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## Tuesday, December 10, 1872.

 FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
How to Drive Rats Away Without Polson. We know of two methods: First, the old French plan; this is followed chiefly in
Paris, by men who make it a special busiParis, by men who make it a special busi-
ness. They take a deep tub with water on
and the bottom and a little elevation in the
middle like an island, on which is only place for just one rat to sit on. The top is
covered and has a large balance valve, covered and has a largo balance valve,
opening downward. On the middle of this
valve a plece of filied pork or cheese is valve a plece of, Mied pork or cheese is
placed, and when the rat walks on it to get the cheese, the valve goes down, drops
the rat into the water and moves back in position. A rond is made from the rat hole
to the top of the tub by means of pieces of board rubbed with cheese, so as to make
the walk attractive for the rats. In the course of a night, some tem, twenty, or
even more rats may go down, and if the oven more rats may go down, and if the
island was not there, they would be found most all alive in the morning quietly swimming around; but the provision of the little
island saves the trouble of killing them island saves the trouble of killing them,
because their egotistic instinct for preservation causes them to fight for the excluthe morning, the strongest rat is found in solitary possession, all the others being
killed and drowned around him. Second, the New York plan, invented by one of our
friends. The floor near the rat hole is covered with a thin layer of a most caustic
potassa. When the rats walk on this it potakes their feet sore; these they liek with their tongues, which make their mouths
sore ; and the result is that they shun this sore; and the result is that they shun this the rats in the neighborhood about it, and eventually the house is entirely abandoned
by them, notwithstanding the houses around may be full rats. - Manufacturer
and Builder. Hard and Soft Water. terially the effects of hard and soft water differ in cooking of various vegetables ;
whifle one species of vegetables requires hard or sof water, as the caso may be,
another species becomes sonsibly deteriorated by it. For instance, peas and beans,
cooked in hard water, containing lime or sypsum, will not boil tender, because those uubstances harden vegetable caseine. In
sof water they boil tender, and lose a certain raw, rank taste, which they retain in
hard water. Many vegetables (as onions boil nearly tasteless in soft water, because
all the flavor is dissolved out. The addition of salt ofen checks this, as in the case of
onions, causing the vegetables to retain their pecaliar flavoring principles, besides
much nutricious matter which might be lost in sof water. Thus it appeass that For extracting the juices of the meat to make a broth or soup, soft water, unsalted
and cold at first, is best, for it much more readily penetrates the tissues ; but for boiling meats where the juices should be re-
tained hard water is preferable, and the meat should be put in while it is boiling. Facts for Farmers. A seriés of experimente, instituted to
test the average loss in weight by rying, shows that corn loses one-finh, and wheat tatement it is olear that farmers will make nore by selling unshelled corn in the fall oummer at one dollar a bushel, añd that $\$ 1.50$ for the same wheat in Jone following. This estimate is made on the basis of
interent at 7 per cent., and taken no count of loss by vermin. These facts aro worthy of consideration.

Holled Jelly Cake.
One cup of sugat, one tablenpoonful of thirds of a cup of millk, one egg, two teaspoonuful or baking powder, nifted with
the flour. Bake in a large sheot, aone, spread on the jelly, and cut the sheet If, instead of felly, a sauce is made and spread between the lay ors of the cake, it very nico and easily prepared deaert. $\stackrel{+}{+} \overrightarrow{\text { Pret }}$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Sweet Potato Buns. } \\
& \text { Boil and maah two good sizod }
\end{aligned}
$$

rub in ay muel flour as will make it like bread; add a little nutmeg and one table-
spooufull of sugar, with a toble good yeast. Whien it has risen, work in to bo easily mixed thoouphbly with the dough; then form into amall roll, and, a nife lurown. Serve hot.
ex. Eyery farmer abould have a compost any liberuting tho gases, keep t nt any libernuing the gaues, kuee

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