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THE REGISTRAR,

State College, Centre County, Pa.

Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., March 2, 1906.

ASPARAGUS.

Its Relation to the Famous Asphodel

of the Early Ages.

losophers of the day.

purpose.

greedily.

28-27

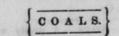
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the color of the flowers. So abundant is the wild asparagus in the steppes of Russia that cattle eat it like grass, just A. E. SCHAD as Italian sheep devour its botanical

LINCOLN'S DISPOSITION.

Ordinarily Cheerful, It Held a Strain of Deep Melancholy.

Hopeful and cheerful as he ordinarily seemed, there was in Mr. Lincoln's disposition a strain of deep melancholy. This was not peculiar to him alone, for the pioneers as a race were somber rather than gay. Their lives had been passed for generations under the most trying physical conditions, near malaria infested streams and where they breathed the poison of decaying vegetation. Insufficient shelter, storms, the cold of winter, savage enemies and the cruel labor that killed off all but the hardiest of them had at the same time killed the happy-go-lucky gayety of an easier form of life. They were thoughtful, watchful, wary; capable, indeed, of wild merriment, but it has been said that although a pioneer might laugh he could not easily be made to smile. through the crowd and climbed on the Lincoln's mind was unusually sound platform, where Lincoln and he stood and sane and normal. He had a cheerful, wholesome, sunny nature, yet he worth, Lincoln said, "Which is the tallhad inherited the strongest traits of the | er?" pioneers, and there was in him, moreover, much of the poet, with a poet's capacity for joy and pain. It is not the guard rail and, putting his hand strange that as he developed into manhood, especially when his deeper nature began to feel the stirrings of ambition and of love, that these seasons of depression and gloom came upon him with overwhelming force.-Helen Nicolay in St. Nicholas.

THE BARK OF TREES.

Nature's Provision For the Relief of the Growing Plant.

As a tickler of the palate asparagus The practical cultivator understands has come down the ages with all the that nature makes provision for getting weight of Greek and Roman approval. Plato ate it by the plateful, and Ariscreases in size. On the growth of the tophanes, the humorist, regarded it as a great aid in digesting the crank phispots. These are formations of cork. From year to year, in subsequent de-It is an odd fact that this culinary velopment, these little patches spread, plant is closely related to the famous really eating their way through the asphodel, which was supposed by the bark. This is the provision which naancients to be the leading flower in the gardens of the elysium, the Greek purgatory or paradise. A part of the cells have their own special lines of dequaintness of this lies in the fact that velopment, and this is the reason why the roots possess purgative qualities. each kind of tree has its own particular The roots and fruit of both were forbark. The characteristics are so prommerly much used in medicine for this inent that clever observers can select According to the superstition of the even at midnight. As it is the evident Romans, the manes of the dead fed on intention of nature to get rid of old the roots of the asphodel. They planted bark, it is a great help to the tree to asit, therefore, in and around the ceme-

sist nature in this respect, and any teries; hence to this day it covers with its beautiful golden blossoms as pro-fusely as dandelions the Apulian hills wash or treatment which aids the plant in getting rid of it is a practical advantage. Soapy water wash or and valleys, and the sheep feed on it lye water is useful, and even scraping has been found of great advantage. It belongs to the same natural order In a rough sort of way lime wash is of perennials, and the only difference frequently used, the only objection bebetween the asparagus and the asing the white and glaring color. It is, phodel appears to be in the fruit and however, the cheapest and the best of all bark treatment.

The secret of success lies in the man

HIS EQUAL IN HEIGHT. Lincoln's Pleasant Little Interview

With a Coal Heaver.

When Lincoin was on his way to as sume the office of president the train was delayed at Freedom, Pa., by an accident to a freight train that was a little way ahead. Lincoln was accom panied by Major Sumner and Colone Elmer Ellsworth of the celebrated regiment of zouaves. Neither Major Sum ner nor Colonel Ellsworth was tall, and as they stood beside Lincoln on the rear platform while he made his address they looked shorter than they really were. At the close of Lincoln's short speech a coal heaver called out, "Abe, they say you are the tallest man in the United States, but I don't believe you are any taller than I am." Lincoln replied, "Come up here and let us measure." The coal heaver pressed his way platform, where Lincoln and he stood back to back. Turning to Colonel Ells-

Colonel Ellsworth, being so much shorter, could not tell, so he climbed on across the top of the heads of the two men, said, "I believe they are exactly the same height." Then Lincoln and the coal heaver turned around and faced each other. The crowd shouted loudly when Lincoln took the black, sooty hand of the coal heaver in his and gave a hearty handshake to the man who was his equal-in height.-Thomas

rid of the bark of trees as the trunk in- burrow may become frozen or covered with ice, the fiddler crab bores deep past season may be seen small olive into the mud or sand and stays until spring. The black or mud fiddler fairly riddles the meadow banks along the salt creeks. It bores in, usually horizontally, and it may be as far as six or eight feet from the face of the bank, ture makes for finally rifting the bark and then down into the mud at various in each species of plant. These cork angles until it gets below the level of the tide, which rises and falls through the loose mud, in the fiddler crab's burrow. There are myriads of the black fiddlers, and they so honeycomb the bank that sometimes under the different kinds of trees by their bark added weight of ice gathered upon the top of it the bank breaks down .- New York Tribune.

The Gem of the Collection.

Baron X. had been going over the museum of a little country town, and when about to leave he asked the curator if there was anything more to be

> "Yes, baron," was the reply, "there remains a little casket."

"No doubt used as a deposit for the jewelry of some eminent personage?" inquired the baron.

"No, sir; that is where I put the tips given to me by visitors to the museum."

A HISTORIC SHELLFISH.

The Purpura Was Quite a Factor In the World's Civilization.

A small sea creature has done a lot to assist the development of civilization. It is known as the murex or purpura. From it the Phoenicians manufactured the Tyrian purple, the origin of their wealth and prosperity. As each shellfish yielded but one drop of the dyeing material and as 300 pounds were needed to dye fifty pounds of wool the home fisheries became in time exhausted. Then, finding it necessary to seek a supply elsewhere, the traders started on the first voyage of discovery ever made. Owing to this voyage the Mediterranean, with all the countries that surround it, was discovered.

Through this small creature also the first colonies were founded. The Phoenicians, finding it impracticable to bring home large shiploads of the fish, built at those spots where the raw material abounded factories, which gradually developed into permanent settle-

ments. And as many of these colonies were founded on Grecian islands the apt natives quickly acquiled the arts and industries of their visitors, which were soon diffused throughout Greece, and the first seeds of civilization were sown.

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