

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

COMPOSTING is the art of mixing organic matter, such as straw, muck, dead animals, etc., that must undergo decomposition before they become available as plant food, with inorganic matter that will absorb and retain the valuable gases that the organic matter would otherwise let pass into the air and thus be lost. Such a mixture must be kept moist, but not exposed to rains that would wash away the valuable soluble salts. Stable manure and muck make an excellent basis for a compost heap, with which ashes, leached and fresh lime, weeds (not in seed), waste matters, etc., can be mixed.

LICE ON STOCK.—A number of letters ask for remedies for lousy stock. Vermin of some kind very frequently infest domestic animals; they are mostly of the louse type; small parasitic animals that must be removed by the application of some insecticide. A number of substances have been used to a greater or less extent, of which a few are mentioned below:—One pound of Tobacco and six ounces of Borax, boiled in two quarts of Water, to which Soft Soap enough is added to make a thick paste, has proved a good vermin salve. A mixture of Carbolic Acid and Soft Soap in the proportion of one to four makes a compound easy to apply, and very effective. Shortly after, the parts to which the soap mixture has been applied should be washed with pure water and a non-drying oil rubbed on. Oil of Turpentine and Lard Oil, equal parts, with a little Carbolic Acid, is perhaps the most convenient mixture to make, and effective in its application. Animals that are affected with vermin need better care and higher feeding in order to overcome the drain that those parasites make upon the system.

NUTRIMENT IN FRUIT.—The mind grasps values by comparison. The chemist tells us that an egg weighing an ounce and a half is equivalent in food material to 17 ounces of cherries, or 22 oz. of grapes, 30 oz. of strawberries, 40 oz. of apples, 64 oz. of pears. We thus see that fruits are not very solid food. But we do not think any the less of cherries, apples, and pears, because they are not as concentrated in nutritive elements as the egg. They are no less a part of the best food of the human race, and most persons will continue to eat them.

PREPARING AND SEEDING GROUND FOR MEADOW.—The practice of sowing grass and clover alone without any so-called foster crop is becoming general. It is found that the supposed nursing crop has quite a different effect from fostering or encouraging the tender grass, but chiefly robs and destroys it, unless the soil is unusually rich. The more successful practice is to prepare the soil by thorough ploughing—rolling if necessary, and harrowing so as to procure a fine tilth, and sow the seed early in the spring, without any accompanying crop. The preparation of the soil in the spring is completed by a dressing of fine manure, and a thorough harrowing, a shallow ploughing being given if necessary. Harrowing will be sufficient in the majority of cases. After a fine harrowing the seed is sown. A mixture will be found most satisfactory. Mixed crops, as a rule, yield in proportion to the increase of seed. Thus, a usual seeding of Timothy or Clover, or both, will give a

certain quantity of hay; if Orchard-Grass is added, a crop of hay will be taken equal in amount to that expected from the Timothy or Clover, but two or three weeks earlier. A second crop may be taken later, of which the Timothy will furnish the bulk, and the Orchard-Grass will fill up the bottom. If Kentucky Blue Grass is added, or Rhode Island Bent, a later crop will be given, which can be mowed for rowen, or will give the best fall pasture without injury to the roots of the Timothy or Orchard-Grass. The mixture here indicated is one that may be suggested for trial. It has been tried and found successful and desirable in all cases, and deserves a more extended application. The seed has been sown in the following proportions: One bushel of Orchard-Grass, one-half bushel of Kentucky Blue Grass, one-half bushel of Rhode Island Bent, ten pounds of Timothy, and six pounds of Red Clover. The Blue Grass appears later than the others, and fills up the vacant spaces left by the failing clover, which disappears after the second year. The advantage of the mixture is chiefly that a fine thick bottom is produced, which covers and protects the ground between the stools of the coarser grasses, and which furnishes a second crop for hay and a third for pasture. For soiling purposes the mixed seeding is even more useful than for pasturage, as the grass may be cut at any season without danger of injury from a dry spell. These particulars are more pertinent for the spring than the present season, yet if one would avail himself of them he must make preparation now, and not delay.

