

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

JUNE.

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

HAVE PATIENCE.

No class of men stand in need of more patience than farmers; and we have often thought that most of their trouble and perplexities resulted from a lack of this scarce, though very useful commodity. The mechanic can in a great measure control his work; if the weather is unfavorable he can wait for better, and then resume his labors; while nothing suffers by the delay, everything remaining just as he left. If he happens to make a mistake he can retrace his steps and correct the error, and generally without much loss or inconvenience. The farmer, however, at all seasons, and in all his operations, is subject to trials which test his patience severely. In the spring time he desires to get in his crops early, but the season is late,—it does seem as if the frost would never get out of the ground,—and when at last the favorable moment arrives and the soil is dry enough for the plow, the heavens become black with clouds, and the rains descend, and for days, and perhaps weeks, he has to wait patiently for an opportunity to commence spring work. When the weather becomes favorable and everything is to be done and done quickly, a son on whom great dependence was placed, has concluded to heed the calls of duty and patriotism, and is off for the war, or a hired man is found to be dissatisfied or worthless, and no other help can be obtained. Happy is he who can command sufficient patience and energy to overcome these and similar evils, and carry out the good plans that he had arranged for his guidance. How many under such difficulties lose all patience—all command even of their own actions—and seem intent only on hurrying along with their work in the most superficial manner, intent only on getting things done in the quickest way, regardless entirely of the manner or the ultimate results!

But this is the beginning of trials only; for very often the season is unfavorable for hoeing as well as planting, yet exceedingly favorable for the production of weeds which over-run the crops and threaten their destruction. When a fine time comes the farmer scarcely knows what to do first; for while he is at work in one field the other is suffering, and while employed in the lot the caterpillars are at work in the orchard. Then in haying and harvesting how much patience is required; for it is seldom we

have just the weather *we think* would best suit our purpose or conduce to our interest.

Experience and observation have taught us that most of the bad farming we observe results not from want of knowledge, or from any determination to do things in a, slovenly manner, but in opposition to good resolutions and plans wisely formed, simply from want of patience to carry them out in practice. Many who talk and write well about good farming and the necessity of order and system in the operations of the farm, are themost untidy and disorderly in their practice; and this is a matter of surprise—a great mystery to many. They know and teach the right, yet practice the wrong. They have not the patience to carry out the plans which they recommend to others, and form for their own guidance; but when work commences get in a hurry, *out* of patience, and do everything in a loose and slovenly manner. Their practice is a constant source of annoyance and vexation to themselves. They stand self-condemned, yet cannot command sufficient patience to do things as they should be done. They have not yet conquered an unfavorable disposition that has proved the bane of their lives.

With some friends, about two years since, we visited a large town in an adjoining State, and as is our custom, visited some of the best farms and most prominent farmers in the neighborhood. Not having time in one day to see all we desired in the suburbs, we sent word, by one of his neighbors, that we would call on a certain gentleman the next day. This individual has almost a national reputation as a writer upon agricultural and horticultural subjects, and is a man of much information and more than ordinary ability. The next morning we took an early start for his place, and did not find him at home, but did find the grounds. We cannot say we were disappointed at their appearance, having learned a little of the philosophy of the old lady, who said, "blessed are they who don't expect nothing," cause they ain't agoin' to be disappointed." We did, however, see sad evidence of want of care, and that system and order which it requires a good deal of patience to carry out. On our return to town we found the gentleman in question had also started early to find us, called at several places where he thought we would be

likely to stop, and finally left a note at the hotel, stating that it would be impossible for him to meet us at his place, but at some other time would be very happy to have us make him a visit. The cause of the difficulty we could imagine very readily. We could not remove the impression that he was unwilling we should see the clear evidence that he disregarded his own teaching.

The present season a friend invited us to see his young stock—horses and cattle—in the meadow, and at the same time drove some of the younger ones that had been in the yard, down the lane that took us to the field where we were to find the principal part of the animals. Soon we came to a set of bars. Three or four rails were taken off and they had to make their way over the rest, which they did remarkably well, considering their age and size. Opening directly into the meadow was a gate, and this was opened a little way, and the young animals left to crowd their way through, which they seemed quite pleased to do. The older of the young animals we noticed were ornamented with ugly pokes, a species of jewelry that we very much dislike. On inquiring the reason we were informed that his stock had a good deal of life and were more unruly than those of his neighbors. We suggested that he gave them very good lessons by compelling them to jump bars and crowd through gates; but he declared he had not patience to take down every bar when they could just as well get over without.

We need not a little patience in making our plans. Lay out no more work than can be well done with the help at command, making all due allowance for interruptions from weather, &c., and when the time comes for putting these plans into operation, let nothing divert, but pursue them with that industry and patience that knows no defeat. A little more patience in mending the fence will preserve crops from depredation; a little more in repairing barns and sheds and providing more shelter will make stock far more comfortable and thriving; more patience in preparing the ground and in putting in crops, in destroying weeds, and mellowing the soil, will give you better crops and add materially to your wealth; a good deal more patience will make you a better farmer, a better and happier man, and add to the peace and comfort of all with whom you have to do.

OLD FOGY FARMERS.

My father is a farmer; I am my father's son; ergo (the inference may not be a necessary one, although it is true,) I am a farmer. I read several of the Agricultural journals, but I confess it does me very little practical good, except the satisfaction I receive in knowing that other people are pushing on the car of progress and lifting up the profession of Agriculture to its natural level, so that it is no disgrace for a man to say in any society, "I am a Farmer."

You will, perhaps, ask why I am not benefited by my reading. Because I have no opportunity of putting the ideas of which I thus become master in practice. My father (I mean no irreverence) is an old fogy. He adheres to the traditions of the fathers. He farmed it twenty, thirty, forty years ago just as he does

now, and prospered—paid for his own farm of nearly two hundred acres, and bought and paid for farms upon which he has comfortably settled all his boys, except your humble correspondent. He got on well in the years gone by, farming in the old way; therefore the old way is a good way. But the old way is destined never to purchase any more farms. "Luck" in raising crops is no longer invariably or even generally good. Chance—the deity which presides over the operations of old fogy farmers—now and then gives us an abundant harvest, but at intervals, which I can perceive, increase in length with the march of time.

Such a thing as making improvements which would take results out of the hands of chance, render success certain and invariable. Pshaw! That would be flinging insults right into the face of Providence. We *must* have our ups and our downs. We *must* have our hard times, and our good times, and our indifferent times, and these must depend on our good crops, our poor crops and our medium crops. I sadly fear the ups, the good times and the good crops will soon be altogether among the "things that were, but are not," to all these traditinary farmers. But it will make no difference in their professional opinions. Their confidence in the soundness of their inherited dogmas and whims can never be shaken.—never. As long as they live and control operations on the soil of their deteriorated acres, they will do it just as their fathers did, and just as they have always done, though nothing but starvation to the soil and to themselves ever comes of it.

