BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI GENCE AND PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER.

Every farmer in his annual experience Every farmer in his annual experience discovers something of value. Write it and send it to the "Agricultural Editor of the DEMOCRAT, Bellefonte, Penn'u," that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

Moreton Farm Seeds,

As an agricultural writer, perhaps, no man in America is more widely or favorably known than Joseph Harris, the owner and manager of "Moreton Farm." "Walks and Talks on the Farm" have made him seem a personal friend of years standing to thousands of the American Agriculturist's readers, while "Harris on the Pig" is the standard authority for all "Talks on Manures" have attracted the attention and elicited the favorable criticism of the entire agricultural press of the country, and are doing more to lead farmers into right thinking, and right doing in the matter of manures than any other work within our knowledge. But Mr. Harris is not merely a theoretical writer. On the contrary, he is perhaps more practical than any other writer known to the profession. Owning and workwhich he gives daily personal attenimproved stock, and raising for home buildings, which a former owner, use and for sale the best of crops in great variety and perfection, Mr. Harris is nothing if not practical. And now he comes to the front as a seed grower and seed seller. For many years he has grown his own seeds, making selections with great care and excellent judgment, and has from time to time sold such overplus as he could spare to those of his friends who knew and appreciated the excellence of his productions. This part of his farming operations has grown to such proportions that he this year issues a small catalogue, which, like everything else he does or writes, is as original as it is practical. A personal acquaintance and correspondence with Mr. Harris, as well as experience with seeds of his growing, extending over a number of years, warrant us in saying to our readers that they can place implicit reliance upon any statement he makes either in his business correspondence or published catalogue, and that they can buy seeds of him in the perfect assurance that they will be just what they are represented to be-no more and no less. And this is a good deal more than we would like to say of ly, on Sunday morning of last week, some seed dealers of whom we have heard. We append a portion of his preface as a sample of originality and for the agricultural wisdom it teaches:

It is sixteen years to grow seeds. But this is the first year that I have issued a catalogue. I fear it will be a poor one, but I shall try and comfort myself with the reflection that no one will be asked to pay anything for it. I propose to send it free of all the mail to any and all of it. I propose to send it free of all charge, prepaid by mail to any and all of my friends who desire it. I hope my seeds will prove to be fresher and better than my catalogue. I have been an agricultural writer for twenty-nine years. * * * I feel, therefore, that years. * * I feel, therefore, that I am not altogether unknown to the farmers of the United States. * * * I want my friends and correspondents to try my seeds. And I should also esteem it a particular favor if those of my friends who receive this catalogue would the property of the statement of the second section s aid me in distributing it among their neighbors and acquaintances. I pro-pose to sell good fresh seeds at reason-able prices. It may be thought strange that in a catalogue of farm, garden and flower seeds, I should include Cotswold Sheep and Essex Pigs. But I am a farm-

It is sixteen years since I commenced

for my seeds. I do not guarantee the seeds. If I send a farmer a few bushels of six-rowed barley I will not warrant that there may not be a few kernels of two-rowed barley in it, or even an occasional oat. But I will send a sample to any one wishing to examine it, and will guarantee that the barley sent shall be as good as the sample.

I guarantee my seeds to this extent. If they are not what I represent them to be I will refund the money paid for them.

Iron Water Pipes Preferred.

Mr. George B. Calhoun, of Litchfield county, Conn., asks what kind of pipe shall be used to convey water from a spring ninety rods away and twenty feet above his house; shall it be lead or iron? Iron by all means. The use of lead is always dangerous. In cases lead is always dangerous. In cases where a large quantity of water is to be where a large quantity of water is to be conveyed, cast-iron pipes should be used, but an inch pipe will be sufficient for Mr. Calhoun's case. Wrought-iron inch pipe, having screw couplings, can be bought for five cents, or perhaps less, a foot. It comes in lengths of about one rod, and is easily transported and quickly laid in the trench. Much complaint has been made of small wrought-iron pipe because it fills up, and, being thin, rusts away very rapidly. Inch thin, rusts away very rapidly. Inch pipe is as small as should be used, and will last a great length of time, if the Pig" is the standard authority for all outside be protected from the action of intelligent swine-breeders. Later, his "Talks on Manures" have attracted over the sockets that connect an inch pipe and will perfectly protect it from the earth, and make an air chamber around it that will give much protection against frost in cases where the pipe is not buried deep enough to give perfect security. Or the pipe may be surroundsecurity. Or the pred with hydraulic sed with hydraulic cement; a coat an inch thick will protect the pipe, but, having tried both plans, I give preference to the tile. The pipe and tile will hardly cost a dollar a rod at the place where the inquirer lives. A very recent experience, which we

