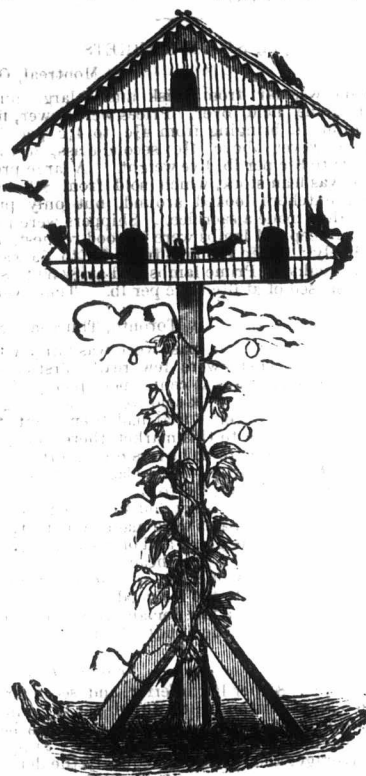


Notes on Ornithology.

BY ORNIS.

As the English Sparrow (*Pyrgita domestica*) grows commoner, discussions begin to rise as to whether or no it is really a beneficial bird. Some argue that it destroys a large quantity of insects, while others maintain that it eats few insects and drives away our native birds. Our own observation has not been sufficiently extended to form a decided opinion, but so far it goes to prove that they eat few insects, and on account of breeding very early, take possession of boxes and nooks around houses before our native birds begin to breed, thus forcing them to seek homes elsewhere. Although a pugnacious bird, it seems in this place to have limited its quarrels to those of its own kind, and to have left the Bluebird and Swallow in peace. As we have said, it builds in boxes set



up for it, or in nooks around the house; but it is in no way particular, and if these are not handy, will build against a wall among a clump of vines or even in trees. The eggs are generally six in number, and this, combined with the fact that they breed three or four times a year, renders them by far the most prolific birds we have, so that they bid fair to become in a few years either a great blessing or a great nuisance, possibly the latter.

Any one will be amply repaid if he will nail a few boxes to the side of his house, just under the eaves, or erect one on a pole as in the accompanying engraving. It may pass one summer uninhabited, but the second will surely bring birds of some kind, and we know a house with several of these boxes where this year Bluebirds, White-bellied Swallows, Sparrows and Wrens built all on one side of the house, producing altogether about thirty birds. This is a good way also to keep the trees healthy, and at the same time we have a lot of semi-domesticated birds around which will be a pleasure in more ways than one.

The Massachusetts Agricultural Society concludes that salt as a manure has the property of hastening the maturing of all grain crops; that wheat on salted land will ripen six to ten days earlier than on unsalted land, all other conditions being equal. That it increases the yield from 25 to 50 per cent. That it stiffens the straw and prevents rust and smut. That it checks, if it does not entirely prevent, the ravages of the chinch-bug. The quantity used may be from 150 to 300 pounds per acre; but the greater quantity is the better.

Mr. F. C. Eastwood, of Manchester, England, says the greatest per cent. of starch is found in small potatoes, such as are generally considered unmarketable. Farmers who sell their potatoes to starch manufacturers should bear this in mind.

The Michigan Farmer says: Many of our farmers are becoming alarmed at the ravages of a large white grub that has made its appearance in the wheat fields. It has already done a good deal of damage on some farms, and it will probably be necessary to plow up some pieces.

FALL CAMPAIGN !!

Grand Premiums for Workers.

THE CHOICE OF
The Offer, } FOR ONE NEW
The Accepted, } SUBSCRIBER.
Life's Voyage, or

Language of Flowers and Floral Conversation.

BY UNCLE CHARLEY.

Contains the Principles of the Flower Language; Flowers with their Expressions, Flowers by the Poets, a Fascinating Story, Floral Decorations, Cemetery Decorations, Skeleton Leaves, &c.

AND THE CHOICE OF
Homeward, or The Curfew, } FOR TWO
Balmoral Castle, } NEW
Lorne and Louise, or } SUBSCRIBERS

Game of Botany.



Uncle Charlie's Illustrated Game of Botany.

The most desirable Game for Children ever offered to the public.

In playing the elements of the Science of Botany are easily and thoroughly acquired.

MME. DEMOREST'S Celebrated PAPER PATTERNS to the value of 25cts. for ONE new subscriber, and to the value of 60cts. for TWO new subscribers. Choice to be made from our illustrations in Fashion Department or Mme. Demorest's Portfolio.

Our engravings, "The Offer" and "The Accepted," by Thos. Faed, R. A., and the colored lithograph, "Life's Voyage," have been described in our Dec. No., 1876; Jan., 1877, and April, 1878, respectively, and after a most careful examination of hundreds of valuable engravings, we have not been able to find any more pleasing or suitable. They are without doubt unrivalled premiums.

In April No., "Homeward, or The Curfew," by Joseph Johns, was described, and a cut but faintly suggested the merit and beauty of the large engraving, 22 x 28 inches in size, now offered; and in May No., 1881, a small wood-cut of the chromo, "Balmoral Castle," is given. This engraving, 24 x 30 inches in size, is of elegant finish and design. The last two mentioned were published at Two Dollars each under copyright.

