

The Farm and Fireside.

How I Grow Beets and Swedes.

As the time will come along for Spring work, I would like to tell you readers how I have raised for a number of years a large crop of beets and Swedes.

In the first place I have my ground fall plowed and well covered with good manure. Do not be afraid of using too much.

When the plants are up so you can tell them from the weeds, then commence working, and not put it off. Use a sharp hoe in thinning them out.

I select as dry a time as I can get about the first of November to harvest them. Take a sharp hoe, cut off the tops and rake them in heaps to feed out; hitch your horse to your subsoil plow; let them walk one on each side of a row; run the plow close to the row, and not too deep, and you will be able to pick them more than so many stones.

The above has been my method for the last few years, and it has proved very satisfactory.—(W. N. PERRY, in Country Gentleman.)

Errors in Tree Planting.

In traveling over the country, one is forced to the conclusion that there is a lamentable degree of ignorance among those who plant trees, in regard to the laws of vegetable physiology.

We often see whole orchards of young fruit trees just planted from the nursery with all their branches entire. In taking up trees there is a very common error which takes the trouble to preserve more than half or two-thirds of the roots, and the parts that are cut off are the most important, because they contain the mouths by which the tree is fed.

The trunk and branch of a healthy tree always contains sufficient vital power to swell its buds and open its first leaves, even without material supply from the roots.

But if the branches are shortened, and the number of leaves reduced in proportion to the roots, the leaves exhale more than the remaining roots can supply—and the equilibrium is restored—the circulation goes on stealthily and the tree recovers from the injury it has sustained, and by fall it makes a vigorous growth.

Such trees, when planted, should have all their branches cut off and the remainder shortened, leaving but three or buds to each branch of the last year's growth.

Another class of tree planters, or the planters of another class of trees, particularly deciduous ornamental trees, such as the tree which grows upon the side-walks and lawns of cities and country residences, are very liable to commit an opposite blunder.

Now, as we have said before, the leaves serve to draw from the soil, through the roots, the nourishment that is required to build up its trunk and branches.

When to Apply Manure.

The most important question in regard to barn-yard manure in the spring, is the best time to apply it to the land. The main point in deciding this question is the condition of the manure—that is, whether it is coarse or fine manure.

Coarse manure is made in the stable sections, where there is more or less straw and other coarse litter used in the stables for bedding, and spread over the yards to be worked down for manure. By fine manure I mean that made on stock farms, where the best class of stock farms, muck, peat, sawdust, and loam are used; but while such manure may be considered fine, when compared with the coarse piles on grain farms, yet, in considering the best management, it is more properly classed with the coarse, or rather inferior class manures.

One morning little Lela was playing on her mamma's bed. Standing up she said straight as a Chinese doll, she could find that she faintly away and that some kind friend caught her "just in time." Then she would fall back, and the soft pillow would stretch out their loving

mentioned, and then fermented and largely improved; but that if not so composted it had better be applied as soon as convenient.

For the Boys and Girls.

GRANDMOTHER'S BREAKFAST. BY MRS. M. R. C. BLADE. Sally Grandmother, grandmother, what shall I do, To make a breakfast, this morning, for you?

Cook something for me without delay, My hungry, my child; and hurry and make your poor, old granny a Johnnycake.

Sally Miller, give me some cornmeal, quick; For dear old granny is hungry and sick. Miller, you must go to the farmer and bring me some grain.

Sally Farmer, give me some corn, if you will, For miller to grind in his whirling mill. The golden kernels to plant I'll take, And granny shall have her Johnnycake.

Sally Hattie, good provision, harrow and plow, The farmer for you is waiting now. Plowman, go to the wind, and rain, and sun, And tell 'em 'tis time their task was done.

Recitation. So wind, rain, sunshine, mellowed The plowman hastened to do his toil; The farmer planted the shining grain; All over the brown and furrowed plain;

Dandelion-Down.

Floss-Hair ran out to play in the sunshine among the dandelions, as she had played many an April morning before. Grandmamma watched her from the doorway where she sat spinning—her little bright head in its halo of silky gold swirling and flitting among the goldfinches, with a motion as bird-like and airy as theirs.

Grandmamma looked very lovely to Floss-Hair from where she stood. A silvery sunbeam had lighted up the motes that danced around her spinning-wheel, so that she seemed to sit and spin behind a veil of gossamer; and in her gray dress, with her quiet eyes smiling out from under her white, smooth hair, she was more than beautiful; she might have sat for the picture of a saint.

