

From the Concord Farmer's Monthly Visitor.

TUMBLE DAMS FOR WATER.

Numerous instances occur upon our farms and country roads where the construction of a dam is necessary, and cheapness and durability are desirable in accomplishing these objects. There is no difficulty with money and materials under the direction of scientific individuals or those who have had long experience in erecting dams great or small to propel the machinery of a factory, or to irrigate a field; but something different is wanted for the every day purposes, something within the usual reach of almost every man or neighbourhood.

This may be found in the use of small saplins, or branches of trees of almost any kind, by laying the butts even across the stream and branches down, and placing upon them stone of moderate size. This should be done in layers, first the saplins, then stones, and so on until the desired height is attained. Dams of this kind have been found to endure in large rivers resisting the floods that swept away the costly structures of masonry laid by art and science. The tops of the small trees or branches being down stream make the most effectual resistance to the descending torrents: held down by the stones, they cling to the bottom, and the intersecting branches hold the whole together from bottom to top. All dams are very liable to undermine from the backward spread of a portion of the constantly tumbling stream. Hence the various contrivances to prevent this, but can any thing surpass the tops of the branches of trees all sloping with the run of the water and extending out or down stream so far as to render undermining impossible. Dams made in this way at first are leaky: the water finds its way among the stone and branches, and it requires some time to render them water proof. This however is done sooner or later according to the rapidity of the stream, and the quantity of leaves or other floating matter everywhere swept along with running water. These substances of whatever kind are sucked in by the water between the stones and branches and there remain, and the dam soon becomes tight and immovable. The tendency to decay may appear objectionable to these structures of wood and stone; but when we consider that a dam is constantly wet, and as it were submerged in water, this objection is diminished in importance. For all know that wood of any kind constantly under water is not liable to decay. Some considerable experience has been had in works of the kind now proposed, and they have been found the least expensive and best for general use by a

COUNTRY ENGINEER.

ROSE WATER.

The season for roses is at hand, or near enough to be turning our attention to the subject, and every family can, if they will, supply themselves with this agreeable and useful article. The character of the rose is fully established every where in the soft and luxuriant climate of the East, and in Europe and America, every where a favourite, every where the evidence, if not an instrument, in civilization. It adorns both youth and age. The old lady or gentleman that wears this fragrant blossom evinces a desire to please, and to be agreeable; and the effort gains admission at once to our hearts. The youth who wears it displays taste and grace in the moving emblem of life; but like youth its season is brief—its leaves fade and fall, and unless we arrest it for our use its fragrance too is spent and gone.

All over the East, rose water is in great request in cooking. Rice is prepared in a hundred or more different ways, but rose water is ever an ingredient. The French also use it far more generally than the English or Americans, and perhaps the French exceed us in the preparation of dishes, or what is termed the culinary art. It enters into pies, custards, the preparations of cooked apples, sauces for puddings and in the various preparations of milk. We are not sufficiently aware how much smell has to do with taste, and how in the various kind of wines the discrimination is often more owing to the former than the latter. Rose water is a home article, and accords with our policy and economy; it is far better in many instances than the spices that cost money, and is still further recommended by being more conducive to health. It is so easily made, and the mode so generally known here in New-Hampshire, that it could not be necessary for instruction to describe it; but this paper travels farther and wider than these borders; it spreads over the country, where it may not in all cases be known, that a very simple still-head, made of tin, to fit the dinner pot is all that is requisite to distil rose water.—The workers in tin every where in the town or country can make them, and describe the mode of using.

From the roses as they blossom daily they must be gathered and the leaves pulled from the stems and salted down in stone jars, or in a keg or bucket. They wilt, and the salt preserves them from spoiling, and a bucket or jar will hold a large quantity. As soon as the blooming season is past, the leaves should be put into the pot for distillation, covered with water; the still head then is to be put on, and the business is effected over a steady fire. The first running from the still is the strongest, and it should be continued so long as it is good.—The whole should then be mixed, corked close in bottles, and put in the cellar—the cooler the better. It freezes readily in winter, and this should be guarded against. It is at once ready for use, and imparts a flavour to apple pies, pumpkin pies, custards, &c. that has no equal.

It has another use as perfume. There is an intensity in the "otto of rose" that to most persons is disagreeable, and to many it causes nervous headache. This is oil of the rose; the concentrated essence, and is too powerful for the nerves. Not so with rose water, which has a sort of diluted freshness about it that renders it ever agreeable. As an article of the toilet, therefore, and we believe we may use the attractive word cosmetic, it is recommended, and has no quackery about it.

Common every day corn meal is one of the best things to soften the skin, and give it a good appearance, that can be used.—There is a great deal of oil in corn, and it is just in the right state when ground to impart softness and smoothness. This article was once sold in England as a cosmetic, at a guinea a pound, and no doubt sustained its reputation so long as it was recommended by a high price. This, to be sure, is a menial use for Indian corn, which as a grain has been thought to have no equal. It makes the best beef, the best pork, the best mutton; affords the wholesomest bread, and we now have the pleasure of adding to its merits, that it may be advantageously used to improve the unequalled excellence of our country-women.—*ib.*

THE FARMER.—With no inheritance but health, with no riches but industry, and no ambition but virtue, he is the sole king among men, and the only man among kings.

A TIME FOR ALL THINGS.

"I only tell you what yourselves do know."
Mark Antony.

Farmers often need a little jogging; they need to be reminded of what they already know; they have many cares in summer, and when they have no memorandum to refer to they let slip the opportunity of performance at the most proper season. "There is a time for all things," but time is always most under our controul when we take it by the foretop.

There is a class of farmers who reason well but who do not act in accordance with their own theories.

"They know the right and they approve it too, Condemn the wrong, and yet the wrong pursue."

Thus you will find large landholders admitting that they have more acres than they can make any profit from; yet these very men continue to add, "field to field." They have not money to spare to pay for an agricultural paper, but they have money for more land while the old farm remains but half cultivated for the want of a little enterprise. You find men every where admitting that they plant over too much ground; that it yields them no profit; yet they pursue the same course from year to year.—They seem to be as much afraid of planting a less number of acres than formerly, as of owning a less number. They have not manure enough to spread over four acres; and instead of putting two of the four in good order and getting a crop that will repay the labour, while the other two are recruiting by ploughing under what may grow on them, they will spend their valuable time in endeavours to make a little manure go a great way. They will dole out a mess to each hill for fear the roots of the corn and the potatoes will not be able to find it unless the seed is buried in it.

A very slight variation in the management of a farm will often increase the profits enough to pay for a dozen agricultural papers—a single hint, we are often told, has been of more service to a subscriber than the cost of a year's subscription—yet we have many landholders who give not the least encouragement to an agricultural paper! They lift not a finger to circulate facts, experience, knowledge of husbandry; though they are sensible of their own deficiencies.

There is one class of landholders which the world will never cease to admire. They make themselves familiar with the contents of these papers yet contribute nothing for their support. They persuade hired men to take them, or they borrow of neighbours—then they are heard to say they can manage their farms as well as those who subscribe. We hope, for the honour of the profession, they are but few of this class.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

Good old William West, the celebrated and successful farmer of Delaware county, always had a large bed of compost, duly and properly prepared in the field he intended to plant with corn, wherewith to dress it.—He raised fine crops and improved his farm, and left a good example for others to follow. It was a maxim with him "to be kind to the soil," and he reaped his reward.

Query, was there ever a farmer who annually prepared and applied a good bed of compost to his corn, who did not thrive and prosper in his calling?—*ib.*

Scraped horseradish made into a syrup, is said to be an excellent remedy for hoarseness.