

## HORTICULTURAL COLUMN.

We intend this column to contain, from time to time, such information relative to the garden and orchard, as will be of practical use to our readers, giving occasionally, at the proper seasons, hints about the management of the garden and grounds, lists of the varieties of different kinds of fruit, pronounced by competent authorities to be the best of their kinds, together with whatever we think will tend to the advancement of this pleasant branch of industry.

Our space will not admit of it, neither do the circumstances demand that we should go into the subject further than by such practical suggestions as best varieties of trees and fruits to plant, best methods of planting, season, location for orchards, &c.

Great events occasionally spring from very little causes, and we, insignificant as we feel ourselves to be, may drop an idea, which like the germ of a seed may be seen years hence in widely extended proportions. The monster tree of California "Sequoia gigantea," a specimen of which measured three hundred and two feet in length, and ninety-six feet in circumference was once (supposed to be three thousand years ago) a little seed lying at the bottom of a dried fir cone.

**FLAVORING FRUIT.**—A gardener of Ghent has, after many trials, succeeded, writes *Galignani*, in giving any kind of fruit the flavor he pleases while it is still on the tree. Let us take the apple for instance: he pricks it rather deeply in four or five places with a large needle, and then lets it dip for a while in a bowl containing the liquid possessing the flavor he wishes to communicate. After a few seconds, this liquid will have penetrated into the pulp; and, this operation being repeated two or three times at intervals of eight or ten days, the apple is left to ripen on the tree and will subsequently be found to have acquired the taste either of strawberry, raspberry, or cloves according to the liquid employed.

**COAL ASHES FOR CURRANTS.**—It is stated that coal ashes applied around currant bushes to the depth of several feet on each side, will prevent the larva of the worm from rising from the ground underneath, and thus leave the bushes tolerably free from this pest. The application should be made between this time and spring.

A young gentleman paid his addresses to a young lady, by whose mother he was un honorably received. "How hard," said he to the young lady, "to separate those whom love has united!"—"Very hard, indeed," replied she, with great innocence, at the same time throwing her arms around his neck, "and so mother will find it."

## NECESSARY RULES OF SLEEP.

There is no fact more clearly established in the physiology of a man than this, that the brain expends its energies and itself during the hours of wakefulness, and that these are recuperated during sleep. If the recuperation does not equal the expenditure, the brain withers—this is insanity. Thus it is that, in early history, persons who were condemned to death by being prevented from sleeping, always died raving maniacs; thus it is also that those who are starved to death become insane; the brain is not nourished and they cannot sleep. The time saved from necessary sleep is infallibly destructive to mind, body and estate. Give yourself, your children, your servants—give all that are under you, the fullest amount of sleep they will take, by compelling them to go to bed at some regular early hour, and to rise in the morning the moment they awake; and within a fortnight Nature, with almost the regularity of the rising sun, will unloose the bonds of sleep the moment enough repose has been secured for the wants of the system. This is the only sufficient rule; and as to the question how much sleep any one requires, each must be a rule for himself—great Nature will never fail to write it out for the observer under the regulations just given.—[Ex.

**THE LOW WATER AT NIAGARA FALLS.**—REMARKABLE PHENOMENA.—A letter from Niagara Falls, gives the following description of the remarkable phenomena of low water and elsewhere—"Thursday last was a wonderful day in the annals of Niagara Falls. The strong easterly gale sent the waters of Lake Erie westward, leaving the Niagara river and its tributaries lower than ever known before. Buffalo Creek was so low that the vessels in it were grounded, and the Niagara Falls was a rivulet compared with its natural grandeur. The bed of the American branch was so denuded that you could travel on its rocky bed without wetting your feet, and mysteries that were never before revealed came to light on that day. Rocks that heretofore were invisible appeared in their full grown deformity upon the surface, and great was the consternation among the finny tribes. The three sisters were accessible to foot passengers, and many traversed where human foot had never trod before, with perfect impunity and dry feet. Below the Falls was the wonder of wonders. The water was full twenty feet lower than usual, and the oldest inhabitant gazed in wonder at the grand transformation. Near Suspension Bridge the celebrated rock at Wither's mill, upon which a drowning man caught and was rescued several years ago, which barely projects its head above water, was laid bare twenty feet above the surface.

A sheep-shearing machine is on exhibition in New York. The sheep furnishes the motive power and shears himself in one minute. We presume a spinning wheel and a frying pan attachment will be added.

**LARGE VS SMALL KERNELS OF SEED.**—Some ten years ago I planted an ear of corn to test the difference between the product of the kernels of both ends, and the middle of the same ear, and will give you the result. The soil was just alike the cultivation the same, and the crop very different. I planted the first two rows from the tip or small end; and planted all the same morning. The large end produced fair sized ears, with irregular rows, much as you will find them at the end of the ear. The middle kernels produced large ears, mostly straight and fair. The tips brought forth nubbins only. There was not a fair ear on the two rows of corn. I have raised corn, more or less for forty years; and now plant only about half, or at most only two thirds of the kernels on each ear of corn; and generally raise good crops. Save your seed corn and hang it up in the fall.—Selected.

**PRACTICAL HINTS.**—A coating of three parts lard and one part rosin, applied to farm tools of iron or steel, will effectually prevent rust. Common nails heated red hot and dropped into cold water, will clinch and answer the purpose of wrought nails. The sharp corner of a common Indian arrow head, or flint, will cut glass effectually. A good wagon-jack may be made of boards two or more feet long. Place the board in front of the wheel, one end on the ground, and the other just under one of the spokes, close up to the felloe; then take hold of the spoke on the opposite side of the wheel, and lift it, at the same time placing the second board under the axle. In this way a loaded wagon may be lifted with ease. Rusty nails may be drawn from wood without difficulty, by first giving them a blow hard enough to start them a little. A gun will not need cleaning for five years, if the muzzle is tightly corked, and a piece of rubber kept upon the tube under the hammer, when standing idle.

**THE CROPS IN GREAT BRITAIN.**—a recent report, based on authentic data, estimates the wheat crop in England and Scotland to be under the average. Oats fifteen per cent above average. Beans fully average, and peas much below average. The potato crop is producing an average yield, but the quality, from an excess of moisture in the soil, is rather inferior. In the western and southwestern counties of England the potato disease is very general, the turnip crop generally, singularly good, pastures very abundant, and a larger and better yield of hay was never secured in England.

## EDITOR'S TABLE.

In addition to our exchanges already mentioned we have the

**American Stock Journal,**

Edited by N. T. Bayer & Co., Gum Tree, Chester County, Pa. It is a neat pamphlet containing thirty-two pages of useful reading matter, principally on stock and some other agricultural subjects. It is only \$1 per annum. Any person sending us \$1.75, we will send the *Stock Journal* and the *Farmer's Advocate* for one year.