

Two Centuries Since.

This day two hundred years ago, The wild grapes by the river's side, And tasteless ground-nut trailing low, The table of the wood supplied.

Unknown, the apples red and gold, The blushing tint of peach and pear, The mirror of the water told No tale of orchards ripe and rare.

Wild as the fruits he scorned to till, These sales the idle Indian trod; Nor knew the glad creative skill, The joy of him who toils with God.

O Painter of the fruits and flowers; We thank Thee for Thy wise design, Whereby these human hands of ours In Nature's garden work with Thine.

And thanks that from our daily need The joy of simple faith is born; That he who smites the summer weed May trust Thee for the autumn corn.

Give fools their gold, and knives their power, Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall; Who sows a field, or trains a flower, Or plants a tree, is more than all.

For he who blesses most, is blest; And God and man shall own his worth Who toils to leave as his bequest An added beauty to the earth.

As soon or late to all that sow The time of harvest shall be given; The flower shall bloom, the fruit shall grow, If not on earth, at least in Heaven!

—JOHN G. WHITTIER.

TO PREVENT condensation in a steam pipe laid under ground, place it inside another larger pipe, filling the intervening spaces with pulverized charcoal. The outside pipe should be watertight.

A PERMANENT and handsome reddish color may be given to cherry or pear tree wood by a coat of a strong solution of permanganate of potash, left on a longer or shorter time, according to the shade required.

AN AGRICULTURAL ENGINE, with six legs, and weighing ten tons, is (so they say, we haven't seen it) at work on a railway in France. It has remarkable capacity for walking up hill with a heavy load, and can run or gallop on level ground at the rate of five to 12 1/2 miles per hour. —New York Tribune.

FISH-FLOUR.—A remarkable article called fish-flour has been brought forward the last few years. It is not as yet manufactured in any great quantity, as the article is still new in the market, and consequently there is no great demand for it. The flour is prepared from dried fish of the first quality; it is thoroughly deacidated, and then ground in a mill.

FERNS FOR MATTRESSES.—Every country neighborhood has woods which are full of ferns and brakes, which usually die and go to seed without doing any good, save as a gratification to the sense of sight. The softer parts, if stripped from the stems and dried in the sun, retain their toughness and elasticity for a long time, and are said to be superior to straw and husks, and even to "excelsior," for stuffing mattresses. The ticks, when filled, should be firmly stitched with a mattress needle, using strong, linen twine, and making the intervals between the stitches an eighth of a yard.

THE BARN-YARD.—The mere fencing off of a quarter of an acre next to the barn and sheds does not make a barn-yard. A good deal more is necessary to be done in order to fit such a lot for the uses to which it is appropriated. As soon as it is put to use, especially if the soil is retentive, and the water from the roofs around is allowed to flow into it, it becomes a loathsome quagmire, and remains so ever after, except in some exceptionally dry season. From one side or another it is sure to overflow in a rainy time, and in that overflow the farmer's money goes to waste most fearfully. The manure is trod into the soil by the stock, and is dug out again with much labor, and if all that is valuable is secured, the yard becomes a hole in the ground, that must be filled up with straw or muck or left worse than before for all practical uses.

THE PRODUCTIVE POWERS OF A GRAIN OF WHEAT.—A Nottinghamshire farmer, writing to a local paper, says:—"In September of last year, whilst sowing some seeds in my garden, I accidentally dropped a grain of corn amongst them; at least so I surmise, for I soon observed a blade of wheat spring up, and as I noticed that it grew very rapidly, I had the curiosity to protect it, and gave it every chance of coming to perfection. The result was as follows:—The number of ears on the root was 63 (40 very large), and though some grains were picked away by one of my hens, the number of grains left when counted was 3,044. I have the root of corn which I dug up, and am fully convinced that all was the production of one grain. I leave your readers to make their own calculations, supposing every grain of wheat could be made equally productive. I have often had the curiosity to notice the production of one root of wheat when growing in my fields, but never found more than 25 ears to one root."

LAST YEAR the United Kingdom had 2,874,200 acres of root crops (not including potatoes), and this year, it is believed, 33 per cent. more, and worth according to estimate, fully \$153,000,000 in gold.

COLORING PINE FLOORS.—An oaken color can be given to new pine floors and tables by washing them in a solution of copperas dissolved in strong lye, a pound of the former to a gallon of the latter. When dry, this should be oiled, and it will look well for a year or two; then renew the oiling.

BRAIN WORRY.—Many of us pray to be delivered from sudden death, and do we not worry ourselves into it? And if we do, can we not help it?

"Men do not really die of heart disease as often as it is supposed, but of apoplexy, or congestion of the lungs, so they do not die of brain work but Brain Worry." Scott died of it, Southey, Swift, Horace Greeley, and probably Thackeray.—London Times.

As Brain Worry induces premature dissolution by its depressing influence upon the general nervous health, by eating the brain faster than the waste is repaired, and as the means of sustaining and increasing nervous health is no longer impossible, those who suffer the debilitating influence of mental anguish or extreme mental fatigue, need only resort to the preparation of Hypophosphites invented by Mr. Fellows, as that will conduct the subject safely over the rapids of despair, and create in him strength to grapple with every difficulty.

This is no idle assertion, but an established fact.

TANNING FUR AND OTHER SKINS.—Remove the legs and useless parts, soak the skin soft, and then remove the fleshy substances, and soak it in warm water one hour. Now take for each skin, borax, saltpetro and Glaubersalt, of each one half ounce, and dissolve or wet with soft water sufficient to allow it to be spread on the flesh side of the skin. Put it on with a brush thickest in the centre or thickest part of the skin, and double the skin together, flesh side in; keeping it in a cool place for twenty-four hours, not allowing it to freeze. Then wash the skin clean, and take sal-soda, one ounce; borax, one-half ounce; refined soap, two ounces; melt them slowly together, being careful not to allow them to boil, and apply the mixture to the flesh side as at first. Boil up again and keep it in a warm place for twenty-four hours; then wash the skin clean again, as above, and have saleratus, two ounces, dissolved in hot rain water sufficient to well saturate the skin take alum, four ounces, salt eight ounces; and dissolve also in hot rain water: when sufficiently cool to allow the handling of it without scalding, put in the skin for twelve hours; then wring out the water and hang up for twelve hours more to dry. Repeat this last soaking and drying two or three times, according to the desired softness of the skin when finished. Lastly finish, by pulling and working, and finally rubbing with a piece of pumice-stone and fine sand paper. This works like a charm on sheep-skins, fur-skins, dog, wolf, bear-skins, etc.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctor's bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack, wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—Civil Service Gazette. Made simply with boiling water or milk.—Each packet is labelled—JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, 43 Threadneedle Street, and 170 Piccadilly; Works, Euston Road and Camden Town, London.

MANUFACTURE OF COCOA.—We will now give an account of the process adopted by Messrs James Epps & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, and manufacturers of dietetic articles, at their works in the Euston Road, London."—See article in Cassell's Household Guide.

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