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Ebensburg, April 11, 1879.



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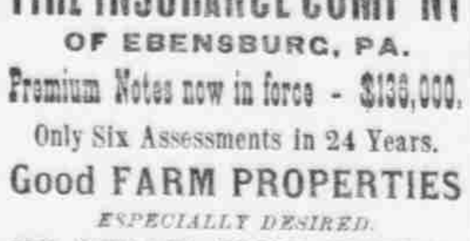

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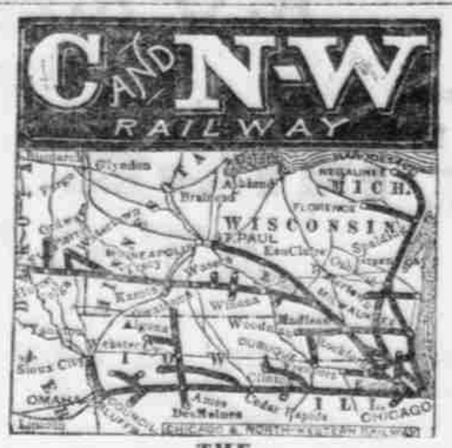


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[4-15.] WESTWARD. [1y.]



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## INFLUENCE OF FORESTS ON WATER COURSES.

The rapid destruction of our forests has at last begun to attract public attention, and the efforts of those who are endeavoring to awaken interest in the preservation of the standing trees, and to promote their cultivation where none exist, are bearing fruit, especially in the prairie States of the West and Northwest. The arguments used are usually such as may be embraced in the question: What shall we do for fuel, for fences, for ships, for building material, for railroad ties, and for innumerable industries of which wood forms a part, when our forests have entirely disappeared? For these purposes it is probable that some substitute may be found. But there are other uses for our forest trees, and for which nothing else can take their place. Important, possibly most important, among these is the influence of forests, and the effect of their removal, upon water-courses, such as lakes, rivers, creeks and brooks, and also upon springs and wells.

Trees during a rain storm retain a vast quantity of water. Fantrat found that the soil covered by the forests received six-tenths of the whole rainfall, the trees having intercepted four-tenths. The proportion, however, will vary, depending largely upon the character of the foliage and the nearness of the trees to each other.

Besides what is retained by the various branches and leaves, the roots, by keeping the soil around them loosened, induces the speedy absorption of the larger part of the rain which reaches the ground, and much of which, but for the tree, by partially or wholly excluding the suns' rays, prevents, in a large degree, the evaporation of the water in the soil, which in a treeless region renders the ground as destitute of moisture as tho' no rain had fallen.

By the absorption of the rain as it falls, the flooding of the streams is largely prevented; and retaining the water in this natural reservoir, and allowing it to flow off gradually, the streams are supplied with water continuously. It can safely be said that no stream having its source near a tract of forest has ever ceased to flow.

In the early history of the Eastern and Middle States, a farm was regarded as lacking an essential feature if there was no spring upon it, and the farmer's wife would as much expect to do without milk pans as to do without a spring-house. But now a spring-house is a rare sight. When the pioneers settled these lands, they were covered with forests, and the first and most important work of the new settler was to cut away the timber, in order to get land upon which to raise food for himself and family. For many years there, was of course, no apparent effect upon the water-course: but as the number of settlers increased, and the amount of forest decreased, the springs began to dry up, and with them the brooks, creeks and smaller rivers.

It is not unusual to find in many localities the beds of what were once important mill streams waterless, except when filled by sudden freshets; and in this State certain streams emptying into the lake, which were once declared navigable, will not now float a canoe. Previous to 1832, a Captain Delorac, of Hamilton, Ohio, annually sent a fleet of flat boats down the Big Miami River at the Spring rise; but with the destruction of the forest along the river, the rise became so uncertain that the enterprise was of necessity abandoned. Prof. Newberry, in his Geology of Ohio, states that the Ohio river has been getting lower and lower in dry seasons for many years. About 1871–72 the Ohio sank lower than it had ever been known before, and at Smith's Ferry, where the Pennsylvania line crosses, a ledge of rocks was laid bare that had not been seen or heard of by any people living in that vicinity.

Lapham says that "such have been the changes in the flow of the Milwaukee River, even while the area from which it receives its supply is but partially cleared, that the proprietors of most of the mills and factories have found it necessary to resort to the use of steam at a largely increased yearly cost, to supply the deficiency of water power in dry seasons of the year. The floods of Spring are increased until they are sufficient to carry away bridges and dams, before deemed secure against their ravages. What has happened to the Milwaukee River has happened to all other water courses in the State from whose banks the forests have been removed, and many farmers who have selected land upon which there was a living brook of clear, pure water, now find that the brooks dry up during a considerable portion of the year."

