The Bloomfield Cimes.

Tuesday, February 28, 1871.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

How to Raise Sweet Potatoes.

A correspondence of Hearth and Home gives the following method of raising these plants:

About the 10th of April, for the latitude of Missouri, procure as many bushels of the seed potatoes as you wish to grow, and make a hot-bed of fresh stable manure, about three feet in depth, and large enough to receive the potatoes. Over this put four inches of rich soil and sand, in about equal parts. Let it remain a few days until the first heat passes off. Then place your potatoes on the top, side and side, and cover them with similar soil and sand two inches, and in a few days water gently. Keep some plank convenient to lay over the bed at night and during cool or rainy days. The rain must not be permitted to fall on the bed. After the plants show themselves water (not cold) should be applied every evening about sunset. Care must be ta-ken not to let the hot manure burn the potatoes; which can be prevented by occasionally running a stick down the bottom of the bed in several places, thus permitting the accumulated heat to pass of more readily. When the plants are large enough to "draw," water the bed thoroughly. The operation is performed by placing the fingers of one hand around the plant you wish to remove, pressing the earth down while you draw wit's the thumb and forefinger of the other hand. This will keep the potato from coming up also, and the tuber will, in a short time furnish other plants equally as good as the first, and so on "until the potato is exhausted." Plant the slips as soon after drawing as convenient, and if the ground is not wet, make it so by pouring water into the bole you make for the

The Great Farmer of Illinois.

The following statistics of the immense farms of Mr. John T. Alexander the great farmer and stock dealer of Morgan County, Ill., will be found highly in-teresting. Number of acres of improved lands on his farms, 34,000; number of acres of unimproved lands, 300; total number of acres of improved lands, 300; total number of acres of land, 34, 300. Aggregate value of lands, 1, 685, 000; value of implements in use on his farms \$50,000; amount paid for wages during the past year to hands employed on his farms, \$76,800. Number of live stock on his farms, 90 mules, 50 cows, 150 horses, 200 oxen, and 7,000 other cettle and 7,000 horses. Total value of cattle, and 700 hogs. Total value of live stock, \$536,900. Product of his farms in 1869, 277,500 bushels corn, 7,000 bushels wheat, 8,000 bushels oats 2,000 bushels rye, 1,000 bushels potatoes, 34,000 tons hay. Value of animals sold on his farms during the past year, \$493,-400. Mr. Alexander has two farms-one of near 8,000 acres, in Morgan County, twelve miles east of Jacksonville, upon which he resides; and the other of about 27,000 acres, in Champaign County, Ill., In addition to his vast business as a farmer, Mr. Alexander buys sheep and sells as dealer over 50,000 head of cattle annually.

Coating for Outside Walls.

The following coating for rough brick walls is used for painting lighthouses, and it effectually prevents moisture from striking through: Take of fresh Rosendale cement three parts, and of clean, fine sand one part; mix with fresh water thoroughly. This gives a gray or granite color, dark or light, according to the color of the cement. If brick color is desired, add enough venetian red to the mixture to produce the color. If a very light color is desired, lime may be used with the cement and sand. Care must be taken to have all the ingredients well mixed together. In applying the wash the wall must be wet with clean fresh water; then follow immediately with the cement wash. This prevents the bricks from absorbing the water from the wash too rapidly, and gives time for the cement to set. The wash must be well stirred during the application. The mixture is to be made as thick as can be applied conveniently with a whitewash brush. It is admirably suited for brickwork, fences, etc., but it cannot be used to advantage over paint or whitewash.

Hints on Horse Flesh. As five years are required for the completion of the bone structure of the horse it is important that he be carefully used until that age. If he is early overworked the ligaments which unite his one hundred and thirty bones are prevented from becoming sufficiently fixed to the frame. and he is dwarfed, and wears out or dies long before reaching the full twenty-five years which should be the average duration of his life and vigor. The muscles of a fine horse ought to be thick and very long; thickness ensures strength, and length, extended sweep of limb.

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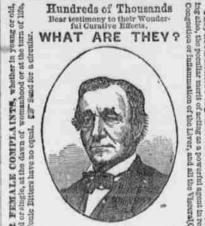
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Mr. Grier also paid John Pettinger \$80, his in-surance policy in full, which was on a norse that deel last Saturday, and was insured in the Penn-sylvania Cattle Insurance Company, of Potts-

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