No system of underdraining on their farms. It would cost as much as they paid for their farms in the outset. No fine cattle in their pastures. Do you think they would pay twenty-five, fifty or a hundred dollars for a blooded calf to improve their stock, when their own half-starved creatures will hardly bring fifteen dollars at two years old? No, indeed! They will keep their short-cropped pastures overrun with poor half-starved cattle and sheep of the real dung-hill sort, and pens full of squealing, bony creatures which they call hogs, but which look the personification of—but I forbear; "it's no use talking." Go you on, good old RURAL! Continue your efforts to diffuse liberal ideas, and we will hope that their influence will be perceptible in the old fogies' children, if not in themselves.

A STEAM FIRE ENGINE FOR NEW BRUNSWICK.

A committee from the city of St. John, New Brunswick, recently arrived in Boston, for the purpose of purchasing a steam fire engine. The committee visited the house of steamer No. 10 in Charles street and witnessed her working qualities. In four minutes from the time of starting the fire she had on 10lbs. of steam; 20 lbs. of steam in 5½ minutes—playing two streams of 1½ and 1-inch. She played two streams vertically 150 feet; and one stream, through an inch-pipe, 170 feet vertically. The committee were so well pleased with what they saw that they left for Manchester to order a similar one from the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, of Manchester, N. H.



FARM OPERATIONS.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS FOR JUNE.

Glance over a table like the following will generally call to mind some piece of work that would otherwise be forgotten or neglected.

FARM.

How to economise time and labor, and how to accomplish most during the present month, is the farmer's study. Many a farmer undertakes to do so much work himself that he breaks down under the pressure, while he should have spent part of his time in planning to make work go smoothly, to have no hurrying, no work to be done over again, and to have nobody on the farm that interrupts the work of others, or is out of the way when wanted, or shirking his share of the tough jobs, and looking out for easy ones. The farmers of our country should remember that all prosperity, especially in this country, is dependent upon the products of the soil, and so use the whole fertility of the soil and the manure heap to the best advantage, and with confidence in Him who giveth rain in due season, and ordereth the seed time and the harvest.

Beans will do pretty well on poor soils, but a great deal better on good. They run to tops if the ground has too much fresh manure, and are an excellent crop for clearing land of weeds. They are always marketable, valuable for home use, and for feeding to sheep. Plant white bush varieties in drills 2½ feet apart.

Bees.—A moderate apiary can be easily attended to with little expense and trouble, and with great profit.

Birds.—Spare them all; put up bird boxes. More than one or two compartments are undesirable. Kill cats that kill birds; allow no guns fired on or near the premises.

Bones.—Collect from far and near with jealous care; pound them up or put them in with the horse manure.

Broom Corn.—Plant late in the month, on good corn land in hills 3 feet each way, or in drills 4 feet apart, thinning subsequently to 6 inches apart in the rows.

Buildings.—Paint before hot weather comes on, if at all this season. Remove all litter from

unused stalls and the bottom of bays, before it becomes a harbor for rats and mice and insects which soon take possession when the premises are left undisturbed.

Calves.—Feed sweet hay after they begin to graze; castrate at 4 weeks old.

Carrots may easily be sown; the earlier the better.

Cattle.—Continue to fodder there is a fodder until there is abundance of grass. Keeping them a week out of the pastures now will be a great service to it before the end of the Summer. They will relish a little hay at night even after turned to pasture. Keep up the flow of milk by feeding cows with wet bran, shorts, and roots, if any remain, until the pastures are in full growth. Feed grain to working cattle according to the severity of their labours. Potatoes or other roots once or twice a week will keep them in good, healthy working order.

Cranberries.—This is the best month to set cranberries on wet land. Obtain good healthy plants from the swamp, and plant them on skinned and burnt swamp land or on light moist upland, and keep clean.

Cellars.—When the cellars are empty, clean them out in every nook and corner, and whitewash throughout, and stop rat holes with cement and broken glass.

Clover.—Where winter grain is thin and backward from any cause, clover and grass seed will catch if sown early.

Corn.—Prepare the soil in dry weather early in the month; never work the ground when it is wet. The old rule of the Indians was, to plant when oak leaves are as large as a mouse's ear. If heavy greensward be broken up this Spring, do not cross-plow, and be careful not to disturb the sods in harrowing and marking out the ground. The fermenting sods will afford warmth and nutriment. Examine carefully and reject all imperfect seed. If wet and dried off with lime, smutting is prevented.

Dairy.—The labors of the dairy are commonly more burdensome this month than any other. Plenty of rich milk, with good help, makes the work light.

Draining.—Mark spots that need draining, and be prepared to put in the "crocker" or stones next fall in good earnest; and improve drouths, at any season, to drain low swampy land.

Flax and Hemp.—Flax culture promises to become more remunerative in future, from recent improvements in preparing the fiber. Sow this and Hemp early.

Fences.—Keep all in repair, particularly boundary and road fences, and around pasture lots where young cattle are confined. Good fences make quiet cattle. If they once become unruly, no ordinary fence will restrain them.

Grain Fields.—A top dressing of plaster, nitrate of soda, or guano will often prove beneficial on both Winter and Spring grain. Guano, lime, or wood ashes, sown liberally before the seed is covered, will benefit heavy soils. Keep all stock from grain fields, and pull out weeds as soon as plainly visible.

Grass Seed.—May be still sown upon grain fields not already seeded, and on poor meadow. Use plenty of seed.

Hedge Rows thrive and spread by being let alone. Tear them out by the roots, not only along the fences, but by the roadsides to prevent further encroachment. If time cannot be taken for this, turn a flock of sheep upon them to eat off the young sprouts as they appear, which will destroy some, and keep all in check.

Horses.—Need to keep them in good condition during Spring work, generous feed and thorough grooming. Collars, cart, and harness saddles should fit perfectly, and these are much better hard than soft. Soft pads induce sweating, and galls, if the skin be broken. A piece of hard leather, cut to fit the neck and shoulders under the collar, is a great relief to a tender skinned horse. Sponge the heads, shoulders, and legs night and morning.

Horse-ices.—In all cases where hand hoeing can be dispensed with, and the work done by horse-power, do so. The tillage is commonly much more thorough, because oftener repeated.

Lime.—Always apply it on land after plowing deeper than before, and upon the surface, for it works down. Keep a supply on hand for composting with weeds, sods, etc.; 30 bushels to the acre, after plowing in other manure, is an excellent preparation for corn.

Lucerne.—This clover rarely succeeds north of latitude 41°. It requires deep soil with open subsoil, on which it thrives year after year without renewal, and furnishes valuable feed particularly for oil, as it can be cut several times in a season. Use 10 to 12 quarts per acre, and sow early, best in drills 2 feet apart and keep clean.

Mangel Wurtzel.—A most valuable root for stock. Sow first to middle of May, on good strong deeply tilled land, 4 inches apart, bury the seed an inch deep, one seed in a place, if you can trust the seed; where seed fails, fill up by transplanting.

Manurea.—Corn is a gross feeder, and should be well supplied with all that can profitably be used. The effects of heavy manuring on hoed crops will be visible years after, in the oats, winter grain, and grass which follow. Buy manure only as a last resort, after all available supplies on the farm are exhausted. Bone dust, and Peruvian guano, where a good article can be obtained, cotton-seed oil cake, castor pomace, and beef scraps, (the first two ready for immediate application, the requiring composting a few days with soil,) may often be bought and used to advantage. For grass or grain fields the Peruvian guano, nitrate of soda, or sulphate of ammonia if obtainable, applied in solution are best.