Even in the State of Tennessee, where comparatively but little of the original timber has been cut, the same results are manifest. Hon. J. B. Killebrew, late Commissioner of Agriculture of that State, relates that, upon visiting the home of his childhood, a short time ago, he was surprised to find that what at the time he left his childhood's home, thirty years previously, was a considerable stream flowing through his father's farm, had entirely disappeared and its former bed had been plowed up. The reason for it he found in the removal of of the forests along both banks. A striking illustrtaion of the total disappearance of a running stream is found here in Cincinnatti. Deer Creek in the boyhood of residents of the city, now of middle age, flowed with a stream of sufficiect volume to turn a mill. The denuding of the hillsides and the consequent exposure of the entire surface to the rays of the sun, have dried up the streams that originally fed it, and no water now flews upon its former bed.

The mountains are natural forest lands, and up to a certain elevation should be perpetually covered with trees. To settlers living at the base of mountains, the forest trees are of incalculable value, for by excluding the sun they prolong the melting of the snows, absorb a large per centage of that which has melted, prevent it flowing off in a flood, and carrying death and destruction to all that may lie in its track. And the fallen trees and branches, the undergrowth, the mosses and other herbage among the decaying leaves, and the millions of leaves break the force of the falling rains, which come quietly to the earth, and sink into the soil until they reach internal cavities or porous strata, from which they are gradually distilled thro' perennial springs, that throw up a constant and regular supply for the streams.

CURING HAMS.—The following recipe can be relied upon in dry curing hams: For eighty pounds of ham nicely trimmed, take one pint Onondago or rock salt, one ounce of saltpetre (nitre of potash) one-quarter pound brown sugar; mix well together, and thoroughly rub the hams, leaving them flesh side up. After 24 hours rub again with one quart of salt, one ounce of saltpetre, one quarter pound sugar. Let them lie ten days and smoke to suit.

FOR A PICKLE FOR HAMS OR BEEF.

We have used the following to our entire satisfaction for many years:

Pack the hams when cold in a clean barrel, sprinkle on the bottom of the barrel and over the hams, flesh side up, about one pound of Turk's Island salt to the hundred younds of ham; then pour over a pickle made of five pounds of salt, one ounce of saltpetre, two ounces saleratus, one pint good molasses, with water enough to cover the hams four to five inches, boiled and skimmed when cold.—*Practical Farmer.*

A PIECE of zinc placed on live coals in a hot stove will effectually clean out a stove pipe, the vapor produced carrying off the soot by chemical decomposition.


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CARROLLTOWN, Nov. 21, 1881.-tf. S. TEITELBAUM.



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## THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

RELATIVE COST OF CORN AND PORK.—When corn is worth 30 cents per bushel, it pays to convert it into pork if the latter sells for three dollars per one hundred pounds. With corn at forty cents, pork should sell at four dollars per hundred pounds; corn at fifty cents, pork five dollars, and so on, adding one dollar to pork for every increase of ten cents per bushel in corn. This is the estimate placed on the relative prices of these two articles by the *Prairie Farmer.* If the pork sells for less than is represented by the corresponding price in corn, it is fed at a loss; if more, the advance is profit—in each case regarding the manure as pay for the trouble.

HOW TO KEEP LARD.—When the scraps are just beginning to get brittle and brown, put a tablespoonful of fine salt to a quart of the hot lard, and there will be no trouble; the lard will keep perfectly sweet for any length of time, and the salt does no possible harm to any kind of cookery. A person can easily judge of the quantity of lard if they know how much the kettle holds. It makes the lard whiter and harder aside from preserving it sweet. It must cook a little while after adding the salt. That designed for summer use should be either kept in a tightened earthen jar or a tin bucket with a cover. To restore lard that is a trifle tainted, put the lard into an iron kettle, and cut up salt pork in thin slices—about one-half pound of pork to a gallon of melted lard; add two spoonfuls of salt, and let it cook till the pork is crisp; take out the slices of pork and turn the lard into your jar, and you will never know that it has not always been sweet. But it is better to salt in the first place, as it saves much trouble and time.

STARTING A BALKY HORSE.—A writer in the London *Times* suggests three ways to start a balky horse:

"Jibbing is the result of a temporary mental state, and the object in view should be to divert the small mind from its prevailing idea. I had a fine mare that now and then would jib. I would alight and jingle my keys near her ear. I would then pat her and pass my hand down the leg and lift up her fore-foot; then with a piece of stone, my pocket knife, or a large coin, hammer on her shoe a few times, and on dropping her foot we were ready for a fresh start without further trouble. Two other modes, among many, may be adopted:

1. For the driver to be supplied with a small bottle of something that a horse abhors, and which stings or irritates; by placing a small portion on the tongue of the horse, all its thought is directed to clear its mouth, and every other consideration is clean gone from its mind.

2. A small portion of something that is offensive to the sense of smell of a horse may be placed near or on its nostril. He will snort, sneeze, and think no more of his jib."