GRASSES FOR DECORATION.—A bouquet or vase of properly dried and tastefully arranged grasses of the more graceful sorts, is a very pleasing decoration for the parlour or sitting-room in winter. The beauty of a grass depends largely upon the delicacy of its flower clusters, and their graceful and orderly arrangement in the panicle or "head." As a type of beauty among the larger grasses, a long feathery plume of the Pampas Grass may be chosen, and indeed it is a very pleasing object when preserved in its original shape and colour. We must here enter a protest against the violation of nature by dyeing the plumes of grasses any colour whatever. They, to our taste, can not be improved upon by being coloured a deep crimson, an unnatural green, unpleasant black, or any other colour. Grasses for their greatest beauty should be gathered just as they are fully in flower, and hung up or spread out to dry in a place that is free from dust. If a grass is gathered after it is beginning to mature its seed, the floral parts will become brittle and soon fall to pieces, and fail to be the objects of beauty that they would be if gathered when just at the opening of the flowers. There are a number of native grasses that are worthy of a place in such a collection. In general, it may be said that any grass that is attractive for its delicacy, grace, and colour while growing in the field, will not be disappointing when it is tastefully arranged in the house.

"His love that makes the world go round." It also makes the young man go round—to the home of his girl about seven nights per week.

Nearly coloured autumn leaves are worth fifty cents per hundred pounds to bed street car horses. Think of this as you feel the sad tears rising.

PERSONAL.

It is a touching piece of self-forgetfulness on the part of Queen Christina to name her baby Mercedes, for her husband's first love.

CHRISTINE NILSSON lately refused to sing for a "charity" at Aix-les-Bains, where she has been staying, declaring that charity began at home, and she was there to get rest.

At a recent English wedding the bride's nephew, dressed in a ruby velvet Cavalier suit, acted as page, holding the train; and the thirteen bridesmaids wore mob caps, puffed sleeves, long mittens, and paste buckles.

MADAME BARRAULT, who was lately married to Mr. Andrew Johnson, a relative of the late ex-President of that name, has a right to wear the title of Duchess of Bourbon. She has been for some years a teacher of French in Erie.

MISS FLORA SHARON, who is thought to be a pretty and charming girl, the daughter of the Silver Senator, is to marry Sir Thomas Keith, who, making a yachting tour round the world, passed at San Francisco just long enough to take the prize.

The picture of Madame Gerster-Gardini's baby is described by a bachelor as being very pretty and winsome, which inclines one to believe it remarkably attractive. The child is taken asleep in a wicker carriage, over which is leaning the slender Italian nurse.

The King of Denmark has given the Bernhardt a gold medal surmounted by a crown in diamonds, and attached to the red-bordered white ribbon of the Order of the Dannebrog—a distinction very rarely granted, and but to two other women—Nilsson and Trebelli.

DR. TANNER crops up in the pages of nearly every English periodical, and will be referred to in every new encyclopedia and thousands of medical works. If he has not got money, he has got, in six weeks, as world-wide a reputation as Wellington or Byron in as many years.

THE BARONESS DE HATZFELD, whose divorce, for no other cause than that an ancestress was at one time connected with the stage, is disgraceful alike to her husband and the German court, is not a daughter, as was recently stated, or any blood-relation whatever, of Madame de Hegemann Lindoucron, the wife of the Danish Minister, but the sister of her first husband, Mr. Charles Moulton, and the daughter of Mrs. Charles Moulton, nee Metz, of Paris.

SIR F. ROBERTS, the conquering hero of Candahar and so-styled "Saviour of Afghanistan," is son of a clergyman of the Established Church in Waterford, Ireland. His brother, Samuel U. Roberts, is one of the Commissioners of the Board of Public Works in Ireland. Sir F. Roberts is a member of the order of Good Templars and a staunch teetotaler. He has a Good Templar lodge attached to every regiment under his command. Sir Garnet Wolseley is also a total abstainer.

The daughter of an official in high life in Vienna recently wore several times a superb dress of dark green material, trimmed with wreaths of leaves in another and lighter shade of green. During the season the beautiful complexion of the young lady underwent a sudden change, and was ruined by a painful and offensive eruption. After a time her physician, baffled by the symptoms, thought of the dress, had it subjected to a chemical examination, and found enough arsenic in the colouring to produce all the mischief, and a great deal more.