Mowings.—Allow no grazing in Spring, top-dress with fine compost before the grass has advanced much, or apply guano, ashes, or plaster, early this month if needed. Keep the wash channels open from the road, and arrange them to distribute the water over a wide space.

Oats.—A crop may sometimes be got if sowed late, but they do not fill well. If the ground is in perfect order and you can put in nothing else conveniently, sow oats about the first of this month; but if rains come on, devote the

land to corn or other crop. If your object is to seed down to grass, sow any time this month and cut the oats for hay.

Peas for feeding out may be sown early in the month. A low growing variety put in with oats, will be partially supported by the grain, and both will yield a good crop in a favourable season.

Parsnips.—Afford a valuable feed for milch stock; should be sowed about the middle of May rather shallow in drills 2 feet apart. Parsnips make lighter drafts upon the soil than any other root crop, except onions, but delight in a deeply worked light rich soil.

Plowing.—Lay out long lands and avoid curved furrows. Whenever practicable follow with the subsoil plow. There is no other good preparation for deepening the soil by subsequent plowings, and is a great preventive of injury from drouth.

Potatoes.—Plant early in drills 3 feet apart, use no heating manure, but well rotted compost, ashes, etc.

Poultry.—If confined keep up their laying by liberal feed of grain, boiled potatoes, and frequently some chopped wheat, and grass or other green food. Allow them to leave their yard an hour or two before sun-down, when they will not do much injury by scratching in the garden, etc. Hens with chicks, should be confined in portable coops and chickens allowed to roam in the garden and finish yard until they begin to scratch badly; they will destroy many insects. Feed young poultry with cracked corn, instead of meal, increasing the size as they grow older, until they can manage whole corn. Milk curds are very wholesome food for them. Turkeys ought not to be set before this month, and when hatched the young birds must be housed in a dry shed, and not allowed to get wet by dew or rain for several days.

Provisions.—Pork in barrels in the cellar, hams in the smoke house, and other provisions need looking after occasionally. Add salt to the brine if it needs it and see that it covers the meat. Hams sewed in thin muslin bags and whitewashed will rarely be troubled by the fly. Keep them dry and cool.

Pumpkins.—Cheese pumpkins are probably the best variety for cooking. Keep them separate from other vines of the same family.

Sheep.—Shear early without washing unless the sacrifice of the wool will be too great. Shear scabby sheep and dip in a strong decoction of tobacco, scrubbing them with a brush. Watch the first symptoms of foot rot, and if it shows itself at all, after driving the sheep through shallow water, or wet grass, to wash their feet, drive them all through a narrow passage in which a long trough is placed, holding a concentrated solution of blue vitriol, quite warm, in which they must take several steps.

Sowing.—Winter rye is earliest ready for the scythe, then oats and peas sown early and repeatedly, later clover, and for the Summer successive crops of corn sowed broadcast or in drills. The evergreen sweet corn is one of the best varieties for this purpose, though the common western or southern does well. Sorghum, Egyptian millet and common millet, and Hun-

garian grass, are all good summer soiling crops.

Sorghum.—The uniformly good returns received from cultivation of this plant and manufacturing syrup and sugar when judiciously conducted, particularly at the West, stimulate its extended culture. Procure seed only from reliable sources—inferior sorts have caused much disappointment. Prepare the ground plant and cultivate as for corn.

Sugar Beets.—Cultivate like mangel wurzel in all respects, to which it is superior as food for milch cows.

Swine.—Give to sows with litters plenty of nourishing food. The best pork is obtained from pigs kept fat and growing rapidly from first to last. If bran shorts or meal be given, mix with sour milk or water, and allow it to ferment before feeding out. Cooked food is economical; a steaming apparatus should be attached to every establishment where many swine or other animals are fattened.

Tobacco.—Weed plants in the seed-bed, and water with liquid manure, dung-heap leaching, diluted sheep dung water, or guano water. Follow directions in articles on Tobacco in this and other numbers.

Tools, machines, harness, etc.—To keep all in perfect order is employment for the many rainy days common in this month. Examine well and procure the best mowing machine before the grass is suffering for want of cutting. A farmer should be acquainted with the merits of as many of the new implements as possible. Oil harness after they have been wet, and before they dry.

ORCHARD AND NURSERY.

Fruit trees should have been transplanted in this latitude, by the middle of May. At the north, late growing sorts may still be set out, and if neglected until now, they may be planted even now in this latitude. Care will be necessary not to rub off the growing buds, and the roots must not be exposed to drying winds. Mulch the ground around late planted trees to guard against a drouth before the roots have taken hold of the soil. Cut back a good portion of the previous season's growth to infuse vigour in to the remaining branches. A lagging tree either established or newly planted, will often push into a new and healthy growth by a severe heading back.

Seedling stocks should all be planted out at the earliest moment, if still heeled in. Successful planting frequently depends very much upon the time of setting out. The soil is nearly always moist after the winter rains and snows, and if planted at that time the stocks or trees become established before the drouth which usually occurs the last of June or first of July, sets in.

May is emphatically the evergreen planting month, and the nurseryman is busy in taking up and sending away pines, spruces, hemlocks, firs, arbor vitae, &c. So well do they understand the difficulty of successfully transplanting native evergreens from the forest, or open pasture even, with their coarse fibreless roots, that most of our common trees are now raised from seed in the nursery, or at least taken from the pasture while quite small and set in

the nursery rows to form a mass of fibrous roots. They are frequently transplanted two or three times before they are finally sold, or in lieu of this they are dug about and the tap-root cut, to induce side roots and fibres. Even those grown with the most care, require more attention in their removal than deciduous trees. The roots should not be exposed to the sun or drying winds, and with some kinds, such as the broad leaved rhododendron and laurel, it is safest to remove the tree or shrub with a ball of earth attached. The same may be said of trees taken from the woods or pastures. Wet the ground thoroughly, dig carefully, and having secured all the roots possible, with the earth attached, slip a gunny bag or other stout cloth under the mass and tie the corners up about the trunk. Move it carefully and set at once, filling in a little peaty soil about the roots, if possible. If a favourite pasture or road-side tree is wanted in the lawn, commence on up it this Spring, digging about and severing some of the larger roots, but not too many of them. Fill in with fine soil, and leave the tree to form new fibres during the season. The tree may be moved the succeeding Spring; or to ensure against the liability of failure, the remainder of the principal roots may be cut the following Spring, and left for another season's growth.

In exposed situations and especially in prairie regions, it is very advisable to shield the newly planted orchard from the prevailing winds. Plant a belt of evergreen and deciduous trees upon the north, east and west sides of the site intended for an orchard. Set the deciduous trees on the outside as a partial protection to the evergreens. In clearing up a forest a belt of trees two or three rods in width, left to protect the orchard, will be very serviceable.

