

Peat or Swamp Muck is a good manure, if properly. If applied at once and alone, it sometimes produces little effect until well mixed in the soil, and then not very striking results; but it is a very lasting manure, and well worthy extensive use.

When taken from the swamp, wet, it is often only seven-eighths water—which may be ascertained by drying a pound of it on a dish in the sun, and then weighing it. Or in other words, it will absorb six or eight times its own weight of water. Hence the prodigious profit and advantage arising from using it, after being well dried, to litter barns and stables. It then sucks up the rich juice of the manure and the drainage of the stables,—which, though the best part, are usually lost,—at a tremendous rate, and makes in this way, by the union of the muck or peat with this rich stuff, a most powerful and abundant manure.

But most farmers who use it, and they are "few far between," put it on wet, while already saturated with its hogsheds of water; how can they then take up any more liquid? Hence why the success does not attend its use. Let it be drawn out the swamps to dry a year or two, under a coarse shed, and it may be drawn for a quarter of the labor as when heavy with water, and is ten times better for use.—*Cult. Almanac.*

**Improvement in Nail Making.**—We have recently examined the drawings of a machine for manufacturing horse shoe, and other nails, on a simple and ingenious plan, patented by Mr. Jediaiah Lumb, of Brandon, Rutland county, Vermont; we have also seen some specimens of nails manufactured by this method. They are made from mangled plates, with the grain of the iron lengthwise, and the nails and proportions appear as perfect as those made by the usual hand process. Mr. Holcomb's method a good mechanic can make 400 lbs of horse shoe nails per day. The machinery is simple in its construction, and promises to work an entire revolution in the nail manufacture. He has taken measures to secure patents in England and France for his invention. In addition to the above, which we copy from *Pureka*, we can speak in the most favourable manner of the invention, and from a personal interview with Mr. H., of the above machine, we are convinced that the utility of the invention is very great.

From data in our possession we estimate the quantity of horse shoe nails used annually in

the United States at 2000 tons, and if by this invention three cents per pound can be saved in their manufacture, the gain would be quite a desideratum for those interested.—*Far. & Mec.*

**Home.**—A man's house should be his earthly paradise. It should be, of all other spots, that which he leaves with most regret, and to which he returns with most delight. And in order that it may be so, it should be his daily task to provide everything convenient and comfortable, and even the tasteful and beautiful should not be neglected!

A few sunny pictures in simple frames shrouded,  
A few precious volumes, the wealth of the mind;  
And here and there treasured some rare gem of art,

To kindle the fancy or soften the heart;

Thus richly surrounded, why, why should I roam?

Oh! am I not happy—most happy at home?

**How to fatten Fowls.**—Confine your fowls in a large airy enclosure, and feed them on broken Indian corn, Indian meal, or mush, with raw potatoes cut into small pieces, not larger than a filbert, placing within their reach a quantity of charcoal broken into small pieces. Boiled rice is also good.

**Hints about Food.**—Roast meat contains nearly double the nourishment of boiled, but boiled meat is better adapted to weak digestion. Frying is one of the very worst methods of dressing food, as broiling is one of the best. Baked meat has a strong flavor, is deprived of some of its nutritious qualities, and is difficult of digestion. Spices, sauces, and melted butter, should never be used by an invalid.

When a crack is discovered in a stove, through which the fire and smoke penetrate, the aperture may be readily closed in a moment, with a composition consisting of wood ashes and common salt, made into a paste with a little water, plastered over the crack. The effect is equally certain whether the stove be cold or hot.—*Maine Far.*

**To mend Iron Pots.**—To repair cracks, &c. in iron pots or pans, mix some finely-sifted lime with well-beaten whites of eggs, till reduced to a paste, then add some iron file dust, apply the composition to the injured part, and it will soon become hard and fit for use.