

FREAKS OF THE FUNGI.—The fungus is a kindly friend—a fearful foe. We like him as a mushroom. We dread him as the dry rot. He may be preying on your roses, or eating through the corks of your claret. He may get into your corn-field. A fungus has eaten up the vine in Madeira, the potato in Ireland. A fungus may creep through your castle, and leave it dust. A fungus may banquet on your fleets, and bury the payment of its feasts in lime. Fungi are most at home upon holes of old trees, logs of wood, naked walls, pestilential wastes, and damp carpets, and other such things as men cast out from their own homes. They dwell also in damp wine-cellars, much to the satisfaction of the wine merchant, when they hang about the walls in black, powdery tufts, and much to his dissatisfaction when a particular species, whose exact character is unknown, first attacks the corks of his wine-bottles, destroying their texture, and at length impregnates the wine with such an unpleasant taste and odour as to render it unsaleable; more still to his dissatisfaction when another equally obscure species, after preying upon the corks, sends down branched threads into the precious liquid, and at length reduces it to a mere *caput mortuum*.—*Althæcum*.

TAKE CARE OF LITTLE THINGS—The following extract contains the substance of many sermons on the importance of little things. Mr. Irving in his "Life of Washington," says that great and good man was careful of small things, bestowing attention on the minutest affairs of his household as closely as upon the most important concerns of the Republic. The editor of the Merchant's Magazine, in speaking of the fact, says:—"No man ever made a fortune, or rose to greatness in any department, without being careful of small things. As the beach is composed of grains of sand, as the ocean is made of drops of water, so the millionaire's fortune is the aggregation of the profits of single adventurers, often inconsiderable in amount. Every eminent merchant, from Girard and Astor down, has been noted for his attention to details. Few distinguished lawyers have ever practiced in the courts who were not remarkable for a similar characteristic. It was one of the peculiarities of the first Napoleon's mind. The most petty details of his household expenses, the most trivial facts relative to his troops, were, in his opinion, as worthy of his attention as the tactics of a battle, the revising of a code. Demosthenes, the world's unrivalled orator, was as anxious about his gestures or intonations as about the texture of his argument or the grandeur of his words. Before such great examples, and in the very highest walks of intellect, how contemptible the conduct of the small minds who can despise small things."

CURE FOR WOUNDED TREES.—Take two parts of cow manure, one part lime rubbish, old plas-

ter preferred, one part of wood ashes, and one part of clay. Let these ingredients be sifted (save the clay,) spread the mortar one quarter of an inch thick over the wounded part, first cutting away the edges of the bark and the dead wood with a sharp knife, afterward sprinkle the whole with a powder of wood ashes and burnt ones.

TO PREVENT WATER PIPES FROM BURSTING—There exists so simple a mode of preventing water-pipes in houses from bursting by frost that we suspect that the plumbers must be aware of it and keep it carefully out of sight. It is to have a small spherical cistern of thin copper attached to the lower part of the water-pipe and a gas burner fixed below it. If when the frost is on the gas be lighted, the effect will be that the cistern will become a boiler on a small scale, circulating sufficient warmth through the pipes to prevent the action of the frost either in stopping the supply or in bursting the pipes.

INSTINCT OR REASON?—A spotted flycatcher had built its nest in a grape-vine trained to the wall of a house. By some chance the leaves which screened the nest had died or been removed, and the young brood were, in consequence, much distressed by the heat of the sun, increased as it would of necessity be by the reflection. The parent bird was observed fluttering for a very long time together during the hottest part of the day, so as to interpose herself between her fledglings and the sun.—*Atkinson's Sketches in Natural History*.

FOR SALE.

AT

WOODHILL, WATERDOWN P. O.

MR. FERGUSON expects to have several pure Durham bull calves to dispose of next Spring, 1862, not intending to raise any this season. These calves will be all of the well known *DUCHESS* tribe, and will be put on the G. W. R. R. at six weeks old for eighty dollars each.

N. B.—First come, first served.

Waterdown, Nov. 14, 1861. 4-t.

VETERINARY SURGEON.

ANDREW SMITH, LICENTIATE of the Edinburgh Veterinary College, and, by appointment, Veterinary Surgeon to the Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada, respectfully announces, that he has commenced his profession in Toronto, and for the present, may be consulted either personally or by letter, on diseases of Horses, Cattle, &c., at the office of the Board of Agriculture, corner of King and Simcoe Streets; or at Mr. Bond's Livery Stables, Shepherd Street.

Toronto, October 3, 1861.