Strange ideas enter the minds of many persons when the subject of beautifying me surroundings is mentioned in their presence. They will usually utter the far too common and absurd remark that such things are costly, and it is only the rich who can afford them. It certainly costs no more, as a general rule, to build a house ten rods from the highbuild a house ten rods from the high-way than one as many feet from it; and still these latter unsuitable and inappro-priate locations are being occupied al-most every day. If lawns are named, rollers, particular kinds of seeds, and lawn mowers are brought to mind; and while we are ready to admit that a good lawn cannot be made nor kept in first-rate condition without these imple-ments etill a grass plat, large or small. ments, still a grass plat, large or small, occasionally mown, is far better than none. Even a meadow or pasture in front or near a dwelling might add something to its general good appear-

The far too common style of arrangement of country homes, is to place the mansion within a few feet of the public road, the barn a few rods in the rear, and the intervening space is filled with wood piles or necessary outbuildings. If there is a kitchen garden it is usually situated near the road, at one side of the house, and then enclosed with a picket fence, painted white or whitewashed. Where a man owns but a fraction of an acre, such a cluttered arrangement may be admissible and passed without comment; but upon farms of many acres in extent, it not only shows a sad want of taste, but of broad ideas in regard to the fitness of things in general. A few trees from the forest, planted here and there, cost but little or nothing, and yet how much they add to the beauty and elegance of home surroundings, besides affording an agree-able shade to both man and beast. It is true that we have men who begrudge even the shadow of a tree to their animals, and compel them to stand the livelong day beneath a broiling sun. But we are thankful that the number of such cruel mortals is annually decreas-

The broad acres of meadow or pasture dotted with handsome trees, give us a scene worthy of the artist's pencil. The pond in the foreground was once a filthy slough, the home of willows, alders and frogs; but a very little labor, properly expended, has changed it into an ornamental as well as useful sheet of water. It is not necessary that a man should devote so extended a field to ornamental purposes only, for few farmers could afford it; but it may be used as a meadow or pasture, and if sheep are kept upon the farm they might be hurdled upon that portion directly in front of the mansion. In fact, there are many ways of making home surroundings elegant without incurring any extra expense. Farmers in particular are prone to imagine that they can-not afford to spend much time or money in outside decorations of their homes, and in many instances it would not be advisable; but a little forethought in the general arrangement of buildings, planting of trees and seeding down land for meadows and pastures, would give to thousands of homes an air of elegance and refinement without a penny of additional expense. And after all it is the thinking that is necessary. The man who thinks learns to desire; and desiring learns to act .- Rural New Yorker.

#### Grape Culture in California.

Good grape-land here costs from \$10 to \$25 per acre. When the latter price a powerful alkali, and dissolves dirt and is given, the land has facilities for irrigation. At present, many think irrigation unnecessary in new vineyards; but domestic purposes. For washing paint, vines accustomed to it cannot safely dispense with it. In planting a vineyard, the land is ploughed eighteen inches deep, and a hole is made with a crowbar, into which the cutting is dropped. The Mission grape is giving place to foreign varieties, cuttings of which have to be white blotting paper over the spot, and purchased, at prices varying from \$5 to \$10 per thousand. They are planted in February and March, and, when irrigasuds. To clean silver, mix two teaing. The vines are about six feet apart, or at the rate of a thousand to the acre. Ploughing the first year costs about \$5 hair brushes, etc., simply shake the per acre; after that, a light surface-brushes up and down in a mixture of ploughing, to keep down the weeds, is Water for irrigating costs about \$5 wind or in a hot place to dry. For yearly. Pruning, per acre, costs about \$1 the first year, \$2 the second, and \$3 a glasses or windows, put a few drops of year when the vines are in full bearing.

This work is done chiefly by Indians or Mexicans. At the end of three years, the yield may be estimated at five of the spirits in every pint of water used pounds of grapes to the vine; at four in watering. A teaspoonful in a basin years, eight pounds; and at five years, of cold water will add much to the retwelve pounds or upward. The whole cost of an acre of grapes—including price of land, cuttings, water, and cultivation, up to the time they commence \$46. The yearly expense after this, without counting the cost of gathering and sending to market, would be only buy all the grapes they can get. The than ammonia.—The Technologist. price ranges from 65 cents to \$1 per 100 pounds. This would give the price of an acre of grapes as ranging from \$78 to \$120, and upward. When made into wine, they would be worth \$300 or \$400. Taking the lowest price paid for the grapes, the profit per acre, after paying for cultivation, gathering and hauling to market, cannot be less than \$50. It is seldom that a piece of land producing nothing but grapes is sold, and, there-fore, we have but little in the way of actual sales from which to form an opinion relative to the price of an acre of vineyard in full bearing. But we can derive our conclusions from another source equally trustworthy. A hundred dollars will bring their owner in the way of interest, from \$12 to \$18

