

Another day my horse was standing hitched, and kicking flies, got his feet entangled and fell down. While struggling to rise, the rump strap broke, and feeling himself loose, he sprang to his feet and started on a lively run, with the buggy in the rear. An old farmer gentleman just passing, instinctively cried out "whoa." "My gracious master, I never saw the like of that; why, if I had hit that horse over the head with a club, he wouldn't have stopped any quicker; fine horse, well broken; been one of my horses, sir, your wife would have plenty of kindling wood. Never stopped a horse that way before."—*Cor. Ohio Farmer.*

### Miscellaneous.

#### SLEEPING FLOWERS.

Almost all flowers sleep during the night. The marigold goes to bed with the sun, and with him rises weeping. Many plants are so sensitive that they close their leaves during the passage of a cloud. The dandelion opens at five or six in the morning, and shuts at nine in the evening. The goat's beard wakes at three in the morning, and shuts at five or six in the evening. The common daisy shuts up its blossom in the evening, and opens its "day's eye" to meet the early beams of the morning sun. The crocus, tulip, and many others, close their blossoms at different hours towards the evening. The ivy-leaved lettuce opens at eight in the morning, and closes for ever at four in the afternoon. The night-flowering cereus turns night into day. It begins to expand its magnificent sweet-scented blossoms in the twilight; it is full-blown at mid-night, and closes never to open again with the dawn of day. In a clover-field not a leaf opens till after sunrise. These are the observations of a celebrated English author, who has devoted much time to the study of plants, and often watched them during their quiet slumbers. Those plants which seem to be awake all night, he styles "the bats and owls of the vegetable kingdom."—*Horticulturist.*

#### A MUSHROOM CAVE.

A correspondent of the *London Journal of Horticulture* thus describes a visit to a French mushroom cave:

We first found out Madame Froment, whose son kindly accompanied us, and in due course we were conducted to one of these openings, having first provided ourselves with candles, etc. To those who have descended coal mines or such other subterranean retreats, and who, like Lieutenant Warren in his exploration of Jerusalem, are said to delight in groping, it is nothing; but to staid and sober people like myself who affect the upper air and

level ground—whose backs do not bend so easily as they used, and whose heads are none of the steadiest for such work, the descent is an ordeal of no common nature. You looked down a large opening of about 70 or 80 feet in depth, and by an ingenious contrivance had to swing yourself on to a very rickety-looking swing ladder, which had to be repaired before we could venture on it; but I was committed to it, and so down we went. When we reached the bottom we were very soon *in medias res*. Galleries were on all sides, and into these we soon dived. As we wound along, the owner narrated to us sundry funny adventures he had had with visitors, amongst others of a certain Lord Mayor from the Emerald Isle, whose copious rotundity was considerably in his way in some of the passages, and who puffed, fumed, and steamed through them. Our conductor, besides being thoroughly used to it, being a thin spare man, could thread his way along easily where his more corpulent companion found considerable difficulty. All along these passages were long narrow beds of varying heights and sizes, but all small, and entirely different from anything we are used to in mushroom culture. On these beds, which were covered with a peculiar calcareous soil, were mushrooms of all sizes, from tiny little pins' heads up to good-sized tea-cups, some as white as driven snow, others with a faint tinge of buff. On we went. Sometimes we had the greatest possible difficulty to get along, so very low was the ceiling; and now and then we came upon an opening where a larger portion of the stone had been obtained, and here the beds were sometimes four, five, and six deep, but all of the same form—slightly rounded and low. The *champignoniste* would every now and then stop, bid us admire some fine cluster of his productions, and expatiate on their beauty. Some idea of the extent to which this culture is carried on, may be gathered from the fact that this one man had ten miles of these beds in this subterranean garden, from which all through the year immense quantities are sent into Paris.

#### GRASSING A TERRACE OR BANK.—

"To use the most improved method of covering a bank of earth with grass, there is just one satisfactory way," if time and uniformity of the surface are important. This is to cover it with sods, taken from a road side or from an old pasture-field. A heavy seeding of white clover and red-top will make a good finish where the soil does not wash and gully away; but alone they are hardly reliable for terrace work. Upon very steep surfaces the turf may be held in place by means of wooden pins driven through it into the bank. Pieces of lath, a foot long, answer the purpose very well.

#### TOMATOES FROM CUTTINGS.

W. W. Canada says: The *Canada Farmer* of Feb. 15th contains an article upon the Tomato, in which it is stated that cuttings of this plant should be taken in the fall, kept through the winter, and set out in the spring, and that this mode of propagation is better than sowing seed in spring, etc. Now it seems to me that the tomato being an annual, cannot be propagated by cuttings taken in the fall and kept through the winter. Am I right, or is the writer in the *Canada Farmer* correct?

[Any annual can be perpetuated for an indefinite number of years, by cuttings each year. It is reasonable that tomatoes would be somewhat earlier this way; of course it involves extra trouble. We supposed the *Canada Farmer* was dead, as we have not heard of it for two years.]

We copy the above from the *Gardener's Monthly*. It appears that in the matter of Tomato-raising, Halifax is ahead of all Canada and the outlying Republican States, for Mr. Harris regularly grows his Tomatoes from cuttings, and not from seed, and finds that by this means they fruit much earlier and more abundantly, and as regards robustness of plant, no seedling grower can hope to compete with him.—Ed. J. A.

EARLY CHICKENS.—The season of the year has now fully arrived when breeders ought to have their stock mated and placed in their breeding pens, and whenever a hen shows signs of incubation, no time should be lost in placing eggs under her. The early hatched chicken has many advantages over those of later birth; it should be borne in mind that it is in early chickenhood the frame is made that will hereafter place it in the ranks of the large birds of its breed. And although feeding has much to do in the production of size and maturity, other things being equal, the early chicken is sure to be the best. It behoves breeders, then, who wish to excel in this respect, to produce early chickens, although at the cost of considerable more care and attention than is necessary in the raising of those at a later period in the season.—*Poultry Chronicle.*

#### IS POULTRY KEEPING PROFITABLE?

Upon this subject the *Western Rural* makes the following just and sensible remarks, giving some cogent reasons why poultry should be kept upon the farm, and as to the profits arising therefrom.

"For several years poultry have been very profitable, eggs and chickens com-