relate below, will deter us from endorsing Mr. Geddes' recommendaing a larger farm, to every detail of tion. On our own farm we have a fine spring, about eighteen feet above tion, breeding upon it the finest of and fifty rods distant from the farm many years ago, brought to the stock vard in wooden pipe. In 1868 a portion of these wooden pipes gave out, and the then owner took them all up, relaying such as were comparatively good at the lower or discharge end of the line, and purchased new ones, of the same sort, for the upper end of the line. We came into possession soon after, and the line worked satisfactorily until the winter of 1875-6, when the old pipe at the lower end gave way entirely. It being inconvenient at that time to procure the wooden ones, we replaced the old lot. during the summer of 1876, with inch wrought-iron pipe, just such as Mr. Geddes describes, connecting it with the new lot laid in 1868, and congratulated ourselves upon the splendid stream we secured in our stockyard and upon the supposed permanence of the job. For the past six months or more the stream discharged from the pipe has been growing "smaller by degrees, and beautifully less," and has required great care during the late severe weather to prevent it from freezing about the spout and stopping entirely. Finalone of the men reported "no water running at the spout." This meant disaster to all our stock for the remainder of the winter, and so doffing our Sunday coat and donning the "regimentals" of the "six days shalt thou labor" part of the week, we detest voted nearly half of the day to a and safety of this plan as well as of its vain search for the cause of the trouble. At last, suspecting the cause, we went up the line to where the iron unites with the wood pipe laid in 1868, dug down to the wood, tapped it, connected a stand-pipe, and were rewarded with a full one and one-

half inch stream,-the size of the bore in the wood pipe. Upon examination, the following day, the iron pipe, which had been in use but little more than two years, and was full one inch inside diameter flower seeds, I should include Cotswold Sheep and Essex Pigs. But I am a farmer as well as a seed grower. Seed growing can be profitable only on land that is clean and rich. I have spent much time and labor in underdraining and killing weeds, and my sheep and pigs have helped to make the land rich. I have fed them well and they have afforded me fair profits and rich manure.

**** Seed growing requires not only much care and patient waiting, but a large amount of labor per acre. This is very costly, and can only be afforded on the best and richest land. In raising ordinary farm crops, it will be readily perceived that those crops which require the greatest amount of labor per acre.

I hope therefore, to be excused for saying a good word for my sheep and swine. They have enabled me to make large piles of manure and these in their turn have enabled me to raise seeds which I hope will prove eminently satisfactory to my customers.

I do not make any extravagant claims when laid, was discovered to be com-

of great importance to many of Cen- hope for a cure. The authorities, tre county's farmers, and for their prominent among whom are Quinn

the very excellent and practical advice given by Mr. Geddes to Mr. Sutton:

Sutton:

The case of Mr. Sutton, as he will have but little head of water, admits of something better than the inch gas-pipe. He can buy * * * tile, inch and a half caliber, for \$10 per M—just a cent each. Thirteen will lay a rod, and a bushel of water-lime with good sand will make the mortar to lay these tiles in for that distance, and so surround them that they will form a tight pipe. The important thing to be remembered is, the tiles must be wet thoroughly by soaking in water before they are laid, and thus swelled to their greatest diand thus swelled to their greatest di-mensions. The cement can be spread along the bottom of the trench, say one inch deep, for a few feet; the tile placed end to end, and the joints poin ted and allowed to set a little, the inside cleaned out as each joint is made by a scraper, which is simply a stiff wire having a piece of sheet iron properly shaped on one end. Having thus placed five or six tiles, commence covering with the cement and pressing it firmly around the tiles till the work is finish ed. Do not cover this pipe, except to shade it by boards or the like, until the water has been let in and proof made that there are no leaks. The advan-tages of such a pipe are its small cost, its large and smooth caliber (a 14-inch pipe has 21 times the capacity to carry water that an inch pipe has), and final ly its durability and perfect freedom from any mineral matter taken from its own substance.

