered as quickly as possible with earth. Common garden soil will be the best for the first two or three inches on the manure, as it will hold the water better than soil from the weeds, but the top should always be light soil from the woods, and rotted logs. It will not pack or bake after watering. The dirt should not be less than seven or eight inches deep; this will give the plants a good bed to make roots before reaching the manure. As soon as the dirt is on and leveled, put your sash on and cover up tight with boards or straw; then bank up your bed to the top of the frame with manure, and let it remain covered up for thirty-six or forty-eight hours. This will give the bed time to cool off from the first heat, and also any weed seed to germinate that may be in the dirt. Before sowing your seed, rake the bed, and pulverize all the clods; then mark out in rows, north and south, not less than six inches apart; scatter in about five or six to the inch; water and cover up again, and leave till the plants begin to come up, which will be in from two days to a week, owing to the heat of your bed.

Breeding Sheep for Mutton.

We have various inquiries upon this subject. How to breed for mutton will depend upon what branch of the business you propose to follow—whether to rear sheep to sell to the butcher or for breeding purposes, or, (which, in our opinion, is generally the most profitable practice, as well here as in breeding cattle) to rear your stock with a view to both objects. With the best blood, as we have frequently had occasion to show, there will always be some individuals below the standard of merit that should be required in breeding stock, and these should go to the butcher. If you select good, strong, compact ewes of the common sort in your neighborhood, and breed them to a Southdown ram, the lambs will probably show the dark faces and legs, and to a large degree the fattening properties and the quality of flesh in the sire, and meet with a ready sale in the market at high prices, as the Southdown is the best, as to qualities of mutton, of all our cultivated breeds. If a Shropshire Down ram can be had he will get you larger stock, with a heavier fleece of wool, though both fleece and flesh [illegible] coarser than in the Southdown. However, it is probable that the produce of the Shropshire, being larger, would be the most profitable. If neither of these breeds (nor the Hampshire Down, regarded as next to the Southdown in quality and larger in carcass) is at hand, or if the long wool is preferred, we would choose a Cotswold or a Lincoln—both very large, with fine and valuable fleeces for combing. But these large breeds require, to make them profitable, high feeding and more attention than the smaller varieties. All these breeds are ready for market at eighteen months, and it is not believed profitable to keep the wethers to a much greater age. They are the sheep for dear lands, where there is a good demand for mutton. In rearing sheep to sell for breeding purposes, of the mutton races we would prefer the Southdown, and next to them the Shropshires. To begin with, get a good ram, compact, stout, and short-necked, and well covered with wool, as of uniform staple as possible. Don't be particular about the price if the ram suits you; any man who breeds sheep can afford to give a good price for a good ram, but do man can afford to breed from a poor ram—in proportion to the investment nothing will make or lose money to a farmer like a ram. After securing the right sort of ram look about for a few good, purely bred ewes of the same breed. It is not necessary to get many to begin with; if you are without experience in the business feel your way. To these you may add the common ewe as before suggested, and breed your ram to them for stock for the butchers. Breed early, not later than November, and get your lambs stout for the early grass. Grow your lambs—this is the true system in growing mutton as well as pork. The more you feed bran, oats, etc., the higher will be your profits. The ewes, too, must be kept in condition to give plenty of milk.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Corn for Fuel.

Corn piles in the yards of Nebraska are nearly as plenty as wood piles in the East, and for the same purpose, to wit: to burn for fuel. Is it right? Ye editor had some compunctions. In the East, where he came from, the lands bring forth vast fields of wood in excess, so that wood is as stones for plenty; whereas corn is brought forth by the sweat of the brow from hard fields; and when it is husked and cribbed, it is not only as gold for scarceness, but has cost a good deal. In Michigan wood is plenty and costs little, corn is scarce and costs much. The idea of burning it! A Michigan farmer would as soon burn his corn crib or furniture. Consequently ye editor couldn't at first but think that burning corn was a waste and a careless piece of business. Besides is not corn good for food? Is it not given like bread to make glad the heart of man and of beast? So that burning it instead of feeding it seems like casting that which is holy unto dogs.

Perhaps for reasons like the above some newspapers are protests against burning corn, as though it were dying in the face of Providence; and these papers threaten the grasshopper again as a punishment unless this waste ceases.

Suppose we hold on a little; and as war Governor Blair used to say, "turn it over and see how it looks on the other side." The fact is that in spite of old time association and food argument, etc., ye editor has just laid in a large load of corn for fuel. It is splendid corn. Jove! what ears! A good neighbor who keeps horses and fat hogs, shook his head and sung out, "Grasshoppers!"

Well, let us see.

