

Miscellaneous.

Sir.—I send these few lines to you for the Advocate. You can print them if you like, and if they do not suit you, you know where to put them. Yours, A. ADAMS.

P. S.—I am trying to get some subscribers for the Advocate. A. A.

A PLEASANT VOCATION.

I wish I was an Editor,
I really do, indeed;
It seems to me that Editors
Get everything they need.
They get the biggest and the best
Of everything that grows,
And get in free to circuses
And other kinds of shows.
When a mammoth cheese is cut,
They always get a slice,
For saying Mrs. Smith knows how
To make it very nice.
The largest pumpkin, the longest, best,
And other garden stuff,
Is blown into the sanctum by
An Editorial puff.
The biggest bug will speak to them,
No matter how they dress;
A shabby coat is nothing if
You own a printing press.
At ladies' fairs they are almost hugged
By pretty girls who know
That they will crack up everything
The ladies have to show.
And thus they get a blow-out free
At every party feed;
The reason is because they write,
And other people read.

Bury's Green, Jan'y 8th, 1872.

Selected for the Advocate by "A. A.," of Bury's Green. Yes, to be sure, we have room for good selections and are pleased to find some that are willing to make up the paper. Send on plenty of good matter and we will find room—extracts or writing, if only furnishing valuable information.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY—COST OF LIVING IN FORT GARRY.

Rents in Winnipeg are very high, much higher than in London. Wood sells at \$7 to \$8 a cord and soft poplar wood at that. Hay is very scarce and dear, large quantities having been burnt by the prairie fires, which were exceedingly numerous and destructive. There being no market, it is hard to state accurately the prices of produce and stock, and any person wishing to buy has to make a tour of the settlements in order to get such articles, and then often meets with disappointment and exorbitant rates. Prices of produce, etc., are about as follows: Wheat (spring), \$1 to \$1.25 per bushel. No fall wheat grown in the country. Barley same price as wheat. Oats none to be had. Peas, ditto. Butter, 40 to 50 cents, and very scarce. Cheese, 50 cents per pound. Eggs, none. Fowls, none for sale; turkeys, geese and ducks, none in the country—tame ones, I mean. At certain seasons of the year there are immense numbers of wild ducks on the lakes and rivers, but wild geese are very rarely seen in this section. Beef by the quarter, 9 to 10 cents; retail, 14 to 20 cents. Flour, \$3.75 to \$4.25 per cwt. (I have not seen any first class flour since my arrival here last spring.) Millers take every sixth bushel for grinding. Fresh pork, 13 to 15 cents per lb.; mess pork, 25 cents per lb.; smoked hams, 25 cents per lb. Cows scarce at about \$60. Oxen about \$150 to \$225 per yoke. Horses about double your price in Ontario, but Canadian horses do not thrive well here, and many have died this season from the effects of bad water, etc. Candles 37½ cents. Golden syrup, \$2.50 cents per gallon. A common white cup and saucer, 25 cents; a plate, 25 cents. Coffee, 50 cents. In fact, nearly all articles of household use and wear are just about double Ontario prices.

The thermometer has never raised above zero since the 21st November, except on the 1st December. It was two degrees above zero a short time. The days have usually been bright sunshine, and clear moonlight nights, with very little or no wind. On one or two days, however, there was considerable wind, and when the thermometer rose to zero we felt it comparatively comfortable; but frost 35 degrees below zero cannot be described—it must be felt to be realized; and I am informed that it goes 10 or 15 degrees lower than that; but frost at 35 is not so bad as 16 or 18 degrees below, with a wind; then it is almost impossible to go out doors. The snow is so hard and sharp that it fairly cuts the face, and exposed parts freeze almost instantaneously. It is well that the volunteers arrived ere this

frost set in, or very many of them would inevitably have been badly frozen, and as it was some of them suffer from frost bites.—Advertiser.

FROZEN APPLES.

It is not an unusual thing for apples to be frozen after they are gathered, especially when they are for a time kept in an out-building, as is the custom of many before storing them in the cellar; but it is not generally known that apples are not much injured from being frozen, provided they are kept in a dark place and will thaw out gradually. Frozen apples lying in heaps in out-buildings should be deeply covered to confine the air and perfectly exclude the light, until the frost is out of them; besides this, when it can be done, the room should be darkened, or what would be better, remove them to a dark cellar in which the temperature is six or more degrees below freezing. We say six degrees, because sound apples not yet mature will thaw out at a temperature less than this. But wherever they are kept the frost should not be extracted too suddenly, nor must the light be allowed to strike them while they are thawing, because a frozen apple, from some cause not yet well understood, if thawed out in the dark will remain plump and sound, while if thawed out in the light, even though the sun should not shine on them, they will afterward be soft and spoiled.

