

**Agricultural Department**

**DOES GRAIN DEGENERATE—Why not?** Our scientists tell us that after all there is not so much difference between animal and vegetable life as some think. We know that even in our generation a hardy corn will deteriorate, and that three or four generations of such treatment will dwarf and decrease any race of animals. It is not probable that under the same or similar circumstances grain will deteriorate in any way in quantity but in quality? No one will deny that such treatment will decrease the yield of the crop, but will deny that it will either injure the vitality of the seed or in any way affect the crop produced from this seed? If the crop is supplied with the proper kind of food, properly worked and cared for, we do not believe it will deteriorate any more than in the wild. We know of instances where the same corn has been cultivated for thirty years on the same farm, and still so far from deteriorating has increased in production and value. It is a firm belief with many (and fast) that an early sowing of corn (and other crops) that seed taken from a thin barren soil, and planted in a rich and productive one, will produce better than seed which has grown there for several generations.

**SHADE TREES.**—The setting of shade trees along both sides of the roads in the farming districts is often advocated by the rural press, as a means of increasing the value of farms, in consequence of the wisdom of such a step when the trees become large. There is no mistake in this opinion; and farmers would do well to club together and set maples, elms, etc., along their farms, and set them in the high ways. Suppose that a farm extends on the road 100 rods, fifty trees would suffice for that distance; and the trees can be procured in many places for 50 cents each, about three inches in diameter, and 10 or 12 feet high. None smaller should be set, as trees of this size of walking can, as are often planted, grow very slow, and seldom flourish in the high ways. Set them in straight rows of good size and straight, and trust no one to set them by the job, unless you want half to die, and the remainder to drag along a sickly life. The trees should be set in the spring, the best time for setting, being digging them up, the tops cut back, holed (up large, and good rich soil piled in around the roots, if it has to be brought from another locality, as it doesn't pay to slight such work.

**DRIVING SWEET CORN.**—Sweet corn may be dried and cooked in the winter and spring, and be almost as good as the corn fresh from the garden. In the first place, pick that which is in good condition for use. Then, put it in a kettle, and seal by boiling about five minutes; then as soon as cold cut it from the cobs, put it on plates, and dry it in the oven; then put into paper bags, and it will keep until ready to cook. Another way is described by a lady as follows: "The corn is gathered at the most suitable state for boiling, not too old and not too green; a thin slice is taken off all around the outside, and the ears with sharp knife, taken off from every kernel. Then with the back of the knife the ears are scraped, taking out all the inside of the kernels, and leaving the skins and hulls on the cobs. The milk may be then spread out on plates, and dried in a quick oven, but not so hot as to scorch it. After it is nearly dried it is put into the muslin bags, and hung up around the stoves until thoroughly dry.

**GOOD ADVICE.**—The Maine Farmer says: "First enrich all the ground you can, and while you are at it, enrich it well. Then plant what you can take good care of, and no more. If it is really too poor, sow a crop of 'the other half acre.' If you try to smother weeds with what you will learn that 'two can play at that game.' Plant your wheat last, and then sow your corn, and then your crop for a crop is like extra feed for an animal. It gives that increased yield that makes the operation pay. Here in Maine we do not work large fields enough to make it profitable, to give weeds at good price as we do the crop by half hocking both; advice from New York to the contrary, notwithstanding. Whether you plant one or two acres of corn plant beans and then sow your corn, and then your crop will get good when the corn does, do not think it need to, or often does, make half the difference in the yield of corn that the Farmer called it, and as for the butter, it is our business to be both good and profitable. It is the brothers that make the difference between profit and loss."

**TO PRESERVE WATERMELON RIND.**—Pare off the thin green rind, cutting into pieces of fancy shapes. If you wish to color them, use a little green, line your porcelain kettle first with vine-leaves, then cover each layer of rind with a little pulverized alum; lay vine-leaves on top three or four thick, pour on cold water, just enough to cover the rind; closely cover the top of the kettle, let them steam, (but not come to a boil), for two or three hours; when they are as green as you like, throw away the leaves and plant the rind in cold water; let it remain four hours; cover the water every hour. To every pound and a quarter of sugar allow two cups of water. Boil and skim until no more scum rises, then put in the rind, and let it become gently nearly an hour; skim out the rind, spread it on dishes, and let it stand in the sun until it becomes firm and almost cold; then let it simmer near a gallon and let it become nearly a gallon of lemon and a strip of ginger root for every pound of rind; let it boil in the syrup until it thickens. Pack the rind nicely in jars, and pour the syrup over it, and seal it up when cool. This is a very handsome-looking sweet-meat.

**A HORSE, no matter how vicious and obstinate he may be when attempts are made to shag him, can be tamed and made manageable, by making him inspire during the operation a few grains of the ethereal oil of parsley dropped on a handkerchief. A large number of trials of this method have been made with the most troublesome and violent animals, and in every case with perfect success.**

**Educational Department**

**Mr. Alvord handed us the following communication. We venture an opinion. It was misplaced, or it would have been answered before:**

**CONVENIENT NEW ARRANGEMENT.**  
The demand for a GROCERY STORE in a convenient location has induced us to enlarge our store and supply ourselves with a full line of CHOICE FAMILY GROCERIES.

**CHOICE FAMILY GROCERIES**  
PURCHASED FOR CASH, and which will be sold as low as the same quality can be purchased anywhere.

**CHOICEST BRANDS OF FAMILY FLOUR.**  
All goods delivered free of charge in the borough.

**BAKING BUSINESS,**  
And our customers can procure FRESH BREAD, FRESH BISCUIT, ROLLS, CAKES, AND PIES.

**FRESH BREAD, FRESH BISCUIT, ROLLS, CAKES, AND PIES.**  
Every day, as usual.

**FILLING ORDERS FOR PISTONS AND PARTS A SPECIALTY.**  
One Door North of Ward House.

**WHOLESALE & RETAIL**  
Dealers in CHOICE FAMILY GROCERIES, COUNTRY PRODUCE, GRAIN, & C.

**Watches, Jewelry, &c.**

**WATCHEs, JEWELRY, SILVER WARE, &c.**  
The jewelry department is now open for business.

**FINE AMERICAN AND SWISS GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES,**  
and FINE JEWELRY.

**STERLING SILVER AND SILVER PLATED WARE,**  
CLOCK, FROM THE CHEAPEST TO THE BEST.

**SPECTACLES & EYE GLASSES.**  
One door north of Dr. Porter & Son's Drug Store, Main Street.

**TOWANDA, PA.,**  
JANUARY 7th, 1877.

**NEW JEWELRY STORE,**  
W. A. ROCKWELL.

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**  
AND SHEET MUSIC.

**SILVER PLATED WARE, GOLD AND PLATED SETS, AND RINGS,**  
CLOCKS, and everything in the line, which will be sold at the LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES.

**Medical Instruments.**

**THE HIGHEST HONORS**  
CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION!

**DR. H. C. PORTER'S**  
OLD CASH DRUG STORE.

**DRUGS AND MEDICINES**  
Sole Agents for the Centennial Exhibition.

**WINDOW AND PICTURE GLASS,**  
PURE LINSEED OIL, PUTTY, AND VARNISH.

**READY MIXED PAINTS**  
OF ANY DESIRED COLOR.

**PUBLIC NOTICE.**  
I have a few more of the same quality of the best of the kind.

**THE WONDERFUL EFFECTS OF ELECTRO SILICON**  
I had a perfect cure of my fingers, which were bent and stiff.

**ELECTRO SILICON**  
I had a perfect cure of my fingers, which were bent and stiff.

**Drugs and Medicines.**

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