FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD

Thin Seeding of Wheat.

The first instance we shall adduce as to thin seeding, says an English paper, is that of Jethro Tull, who, about the beginning of the last century, occupied a farm of two hundred acres of his own, which he cultivated on perfectly novel principles, the first and foremost of which was, "that thorough tillage is competent, with or without manure, to secure the profitable growth of any given species of cultivated plant year after year in succession." This theory he carried into practice for upward of thirty years with so much success that, instead of impoverishing the soil, he let off a part of it at one-third more rent than had previously been given for it. He introduced the practice more recently adopted by the late Mr. Smith, of Lois Weedon, of sowing half the land in portions of three feet, embracing three rows, having unsown intervals of the same breadth between them, and he found that he could grow heavier crops on half the land than his neighbors did on the whole. Mr. Smith, too, practiced this plan for nearly twenty years, and produced on half the land from thirty-five to forty bushels of wheat per half acre. The amount of seed sown was from one to two pecks per acre, no more being ever applied.

Mr. Hallett, of Brighton, offers another example of this seeding. His farm or farms consists of about six hundred acres, a considerable portion of which consists of "down" land, having from four to six inches of soil lying on a chalk subsoil. It is unnecessary to go at length into the system adopted by Mr. Hallett, whose object is to produce a quality of wheat founded, like cattle, on an authentic pedigree. His system embraces thin seeding as a first principle. Thus, sown early, one hundred acres are seeded at the rate of one bushel to six acres, while the latest sowing is one bushel per acre. Mr. Hallett's neighbors seed at the rate of three bushels per acre; he, therefore, saves in seed alone from one hundred and eighty to two hundred and eighty bushels. As a sample of what may be done by this system, Mr. Hallett hired a large field belonging, we believe, to the corporation at Brighton. It was such a barren spot as to be considered actually incapable of growing wheat. Westaw this field under wheat seeded at the rate of one peck per acre, the product of which was a crop of forty-eight bushels per acre. One good effect of thin seeding is the entire absence of "under corn"—that is, weak and short plants holding inferior ears and containing thin and imperfect grain. Heavy seeding always produces this defect; which detracts from both the quality and quantity of the return. There was no such under corn in Mr. Hallett's crop, the ears being all one height, and as level on the top as a table.

Another case is that of Mr. Piper, an Essex miller and farmer, who for twenty-five consecutive years grew wheat every year without manure, except a dressing of soot, and without plowing the land, using only a hoe to scuffle in the seed, and planting in at the rate of one and one-quarter pecks per acre. It was said that the produce exceeded by a quarter (eight bushels) per acre more than obtained by the neighboring farmers, and in one season reached to seven quarters per acre.

An acre of land contains 43,560 square feet; three bushels of wheat contain at the rate of Mr. Miller's wheat, 1,832,554 grains, which divided by 43,560, the number of square feet in the acre, gives forty-two grains of seed to the square foot! Is it surprising that frequent failures of the crop should occur with such crowding of plants which, like human beings, can only be healthy and strong with plenty of room to develop their productive faculties?

Orchard and Nursery.

In all localities where the autumnal long and mild, it is decidedly better plant trees, except stone fruits, in the fall. The soil is in better condition, and the work can be more thoroughly and better done than in the uncertain weather of spring. The trees should be set as soon as the free falling of the leaves shows that their duties are over; if set soon, the trees will become well established, or "get a good hold of the soil," as gardeners say, before winter sets in. Even if spring planting is preferred, it is better to procure trees now and heel them in, to be in readiness for setting next spring; transportation is much safer at this season, and this plan will save much anxiety and hurry. A mound of earth a foot high, raised around each three before the ground freezes, will serve better than a stake, and help protect it from mice. Prepare the land for spring planting.

HEELING IN.—There is a wrong and a right way with this. If a bundle of trees is dumped into a hole, with some earth thrown carelessly over the roots, probably the majority will be found dead in the spring. The right way is to open a wide trench twelve or eighteen inches deep, place in the trees singly at an angle of forty-five degrees or more, and cover the roots of each with mellow soil, taking care to fill in around completely, leaving no spaces, and finish by banking up well, and provide a channel for the water to run off. The trees should lean toward the south, so that the branches will shade the trunks; if mice are troublesome, it is better to stand the trees upright, and bank the earth all around them. When heeling in is well done, the trees will pass the winter as safely as if in the nursery, and they are at hand whenever planting can be done.

SEEDS.—Prepare beds for sowing seeds of such fruit and ornamental trees as require to be sown at once, as many require the action of the frost to insure their germinating. Seedlings from seeds sown last spring, may be taken up and heeled in, to prevent injury from the heaving of the soil, or be well mulched with leaves.

Nursery rows may be manured by opening a furrow between them, into which well rotted manure is put and covered. Turn light furrows toward the rows, to throw the water away from them.

Harvest the late apples and pears, and barrel them, but do not put them in the cellar until the weather becomes cold. This year much of the fruit must be examined and assorted before sending to market.