In the orchard there is little to do, if the directions given last month were fully carried out. A few grafts may still be put in the apple trees, provided the scions were cut in April or before, and have been well kept. Remove all brush, loose stones, and other rubbish from the orchard, and if the ground has been a long time in sod turn it over lightly, previously adding manure. The only pruning now admissible is to remove decayed branches, and small shoots, thinning and heading back with the pruning knife.

Insects will begin to show themselves this month. Commence a vigorous assault upon them at once, before they have time to increase in numbers. A little work in the apple orchard will destroy many caterpillars' nests. Wash trunks of small trees with strong soap suds or potash water to remove scale. Give cherry and pear trees a sprinkling of oil soap solution, towards the close of the month, to kill slugs.

Seedlings budded last season should be examined, and all shoots starting out about the bud rubbed off. Cut the stock to within two inches of the bud, unless already done.

Weeds will soon make their appearance in the nursery if not kept in check. The plow or ho se-hoe will do most of the work, but the hand-hoe will also be needed to remove weeds

in the rows. Use a short wiffletree, and pad ends to prevent barking trees.

KITCHEN AND FRUIT GARDEN.

During last month most of the preparatory work of draining, manuring, and trenching, should have been done, many seeds sown, and some already beginning now to appear above ground. It is easy by a little extra care in protecting tender plants, as beans, melons, cucumbers, &c., to secure their ripening two or three weeks earlier than otherwise. Gauze covered frames will protect against quite severe frosts; hand glasses are convenient and more effectual, but liable to scorch the plants. A pane of glass on four bricks answers a good purpose.—When rain has fallen after seeds have been sown, and the surface has dried rapidly, it will facilitate the appearance of the tender shoots, to gently loosen the crust above them, with care not to injure the growing plants. A loose surface is most favorable to growth under all circumstances, and the ground should be often stirred and the crust broken to admit air, warmth, and moisture to the soil below. Plan so as to have a succession of crops on the same soil—lettuce between the carrot and parsnip rows, and among the hills of melons; cabbages among early potatoes, to stand after potatoes are dug, turnips after the peas and early beans, endives or celery to follow early crops in the same way.

Asparagus.—Cut every shoot as it rises to sufficient height for the table, by which means the season will be much prolonged. Be careful in cutting not to injure the young shoots beneath the surface.

Beans.—Plant bush varieties early. The Princess, China and Valentine are earliest: Union, Rob Roy, Marrowfat, Large White Kidney, and Refugee, later. The Lima stands first among pole beans, but is late. The Dutch Caseknife, and Red Cranberry are earlier. Set poles before planting the hills, which should be raised an inch or two above the surrounding surface, and plant after the middle of the month. The Limas are tenderest. Set the flat beans, eyes down, and shallow.

Beets for early use should now be up. They may still be sown. Sow for Summer, Early Bassano; for Winter use, Long blood, or Blood Turnip, sowing in deep, mellow soil, in shallow drills, eighteen inches apart.

Borecole and Broccoli.—Sow for late crops any time after the middle of the month, and transplant ready grown plants to the open ground from the hot-beds.

Cabbage and Caniflower.—Sow for late use, and transplant from the hot-bed into rich mellow ground. Examine about the roots for the cut worm. Hoe former plantings frequently, in the morning when the dew is on.

Carrots may still be sown, though it should have been done earlier.

Celery.—Sow for main crop as directed last month.

Cistern.—For large gardens, a capacious cistern to be filled from the roofs of adjacent buildings, is a great convenience. During drouth, a hose from a hydropult or garden engine may be introduced, and a thorough watering be given with little trouble.

Co'd Frames.—Remove any remaining plants as soon as there is no danger from frosts, and store the frames for another season. An occasional coat of paint and care in handling, will preserve them many years.

Corn.—For family use plant sweet varieties at two or three different times during this month, and as many next, giving to each about equal space. For market plant once early in this month or in May even, and after the middle of June, make a planting once a week until the 4th of July. Darling's early sweet is a good variety, and the Evergreen sweet, a large growing late kind, but very good table corn. Some of the small eared New-England varieties are sweetest. Plant small varieties in north-and south-drills, 3½ feet apart, 3 kernels to the foot.

Cucumbers.—Transplant those started in the house as directed last month. Plants seed for a succeeding crop. Our practice is to make large hills and put in, at intervals of a few days, several rows of seed around the first planting, to attract insects which may escape other preventives. Superfluous plants are removed when the danger is over. One of the best preventives is cotton batting, a thin layer spread over the plants and pegged down.

Egg Plants.—Transplant from the hot-bed into ground well enriched with warm fermenting manure, when the weather is warm and settled.

Fruit Trees.—The main fruit yard should be separated from the kitchen garden, but dwarfs do well in it where their shade will fall on walks, or where it will do no harm. Dwarf pears thrive in the soil of a well tilled kitchen garden. It is not too late to do a good deal of transplanting of fruit trees, grapes, etc., if the buds have not started, and the trees are in good condition.

Hot-beds.—Remove all plants from them, paint and put away sashes and frames for another season.

Insects.—Many are already on the alert. Whale oil, sap, guano water, and hen-manure solutions are not only offensive to them, but give vigour to plants to resist attacks. Covering with gauze frames, is almost a certain preventive.

Kohl Rabi.—Sow and cultivate like cabbage; plants may be placed somewhat nearer together.

Kale.—Green curled kale and other varieties may be sowed at this season, and treated like late varieties of cabbage.

Lettuce.—Transplant from hot-beds, and provide for a succession among hills of vines, etc. Set it in unoccupied places. Frequent watering with liquid manure and often hoeing will bring it to perfection.

Liquid Manure Tank.—Every kitchen garden should be provided with some convenience for making a solution of manurial substances. It should be near a supply of water, be sunk into the ground, and tightly covered. A barrel or half hogshead tub will do, but a tight box in which is a partition with holes at the bottom is better. Against the holes on one side is thrown a quantity of shavings kept in place by a few stones, then any kind of litter or manure.

Upon this we may throw a few pounds of guano, or sheep, or hen manure, or sulphate of ammonia, and pouring on water it will percolate and come well strained through into the other side fit for use. It is most important that it be not applied too strong. Water at evening, not letting it touch the plants, unless they are infested with insects.

Manure—A supply for a large garden may be obtained by saving sink and chamber slops and using the contents of the privy. Offensive substances are made inodorous by mixing with them plenty of muck, or by sprinkling liberally with sulphate of lime (plaster of Paris.)

Melons—Musk, Canteloupe, Nutmeg, etc. Sow seeds as directed for cucumbers. The seed is worthless, and the flavor of the fruit injured, unless raised at a distance from other curcubitous plants.

Nasturtiums—Sow where they will be shaded from the mid-day sun. They thrive best with plenty of moisture.

Okra—Sow in a very rich soil, in shallow drills, 3 feet apart, and thin to a foot distant in the row.

Onions may still be sown. They do best several years on the same soil.

Peas—Sow for a succession of crops. The Champion of England variety is generally preferred for the main crop. A convenient method of supporting peas, is by means of stout cords stretched between stakes or posts at the end of rows, supported in the middle if needed.