I have never seen a pipe too large, but I have seen many too small. Though Mr. Sutton may not have water Though Mr. Sutton may not have water enough to fully tax an inch and a half pipe with the declivity he states, yet he will find that such a pipe will be much less liable to be obstructed by sediment or anything else; and if a frog should happen to find its way in to such a pipe he will most likely go through. In taking the water from the spring it is important to draw it through a fine sieve, that the water must rise up to pass through, and there must be some depth of water below the sieve to take care of any deposit that may form in the spring. any deposit that may form in the spring. Do not draw the water either from the surface or bottom of the spring, thus avoiding the introduction into the pipe of either surface or bottom filth. This easily done by using a short piece of pipe made of metal or wood that turns down at the end, say one foot, and is enlarged at the lower end to many pipe made of metal or times the diameter of the pipe, and the end covered with a sheet of copper punched full of holes. A common house funnel gives the form, if we only cover the large end with the perforated sheet, and make the whole thing of sheet copper. Such a device can be in-serted into the lower side of a common pump log, from which it can be readily withdrawn, cleaned and repaired, and will last many years.

Coal Oil vs. Hen Lice.

We give the following statement of a writer in the Tribune the endorsement of our own experience. Our own plan is to use smooth, halfround poles, made from pine wood, and at least three inches wide, and tack a strip of woolen rag on the top. This is saturated once a month, or oftener, with coal oil, and we are never troubled with lice:

"My hens, hennery and nests of set not seen one of the parasites on my premises since. I first tore out the premises since. I first tore out the round poles with bark on used for roosts, round poles with bark on used for roosts, and put in basswood strips 1½x2 inches rounding the corners a little and saturated them with refined petroleum (common lamp oil), burned up all my nestling boxes and straw, sprinkled the oil all over the floor and sides of the hennery, got new nesting boxes and put about one inch of sawdust in the bottom and sprinkled some oil on it, then put in clean straw on top; this I continue to do every Spring before nesting time. I also saturated the perch three or four times a year with oil, and I have not seen a hen-louse since. This six years' test has satisfied me of the certainty cheapness and ease of application.

Pear Blight.

COLLEGE, Feb. 24th, 1879. MESSRS. EDITORS :- Having noticed that part of your paper was devoted to agricultural topics, I thought it would be a good place to gain information concerning some points relating to the above, either through you or your subscribers. Several years ago I had planted quite a number of fine pear trees which grew exceedingly well for a number of years, but during the last two summers they have suffered greatly from ome disease. Its first approach is notice in the outer leaves of the branches, which become blacked and wither, as if there was not sufficient moisture; but rapidly spreads over all the tree, giving it the appearance of having been burnt by fire. The stem omes cracked and has a brown feathery substance on the bark. Tree after tree was effected in the same way, and notwith standing all I did, the trees could not be saved. Having tried everything that ha been recommended, with no success, I resort to your paper as a last hope. I belive the cause is not fully known, but should say, my notice, that it was caused by the heat of the sun's rays immediately after a rain

Our correspondent's trees are evidently suffering from the dread "blight," and we regret that we can offer him but little encouragement to

for prevention is to so treat the trees as to secure a vigorous growth early in the season, though this is by no means sure. It seems to be universally conceded, however, by our most experienced pomologists that after the disease has made its appearance there is but little encouragement to attempt a cure, and that the best that remains to be done is to prevent its spread by the prompt and energetic use of the saw and pruning-knife. Quinn says, "Our plan has been the instant any tree showed signs of being affected, to saw or cut off the branches or main stem, six or eight inches below where the disease appeared." Barry says, "When the pear tree is attacked, it is difficult to save it, the disease spreads so rapidly. The only remedy is, to cut away instantly the blighted parts, into the sound wood, where there is not the slightest trace of the disease, and burn them up immediately."

