FARMERS' COLUMN.

PLANT AN AFFER CECHAED.—We want more apple orchards in all the older States. The old trees once so beautiful, are bearing less and dying every year. On many farms no successors are provided for. We have occasionally a surplus of apples, as in 1874, when the orchard does not pay much. But there is a compensation to the fruit grower, even in these years of exceptional abundance. The cheapness of apples introduces them into many families ness of apples introduces them into many families where they are generally used as a luxury. They are so wholesome and enjoyable that they become a necessity, and are more largely purchased in subsequent years, when they bring double prices. In 1874, apples sold for \$1,50 per barrel. In 1875, they sold for \$4 a barrel. We know of a case in which a family laid is, in 1874, sixteen barrels; in 1875, the price being so much higher, the same sum being allowed for apples, the supply was but six barrels. If apples can be raised at a dollar a six barrels. If apples can be raised at a dollar a barrel and pay expenses, the farmer who furnished this family made \$7 in his trade of 1874, and \$18 the other year. Thriftly families soon become accustomed to apples, and they take their place with with flour, meat and butter, among the necessary family supplies, and the whole crop is taken, even in abundant years, at prices that pay something. This is what the fruit grower wants, steady paying prices for all that he can raise every year, rather than extravagant profits, which will induce everybody to rush into his specialty. Apples are, on the whole, as likely to be profitable as any fruits farmer can invest in the present time, with the prespect of making money out of them for the next thirty years. They keep better than almost any other fruit, and in all the northern half of the country can be had in a fresh state with little difficulty every day in the year. Our soil and climate are admirably adapted to this fruit. It grows in the greatest beauty and perfection, and American apples command very high prices in English markets.

They are already a profitable article of export, and this business has as substantial a basis for increase as the export of American cheese to European markets. The idea that our climate is changed is a fiction. Apples grow in our old States in as great perfection as they ever did, if the orchards are properly cared for. They will grow as well on worn out pastures as on virgin soil. But we find, to-day, on soils that are fed and cultivated, apple trees grow so vigorous and fruitful that nothing more can be asked. Nor do we take any stock in the idea that the old varieties are running out. The Roxbury Russet has been in the country from very near the first set-tlement, and in the East the trees are as vigorous and hardy and the fruit as perfect as they ever were. As a long-keeping standard variety, there is no better selection for this region. Plant an orchard this Spring. Plant only standard varieties that are known to do well in your neighborhood, and let the varieties be few, and nine tenths of them the long keepers. Late Winter apples can be sold eight months in the year. They almost al-ways bring extra prices in the Spring. We know of farmers who have never lost faith in this crop, and are reaping golden harvests from orchards planted twenty years ago. First, plant an orchard; second, take care of it.—Cor. American Agriculturist. Covering the Soil.—If a small patch of ground

be covered with a coating of manure in the spring, and left until fall, it will be found that the surface is rich, moist, and mellow, while the exposed soil will be comparatively hard. Is there not a practical inference to be drawn from this, especially as it appears to be a law of nature, never to leave the soil uncovered. In the woods there is a covering of decayed leaves all the year round. When land is cleared nature hastens to cont it over with grass. If nothing else is available, a covering of weeds is quickly formed, as though anything were better than that a bare surface should be left to the action of sun and air. Learning from nature, which is after all the best teacher, would it not seem to be a principle that it is better land should never be left naked? Is this not one reason why in the actual practice of farming rotations of crops is better than the old plan of following? Under the action of sun and air, gases will be evolved from the soil. With a vegetable growth of some sort, these gases find their way out of the soil into the plants, while these plants in their tarn absorb gases that are affoat in the atmosphere. Growing green crops for manure is, on this principle, preferable to leaving the surface bare, and letting the aftergrowth grow for mulch is wiser policy than growing newly cut mown meadows. On the same principle, mulching young orchards is advisable. If we avoid denuding the land, and make it a rule always to keep something growing, either for a crop or for green manure, there will be avoidance of loss from the escape of gases out of the soil, and a clear gain of all that the plants obtain in the way of food from the atmosphere. No doubt a covering of straw is better than nakedness, and experience has proved a thousand times in orchard culture, that any description of mulch, even if it be of the most rubbishly and worthless material, is better for the trees than let the ground go bear. The application of this principle in farm and garden practise is varied and almost endless. Appropos of this subject the Rural Home asks:—Why should we mulch in Winter? For the same purpose that we mulch in Summer, to retain the moisture in the soil. It is an unquestionable fact that that the roots of trees often receive injury from drouth in Winter. We doubt whether there was ever a Summer's drouth that destroyed so many long established trees and plants as did the Winter's drouth of 1874 5. True, the immediate cause of the death of the tree was trost, but the prime cause was drouth. We come to the conclusion because, while we have had much colder Winter's, when the frost penetrated to a greater depth, we do not remember another so dry a Winter, nor one in which so many hardy, full-grown trees were killed. A few inches of partly rotted manure spread over the roots in Autumn would do much toward preventing the moisture from evaporating. The cold, wintry winds will dry out the soil as certainly, if not as rapidly, as the warm winds of Summer, and a mulch would be a beneficial protector. Trees planted but one or a few years would especially benefitted by a mulch covering the roots from the trunk outward. We would mulch to prevent the escape of heat, us well as moisture, from the soil. If an animal is ever frozen, it is because of the escape of heat from its body. The human body we cover with warm woolen clothing in Winter to prevent the too free escape of heat. Nature clothes the brute with hair, fur or feathers, which grow longer and thicker in Winter than Summer, thus securing his comfort. When we see how much nature and man has done to prevent the too great reduction of the animal temperature, may we not take the hint and do something to prevent the es-cape of heat from the soil in which is embedded the roots of trees and plants?

"Scarcely a mail," says the Journal of Agriculture, "but brings us some inquiry about sick hogs. Some tell us how the hogs are affected, while others wish us to publish a cure for the disease. Were we feeding or raising hogs, we would feed, water and salt regularly. Were any to get sick, would remove them at once. We are inclined to the opinion that worms or parasites are the primary cause for so-called hog cholers, and our medicine would be such as would be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon physician. Copperas, charcoal, wood ashes and turpentine are to some extent worm destroyers, and can be profitably given to either growing or

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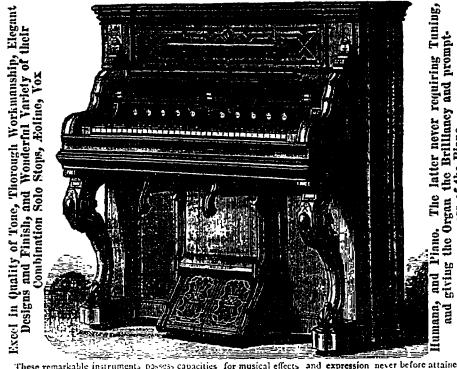
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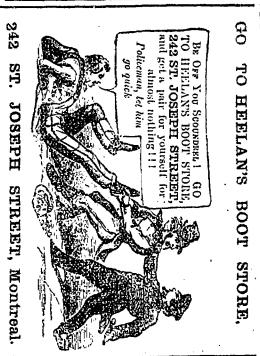


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