originally invested .- Overland Monthly. James Brooks, of the New York Exgossips thus saucily over matrimonial affairs in the Flowery Kingdom:
"Great efforts are being made to find a wife No. 1 for the boy Emperor—and he have as many as he pleases, after Burghley Park, as follows: One tree before the present generation passes away. We have a statement from an English paper of prices realized for thirty oak trees sold at auction in Burghley Park, as follows: One tree No. 1. The pretty girls from hundreds brought \$360, another \$310, a third and hundreds of miles, have been sent \$324; the whole thirty brought \$4,500, up to the capital, as patterns for an Empress; but his mother, the Empress Dowager, has not picked out a wife for him. Boys and girls in China have nothing to do with the selection of their

#### FRAM AND HOUSEHOLD.

CANNING CHEESE.—Mr. S. C. Hall, of the Sycamore (III.) Cheese Factory, com-municates to the *Prairie Farmer* the result of his experience in canning cheese in tin. He says: "The method is simply to inclose the cheese in a tin box and solder it air tight. The cheese should be well cured before canning: then keep in a cool place. The advantages are, for family use, no further trouble in looking after it till wanted for use. It is safe from flies, retains all its weight, and grows more mellow and fine flavored. What little air there is in the box will do no harm ; it will not mold. The advantage in shipping South would be no loss from exposure.

The plan of putting up cheese in tin cases has long been practiced by English shippers in sending cheese to the East Indies and to tropical climates. We gave an account of the method in our report of English dairy practice when abroad during the year 1866. We were then informed that cheese incased in tin would retain its flavor for long periods, and could be safely transported to hot climates, arriving in as good condition, ordinarily, as when first put up.

The only objection to casing in tin is the heavy cost of packages, and except for shipment to countries where a high price, comparatively, is obtained for the cheese, so as to more than cover the extra expense for packages, the plan has no means of determining whether a bird not been practiced to any extent. Some of the small German cheeses, we believe, ing down a gentle incline. But it mat-are put up in tin cases, but the quantity ters little which explanation of the three is very limited.

Cheese is now furnished so cheaply that it is a question whether the use of tin packages in the way suggested could be made remunerative for very large quantities of cheese. However, for small lots of "fancy qualities" it may possibly be made to pay. Were the plan to be tried we should say that the square of their motion through the air that they are thus supported. The efforts of aerovenient, as well as less expensive for packages than the usual round shapes. Possibly, to some extent at least, cans that have been used for other purposes can be no reason why the powers of might be employed, and thus a saving steam and iron should not avail to secure e made on the cost of packages; but the trouble of obtaining such cases, and thoroughly cleansing then would militate against any extensive use, even fly by some power distinct from any though procured in the first instance— which physical science deals with, we as with cans emptied of oysters, &c.—
without cost. On the whole we see no
way of escaping the extra cost of packway of escaping the extra cost of packflying machine, as surely as the swiftest

such manner of package. We have no doubt that fine cheese put up in quite small packages would meet with ready sales at extra prices, and perhaps for more than enough to pay all In the presence of failing coal supplies. expense, but this can only be told by this consideration will one day assume the experiment of testing the markets. Under the rectangular plan of pressing, the cheese, when cured, can be cut in desired shapes, so that there would be no difficulty in fitting the cheese to a variety of fancy packages. Small cheeses are largely demanded for home consump-

tion as well as for shipment also, and if we can devise means for retaining flavor in perfection and at the same time pre-

generally called, spirits of hartshorn, is grease with great ease. It has lately tion is considered necessary, the water is spoonfuls of ammonia in a quart of hot turned on both before and after plant- soap suds. Put in your silver ware and one teaspoonful of ammonia to one pint all that is required, and costs about \$1.50. of hot water, and stand them in the ammonia with clear water. To which about \$10 per acre. The manufacturers stains produced by strong acids in blue of wine in Los Angeles are willing to and black clothes, there is nothing better

COMPOST FOR POT PLANTS .- The Country Gentleman says: The best com-post for pot plants generally, is com-posed of four parts of loam—the top three inches of an old pasture—and one of well decayed hot-bed manure, or well decayed cow manure is nearly as good; if the soil does nor contain sand in sufficient quanlity to show itself pretty free-ly in the compost, add until it does. Let the heap be some months exposed previous to using, turning over occasionally so as to thoroughly mix and mellow the entire mass. There are very few plants in general cultivation that will not thrive in this compost, all other things being equal. Plants of stocky, short-jointed growth, and good healthy foliage, are far preferable to the big specimens coveted by some. Wherever annually. From this we may conclude that an acre of grapes that brings its owner a profit of \$50 yearly, is worth \$300—a good return for the original \$46 usually proved an "elephant."

