

sixteenth century it had only been kept by apothecaries as a medicine. During the reign of Henry VII, brandy was unknown in Ireland, and soon its alarming effects induced the government to pass a law prohibiting its manufacture.

About 120 years ago it was used as a beverage, especially among the soldiers in North America, under the preposterous notion that it prevented sickness and made men fearless in the field of battle. It was looked upon as a sovereign specific. Such is a brief sketch of the introduction of alcohol into society as a beverage. The History of it is written in the wretchedness, the tears, the groans, poverty and murder of thousands. It has marched through the land with the tread of a giant, leaving the impress of his footsteps in the bones, sinews, and life's blood of the people.

#### FRENCH BOAR HUNTING.

This sport, now altogether unknown on this side the channel, appears to be in full operation in France, but that it is not always attended with satisfactory results, the following will testify:—

"A boar having been very patiently hunted for some time with no other result than the severe wounding of several of the dogs, one of the huntsmen, a man of herculean form, approached it, and fired his musket, but he only succeeded in slightly wounding it. The infuriated brute quitted the dogs, and threw himself upon his human opponent, who, by mere strength, kept it for a time at a distance; but, being at length obliged to let it loose, it turned on him, inflicted several wounds on his hands and legs, and but for his seeking safety by quickly ascending a neighboring tree, would have done him mortal injury. A second huntsman, who had come to the relief of the first, was thrown down by the boar, and had his leg lacerated from ankle to knee in a fearful manner. A third here came to the rescue whom the animal instantly rushed to meet, but receiving a bullet between the eyes, fell dead."

**SINGULAR ATTACHMENT.**—One morning lately, a lady having gone rather early into an apartment in which she had a fine canary, and whose cage hung on the knob of the window-shutter, was much surprised to find the bird sitting asleep in the bottom of the cage and lying side by side with a live mouse, also asleep. On raising the window-blind, the mouse squeezed itself through between the wires of the cage and fled. On examination, the box of seed was cleaned out, as well as crumbs, &c., intended for the canary, but doubtless devoured by his strange companion. On the following evening, about half past ten o'clock, while the lady and her husband were sitting quietly by the fire-side, they were still further astonished at seeing a mouse (no doubt the same one) climbing nimbly up the shutter, and entering the cage between the two wires. Thinking it might do harm to the bird, they tried to catch the mouse, but it made its escape as before. The cage was then suspended from a nail, so that the mouse could not gain access. Strange to say, however, on the following morning the canary was found asleep on the floor of the room. (The cage-door having been left open,) and a piece of potato beside him. Most likely the mouse had spent the whole night beside him, and had had a feast on the potato.—*Glasgow Paper.*

**REMARKABLE NEST.**—A water-wagtail built its nest, this spring, in the chink of the outer wall of the saw-mill at Carrol village. The large water-wheel is continually revolving during the day, within four inches of the nest, in which the parent bird sat with the most perfect unconcern, the "dizzying mill-wheel" having, to all appearance, no effect upon its little brain. More curious still, owing to the close proximity of the wall and the wheel, the bird could not fly between them, and actually, on leaving or entering her nest, flew right through between the revolving spokes, at whatever rate the huge circle was revolving.—*Dumfries Courier.*

**EXPEDIENT OF A GULL.**—Yarrell, in his *British Birds*, (vol. III, p. 465,) tells an anecdote of a gull, which, for the first time, had made a lark its prey, but had some difficulty in devouring it. After some ineffectual efforts to swallow it, he paused for a mo-

ment; and then if suddenly recollecting himself, he ran off full speed to a pan of water, shook the bird about in it until well soaked, and immediately gulped it down without further trouble. Since that time he invariably has recourse to the same expedient in similar cases.



## Agricultural.

#### THE SOWER TO HIS SEED.

Sink little seed, in the earth's black mould,  
Sink in your grave so wet and so cold—

There must you lie;  
Earth I throw over you,  
Darkness must cover you,  
Light comes not nigh.

What grief you'd tell, if words could say:  
What grief make known for the loss of the day!

Sadly you'd speak:  
Lie here must I ever?  
Will the sunlight never  
My dark grave seek!

Have faith, little seed; soon yet again  
Thou'lt rise from the grave where thou art lain;

Thou'lt be so fair,  
With thy green shades so light,  
And thy flowers so bright,  
Waving in the air.

So we must sink in the earth's black mould,  
Sink in the earth so wet and so cold,

There we must stay,  
Till at last we shall see  
Time change to eternity,  
And darkness to day.