Drying of fruits should be continued; where there is no drying apparatus, arrange racks near the kitchen stove to use in damp weather.

SHADE TREES.—Most varieties of shade trees, except evergreens, may be set out now. Don't forget to plant a "centennial" tree.

MANURE.—People are slowly learning that fruit cannot be taken from the land year after year without making a return, and that unless the orchard is manured, it in time becomes nearly useless. Stable manure, ashes, lime, or bones, are all valuable, and may be applied now or in spring.—*Agriculturist.*

Fruit Garden.

The late varieties of pears and grapes and the quinces having been harvested, the main work now is to prepare for the next season's crop.

PEARS.—Store in a cool room on shelves or in shallow boxes, not exposed to light, and consume or market as they ripen. The late sorts may be treated like winter apples; when they begin to soften bring them into a warmer room to finish.

GRAPES.—Only a few varieties keep well, and are best kept by packing in five pound boxes, after they have been picked a few days; keep at a uniform low temperature. After the fruit is gathered, the vines should be pruned before cold weather, and tender kinds laid down and covered with earth.

STRAWBERRIES.—If cultivated in rows, the runners should be kept cut off. Apply a dressing of well rotted manure between the rows. Set out plants for new beds in rich soil.

Blackberries and raspberries do best when set in the fall, that they may get well established and commence growing early in the spring. Set blackberries in rows eight feet apart, and six feet in the rows. Raspberries need not be planted so far apart; four feet each way is a convenient distance.—*Agriculturist.*

Remedy for Damp Walls.

The following is a remedy for damp walls: Three-quarters of a pound of mottled soap to one gallon of water. This composition to be laid over the brickwork steadily and carefully with a large flat brush, so as not to form a froth or lather on the surface. The wash to remain twenty-four hours to become dry. Mix a half pound of alum with four ounces of water; leave it to stand for twenty-four hours, and then apply it in the same manner over the coating of soap. Let this be done in dry weather. In the case of the stone walls the following ingredients, melted and mixed together, and applied hot to the surface of stone, will prevent all damp from entering, and vegetable substance from growing upon it: One and a half pounds rosin, one pound Russian tallow, one quart linseed oil. This simple remedy has been proved upon a piece of very porous stone, made into the form of a basin, and two coats of this liquid being applied caused it to hold water as well as any earthenware.

The Business Outlook.

Commenting on the report of failures for the last quarter, the New York *Tribune* says: It is noteworthy, too, that the average indebtedness of insolvent firms has materially increased in Illinois and Missouri, in New York State outside of the city, in Connecticut and in Wisconsin, while there has been no considerable change in Massachusetts. A large decrease in Pennsylvania, Louisiana and California, and a moderate decrease in Ohio and Rhode Island, may perhaps indicate a more healthy condition of business, and it is not impossible that it may be due, as in New York city in part, to the dullness of business, and the inability to employ borrowed money advantageously.

The circular properly calls attention to the fact that the improvement in business did not appear until the quarter had nearly ended, so that it could not be expected to affect the return of failures. Beyond question, the three months of July, August and September, if we except a part of the latter month, were decidedly more trying to firms with impaired capital and credit than any other period since the immediate force of the panic was spent. There is much reason to hope that improvement in trade may bring less discouraging returns for the last quarter of the year, but even as to this it is well not to indulge in excessive confidence.

The truth is that these returns of failures are proof that weak and unsound firms are being pushed out of the overcrowded ranks. In many departments we have too many persons trying to do business. Thousands are competing for the traffic which hundreds could do quite as well, and with profit to all instead of loss to most. The rigorous laws of nature correct this evil by forcing the less competent to withdraw. More room remains; the firms which excel in strength or connections or skill have a larger traffic placed within reach; the same exchanges, performed by fewer persons, can be performed with more economy and with narrower margins of profit. So the country gains because of the weeding out process. The change is harsh and unwelcome, but it is necessary. The very returns which show that 7,000 individuals have suffered prove that the country is in a better position to transact its business with economy and profit.

Discipline at Annapolis.

Several young men have been expelled from the academy at Annapolis because "they will not tell who did it." In the theory of discipline their act is an offense; in the theory of schoolboys the world over their act is one of generous devotion and lofty virtue. Is there any theory or any line of conduct on which these two can be reconciled? Evidently not. It is not possible at school any more than elsewhere in the world to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds at the same time. Persons responsible for the good order and discipline of colleges of every grade have pretty well made up their minds that some old fashioned but one sided and ruffianly sports of the students must be stopped; and that resolution is so evidently just that all reasonable steps which may be deemed necessary to give it effect must be regarded as good. The supremacy of order in an institution of learning is of more consequence than the fate of half a dozen students; and if practical jokes of a barbarous nature can be stopped anywhere they may be certainly in a school where the relation of pedagogue and pupil is assimilated by the nature of the case to that officer and soldier. But we would simply call attention to a peculiar, practical result in the case. Here are some scores of gentlemen who may be called upon in the future to serve the country in battle, and we should stimulate in them the generous and gallant qualities of human nature. But what do we do? There are two groups, those who are found out and those who are not. To defend those who are not found out, and who are commonly the leaders, the others "die game." To be equally generous the undiscovered should, as soon as the case was seen to be critical, disclose themselves; come fairly out, acknowledge their act and "stand the racket." It is cowardly to do otherwise, and they do otherwise. They remain in the school; the gallant boys, the victims of a mistaken sense of honor, are expelled. Thus the discipline of the school discriminates against the very qualities which the school should endeavor to cultivate.—*New York Herald.*

The Marquis of Tweeddale.

