

Agricultural Department.

WEDNESDAY MORNING Dec. 22, '99.

Josh Billings.

THE HORNET.

The Hornet is an inflammable bugger, sudden in his impressions, and hasty in his conclusions, or end.

His natural disposition is a warm cross between red pepper in the pod, and fust oil, and his moral bias is, "get out uv my way."

They have a long black body, divided in the middle by a waist spot, but their physical importance lies at the terminus of their rudder, in the shape of a javelin.

This javelin is alwuz loaded, and stands ready to unload at a minute's warning, and enter a man as still as thought, as spry as lightning, and as full of melancholy as the toothache.

Hornets never arge a case; they settle awl or their differences of opinion by lettin their javelins fly, and are as surtain to hit az a mule iz.

This testy critter lives in congregations numbering about one hundred soles, but whether they are mail or fennala, or conservative, or matched in bonds of wedlock, or whether they are Mormons, and a good many of them klinge together and kepe one husband to save expence, I dont know or dont care.

I never have examined their habits much, I never considered it healthy. Hornets bid their nests wherever they take a notion to, and seldom are disturbed, for that would it profit a man to kill 99 hornets and have the one hundredth one hit him with his javelin?

They bid their nests of paper, without any back doors to them or windows. They have but one place of admission, and that is the same shape of an overgrown pineapple, and is out up into just as many bed rooms as there iz hornets.

I tiz very simple to make a hornets' nest if you kan, but I will wneer enny man \$00 dollarz that he kant bid one that he could sell to a hornet for half price.

Hornets are as bizzzy as their second cousins, the bee, but whatever they are about the Lord only knows; they don't lay up any honey or enny money; they seem to be busy just for the purpose of working all the time; they are always in az much of a hurry az if they was goin for a docter.

I spose this uneasy world would grind around on its axle-tree once in 24 hours if there want enny hornets, but hornets must be good for something, but I cant think now what it iz.

Their laint been abug made yet in vain. For one that want a good job. There is ever loads of human men loafing around blacksmith shops, and cider mills, all over the country, that dont seem to be necessary for anything but to beg plug tobacco, and swear, and to steal water-melons, but you let the cholera break out once, and then you will see the wisdom of having jist sich men laying around; they help to fill out.

Next tew the cockroach, who stands tew the head, the hornet has got the most waste stammuk in reference tew the rest of his body than enny or the insek population, and here is another mystery; wat on arth duz a hornet want so much reserved corps for?

I have jist thought—tew carry his javelin in; tiz so yew, the more we discover the more we are apt to know. It is always a good purchase tew pay out yer last surviving dollar for wisdom; and wisdom is like the mysterious hen's egg, it ain't laid in your hand, but is laid away under the barn, and you have got to search for it.

The hornet is an unusual kuss, he iz more haughty than he is proud, he iz a thoroughbred lug, but his breeding and refinement has made him like sum other folk I know of, dissatisfied with himself and every body else; too much good greeding acts in this way sometimes.

Hornets are long-lived—I kant state jist how long their lives are, but I know from instinkt and observans that enny kniter, be he bug or be he devil, who iz mad all the time and stings every good chance he can git, generally outlives all his nabers.

The only good way to get at the exact steing weight of the hornet iz tew touch him, let him bit you once with his javelin, and you will be willing to testify in court that some one run a one-tined pitchfork into yer; and az for grit, I will state for the intormashun or those who hav'nt had a chance tew lay in their vermin wisdom az i hav, that one single hornet, who feels wul, will brake up a large camp meeting.

What the hornets do for amusement is another question kant answer, but some or the best read, and heaviest thinkers among the naturalists say they have target excursions, and leave their javelins at a mark, but I dont imbine this assersion raw, for I never kint any body so bitter at heart az the hornets are, to waste a blow.

awl they kan git in this world, and brag on, iz their vittles, and clothes, and you never see one standin at the corner of a street, with a twenty-six inch face on, because sun banker had run oph, and took their money with him.

In ending oph this essa, I will cum to a stop by concluding that if the hornet was a little more pensive, and not so darned peremptory with their javelins, they might be guilty of less wisdom, but more charity.

But you kant alter bug natur, without spiling it for anything else, enny more than you kan an elephant's egg.

Keeping a Farm Journal.

No doubt there are farmers who commence business with a determination to keep a daily record of their operations on the farm, and the results of them. This resolve is carried into execution for a time, but after a while intermissions in these jottings occur, and finally cease altogether.

