

The Bloomfield Times.

Tuesday, April 15, 1873.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

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

Measuring the Height of Trees.

In his tale of "Monsieur Violent," Captain Marryatt tells us, as an instance of the great aptitude for applying simple rules possessed by the Shoshone Indians, that when they desired to measure the height of a tree at any time when its shadow was cast on the ground, they used to place a stick of a given length into the ground, and then calculating the difference between the length of its shadow and its actual height, and applying the same to the shadow of the tree, they ascertained its correct height, thus unknowingly working out a sum in the rule of three. Any person however ill-informed, might easily get at the exact height of a tree when the sun shines, or during bright moon-light, by marking two lines on the ground three feet apart, and then placing in the ground on the line nearest to the sun a stick that shall stand exactly three feet out of the soil. When the end of the shadow of the stick exactly touches the further line then also the shadow of the tree will be exactly in length the same measurement as its height. Of course in such a case the sun will be at an exact angle of 45°. Measurements of this kind would best be effected in the summer, when the sun is powerful has reached to a good height into the heavens, and when the trees are clothed with living green so as to cast a dense shadow. To many to whom this idea might not have occurred, it might be made annually a matter of interest, thus on warm summer days to take the height of prominent trees, and so to compare notes of growth from year to year.

Water for Hoses.

A writer in the Agriculturist says: This summer my horses got badly run down. We fed them liberally, but they did not eat well. They had no appetite, no digestion, and no strength and spirit. They came home at noon and at night fagged out, and their night's rest did not refresh them. I sawed a barrel in two and placed the ends on the platform of the pump. These are for watering the horses. Into one of them we put a paful of corn meal and mixed it with the water. The horses at first did not like it, and would only drink a little when very thirsty. After they had drank what they would they were allowed pure water. In a very few days, however, they drank this corn meal soup with a relish, and in less than a week there was a decided change for the better in the appearance of all the horses. We do not let them eat the meal, but merely let them drink the mealy water. I have no doubt it is as good for them as a plate of good soup is for a tired and hungry man before dinner. It seems to stimulate the appetite and aid digestion.

Orange Trees.

The orange, though most generous of trees, is the most jealous of its treasures. Great pointed spears of an inch or two in length, protect the access to the branches. It would be the work of time and skill to rob an orange tree, and an offender trying it in the dark might find himself punished in the act.

The orange as taken from the tree is hard and heavy, the skin brittle and crisp, breaking if one tries to press it. A fresh orange cannot be sucked—its rind is too brittle. That capability of the orange is wholly the result of the half-wilted state in which it generally comes into market. Could we possibly get them into New York market as we take them from the trees, they would forever drive out all fruits that now bear the name. But very few can reach the North in this condition, and those generally are special orders or presents to friends.

Farming in Louisiana.

An occasional correspondent, writing from Morehouse Parish, represents that in that section, the present generation of laborers will not realize that the land now needs different and more thorough cultivation than when new; and so are likely to go on, to the end of life, "making corn and cotton, just as old masters did when they were young." Last season on a place which he superintended, he made, from 150 acres planted in cotton, 175 bales; but other places worked by him, to which he could not give personal supervision, did not yield half so well.

Changing Seed Potatoes.

In answer to a correspondent, the Cottage Gardener says:—Every fourth or fifth year we consider it desirable to have a change of seed potatoes; but if you change the ground repeatedly, and that very considerably, you will gain little, if anything, by a change of seed, for you obtain the benefit of it annually, though not to such an extent as if you were to have fresh seed from a distance.

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It being but two blocks from Fulton Ferry, makes it convenient for those wishing to visit the "City of Churches," as from this ferry diverge all the principal Railroad routes in the city of Brooklyn. (69dp) GEO. N. TERRY, Proprietor.

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