**WHEAT IN SARATOGA COUNTY.**—We learn that the present season there has been more wheat raised in this county than is sufficient for home consumption. As our farmers were compelled to abandon the culture of Wheat some years ago, on account of the ravages of the *Wevil*; and as the crop of the present year was but slightly affected by this insect, the presumption is, that for years to come, our county will be as in years past, a wheat growing locality. We learn that many of our farmers are preparing to sow, the present Fall, large quantities of wheat, as from the experience of the present year, they are satisfied that it will prove a sure and profitable crop. While lands in the western section of this State, command from \$60 to \$80 per acre, these equally as good for the raising of all crops (wheat included) can be purchased here from \$35 to \$40 per acre; and we have no doubt, as it is now known that fine crops of wheat can be raised here, that the result will be that within two years real estate will advance in price in this County from twenty to thirty per cent. In our opinion no better investment can be made, than the purchase at present prices, of lands in this county.—*Ballston Dem.*

**A FARMER'S BAROMETER.**—A writer in the *Georgia Farmer* gives directions for making a cheap Barometer to aid in foretelling the weather. He takes a stick three feet long, and attaches to the butt end of it a phial, full of air of course, and corked tight. The stick is then suspended in a horizontal position, on a pivot, where it will readily turn—say on a thread tied near its centre.

When a storm is coming on, the air, outside, is lighter than that in the phial; of course the phial sinks and indicates a change in the atmosphere.—Such a Barometer may be made in ten minutes, and some of our young philosophic farmers will incline to have Barometers of their own manufacture.—*Mass. Ploughman.*

**CROPS IN WISCONSIN.**—A correspondent of the *Chicago Tribune*, writing from Janesville, Wisconsin,

says the wheat crop in that section of the country, notwithstanding the destruction of a great portion of it by blight, is fair. The average yield is from twenty to twenty-five bushels to the acre, and of a very superior quality. The yield of oats is the heaviest ever known, amounting in some instances to sixty bushels per acre. Corn, generally late, owing to the wet weather of the spring; yet if the frost hold off, a fair crop may be expected.

We are informed that a lad of about 14 years of age was destroyed by a bear, in Stoneham last week, and that the father was severely injured by the animal, in going to the rescue of his son. The townships to the north of our city, seem to be infested with bears this summer; and we are told, they have caused damage to the inhabitants, and have destroyed a great number of domestic animals.—*Quebec Gazette.*

One acre of the farm of Rev. Allen Steele, near Batavia, in Genesee co., produced the following unprecedented amount of wheat. The harvest from the acre yielded sixty five and one half bushels! The wheat overran the usual wheat two pounds on each bushel, and the rakings of the field amounted to one and half bushel, making with the overweight very near seventy bushels to the acre.—*Buff. Chris. Adv.*

A Mr. John McGillivray in the township of Lochiel, had a cow which became sick a short time ago and on the application of some milk, a snake about three feet and a half was disgorged from the stomach. The cow, however, ultimately died, and on opening her another old snake, about two feet and a half, and three young ones were found in her gullet.—*Constitutional.*

**EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE.**—A few days ago a horse, the property of Mr. McCaul, of Castletown, was brought to Mr. Towers, veterinary surgeon, Dundalk, suffering from general derangement of the system. Having examined the animal, Mr. Towers prescribed some medicine, and shortly afterwards an eel was evacuated, measuring 15 feet. The eyes of the eel were covered with a light skin.—*Louth Advertiser.*

**ENORMOUS YIELD.**—Mr. John Q. Hewlett, residing about three miles from Baltimore on the Fredrick Turnpike road raised this season seven hundred and eighty bushels of prime white wheat on a field containing eighteen acres, two roods and six perches—being a very small fraction under forty-two bushels per acre. The grain was sold for ninety-five cents per bushel.—*Baltimore American.*

**GOOD NEWS FOR THE PEACH GROWERS.**—We have seen peach trees in the District of Columbus, this summer, having much larger and more delicious peaches than our more Northern fruit, and the trees in the highest state of perfection, in consequence of being painted near the root by a cheap chemical paint, prepared by J. C. Lewis, Esq., of Washington City. This preparation works the almost instant destruction of the grub worm, the enemy of both tree and fruit, and so great an enemy that it is a common thing for them to destroy the fruit entirely in from three to five years. Having seen the perfection of the remedy and the vigor of tree and fruit in consequence of its application, we can recommend it to our friends in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and everywhere where peach orchards are in cultivation.

**A MELANCHOLY SIGHT.**—Dr. Reid, a traveller through the highlands of Peru, is said to have found lately in the desert of Alacama, the dried remains of an assemblage of human beings, five or six hundred in number, men, women and children seated in a semi-circle as when alive, staring into the burning waste before them. They had not been burned; life had not departed before they had thus sat around, but hope was gone, the Spanish invaders were at hand, and no escape being left they had come hither to die. They still sat immovable in that dreary desert; dried like mummies by the effect of the hot air, they still keep their position sitting up as in solemn council, while over that dread Atropagus silence broods everlastingly.