Lord Tweeddale, whose death was lately announced by cable, was born in 1787, and was thus thirteen when the parliamentary union with Ireland took place, which now seems such a long time ago. He succeeded his father when only seventeen, and entering the army saw much service. He was aide-de-camp to Wellington, always fond of having young men of rank about him, in the peninsula, and was wounded at Busaco in 1810. In after years Lord Tweeddale was made a field marshal, and colonel of the Second Life Guards. He was not in private life a man of any particular merit. His temper was arbitrary, and as a father he did not shine. He had a very large family—no less than thirteen children. The fourth daughter married the present Duke of Wellington, and was in former years well known as the beautiful Lady Douro, to whom her father-in-law was so devoted. The youngest is the wife of Sir Robert Peel. Lord Tweeddale's oldest son, George, Earl of Gifford, married in October, 1862, the mother of Lord Dufferin, and died within ten weeks of his marriage. This marriage was of the most romantic character. One of Lord Tweeddale's theories, which he carried into practice, was that a peer's eldest son could almost dispense with education, and thus it came about that Lord Gifford grew up imperfectly educated. Becoming acquainted with Lord Dufferin, he was introduced to his mother, one of the gifted granddaughters of Sheridan, and began in the accomplished society which surrounded her to feel painfully conscious of his deficiencies. Aided and encouraged by her, the young man went to work, and soon made up for lost time; but meanwhile he conceived for his instructress the deepest devotion. Lady Dufferin, however, being many years his senior, persistently declined his repeated offers of marriage, but at length he fell into ill health, and it became evident that his days on earth would be few. At his urgent entreaty, therefore, that he might see her bear his name, Lady Dufferin at last consented to become Countess of Gifford. Ten weeks later Lady Gifford was again a widow.

THE GRAIN TRADE.—The grain trade in England is agitated by the serious aspect of the Eastern question. If Russia shall precipitate war, the effect will, of course, be to check its grain exports. England will then have to look to the United States for the chief part of the supply which it is accustomed to get from Russia.

This Day Last Year.

This day last year—was not the same thrush singing?
We stayed our talk and hushed our breath to hear;
The bird's note quivered through our silent rapture,
And broke upon our hearts—this day last year.

Silent we watched the self-same shadows deepen
'Neath the young leaves that caught the straying light;
Each bud, each blossom, brought its tithe of gladness,
Even the happy tears that blurred my sight.

Mutely we breathed the language of hands clasping;
No need for murmured vows or low replies;
Each sun-flecked leaf, each sudden shadow passing,
Cast some vague memory to our dreaming eyes.

To-day I crave no thought of vanished sweetness,
I do not ask for my lost love again;
Only that some one throb of wakened yearning
May thrill the numbness of my heart to pain.

I strain my ear. The song has lost its secret.
My heart stirs not; my weary eyes are dry.
I pray for tears, where once I dreamt but gladness;
Has life—has death itself—a sadder cry?

NORA AND JAMESY.

"To the memory of Patrick Connor this simple stone was erected by his fellow workmen."

These words you may read any day upon a white slab in a cemetery not many miles from New York; but you might read them a hundred times without guessing at the little tragedy they indicate, without knowing the humble romance which ended with the placing of that stone above one poor and humble man.

In the shabby frieze jacket and mud laden brogans, he was scarcely an attractive object as he walked into Mr. Bawn's great tin and hardware shop, one day, and presented himself at the counter with an—

"I've been tould ye advertised for hands, yer honor."

"Fully supplied, my man," said Mr. Bawn, not lifting his head from his account book.

"I'd work faithful, sir, and take low wages till I could do better; and I'd learn—I would that."

It was an Irish brogue, and Mr. Bawn declared that he never would employ an incompetent hand. Yet the tone attracted him. He turned briskly, and, with his pen behind his ear, addressed the man, who was only one of the fifty who had answered his advertisement for four workmen that morning.

"What makes you expect to learn faster than other folks—are you any smarter?"

"I'll not say that," said the man; "but I'd be wishing to; that 'ud make it aisier."

"Are you used to the work?"

"I've done a bit of it."

"Much?"

"No, yer honor; I'll tell no lie. Tim O'Toole hadn't the like of this place; but I know a bit about tins."

"You are too old for an apprentice, and you'd be in the way, I calculate," said Mr. Bawn, looking at the brawny arms and bright eyes that promised strength and intelligence. "Besides, I know your countrymen—lazy, good for nothing fellows, who never do their best. No, I've been taken in by Irish hands before, and I won't have another."