Peppers—Plant out from the hot-bed, eighteen inches apart, in rows two feet distant.

Potatoes—Plant at any time during the month, the earlier the better; late potatoes are of little use in the garden. The Dyckman Ashleaf Kidney, Peach Blow, Wendell Seedling, and Dover, are excellent garden sorts, The last not early, but excellent. Hoe former plantings, and top-dress with ashes and plaster.

Pumpkins—Plant in hills eight feet apart, and at a distance from melons or squashes. Where different varieties of such vines are cultivated in the same enclosure, it is a good arrangement to surround each plot with several rows of peas, which will partially prevent their mingling.

Quinces—See article in May number.

Radishes—Sow in vacant spaces, for a succession.

Rhubarb—Set roots, or, if not supplied, sow seed. Hoe out all grass and weeds, and keep the surface loose. Pull leaves, removing only the stalks, and leaving the leaves for a mulch about the plants. Cut out the seed stalks as soon as they show themselves.

Salsafy—Sow on soil deeply worked, like carrots.

Seeds—Test before sowing largely. Set out roots or plants intended to furnish seeds for next year. Different varieties of the same species, as cabbages, turnips, etc., of various sorts, should be widely separated, to keep the seed pure. To get good squash or melon seed reserve spots in corn or potato fields far apart, for raising them.

Squashes—Treat like cucumbers and pumpkins.

Sweet Potatoes—Plant out when the weather is settled and warm, in deep, well pulverized soil, enriched with stable manure. Set plants from fifteen to eighteen inches apart in high ridges, or in hills, about three feet from centre to centre; set them obliquely and so that the stems of the lower leaves will be covered; they will then sprout again, if cut off by frost or worms.

Tomatoes—Transplant from the hot-bed into a well-enriched sunny bed, 4 feet apart each way. A sandy soil is favorable. In setting the plants, place them a little deeper than they originally stood—they will throw out fibrous roots from the stem. Prepare a light inclined trellis to support the vines.

Turnips—Sow for Summer, hoe, weed, and thin others.

Winter Cherry (Physalis)—Plant out the same as tomatoes. Seed may still be sown, soaking it first.

SMALL FRUITS.

Blackberries may be transplanted and succeeds well any time before the buds swell for leafing out. Cut back well.

Cranberries—They may be cultivated with good success in the garden.

Currants may be planted or moved, but at the sacrifice of the fruit if it be done after the buds have burst. Pruning to a single cane or stalk to each root, and this trained at an angle of 45°, and only very short spurs allowed to grow, is a system growing in favor.

Grape vines neglected in the proper season for pruning may be pruned as soon as the leaves appear, without danger of bleeding, and early in the month vines may be planted to good advantage though better earlier.

Mulberry—This is suitable for an ornamental tree. Downing's everbearing is hardy and excellent.

Gooseberries—The Houghton does not mildew, and is therefore the best to plant. As soon as the leaves appear dust with sulphur.

Raspberries—Enrich the ground beneath and about them, by surface dressing. Cut out all feeble canes and winter-killed parts.

Strawberries—Set in good light, or well worked soil; water freely and frequently, giving a very little liquid manure in each watering. Bearing plants should be mulched with straw, tan bark, lawn clippings, or saw-dust, to keep the berries out of the dirt. We prefer tan-bark.

FLOWER GARDEN AND LAWN.

How apt are we all to regard as valuable and useful only or chiefly, those things which minister to our bodily wants, or bring us some material profit. Why should the demands of the body and its comfort and enjoyment pull down the soul to its own gross level. Once supplied with food and clothing, let the mind have a free range, and the soul delight itself in beauty, and grow in the sunshine of nature, which is beautiful often in proportion as it is of no other use. If old beds are to be re-arranged, do it at once. In transplanting, disturb roots as little as possible. The frames, pits, houses and conservatories can be emptied in the course of the month, of all but stove plants. Most of them will do best, turned from the pots into the open

border. Intersperse them among the bulbs, annuals and late blooming perennials, where they will make an immediate show, and keep up a succession of bloom.

Amaryllis, one of the finest Autumn blooming bulbs, should be set early in a warm border.

Annuals—Sow in fine, well enriched warm soil. It is essential that a good variety of fine blooming annuals should now be put in, to keep up a show of flowers late in the season, after most of the perennials have cast their blossoms. Most of those sown in the houses, to forward their growth, may now be transplanted to the open ground.

Bedding plants, as verbenas, petunias, salvias, heliotropes, Japan pinks, lantanas, pelargoniums, and others, may be readily obtained of the gardeners. The tender ones should be set out as soon as danger from frost is past. It is best to set each variety by itself, more or less.

Asters—Sow in open ground early, in various places, where they are to remain; later in the month transplant from hot-beds or frames. A few may still be started in boxes, if the ground be not ready—to transplant afterwards.

Biennials and Perennials—When it is desirable to increase the stock, remove a portion and leave the remainder undisturbed.

Box Edging—Keep close clipped and low; reset if necessary; renew weak or winter-killed spots.

Bulbs—Keep well supported, and stretch a light awning over the choicest, to lengthen the period of bloom, removing at night and during cloudy weather. Set Autumn blooming varieties, as amaryllis, gladiolus, tuberose, lilies of various kinds, etc.

Carnations and pinks may now be set out already in bloom. Tie to neat stakes. Divide old roots, and make layers to form new plants.

Cypress Vine, Morning Glory, and other annual climbers may be sown immediately and trained to strings around a central pole. Un-sightly buildings, rough fences, etc., can be almost hidden beneath a mass of bloom, when covered with these climbers. Cypress vine seed vegetates much more freely when soaked in tepid water for 12 hours before sowing.

Dahlias—Sprout them in boxes of earth, or by burying in a warm border before planting.

Evergreens—Delay planting until the last of the month after the trees have begun to grow, except arbor vite and Norway spruce. Keep the roots from the sun. Hollies, rhododendrons and other broad leaved evergreens, do better when removed with a ball of earth attached.

Frames and Pitts—Remove any remaining plants.

Flowering Shrubs—Some are already in bloom or have cast their flowers; the later kinds may still be planted.

Gladiolus—Set the bulbs in a warm sunny place. Some of the newer varieties are very pretty.

Grass—Keep well trimmed and close clipped along the edges, using a line and sharp

spade, or edging knife. New turfing may also be laid; keep well watered until rooted.

Gravel Walks should be kept free from weeds with the shuffle-hoe, and be well covered with clean, coarse gravel, and rolled.

Fancy Gourds—Sow early, and train upon fences, trellises, or old trees.

Hedges—Complete setting deciduous, and arbor vite, early, other evergreens later. Clip any not attended to last month.

Honeysuckles, Wistarias, Ivy, Ampelopsis, Bignonias, Clematis and other perennial climbers—set at once, if neglected until now. Arrange on trellises or lattice work. Sow seeds and make layers.

Insects—It will be much easier to keep them in check if they are combated upon the first approach.

Lawns will need mowings, and should be cut frequently and evenly. A good, cheap lawn mower is needed.

Lupins—Sow early and give plenty of room. Mulching is beneficial to newly planted trees and shrubs. Lawn clippings are excellent.