It is impossible to predict the exproportionately valuable. There is but little doubt that within a century or less timber will be as scarce in America own wives. They seldom see, the husband his wife, till the day of marriage.

The Emperor, even, has got to take what they give him; but if No. 1 does not suit or satisfy, No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and trees, and plant the right sort, especially those most required in building.

#### Are Men to Fly !

Darwin tells us that even in the upper regions of the air, near the summits f the Andes, vultures may be seen floating onwards for miles upon motionless wings. What is the secret of this flota-Gravitation acts as forcibly on tion? the substance of the bird as on that of the animal. Nor can we believe that

there is any buoyancy, properly so called in the bird's body or wings.

Those vultures, which seemed to float steadily through still air, must have received support from the air in one or more of three several ways. Either by swift motion, acquired before the float-ing began, and slowly reduced through the effects of serial resistance, or by the action of aerial currents through which they are carried, or else, while seeming to fisat horizontally, they were in reality traversing a slightly sloping descending path. Neither of the two former explanations seems available, because the floating motion is continued so long that the frictional resistance of the air would al-

most certainly have destroyed a large share of the original motion through the air. This would equally happen wheth-er the bird had in the first place urged its way swiftly through the air, or had floated its way off, so to speak, upon a swiftly moving air current. On the other hand, there would seem to be no valid objection against the third explanation; for a single observer, at rest, would have were sailing along horizontally, or glidwe accept as the most plausible.

point to be chiefly noticed is the fact for long distances, merely by the supporting action of the air. There can be little doubt that it is

nautical mechanicians must be directed to secure a similar steadiness of motion for serial facilities. Granted this, there an aerial motion even surpassing in rapidity the flight of the swiftest birds. Unless we are willing to believe that birds ages and packing, and the real question is whether the cheese could be sold for is whether to make it an object for actual amount of power necessary to make it an object for convey a weight through the air, (if that support is derived directly from the sir), is very much less than that required to convey the same weight by sea or land, In the presence of failing coal supplies.

### An Oregon Romauce.

first-rate importance. - Spectator.

The Oregon Bulletin tells this roman-

tie story: Twenty-five years ago a young couple residing in the State of New Hampshire met, loved, and determined to marry. Like other human beings, they had vent loss from decay and shrinkage, the plan suggested may open up a new phase to the cheese trade. There are large quantities of food of various kinds man, whom he married. A few years now preserved by canning, why not later he moved to the Pacific Coast, and cheese? The experiment, at all events, in time became a citizen of Oregon. cheese? The experiment, at all events, in time became a citizen of Oregon. is well worth trying.—Rural New Yorker. The young woman fitted herself for the A SIMPLE AND EXCELLENT CLEANS. Occupation of a teacher and went to Iowa, where she engaged in teaching

> Fifteen years passed by, and then the schoolmarm joined a family that was emigrating from the vicinity of where she had been residing to Oregon, and in due time arrived there, and endeavored to procure employment in her profession,

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ia.	SMOKED HAMB	761	7	10
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Advices from Mexico state that anarchy prevails throughout that unhappy country. Lawlessness is in full The revolutionists are sacking the villages in several districts, and robberies are committed within eight of the gates of the capital. Mexic , seems to experience nothing but insurrection

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due time arrived there, and endeavored to procure employment in her profession, but met with indifferent success, and finally determined to accept employment as a domestic until she could do better. Shortly after making this resolution she was offered a position in the family of a gentleman and accepted it, the first time she saw the head of the family of agentleman and accepted it, and of course the lady could not remain. Her old lover, who had grown rich, further lover. The recognized in him her former lover. The recognized in the man her of the family, recognized in him her former lover. The recognized in the same there is a second of the family of agentleman and seed to same francisors, where she obtained a position in the School Department of that city. About eighteen months ago the wife of the gentleman died, after having been in feeble health for some years. After a while the widower wrote to his flame, telling her of his loss. See replied with a letter of consolation, and a correspondence sprang up between them, and finally the widower made a proposal to the lady to bury their old indifferences and consummate the engagement of their younger days. The woman who had loved so steadily and so long signified her willingness, and as correspondence sprang up between the most beautiful farms in the wildsmette Valley.

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