"The Virgin will have to be after bringing 'em over in her two arms, thin," said the man, despairingly; "for I've tramped all day for the last fortnight, and niver a job can I get; and that's the last penny I have, yer honor, and it's but a half one."

As he spoke he spread his palm open with an English halfpenny upon it.

"Bring whom over?" asked Mr. Bawn, arrested by the odd speech, as he turned upon his heel and looked back again.

"Jist Nora and Jamesy."

"Who are they?"

"The wan's me wife, the other me child," said the man. "Oh, masther, thry me. How'l they ever come to me if no one will give me a job? I want to be airning, and the whole big city seems against it—and me with arms like them!"

He bared his arms to the shoulders as he spoke, and Mr. Bawn looked at them, and then at his face.

"I'll hire you for the week," he said; "and now, as it's noon, go down into the kitchen and tell the girl to get you your dinner—a hungry man can't work."

And with an Irish blessing the new hand obeyed, while Mr. Bown, untying his apron, went upstairs to his own meal.

Suspicious as he was of the new hand's integrity and ability, he was agreeably disappointed. Connor worked hard, and actually, at the end of the week, he was the best workman in the shop.

He was a great talker, but not fond of drink or wasting money. As his wages grew, he hoarded every penny, and wore the same shabby clothes in which he made his first appearance. "Beer costs money," he said one day, "and ivery cint I spind puts off the bringing Nora and Jamesy over; and as for the clothes, them I have must do me—better no clothes to me back than no wife and no boy to me fireside; anyhow, it's slow work saving."

It was slow work, but he kept at it all the same. Other men, thoughtless and full of fun, tried to make him drink, made a jest of his saving habits, coaxed him to accompany them to places of amusement and share their Sunday frolics. All in vain. Connor liked beer, liked fun, liked companionship; but he would not delay the long looked for bringing of Nora over, and was not "mane enough" to accept favors of others. He kept his way—a martyr to his own great wish—living on little, working at night on an extra job by which he could earn a few shillings, by running errands in his noontide hours of rest, and talking to any one who would listen of his one great hope, and of Nora and little Jamesy.

That seemed a sort of charity to him. Still he was helped along. A present from Mr. Bawn at pay day set Nora, as he said, "a week nearer," and this and that and the other added to the little board. It grew faster than at first, and Connor's burden was not so heavy. At last, before he hoped it, he was once more able to say, "I'm going to bring them over," and to show his handkerchief, in which, as before, he tied up his earnings; this time, however, only to his friends. Cautions among strangers, he hid the treasure, and kept his vest buttoned over it day and night, until the tickets were bought and sent. Then every man, woman and child, capable of hearing and understanding, knew that Nora and her baby were coming.

At first the men who prided themselves on turning out the best work in the city made a sort of butt of Connor, whose "wild Irish" ways and verdancy were indeed often laughable. But it won their hearts at last, and when, one day, mounting a work bench, he shook his little bundle, wrapped in a red 'kerchief, before their eyes and shouted: "Look, boys, I've got the whole at last! I'm going to bring Nora and Jamesy over at last! Whoroo! I've got it!" all felt a sort of sympathy in his joy.

There was John Jones, who had more of the brute in his composition than usually falls to the lot of man—even he, who had coldly hurled his hammer at an offender's head, missing him by a hair's breadth, would spend his ten minutes in the noon hour in reading the Irish news to Connor. There was Tom Baker, the meanest man among the number, who had never been known to give anything to any one before, absolutely bartered an old jacket for a pair of gilt vases which a peddler brought in his basket to the shop, and presented them to Connor for Nora's mantlepiece. And there was idle Dick, the apprentice, who actually worked two hours on Connor's work when illness kept the Irishman at home one day. Connor felt this kindness, and returned it whenever it was in his power.

And the days flew by and brought a letter at last from his wife. "She would start as he desired, and she was well, and so was the boy, and might the Lord bring them safely to each other's arms and bless those who had been so kind to him." This was the substance of the epistle, which Connor proudly assured his fellow workmen Nora wrote herself. She had lived at service as a girl with a certain good old lady, who had given her an education, the items of which Connor told upon his fingers. "The radin,' that's one, and the writin', that's three, and moreover she knows all a woman can." Then he looked up at his fellow workmen, with the tears in his eyes, and asked:

"Do you wondher the time seems long between me an' her, boys?"

So it was—Nora at the dawn of day—Nora at noon—Nora at night—until the news came that the "Stormy Petrel" had come to port, and Connor, breathless and pale with excitement, flung his cap in the air and shouted.

It happened on a holiday afternoon, and half a dozen of men were ready to go with Connor to the steamer and give his wife a greeting. Her little home was ready; Mr. Bawn's own servant had put it in order, and Connor took one peep at it before he started.

"She hadn't the like o' that in the ould counthry," he said. "But she'll know how to kape them tidy."

