

SIR,—Could your correspondent "Windy Knowes" kindly inform me through the medium of your paper what was the nature of the soil in his experiments with gypsum? R. McE.  
Byron P. O., March 23rd, 1877.

Would you inform me if the English cob nuts will thrive in any part of Canada. W., Napanee.

[We have never seen any grown here. One person raised a peck of filberts near this city. They have generally failed to produce fruit when tried here. Perhaps some of our readers might give us their experience in the nut question. We have no doubt but many varieties of nut will prove very remunerative here to the enterprising who plant suitable varieties.—Ed.]

COLLARD'S HARROW.

To J. S. Pictou, N. S.—The Collard's Iron Harrow, manufactured by G. Gillies, of Gananoque, is an excellent implement. There are a great many of them used in Ontario—more than of any other iron harrow. They give good satisfaction. You will be safe in getting one.

Our dairymen, manufacturers and farmers should read the advertisement of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. Some of our subscribers, no doubt, will attend it; we should like to be there. Our Government should encourage Canadians to exhibit. A good display, obliging attendants, and a few suitable circulars, might tend to open up more direct trade with our fatherland, and might induce a better class of emigrants to our country than have been sent here by emigration agents.

Notes on the Garden and Farm.

Those who live near blacksmith and machine shops, and can get iron filings and rusty chips of iron, and working them into their flower beds, will add greatly to the rich and bright coloring of their flowers.

TRAINING VINES OVER WINDOWS.—A lady writer in the *Rural New Yorker* says:—"What more beautiful than green leaves falling around the casement in graceful festoons? If a grape vine is out of the question, the next best thing is a hop vine. I have a luxurious hop vine now, that shades two of my kitchen windows; and the cold tendrils clinging so closely to the house, with the aid of a friendly nail and string here and there, that it makes closing the windows, even in a storm or shower, wholly unnecessary, securing a capital ventilation of the room. And there is such a silky, sociable rustle of the leaves all day that I like to sit close up to them and listen to what they say. Then fill a few vases with roses, and place out on the window sill, and the green background makes a delightful receiving picture."

Grasshopper fighting is the order of the day in many of the Western States, and grasshopper clubs are being formed for the purpose of destroying the eggs of the pests. Deep plowing is strongly recommended, and roadways are being harrowed and overturned with a view to eradicate them in the State of Nebraska. The Minnesota Senate has passed a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the destruction of grasshopper eggs, and the raising of more turkeys and chickens than heretofore to extirpate them is strongly urged upon the farmers, many of whom cannot retain possession of their farms if their crops are again eaten up by the locusts.

FATTENING ANIMALS.—A very common error among farmers, which needs correction, is the opinion that animals may be fattened in a few weeks, and fatted for market, by heavy feeding, or, as it is termed, by pushing. Many farmers do not think of beginning to fatten their hogs or cattle for early winter market until autumn has actually commenced. Their food is then suddenly changed, and they are dosed with large quantities of grain or meal. This sudden change often deranges the system, and it is frequently some time before they recover from it. From observation and enquiry we find that the most successful pork-raiser that we have met with commences the fattening of his swine for the winter market early in the preceding spring. In fact, he keeps his young swine in a good growing condition all through the winter. He begins moderately, and increases the amount gradually, never placing before the animal more than it will freely eat. With this treatment and strict attention to the comfort and cleanliness of the animal, his spring pigs at ten months usually exceed three hundred pounds, and have sometimes gone as high as four hundred and fifty

pounds; and pigs wintered over reached a weight of five or six hundred. The corn, which is ground and scalded before feeding, nets him on an average, not less than one dollar per bushel when the market price of pork is five cents per pound.

