# Rural Economy.

RENOVATING OLD MANSIONS. We will suppose that our friend Mr. We will suppose that our intend fur. last, of the fifty acres he sought for; there is wood, there is water, there are there is an old farmbouse, the home of the out-going owner, with its clumps of lilacs, its bunches of its encompassing mat of green Its site is not, may be, precisely that he would have chosen; but the poor draggled bit of shrubbery, and the mossy cherry-trees that stand near, give to it a pleasant homeliness of aspect, which any new site, with its raw, upgravels and fresh-planted shrubs, pust for a long time contrast very painthus the question comes up—more appealingly every day he looks on it—Will by the old hulk do with a little moderniz-And the thought of putting a new,

jaunty look upon the old tame outline of building, has something in it that is very captivating. This suggests our first topic of discussion Is it wise to undertake the repair of an ald country house? The builder or the architect, eager for a fat job, will say no; the mistress, with a settled distaste for low ecilings and wavy floors that tell fearfully non the carpets, will say no; but a practical man will be guided in his decision by the condition of the building, and by the range of the proposed changes. Two or three axioms in connection with this subjet it may be worth while to bear in mind. First: it is never quite possible to make an altogether new house out of an old one. Second: it is the most difficult thing in the world to determine in advance the cost or the limit of proposed repairs to an old counmy house. Third: it is altogether impos-ible to say in advance that any system of change, however deliberately considered. will prove ultimately satisfactory to the female) occupants.

These truisms would seem to count against the undertaking to remodel an old house; yet there are conditions which make teminently wise, as well in a practical as an esthetic point of view.

If, for instance, the walls be of stone or nick, and not wholly inconsiderable in exent, it would be bad economy, as well as ad taste, to sacrifice them to any craving or newness. In the brick, if well laid, a man may be sure of a staunchness; and in he stone, with the lichens of years upon it, has a mellowness of tone which not all he arts of the decorators can reach. But ven upon walls of such material, especially they carry the blotches of age, it will ever do to engraft the grandiose designs the modern builders. If a country liver e really ambitious to match all the preten gh ceilings and mansard-roofs, let him eatures as shall add a piquancy to the wrinkles of age—even as the twist of some sober-colored ribbon will set off some becapped and widowed face more attractively than all the snow-flaked haberdashery that could be devised—let him cherish all the quaintness that is due to years, and seek aly to magnify and illustrate it by such

eye to perceive the need, and a courage to discard the flash carpentry of the day. I beg that I may not be misunderstood. by no means intend to say that the county houses of fifty years ago were in any sense equal or comparable, on the score of tness or taste, to the country houses of toby; but I do mean to say, that if the ralls of such old houses are plumb and true and sound, and repairs are undertaken, it be far wiser, and call for nicer exercise e quaint flavor of the old homely tastes on them, thus working out artistic agree-Lent and adornment together, than it will to belittle the old by a shocking contrast, ubelows of sixteen, and elliptic hoops.

calargements as are in keeping with it, and

be rather a restoration of old and lost graces

than the ambitious display of new ones.

The thing is feasible. It only wants an

such sober adornments as shall seem to

Again, let me lay down another distinc-In There are old houses which, in any amber or stone, without noticeable feature flavor. Such, if possible, may be incorbrated into any new design without fear or aror; none but economic considerations stand in the way. But there are others, mich, without being accordant in any sase with the artistic designs of the preat day, have yet a character of their own a character which any architectural adher (by the qualities of his profession) is found to detect, and which (by the niceties his profession) he cannot ignore in carryout his changes.

know of nothing which an architect tal artistic capacity) than to take hold of ables, possibly) as shall result in a charmog homestead, in which the old is forgotten ertain indefinable smack of the old. ours at Home.

A VINE NEAR THE DOOR.

The Massachusetts Ploughman well says what is at once graceful and appropripure and healthy domestic sentiment. a spirit of contented happiness which a time or two had been saved by Mr. Mofan one goes the world over to find, fat. At last the cannon arrived, and was to looks for in vain. Such a simple home at once placed in a position near the stable door. George Mason then called the female elephant away from the door, and the male elephant away from the door, and the male elephant away from the door, and the male elephant away from the word "fire!" being that is true and lovely, for native residue, a six-pound ball from the cannon given, a six-pound ball from the cannon desired.

finement and quiet happiness. without a vine somewhere contiguous.

FEEDING STOCK FROM STACKS.