Then he led the way toward the dock where the steamer lay, at a pace which made it hard for the rest to follow him. The spot was reached at last; a crowd of vehicles blockaded the street; a troop of immigrants came thronging up; fine cabin passengers were stepping into cabs, and drivers, porters, and all manner of employees were yelling and shouting in the usual manner. Nora would wait on board for her husband—he knew that.

The little group made their way into the vessel at last, and there, amidst those who sat watching for coming friends, Connor searched for the two so dear to him; patiently at first, eagerly, but patiently; but by-and-bye growing anxious and excited.

"She would niver go alone," he said. "She'd be lost enthirely. I bade her wait; but I don't see her boy. I think she's not in it."

"Why don't you see the captain?" asked one, and Connor jumped at the suggestion. In a moment he stood before a portly, rubicund man, who nodded to him kindly.

"I am looking for my wife, yer honor," said Connor, "and I can't find her."

"Perhaps she's gone ashore," said the captain.

"I bade her wait," sail Connor.

"Women don't always do as they are bid, you know," said the captain.

"Nora would," said Connor. "But maybe she was left behind. Maybe she didn't come. I somehow think she didn't."

At the name of Nora the captain started. In a moment he asked:

"What is your name?"

"Pat Connor," said the man.

"And your wife's was Nora?"

"That's her name, and the boy with her is Jamesy, your honor," said Connor.

The captain looked at Connor's friends, they looked at the captain. Then he said, huskily:

"Sit down, my man; I've got something to tell you."

"She's left behind!" said Connor.

"She sailed with us," said the captain.

"Where is she?" said Connor.

The captain made no answer.

"My man," he said, "we all have our trials. God sends them. Yes, Nora started with us."

Connor said nothing. He was looking at the captain now, white to the lips.

"It's been a sickly season," said the captain. "We had illness on board—the cholera. You know that!"

"I didn't," said Connor; "I can't read—they kept it from me."

"We didn't want to frighten him," said one man, in a half whisper.

"You know how long we laid at quarantine!"

"The ship I came in did that," said Connor. "Did you say Nora went ashore? I ought to be lookin for her, captain."

"Many died," went on the captain—"many children. When we were half way here your boy was taken sick"—

"Jamesy," gasped Connor.

"His mother watched him night and day," said the captain, "and we did all we could; but at last he died—only one of many. There were five buried that day. But it broke my heart to see the mother looking upon the water. 'It's his father I think of,' said she; 'he's longing to see poor Jamesy.'"

Connor groaned.

"Keep up if you can, my man," said the captain. "I wish any one else had it to tell rather than I. That night Nora was taken ill, very suddenly. She grew worse fast. In the morning she called me to her. 'Tell Conner I died thinking of him,' she said; 'and tell him to meet me.' And, my good man, God help you. She never said anything more—in an hour she was gone."

Connor had risen. He stood up trying to steady himself, looking at the captain with his eyes as dry as two stones. Then he turned to his friends:

"I've got my death, boys," he said and then dropped to the floor like a log.

They raised him and bore him away. In an hour he was at home in the little bed which had been made ready for Nora, weary with her long voyage. There, at last, he opened his eyes. Old Mr. Bawn bent over him; he had been summoned by the news, and the room was full of Connor's fellow workmen.

"Better, Connor?" asked the old man.

"A dale," said Connor. "It's aisy now; I'll be with her soon. And look ye, masther, I've larnt one thing—God is good. He would not bring Nora over to me, but He's taking me over to her and Jamesy—over the river—don't you see it—and her—standing on the other side—to welcome me!"

And with these words Connor stretched out his arms. Perhaps he did see Nora—God only knows. And so he died.

The English Corn Trade.

The *Mark Lane Express*, in a review of the British corn trade, says the amount of moisture in the north has again been excessive; harvesting consequently proceeds very slowly. Such cereals as have been carried in in an unsatisfactory condition are likely to suffer further detriment in stack. In the midlands a considerable quantity of beans is yet unsecured, carting having been entirely stopped by the continuous rainfall. In Ireland the weather has been better and the cereal harvest is now fairly over. As it has been impossible to thrash freely of late the supplies of wheat at the principal markets have again been light, and the bulk in a damp and inferior condition. Such qualities only have been salable at a decline of a shiling per quarter; even then the trade has been slack. The week's imports of foreign wheat into London have again been light. It is noticeable that there were no arrivals from the United States or Canada. The imports for the first five weeks of the cereal year were 3,631,842 cwt., against 7,840,733 cwt. for the corresponding period last year. These facts enforce the opinion that unless America and Russia ship much more freely than of late prices must rise further in order to attract the necessary supplies from abroad. The more serious aspect of the Eastern question for some days has perhaps somewhat influenced buyers. Russia's going to war would doubtless cause considerable excitement in the grain trade, as short shipments of red wheat from America and elsewhere render the Russian supply for the time being our main reliance. The local trade is almost unchanged, buyers and sellers alike awaiting political events. There were very limited arrivals of floating cargoes at all the ports of call during the past week. Red wheats have consequently firmly maintained prices; white advanced a shilling per quarter. Maize, with continued large shipments from America, ruled quiet and unchanged.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Interesting Items from House and Abroad.

