#### FARMERS COLUMN:

RAISING TOMATOES.—Burr tells us that the French mode of raising tomatoes is as follows: As soon as a cluster of flowers is visible, they top the stem down to the cluster, so that the flowers terminate the stem. The effect is that the sap is immediately impelled into the two buds next below the cluster, which soon push strongly and produce another cluster of flowers each. When these are visible, the branch to which they belong is also topped down to their level; and this is done five times successively. By this means the plants become stout dwarf bushes, not above eighteen inches high In order to prevent their falling over, sticks or strings are stretched horizontally along the rows so as to keep the plant erect. In addition to this, all laterals that have no flowers, and, after the fifth topping, all laterals whatever, are nipped off. In this way, the ripe sap is directed into the fruit, which acquires a beauty, size and excellence unattainable by other means.—Boston Globe.

FARM GATES.—I would like to give your readers a plan of a gate which I have used for the last twenty years. I think it the best barn-yard gate in use. The gate runs on wheels, on a board laid on the ground, extending back as tar as it runs. It moves back between a double temporary fence. To make the gate, first lay down two boards, one at the top and one at the bottom. The top and bottom boards are double, or one on each side of braces. Now lay on your end and brace strips, then lay on gate-boards and nail all solid together. I use six-inch boards for bottom and fourinch for the rest. I would like to give some of the advantages of this gate: First, it costs scarcely nothing to make; ten cents' worth of malleable nails is all the iron used for the gate, and any farmer can make them by burning common nails. It is always in the right place, not blown around by the wind when left unfastened. If you have a wild team of colts you can open and shut this gate and not let go the lines. No extra posts are used; any common fence post is sufficient. It never sags — Cor. Free Press.

BEST FOOD FOR SWINE .- What would be the best food for swine in summer would not answer the same purpose in winter. In summer, such food should be given as would keep the animal in an improving condition, and would cause it to lay on a little fat, but not so much as to suffer from heat, as a fat porker undoubtedly does. Cooling food, such as plenty of young clover and bran and middling to slop is what we use much of, not forgetting to give regular and abundant supplies of fresh, cool water. In putting up swine for exhibition purposes, we have tried many different kinds of food for the exhibitions, but we have found none so desirable as a slop made of corn and oats ground together, one third of the former, by measure, two-thirds of the latter. One of the best ways to prepare it is to scald it at night and feed next morning, put on the mass only enough hot water to thoroughly moisten it, and then cover up the barrel tight so it can stem well, and make the mass mellow and nice by morn ing. If it is found undesirable to scald it, moisten the mass with water and then put in one or more pans of sour milk-thick milk or clabber-to cause it to sour by the time it is used. We use both or either plan, and find them both good. As an ordinary summer feed, we have found this food to answer almost all purposes, as experience has abundantly proved that breeding stock should be very fat only in a healthy, growing condition, to insure healthy, vigorous offspring. The refuse from the truck patches, such as tomatoes, cabbage, &c., come nicely into play for summer food in connection with the above slop, as do apples—windtalls—pears &c .- Swine and Poultry Journal.

MARKETING FRUIT.—It is one thing to raise fruit

and quite another to sell it. Some men can succeed well in raising but fail to sell to advantage, while others are not very successful in raising but can sell, generally, at fair prices. So diverse are these operations, and so different the qualifications required in each, that comparatively few can succeed well in both. True, when the supply is short and the demand good, it does not require much talent to sell at good prices, but when the reverse is true -when the supply is abundant and the demand moderate,-then skill in selling finds an excellent field for its exercise. The secret in selling fruit is to have it in the best possible condition. The best of fruit put on the market in bad condition is not likely to find purchasers at as good prices as an inferior quality, if in fine condition. An essential prerequisite to the successful marketing of fruit is careful handling in gathering and packing. Clean-liness is absolutely necessary. Bruises and other injuries to the fruit should be carefully avoided, as injuring both the looks and keeping qualities of the fruit. After rough handling the quality of fruit degenerates very rapidly. Another important matter is to have it well assorted. Bad and faulty specimens damage the sale of good fruit far more than they add to its bulk. It is better, if it is not uniform in size and appearance, to assort it and sell the different grades in separate packages, as the best grades will bring as much after one-fourth to one-half has been assorted out as it all will if put on the market without assorting. In packing fruit for market, all vessels containing it should be packed so full that there shall be no room for it to shake about. In putting the covering in, of whatever description it may be, it should go in with a gentle pressure so that every specimen may be pressed and held in its place beyond the possibi-lity of jolting or shaking about. The manner of packing has much to do with success in selling. One of the most successful fruit-raisers in Indiana has been in the habit of shipping his apples to Philadelphia, where he sold at about double the prices of the common fruit in the market. His method of packing was about as follows: He assorted his fruit, throwing out all that was not strictly first-class, making vinegar of all the culls. He used only new flour barrels to pack in. He would use no barrel that had ever been used for any purpose before. He took out one head and placed his fruit with his hands, always handling them with as much care as if they had been eggs. A layer was first placed evenly over the bottom of the barrel just as closely as they would pack, and invariably with the stem end downward. Another layer was placed on these, and another on that, and so on till the vessel was full, all the time placing them in regular layers and in the same position. He aimed to fill it so full that when the head was put in the pressure would be such that none of the fruit could move from its position by handling the barrel. He then turned the barrel over and marked the bottom for the top, so that on opening it the first layer of fruit would appear on top. His fruit when packed was uniform throughout, and thus he gained reputation for fair dealing that brought him eager buyers at the highest prices without question or examination, proving that honesty, even in selling fruit, is the best policy .- L. J. T., in Ohio Farm

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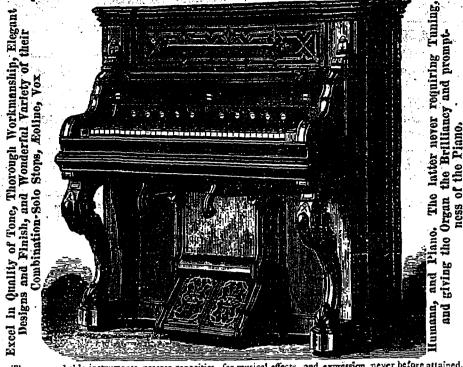
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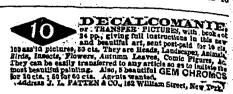
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