Pruning—Prune with reference to habit and manner of blooming; the knife may be used freely at all seasons, if used with discretion. Shrubbery needs to be kept dense to look well. Evergreens should branch quite down to the ground. Their outer extremities may be cut back slightly, to make a dense growth.

Roses—Let the supply be large and varied, if space permit.

The common June or garden roses must yield to remontants, teas, and bourbons. Tie up pillar and climbing sorts, layering the old wood. Turn those in pots into the open border.

Shade Trees—It is not too late to plant if they have not leafed out. Some will bear moving even then.

Trellises and Upright Frames—Set if loosened by frost, renew if decayed, before vines and climbers are put out.

Tuberose—Plant bulbs not potted, early, in very warm good soil.

GREEN AND HOT-HOUSES.

As few plants are retained under glass as possible, all that will bear the exposure, as soon as they are sufficiently hardened by free ventilation, are removed to the open ground. There is little fear of frost after the middle of this month. Roses and bedding plants are turned out of their pots. Keep all growing plants well watered and sponged. Plant out fuchsias in partial shade.

Pelargoniums—Cut back severely, and set out the pruning in masses. Oleanders, Myrtles, Oranges and Lemons, may be sunk in their pots or tubs—examine for scale bugs.

GRAPE AND ORCHARD-HOUSE.

Give good ventilation; syringe foliage, walls, and ground, freely and often. Thin out fruit if it is too thick. Go through thoroughly pinching sinhoots wherever needed. Grapes require especial attention; mingle sulphur in the water they are syringed with, and dust it upon both fruit and foliage. Abstain from syringing any fruit in bloom, and let bees have access if they will.

APIARY IN MAY.

The weather during fruit blossoms, decides whether we have early or late swarms. Should the yield of honey be plentiful, good stocks will be prepared to throw off swarms the last of this month. But, should a scant supply be obtained through unfavorable weather, swarming would be put off indefinitely, and even second or third rate stocks may throw out the first swarms. It sometimes happens that strong colonies having a good supply of last year's honey, and gathering but little now, will consume it this month, rearing drones. They even make preparation for swarming—rearing queens so far as to seal them up. A dearth of honey nearly always occurs between fruit and clover blossoms. The drones are sacrificed to save the colony. The bees in such cases change their plans entirely. If they get honey almost immediately, it will take several weeks before they can again get into condition to swarm—providing another brood of drones and other preliminaries just lost. Stocks that were quite feeble in April, with light stores, that could not afford to rear a drone, and that used with economy what they had, will pass such season of scarcity without any suspension of breeding, and be ready for swarming first. This explains why poor stocks will occasionally turn out better than such as were best at beginning of Spring. Should a swarm issue during such a time of scarcity, it will need feeding, particularly if there should be cold wet weather. Some of the poorest colonies can not always be trusted to supply themselves at such times, and will need feeding also.

Swarming will not be general until white clover appears. Use for swarms no hives that have been recently painted. Have every thing in readiness for the swarms as they issue. When they have clustered, there should be no delay in getting them into the hive. The time lost in preparing a hive, and having the bees wait for it, often results in *their not waiting*. *Good luck* here, consists in getting all the swarm to enter the hive, carrying to the stand, shading from the hot sun, and raising the front side just a little, without delay.

Those who begin to rear Italian queens this month, will need a full colony of that kind. It will be hardly possible to procure a queen much before the first of July. A queen just introduced to a native colony, is just as good to breed queens from, as if she was in a hive of her own bees. To begin—after the preparations already suggested—the first thing, after a colony is sufficiently strong, is to introduce the frame with small frames into the center of the hive, taking out an outside one, and moving the others outward to make room. The queen will soon deposit eggs in some of the small combs, when they are ready. Raise out the frame carefully—using smoke to keep the bees quiet—slip out one, put another in its place and return to the hive. Fasten on the top of this with screws, or pieces of wire bent around a thin strip of wood projecting half an inch beyond the corner, by which to suspend it. Three such combs are needed, but only the middle one need have eggs. Have ready before hand about a quart of bees—in warm

weather a less number will do—to introduce to this box, without a queen of course. Open a hole in a top of the box in which they are confined, and set the one with the comb properly adjusted over it in such a way that no bees will escape. Feed a little and keep shut up for two or three days. When bees can be procured at another yard a mile away, the shutting up is not important if set a little distance from any others. They usually construct three or four cells, and the first queen that matures will destroy all the others. To prevent this, about the tenth day take out the comb and cut off without injury all the queen cells but one; these may be given to other little colonies for maturing. The queen matures in twelve days after they are shut up, ordinarily, and will commence laying in eight more, when she may be introduced. It is found to be very hazardous to introduce an Italian queen to a colony of natives, sooner than a week after they have been deprived of their own. Let the stock be strong enough to divide, when half of the combs and bees may be put into an empty hive adding frames to fill each. Set two feet apart, each a foot from the old stand; the one that is like to get the most bees may be put further off. In a day or two the half without a queen will begin royal cells; and of course the other hive is the place to look for the old queen, which may be destroyed. In eight days look over the comb again minutely, and cut off *every queen cell*—success depends upon it. The queen now to be introduced, may be enclosed in a tumbler, with two or three bees as attendants, and secured with wire cloth. Remove the honey board—the board over the frames—and invert the tumbler directly on the frames where the bees are thickest; set over the cover two boxes, to keep them warm. In the course of twelve hours, the bees and queen will become sufficiently acquainted through the wire cloth to be allowed together. Take off the tumbler carefully without disturbing the bees, set on the cover again, when she will quietly go down into the hive, and commence depositing eggs at once. This is the whole process. The Italians seem to work more readily in this way than the natives. I think it quite probable that this mode of propagating queens artificially, will yet be generally adopted. The introduction of a mature fertile queen to a colony two weeks sooner than when they swarm naturally, is an advantage sufficient to pay for extra trouble. The time gained in breeding, is equivalent to a swarm.

If you cut off the back legs of your chairs so that the back part of the seat shall be two inches lower than the front part, it will greatly relieve the fatigue of sitting, and keep your spine in much better shape. The principal fatigue in sitting comes from your sliding forward, and thus straining the ligaments in the small of the back. The expedient advised will obviate this tendency and add greatly to the comfort and healthfulness of the sitting posture. The front edge of a chair should not be more than fifteen inches high for the average man.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PRINCE ALBERT'S FARM.

According to a writer in the Philadelphia *Ledger*, the late Prince Albert's farm is situated near Windsor Castle, about twenty miles south-west of London, occupies one thousand acres one hundred of which are never plowed, and is wooded and sown with orchard grass, top-dressed every four years with liquid manure. The arable land is subsoiled every two or three years with four enormously large horses, driven tandem; rotation of crops much the same as ours, without the Indian corn.

Barley and oats are crushed in a mill driven by steam; eighty short-horn and Alderney cows are kept; cow-stalls made of iron; iron troughs always full of water in each stall, with waste-pipe to gutter behind them, and thence to manure-shed, from which it is pumped into carts similar to ours for watering streets, and sprinkled over the grass. Keeps none but Suffolk and Berkshire pigs; prefers former on account of their taking on fat; as one of the swine-herds said, "A dale of fat a dale quicker."