"Lorne and Louise" was fully described in our Dec. No., 1879, and but a few copies remain in our hands.

OUR RULES

The name sent in must be a new one, and the subscription for one year (\$1.00) must be enclosed.

The prize is for the old subscriber who sends in the new name, and not to the new subscriber.

Choose your prize when remitting, otherwise a choice may be made for you.

To any subscriber, to any member of a subscriber's family (boys and girls), to all postmasters and school teachers, who send in new subscribers, these prizes will be mailed, postage paid.

Stock Notes.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE prize of \$100 for the Provincial Exhibition of 1882, will be awarded for the best herd of milch cows.

In our next issue we hope to give an illustration of the Groff herd of fat cattle, winners of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE prize of \$100.00 at the late Provincial Exhibition.

Mr. John Carroll, of St. Catharines, Ont., advertises in this issue a number of Shorthorn bulls, Cotswold and Leicester rams. See his advertisement.

The well-known Ayrshire breeders, Thos. Guy & Son, of Oshawa, Ont., have recently shipped to Manitoba ten very choice Ayrshires. Among the number are several noted prize winners. Besides the above Ayrshires they also send a few pure-bred Durham bulls and a number of Suffolk and Berkshire hogs. They intend to sell the above stock at public auction in Winnipeg, Man. Since our last issue we have received their catalogue of Ayrshire cattle, also a communication from them, from which we learn that their herd has won between \$800 and \$900 in prizes

this year, besides a silver medal at Toronto for the best bull, and several diplomas at the various exhibitions; also four herd prizes, viz.: 1st and 3rd at Toronto, 1st at London and Lindsay. They conclude their communication by saying: "We think a good deal of your paper, and admire your fearless and straightforward manner in exposing wrong wherever it exists, and advocating and commending the right."

Messrs. Green Brothers, of Oakville, with Mr. George Andrews, recently shipped from the Oakville station, Ontario, two carloads of very superior animals, consisting of six Shorthorn bulls of good pedigree, together with some exceedingly good Shorthorn grade cows in calf, and some with calves at their feet, and eight Poland China pigs.

Mr. John Dryden, M.P.P., of Brooklin, Ont., has sold his fine three-year-old cow, Florence, with her heifer calf, to Messrs. Green Brothers, Oakville. The calf is by Richmond Prince; Florence is in calf again by Mr. Dryden's imported bull. Mr. D. writes that the demand for Shorthorns is good this fall at remunerative prices. He has now four nice heifer calves, dropped within the last two weeks, the get of his imported bull. They are all A 1.

The exportation of horses from Montreal to the States for the past fiscal year shows a falling off in number, as compared with the previous year, but an increase in value; the number being 7,093 costing \$683,110, as compared with 8,267 costing \$670,657, for 1880.

Messrs. A. G. Thompson & Co., of Toronto, Ont., shipped 250 head of fat cattle for the Liverpool market by the Grand Trunk, on the 2nd inst. They will be transhipped to the steamship Manitoban at Point Levi.

Mr. John Geary, of London, Ont., recently made some extensive sales to American buyers at advanced figures. To C. Driggs, of Palmyra, Mich., he sold one buck; to Mr. Campbell, Col. U. S., 6 ram lambs; to Thos. Walker & Sons, Wayside Stock Farm, Westchester Co., Pa., 27 head including one aged imported ram, one yearling ram, two aged imported ewes, twelve shearing ewes, and eleven ewe lambs; to Uriah Lorne, Skeels Crossroads, Ohio, four 2-shear ewes and one yearling ram.

Mr. Spencer, who advertised Shropshires and Southdowns in the September number of the ADVOCATE, writes us that he is shipping sheep nearly every week to various parts of the country. He says the demand for Down sheep was never so good as at present.

Messrs. John Elliott & Sons, of Kingston, Ont., have concluded their year's business of shipping cattle to England. During the year they made 48 shipments. The number sent was 7,000 cattle and 5,000 sheep. They met with no serious mishaps. Mr. D. Elliott states that this year the business has been unprofitable, owing to the high freights and the glutting of the English market with Australian mutton and Yankee dead meat. The dealers in the Montreal market having attempted to "bull" the market by taking all the space in outgoing vessels, but found their attempt a failure; the Kingston firm got a number of English steamships to come to Canada and deliver for them. The average price paid in Canada per head for cattle was \$80. These sold in England at from £20 to £25, leaving but a bare margin after expenses. The best cattle came from west of Oshawa, as did also the sheep.

Commercial.

FARMER'S ADVOCATE OFFICE,
 London, Nov. 3rd, 1881.

The past month has been one of unusual warmth, with warm rains and fine growing weather. The result has been that the wheat plants are in fine condition for the winter. Pastures have been unusually good, and the make of butter and cheese has been good and the quality very fine.

WHEAT.

The trade in this article has been rather quiet, when compared with the excitement of the previous month. Prices had gone to such a pitch that a reaction was bound to come. It must also be borne in mind that through freights have been unusually low, and should they advance to the average figure for this time of year that advance alone would make a decline in wheat of 12 cents to 15 cents per bushel. It will thus be seen that should the English markets remain about as they are and freights advance, that cause alone will make a still