DORA YOUNG, a favourite daughter of the Prophet, and one of the heirs of a large portion of his property, was lately to be seen at a Chicago hotel, and is described as a fine looking person, dressed in good taste in black satin and brocade, with costly rings on her shapely hands. Her manners are pleasing, and her conversation interesting. She is attached to the memory of her father, although she is no longer a Mormon, calls the system a dreadful one, and says that the Mormon wives, under their outward semblance of good-will, hate each other with a deadly hatred.

It is understood that Lady Burdett Coutts will be given away, on the occasion of her marriage, by the First Lord of the Admiralty. The grandmother of this lady was a servant in the house of a brother of the old banker, Susan Starkie by name. He had her carefully educated, and then married her. Her daughters became Countess of Guilford, Marchioness of Bute, and Lady Burdett. Mr. Coutts' second wife figures in *Vivian Grey* as Mrs. Million. A brother of

the Baroness died lately, without a will or any record of his property, and in his room were found two hundred and fifty thousand pounds in Bank-of-England notes.

THE PRINCESS BEATRICE is so marked in her attentions to the ex-Empress as to strengthen the popular belief that she was intended for her daughter-in-law. The Princess was the first to meet the imperial lady on her return from Africa, going aboard the ship. Lately the ex-Empress spent a couple of days at Osborne, the Princess crossing over to Portsmouth to escort her. They walked about the grounds in the morning, and rode with the Queen in the afternoon. It is understood that the ex-Empress makes her future home at Arensburg, her villa on Lake Constance—a place already full of romantic and unfortunate associations.

AN English earl who, ever since the wedding of the Duchess of Edinburgh, has desired to have in his family a necklace like the one worn by the Empress of Russia on that occasion, but who had been deterred by the simple fact that the Czarina paid nearly a million dollars for hers, happened to mention his wish to Mrs. Mackay, of Bonanza fame, in Paris, and was advised by her to look at diamonds in America. He has obeyed her instruction, and, for the sum of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars, is about to become the possessor of a necklace of fifteen magnificent white stones, ranging in size from that of a filbert to one three times as large, and matchless in brilliancy, together with a pair of solitaire ear-rings and a brooch, in which seven large diamonds and sixteen smaller ones imitate one of the earl's heraldic emblems.

Dangers of the Sea.

The difference between handling a ship so that she escapes a danger and in a way to plunge her headlong upon it was doubly illustrated on her last passage by the *Algeria* which has just arrived in New York from Liverpool. On her sixth day out the *Algeria* found herself in a heavy fog on the Banks of Newfoundland. The ship was feeling her way cautiously along, all eyes and ears, so to say, when from over the port bow there sounded a fog bell. It seemed some distance off. But Capt. Gill, swift as light, ordered a reverse of the engines. The screw flew round, the great ship paused, slowly backed, and none too soon. In a trice there loomed up through the fog a huge three-masted schooner rushing forward under full sail. Had the course of the *Algeria* been kept, had she failed to retreat at the moment she did, a collision would have been inevitable. The schooner flew on her way straight across the foaming wake of the steamship, and a terrible calamity that might have cost hundreds of lives was happily averted. Very nearly the same thing happened again on the same evening, the dangerous craft that approached the *Algeria* in this instance being another large steamer. This time the stranger was not seen through the dense mist, but the voices of persons on her decks were heard with startling distinctness, and the escape was apparently as narrow as in the case of the schooner. Eternal vigilance is as clearly the price of safety at sea as it is of liberty everywhere.

A Small Baby.

The Smyrna, Del., *Times* of last week contains the following: "Our town has a baby that has attracted the attention of the curious—men as well as women. It is a girl babe that came to the household of Mr. John Van Winkle, on Tuesday morning of last week, which weighed a pound and three-quarters, is 12 inches long, and is perfect in every way. Its wrists are about the size of a man's index finger, and a shoe one and a half inches in length will increase its foot, its head is about the size of a ball of wrapping cotton, and its body not larger than a man's wrist. It is queen of the household it doing well, and the physicians have hopes of its being able before long to pass its hair on its forehead and pilot some unfortunate youth to an ice cream saloon.

"Yes," said Mr. Profundity, "it is the silent forces in nature that are the most potent. It is the silent strength of gravity that binds the world together; it is the silent power of light that gives life and beauty to all things; it is the silent stream that is deepest; it is—" "It is the still sow that gets the most swill," Mrs. P. put in, seeing her liege lord had got to the end of his rope of similes. It was kind of her, but it somehow spoiled the effect of his dissertation.