

Miscellaneous.

A GREAT PATRIOTIC GIFT. The following extract from the Springfield, Mass., Republican, is meeting with very extensive circulation in the newspaper press: "To some of the merchant princes and millionaires of New York is credited the contemplation of a project at once munificent, generous, and grand. The plan is to present to the United States Government \$2,000,000,000, and thus relieve the nation of the public debt. It is proposed to make the gift in 200,000 shares of \$10,000 each, of which A. T. Stewart, William B. Astor, and others will each take fifty shares, making up at least a quarter of the whole amount in New York. The realization of such a project would place both Government and citizens in a prouder position than ever government or citizens occupied before. History gives no parallel to such an act. The Venetians held in grateful remembrance the name of a man who, by a lifetime of personal sacrifice and hard-faceted usury, obtained means to relieve the public from its financial burdens, and placed it again upon the road to prosperity, after a long and disastrous war. They forgot his exacting usury and his life of selfishness in the lasting benefit conferred upon the State. But we should have no abuses to forget, and only the generous patriotism of republican citizens to remember."

Knowing nothing of this proposition save what we quote above, we cannot tell whether it has any foundation in fact, or is merely one of those wild schemes of which the American mind seems to be fond. That if started it would be perfectly practicable, we cannot permit ourselves to entertain a doubt. Let New York city, which has received such wide-spread credit for a proposal not yet attempted, begin the matter in earnest, as her great wealth would warrant she should do in such a matter, and we can undertake to say that Philadelphia and Pennsylvania will promptly respond. The millionaires who might start this subscription would not feel the loss of the amount they give to the republic, and could, therefore, very well afford to do it; and the more so as it would constitute an imperishable memorial of their patriotic liberality. But almost every one able to give something would cheerfully do so to rid the nation of the debt which weighs so heavily upon it. We do not know that Philadelphia could equal New York in such a subscription, although thus far she has done so in most benevolent and patriotic lists; but if New York will do her best, she will find us emulating her example. New England, New York, and Pennsylvania would no doubt raise half the amount, leaving the rest of the debt to be mastered by the remainder of the nation. Doubtless, if the subscription were once fairly started, cities would vie with each other in the patriotic spirit of emulation, and every county, township, and State would do the same. It would be the ambition of every loyal man and woman to do something toward the great patriotic gift. This spirit has been manifested in the subscriptions to the Sanitary and Christian Commissions and to volunteer bounty funds; and the rapidly augmenting wealth of the country is constantly seeking new opportunities of displaying its public spirit and liberality. Here would be an effort worthy of all, and appealing alike to all, for if the amount could be made up, and the republic relieved of debt, it would place our financial affairs on so much better a basis as to tell upon every one's interests, and set at rest all fears of a terrible crash likely to follow this war.

It would do much more than this. It would be the most gigantic demonstration of the inexhaustible nature of our national resources that could be afforded, and foreign nations could not fail to treat with respect a people capable of such sacrifices. The creation of this debt, taken up as it has been here at home, has furnished the world with an illustration of our strength; its voluntary removal from the national books by a great popular subscription would be a new demonstration of our strength not likely to be forgotten. Hence we hope that there may be something more than mere talk in the statement we quote above. If New York does not lead off in the matter, let Philadelphia do so in her stead.—Philadelphia North American.

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH. It is a grand and ennobling truth that the Church of God is so comprehensive as to include within its ample fold every true believer, from the days of Adam down through the Patriarchal, Jewish, and Christian dispensations. And yet men, good men, Christian men, seem too often to forget this great fact in the importance which they give to some division of the church. Education and prejudice have so narrowed some minds that the Church, in their apprehension, consists of those who hold with them to some of the forms which distinguish the sect or denomination to which they belong. Others think of the Church as confined to a national organization. And others, again, as not including those who lived before the Christian Church replaced the Jewish.

But these all come short of the true idea of the true Church of Christ. Christ's Church has been one from the beginning of the world. All God's people, before his advent, by faith looked to his appearing, and trusted in a Saviour promised for salvation; even as now his people believe in him as one who has come to take atonement for transgression, and who look for his second coming to judge the world in righteousness, and to receive his people to himself. Thus the true Church of God is a catholic or universal Church; not limited to a denomination, or nation, or age, but diffused through all ages, and places, and nations. It began at the beginning, and it shall continue essentially the same, though its forms may change, until the end of the world.

"The saints above and saints below But one communion make: All join in Christ their living Head, And of his love partake."—American Messenger.

Agricultural.

ODE TO AN OX. O, mighty ox, huge specimen of size! Great mass of ponderousness! O, thousand steaks! Enough to let the whole world gormandize.— Soup bones enough to fill all kettles. Shakes-Peare, nor John Milton, nor that other one— Who wrote the famous Idylls of the King—I mean—who should I mean but Tennyson? Could justice do to such a monstrous thing As you are. Words there are not to describe Your adiposal bigness. Numeration fails To "foot up" every pound you weigh. Your tribe, If many like you it can boast, Must be the most stupendous feature of The animal kingdom. Surely you're the first (In point of great obesity) creature of All living things. What cow was it that nursed So great a calf? Come, answer if you can. Inform me by your bellowing language, Sir, And be the first big ox to talk with man. Or, if you wish some good interpreter, Snort your desire. Why do you hesitate? Your pause is heavy. Sure as I am born, You shake your head at me. I know your "bit." You ask me if I'll come and take a horn. No, Sir, I must decline, O friendly ox! Not at the present time would I partake Of your great kindness. When the butcher knocks You down, and you're quite "cove in" and "no mistake," I may accept your offer. But till then, Bovinal Jupiter, I say good-bye. If e'er, colossal Beef, we meet again, 'Twill be when you are roasted—probably. [N. Y. Tribune.]

