MATRIMONIAL ENGAGEMENTS.

From the relation which this subject bears to domestic and social philosophy, it seems to us not altogether without interest to the lady readers of the *Home Journal*. We know it to be an interesting topic with readers of second-rate magazines and weeklies, for which all sorts of *feuilletonists* are employed to write love stories and hair-breadth matrimonial escapes from parental care and solicitude. It is but right that we should bear in mind this large class of outsiders, who subscribe for cheap publications, but depend upon the generosity of the subscribers of the *Home Journal* for the pleasure of perusing it. Now for a few desultory remarks upon our important subject.

A *matrimonial engagement* is a kind of understanding between parties loving, or pretending to love one another, that, as soon as circumstances will permit, they shall be united in the holy bonds of matrimony.

Now-a-days, there is no formal betrothal, as in the olden time; nor is a written promise of marriage necessary—but merely an interchange of tender attentions and vows of love. This is the place for magazine writers of heavy papers to digress, searching the "*Treasury of Knowledge*," and the "*Penny Magazine*," and obsolete works about ancient laws and usages, that they may spin out their pages, and show the opinions of, at time, on love, law, and prudence. But we ignore all musty authorities, and boldly assume that women naturally wish to be married. They spend hours daily, dreaming and thinking about this state; and not a few, we fear, in maneuvering how they may best secure a settlement in life. This is laudable and proper to a certain extent, but not to the overlooking of such prerequisites as are necessary for them to support themselves with, if called upon to do so, lest they may ascertain, when too late, the value of personal independence, without which, political independence is worse than a sham. Look at the young ladies in the middle classes of New York society. What is the object of their lives? Hundreds of them have no fortunes, nor even a distant probability of possessing any.

They are taught sedulously every accomplishment, with a view to make them ladylike and genteel. Their time is chiefly spent in visiting, dressing, fancy needlework, and but rarely in useful employments, or in the cultivation of their mental powers. Of course, as the natural result of this state of things, time hangs somewhat heavily on their hands, and they welcome any novelty, any pretence to relieve its dullness. Perhaps this change arrives in the shape of a lover; and then with what gratification are his addresses received! Their relatives are often too indolent, or, on the other hand, too much engaged, to inquire at the onset whether the new introduction to their fireside is in a position to address the lady with a view to marriage, and the delicacy of her sex prevents her from making a single inquiry as to the future prospects of her admirer. So the courtship commences and progresses. Where the circumstances of the parties are favorable, a marriage within a short period is the result of this happy and tender period of bliss.

Yes! But it is with kind of courtship that we refer. If is to those cases where the gentleman has no prospects, for years, of supporting a wife and family, and yet because he loves a girl, and likes her society, he wantonly trifles with her peace of mind.

Men are naturally fickle as women are constant and confiding. For some time after a gentleman has told the tale of his love, he woos with ardor; but let it be reciprocated, and the lady's affections securely and unchangeably his, then, in eight cases out of ten, his affection cools. If his circumstances are not good, he begins to think that, after all, an engagement is a weary affair. Here Maria or Jane is expecting, month after month, that he can marry her, when it may be years ere he can think of such a thing. So he slackens his attentions, a *little*. He—who formerly went every evening, or twice a week, to see the lady love, he thinks once a week sufficient. He continually breaks the appointments he may have made to accompany her to places of amusement; in fact, there being no prospect of marriage, he feels that he is trifling with her affections, although only a few short months have passed away since he tried so hard to gain them. He is bound, certainly, by the iron tie of honor, but he longs to be free; and though her heart may break in the effort to release him, there are few girls who would suffer anything rather than receive the attentions of an unwilling suitor, rendered from a sense of duty and honor alone. So the affair comes to an end, and the world speaks of it as a broken engagement.

Ah! could we just peep into some of the homes of our fair friends, we should see in its full extent the meaning of these words. How many gentle and lovely creatures have had their calmness and serenity of mind forever destroyed by the thoughtlessness and heartless cruelty of the other sex.

