

CULTIVATION OF WILLOWS.—We cut the following paragraph from the *Boston Commercial Advertiser*. There is scarcely any crop which could be made so profitable in Canada, upon land suitable for it, as the willow for the basket maker, and that it will succeed admirably may be seen by a visit to the grounds of Mr. Geo. Leslie, Toronto Nursery Gardens, who has had a bed of it under cultivation for some years:

"The willow used in making willow ware in this country, was formerly imported almost entirely. At present a large quantity, estimated by some at one-half the quantity consumed, is grown in the United States, and chiefly, as we understand, in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky. A manufacturer of willow ware in Ripon, Wisconsin, grows the Welsh willow on four acres of land, near that place, and this is perhaps the only place in the United States where it is cultivated. The present is the second year that he has cut his willow, and from his four acres he obtained six tons, four of which he sold in St. Louis at \$100 a ton. The importation last year of willow, unmanufactured, was valued at \$35,141, of which \$21,192 was from France, and \$11,708 from Belgium. The manufactures of willow imported the same year were valued at \$112,723, of which \$68,902 was from Bremen, \$34,126 from France, \$6,280 from Hamburg, and \$2,029 from England. Most of both these imports are received at New York. The imports of the previous year were larger, viz: \$175,484 of manufactures of willow, and \$41,773 unmanufactured; and were, respectively, in about the same proportion from the several countries as in the last year."

THE NATIVES OF AFRICA AND THE APES.—The natives of Africa have an idea that the Gorillas, and other large apes, are really men; but that they pretend to be stupid and dumb, in order to escape impressment as slaves. Work, indeed, seems to be the *summum malum* in the African mind, and a true African never works if he can help it. As to the necessary household labours, and the task of agriculture, he will not raise a finger, but makes his wives work, he having previously purchased them for that purpose. In truth, in a land where the artificial wants are so few—unless the corruptions of pseudo-civilisation have made their entrance—and where unassisted nature is so bountiful, there is small need of work. The daily life of a "black fellow" has been very graphically described in a few words. He gets a large melon; cuts it in two and scoops out the inside; one half he puts on his head, he sits on the other half, and eats the middle.—*Routledge's Illustrated Natural History, by the Rev. J. G. Wood.*

CURIOS ELECTRICAL PHENOMENA.—From the watering-place we first proceeded to a desolate plateau, covered with grey bushes and scanty grass, where we saw large herds of antelopes. In a few hours we reached a level tract, upon the bare clay soil of which grew here and there, an *Opuntia arborescens*. In the distance rose the Limpia Mountains, to which our road lay. At their foot we observed some columns of smoke—Indian signals, as we ascertained some days later. During the journey the sky was overcast with dark clouds, which, with a sultry air, seemed to indicate the approach of a thunderstorm. Some large drops of rain fell; a violent gale filled the air with such clouds of dust that we were almost stifled, and our caravan was quite darkened. Later, when night came on, our clothes and the harness emitted electric sparks when stirred: every lash of the whip on the animals' backs was a small streak of fire. I have often witnessed similar electrical phenomena in the interior of North America, and have before spoken of them, but have never seen them exhibited in so striking a manner as on this day (Feb. 24) on the plain of the eastern foot of the Limpia Mountains: sparks from my fingers were at times quite perceptible when I touched any part of my clothes. I may here observe that, coinciding with these electrical phenomena, I repeatedly felt a sudden rheumatic affection, which all at once paralysed, temporarily, my left leg, and gave me a violent headache. The former attack, happily, never lasted above one or two hours.—*Seven Years' Travel in Central America, &c., by Julius Froebel.*

SCIENCE OF MILKING COWS.—It is a matter of great importance that the milk should all be drawn from the cow's udder. Careful experiments made in England show, according to a report recently published, that "the quantity of cream obtained from the last drawn cup from most cows, exceeds that of the first in a proportion of twelve to one." Thus a person who carelessly leaves but a teacup full of milk undrawn, loses in reality about as much cream as would be afforded by four or six pints at the beginning; and loses, too, that part of the cream which gives the richness and high flavor to the butter.