

Rural Economy.

FARMERS' SONS.

What inducements do most parents hold out to their sons to persuade them to adhere to the business of their fathers? Have they any chance to work for themselves...

A FEW WORDS ABOUT PLOUGHING.

We have seen, within ten days, and within ten miles of New York city, fields ploughed beautifully; every furrow as straight as an arrow, uniform in width, fifteen inches as nearly as the eye can measure...

Now, gentle reader, do not think we are going to exhort you rashly, regardless of the quality of your land, and without reference to the cultivation you have heretofore given it, to plough deep, deeper, deepest...

RURAL ORNAMENTS.

There is such a thing in rural economy as laying out, embellishing and arranging grounds so as to promote symmetry, order and beauty, at the same time that utility is secured.

The house should be placed back from the highway, because this is more secure from dust, and is safer from the unscrupulous gaze of the staring traveler.

The trees on the south side of a house should never be evergreens; but always deciduous—trees which, when the soothing days of summer are past, shed their foliage and let the rays of the sun in to warm and lighten the domestic retreats.

against the effects of cold winds. They are excellent for this purpose. It seldom freezes hard in a hemlock or cedar thicket; animals seek shelter under the boughs of such evergreen shrubs and trees, and there suffer but little from the effects of cold weather.

TO RETAIN THE COLOR OF FLOWERS.

The following method has been given in a late number of the Journal of the Society of Arts: A vessel, with a moveable cover, is provided, and having removed the cover from it, a piece of metallic gauze of moderate fineness is fixed over it, and the cover replaced.

THINNING CORN IN THE HILLS.

Thinning should always be done as soon as practicable after the corn has come up. This is usually done at the first hoeing, but should be delayed till danger from the grub, or cut-worm, is over.

HOW TO MAKE AN OLD-FASHIONED SHORT-CAKE.—Take three teacups of sour cream, (or one cup of butter and two of butter-milk), one teaspoonful of saleratus; a little salt; do not mix very stiff. Bake in a hot oven.

Scientific.

NEW USE OF CONDENSED AIR.

A writer in the Mechanic's Magazine has the following singular plan for rendering vessels un-sinkable:—"When any part of a vessel gives way and admits the water, the usual remedy is to pump it out as quickly as possible, either by manual power, or in the case of steamers, by steam power, and great importance is often attached to the power of steam-pumps, which, however, are often found useless in the hour of danger.

"I therefore propose that all passenger vessels should be compelled to carry such a number of air-tight flexible bags, when inflated in the different parts of the ship under the decks, would by their bulk prevent the vessel from sinking, even if the water had free access. The expense would not be a very large item, and nothing in comparison with the value of the sense of security to the passengers, and, therefore, of higher passage-money. An iron vessel without compartments, laden with stone or iron, if protected in this manner, would be just as safe from sinking by having a hole knocked in her bottom as a timber-laden ship. The bags, of (say) from twenty to fifty or more gallons, could be kept permanently filled with air in all vacant spaces of the ship not required to be visited during the voyage, and, upon the appearance of danger, other bags could be inflated in proper positions in the cabins or elsewhere, until the bulk occupied was more than sufficient to support the ship. A bump on the rocks leaving a large hole in the ship's bottom, provided the vessel did not break up her decks, would not then be of any great moment. In the case of steamers, the bags could be filled by air forced by the steam in a few minutes.

"In some experiments lately tried on the Thames, in propelling a large boat with air without machinery, I forced into the water, by aid of the steam from a 1-horse power boiler, about 1000 gallons of air a minute, and obtained a speed of three miles an hour through the water. If the London had been properly fitted upon the above plan, the steam from the boiler of her donkey-engine would have rendered her perfectly safe from foundering in a few minutes."

CLIMBING PLANTS.