We will just give one instance of this kind. A gentleman of our acquaintance had wooed most earnestly and passionately a lovely and accomplished girl. She was an orphan; and though her brothers did not approve of the affair in the first instance, they at last gave their consent, in consequence of the anxiety expressed by the gentleman to become betrothed and the evident partiality of the lady. He was not in affluent circumstances, but seemed to enjoy many of the comforts of life, and to be in an improving position. He frequently spoke of marriage, and would ask how long it would take her to prepare for their wedding. He completely won the girl's affections by the most winning and passionate demonstrations of regard, and truly did that girl's heart cling to her noble looking and gentlemanly lover. For four or five months he seemed to love as never man loved, and no dark thought about the future ever entered her head. One morning he came up to say good-bye for three weeks, as he was making a journey to some distant town upon business. This being their first separation of any length, the fair girl was much distressed; but he soothed her tenderly, promising to write as soon as he arrived at his journey's end. And thus they parted. Week after week passed slowly away, and still no letter from her fiance. The girl's health became affected, and her spirits failed. As she knew not his address, she had no means of putting an end to her painful state of suspense, but gradually became worse. One day, at the end of the fifth week, a heartless epistle arrived, stating that, as his circumstances would not allow him to marry for some time, perhaps for years, he thought it would be wrong on his part to continue their engagement, and that he hoped most sincerely she might make a more advantageous settlement in life." He concluded by wishing her every happiness, and sending his kind regards! And so this sweet creature's happiness had been trifled with by a man bearing the name of gentleman, but in reality a monster of cruelty and unkindness. She bore it very calmly, but had a long and severe illness, and when we last saw her, we thought it seemed her day in this world would not be many.

We could multiply instances almost by the score to show the utter folly of a marriage indefinitely postponed. But you will say, what do you wish young ladies to do in this matter? Why, when a young gentleman pays you marked attentions, when he frequently visits you, and leaves no means untried to win your hearts to an engagement, without hearing of letting your relatives inquire, how soon he expects to be able to marry, what right in the world has a gentleman to spend hours weekly in caressing a girl whom he cannot marry for years? We have witnessed so much of the suffering of mind consequent upon the fickleness of the stronger sex, that we would recommend young ladies to renounce the privileges of courtship, if at the wedding day is not fixed, or at all events not very far distant. An 'engagement' is merely, with many men, an excuse for enjoying a lover's privileges, and frequently without ever intending to make the confiding girl a wife. We met with a gentleman the other day who boasted that he was engaged to four ladies at once! Why, how do you manage it?' we asked. 'Oh!' said he, 'you know they all live a long way from each other, and I gammon them up in turns. But, mind, I don't intend ever to marry one of those four! My wife will be quite a different being from any of them; in fact, I've not yet met with the sort of girl I should choose for a wife!'

To conclude these remarks, we would just recommend to our young ladies to occupy their minds in a general way more than they are now in the habit of doing. Assign to each day its work. Whether it be the languages you are studying, or music, or painting, or, if in the humbler classes, the humbler occupations of household employments, do what you do with all your might, and let no dreamy fancies and vagaries fill your heads. When a lover sues you, do not permit your every thought to be at once taken up with him, but continue your various duties, and, until your wedding day is fixed, make not *sure* of your happiness. We shall be very glad when our young friends arrive at this state of philosophical calmness, for it will prevent many of the scenes of misery we so often witness and hear of. There is scarcely a family, especially if it be a large one, where there is not some individual whose whole life has been rendered dreary by unfortunate love affairs. We do not hesitate to say, that in the majority of cases this misery might have been prevented, perhaps, in every case, except where the hand of death has stolen the heart's joy from this world. Then it is wrong to murmur for a Divine power has caused the suffering, and it is our duty to submit.

We commend these remarks to the consideration of our young friends, and if they should in any instance be beneficial, our object will be attained, and we shall have done something, however trivial, towards making the world happier than we found it.

We intend to continue this subject, and others germane to it, with the view to show the great moral wrong committed by parents in trusting their family upon the world without first giving them a business education of some sort, for business is more fluctuating in this country than in any other, while death, also, is a certain term to elsewhere. Parents should guard against the remote chance of leaving their family to the charity of the world, and their children should be as familiar with kitchen utensils as with the piano, and know as well how to cut and make a shirt as how to embroider a lace collar. Employments of utility should be made fashionable.

AGRICULTURAL.

POTATOES.—PROPHETIC REMEDY AGAINST DISEASE.

Like all plants which are extensively cultivated under varied circumstances of soil, climate, local condition, and artificial treatment, the potato is extremely subject to disease. Complaints on this subject have been made from time to time for a long period of years; but, as the peculiar features of the maladies with which this plant has been affected were never minutely nor accurately noted before the recent microscopical observations and careful researches in organic chemistry, nor were in a condition to lead to any satisfactory results, it is impossible at present to ascertain anything certain with respect to any former ravages. There are but two theories, which, in the existing position of the question, seem at all tenable—the "Fungal" theory, and that which ascribes the disease to injudicious cultivation pursued through many years. It is not the intention of the writer to decide between them; and though he is disposed to favor the former, which gives full conviction to many minds, he is free to confess there are great difficulties in the way, and it is quite impossible, in the present state of our knowledge, to determine, in all cases, the true cause.

