

HONEY BEES.
The Albany Cultivator has an article on honey bees, from which we quote the following paragraph:
"Many, nearly everybody supposes that the bee collects honey from the nectar of flowers, and simply carries it to his cell in the hive. This is not correct. The nectar he collects from the flower, is a portion of its food or drink; the honey it deposits in its cell is a secretion from its middle, or honey secreting glands, (analogue to the milk secreting glands of the cow and other animals.) If they were the mere collectors and transporters of honey from the flowers to the honey comb, then we should have the comb frequently filled with molasses, whenever the bees had fed at a blossoming, whenever they were on the wing performing the same functions as the cow's bag or udder, merely receiving the honey from the secreting glands, and retaining it until a proper opportunity presents for its being deposited in an appropriate store-house, the honey comb."

Another error, is that the bee collects pollen from the flowers and carries it to its cell in search of honey. Quite the contrary is the fact. The bee when in search of nectar, or honey as it is improperly called, does not collect pollen. It goes in search of pollen especially, and also for nectar. When the pollen of the flower is ripe and fit for the use of the bee, there is no nectar; when there is no nectar, there is no pollen fit for use in the flower. It is generally supposed that the bee constructs its comb from wax which it constructs its comb from such vegetable substances. This is also an error. The wax is a secretion from its body, as the honey is, and it makes its appearance in small scales or flakes, under the wings of the bee, and is taken thence by the bee, rendered plastic by mixture of the saliva of the bee's mouth, and laid on the walls of the cell with the tongue, very much in the way a plasterer uses his trowel."

BUCKWHEAT—ITS POISONOUS EFFECTS—THE HONEY BEE.
Messrs. Envoys.—There is in buck wheat an essence or medicinal principle upon which its irritating qualities depend, and is called *api venenum* or "the poison." This is one of the sources from whence the common honey bee obtains its food; hence, the same disagreeable effects follow the immoderate use of honey we obtained from the buckwheat.

The bee takes from the flower a portion of its medicinal virtue with the saccharine matter of the plant, which, by passing through the internal laboratory of the insect, becomes separated into its primary constituents of *api venenum* and honey; the one being deposited in cells for the sustenance of the insect, and the other laid by within itself as a means of defence.

Now, in making this separation in the Chemical Laboratory of the insect or by accident were dead bees in the honey while being rendered, it often occurs that portions of this poison are mixed with the honey, producing all the disagreeable effects which would result from the use of buckwheat itself.

There is, perhaps, no article containing as a percentage of this poisonous principle used for food as buckwheat in its various forms; and the sameness of its aroma with that given off by the common honey bee is a proof of its identity.

All poisonous insects and reptiles are healthy, active and virulent in proportion to the plentiful supply of the poison they are enabled to derive from their food; while feeding and on such articles as yield themselves supply, their stings or bites are more virulent than at other times. This I saw fully demonstrated last winter, in transporting the honey bee over the mountains of California from the cold regions of the North. The sting from these bees, in the most unhealthy state produced but little sensation or effect upon the human flesh.

The nervous, warlike habits of the honey bee during the period of the flowering of buckwheat fully corroborate the doctrine that this plant contains considerable quantities of poison, and it is on the principle that its irritating qualities depend.

The best remedy to prevent the disagreeable burning or itching sensation of the skin caused by a free use of buckwheat cakes, is carbonate of soda (or an alkali of a similar nature), used in the raising, or taken internally when the itching has taken place in consequence of having eaten too freely of the cakes. And here let me state that an alkali of the chemical nature, immediately taken and applied to the skin after a bite or sting of the most poisonous insect or reptile, is a good antidote, and, in most cases, save the unfortunate victim from any serious harm.

S. W. Jewett,
Racine, Wis., Feb. 28, 1861.

WHITEWASH FOR STABLES.
Mr. Whitewash should always be appointed Chairman of the General House Cleaning Committee. His qualifications for filling this situation are unquestionable. His sanitary influence is undoubted and he imparts an air of cleanliness and cheerfulness wherever he appears. The best way to initiate him into his situation is as follows: "Take a clean water-tight barrel or other suitable cask, and put into it half a bushel of lime. Slack it by pouring water over it boiling hot, and in sufficient quantity to cover it five inches deep, and stir it briskly till thoroughly slacked, dissolve it in water, and add two pounds of sulphate of zinc, and common salt. These will cause the wash to harden, and prevent its cracking, which gives an unsightly appearance to the work. If desirable, a beautiful cream color may be communicated to the above wash, by adding three pounds of yellow ochre, or a good pearl or lead color. By the addition of lamp, vine, or ivory black, for a warm color, add four pounds of Turkey or American—be the latter—cheaper—one pound of Indian red, and one pound of common lampblack. For common stone color, add four pounds of raw umber, and two pounds of lampblack. When applied to the outside of outhouses and to fences, it is rendered more durable by adding sweet milk, mullage from flaxseed; about a pint to the gallon will suffice. All stables should be whitewashed once or twice every year, as the increased white light which it reflects tends to promote the health of animals. Hand round this information to every man who owns a horse or cow; be cause for one stable that is whitewashed there are a hundred on the walls of which no brush was ever laid.

Friends that are worth having are not made but "grow," like Topsy in the novel. An old man gave this advice to his sons on his death-bed: "Never try to make a friend. Enemies come fast enough without cultivating the crop; and friends who are brought forward by hot-house expedients, are apt to wither long before they are fairly ripened."