Floss-Hair broke a downy seed-globe from its stalk, and blew it one, two, three times; the plumes fluttered around her like a bird's nest, and she was left on the stem. "Grandmamma wants me," she said, and ran back to the door.

"What was it stopped your play, little one?" "Why, there is scarcely a dandelion left down there in the grass, where so many grew, and in the place of like ghosts the lawn is not so pleasant as it used to be. Why need flowers die, grandmamma?"

"The soft eyes smiled a little more tearfully, in answer. "Did you see where the seed-leaves went, Floss-Hair, when you blew them from the stem?"

"No, no, dear; some of them glided away to hide under the velvet grass of the lawn, where they will sleep all summer and all winter, and next spring will come out again, wide-awake young dandelions. And some have crept out to the road-sides and field-borders, where in years to come poor folks will seek their roots for food and medicine. And see there,—the dandelion-birds are fluttering over the dandelion-plumes by dozens; they will take the stems to weave into the lining of their nests, and hundreds of little, shivering bird-broods will be thankful, another year, that the golden blossoms you like so well were changed to dandelion-down. It is better to be useful than pretty, pet; and you see that a flower's going to seed is only its last and best way of doing good."

"So the dandelions are spinning silk to line bird's nests with?" said Floss-Hair; and grandmamma sits and spins for me, and grandmamma, your hair is gray and soft, like dandelion-down,—I hope no cruel wind will ever blow you away from me."

"But, little one, my hair was once all fly-away gold, like yours. Call me Dandelion-Down,—the phantom of a little Floss-Hair that played among the meadow-blossoms seven years ago."

"No, no, grandmamma, I will not call Dandelion-Down a ghost any more; it is a little, common, staring, yellow flower turned to an angel, scattering blessings about the world, like a white-haired grandmamma I know, who has kind thoughts always ready to give everybody. It is not a bad thing, after all, for dandelion and girls to bloom and fade away. If people could only be sure of growing good and lovely as they grow old."

"Good is lovely, Floss-Hair," said grandmamma.

The next spring little Floss-Hair strayed silently among the dandelions, for the time in the doorway was vacant, and the spinning-wheel was still. But the child's heart was not wholly sad. Her memory was a nest of warm and tender thoughts, that seemed fluttering back to her from the dear, silver-haired friend, now one of the white angels of heaven.

And Floss-Hair never forgot the last lesson her grandmamma taught her, while she was yet an earth-angel—the beautiful lesson of the Dandelion-Down. Lucy Larcom.

white arms to her, and down she would go, "just as a-c-a-y-y." Soon her mother came in, and seeing some little brown shoe heels mixed up among her snowy ruffles, pulled the fainting lady out.

"Get right off the bed, Lela dear," said she, as she left the room. But little Miss Gymnastics was by no means tired of the fun, and did not hesitate to keep right on. One more faint; then another, and another.

"O, it's dust splendid! only if ma hadn't have came." (She never did care for grammar.) Pretty soon she threw herself down, as she had done twenty-three times before, but alas, instead of the soft pillows she felt upon the foot board and nearly fainted "for true," for she hurt herself badly. Hearing the cry, she set up, her mother came in.

"O, mamma," she said, woefully, "after on says top it didn't feeders any more!" Little children, isn't it generally the case, that when you go right on after you are told to stop, it "isn't feathers any more?"

The Bible says, I believe. Look in Proverbs, xi. 6.

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DAUCHEY & CO. I was cured of Deafness and Catarrh by a simple remedy, and will gladly give the name of the medicine.

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DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA and WESTERN RAILROAD. Summer Arrangement May 10, 1860.

WESTWARD. EASTWARD. Mail Trains. Stations. Passenger Trains. P. M. P. M.

JEHUGH VALLEY RAILROAD. On and after Sept. 20, 1860, trains on the Lehigh Valley Railroad will run as follows:

MANHOOD: HOW LOST, HOW RECOVERED. Published by the author, Dr. J. C. KLINE & CO., 127 BOWERY, New York.

DOWN TOWN NEWS. MINER AND COATS. FLOUR, GROCERIES, AND PROVISIONS.

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DEBBLE SPECTACLES—also com. Nov. 8, 1860.—J. F. TOZER.