Four boilers exploded at the Carbon Hill coal mines, a few miles from Richmond, Va., killing two men and fatally wounding another, besides wrecking a number of buildings. Cold water was introduced into the boilers when they were hot and empty..... The authorities of Savannah have issued an address to their benefactors throughout the Union, thanking them for the munificent help which has been extended to the yellow fever sufferers during their wretchedness; and announcing that no further aid is required..... A $600,000 fire at Louisville, Ky., destroyed the wholesale houses of Hecht & Harris, Davis & Haden, Carson, David & Co., and A. Levy, besides doing great damage to other establishments..... The Indians are still maranding on the plains and killing all whom they can in safety..... The plague broke out among the Servians at Agangiovatz and 318 of them succumbed before the malady ceased..... The owner of Tom Ochiltree has offered to run him against Ten Broeck. The race to be four miles and the stakes $10,000 a side..... Wm. Davidson and Luke Walsh, while wrestling in a New York brewery, fell against the railing about a hatchway, and were precipitated several stories, from which death resulted.

The Society of the Army of the Tennessee held its tenth annual meeting in Washington, presided over by Gen. Sherman. Among the exercises was the unveiling of an equestrian statue erected to the memory of Gen. McPherson..... Wheat has advanced in price on the Chicago market in consequence of the probability of Russia being engaged in the Turkish war..... The health officer of Savannah has published a letter advising people who have left the city not to return at present..... Mrs. Irene House, on trial at Trenton, N. J., for the murder of her husband, the notorious divorce lawyer, was acquitted by the jury..... Hon. Francis P. Blair, one of the political leaders of the past, and father of Montgomery and the late Frank P. Blair, died at Silver Springs, Md., aged eighty-five years. He was the founder of the Washington *Globe* and all his life was a prominent man in the country..... Sitting Bull has had the audacity to send an envoy to one of the agencies to ask permission of the government for his braves to come in and trade for ammunition. The envoy claims to have been in the Custer fight, and says that while the white men fought with the utmost bravery, there was no chance for them, as there were so many Indians on the ground that they could not all participate..... By the loss of the British ship Rydal Hall, near San Francisco, nine of her crew were drowned..... The aggregate vote on the State ticket in Indiana is 433,303, of which Mr. Williams, Dem., received 218,098; Mr. Harrison, Rep., 207,977, and Mr. Harrington, Ind., 12,226. Williams' majority over Harrison is 5,119. The largest Independent vote cast was for Newson, candidate for treasurer of the State, 15,945. The Legislature stands: House—Republicans, fifty-three; Democrats, forty-five; Independents, two. Senate—Republicans, twenty-three; Democrats, twenty-five; Independents, two. The Democratic majority on the Congressional tickets is 7,913. The Republicans elect nine and the Democrats four Congressmen.

The Chinese insurrection is spreading rapidly through various provinces..... The great powers, with the exception of England, coincide with Russia in her demands upon the Porte. England has been sending troops to and strengthening Gibraltar, and is fitting out warships..... A terrific tornado swept over the southern part of Florida, and much damage was undoubtedly inflicted..... James McQuilan, a wealthy young Canadian farmer, was convicted in Toronto of murdering his wife, and was sentenced to be hanged December 21st. The woman's body, when found, was scarcely recognizable on account of the wounds inflicted with a large stone. Her two little children cowered by the side of the remains, their clothing saturated with their mother's blood..... Three more midshipmen have been expelled from the Annapolis academy for refusing to testify in the hazing case. The whole class of fifty students is threatened with expulsion..... The grand jury, sitting at Salem, N. J., found a true bill of murder against James Weeden, Samuel Collyer, John Clarke, Richard Goodwin, and "Fiddler" Neary, the men concerned in the killing of Walker in the prize ring..... The official figures of the Ohio election (excepting Shelby county) give the total vote for Barnes, Republican secretary of State, as 310,259, the Democratic candidate received 303,897; the Prohibitionist, 1,132, Greenback, 4,371. Republican majority, 4,956; plurality, 6,747. The Republicans elected twelve members of Congress and the Democrats eight..... Delaware and Maryland united on a day for State celebration at the Philadelphia exhibition, and the plan proved a grand success. One hundred and seventy-five thousand people were present, being the second largest crowd of the season. The principal feature was the tournament on George's Hill, which was witnessed by fully seventy-five thousand persons. Fifteen knights rode at full speed and endeavored to pick small rings from arches with the points of their lances—a task requiring good horsemanship, a quick eye, and steady nerves. The knight of Delaware was the fortunate contestant, securing eight of the nine rings.