An apple tree shook its blossoms on the earth and made it bright and beautiful, and yet the tree was not impoverished, but soon replenished its branches with fruit it could not have produced had it retained the blossoms. Whoever will, may make his life like the tree, and scatter the flowers of happiness all over the earth.—Amend.

The archives of the human soul are hid in its cellar. Whoever would read them must become an inmate of the dwelling, and search near the foundation.—Amend.

THE STREETS OF LONDON.
Some of the facts stated by Mr. Gough, in his lecture on the "Streets of London," are very curious. He says the population is increasing at the rate of 1,000 per week; from this it follows that, in the average, in every hour of the day and night there are six persons in London more than there were the hour before. The city is sixty miles in circumference, and has 5,000 miles of paved streets. Land in the vicinity of Cornhill and the Exchange has been sold for \$5,000,000 per acre. The fog of London had never been adequately described. It was an old custom, when he was speaking at Exeter Hall, produced in the course of a few minutes, not to be able to see one in the crowded galleries—to be speaking to people, and see nobody there. If you go out in the streets, it seems as if you were wading in an illuminated sea of pea soup. These fogs never rise higher than 200 feet above the city; they come in December, and are never seen in February. They are supposed to be caused by the smoke of bituminous coal issuing from innumerable chimneys. As an illustration of the benevolence of London, the lecturer instanced the amount raised for the soldiers in the Crimea—\$9,500,000 in less than six months by subscription. In the prisons the prisoners said they could not give money, but that they would give their provisions, and they starved themselves twenty-four hours so that the amount of a day's provisions, could go into the sum. The lecturer described the ragged schools, of which there 170, with 25,000 pupils; also the various shifts made to get a living. Nothing is wasted in London—the boots and shoes are made to make a fine pelatine, and the blood is used to give a particularly nice flavor to catsup. Mr. Gough closed with a numerous account of the celebration of Guy of Fawkes's day, the 5th of November.

AUSTRALIA.
VICTORIA—GREAT STORMS AND FLOODS—DISCOVERY OF A NEW GOLD FIELD.
Our dates from Melbourne are to the 24th of Dec. The news is not of much importance. Mr. Brooke had succeeded in forming an administration, and the house had adjourned to the 3rd of January, in order to afford the new Government time to prepare their estimates and measures. We extract the following items of intelligence from the Melbourne Argus:—"It is proposed to be open up a further distance of 27 miles of the Melbourne and Mount Alexander Railway early in April next—namely the section between Sunbury and Woodend. Storms of rain and floods in all the rivers have characterized our summer. No similar season has been remembered for 16 years. The Yarra rose considerably, after 48 hours, rain on the 8th, 9th, and 10th insts, flooded the road to St. Kilda, on the south of Prince's Bridge, covered Sandridge road so as to render it scarcely fordable, and all but converted the municipality of Emerald Hill into a sea of mud. Some damage was done to the railway in Elizabeth-street, Flinders-street, Bourke-street, &c. The hay crop has suffered considerably. The Geelong Melbourne Railway embankments were injured to some extent, and the bridge over the Werribee was swept away. Traffic was suspended for a few days, but has been resumed. Grass has scarcely ever been so abundant at this season, and stock have become so numerous, and beef and mutton so cheap, that some of the squatters take once more some of the others of the squatters, however, are turning their attention to the assistance which chemistry will be able to yield them for the preservation of meat in a fresh state for exportation to Europe. The discovery of some of the best gold fields in the world, preserving meat is of vast importance to these colonies. The volunteers have now received a partial supply of arms, and are enthusiastically busy with rifle competitions (in which Geelong and Camasine vie with Melbourne), and in night alarms, sham fights, reviews and balls. They are making excellent progress, and nothing can be better, more loyal, or enthusiastic than the spirit they display. A new gold field has been reported by Mr. Howitt, the leader of one of the government prospecting parties in the Gipps Land; and a rush on an usually large scale has taken place to a locality in the Maryborough district, known as "Mackinac" station. Some 12,000 have congregated there within two or three weeks, and the reports at present are favorable. Another gold field in the district of the Owens has been reported by the leader of a government party. His representation of the character of his discovery are high, and are at present under examination. A fourth new field is announced—this instance in Kilmore district—and extended claims are asked for by the prospectors. Quartz-crushing, however is rapidly taking the place of alluvial mining, and is extending over all the mining districts. The yield of the gold fields has scarcely been maintained. For three months the total quantity brought down has been only 500,424 oz. against 520,508 oz. for the corresponding period of last year. The total quantity for the year has been 1,970,816 oz. Up to the same date of last year 2,271,864 oz. had passed through the gold office. The shipments of the metal have also exhibited a falling off, the total for the current year being only 2,050,939 oz. against 2,211,864 oz. for the same period of 1859."

BE CAREFUL ABOUT LITTLE THINGS.
"My boy," said a father to his son, "be careful about little things. Great things will take care of themselves, but take care of little things, and everything will be taken care of."

A young man once went to the city of Paris to seek a situation. He had letters of recommendation to a large banking establishment. He called on the gentleman who was at the head of it, full of hope and confidence that he would obtain employment. The gentleman heard what he had to say, looked over his letters hastily, and then handed them back to him, saying, "We have nothing for you to do, sir." The young man felt his heart sink within him. He was ready to burst into tears. But there was no help for it, so he made his bow and retired. As he was passing in front of the building, there was a pin lying on the pavement. He stopped, stooped down, picked it up, and then stuck it carefully away under the bosom of his coat. The gentleman with whom he had just been speaking was standing at the window, and saw what took place. 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