

NANTUCKET OUT OF SEASON.

In May the cod fishermen are in possession, and it was to have a view of the fishery that we drove out. On the wide beach under the bluff, perhaps a score of narrow, sharp pointed dories were drawn up. Four more we saw rising and falling on the swells outside the line of breakers. "They are coming," said our friend as he hastened down to see the operation. A horse attached to a fish cart stood on the sand where a dozen bronzed and sturdy fishermen were watching the incoming boats.

Codfish strike in here between the middle and last of April, the pollock a little later. They are caught with hook and line, though on the south shore some trawls are set. The bait used is the long clam, which has to be brought from Tuckermuck and Muskeget islands, which lie to the westward of Nantucket. Gathering them forms the business of quite a number of the toilers who build little shanties on the islands and live there for days, digging clams between tides. By the time we have learned this the foremost boat has reached the breakers, and we watch anxiously to see how the boatman would get through without being swamped. Both skill and strength are required to effect this.

The oarsman balanced his boat on the swells just outside the line of breakers and waited till the biggest one of the "three brothers" came towering on, when he rode triumphantly in on its crest, being carried far up the strand where his waiting fellows seized the boat and ran it up beyond the reach of succeeding waves. The second and third did equally well, but the fourth miscalculated and the prow of his boat dashed into the sand and was held in the midst of the surf. In a moment the succeeding wave pounded upon it, filled it and swept man, boat, fish and oars far up the beach. The man, however, gathered up the scattered cargo, and emptied the dory by turning her over, and soon had her out of the waves' reach. Sometimes, in coming through the surf, the boats are thrown end over end.

The dories contain from twenty to thirty large cod and pollock, with an occasional ugly skate or big-mouthed sculpin. The cart is backed down to the boats, the cod and pollock are thrown in and carried to the cleaning and pickling room, where, after being dressed and salted, they are dried on flakes in the sun, and marketed. Very little fresh fish is exported from the island, but the cured fish has the highest reputation of any in the market.

MEDICAL SCIENCE IN CHINA.—The Chinese have a medical literature of a kind, but they know nothing about even the elementary principles of anatomy and physiology. A Chinaman who wishes to become a doctor does not go through any training or spend money in buying a practice; he has only to purchase a pair of spectacles and gather some herbs, a few spiders and some snakes, which he places in bottles in the window of his shop. The bottles are his advertisement; they tell all who are in need of healing to come to him. His favorite prescription is a horrible pill, compounded of parts of snakes, wasps, centipedes, toads, and scorpions, ground small and mixed with honey. Another pill, supposed to be of extraordinary efficacy in cases of extreme weakness, is made of the bones of tigers. The belief in its merit is based on this strange piece of reasoning. "The tiger is very strong; the bone is the strongest part of the animal—therefore a pill of this must be pre-eminently strengthening." These facts speak eloquently as to the state of medical science in China. The lamentable consequences is an excessive mortality. It is calculated that 33,000 die daily, and this number is of course largely increased during the epidemic, which is no uncommon visitor.

The Revenue Commission.

CRENSON SPRINGS, Pa., August 22.—All the members of the Commission but two were present to-day, and the work performed covered almost the entire bill under one of two phases finally to be adopted. Nearly eight hours were consumed in the deliberations. Every section of the bill reported by the sub-committee except the sections relating to private bank-

ers was considered and adopted after some alterations had been made. The section taxing the bonds of corporations was restored so as to read as it was in the bill of 1887 which failed. A lively discussion preceded its adoption, and it required a count to decide as follows: Yeas—Messrs. Graham, Connell, Smith, Boyer, Keifer, Cooper, Faunce, Niles, Leeds, and Norris—10. Nays—Messrs. Wolverton, Palmer, Hedrick, Newmeyer, Findley and Foote—6. The tax on capital stock was raised from 3 to 4 mills, and the tax on gross receipts was raised to 12 mills on traffic wholly within the State. As thus amended the bill is the same as the one reported by the Atlantic City committee. Any perjury on the part of officers of corporations or limited partnerships in making returns is made subject to a penalty of \$500 fine and seven years imprisonment. Conspiracy between assessors and officers of corporations is subject to a penalty of \$1000 fine and three years imprisonment. Corporations will be required hereafter to make annual reports to the Auditor. General of any changes of officers.

Section 24 requires all corporations and limited partnerships to pay a tax on surplus profits undivided among the stockholders in addition to a tax on dividends or appraised value of stock. To-morrow the features of the bill as proposed by Attorney General Palmer's amendment—the taxing of corporations on a property valuation, using bonds and stock as a basis, instead of taxation on dividends and appraised value of stock—will be discussed and a section framed in harmony therewith.