THE HATCHET IN PRUNING.—A writer to the *Gardener's Monthly* says:—"Of all the blunders that the common farmers, and some others, make with trees, none is so common, or so hurtful and which he is so long in finding out, and of which he might know so certainly, as the practice of cutting off lower limbs. All over the country nothing is more common than to see mutilated trees on almost every farm. Big limbs cut off near the body of the tree, and of course rotting to the heart. This is a heart sin against nature. The very limbs necessary to protect the trees from wind and sun, and just where the limbs are needed most, they are cut away. But the greatest injury is the rotting that always takes place when a big limb is sawed off—too big to heal over it must rot, and being kept moist by the growing tree, it is in the right condition to rot, and being on the body, the rotting goes to the heart and hurts the whole tree. It is common all over the country to see large orchards mutilated in this way. We often see holes in the trees where big limbs have been cut away, where squirrels and even racoons could crawl in. Perhaps the only reason these trimmers would give is, that the lowest limbs are the easiest got at; and some would say, they wanted to raise a crop under the tree.

Take every precaution to prevent the accumulation of dust upon plants, and above all protect them from that terrible infliction, carpet sweeping. It may be well enough to kill the old people by compelling them to breathe the clouds of dust, but send the children into the fresh air to skate, or to snowball, and screen the plant if possible. The essentials of success in plant culture are, suitable soil, air, light, moderate and regular heat, a moist atmosphere, regular and moderate watering, and freedom from foul gas.

The celebrated farmer, John Johnston, of Geneva, N. Y., says he has used plaster every year since he came on his farm, now fifty-four years; and it has done wonders for him on corn, soaking the corn in water, then mixing it with plaster when wet. He planted the plastered corn, and a hired man planted the corn that was not plastered. When the corn was up, that which was plastered was stronger and better colored than the other. It kept ahead throughout the season, and when ripe a blind man could have told the difference by feeling the stalks and ears.

ONION SETS.—A Mr. Fellows, of Kentucky, grows onion sets as follows:—He selects a dry piece of ground. His ground is rich alluvial loam, but the character of the soil is of no special importance. Beds are formed two feet wide, with a path of one foot between. The beds are excavated to the depth of two inches, or, in other words, the path or alley between is two inches higher than the beds; the bottom of the beds are nicely smoothed with the back of a spade, so as to present a level surface whereon to sow the seed. The seed is sown so that from fifteen to twenty seeds will cover a square inch. If the surface of the beds were sprinkled with plaster or white sand, the seeds, which are black, could be sown more evenly. After sowing, the seeds are covered with two inches of clear, pure sand, which brings the beds and paths to the same level. The whole is then rolled with a light roller, or patted down with a spade. The advantages of this plan are, that there being no seeds of weeds in the sand, the labor of weeding is entirely saved, and the sets when matured are far more easily gathered.

CELERY AS A CURE-ALL.—The habitual daily use of this vegetable is much more beneficial to man than most people are aware of. A writer who is familiar with its virtues says:—"I have known many men and women who, from various causes, had become so much affected by nervousness that when they stretched out their hands they shook like aspen leaves on a windy day, and by a moderate daily use of the blanched footstalks of celery as a salad they became strong and steady in limb as other people. I have known others so nervous that the least annoyance put them in a state of agitation and they were in constant perplexity and fear, who were also effectually cured by a moderate daily use of celery as a salad at meal time. I have known others to be cured of palpitation of the heart. Everybody engaged in labor weakening to the nerves should use celery daily in the season and onions in its stead when not in season."

PRUNING ROSES.—The time to prune rose bushes depends entirely upon the class or family of roses to be pruned. Without going into a systematic consideration of the different species of the rose, for which we have no time just now, we will merely say that there are three grand divisions of the rose genus, each of which requires a mode of pruning peculiar to itself. For the first class, or those roses that bloom but once a year—summer roses, as they are called—we have always found it best to prune them pretty severely as soon as the period of blooming is over, unless it should be very dry, in which case we defer the pruning until just as the fall growth begins. By this course we get an abundance of young spurs or shoots for flowering the next season.—*The Household*.

THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The sixteenth annual meeting of this Society will be held this year in Boston. It will commence on Wednesday, the 11th of September, and will last three days.