Many farmers who make stock raising a pecial feature in their agricultural operations, are frequently deficient in barn accommodations, hence are compelled to resort to the stacking process. Stacks properly made, keep hay with very little damage from the elements, but when they are located, as is frequently the case, in the meadows where the grass is cut, a considerable loss necessarily results, both in feed and manure. This loss is predicated on the supposition that these stacks are fed out in the meadows or fields where they are built. In this case considerable hay is blown off and lost by high winds; it is less satisfying to the cattle when they are compelled to feed while exposed to the sweep of the wintry blast. Besides the droppings from the stock will, in the majority of cases, be deposited in some out-of-the-way place where they have sought shelter, and not readily reclaimed for use the following spring. To prevent this expense and loss, it is only necessary to provide sufficient yarding room in the vicinity of the barn to accommodate the stack. Feed from the barn first, till room is made for more hay. Throw in a stack, and feed on till room is made for another one. In this way the stock will have the advantage of the shelter supplied by the barns and sheds; will eat less and waste less, while the manure made will be deposited in a compass so narrow as not to involve the necessity of losing much if any of it. This winter removal of hay might be wholly obviated by properly adjusting the stacks about the barn and yard at the time of harvesting the crop. Much labor would be saved in this way, while supplying a grateful screen to the stock from the storms and beating winds of winter.

Finally, the practice of stacking hay in meadows, and feeding it out there, is a great detriment should there chance to occur a sudden thaw, as the cattle will be sure to poach up the turf, destroying the continuity and velvety smoothness of the surface of the meadow-diminishing the succeeding crop, and impeding the labor of harvesting.—Rural New Yorker.

#### HOW TO MAKE A CISTERN.

I have just made a cistern, and will give my method :—I had a hole excavated the required size and depth; hauled stones from the field, boulders, the proper size, with plenty of small ones to back up the wall. A stone mason in about two days made a permanent stone wall in lime mortar. I had it made jug-shaped, drawn in at the top to about three feet across. The inside of the wall was all plastered with ions of the latest architecture in respect of hydraulic cement—water, lime and sand. procured a large, flat stone for a cover, egin by pulling down; but if his aim be with a hole through it large enough to let hat of the finer temper which seeks to a person through when necessary to clean palify what is old by enlargement of di- it out. Around the opening I placed a ensions, and by such simple decorative stone curb so that it could be covered with earth to prevent it from freezing and disturbing the wall. This is perfectly durable, tight, and the expense less than half what was estimated by the other method. S. Rider, Jr., in Ohio Farmer.

## Miscellaneous.

KILLED BY AN ELEPHANT.

Mr. Alfred Moffat, of equestrian notoriety in England, who, for the past five years, has been performing Richard Bell's two elephants, was killed at Morat, Switzerland, on June 28th, while performing with Bell & Meyers' Circus Company. The elephant had some trouble with the groom a short time previous. Mr. Moffat tried to subdue the beast by laying about him with his spear and tomahawk, and compelled him to kneel down to him to fasten the chain around his neck. Mr. Moffat kept the spear in the animal's ear while he was when they have become as white as a snowskill to carry forward such repairs with doing this, but had to turn his back to the flake, she may resume them at her pleasure. brute while he took a chain from off his leg. Just at that moment the elephant rose to his feet, and Mr. Moffat, who had hold of the handle of the spear which was still wantonly dress our grandame in the fastened to the animal's ear, was raised from the ground. The elephant then commenced turning his head backward and forward until he got Mr. Moffat in aditional or artistic sense, are not old front of him, then seized him with his Ouses. They are mere square boxes of trunk, and threw him about twenty feet into the air, and, as he was coming down, caught him with his tusks and gored him to the ground. Mr. Moffat still had presence of mind to call the animal by name, and while on the ground said, "Go back, Palm," but at that moment the infuriated animal put his foot on Mr. Moffat's breast, and killed him almost instantaneously The female elephant, seeing her keeper and trainer being mangled, ran at the male elephant, and gored him with her head: then, with the assistance of the members of the equestrian company, Mr. Moffat was got away from his enemy; but he was no do better (in the way of illustrating his more—life had flown at the time mentioned above. The female went back to the stables of these old, almost uninhabitable coun- and seemed to try to get the male elephant houses of forty years ago, and without to do the same, but in spite of all he iolating its homeliness, graft upon it such would not go in; he appeared quite wild, invenient addenda of rooms, porches, halls, and he commenced (as though through revenge) to tear Mr. Moffat's coat, which lay on the ground, pulling it into a thousand the new, and the new made racy by a pieces, and then eating it. The company tried about three hours to get him into the PRESBYTERIAN HOUSE, stables, but they could not do it, either by force or kindness. At last the female came to the stable door, and commenced crying, which drew him to her. She then closed the door after him, and, seeming at a traveller over a country road would quite sensible of what had happened, stinctively have his eye caught, and his placed herself at the door so that he could oughts somewhat tangled up, by a vine not get out again. During this time Messrs. owing vigorously near the door of a Bell & Meyers had sent for a cannon to the. It does not matter how small or shoot the monster. For eight long hours mable that home may be, it is raised in the female elephant stood sentry at the OPPOSITE U. S. MINT steem of any observing passer by hold stable door, guarding it with her own body up the suggestive shelter of a vine. It by the word of command from the groom, esses love in the house, thoughtfuless George Mason, who has always fed and cleaned the animals, and drove them on the road from town to town, and whose life

There | made a hole right through his body, and should not be a farm-house in the land he fell dead on the spot where he killed his trainer.—English paper.