—The great event of the session among farmers, manufacturers, stockraisers and fruit growers is the Interstate Picnic Exhibition at Williams' Grove, Pennsylvania, which opens August 29th and continues during the entire week. The number of applications for exhibition space, the number of tents rented and the mass of mail matter daily received at the General Manager's office give abundant proof of the popularity of this meeting and its unequalled success. Improvements are being made, new buildings are being erected and the grounds beautified and made still more attractive.

A French Duel

That was a sensational duel fought in Paris in 1815, between the Bonapartists Colonel Barbier-Dufal and a young captain of the Royal Guard.

The two adversaries were put into a coach together so that only the right arm of each was left free, and in each right hand was placed a long, keen dagger. Then the doors of the coach were closed, and before being opened again it was, according to the terms of the duel, driven deliberately three times around the Place Carrousel. The seconds sat on the box, in the coachman's place.

When the doors were opened the young captain was found dead, pierced by many deep wounds. Colonel Dufal was in little better plight, having received three terrible thrusts in the breast, and his whole left cheek having been torn off by the teeth of his adversary.

Nevertheless, the tough old colonel got well, and even before he was cured fought two more duels, one with Colonel St. Morys, and the other with Gen. Montlegier, in each case gravely wounding his man and himself escaping unharmed.

BIRDS THAT HELP THE FARMER.

The material is largely in hand in the newly organized division of economic ornithology of the department of agriculture for a series of bulletins upon the relations of several common species of birds in this country to agriculture. Dr. C. H. Merriam, the head of the division, places the English sparrow as chief of the pests which threaten destruction to the valuable branches of agriculture. This bird, which was imported for the protection of shade trees from caterpillars, etc., has multiplied to such an extent as to become a greater scourge than the one it was expected to counteract. The new territory which it invades is estimated at more than 130,000 square miles annually, and its destruction of fruit is almost incomputable. The bobolink of the north is found to be helpful to grain growers, as it lives upon field insects and the seeds of destructive weeds, but in the south its ravages in the

rice fields are estimated to cost the planters from \$3,000,000 to 4,000,000 annually. Dr. Merriam says that ornithologists are convinced that the services of hawks and owls are of great value to farmers. Not more than three out of upward of thirty different species prey upon domestic fowl, and even these more than remunerate the farmer by killing field mice. The other species live entirely upon field mice, grasshoppers, beetles and other vermin which are great destroyers of grain. The crow has received considerable attention from the doctor and his correspondent, but the evidence in hand is not sufficient to warrant a verdict. So far as it goes it creates impression in its favor. It is a corn thief to be sure, but its pilferings may be guarded against, while on the other hand it destroys some kind of field vermin in great numbers, to say nothing of its work as a scavenger.

CLEANING CHIMNEYS.—A simple and effectual way to clean out chimneys, and also to remove clinkers from stoves and furnace grates, is to burn a piece of zinc about the size of one's hand. The soot in the chimney is converted into fine white ashes, which rise and are carried off like smoke. What chemical action takes place in case of the clinkers we do not explain, but can testify from experience as to their thorough removal by throwing a small piece of zinc on the fire.—*Congregationalist.*

BUTTERMILK AS A DRINK.—A great physician once said that if every one knew the value of buttermilk as a drink it would be more freely partaken of by persons who drink so excessively of other beverages, and further compare its effects upon the system to the cleaning out of a cook stove that is clogged up with ashes that has sifted through, filling every crevice and crack, saying that the human system is like the stove, and collects and gathers refuse matter that can in no way exterminate from the system so effectually as by drinking buttermilk. It is also a remedy for indigestion, soothes and quiets the nerves, and is very somnolent to those who are troubled with sleeplessness. Its medical qualities cannot be overrated, and should be freely used by all who can get it. Every one who values good health should drink buttermilk every day in warm weather and in tea, coffee and water alone. For the benefit of those who are not already aware of it, I may add that in the churning of it, the first process of digestion is gone through, making it one of the easiest and quickest things to digest. It makes gastric juice, and contains properties that really assimilate with it, with a very little wear upon the digestive organs.

The telescope was an accidental discovery. The children of a Dutch spectacle maker, named Lippershey, were playing with some of their father's glasses before his door, setting them this way and that, and peeping through them in turns, for fun, when, by a certain accidental arrangement of the glasses, they were surprised to see the spire of the distant church brought to all appearance, close to their eyes. The spectacle maker was called to witness the phenomenon, and was filled with a strange delight with what he saw. He from this set about the construction of the telescope, and when it was finished, took the instrument to Galileo, who improved upon it, and astonished the Doge and the nobles of Venice by one day presenting it to their wondering eyes to look through.