A DIMINUTIVE BREED OF CATTLE. In the report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture for 1862, Mr. Flint gives the following description of the cows of Brittany, a province in the north of France, as observed by him at the International Exhibition in London:—"The little Bretagne cows please me exceedingly. Standing only about three feet high on her legs—the most fashionable height, mostly black and white; they are as docile as kittens, and look pretty enough to become the kitchen pet of the hard pressed mountain or hillside farmer, with pastures too short for a grosser animal. Ten pounds of hay will suffice for their limited wants for twenty-four hours, and they would evidently fill a ten quart pail as quick and as long as any other cow. "These pretty cows will often hold out in milk," so the herdsman said, from fifteen to eighteen months after calving, and often begin with the first calf with six or seven quarts a day. The horn is fine, not unlike the Jersey, but smaller and tapering on gradually, and the escutcheon or milk marks of Guenon generally very good. Good cows are held at from sixty to seventy dollars a head, a fancy price of course, but I am not sure that they would not pay six per cent. on the investment, as well as most "fancy stock."

TANNING SMALL SKINS. Seeing an inquiry how to tan small furs, I will give you mine. If green, sprinkle the flesh side with saltpetre and alum, (ground fine,) then fold the flesh sides together, roll it up, tie it, and lay it away one or two days. Then unfold and rub with paper or something, as dry as possible, and lay them out to dry. Work and pull them when most dry so they will dry soft. Dry skins may be treated in the same way, by first soaking till soft, and wringing out as dry as possible. I can make such leather as the sample I send you from sheep-skin, by the following process, which is also good for furs and small skins:—First, trim the skins of all useless parts; second, soak till perfectly soft, and flesh them well; third, wash thoroughly in a suds of soap and soda to free from grease, and rinse in clean water to free from soap and soda, then rub them as dry as possible; fourth, dissolve two ounces of salt in about a quart of water and add three quarts of sweet milk (or four quarts of bran water) and one ounce best sulphuric acid; fifth, put in the skins and stir briskly forty or fifty minutes, and take them dripping from this and put them in a strong solution of sal soda, and stir as long as it foams. Rub them from this as dry as possible, and hang in a cool place to dry; work them when nearly dry and they will dry soft. Lime and ashes will take off fur, hair or wool, and sour milk will take out the lime and ashes. The black fur was tanned by the first process, (with saltpetre and alum.)—M. Baker in Rural New Yorker.

The editor appends the following remarks:—The samples of tanned skin accompanying this letter are very finely prepared. The sheep skin is very strong, white, and soft. Our correspondent has our thanks for his communication; and, judging by enquiries received, many of our readers feel obliged.

COWS IN A VILLAGE. How to keep a cow economically is a problem that many a family in the suburbs of all cities would be glad to solve. It must be done in connection with a garden. It is idle to think of pasturage. That is a waste of manure, and for the garden it is worth a considerable portion of the cash necessary to pay out for forage. If you have half an acre of ground you can keep a cow and grow all the vegetables you need by purchasing two tons of hay, or its equivalent, in a year. Indeed, we are not sure but you may get through with one, which is only half the allowance of the winter months. But you may gain the other by growing Indian corn as a second crop after all early vegetables, and with that you may have rye growing at the same time, which will give feed early in the spring, which may be cut in time to plant several other crops. Four square rods of corn, planted in close drills, just as early as possible, upon well manured ground, will give green food by the time the rye is gone. The stubble turned under gives a fair coat of manure. The corn will be followed by another crop, not of corn, but of some kind of vegetables for use or sale. For instance, cucumbers for pickles, and with these, sown about the 10th of August, a crop of white turnips or rye, for soiling and manure. If you intend to make the garden in great part support a cow, keep no pig.

Teach the cow to eat all the slops and garbage of the kitchen. Don't waste a leaf of cabbage, beets, carrots, parsnips, celery, nor any other green thing. Every pea and bean pod, and vine, and every potato or turnip paring, and every green corn husk and cob, and even green potato tops, will be eaten with avidity by the cow in the stable. And in the stable you must keep her all the time. You need not fear any unhealthiness if you keep it cleanly. Let the floor be earth, and use fresh earth every day for bedding, and every day you will gain a pile of rich manure. With careful economy you will be surprised to see what a cow will learn to eat, and how cheaply you can keep a cow and a garden.—N. Y. Tribune.

THE BEST TIME TO PRUNE TREES.—At the last meeting of the Farmers' Club there was a long discussion on pruning trees, by Dr. Ward, and Messrs. Ely, Carpenter, and Smith, and they agreed in opinion, as the result of their experience, that the best time for pruning is the summer, when the trees are growing. Trees pruned at that time heal more readily, and are less likely to be attacked by black blast, or otherwise injured, than if pruned in the winter.

NO MAN living, says Judge French, can show a good orchard or grafted fruit which was kept in grass the first ten years of its life. It is a point settled beyond controversy, that orchards to be healthy and productive, must be cultivated most of the time.

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From Rev. J. N. Hermon, of the German Reformed Church, Chester, Pa. Dr. C. M. Jackson—Respected Sir:—I have been troubled with Dyspepsia nearly twenty years, and have never used any medicine that did me as much good as your German Bitters. I can say very much improved after having taken five bottles.

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