Again, it often occurs that apples get frozen in barrels on the way to market; keep such barrels headed up, and if holes have been bored in them, close them up to confine the air and exclude light. The best place for these apples would be a cold cellar, because in such a place the frost could be more gradually drawn out; but it will answer without removing them from the barrels to store them in an out-building or shed, covering deeply with straw. So protected, they may be kept frozen all winter if desired, and will when they come to thaw out be fresh and sound. We have known apples headed up in barrels and kept deeply covered with straw, but not so deep but they were several times frozen and thawed during the winter, and yet the following spring they were sound and in quality equal to same variety kept in cellar.

Frozen apples, however, must always be handled with great care; for when hard frozen they are unyielding, and rattled together they will be covered with shallow bruises, which on being thawed, first turn brown, and soon afterwards decay.

USING FRESH MUCK.

We are often told even by those whom we regard as high authority, that muck should never be used until it has been exposed to the weather a year, or after being composted with manure. I have had some experience with muck, and I do not agree with these writers. My first trial was made on a gravelly knoll, where I put a one horse load fresh from the muck-bed. Sowed the piece to buckwheat. Where the muck was it grew very rank; lodged and rotted before the rest of the piece was ripe.

Since then I have tried it as a top dressing on grass land, and was satisfied that it doubled the crop the first year, but not so much benefit the second year as manure generally is. I have doubled the hay crop on my farm, and claim that I have done it by using muck, and have used very little that has been out of the bed a year. I dug a ditch through the muck-bed, and since then when I have wanted to draw out a few loads, I have taken it from the side of the ditch and spread it on the grass land. I do not say it is better used in this way, but I think it pays and saves some labor.

The best top dressing I ever used was made by slacking lime with brine and mixing it with muck shoveled up in June, and spread late in the fall. It showed the effect for six years. I think that if farmers knew the value of lime, salt, and muck, phosphate would be a drug in the market.—Cor. Vermont Farmer.

POTATOES.

We all observed the great deterioration in our potato crop during the past ten or twenty years; and what is the cause of this alarming decrease of tubers? Can science, can chemistry, point out the reason or aid in remedying the difficulty? We think it can, and in order to place the matter in a clear light, we will point out the kind and amount of food which the potato demands. We had a field of potatoes upon the farm which yielded 300 bushels to the acre; this may be regarded as an old-fashioned crop. This crop removed from the soil in tubers and tops at least 400 pounds of potash; also it removed 150 pounds of phos-

phoric acid. Now these amounts are very large, and serve to show that the potato plant is a greater consumer of the two substances, and in order to restore our potato fields to their former productive condition, we must supply phosphatic compounds and substances holding potash in large quantities. For six or eight generations in New England, our fathers have been exhausting the soil, by removing these agents in the potato and other crops, and we have reached a time when the vegetable is starving in our fields for want of its proper food. Our fathers have found that new land gives the best crops and this is due to the fact that such fields afford the most potash. But so long as we crop our pastures so unreasonably, we cannot resort to new land, as land is not new that has had its potash and phosphatic elements removed by grazing animals. Remember that a potato-field which gives but 100 bushels to the acre requires at least 160 pounds of potash; but by allowing the tops to decay upon the field, 60 pounds of this is restored to the soil again, as that amount is contained in them; a medium crop of potatoes requires twice as much phosphoric acid as a medium crop of wheat, so that in two years with wheat the land is deprived of no more of the agent than it loses in one year with potatoes.—Boston Journal of Chemistry.

SONG OF THE OLD DRAGOON.

Och! it's here I'm entirely contented,
In the wild woods of sweet Mericay;
God's blessings on him that invented
Big ships for crossing the say.

Here praties grow bigger nor turnips,
And though cruel hard is the work;
In Ireland we've nothing but praties,
But here we have praties and pork.

I live on the banks of a meadow;
Now see that my mairning you take,
It bates all the boys of ould Ireland,
For six months in the year its a lake.

Bad luck to the beavers that dammed it,
I wish them all kilt for their pains;
For, sure, though the creatures are clever,
This sartin they've drowned my domains.

I've built a log hut of the timber
That grows on my charming estate,
And an illigant root-house erected,
Just facing the front of my gate.

And I've made me an illigant pig-stye,
Well littered with straw and wild hay,
And it's there, free from the noise of the childer,
I sleep in the heat of the day.

It's there I'm entirely at ease, sir,
And enjoy all the comforts of home;
I stretch out my legs as I please, sir,
And dihrane of the pleasures to come.

Sure 'tis pleasant to hear the frogs croakin',
When the sun's going down in the sky;
And my Judy sits quietly smokin',
While the praties are biled till they're dry.

