The Cloomfield Gimes.

Tuesday, August 26, 1873.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

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

Best Time to Exterminate Bushes. A farmer in western New York, writing to the Herald says: Having been brought up on a farm I used to hear much said by farmers in regard to the "best time for cutting bushes, etc., and remember well the many uncertainties that existed and the various opinions given on the subject. Some recommended to cut at one season, some at another; some regarded the "moon," others the "signs," &c. I also remember that the same kind of underbrush, if cut at one season would start again and grow luxuriously, but if cut at another would be completely "used up." I have also, within the last few years, had opportunity to notice the same fact; and the conclusion at which I have arrived is, that different shrubs or bushes, trees, etc., may be cut at different seasons of the year. Some are killed by cutting as early as the first of August, and so on till October or November. The rule is this: "Cut any plant or shrub about the time that it has done growing for the season, and its destruction is almost certain." If cut before this it will generally start again the next year. The exceptions are few .- So much for the fact, now for the theory. First, in the spring of the year, all roots are vigorous; hence, if a tree or shrub be cut at this time, or while in full growth, the root will send forth a new set of roots. The exceptions are-first, evergreens generally, as pine, hemlock, spruce, etc.; second, those that have a copious flow of sap in the spring, as the maple, birch, etc. Yet even some of those will start again if cut soon after the buds have opened; that is, after the flow of sap has ceased; except in the case of old trees, in which the roots appear not sufficiently vigorous or the evaporation from the new stump too rapid to allow of the formation of new shoots. Second-in Autumn, when a shrub or tree has done growing for the season, the active energies of the root cease, being, perhaps, somewhat exhausted by its summer action. If, then the bush or tree be cut, after it has done growing, but while the stem and leaves are full of sap, the vital force of the root will rarely be sufficient to cause a new growth; but if left till the foliage is dead or dying the energies of the root are restored by the return of the sap, and are ready for action again as soon as the season of growth shall return. Hence too early or too late cutting will be equally unsuccessful. Cut your underbrush, then, at the time above specified, and it will rarely start again. If it does, the growth will appear stunted or sickly, and soon die of its own accord, or a second cutting at the proper time will insure success. The same rule applies to all plants, as Canada thistle, milk weeds, etc., with greater or less certainty, according to the greater or less vital force or tendency of life peculiar to the root of each kind of vegetable. The "proper time" can easily be determined by observing whether new leaves continue to appear at the ends of the

tle use, as the root will be "strong" for a new start on the opening of a new spring. How to Bulld a Cheap Farm Gate.

prominent branches. If deferred long be-

yond this time, or till the leaves begin to

urn vellow and fall, cutting will be of lit-

A correspondent of the Ohio Farmer says: "The old practice of building farm gates with heavy four-by-four scantling for posts and end pieces and oak boards civeted together, tenented, &c., causing an expense of from \$3 to \$5 a gate, and an everlasting trouble to keep the gate when bung from sagging, I long since abandoned. As a substitute and as forming a gate that thas never sagged for ten years, I take five pieces of inch boards each ten feet long, one eight inches wide for the bottom strip, and each of the others four inches wide I then take one piece four inches wide for one end upright, and one piece eight inches wide for the end piece where the hinges ought to be. These strips are four feet long, that being high enough for any gate for ordinary purposes. Now lay down your end pieces, then place the eight inch wide and ten feet long strip for the bottom. nail it at each end to the upright with wrought nails; now take three of the four inch wide strips and lay them on parallel with the bottom one, dividing the spaces so as to leave four inches between the lower two boards, and six inches each space between the upper ones; nail as before. Now turn the gate over, and take the re maining strip, lay it an angle from the bottom, at the hinge end, to the top at the latch end; out it so that it will fit in end lay close to the long strips ; nail it. Now hang the gate with strong hinges, and you have a gate that is light and will not sag. and just as perfect protection against cattle as one made by the joiner, and costing, as named above, from \$3 to \$5. Any person can put together and hang the above named gate in two hours."

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