The Academy of Sciences at Paris has received from M. Duchatre a highly interesting communication on certain well-known plants called creepers, because their stalks, too weak to support themselves, tend to twine themselves around the nearest objects. They generally do this from left to right, that is inversely to the motion of the sun, but some species turn to the contrary direction, and it is impossible to make either the one or the other change its direction. Palm, Von Mohl, Dutrochet, and latterly Ch. Darwin, have successfully expressed the opinion that light was the cause of this tendency; but further experiments being wanting to confirm this theory, M. Duchatre, who discovered that the Chinese yam could live a long while in the dark, resolved to try the effect of absence of light upon it. At the end of May, 1865, he placed one in a pot, and as soon as it showed its stem above the ground he took it down to a cellar, where it remained in complete darkness until the 2d of August following. The stem, in the course of seven weeks, grew to the length of a metre and a half. It looked withered and whitish, but was upon the whole strong and even stiff, and perfectly straight, showing nowhere a tendency to twine itself round the stick which had been placed there for its support.

Miscellaneous.

OUR DEALINGS WITH FRANCE.

[FROM "BLACKWOOD'S" POINT OF VIEW.]

"Nulla vestigia retrorsum" is the motto over the Tuileries, so long as the wolf lives: His hold upon the French people is, that since he has been at their head they have bullied Europe. From the helpless insignificance of the position they occupied under Louis Philippe, they have risen to be the first power of the world. Part of this they have acquired by hard knocks, and a large part by mere menace. Frenchmen will forgive a great deal to him who makes them formidable to every other people. It was only when the prestige of the first Napoleon began to decline in this respect, that men fell off in their allegiance to him. You may curtail liberty in France, hamper daily life with restrictive laws, and tie down enterprise by enactments; you may torture trade with petty regulations, and reduce the press to insignificance. All these will be borne so long as Frenchmen feel that they are the terror of Europe, and that there is not a Cabinet on the Continent that does not tremble at their name.

An insult to this sentiment is what they will not bear, and woe to him who would expose them to it. The question then is, Can the Emperor retire from Mexico without incurring this stain? I do not think that in the present case the Americans will employ any unnecessary or unseemly rudeness. They will treat France with a deference they would not accord to us. I make no complaint of that; I even see a certain fairness in it. They will not, in all probability, be very exacting as to the day or the hour, but yet, with Yankee tenacity, I think I hear them saying, "Yes, sir, you've got to go. Yes, sir, that's a fact."

A more insufferable piece of insolent pretension cannot be imagined than what is called the Monroe doctrine. That my next-door neighbor should not live in a certain style lest the servants in my house should become dissatisfied, is too gross an absurdity to be entertained. That whatever rules I prescribe for my family should be adopted by every one who resides in the same street, is somewhat overbearing; and yet, with all this, I declare I am all for the Yankee in this Mexican row. It is not the justice of the case I want to think of. It is not whether France has right on her side, and whether this demand to retire be one of those mandates a high-spirited nation cannot submit to; my whole consideration is limited to the fact—here at last the great bully of Europe has met his match! Here is a young, athletic, daring fellow, ready to go into the ring with that finished pugilist that none of us have courage to fight, and who, even with the gloves on, doubles us up in a fashion far from agreeable.

America dares to hold language to France that all Europe combined would not utter. There's no denying it; there's no qualifying it. If we had a Continental coalition to-morrow, we could not venture to say what America has just said. What Minister of Russia, or England, or Austria, would say to the French Emperor, "We were thinking about something else when you slipped into Savoy and Nice the other day; now that our hands are free, you'll have to go back again." We are famous for brave words in our Foreign Office, but does any one expect that such a message will ever issue from Whitehall?

We would no more provoke the Tuileries by an insolent despatch, than we would go into one of Van Amburgh's cages and kick the lion. It has become a sort of European superstition, that France can beat every one, and I am downright grateful to the Americans that they don't believe it.

I never knew I liked America so well till I began to speculate on this war. I never suspected that there really was that tie of kindred which journalists disparage by that false adulation they deal in. I hate all the cant of "consinship," but call them our own bone and blood; speak of them as a people who have the same leading traits as ourselves—sturdy, determined, untrusting, unyielding—taking their share of hard knocks to-day, with a fixed resolve to repay them to-morrow; in a word, of that stuff that makes right trusty friends and very terrible enemies. Regard them in this light, and say, if a war should break out between them and France, what side you would like to back. I say, America. I'd lay my head on the issue; and if any gentleman is willing to bet an equivalent—say another crown-piece—I cry "Done," and wait the event.

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