

diate contact with every portion of the mass, and fixes the ammonia it contains. The product is then dried on a heated iron floor, and thus a rich, nitrogenous manure is produced, closely resembling Peruvian guano in character and chemical composition."

BORROWING MONEY.

One of the truest and best of Benjamin Franklin's maxims it, "He who goes a borrowing goes a sorrowing," and Holy Writ declares, that, "the borrower is servant to the lender." There are cases in which it is advisable and necessary to borrow, but people should "think twice" before they "leap once" into debt, and especially it is undesirable, if it can possibly be avoided, to put a mortgage on our homestead for a loan. Sometimes this is unavoidable and it is done at the bidding of some inexorable necessity, with great reluctance and grief. One of the best things we have lately seen in the pictorial way was a picture in one of the illustrated journals entitled "SIGNING THE MORTGAGE." The artist had portrayed in the countenances of a middle-aged man and his wife, the tyranny of circumstances, the struggle with pecuniary difficulty, the inevitable resolve, the conflicting feelings with which the sorrow-stricken couple were proceeding to sign away their exclusive right and title of the dear old homestead. But there are some who remember their properties with mortgages in a very heedless, reckless way. It gives them no distress to do so; money they want and money they will have; they do not forecast the future and how next to impossible it will be to pay off the principal. Such easy-going borrowers will do well to "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" the following remarks of Henry Ward Beecher on this subject:—

"No blister draws sharper than interest does. Of all industries none is comparable to that of interest. It works all day and night, in fair weather and foul. It has no sound in its footsteps, but travels fast. It gnaws at a man's substance with invisible teeth. It binds industry with its film, as a fly is bound in a spider's web. Debts roll a man over and over, binding hand and foot, and letting him hang upon the fatal mesh until the long-legged interest devours him. There is but one thing on a farm like it, and that is the Canada thistle, which swamps new plants every time you break its roots, whose blossoms are prolific, and every flower the father of a million seeds. Every leaf is an awl, every branch a spear, and every plant like a platoon of bayonets, and a field of them like an armed host. The whole plant is a torment and a vegetable curse. And yet a farmer had better make his bed of Canada thistles than attempt to be at ease upon interest."

TRANSMISSION OF CUTTINGS TO FOREIGN PARTS.

The difficulties of transmitting heads and plants long distances, especially when they have to cross

the torrid zone, are well known to such as are practically conversant with the subject. We find some interesting and suggestive parts in the report of the Horticultural Society of Victoria, for 1860, that are well deserving of attention.

It appears that the Australian Society received from Chiswick, in the vicinity of London, in April, 1868, some cuttings of fruit trees taken in October, 1867. There being no storks in a condition for grafting when the cuttings were received (April), scions were preserved until the following August, when they were grafted. It will thus be seen that a period of more than nine months elapsed from the time they were cut from the trees; nevertheless, 66 apples, 72 pears, 24 figs, 5 vines, and 8 plums were saved of this consignment. The experiment is exceedingly interesting, as it proves conclusively that in the form of cuttings all the new varieties of fruit trees may be introduced with a reasonable prospect, if not absolute certainty, of success. The importance of this result will strike all who have experienced the losses and disappointments attending the importation of trees, especially from great distances. The introduction of new varieties is by this means rendered a very simple and inexpensive matter. A car of 6 cubic feet capacity will contain thousands of cuttings, the trees of which would require a space equal to many hundreds of tons measurement. Another advantage with the cuttings is, that the care may be hermetically sealed and stowed away like ordinary merchandize, whereas special instructions as to care (which is seldom exercised) have to be given, and as to the storage of the cars containing trees.

THE PASSION FOR NEW FRUITS.

It is a mistake to suppose that the desire for something new, but not therefore necessarily "improved" is a characteristic of horticulture exclusively confined to more recent times. Quintinie, in his *French Gardener*, published in 1696, makes some remarks, from which we learn that horticulturists nearly two centuries ago were troubled with the same mania for new things that they are at the present time. He says:—

"How happy would I have been if, during the many years that I was serving my apprenticeship in this art, under the conduct only of my own head, I had not with me able direction to guide me; for, above all things, I should not have needed one to cure me of a kind of mad fancy one has commonly for that which they call new fruit, though they try often from nothing else but some common sort disguised under some new names; which is an unhappiness caused partly by the ignorance of some persons and partly by the affectation of some fanatical, presumptuous pretenders."

Notwithstanding it is a fact that a much wider taste for, and correct scientific information of horti-