

A Sheaf of Richest Grain.

(By Ebon E. Haxford.)

He saw the wheat fields waiting,
All golden in the sun,
And strong and stalwart reapers
Went by him one by one.
"Oh, could I reap in harvest!"
His heart made bitter cry;
"I can do nothing, nothing,
So weak, alas! am I."

At eve, a fainting traveller
Sank down beside his door
A cup of cool, sweet water
To quench his thirst he bore.
And when refreshed and strengthened,
"The traveller went his way,
Upon the poor man's threshold
A golden wheat-sheaf lay.

When came the Lord of Harvest,
He cried: "Oh, Master, kind!
One sheaf I have to offer,
And that I did not bind;
I gave a cup of water
To one athirst, and he
Left at my door in going,
The sheaf I offer Thee."

Then said the Lord of Harvest:
"Well pleased with this am I;
One of My angels left it
With thee as he passed by.
Thou mayst not join the reapers
Upon the harvest plain,
But whoso helps a brother
Binds sheaves of richest grain."

Storms--their causes.**Editor State Index:**

You know I have not at my command the philosophical appliances, whereby to put nature to the rack and torture her into a revelation of her secret and mysterious laws; and when you ask me to give reasons and causes of the frequent occurrence and the terrific nature of the storms and cyclones which have recently passed over Alabama, you demand answers to questions which I have not the means intelligently to respond to. But my views, derived from my unaided senses, I can give you. About a year ago I told you in your office that, in my opinion, Selma could never be visited by a hurricane. The same opinion has often been expressed by me in regard to the city of Montgomery. This opinion was based upon my knowledge of the hurricane tracks in Alabama, and upon my knowledge of the topographic and orographic features of the country surrounding these cities, as well as upon an experience of their exemption from storms during a period of fifty years. But Selma has had its hurricane; and the city of Montgomery has had its hurricane; and these hurricanes have overruled my opinion, and these favored cities are under shelter from the ravages of the storm king. Well, what is the matter? Has any thing been done to unbridle the winds? Has any thing been done tending to introduce the storm and intensify its electric action? You say in your last issue, speaking of storms and cyclones, "There is certainly some local provocation, and the question is, what produces these whirls in the air?" Let me say the question just now is, not what produces these whirls in the air, but what has provoked these whirls in the air to invade the cities of Selma and Montgomery? Is there any local provocation for it?

In a letter on "Cloud Waves," published in the New Orleans Times, April 6, 1876. I made the following request and statement: "Some time or other ask some of your wise men what effect is produced upon our cloud-system by the railroad systems and the telegraph systems of our country? Every railroad bar is a magnet, and every telegraph wire is an electro-

phere, and, in my opinion, producing an increase in the terrific energy of the electric whirlwinds and storms which have visited our country since it has been covered over with a network of railroads and telegraph lines. This is a question deserving the attention of our wisest men."

The foregoing was written and published more than six years ago, and yet the inquiry has never been responded to. Beyond question, something has intensified the destructive agency of the hurricane; and it seems equally clear to me that some recent cause has drawn it into tracks hitherto not open to its ingress. It may be that the removal of the primeval forest has had an influence upon the action of the storm. The climates of countries have been modified, or entirely changed, by the removal of their forests. Every tree that grows with its limbs expanded in the air and its roots spread out in the earth, is, in some sort, a galvanic battery, with its electro-magnetic currents, which, running more or less in a perpendicular direction, tend to hold the atmospheric volume spell-bound, and to break or modify the severity of the surface winds that drive in with increasing velocity and violence towards the axis of the storm. This seems to me to be a physical truth. And if it be a truth, then this influence or force, or whatever else you may please to call it, is something over, and in addition to the mechanical resistance of the tree as a wind-break. The demands of commerce and agriculture have covered the country with a network of railroads and telegraph lines. The same demands have attacked the primeval forests, and the great wind-breaks of the country are giving way. The storms are becoming unruly, and the lightnings are rebelling against man, because of the servitude to which he has reduced them. Now, because I speak in this manner, do not say to me like one of your distinguished citizens did, "You are opposed to railroads," for I am not opposed to railroads, nor to telegraph lines, nor to the removal of the forests, at the behest of agriculture and commerce, but I am in favor of them all, and I would have them all accomplished in such a manner as to bring in the very least of physical evils. But if man has, in the pursuit of these grand objects, unwittingly brought upon himself physical evils, he has the art, the ingenuity and industry to remove them; and beyond doubt he has the capacity to subdue nature and subordinate her laws to his use.