This delinquency does not prove that the practice is not a good one, and as an incentive to perseverance, we would cite a case of a man who commenced farm life bareheaded, but eventually attained great wealth—a result he attributed in a great measure to a daily journalizing of his farm operations a practice kept up for forty-five years, and not then discontinued.

These daily memoranda were made in books of convenient size, each containing the records of a single year, and when full properly labeled and filed away for future reference when desirable. They contained the number of fields farmed each year, the amount of labor bestowed, the actual yield, the names of the parties employed each day, the daily receipts for stock and farm products sold, money paid out, and for what purpose.

The character of the weather, together with such reflections as the current news of the day supplied. This journal was uniformly written on each night just before retiring to rest, but when the party was absent, as was occasionally the case, it was the duty of the person in charge to make the necessary memoranda each evening.

These records were often appealed to, to decide disputed points in regard to the weather and crops of particular seasons, and not unfrequently taken before the courts for the purpose of determining the date of particular transactions may prove rather irksome, but if the practice is kept up perseveringly for two or three years it becomes a habit pleasurable rather than otherwise, and profitable to the parties who steadily pursue it.—American Farmer.

Keeping Winter Pears.

No fruit is worse treated than the late autumn and winter pears. They are generally gathered before their time, and then kept in dry atmosphere.

What wonder is it that fruit which should be melting and delicious, turns out to be shriveled, tough and tasteless thing? Most late varieties hang on well, and should be allowed to remain until there is danger of hard frosts; they are to be carefully picked when dry, placed in boxes or barrels, and kept as cool as possible.

It is not a good plan to take them to the cellar until the weather becomes so cold as to endanger their freezing.—When in the cellar, the temperature must be kept as low as possible without danger of frost. Do not mix varieties in the same package.

The different sorts have each their own time for maturing. A frequent examination will show how the process of ripening is going on, and the slower this progresses the finer the fruit is likely to be. When the proper changes have taken place within the fruit, it is indicated by a change in the color of the skin.

When this commences the fruit may be taken in small quantities at a time to a warm room, to "finish off." We have seen even the despised and much abused Vicar of Winkfield, when treated in this manner, prove itself a most acceptable pear.—Exchange.

FARMING.—It is with farming as it is with every other business; it must be attended to or it will not pay. This is more so now than formerly. For our machinery does the work of hand labor, and science is adding success which the common farmer cannot reach, hence he is found in the rear of profit and general success.

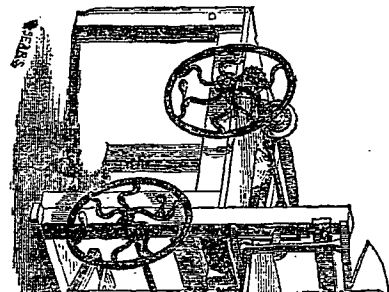
There must be intelligence. The advancement of farming has made this so. "Skinning" land must be among the things that were. This, however, is less the case on the prairies than in the East. An old fashioned farmer stands but a poor chanced here. He is constantly selling out to "better his condition," which is not done by buying another farm. He is generally glad to get rid of his land. We must, then, as the country improves, improve with it, and that by informing ourselves, both by reading and conversation with those who know.

A Philadelphia paper says that an eminent surgeon of that city had his horses washed in the morning with water in which one or two sliced onions had been steeped. He found that the flies kept at a respectable distance, while no harm was done to the animals. A separate bucket or vessel other than that used to water the horses, would be necessary, and great relief would be obtained at a small cost.

Chickens, to be made profitable, should be fed raw meat.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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The above represented machine HAS NO EQUAL. It is simple in its construction, easily operated, and not liable to get out of order.

The JIG ATTACHMENT, recently patented, (as shown by the cut, at the right) to be operated by foot or hand power, or both at the same time, so arranged in combination with the Rip Saw that it forces one machine, and by a simple device is readily detached, and two distinct machines are produced.

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WORK WILL BE GUARANTEED, to be of A SUPERIOR QUALITY. We will furnish anything in our line from a door panel, to a WHOLE HOUSE.

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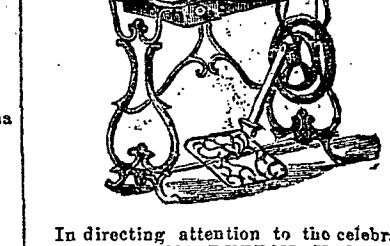
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