The Witherspoon monument in the Exhibition grounds at Philadelphia was unveiled in the presence of a large crowd. Gov. Bedle, of New Jersey, was the orator..... The single scull race between Brayley and Wallace Ross came off at St. Johns, N. B. The distance was two miles and turn and the stakes $1,000. Ross beat Brayley with ease by five lengths. Time, 28.30..... The report of New Yorks canal engineers shows that the cost of canal engineering during the past year has been $70,151.60 less than the previous year..... Mrs. Ira Baker, of Glen Lock, Pa., while laboring under an aberration of mind, beat in the heads of three of her children, aged two, four and six years, with a club. An infant was found completely covered with a mattress, the object being to smother it. The three children cannot survive..... The trotter Great Eastern has again defeated Smuggler, at Boston. Time, 2:21, 2:24¼, 2:25..... During an altercation in a low lodging house in New York, John Kelly was stabbed to death by Quimbo Appo, a Chinaman, who was arrested. This makes the fourth person he has killed since his arrival in this country—having served in different prisons nearly sixteen years for the crimes..... It is recommended by the German commission that the government grant a subvention to enable German exhibitors to compete at the French exposition.

A hurricane which swept over the West Indies did an immense amount of damage. A number of ships were sunk; but none of them were American. The steamer City of Houston, from New York for Galveston, went ashore, but will be saved..... Two trains collided on the Cheshire (N. H.) railway and an engineer and fireman were killed..... The whaling bark Florence arrived in San Francisco from the North Pacific, having on board 190 men of the crews of twelve whalers abandoned on account of being caught in the floating ice and besides being badly "nipped," with no prospect of release. Others of the crews had gone to Honolulu on the Three Brothers. A large number of men chose remain on the vessels and take their chances of life in preference to a four days' journey over the ice, dragging boats with them, in hopes of finding the Florence and Three Brothers. There is no doubt they will all perish. The abandoned vessels were the barks Onward and Clara Bell, San Francisco; ships St. George and Marengo and barks Cornelius Holland, James Allen and Java, of New Bedford; ship Camilla and barkentine Josephine, of Boston; bark Acors Barnes, New London, and the Hawaiian barks Desmond and Arctic.

..... The single scull race of five miles between Scharff and Evan Morris, at Pittsburgh, was won by Scharff by one length. Time, 35:35..... The Montenegrins have captured Medun..... Indians attacked a wagon train between Forts Fetterman and Laramie, but were repulsed after losing four of their band. The wagonmaster was wounded. Trouble is apprehended at the Red Cloud agency, as none of the braves came for rations on the last distribution day.

The will of Hon. F. O. J. Smith, filed for probate at Portland, Me., leaves $50,000 to the home for aged and indigent mothers, $50,000 to the Cumberland county law library, $10,000 to the New Hampshire historical society, and $10,000 to Phillips academy, Exeter, where he was educated, besides other small bequests..... Dispatches from Bombay give very discouraging prospects of the crops. There has been no rain; everything is drying up, and cattle are dying of starvation. The local government estimates that in three districts alone two hundred thousand people will have to be supported by the authorities..... Thomas Ellis, paying teller of the New York city Park bank, has absconded with $36,000 in greenbacks belonging to the institution. No motive is assigned for the crime, as he did not live a fast life, and his salary of $4,000 was ample for all expenses. A reward of $5,000 is offered for his apprehension..... John H. Schwamb, who shot at his sister in a Union Hill (N. J.) saloon, missing her and killing a man named Bette, was found guilty on trial and has been sentenced to be hanged December 8th..... A six weeks' armistice has been agreed upon between the contending powers in Europe.

Dangerous Inventions.

Many years ago a gentleman in a subordinate department of the Bank of Ireland discovered a device more useful than hair splitting, though of the like nature; he found out a way of splitting bank notes, so that each note became two, and to all appearances were the same as when they were one, including, of course, the watermark and all the rest of it. He was an honest man, and informed the government of the result of his ingenuity; whereupon, on his solemn promise of never revealing his secret, they made him governor of the bank. Another gentleman, but who, unhappily, is a rogue, has lately made his appearance in London; he has invented a certain acid which causes the writing to disappear from the check, and then he fills up the blank space according to his aspirations. His *modus operandi* is the following: He procures a real check, drawn by a good name, for seventeen or nineteen pounds; the word "pounds" is obliterated so completely that no trace of the original writing can be discerned even under the microscope, and the words "hundred pounds" inserted in its place; two ciphers are added to the figures, and then the thing is done, since all the other parts of the document, including the signature, are quite correct. This ingenious plan is causing great consternation in London, and the gentleman who invented it could get a good round sum to retire from business.

Human Footprints.

William Ruick and son, farmers of North Canton, Conn., while engaged in digging a watering place for cattle on their farm, came upon two slabs of light colored sandstone, tearing the strong, clear imprint of a left human foot and two tracks of a gallinaceous bird, the stride of which measures eleven, and the spread of the claws four inches. Four inches is also the distance between the heel of the bird's foot and the end of the middle claw. The finding of these bird tracks in Connecticut sandstone is nothing remarkable of late years, but this is the first vestige of humanity yet discovered. The foot measures eleven inches in length and is well proportioned, except that the inferior toes are unusually long, and the great toe is unusually short. The soil in which these tracks were found is gravelly, evidently a deposit consisting of comminuted clay and fine sand, and the slabs are light colored, thus differing from the Portland brownstone. Mr. Ruick has taken the curiosities to Hartford, and a great crowd was attracted by them. The attention of savans will be at once called to them.