The pig-pens are of stone, and paved with stone, being lower in the center, from which a pipe conducts the liquid manure to keep. In the garden I saw peach, apricot and plum trees trained espalier; pine apples, strawberries and grapes in all stages of growth; the latter finer than in countries to which they are indigenous and ripe all the year round. Melons will not grow in the open air, but they have very fine ones in frames. Her Majesty must certainly fare sumptuously every day. There are forty men to attend to the garden alone.

Mr. Tait, the gentlemanly manager of the farm, gave me every information desired. I also went to see the Queen's stables at Buckingham Palace; they would make more comfortable dwellings than two-thirds of the people of London live in. English farriers have found out that the upper part of the stall ought to be lowest by two inches at least. There are in those stables one hundred and six horses. Her Majesty is partial to greys, and may be seen driving two in hand in Windsor Park. The Princess Alice drives four ponies, and is said to be an excellent horsewoman. I saw the eight cream-colored horses that draw her Majesty at the time of opening or dissolving Parliament. Their harness is red morocco, gold-mounted cost \$10,000; and the state carriage cost \$35,000 ninety years ago.

REJUVENATING OLD APPLE TREES.

There are thousands of old apple trees in Maine that appear to be in the last stages of their existence, that might, with a little care and labor, be so completely "rejuvenated" that they would begin to produce large crops of fruit again, and continue to do it for years to come.

We have found that when an old tree becomes deadened in its larger limbs and is mossy on its trunk and exhibits other marks of decay, if it nevertheless throws up young suckers at its roots, along its trunks and around the forks and on the sides of the large limbs, it is a sure sign that there is yet vitality enough in it to ensure a successful improvement. We see many old

orchards that once gave large crops of valuable fruit, the trees of which now exhibit clusters and thickets of such suckers—a proof that they have been given over by their owners as past improvement, and therefore left to *bush out* as they might. They accordingly become covered with these suckers and bid fair to exhaust what vitality they have in production of a superabundance of wood in the form of scrubby brush. We have found such trees would soon repay the labor bestowed upon them. First the absolutely dead limbs should be sawed off, not too close into any live wood which may be found at the fork of it. Next, all decaying limbs, though not quite dead, had better be shortened in, prudently, not cutting away too much of them, especially if they have young suckers upon them, for they thus form the soil, as it were, or the groundwork and foundation of these suckers, in which is all our hope. This done, look over the array of young branches or suckers which cluster about the trunk and on the aged limbs. Consider what ones are in the best position, and which will form the best limbs when grown. Save all such and saw off the rest close in to the live wood of the present limbs. In this way you prepare, in fact, a series of young limbs for future bearing, and they will do it. Remember that it is the young that bear, and not the superannuated in the vegetable kingdom, as well as in the animal. If you desire a change of fruit in the tree, these young twigs, say from the size of a pipe stem to that of your thumb or larger, should be engrafted rather than the older and larger ones.

Attention should now be paid to the renovating the tree by fertilizing the soil in which it is planted. A tree, like a horse tethered to one spot, will in time, consume all the food that it can find within its reach, and must therefore, be supplied with an additional amount placed in its circle. Among the best of these are wood ashes and ground bones, muck, neutralized with lime, &c. &c. If neither of these can be readily obtained, good fresh loam, from the road side or a pasture, where no trees have grown, carted and spread around, will give a decided start to the decaying and hungry roots.

The editor of the *New England Farmer*, as does also one of his correspondents, (O. K. of Rochester, Mass.,) recommends from the experience of actual trial, to lay on good soil to the depth or height, if need be, of a foot to two feet. Heretofore it has been thought that it would be injurious, if not fatal to trees, to build up earth around them higher than what they have been accustomed to, but their experiments go to prove the incorrectness of this position.

Again, many old trees have hollows and cavities in and about their trunks occasioned by the decay of wood where injuries of some kind have been received. It is a good plan to clear off the dead and "punky" wood, and fill in or cover the bare shoots with some adhesive cement.

Forsyth, the author of a work on fruit trees, some twenty-five years ago, gained quite a celebrity by the invention and use of the following composition or plaster to be applied to decaying

trees: One bushel of fresh cow-dung, half a bushel of lime rubbish of old buildings, (that from the ceilings of rooms is preferable,) half a bushel of wood ashes, and a sixteenth of a bushel of pit or river sand. Sift the three last articles fine before they are mixed; then work them together well with a spade, and afterwards with a wooden beater, until the stuff is very smooth, like fine plaster used for the ceilings of rooms.

This is put on to the decayed surface, after being cleaned as above directed, about a quarter of an inch or more in thickness, and made smooth, and then dusted over with ashes of burnt bones, put on from a pepper or dredging box.

The composition was thought, at that time, to have some superior healing virtues, and enabled the tree, thereby, to recover and grow with uncommon thriftiness. We think however, that its principal use is to cover and defend the wood from the decomposing effects of the weather. It performed, in some degree, the office of bark to the denuded surface. We have not the least doubt that any thing else that would stick as snug would do as well. With this belief we are trying the use of a mortar of hydraulic lime in the same way, and have no doubt that, in time, we can give as good a report of it as we could of the use of Forsyth's composition.

There is an interesting history attached to this (Forsyth's) mode of doctoring decayed trees. As long ago as 1791, his success in renovating and rejuvenating old decaying trees, began to be much talked about.

He kept his mode of preparing the plaster a secret, which made the anxiety of the people to get hold of it still more strong. The House of Commons made it a matter of state importance that it should be made public and, addressed the King upon the subject, who "graciously" awarded Forsyth four thousand pounds (\$20,000) for publishing the recipe and directions for its use. Such an award as that would make a Yankee very characteristically and appropriately exclaim "good gracious!"

THE PROPER FORM FOR AN AXE.

Almost every article, from a steam engine to a penny-whistle, has been improved and patented so that it requires an inventive mind to suggest any want in that direction unsupplied.

The plow has been subjected to change, till scarce a spot is left to attach an improvement; the stove has a multitude of forms, more numerous than the thousand and one kinds of fuel: the shovel retains nearly its ancient form, though made of a better material; hay and manure forks will pay the inventive expenditure lavished upon them. And so on through a long list too numerous to mention.

But who ever saw a *good axe*? Whoever applied for a patent on the axe? Who suspects, even at this late day, that any improvement can be made in its formation? Where is the man, or association of men, that dare offer a premium for the *best axe*? The cutting quality of the axe is right, but the *form* is objectionable. The writer, after using the axe nearly fifty years, has found but one that is right. That one was made to order.

The axemaker should advise with the wood-chopper as to the form and size. But the woodcutters, like doctors, may disagree. What shall be done? Let premiums be offered for the best axe—also for the best specimens of wood-cutting; and in two years it will be known what is the best form for an axe.—Woodcutter, in Massachusetts *Ploughman*.

LOSS OF WEIGHT IN SALTING PORK.

