

Rural Economy.

A CHEAP ICE HOUSE.

The following by a correspondent of the New York Farmers' Club will furnish information desired by many at this season. I see in the papers a great many inquiries about the best method of making a small ice house. I want to give my experience for the benefit of the thousands of small farmers who need plenty of ice, and are not aware how cheap a luxury it is.

FATTENING FOWLS.

Though in general fowls, when in health, will become sufficiently fat by having plenty of food with air and exercise, yet they are sometimes fatted for market by keeping them in confinement, with abundance of food and little light, so that, in fact, they have nothing to do but eat.

TO PRESERVE ORCHARDS.

Nathan Shotwell, of Elba, Genesee Co., New York, thinks the cause of the present appearance of decay and death in so many orchards, is owing entirely to neglect and bad management. He thinks a majority of orchards in this country have that neglected appearance; some are not pruned at all, others are carelessly higgled, and large limbs are left with protruding stumps that cannot heal over.

FOREST LEAVES.

If gathered in the fall and placed in the yards, or mixed in large heaps with fermentable substances, forest leaves will, in a short time, decay, and become excellent manure. The leaves of all trees contain phosphates and other valuable elements of vegetable nutrition of a mineral character.

STAGGERS IN HORSES.

Staggers is a general term applied to several diseases of horses. Mad or sleepy staggers is inflammation of the brain, a rare but fatal complaint, marked by high fever, a staggering gait, violent convulsions struggling, usually terminating in stupor, and treated by bleeding, full doses of physic, and cold water to the head.

TEA GROWING AT THE SOUTH.

For some ten years previous to the rebellion, we heard now and again of tea growing at the South, especially in South Carolina. And this item, which may be true, is going the rounds of the papers.

A BLIND FARMER.

The Vermont Record says that Joel Ordway, of Chelsea, Vt., who many years ago, owing to a premature discharge of powder while blasting rocks, became totally blind, has taken excellent care of his garden, which is more free from weeds than most gardens cultivated by gardeners who are blessed with eye-sight.

TO START A BALKY HORSE.

The Ohio Farmer says: "Fill his mouth with dirt or gravel from the road, and he'll go. Now the philosophy of the thing is, it gives him something else to think about. We have tried it a hundred times, and it has never failed."

Miscellaneous.

THE DARK SHADOW.

[The following, from the Christian Register, a leading organ of Unitarianism in this country, is of singular value as a virtual confession of the stern truth of human depravity, and of such need of a Divine remedy as has no logical landing except in the doctrine of a full Redeemer.]

Mr. Merivale, in his lectures which have recently been published, assigns as one of the chief causes of the conversion of the Romans to Christianity, that it met the feeling in the human breast which in theology is termed "the conviction of sin."

But there is a preliminary stage. The great mass of men are living in disobedience to God's laws. They are selfish and passionate. They follow, more or less, the promptings of unholy desires. They are without the root of principle. Many cheat, lie and steal. The world abounds in wickedness.

Paul, Augustine and Wesley, but Channing and Parker, each in his way recognizes the great fact of evil in the heart and world. Sin casts its shadow over every soul. Theologians differ in defining the nature of sin and in their estimate of the means by which it is to be overcome; but the fact of its existence goes down deeper than any speculation or dogma, and finds its proof in the universal spiritual experience.

We must, then, recognize this feature of the universal religious experience. Whatever theologians may say of it, however philosophers may explain it,—the human heart wrestling in the throes of anguish, writhing in bitter remorse, or in lighter manifestations troubled with compunctions of conscience, testifies to its reality.

Every Christian should study the art of leading sinners to Jesus. Love to Christ will make a Christian desire to save souls, but will not necessarily give him skill to do the work. That he must acquire by thought, prayer, observation, and practice. The remark is suggested by an incident with which I have just met in my reading.

QUESTIONING THE DYING.

"An Invalid," writing for the N. Y. Observer, makes the following suggestions: "A delicate subject for criticism, since the experiences of the departing are very diversified, and admit of diversified treatment."

Consider that, for many reasons, it may task him to find a fitting answer, and to utter it when found. Consider the disquietude he feels when conscious that his reply has been imperfect or inaccurate and he has no strength to amend it.

Consider how irksome to repeat utterances already made in pain, and how a feeling dies out by being repeatedly expressed. Consider how lethargic and vacant the mind sometimes is in extreme sickness, and how evanescent its emotions; how it needs to be soothed, and sustained by gentle words from others, rather than tasked to give forth its own.

THE WIDE SHOCK OF WAR. Emerson has told us in rugged verse of the "embattled farmers" who, on the 19th April, 1775, by the bridge at Concord, "Fired a shot heard round the world."

No country having great commercial interests can engage in civil war without more or less convulsing the world. The effects, physically and morally, are like a universal earthquake. The London correspondent of the New York Times makes the following statement:—"The close of the war in America has been a great disaster to Bombay, in the East Indies. It reminds one of the philosophical experiment of striking an ivory ball, and seeing another fly off from the opposite side."

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA. A travelling correspondent of the Christian Intelligencer thus characterizes the old settled regions of the western part of this State:—"Throughout the country parts, one thing is noticeable—the strict observance of the Sabbath, and due regard for the ordinances of religion—evidently the result of careful Protestant training."

sylvania is essentially Presbyterian. This fact is patent to the visitor. Here and there a Lutheran, German Reformed, or Methodist church may be seen; but on all sides you find Reformed Presbyterians, Seceders, or United Presbyterians, with a goodly number of Old and New School Presbyterians; and when combined, constituting no mean body, so far as numbers are concerned. They can now be counted by scores of thousands; and I feel for the moment desirous of commending the zeal of the Scotch and Irish Presbyterians who settled Western Pennsylvania. Many of them yet live, as noble exponents of Protestant truth. Indeed, but little sympathy for the Roman Church is to be found here. Protestantism from conviction, as well as in name, they live to exhibit the life-giving power of Divine truth in a walk at once consistent and honoring to the Master whom they profess to serve.

TACT IN SEEKING SOULS.

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Anxious, however, to do all he could, he invited a dear friend—an aged, devoted man—to visit him. The old man consented; and when, after some time, the doctor again ventured into the cell of the murderer, he was surprised to hear him say: "Doctor, you don't understand your business. You come here to do good—to benefit the souls of us poor prisoners; but you don't go about it right. You always urged me to 'repent—to repent;' but, doctor, do you suppose there is one poor fellow in this prison who doesn't know he must repent if he would be saved? That dear old friend of yours that you left behind understood his business. He came here, sat right down by my side. He looked, indeed, like a really good man. With a look full of tenderness, he said to me, 'John, wasn't it gracious goodness on the part of the Almighty that he should have loved us so much as to send his only-begotten and well-beloved Son into the world to save such sinners as you and I?'"

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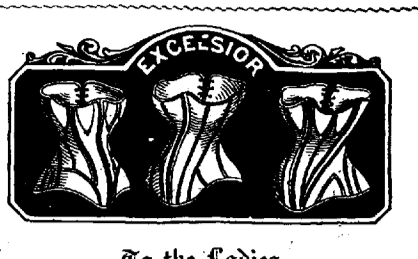
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For the Ladies.



Look over the fashions which old pictures show, As they prevailed some fifty years ago; At least that phase of fashion which conveys Hints of those instruments of torture—STAYS! And then compare the old, complex machine, With that which in these modern days is seen: No more of steel and whalebone in the chest, Or steel, a liver, terribly compressed! No more are carried ribs, or warring spines, Twisted and tortured out of Beauty's line. For skill and science both unite to show How much 't' a dress do women owe.

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