

W. H. BANKS, Esq., Editor of the *Annapolis Journal*, has sent us some spears of grass with minute eggs upon them, and a copy of his paper containing the following:—

"We have for public inspection, at our office, some spears of grass picked from a field on Handley Mountain. This grass has attached to it what seems to be the eggs of some insect; these, when crushed, have the appearance of blood. They may be compared to the cells in which the common spider deposits its eggs, and are about a quarter of an inch in length; they are covered with a white substance, which will be a sufficient protection from the cold of winter. The deposit was first noticed about the last of August, and continued to increase till the ground was covered with snow. The fields extending from Port George to the top of the mountain and for miles around, are covered with this white deposit. As nothing of this sort has ever been noticed in this part of the country before, farmers and others interested, are afraid that, when spring opens, we may be visited by one of those insect pests that have of late devastated such vast tracts of the Western States, Ontario, and parts of the Maritime Provinces. Our people have some ground for such fears, for, from obedience to natural laws now fairly understood, it is safe to presume that those districts devastated by the army worm during the past summer, will not be visited again during the coming spring and summer, but that they may make their appearance in other sections. We do not know if the eggs of the army worm have been seen by any one, neither have we seen a description of it, and are not in a position to say whether this deposit is such; but it is known that the army worm in the latitude of Toronto, deposits its eggs during the months of August and September, and this deposit having first appeared at that season, gives room for suspicion that it is the eggs of some destructive insect. Entomologists inform us that insects place their eggs on or near the food on which the larva are to feed; and this food is generally the stems of plants or grasses. We have forwarded a sample of the grass containing the deposit to each of the Colleges, and hope that some light may be thrown on the subject, so that if, as is supposed, this is the egg of an insect pest, our farmers may be informed as to the safest means of preventing any extensive damage. To this end we invite correspondence on the subject."

We have not seen similar eggs before and did not speculate whether they belong to a spider or an insect, for we don't know, but we have put them in a tuft of growing grass in a warm situation, and hope they will hatch out and discover their name and nature in due course. The best way to get rid of them will be to run fire over the infested land as soon as the grass stubble is dry enough in spring, or to turn a flock of turkeys or other poultry upon it.

THE Common Fern or Brake, *Pteris aquilina* of botanists, is a beautiful plant in the eye of the Artist and the Landscape Gardener, but a troublesome one to

the farmer when it infests his pastures and fields. A writer in the London *Agricultural Gazette* has studied it out thoroughly, by observation and experiment. He finds that the creeping rhizome runs for yards at a depth of 9 or 10 inches below the surface. The plough could not reach it. Digging it up with forks left enough of bits to produce a fresh crop. Then women were employed to pull up the young fronds, and the operation resulted in a late crop of fronds, which spoilt the aftermath. Finally an effectual remedy was found. In spring when the fat young unrolled fronds showed their heads above ground, they were cut off with a sharp hook, and bled, and bled, and bled, and now, on harrowing the soil, the rhizomata are found to be mere cases of carbonaceous matter. We regard this as an important discovery.

THE successful cultivation of PLANTS in Pots is a matter of great interest to many of our readers. Mr. Power, the Superintendent of the City Public Gardens, has sent to us an article from the London *Journal of Horticulture* "On Potting," which he assures us contains the true secret of successful culture. And he further assures us that if the method therein described be carefully followed, there will be an end to all disappointment on the part of Amateur Gardeners in this department. We cannot find room for the article in the present number, but will publish it next month. Meantime Mr. Power has our best thanks, and will no doubt receive those of our readers after they have seen the article.

THE Earl of Onslow, in addressing his tenants on New Year's Day, said that the effect of the new Education Act would be to bring lads to the learning of agricultural work at an earlier age than hitherto. He felt that if farmers and labourers would urge upon parents the necessity of sending their children to school as early as possible, and of keeping them there, the ordinary intelligence of the Surrey lad would soon master the second standard, and he would be able to earn his living.

Our enterprising young townsman, Chas. P. Blanchard, has been for some days in the vicinity of Montreal hunting up thoroughbred Ayrshires, and returned a few days ago with as fine a specimen of an Ayrshire bull, as can be found in the Dominion. The animal appeared quiet and tractable on the journey homewards, but when Mr. Blanchard was leading him from the Depot, the powerful animal turned upon him and most ferociously commenced to strike him with his horns, tearing his clothes into shreds. A safe retreat was at first gained behind a friendly telegraph post, but being dislodged, Charlie next fortified himself on the opposite side of a

picket-fence. Mr. Bull was defeated, and was ingloriously driven to his quarters, urged on by probing pitchforks that chased him in the rear. It was indeed a miracle that his owner escaped with his life, as he was repeatedly tossed into the air by the angry animal, and to-day, his good travelling clothes would not bring as much, from the rag man, as our own \$5.10 suit. The bull since has seemed gentle, and has displayed none of the ill-temper that he exhibited on the night of his arrival—still bulls are treacherous animals, and the owners and keepers of such cannot use too much care in handling them. This fellow was probably excited by his long travel, the noise of steam whistles and rattling of cars, and disgusted with the rough English accents that fell upon his Frenchy ear.—*Colchester Sun*.



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