

VICK'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE AND FLORAL GUIDE, FOR 1869.—The completest and choicest thing of its kind we know of, published by that noted seedsman and florist, James Vick, of Rochester, N. Y., and sent by him to all applicants for 10 cents. It is worth four times that amount as a picture-book of choice flowers, and as much more for the practical directions it gives for cultivating flowers and vegetables. It is also worth twice its price as a guide where to find rare and choice seeds. We have thus made its value one dollar; and if it couldn't be got for less, it would be cheap at that price. Send and get it every body.

SUNSHINE AND SHADOW IN NEW YORK.—By Matthew Hale Smith, (Burleigh), 8vo., p. p. 718. We are indebted to Mr. Chauncey Loomis, agent, for a specimen copy of this work, which appears to give a very full and fair account of "Life in New York." It consists of a series of graphic sketches; contains a number of pen-pictures of representative men; is beautifully illustrated; and is on the whole, a most readable, interesting, useful book.

The Farm.

THE MONTH OF MARCH.

March is *par excellence* the uncertain month of the year. Enrobed in a white and stately mantle, or exposed in all the sombre nakedness of slumbering nature, this month, is now illustrative of the hoary majesty of winter, and anon puts on a maiden's coyness. The frosty sparkling day is followed by the cold cutting wind, and again stealing a march upon its successor she sounds the first notes of bright and joyous spring. The irrepressible weather prophet will, during this month, best show his wisdom by silence. Let him foretell a bright sun to-morrow and it rains all day, arrange a sleighing party to his neighbours and perchance he finds himself as the vulgar have it, "up to his eyes in mud."

The fitful changes of this month are the heralds of approaching spring, and the premonitory symptoms of the dissolution of winter's empire. The farmer who is wise will do well to take timely warning and prepare with energy to meet

the exigencies of the coming seasons. The careful householder in town or country will no longer neglect to lay in a supply of ice. As long as our blood feels chilled by wintry blasts we have not a just appreciation of the value of nature's cooler, and are too often tardy in procuring that cheap and useful luxury. We will suppose that the farmer has taken advantage of the slack time in winter to cut his year's supply of firewood, and of the good sleighing to draw it to some spot convenient to the homestead. He has not, however, done his duty by the "women folk" until the fuel be cut, split and piled in the woodshed, and in sufficient quantity to supply the kitchen through the busy seasons. We know of no greater nuisance (and we must confess to the experience of it) than when everything is prepared upon a beautiful day in harvest, the men in the field, the horses hitched, and we are about to take the ribbons on the reaper to be implored to "please send a hand to cut some wood with which to cook dinner," or "if you don't give us some wood you'll have to go without your meals." There is nothing that more quickly sours the temper or makes life miserable than such petty vexations as these—vexations to the farmer, to his men and to his family.

The loss of some hours at a busy time when you are paying, perhaps, two dollars per day to your harvest hands is surely a poor recompense for the privilege of having taken your ease in March instead of providing for the future wants of the house. Neglect to forearm for the "rainy day" and you will encounter many; but the careful purveyor will not feel the "rainy day" whenever it may supervene. The farmer says, perhaps, "there are plenty of wet days during which we can do such odd chores." Our experience has not been such. We have always found plenty of work on such days to be done about the barns, repairing rakes, grinding machine knives, scythes, &c., visits to the blacksmith and the town, and various jobs of the season. Now is the time to get the tools in order and arranged so that at a minute's notice you may lay your hands upon them. Overhaul your implements. Your plough irons will require sharpening and straightening. If you put off your visit to the blacksmith until spring fairly opens you may lose a day's ploughing in loun-