In the first place we have to cook, eat, and keep warm at our house. We buy coal; that not only costs high, but is inconvenient to cook with by itself. Wood is good, but wood is not only high, it is not to be had just now.

In the second place, everything that grows or is raised was not only intended for man, but given to him absolutely to use. They are for man, and not man for them. He proves his sense of this by eating and feeding out corn, thus destroying it as much as by burning it. But the objection may be urged that burning corn is not using it, but abusing it.

In the third place, then, we cannot see how using corn for fuel and paying for it violates any right law or policy. The farmer who sells the corn loses nothing; the more market for corn the better for him; no, he is deprived of corn by this act that wants corn; it takes no money from him, and he can still buy what he wants. What is corn raised for? For the use of man, seller and buyer. Does it make any difference whether it warms or feeds men, one being as necessary as the other? Does it change anything because corn is grown for food? Wood is grown for the fire or shade, timber or fruit. Then if corn makes a cheap fire, (if it didn't men would not burn it) and it thus finds a market, and no one is wronged, we cannot see the harm that is done.

Corn is excessively abundant in this rich and splendid country, but is so far from market at present that its value is low, while for other reasons wood and coal are high.

The burning of corn at present is as natural as that things will find their own level. All this will change soon; the time will come when it would be unnatural and wrong, and in fact impossible, to burn corn for fuel. Our children will see the day when it will be an astonishment that Nebraska burned corn for fuel.—*Saline Co. Union.*

The Commercial Traveller.

The following readable sketch of the drummer's experience is part of a communication to the Salem *Gazette* signed a "Tramp:"

"Isn't it delightful to be a commercial tourist," you say; "to see so much that is new and beautiful, so much of the world." What a halo of romance surrounds Jones, of Stewart's as he unlocks his huge trunks and displays his wares before young Brown and his brother clerks in the little dingy village store. What a glorious fellow he is in his superb suit, gorgeous neck-tie, mammoth collar, and resplendent pin; how independent he is; with what audacious freedom he slaps Brown's employer on the back and takes his hand with a grasp as though theirs was an acquaintance of years. With what lofty flights of eloquence he portrays the virtues of his wares. He takes his order upon the nobbiest of note-books, packs his trunks and stalks out of the store with the air of a man who has paid the greatest condescension to Brown's employer in presuming to enter his modest establishment at all. Ah, yes, Brown, my boy, Jones is a noble fellow; but perhaps if he would give you a glimpse at that order book of his, you might find that the boot was on the other leg, and that Jones was the man who was most deeply indebted, for mayhap that order is the first and only one in the whole twenty-four hours; and perhaps if you were to see Mr. J. on his return to head-quarters, you might say—how are the mighty fallen.

The position of a commercial traveller is perhaps the hardest to fill of any in the mercantile world and fill it successfully. The character of a true drummer presents a curious anomaly. To the impenetrable obstinacy of the mule, he must combine the mild patience of the lamb. He must have quick wit and a ready tongue, and yet be ready to recognize the fact that "speech is silver but silence is gold." The freaks and vagaries of human nature must be his constant study, and he must be able to read his man as soon as he claps his eyes on him. He must be prepared on any subject, be able to talk on any side, either in politics or theology, and know his line of goods root and branch from the budding flax to the finished cloth. Negatives must always be taken for affirmatives, and no rebuffs can discourage him, but he always comes up bright and smiling, ready to return again to the charge.

"We want no drummers here, sir," growled a leading Portsmouth merchant to a suave individual who entered his store one morning with a suspicious valise.

"By jove, sir, if you don't clear out I'll kick you into the street," he continued, as his visitor seated himself with the air of one who had come to stay.

"Do you mean me, my dear sir?" says Sir Imperturbability calmly with an air of intense surprise, looking up from the morning paper he had taken.

"Yes, I did, sir, now start," said the irate merchant.

"Why, if I understood you, you spoke of drummers. I——I am not a drummer."

"What the deuce are you, then?" queried the astonished old man.

"I'm a mercantile tourist, travelling for my health and pleasure."

The old gentleman took the joke and laughed heartily. Coolness and impudence won the day, and that tourist was the first and only drummer who ever took the firm's order for goods.

LIONS ABOUT.

It is a dangerous thing to trifle with a cold. A darkey preacher once told his hearers that he thanked God "that the devil went about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he might devour. He might catch a poor fellow who didn't know that he was near him; but when he heard the roar he could get out of the way; if he didn't, he deserved to die." So when one hears the wheeze of the cough which tells of the old lion, Consumption, lurking around, he should fly to "Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry," and get out of the way of danger. This preparation is well known, has been tried nearly fifty years, and is acknowledged by all who use it to be unsurpassed in its soothing and healing properties.

50 cents and $1 a bottle. Sold by all druggists.