

THE MARITIME PATRON, AND ORGAN OF THE Maritime Provincial Grange—Patrons of Husbandry.

"In Essentials Unity—In Non-essentials Liberty—In All Things Charity."

[All communications intended for this column should be sent to the editor of the Maritime Patron, EDWIN S. CREED, M. D., Newport.]

In our last issue the subject of ventilation was briefly touched upon, in the hope that the attention of farmers who might honor our column with a perusal, would be directed to its importance, and that investigative discussion and practical results would follow. And with this purpose in view, this and other subjects connected with practical agriculture may occasionally be discussed in this column, during the few remaining weeks of its probable continuance, or our connection with it. Our duty, however, as we apprehend it, demands the discussion of many other topics besides those directly relating to practical farming. The Grange Press should stand upon and address all hearers from the GRANGE PLATFORM, as the exponent, the advocate, and the champion of the principles and purposes of the Order.

From the Grange platform, and in our Granges, the discussion of partisan political questions, or those questions "on which we stand divided by party lines" is prohibited. Because such discussions would imperil essential unity and harmony; but as the prosperity of agriculture must depend largely upon political conditions, the Grange platform would be too contracted, and the Grange itself very inefficient for the promotion of agricultural interests, were the discussion of all political questions, and were non-partisan political action forbidden by our laws. Our Order indeed affords excellent facilities for the discussion of political or any questions affecting our interests as agriculturists, and for taking concerted action for the advancement of those interests, and "the principles we teach underlie all true politics, all true statesmanship, and if properly carried out will tend to purify the whole political atmosphere of our country."

While it cannot be truthfully said that the political atmosphere of this Dominion is comparatively impure, it must be admitted that its constituent elements are not present in the relative proportions essential to the best interests and heartfelt development of the country, and that therefore ventilation is needed. It is concerning this need that we wish very briefly to address our fellow-Patrons and farmers. Possibly, within a few weeks, certainly, in a few months, we will be called upon to select and elect men to represent us in the Legislative Assembly of our Dominion. Do we, as we assemble in political conventions, and when we approach the ballot box to deposit our votes for the candidates of our choice fully realize the great, awe, the solemn responsibility resting upon us? Do we realize that the whole superstructure of our system of government rests upon, is the creation of, and is responsible, *politically speaking*, alone to the people who exercise the franchise?

If we, the electors of the country, realized the position we occupy, and the duties and responsibilities devolving upon us under our system of government, we would not approach the performance of our duties without due consideration, and would feel that we should know at least enough of public affairs and political questions to enable us to use our influence and our votes intelligently.

It cannot be too often repeated or too strongly enforced, that a people who have representative political institutions and a responsible government, should not complain of their laws, or the way in which they are administered, or public affairs are managed, but should use the power inherent them for reforming abuses, and promoting the welfare of the country, through judiciously selected political representatives.

The Dominion Grange is appointed to meet at Toronto on Thursday, 25th inst., (twenty-fifth of the current month of November). The date mentioned in the telegram received last week by the Secretary of the Maritime Provincial Grange was a mistake made either by the sending or receiving operator.

BARK SCRAPING.—Many good authorities now concur in the opinion that scraping the bark of fruit trees is not only unnecessary but often injurious, that no tree when properly thriving needs it, and if not thriving scraping the bark will not do much good. One of our contemporaries says:—

When in the garden among fruit trees, we sometimes scrape off some of the loose, rough, mossy bark, but we do it more for a change of posture or rest for the body, or to make the trunks look a little better, than with any expectation of helping the growth of the tree. We lately came into possession of a neglected orchard, and these remarks apply to this only. In our long experience in the care of orchard trees, we have found no occasion for spending any time scraping or washing the trunks of trees, or slitting the bark to give the tree room to grow. The *Rural New Yorker*, alluding to this subject, says:—"Pray don't waste your time and strength in this way. If you give your trees good food to eat and plenty of it, and cut out while young all branches that interfere with each other, you have done all you can to promote their welfare. Leave the rest to nature." Mr. J. J. Thomas, horticultural editor of the *Country Gentleman*, also condemns the practice of scraping, believing it renders the trees more susceptible to injury from cold in winter.

WHAT IS PEDIGREE?—Pedigree may have a very high value, or it may have none at all. If a sheep with an unbroken ancestry of a thousand years, or two thousand years, has a very poor constitution, or a bald head, it is more likely to impart those faults to its offspring, than if it belonged

to a breed of more recent origin. It may, for this reason, be even less valuable in every respect, than a high-grade. Pedigree is like a long train of cars; it runs with strong momentum, and it runs straight. An animal without pedigree, originating yesterday, is like a single car; it rocks to and fro, it is liable to swing off the track.