A correspondent of the Germantown *Telegraph* says he finds it more profitable to sell pork at the usual killing time than to salt it, as it loses much in weight. Last fall he killed two hogs which weighed 659 pounds; after drying and salting in the usual manner, they only weighed 411 pounds. That is to say, 100 pounds of fresh meat only gave 62 pounds of cured pork, or a loss of 38 per cent.—*Genesee Farmer*.

We wish some one or more of our readers would test the truth of this statement by actual experiment the present winter, and send us the result at some future time; because if it is really true that pork shrinks 28 per cent net weight by the process of salting, butchers and others, who buy whole hogs and salt them for the retail trade must lose money upon every pound they sell, unless a knowledge of this enormous shrinkage enters into their calculations in making the retail price.—*Mass. Ploughman*.

FARM GATES.

Some time ago, somebody gave you the old recipe for making a gate.—"Scandling, boards and nails," and proposes to bate the scantling. Progress and improvement," so far—but, as your friend tells how to *hang* the gate, I interpose—*hating the hanging*.

Since it is discovered that heavy lumber is useless in a farm gate, why not let fastening (catches, latches, hooks, sockets, grooves, bolts or any cheap device,) hold both ends when in place, and *lift* the light thing and set in one side when animals or teams are to pass it? Or, if it is to be used frequently, or the old notion of a substantial thing is insisted on, *mount it on rollers*, with a plank or small timber, twice the gate's length, for the wheels to run upon—fasten it at each end with a hook—and have an extra staple to hitch one hook into while you change staples with the other hook when your gate is open. Of course you steady the gate while running it back and forth.

One extra hook, two staples, the rollers and the plank or timber to run them on, will cost less than a pair of suitable hangings and a heavy post suitable to hang a gate upon—and by my "improvement" the gate makes "progress" without danger of sagging or being broken down by lazy boys swinging on it.

KNOX ON THE STRAWBERRY.

In answer to inquiries we condense the information given in the Gardener's Monthly in the form of questions and answers, into a more compact form, giving substantially the management of J. Knox of Pittsburg, acknowledged to be one of the most successful cultivators of the strawberry.

His soil is plowed deeply once—all kinds of exposure are nearly equally successful—well rotted stable manure proves best for enriching it—it is always applied in autumn, and the quan-

tity varies with the variety. Triomphe de Gand is the most valuable sort, and Wilson next. They are set in rows two and a half feet apart, and ten inches in the row—spring is best for setting. They are mulched with rye or wheat straw, (threshed with flail) the next autumn, without cutting it, at the rate of two tons per acre. The runners and weeds are kept off by hand. No horse cultivation is given. A bed lasts ten years treated in this way. Children are mostly employed in picking, and are paid by the day. With good management 300 bushels are obtained from an acre. The berries are sent to market in quart boxes in crates.

HINTS FROM THE HORTICULTURIST.

A WOMAN'S GARDEN. A lady correspondent furnishes an account of her garden, its size, products, &c. This statement is given, says the writer, "that I may succeed in imparting to others of my sex, a tithe of the pleasure it affords me to cultivate flowers, and fruit, and vegetables; inducing them to spend more time in the open air, and whilst inhaling nature's richest perfumes, breathe her health invigorating atmosphere." The size of the garden is one hundred feet square. Its products for the past year, all the vegetables needed for a family of six persons, and "all flowers that are pretty, and easily attainable," with "the approved varieties of fruit," including ten varieties of dwarf pears, six of dwarf apples—just the sort for orchards of small extent—seven grape-vines, "strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants, &c." Does any one ask how so much is grown upon a small plot of ground, and that by a lady? The answer is given in her own words: "The garden is kept *clean*, and managed by *system*."

Bleaching and Coloring Bonnets.

BONNET BLEACHING RECIPE.—*First.* Wash the bonnets in warm soap and water. *Second.* Take two table-spoonfuls of sal soda and two quarts of soft warm water; dissolve the soda, then put in the bonnets and let them soak three to five minutes; then take them and put them into the bleach box—put in about a table-spoonful of brimstone, and bleach over night; then take them out; then take two quarts of warm water, and one good table-spoonful oxalic

acid; dissolve the acid, soak the bonnets about five minutes in the same, then rinse them in clean warm water, and hang them out to sun. Sun them until about half dry, then put them in the bleach, if you have time; if not, dry and size them, and they are ready to press.

COLORING BROWN AND DRAB STRAW BONNETS.—*First.* To twelve quarts of water add one teacupful of black tea; heat the water and tea until they boil; then add one teaspoonful of copperas; stir the same one minute or so; then take it off and let it stand about five or ten minutes; then put in the bonnets to be colored drab; such as Neapolitan, chip, rice, straw or fine Dunstable, that are clear and white, and they will color very quick. All other braids had better be colored brown, and let them remain in the dye some six hours, but look to them, and if they don't take good color, let them be in until they do. You can color any shade of brown, by giving longer or shorter time in the dye.

FOR COLORING BLACK.—Take logwood, or the extract, which is better; half-pound of chips or a small quantity of the extract to twelve quarts of water; heat it to boiling; then add one teaspoonful of copperas; put in the bonnets and boil until black. It generally takes six hours—and if the dye is not strong, it will take longer. Take them out, wash them dry, and brush them.

Cream Custard.

Mix a pint of cream with one of milk, five beaten eggs, a table-spoonful of flour, and three of sugar. Add nutmeg to the taste, and bake the custard in cups or pie-plates in a quick oven.

Purple Ink.

Magenta or any of the liquid purple aniline colors, diluted with water and a little gum arabic added, makes a good purple ink. A decoction of logwood and Brasil wood, to which is added a small quantity of the chloride of tin, also makes purple ink. Carmine ink and neutral sulphate of indigo mixed together, make purple ink. Inks of all shades and colors may be made by using strong decoctions of the dyes that are employed to color cotton and silk: but black, red and blue are the only inks used in business.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

CONTENTS:—Prices current of home and foreign markets.

Potash, per cwt.,	\$6.70 to 6.75	Wheat, U.C. White, per 60 lbs.,	\$0.92 to 0.94
Pearlash, "	6.25 to 6.30	" U.C. Red, " "	0.92 to 0.97
Flour, Fine, per 196 lbs.....	3.75 to 4.00	Peas, per 66 lbs.....	0.65 to 0.68
No. 2 Superfine.....	4.30 to 4.40	Indian Corn, per 56 lbs.....	0.45 to 0.47
No. 1 "	4.55 to 4.60	Barley, per 50 lbs.....	0.95 to 1.00
Fancy "	4.70 to 4.75	Oats, per 40 lbs.....	0.41 to 0.42
Extra "	4.95 to 5.00	Butter, per lb.,	0.15 to 0.16
S. Extra Superfine	5.20 to 5.30	Cheese, per lb.,	0.07 to 0.08

The Produce Market has been very dull through the week. The depressed state of the British Markets, affecting prices here to such an extent, that buyers hold aloof. Butter is almost un-saleable. For Pork there is scarcely any demand.

The insurrection in Poland is looked at with the prospect of a rise in the price of breadstuffs more especially with the probability of an European war, resulting from the present difficulties.