Now, let me give you my opinion why the whirlwinds have been so very frequent in Alabama this year. Early in the past winter the cloud-orbit, as I term it, was well established from Texas to the upper Lakes. This orbit completely surrounded us. In other words, during winter and early spring, this orbit was interposed between us and cold weather. I need not remind you of the vast amount of water thrown down on the track of this cloud wave during winter and early spring, as the whole country has been but too painfully reminded of it. The cloud-orbit has a cold side and a warm side. The north winds, coming from less segments of rotation, fall behind the axis of the cloud in its orbit. Let me tell it in other words: North winds, coming from less to greater circles, fall more and more to the westward of the meridian of their departure. But south winds, coming from greater to less circles, fall more and more to the eastward of the meridian of their departure. These winds, under the influence alone of the diurnal force, could never reach the axis of the cloud. But coming, respectfully, from the north and the south, they are in opposite states of electro-magnetic tension, or polarity, and ought and do attract each other with great and increasing energy until they approach near enough to discharge their electricities. I have often said that the left is the concave side of the winds in north latitudes, and that

the relief of pressure is also on the left side of the winds. This form of the winds comes from the fact that the force of gravitation and the force of electro-polarity of the winds, to a certain extent, overcome the centrifugal force, and draw the winds down into the cloud-wave, in involute descending spirals, curving to the left, and increasing in velocity and intensity of power as they approach the axis of the whirlwind. But these forces can never entirely extinguish the centrifugal force, a contingent thereof always being represented in the calm around the axis of the storm. But when the north and south winds have discharged their electricities they become homogeneous as to polarity, and repellant, moving off in involute ascending spirals around the axis of the storm. This is the law of the whirlwind, in my opinion. When the cloud-orbit came over us from the west, the last month, it brought with it its system of storms and whirlwinds. It is now gone east and placed us on its cool side, but it is too late to make frost. If this scrawl is unintelligible, throw it in your basket.

MARION, May 4, 1882.

J. F. B.

Floriculture.

It is a mistaken idea that flowers should be watered twice a day and twice only, at sunrise and after sunset. Flowers should always be watered when the soil about their roots looks dry. Some plants require to be watered twice a day, some three or four times, some once, and others four or five times a week. Care should be taken to water the soil about the roots, and not to sprinkle the top as many do, thinking that if the leaves and flowers get a dainty bath from the spout of the watering-pot, all is well. The foot of the plant wants the nourishment, and not the blossoms and leaves, although, of course, they present a far lovelier appearance when sprinkled over with diamond drops of water.

Another point for amateur florists to observe is the careful pruning of all plants, removing half withered blossoms and leaves. These may be collected in a box, and will make excellent manure. Dead flowers and leaves on a plant spoils its beauty, as soiled lace at the neck and sleeves spoils the beauty of a dress.

Roses grow well in any ordinary garden soil that is free from standing water and well drained. The soil should not contain too much clay, but if this is apparent it may be remedied by an application of wood and coal ashes, lime and stable manure. The rose bushes should be pruned in October and not in the spring of the year as many suppose.

AKRON, O., June 6, 1882.

To the Editor of the COMMERCIAL.

Will you answer through your valuable columns, what caused the panic of 1873, and whether or not a panic awaits us in the near future? Yours very respectfully,

DAILY READER.

There were many things that contributed to produce the panic of 1873. The immediate cause was the failure of the firm of Jay Cooke & Co., that precipitated the panic, but the causes lay behind that event, and would have brought it on sooner or later. Chief among the causes was the inflation produced by a depreciated and over abundant supply of paper money; the business of the country was on a credit basis, and the tension of that credit was taxed beyond its sustaining powers. When it gave way in a single place the crash and collapse followed. It is not impossible that another revulsion is in the future, but it is not likely to be as severe or extensive as that of 1873, for the reason that our "medium of exchange" is on a metallic footing, but over production and want of market, added to excessive importation, may bring on a commercial black frost.—*Com. Com.*