The "potato murrain," as it has often been called, one of the most prominent forms in which the disease has appeared, was the most disastrous in the United States in the year 1844; and, on the authority of M. Gay and Acosta, it has occurred for ages on the western coast of America, particularly in Chili and Bogota. It was first observed in a serious form in Great Britain and Ireland, in 1845, though there were slight indications of it on the continent of Europe a year or two before.

Mr. Wilhelm Protz, of Germany, in a treatise on "The Nature of the Disease of the Potato, the True Cause of its Predisposition, and Measures proposed to restore it, by adopting a Natural Method of Cultivation," attributes the malady to be the result of too wet a spring, followed by a hot summer. By close observation during a period of several years, he discovered that the disease, under the most varied influences of the weather, generally presented the following features:

1st. The disease did not appear in any form before the time of flowering the plant, which exhibited up to that stage an apparently healthy and vigorous growth.

2d. The disease, which manifested itself by the rapid withering and dropping of the flowers, without permitting them to produce seed-balls, as well as by the leaves and stalks drying off more or less quickly, was much more decided in its progress during a wet season, in a moist soil, and after an application of green or unfermented manure, than on dry, unmanured soil during a long continuance of fair weather.

From an experience of many years, it was observed, by the author, that application of fresh manure showed its effects rather in the vigorous development of the haulm of the plant (stalks and leaves) than in an actual increase of the crops of tubers, a fact by which he felt himself induced to adopt the method of not planting potatoes with unfermented manure for twenty years. It often came under his observation that the haulm of the potato had a peculiar power of imbibing water. During the fall of a gentle rain, the surface of the grass and the leaves of other plants would show the drops of rain much sooner than the haulm of the potato, on which there could often be discovered no moisture, even after the lapse of ten minutes; and they became dry at least an hour earlier than any other plants.

Some twenty or thirty years ago, when the potato crops in Germany were in a healthy condition, it was noticed that the haulm grew to only about half the height they had in those years in which the potatoes were the most diseased, and that they had less volume, remaining at that time in a perfectly green state, during September, and retained this color nearly up to the time of harvesting, in October. Exceptions now and then occurred in varieties of an early maturity, which, however, never lost their green color before they had fully ripened. In those years in which the potato was the most diseased, it was observed that the haulm generally grew to much larger proportions, which led to the inquiry how it was that they attained such increased dimensions, and this just at the time when the tubers assumed a sickly disposition, seldom reaching their normal size. Aided by previous recollections, Mr. Protz came to the conclusion that the greater development of the haulm, and the consequent disease, is owing to high manuring; the more voluminous the haulm, the more numerous must be its organs for receiving water, which would cause too large a flow of sap, or juice. To this superfluity of water in the plant he attributes the cause of the malady in question.

In discussing the nature of the potato-plant, the author shows that, in consequence of a varied and often injudicious cultivation, for a century at least, in which it had been richly manured, it had gradually degenerated; that its stalks and leaves have become too luxuriant in their growth, and contain too much watery sap, not sufficiently assimilated for the natural reproduction of seeds. He further shows that the destiny assigned to this plant by Nature is not only to produce tubers, from which we can propagate an abundance of healthful food for man and animals, but, also, seeds for the purpose of multiplying varieties. The latter mode of propagation, however, he contends, cannot be performed if this plant contains too much water, as the cells of the stalks will not be sufficiently condensed, or hardened into wood. The flowers will fall without forming capsules, and the further development of the plant will be checked just at that important stage of its vegetation preceding the commencement of the formation of the seeds; the progress of the upper part of the stalks will cease, and, wherever such is the case, a fungal growth ensues, which is always the effect, but never the cause, of the disease. This species of vegetation also exhausts those powers of the plant which should have been directed to the accomplishment of its natural destiny. The effect of this disease on the tubers is dependent on the weather; for in dry, warm seasons, they resist the spreading of the fungi, which wet seasons so favor that the stalks and leaves, as well as the organs of respiration, will soon be destroyed. This affects the tubers, partly in a direct way, as they are no longer allowed a regular growth, and partly by means of the fungi themselves, which attack them, first choosing those lying uppermost. All tubers not directly affected are presumed to be healthy, growing, however, only to a very imperfect degree; the sap is liable to decompose; and in storing them they are observed to betray symptoms of decay. Wherever the haulm are dying off, before the seeds have matured, the disease has set in, and the deficiency of real, nutritive matter (starch) is greater than is commonly supposed. The effects of the malady, however, vary, according to the nature of the varieties of the plant, and of the soils in which they are cultivated.