Och! then if you love independence,
And have money your passage to pay,
You must quit the ould country entirely,
And get here the beginning of May.

TRANSPORTATION OF CATTLE BY RAILWAY.

It has not infrequently been alleged by parties concerned in the cattle trade, and by railway officials, that cattle will not eat or drink in cars. Experience proves the falsehood of this notion, which might well have been set aside as ridiculous even without being put to the proof. Animals will eat and drink whilst the train is in motion, at least if the motion is tolerably equable; but even if they would not do so, they might easily be fed and watered whilst the train stops at stations or is detained in sidings, as is often the case with cattle trains.

Troughs at railroad stations are, under any circumstances, a mere absurdity, and the only trough of any real use would be one or two in each car itself, to be filled by a hose as the engine is supplied with water.

Nor can it be said that there is any impossibility in this; for a trough of this kind, capable of adaptation to the ordinary cattle cars, has already been contrived by a Mr. Reid, near Edinburgh, Scotland, who received, in 1865, a medal for his invention from the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. This plan, which is simple, could, without doubt, be modified or improved, so as to be applied to the cattle cars of this country at a very small cost. By its use the cruelty inflicted on ani-

mals would be greatly diminished, although other things are also requisite to make a mode of railroad transportation such as considerations of humanity require.

The exposure of cattle to cold winds and kinds of weather in the ordinary cattle cars is very injurious. Animals which have been accustomed to the shelter of feeding-stalls in farm-yards, are placed in cars, into which cold and cold may beat during their long travel. The effect of this is naturally bad. Not only are the frequent concussions of trains, when railway trains are unprovided with buffers, or springs, or when cattle cars in trains containing others loaded with minerals or other heavy goods. To convey cattle by railway without any precaution against what must be a very serious shock to the animal system, is both a cruelty and a serious injury to the health of the animal, and consequently an injury to the healthfulness of the beef from animals slaughtered under such conditions.

It is evident that the whole system of transportation of cattle by railway needs reform. The old way of driving cattle along the road is no longer to be thought of. But the method must be brought into accordance not only with the interests of railway companies and with facilities which railways afford, but with the condition required for the animal themselves; and so must serve for the general benefit of the public, to whom their healthful transport is in one point of view an easy matter of dollars and cents, whilst in another it is a question of humanity, and demands the attention of every one who detests cruelty to animals, and particularly when perpetrated on a large scale.—Episcopalian.

Autumn is the time to work the land, and spring the time to drain it. Winter is the time to draw the tiles, to make manure, and do anything that will facilitate the work of the spring and summer. In the spring, while the ground is wet and loose from the effects of the frost, an underdrain can be dug with one third less expense than in the fall. When the plan are all laid and the tiles on hand, a good deal of draining may be done in the five or six weeks in spring before we need to plow in corn. Some one writes that Harris has underdraining on the brain. In reply, Mr. Harris says:—If I have, and the disease is contagious, I should like to communicate the disease to half a dozen of the most intelligent farmers in every town and post-office who my writings abound. Underdraining will be the great farm work for the next quarter of a century. Wherever draining is needed, as I have never yet happened to see a farm where some portions of it did not need draining, no real or permanent improvement can be effected until this work is done. I recommend no extravagant expenditure of money. Those who have the capital to drain the land completely at once, would find it to their interest to devote a year or two principally to this work. But there are few such men. Most of us must drain a few acres each year, as we can afford the time and money. Our commence and do the work thoroughly as far as you go, and there is scarcely a man who will stop until his whole farm is drained, never needed. If I could induce every reader to make up his mind never to let a year pass without making a few rods of ditch, I should feel that I had accomplished something worth living for.

Put in stone drains if you can not get tiles; but the latter, where they can be obtained at any reasonable price, are far cheaper and better. I have some stone drains that work very well; and two or three brush drains that do more or less good, but I have one stone drain that is stopped up, and several brush drains that are useless, but I have not a single tile drain that does not do good service. I have some that are not deep enough, but I was bothered to get a good outlet. Some of my neighbors have not "underdraining on the brain," and it is not always easy to persuade them into cutting ditches deep enough to carry off the water. The only cure for this is, more light, more agricultural papers, and more neighborhood Farmer's Clubs.—American Agriculturist.

PAINT FOR FARM IMPLEMENTS.
A coat of good petroleum will make a good foundation to commence with. To cover this boiled linseed oil should be used, mixed with a portion of litharge, or patent dryer—about a pound to the pint of oil. For color, use red lead, lamp-black, Paris green, Prussian blue, or red or brown oxides of iron (commonly called fire-proof mineral paint.) The green and blue are costly colors.

This being would call the the "Stevens" and storing Health for De

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RECIPES.

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