The Bloomfield Times.

Tuesday, January 23, 1872.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

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

Pruning Trees.

The controversy concerning the right time of pruning fruit trees appears to be endless, although a little observation would obviate all controversy. Let any one cut off a branch of a maple in late winter or early spring, and he will see a great and continous flow of sap before the buds burst, which will saturate the bark all down the side of the tree below the cut branch. What occurs in the maple occurs, though in a less degree, in other trees, and the main branches and stems of many a great tree have a blacke ned and dead side under the wound made by cutting off a considerable branch. If only twigs are cut off, the consequences are, of course, scarcely preceptible. On the other hand, if a branch of a maple is cut off after the buds have expanded, there is no flow of sap, and the wound is rapidly encircled by a new growth of bark, which gradually extends till in two or three years it is covered over, and this will occur in all other healthy trees pruned at the same time. Fall pruning after the year's growth is over does not give the wounds an opportunity of healing before the frost, which cannot be good for them, and pruning in Winter is even more liable to same objection. Pruning in early Spring is probably worst of all; but pruning in May, when the vital powers are in the greatest activity to heal wounds, and the whole growth of the year is ahead, is evidently the best time. The next best time is July—just before the second growth. At either of these seasons, also, it is more obvious what should be cut. There should never have been any controversy as to the best time of pruning, and there never would have been, but that gardeners have nothing else to do in Winter and early Spring, and a great deal to do in May and July. They had better, however, do nothing in Winter, than spoil trees.

Preserring Eggs.

There seems to be a great diversity of opinion about packing eggs for preservation. As we have given the mode of several readers who think their manners the best, we clip the following from the New York *Observer* of a recent date, giving its experience: "The most convenient and satisfactory way to keep eggs fresh that we have ever tried, is to punch numerous holes in a tin pail, fill it with fresh eggs, lower the pail with the eggs into a kettle of melted tallow which is as hot as can be without burning one's finger when thrust into the liquid; then lift the pail out quickly, and the melted tallow will flow out, leaving a thin coating over every egg. Let the eggs be removed as soon as possible from the pail, and be placed on the ends in a keg or barrel, which should be kept in a cool cellar until wanted for use. We have kept eggs in this manner more than six months, so fresh that expert judges supposed that they were fresh. As the eggs are so much colder than the melted tallow, a thin pellicle of cold tallow will be formed almost instantly, which will render the shell impervious to air."

Farming as a Business.

A man who is not smart enough to run a store, is not smart enough to run a farm. Farmers are not to be made of what is left after lawyers, doctors, ministers, and merchants are sorted and picked out. And if a man fails on a farm, it is not very likely he will suceed in a store, for it requires more talent to be a thriving farmer than an average merchant. The cause of great failure is the disproportion between a man's farm and his capital. A farmer's capital is skill, labor, and his money. If he has a little cash, he must have no more land than he can thoroughly manage by his personal labor. Every acre beyond this is an incumbrance. One acre well worked is more profitable than twenty acres skimmed over. It is this greed of land by farmers that have not the capital to work it that keeps so many poor. Small farms are better than large ones, simply because they are better suited to the capital of common farmers. Large farmers with large capitals are better than small ones. Farming is a good business for all men who conduct it on proper principles, and have a capital according to the size of their farms.

A Dangerous Poison for Cattle.

Rusty straw is one of the most dangerous of blood poisons. It induces distemper it vitiates the blood, reduces the condition of the animal, takes away the appetite, and opens the door for cholic, skin diseases, swelling and fevers. It is only fit for litter.

Harness Blacking.

Three ounces of beeswax, four ounces ivory black, one pint neatsfoot-oil, two ounces castile soap, two ounces lard, one ounce aloes; to be boiled together.

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