A Compliment to American Industry.

The Grand Niebelungen Orchestra at Bayreuth, under the leadership of Hans Richter and August Wilhelmy, have presented to Richard Wagner a beautiful silver Grand of Messrs. George Steck & Co.'s make, New York, which is not only a high compliment to the well known firm, but also to American industry. This is the same firm that was the recipient of the only Gold Medal for best pianos at the World's fair in Vienna, 1873, and which was also just now awarded the first prize at the Centennial Exhibition, George Steck & Co.'s name being placed at the head of the list of awards for pianos, theirs having again proved to be the finest in tone and of greater durability than all other instruments on exhibition. The Steck pianos stand thus acknowledged before the world as being above all competition, and are therefore preferable to purchasers who wish to secure a strictly first-class and reliable instrument.

A Question Settled.

When fruit trees grow near division lines, and the fruit falls over the fence upon a neighbor's land, the question may be asked: "To which party does the fruit belong?" In England it has been legally decided to belong to the owner of the tree, but he had no right to get it without asking permission, because he would be a trespasser. All he could legally do would be to ask permission to pick up his fruit, and if that be refused, he would be compelled to see it lie and rot. Nor can the other party legally appropriate such fruit to his own use, but he can cut off every limb of his neighbor's trees which hangs over his ground, but he must be careful that he does not cut an inch beyond his line.

Mason & Hamlin Cabinet Organ Declared Best at the Centennial.

Medals and diplomas have been so numerously awarded at the Centennial in Philadelphia that they indicate nothing as to the comparative merits of exhibits. The *Judges' Reports* alone determine rank in excellence. These unequivocally assign to the Mason & Hamlin Organs "the first rank in the several requisites of such instruments," which "is as much," says the New York *Tribune*, "as to say they are the best reed organs exhibited, in all important qualities."

Merchant's Gargling Oil has become one of the most popular liniments that is now prepared. It is, beyond a doubt, the best liniment in the world for diseases alive[illegible]. Its use has not only become general in every State of the Union, but large quantities of this valuable preparation are annually sent to foreign countries.—*The Revolution, N. Y.*

At our request Cragin & Co., of Philadelphia, Pa., have promised to send any of our readers, gratis (on receipt of fifteen cents to pay postage,) a sample of Dobbins' Electric Soap to try. Send at once.

Builders and all who contemplate building should procure a copy of "Atwood's Modern American Homesteads." Price, $3.50. Circular of contents sent to any address by the publishers, A. J. Bicknell & Co., 27 Warren street, New York.

Pimples on the face, rough skin, chapped hands, saltrheum and all cutaneous affections cured, the skin made soft and smooth, by the use of JUNIPER TAR SOAP. That made by Caswell, Hazard & Co., New York, is the only kind that can be relied on, as there are many imitations, made from common tar, which are worthless.—Cons.

Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry.

This standard remedy for the cure of coughs, colds, influenza, bronchitis, hoarseness, asthma, whooping cough, croup, sore throat, diphtheria, difficulty of breathing, quinsy, phthisis, pain in the side and breast, spitting of blood, liver complaint, bleeding of the lungs, and all diseases of the throat, lungs and chest, including even consumption. It seems hardly necessary to dilate at length upon the virtues of this favorite remedy for all diseases of the lungs, throat and chest. It was introduced to the public by Dr. Wistar nearly half a century since, and by the wonderful cures which it performed, gained an immediate and enviable reputation, which to this day is fully sustained. From the gulf of the St. Lawrence to the shores of the Pacific, and in many countries abroad, there are few villages or hamlets without living testimonials" to the rapidity and certainty of its curative effects. The proprietors, mindful of their responsibility to the afflicted, exercise the utmost care in the selection and compounding of the various ingredients of which the Balsam is composed; and the sick are assured that the high standard of excellence on which its popularity is based will always be maintained.

SETH W. FOWLE & SONS, proprietors, Boston.

BURNETT'S COCOAINE is the best and cheapest hair dressing in the world.

FORTUNES FOR ALL.—Agents wanted. Address Bullion Mining Co., 176 Broadway, N.Y.

Steinway's Victory and Laurels.

The following official report of the Judges of Awards, accompanying the Medal, shows conclusively that the *highest honors* in the gift of the Centennial authorities were *unanimously* awarded to STEINWAY & SONS, viz.: "*For greatest concert capacity in Grand pianos, as also highest degree of excellence in all their styles of pianos, viz.: Largest volume, purity and duration of tone, and extraordinary carrying capacity with precision and durability of mechanism; also novel disposition of the strings and construction, and bracing of the metal frame.*"

The report then minutely describes and emphatically indorses the six principal patented improvements which have made the Steinway

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