Egg-shells for Laying Hens.

Many people who keep fowls know that a laying hen requires lime in some form to furnish the shells for her eggs. Ground bone, oyster shells, mortar, rubbish, etc., are recommended and used by many for this pur-These articles are all good, but the broken or ground oyster shell is the best, as well as the cheapest of Some recommend and use the shells of eggs that have been used in cookery as a part of the bill of fare for the hens; others condemn the practice of feeding the shells. The first objection is that it will teach the hens to eat eggs, some claiming that their hens acquire the vice of eggeating through the practice of throwing them the shells from the kitchen. This vice might be learned by the hens if the refuse shells are thrown to them whole. When they are given to the hens they should be broken into small pieces and mixed with other feed, or put into a box with other similar lime-giving material.

Another objection is that the shell is a product of secretion, and having once passed through the system of the hen is a waste product and cannot be utilized again. "After a thing has once gone through the system, says a Massachusetts man, "it is use-The contents of the shell, as well as the shell itself, have gone through the system of the hen, and are they therefore useless? Milk is a secretion from the cow; is it use-Hardly. Bones and oyster shells are formed by processes of secretion, but they are not condemned as useless because they have once passed through living organisms.— No more should egg-shells be con-

Therefore, instead of burning them, as is the practice of many, or throwing them into the swill tub, where ting hens became so infested with they are a nuisance, break them into as to drive the hens from the nests, and fresh-laid eggs would have lice crawling on them. That was in 1873, and I have into the box containing other limeproducing food, and thus utilize instead of wasting them.

Flesh as a Fertilizer.

I was recently shown a grape vine that promises to cover one side of the Scottsville, N. Y., flour mill. The proprietor stated that the original owner drove to Rochester forty years ago with the hams of 20 sheep, but fancying the price offered too low, brought them home and hung them in the attic. A few years since the present owner found ye olden mutton still unmarketed and ordered it buried at a proper distance from the vine that now displays such remarkable vigor. Diseased animals are often used as a fertilizer with satisfactory results, being quartered and buried near fruit trees and vines. This distance at which the roots of trees will receive such nourishment is dwarfs from 10 to 15 feet, with stand. ard apples 50 to 100 feet or somefarther depending on age and

How Nurserymen Make Farming Pay.

Messrs. Smith & Powell, of Syracuse Nursery, have given us the measurement of a crop of beets raised in 1876 on one acre of land. The variety is know as the yellow ovoid. The ground was the yellow dvold. The ground was thoroughly sub-soiled and well taken care off. The crop weighed 118,400 lbs., or about fifty-nine tons, or at sixty lbs. per bushel would amount to 1,973 bushels. Sucwould amount to 1,973 bushels. Successful nurserymen who know that a deep, well prepared soil is the best for trees, often furnish some of the finest specimens of profitable farming, in the heavy crops which they obtain from vacant portions of their land, which should encourage farmers to give up superficial and adopt thorough culture.

An owl nesting in a gentleman's garden destroyed during fourteen days more than 200 field mice, by actual count, "besides a large number of dung-beetles—the wing-cases of which were found scattered on the

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Leaves Show Shoe 7.30 A. M., arrives in Bellefonts 9.20 A. M.
Leaves Bollefonte 10.20 A. M., arrives at Show Shoe 11.57 A. M.
Leaves Bhow Shoe 2.42 P. M., arrives in Bellefonte 4.12 P. M.
Leaves Bellefonte 4.55 P. M., arrives at Show Shoe 6.27 P. M.
DANIEL RHOADS,
General Superintendent. BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAIL-

Vail
Bald Eagle
Hannah
Port Matilda
Martha
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FAST LINE leaves Philadelphia.

"Harrisburg.....
"Williamsport....
"arrives at Lock Haven....

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PAST LINE leaves Williamsport
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