Breeders like to claim for their favorite stock something akin to infallibility; they say, in effect: Given a thousand years' pedigree in your breeding flock, and you cannot get an inferior animal. But this logic cannot stand. Twin rams, twin bulls, own brothers in a family, disprove it every day.

Yet we would not be thought to detract anything from the transcendent value of pure blood. Often a grade of three-fourths or seven-eighths blood, sired by a strong-blooded ram, will, to all appearance, possess all the desirable qualities of a thoroughbred, and reproduce himself in his progeny; but the next generation, or the next, or at the first ill usage, his descendants will "breed back" to his low original.—*American Agriculturist for October.*

HOW TO DRY RENNET.—As home-made cheese is a very agreeable addition to the farmer's bill of fare, every household should be provided with a few dried rennets. These are the fourth or true digestive stomach of the young calf, which is fed solely upon milk. The stomachs of doecan calves or of fat veals should always be saved. The stomach is simply emptied of its contents and is not washed. A slender twig is pushed into the opening so as to distend it. The ends of the twig are tied to form a loop by which it can be hung up in a dry closet. It is lined with salt and dried, and gradually becomes stronger with age, as the ferment, which is called "rennet," seems to reproduce itself in course of time. Two square inches of this dried stomach, steeped in a quart of brine, is enough for 100 pounds of milk.

If the air of the cellar is damp, it may be thoroughly dried by placing in it a peck of fresh lime in an open box. A peck of lime will absorb about seven pounds, or more than three quarts of water, and in this way a cellar or milk room may soon be dried, even in the hottest weather.

Plow the heavy land and leave it in the rough condition so that the frost can penetrate and render it fine. There is no better agency for pulverizing tough soils than frost. It will also, at the same time, destroy the cut-worm.

Don't begin feeding corn to the pigs too soon. Grass, milk, roots and refuse vegetables will be better until cold weather approaches. Warm quarters will greatly reduce the expense of feeding during the winter.

Remove the seeds before feeding pumpkins to your cattle. They act on the kidneys too freely.

DRAINAGE FOR HEALTH.—Every town and village ought to have a perfect system of drainage for its sewage. Where this cannot be immediately applied to grass and cultivated crops, it should be emptied into a reservoir and sufficient peat or muck added for disinfection, and putting it in so solid a condition that it can be shoveled up and carted away for the fertilization of any land when needed.

Fashionable summer resorts are often made very unhealthy for want of proper sanitary measures. People go from the city to the country to get a pure air, and for the benefit of their health. Instead of this, they frequently find it so tainted, especially in yards, wash rooms, and water closets, as to generate fever and other dangerous diseases.

One cannot be too careful of the water that supplies the beverage of tables. If coming from a well near a barnyard or other foul place, reject it, as drainage from these may have leaked into it in sufficient quantity to render it very unhealthy. Spring water is also thus affected, although it may taste sweet and look perfectly pure. The only safety for every household, whether in country or in town, is to dispose daily of all foul stuff, whether liquid or solid, which accumulates on or near the premises, poisoning the air and breeding disease.—*American Agriculturist.*

THE POTATO (SOLANUM TUBEROSUM).—Sir Walter Raleigh first brought the potato to Ireland about 1585 from Virginia, it was afterwards brought from Peru in 1597, though previous to this it had been known in Spain, from which country its name is derived, as the natives of Virginia called it *Openauth*. Thomas Harriot, who accompanied Raleigh, described it as good for food either boiled or roasted; and Gerard, in his "Herbal," a few years after, said it was indigenous to Virginia, whence he had himself obtained it. He gave some curious details of its qualities and various modes in which it might be dressed for the table. He especially recommended it as the basis of delicate conserves and restorative sweetmeats, with the assurance that its flatulent effects may be infallibly corrected by having the roots eaten sopped in wine, adding that, "to give them greater grace in eating they should be boiled with prunes."

The story of Raleigh having first planted the potato in his garden at Youghal, and the disappointment of the gardener in autumn on tasting the apples of the "fine American fruit," and his subsequent discovery of the tubers when he was desired by his master to throw out the useless weed, is probably authentic. It was cultivated in Ireland long before its introduction to England, but only as a garden crop—for more than a century and a half after it was first planted at Youghal, and it was not until 1732 that it was cultivated as a field crop in Scotland. A strange objection to potatoes was urged by the English Puritans, who denied the lawfulness of eating them because they were not mentioned in the Bible.

Having been originally brought from Virginia, it may be naturally sup-