FARM NOTES.

WATERING HORSES.—The present system of watering is surely capable of improvement. The prevailing idea seems to be that a horse is like a bean, only fit to be used when every particle of moisture has been extracted from it. Comparatively few grooms give horses as much water as they will drink, simply, as it would appear, because they are opposed to *ad libitum* treatment itself, for, though niggardly with the water, they often keep hay in the rack all day. If there be no danger of a horse over eating, why should over drinking be apprehended? Some years ago there was a movement in favor of the plan of letting horses have water before them at all times, except, of course, when they came in hot. Some persons who

gave the experiment a fair trial affirmed that horses so treated drank less in the course of the day than those watered from a bucket at stated intervals, and our own experience coincides with theirs. Nor is there anything irrational in this, while the advantages of the system seem self-evident. Our horses are fed on dry and consequently thirst-producing food. Moreover a horse with water always before him is never unfit for work at any moment, whereas the horse watered only at feeding times can never be used until sometime after the bucket has gone around.

To pack butter for long keeping, first make perfectly good butter. Then procure new white oak tubs tightly put together. Scald them thoroughly and then steep them with clean brine and rinse them with clear water. Dust the inside with fine salt and immediately pack the butter in the tub as soon as it has been finally worked. Pack in a layer of about four inches at once, and press it down firmly, leaving no air spaces. Drain off any water that may be pressed out of the butter, and sprinkle a little salt over the layer; then pack down another, and so on until the tub is full within a quarter of an inch of the top. Spread over the butter a clean muslin cloth previously soaked with brine and one inch larger each way than the top of the tub; press it down closely on the butter, leaving no air under it; and close to the edge of the tub; cover it with fine dry salt, pressing this close to the tub all round, and turn the edge of the muslin over it; then press down the cover and tighten the hoops or nail it firmly; putting four bands of tin over the edge to keep it tight and safe. The tub should be weighed inst. before the butter is put in and the weight, with one pound added for salt, should be marked on the cover. It is weighed again when finished and the weight then is marked over the other figures—the difference is the net weight of the butter.

FATTENING STEERS.—Hon. Columbus Delano, of Ohio, has a model farm near Mt. Vernon. The Michigan Farmer says: It is his system to buy steers two years old past, in the summer or fall of the year, and as there is a large amount of straw from the grain grown on the farm, the steers are wintered at the straw stack until about the middle of March, when they are fed cut hay and meal until grass gets a good start. During the summer they get a good growth, are stall-fed until the next mid-winter and sold, usually weighing 1,600 to 1,700 pounds per head, and bring from \$50 to \$75 per head more than first cost. Stall-feeding of cattle is not the business here; this is mentioned to show their method of converting their straw and coarse feed into manure.

EARLY TOMATOES.—To grow early tomatoes, says M. Milton, we must keep them growing slowly from the time the seeds vegetate until they are set in the open ground. This done by frequent transplanting in cold frames, always increasing the distance apart each time, being also careful that they are not set into the garden until the soil is warm enough for them to go on growing without any check; also that the position for them be sheltered, having a south or east exposure.

WOODLANDS.—The first step should be to move all worthless varieties, and to encourage the valuable sorts to take their place. Stock should not be allowed to run in wood lots for purpose of forage; there should be a careful guard against fire; seeds should be planted in vacant places of such varieties as are most desirable; shoot of inferior varieties should be kept down, and valuable sorts should be trimmed up so that they may grow tall, forming trunk rather than branches.

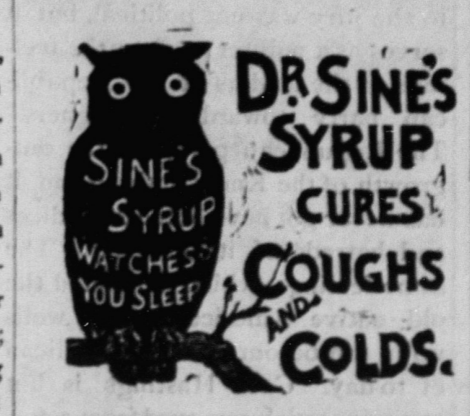
A cow which receives every day at morning, noon and night, an ordinary waterpailful of water, slightly warmed and salted; in which bran has been stirred at the rate of one quart to two gallons of water, will give five per cent more milk immediately under the effects of this drink; and she will become so attached to it as to refuse to drink clear water, unless very thirsty. But this mess she will take at any time, and wish for more.

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