

In addition to its value as an insect destroyer, it is beneficial to the soil, stimulating the growth of plants. This stimulus to the early growth of plants, is a most excellent preservative against insect depredations.

White-oil-soap is made by mixing eighteen pounds of castor oil and twenty pounds of foot oil in a barrel, and three quarts of boiling water should be added to the mixture every day until the barrel be full, stirring the mixture at each addition of water. When the barrel is full the soap is fit to use, and is to be applied with a brush or a syringe. Schenk recommends the use of a solution of sea dung as a very successful application. He puts a bushel of the manure into a large tub, and pours upon it several pails of water, stirring it until the mass becomes semi-fluid; fills up the tub with water, and lets it stand some hours longer; the liquid should be of a dark green color and offensive to the nostrils. For vines, probably the vine shield, a twelve or fourteen inches square at bottom and enough to take an eight by ten light of glass at top and about 4 or 5 inches high, is the best protection. Peaches, quite young, are valuable auxiliaries to the vine, the scratching mother being confined in her nest.

The motto in our warfare against insects should be "There can be no peace without dishonor."—*Granville Farmer.*

**GENERAL WAITERS.**—In some parts of Norway, very rarely in Sweden, occasionally servants have to perform a duty which would astonish the ladies whose subsistence in this country are helped through with the aid of the greengrocer, or by a man from the confectionery. It is expected of a waiter, not only that he should announce names in a sonorous voice, to hand the plates rapidly, to char a plate quickly, to help wine judiciously, to be steady and respectable in his conduct in the kitchen; but that he should be a good musician! In the dishes have been cleared away, and the cloth removed, after he has been handing about the plates of the season, the coffee, and in Summer the music again appears, music in hand, to perform on the forte. The Norsk and Swedish amateurs deem beneath the dignity of the high art of music to which they aspire, to perform mere Terpsichorean tunes. The music is there delegated to waiters.—*Dickens's Household Words.*

**TIPS TO LADIES.**—Stair carpets should always have a strip of paper put under them, at and over the edge of the carpet, which is the part where they first wear out, in order to lessen the friction of the carpet against the floor beneath. The strips should be within an inch or so long as the carpet is wide, and four or five inches in breadth, so as to be a distance from each stair. A simple plan, so easy of execution, will we know, save a stair carpet half as long again as it would be without the strips of paper.

**MILK POTS SEEVES KEEP.**—The secret of preserving milk from the age is to exclude the air. The easiest way to do this is to brush over a sheet of paper with white of an egg, and cover the jar, pressing it down to the edges while moist and it will cement perfectly. It is cheaper, neater, and better than sealing the mouth of the jar with wax or covering it with lard.

**PECAN CROP.**—The pecan crop, which forms an important item in the exports of Texas, is said to be in a flourishing condition. The *Victoria Advocate* says that it is only about once in four years; the last good crop being in 1848. This therefore, is not only the pecan but we are informed by gentlemen who live in the country, and who have looked into the matter, that the crop is quite full, and therefore an abundant crop may be anticipated.

**SENT FROM NEW ORLEANS TO EUROPE.**—One hundred barrels of eggs were shipped from New Orleans to Empire City, on her last trip to New York. It is a curious fact in the history of the trade of that city, Cincinnati eggs travelling to New Orleans, and thence fifteen hundred miles, to New York, and up the Hudson three thousand miles further to Europe, makes one of the wonders of commerce. Such a feat was hardly contemplated by the respectable people of Ohio, when they cackled so proudly over their success in that line.—*New Orleans Delta.*

**BUTTER FIRKINS.**—A firkin should be made of wood that will not impart its taste to the butter, such as Rock Maple, Canada spruce, Fir, Ash, &c. The staves should be  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch thick after being finished, and made tight without being "stugged," as the coopers say. Be sure and not use firkins that have the sap on any of the staves, as they will mould, notwithstanding all your care. Neither should you use tubs with basswood covers. They should be soaked faithfully with salt and water, and thoroughly dried before being used. The pickle used can be put into another tub and kept till wanted, with a little salt added; thereby saving pickle, and soaking the next tub for use. As to size, that will depend upon the number of cows; but one that will hold fifty pounds is large enough for any dairy, as they sell better than larger tubs.—*Cor. Northern Farmer.*

**DOG-DAYS.**—This name was given to a certain portion of summer, from the fact that in the time of the ancient astronomers the star Sirius, called also "The Dog Star," rose just before the sun, about the beginning of July; and the sultry heat of that season, together with the tendency of dogs to run mad, were ascribed to the raging of the star. Hence the time of its ascendency was called dog-days. Owing to the precision of the equinoxes, the helical rising of Sirius now takes place in a later and cooler season of the year, and can have no relation to what we call dog-days.

The Cincinnati Association of Systematic Botanists, having for its object the study and advancement of Systematic and Scientific Botany, has been recently organized. President, John A. Warder; Secretary, Jas. W. Ward, Esq. The objects of the society are eminently practical, embracing the classification, nomenclature and normal habits of plants and the definition of their general characters, together with the history and description of the insects that feed on and destroy them.

Camphor is procured from a tree which grows largely in India and China. The largest quantity of the gum is found in the knots and roots. It is distilled with water.