Messrs. Gibson, Taylor & Hope are to have a short-horn sale in London, Ont., on the 16th of June.

MANITOBA AND THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.—We would direct the attention of our readers, interested in Manitoba and the Canadian North-West, to the advertisement of the "Manitoba Free Press," in another column.

The International Exhibition, at Philadelphia, is to be re-opened this year in the main building, in Fairmont Park.

The examination of scholars at the Government Farm, at Guelph, took place on Thursday, the 29th of March. There is a marked improvement in the management; it was much needed. We shall give more particulars in our next issue, as time or space will not allow it in this issue.

Patrons of Husbandry.

Subordinate Granges Newly Organized

- 564, Glenelg Jno. Weir, M., Durham; James Edge, S., Durham. 565, Queen of the West—James Pollock, M., Blyth; Jno. Wilford, S., Blyth. 566, Mt. Hope—J. W. Whealy, M., Lakeside; Alex. D. Sutherland, S., Bennington. 567, Sidney—Sam'l P. Knight, M., Belleville; C. W. Huffman, S., Wallbridge. 568, Progress—Jeremiah House, M., Stratfordville; S. G. Marshall, S., Stratfordville. 569, Cambray—Robt. Irwin, M., Lindsay; A. B. Coots, S., Cambray. 570, Royal—Sam'l E. Pegg, M., Stevensville; F. Morningstar, S., Stevensville. 571, Thurlow—Wm. Van Cleek, M., Philipston; J. W. Silks, S., Philipston. 572, Pioneer—Luke Sidwell, M., Claverburg; C. D. Jarvis, S., Winton. 573, Moria—James Salsbury, M., Moria; J. G. Foster, S., Moria. 574, Clyde—Robt. Young, M., Galt; Arch. Ferguson, S., Clyde. 575, Stanstead—E. B. Gustin, M., Beebe Plain, Que.; E. G. Miller, S., Beebe Plain, Que. 576, Learteen—R. J. S. Drinkwater, M., Price's Corners; Wm. S. Gibbon, S., Price's Corners. 577, Sutton—A. J. Dyer, M., Sutton, Que.; C. E. C. Brown, S., Sutton, Que. 578, Newboro—G. Knowlton, M., Newboro; D. K. Preston, S., Newboro. 579, Saugeen—Matthew Mearns, M., Durham; Henry Byers, S., Allen Park.

Division Granges.

- 35, Northumberland—J. T. Mallory, M., Cobourg; D. Ewing, S., Dartford. 36, Essex—Jno. Hooker, M., Blytheswood; G. W. Johnson, S., North Ridge.

As will be seen by the above list, Granges have increased in the past month quite rapidly, many being formed in counties where but little interest has been shown before, proving conclusively that it only requires a knowledge of the true principles of the Order to insure its introduction amongst our farmers in every part of Canada.

Born of a necessity, consequent upon the unorganized condition and natural isolation of the agriculturists, it is fast assuming a position of respect in the minds of all classes, and fulfilling an important duty, by supplying us with a suitable means for social and intellectual improvement, and by intelligent efforts in a co-operative way, offering an opportunity for financial benefits. Our brother farmers in the Province of Quebec are actively arousing to the situation, flocking into the Grange by hundreds. Through the commendable and valuable efforts of Deputy Levi R. Whitman, a number of large Granges have been formed there this winter. One Grange, Stanstead (in the Co. of Stanstead), enrolled 41 names as charter members, being the largest organization from which application has been received this winter. The people of that section are alive to their own welfare, and with prudent management and harmonious action, will undoubtedly soon be able to reap the ripened fruits of their efforts.

W. PEMBERTON PAGE.

At the last meeting of the Surplus Grange No. 76, Mr. John Watters moved that the surplus money in the treasury be expended for numbers of the FARMERS' ADVOCATE. Thirty-eight numbers were ordered for the year. This is a step in the right direction. The farmers of Canada require all the agricultural information they can obtain.

A Grange picnic is to be held in Strathroy on the 2nd of June.

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