AMMONIA IN PULMONARY DISEASES.—At the meeting of the Royal Belgian Academy of Medicine, April 30, 1881, M. Melsens presented a memoir on the therapeutic applications of ammonia, its salts or its complex compounds, requesting that a committee be appointed to examine into the value of his conclusions relative to this question. M. Melsens' communication discusses the applicability of ammonia and its compounds to diseases of the respiratory organs. He concluded, from the fact that phthisical patients are benefitted by inhaling the vapors of carbonate of ammonia emanating from stables, that the continuous and moderate inhalation of that salt would be efficacious in other pulmonary affections. He accordingly made the experiment upon himself during an attack of bronchitis, by wearing in a bag attached to his shirt several pieces of ammonic carbonate. Having been completely cured in a few days by this treatment, he subsequently employed it in his practice, with uniform good results. He also applies the remedy directly to the respiratory passages, by means of the spray, with equal success.—*Bulletin de l'Academie Royale de Medecine de Belgique.*

STRANGE SHOWERS.—The *Journal of Chemistry* says of the substances that fall from the sky: M. Pelties states that he once saw a fall of small toads in France. They fell upon his hat and hands, and the ground about him was covered with them. Several trustworthy observers in France, India and other lands have seen showers of small fish descend from the sky. Some fifteen or more years ago, great numbers of small sticklebacks fell in South Wales, sprinkling the earth and roofs over an an area of several square miles. They were alive when they fell, though they must have been conveyed through the air a distance of at least thirty miles, as there was no place nearer than that from which they could have come. In the Isle of Mull, on the coast of Scotland, within the memory of the present generation, herring were found plentifully strewn over a hill more than a quarter of a mile from the sea and a hundred feet above it.

These fishy showers are more frequent in tropical regions, where violent whirlwinds are common. In India, fishes weighing from a pound to three pouuds each have been known to fall, sometimes alive, but oftener dead. They are always of such species as are found in the neighboring waters, and it cannot be doubted that they have been carried up into the air by whirlwinds. In 1838, the water of a small pond in France was entirely drawn off in a whirlwind. In the pond were a great many fishes, which must have gone up with the water to come down with it. In 1835, near Naples, a whirlwind passed over an orange grove, carrying up a great deal of fruit in its rapidly retreating current, and some minutes afterwards the people at a considerable distance from the spot were astonished by a shower of oranges on their housetops. These are only a few out of the many curious and well authenticated instances of the kind.

EXPERIMENTS IN A HUMAN STOMACH.—Dr. Mikulicz, of Vienna, has invented an instrument for illuminating and inspecting the inside of the living stomach. On the 5th inst. he exhibited his aparatus upon which he has bestowed the title of "Gastroscope," to the leading professors of the medical faculty at the Polyklinik, and performed some interesting experiments with it upon a female hospital patient suffering from chronic dyspepsia. It consists of a tube, fitted with a set of minute but powerful reflectors at one end, and connected at the other with an electric battery, by which a brilliant light is projected into the stomach requiring inspection. This tube was passed down the subject's throat and remained there for full 20 minutes, during which time the Viennese professors were enabled to d'agnose the condition of every part of the mucous membrane thus lighted up and revealed to their gaze. The gastroscope is considered likely to render invaluable services to the cause of electro-endoscopic investigation, which for some time past has been prosecuted with ardor by eminent Austrian pathologists. Several ingenious contrivances for examining the interior of the body have been invented within the past few years. They are all, it appears, very costly, and Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild, with characteristic generosity, has presented a complete set of electro-endoscopic instruments to the Polyklinik, by aid of which that institution has already placed on record a long series of important and highly instructive observations respecting the phenomena of internal diseases.


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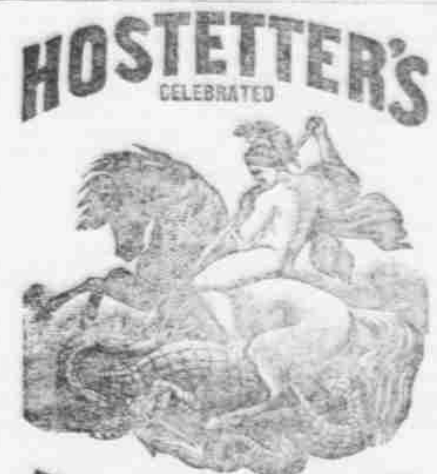

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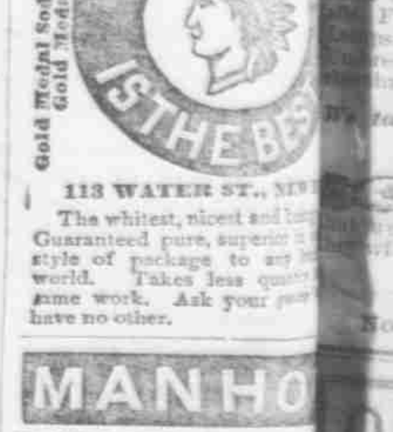


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