**THE PURK SHEEP OF TIBET.**—A ram and three ewes of this breed have been recently sent to England, where they have proved themselves wonderfully prolific. They attain early maturity, and when grown, weigh 30 to 40 pounds. They are hardy and easily reared, and are commended as excellent substitutes for the poor man's dog.

Mr. Moorcraft, who travelled extensively in their native country, some years since, thus describes their pet-familiar habits:—

"The Purk sheep, if permitted, thrusts its head into the cooking pot, picks up crumbs, is eager to drink the remains of salted and buttered tea or broth, and examines the hands of its master for *latro* (barley flour) or for a cleanly-picked bone, which it disdains not to nibble. A leaf of lettuce, a peeling of turnip, the skin of an apricot, are also its luxuries."—*English paper.*

**CORK.**—Many persons see corks used daily without knowing whence comes those useful materials. Corks are cut from large slabs of the cork tree, a species of oak, which grows wild in the southern countries of Europe. The tree, is stripped of its bark at about sixteen years old; but before stripping it off, the tree is not cut down as in the case of the oak. It is taken while the tree is growing, and the operation may be repeated every eight or nine years; the quality of the bark continuing each time to improve as the age of the tree increases. When the bark is taken off, it is singed in the flames of a strong fire, and after being soaked for a considerable time in water it is placed under weights in order to render it straight. Its extreme lightness, the ease with which it can be compressed, and its elasticity, are properties peculiar to it. The value of cork was known to the Greeks and Romans, who employed it for all the purposes for which it is used at present with the exception of stopples. The ancients mostly used cement for stopping the mouths of bottles or vessels. The Egyptians are said to have made coffins of cork, which being spread on the inside with resinous substance, preserved dead bodies from decay. In modern times cork was not generally used for stopples to bottles till about the seventeenth century, cement being used until then for that purpose.

**ESSEX.**—There are nearly 153,000 acres of land owned by individuals residing in the county of Essex. Forty-six thousand of which are under cultivation. Under crop, last year, 30,792; under pasture, same year, 14,428. It must be a capital fruit country; for we find that the farmers own 1,357 orchards; from the fruit of which they made, last year, 44,383 gallons of cider—the number of barrels of apples being 3,665. During 1851, upwards of 143,000 bushels of wheat, 100,000 bushels of oats, 108,000 bushels of Indian corn, 457,000 lbs. of tobacco, and 40,000 pounds of wool, were raised within the county. More than 16,000 lbs. maple-sugar were made last season. Beside this, they manufactured in Essex, straw-hats to the number of 3,589, socks 4,205 pairs, fulled-cloths 10,366 yards, and bannel 15,152 yards. Of live stock they had 3,723 oxen, 5,308 milch-cows, 4,831 calves or heifers, 5,334 horses, 13,487 sheep, and 12,904 pigs. The dairy produced 222,633 lbs. of butter, and 18,112 lbs. of cheese. Who says Essex is not a great and a thriving district!

**IMPROVEMENT IN SPY GLASSES.**—The London papers, in speaking of works of art in the great Exhibition, mention a newly invented very small powerful waist-coat pocket-glass, the size of a walnut, by which a person can be seen and known one and a half-miles distant; they answer every purpose on the race course, at the opera houses, country scenery, and ships are clearly seen at twelve and fourteen miles; they are invaluable for hunting, shooting, deer stalking, yachting, to sportsmen, gentlemen, time keepers, and tourists.

**TELESCOPES.**—A new and most important invention in telescopes, possessing such extraordinary powers that some, three and a half inches, with an extra eye-piece, will show distinctly Jupiter's moons, Saturn's ring, and the double stars; with the same telescope, weighing only three ounces, can be seen a person's countenance three and a half miles distant, and an object from sixteen to twenty miles distant. They supersede all other kinds for the waist-coat pocket, and are of larger and all sizes, with increasing power accordingly.—*The Globe.*

**LONGEVITY OF THE HORSE.**—Mr. Percival mentions one that died at the age of 62. Mr. Mauran, of New York, has a fine gig or saddle horse now in his 45th year, sound, spirited and playful as a kitten. He is of a dark brown with a tanned nose. We never yet saw a horse with a buff or bear muzzle, that had not such endurance.

From present indications, there is to be a large crop of wheat, and grass will be unprecedented. There is some danger of damage from "lodging," owing to the luxuriant growth. Apples promise to be very abundant, and peaches and other fruit in moderate quantities. Corn planting was very late, and there is much complaint that the seed did not germinate, yet if July and August should be favorable we may anticipate a reasonable crop of corn.—*Rural New Yorker.*

**PERUVIAN BARK.**—The Philadelphia *North American* expresses the belief that the *Cinchona*, or Peruvian bark tree, might be acclimated along the ridges of the Alleghanies, more particularly in the Carolinas and Georgia, and perhaps even in Tennessee and Virginia. Considering the incalculable value of this tree, for its medicinal product and its limited cultivation in South America, the subject deserves attention.

A parcel of pine-apples has been received, in London, from Sierra Leone, being the first importation to England from that colony.

Modesty is to the female character what saltpetro is to beef—while it preserves its purity it imparts a blush.

On his farm in Franklin, Mr. Webster has a Hungarian bull weighing 1500 lbs., and a heifer of the same breed.

The silence of a person who loves to praise is a censure sufficiently severe.

An hour's sunshine affords a week's hope of fair weather.