THE SLAVONIANS. The Slavonians have always been enthusiastically devoted to their native land. No matter how wretched or how cruelly oppressed, they have not been able to forget their homes. Take for instance the Wends. a Slavonian race, for centuries under German domination, residing in Western Saxony and Prussian Lusatia. I have seen numbers of them in our Moravian settlement at Kleinwelke, a mile or two to the north of Bautzen. They love to gather here, and although they contentedly listen to a German sermon, they deem it a rare privilege, now and then, in the village church, to sing a hymn in their own language. Neighboring nations at a very early period, took advantage of their peaceful habits and their want of military organization. German counts and bishops oppressed them mercilessly, taking their heathenism as a pretext; in fact, exterminated them in Hanover, Prussia, Thuringia and Saxony. A German writer, says Strasinski, relates that a considerable time after the establishment of the Christian religion, whenever a Slavonian was met on the high road, and could not give what was considered a satisfactory reason for his absenting himself from his village, he was executed on the spot or killed like a wild beast. So many of them were sold in the market, that from the national name of this race has come the odious word, slave. The Slavonians at the present day number eighty millions. They extend from the distant Siberia to the Bohemian forest, from the White Sea to the Arabic. They form the mass of the population of Russia, Austria and Turkey, and are even found in the Morea of Greece. They all speak similar languages. Strasinski says, "that the sailors of Rafusa can freely converse with the fishermen of Archangel, and the inhabitants of Prague as easily communicate with those of Warsaw and Moscow Of late there has been a strong national movement among them, like that described in the case of Bohemia. They have felt that they are all one people, and have one destiny. If they fall to Russia, the Czar will become the master of Europe; if under liberal German influence their national aspirations are gratified, they will, pervaded by the now superior civilization of Germany, become a strong bulwark against the westward progress of the Russian power.- $E.\ Rondthaler.$ 

> ASBESTOS AND CRINOLINE FOR THE LADIES.

A correspondent of an Australian paper, the Orange Guardian, writes as follows :-Some twenty-two years ago I recognized the asbestos, or amicanthus rock in this district, and since then I have, from time to time, exposed portions of the stone to atmospheric influence, and the result has always been a perfect change of the stone into asbestos, or into a substance closely resembling the finest staple of wool, only something stronger, and, if possible, whiter in appearance. I have sometimes obtained it six inches in length, have combed it out, and found it as soft and pliant as any silk. This substance, as no doubt you are aware, is inconsumable by fire. The stone may be brought into the state of asbestos in a very short time. I have been employed sinking a well, of late, and some days I got as much of this mineral as would make a suit of clothes. I can show the stone here in all its stages, from stone itself to the asbestos state. Should asbestos ever come into general use, it will, in some measure no doubt, from its incombustible nature, supersede the evils of crinoline. Besides this great advantage, it will also set aside the vexatious expense and use of soap and water, for all a lady will have to do when she unrobes herself will be to pitch her articles of apparel into a glowing fire, and Perhaps you may deem some parts of the foregoing rather extravagant; but, nevertheless, I really believe that by proper appliances the amicanthus may yet become a source of revenue, and I therefore recommend the thing to your attention.'

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22 shares Consolidation National
Bank,
142shares Williamsport Water Company, pany, Mortgages, Ground Rents, and Real Es-

INCOME FOR THE YEAR 1865, \$544,592 92.

Losses Paid during the Year amounting to \$87,636 31.

LOSSES PAID PROMPTLY. DIVIDENDS MADE ANNUALLY, thus aiding the

the insured to pay premiums.

The last DIVIDEND on all Mutual Policies in force
January 1, 1886, was FIFTY PER CENT. of the amount of PREMIUMS received during the year, 1865.

Its TRUSTEES are well known citizens in our midst, entitling it to more consideration than those whose managers reside in distant cities.

Alexander Whilldin, J. Edgar Thomson, George Nugent, Hon. James Pollock, L. M. Whilldin, P. B. Mingle, Albert C. Roberts.

ALEXAMPLE TO THE PREMIUMS received during the pear, 1865.

William J. Howard. Samuel T. Bodine, John Alkman, Henry K. Bennett, Hon. Joseph Allison, Isaac Hazlehurst, Allery WHILLDIN, President.

ALEX. WHILLDIN, President. GEORGE NUGENT, Vice-President. TOHN C. SIMS, Actuary.

JOHN S. WILSON, Secretary and Treasurer. C. G. ROBESON, Assistant Secretary.