The author is of opinion that, to restore the degenerated potato, the following mode of culture should be adopted: As this plant is evidently unable to produce seeds, when in a degenerated state, we must resort to the tubers, which have the faculty of propagation. After selecting the best of these, expose them to the air, sheltered from the rays of the sun, till they become thoroughly dry; then bring them into a room, free from frost, and completely cover them with dry ashes of peat, or mineral coal. Plant the seed, thus preserved, without being cut, in separate, well-prepared and deeply-cultivated ground, properly drained. A field which has furnished several crops since last manured, will be the best for this purpose, and no manure should now be applied. Repeat this process annually, and, in a few years, a perfect cure may be expected.

The potato, originally an insignificant and rather woody tuber, by treatment for many years, with rich manures, has attained its highest perfection. Now, in attempting to force it beyond its capacity, we find the result only degeneration and disease. Therefore, we must return, and comply with the laws of Nature, till, by a careful and moderate diet, we restore this tuber to its normal strength.

Ardes Horses.

There formerly existed, in the region of the Ardennes of Belgium and France, a race of horses much vaunted for their solid qualities and power of endurance; but, from neglect, careless breeding, and incessant drafts for military purposes in the revolution of 1789, it has become so far degenerated, that it is no longer to be found in its original type; though it is still believed that under the beneficent influence of the soil, climate, nourishment, and a rational course of breeding and treatment, this race could be restored to its primitive character, full of enduring qualities and, utility—properties so much desired for the general work of the farm, as well as for the present wants of the army of France.

The Ardennes, from its deep-spreading, muscular breast, large, straight shoulders, and rounded compact form—qualities requisite for strength and endurance—is not regarded as a handsome animal; but these properties are amply compensated for by its gentle disposition, robust habit, and power to resist great fatigue, as well as to withstand hard labor and indifferent fare. In fact, there is combined in this breed a little of every thing to be found in the light cavalry horse down to one which is exclusively adapted to a comparatively slow draft.

The Randall Grass.

BY WILLIAM PUDLESTON, OF PEMBROKE, GILES COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

A species of grass was discovered more than thirty years ago on Doe Creek, a tributary of New River, in Giles county, by an old man named Randall Lucas. As the seed differed from that of all other native grasses, he cultivated it for years, selling the seed by the pint, at a high price. By such means, the grass was disseminated in Southern and Western Virginia, and is prized as highly as the Herd's grass (timothy) and orchard-grass.

The Randall grass may be down with wheat in fall, or with oats in the spring, at the rate of a bushel to the acre. It will also do well on fresh, new land which has never been ploughed. As a forage plant, it is more valued for pasture than for hay, being one of the earliest grasses of the spring, and the latest of the fall. The second summer after sowing, it may be mown, and the seed saved, which matures early in July. It usually grows to eighteen or twenty inches in height.

Cultivation of the Mesquit Grass in Western Virginia.

BY JAMES A. LEWIS, OF KANAWHA

In the fall of 1855 I procured sufficient mesquit grass from Texas to sow an acre of hill-land on my farm at "Grotto Dell." On comparing it with the Kentucky blue-grass, orchard-grass, clover, and timothy, as cultivated on the same farm, I am inclined to rank it the most valuable of them all for this section of country. It seems to stand the climate well, completely covering the ground, and springing up soon after cutting, being less affected by drought than the other grasses. It also remains green during the fall and winter, when it is highly relished by stock. It makes a light hay, however, but it is greedily devoured by cattle.

Last fall I sowed ten acres more of this grass. I consider it a most important acquisition.

The Berry Trade of New Jersey.

The whortleberry trade of New Jersey is vastly more important than most people outside of the pines imagine. The Tom's River (N. J.) *Emblem*, of the 5th instant, contains some statements which will render this apparent. One Mr. William Bennett, of Ocean county, is a large dealer in the article. He says that he has paid to pickers, principally women and children, since the first of July to Saturday last, twenty-one hundred dollars, and has realized from the sale three thousand dollars, leaving nine hundred for expenses and profits. He sent to New York last week two hundred and eighty-one bushels of berries and 15,000 eggs from that county.

Mr. Bennett employs eight teams, and we also learn from him that Mr. J. H. Applegate has four, Mr. J. Miller three, Mr. Vincent Applegate two, and Messrs. Cranmer, Rockwell, Pine, Vannote, Truex and George Moore each have two teams constantly employed in the business. Besides these there are a great many men engaged in the business not known. Each team will average about four loads a week, of from twenty to twenty-five bushels each. The pickers will realize about two dollars per bushel on an average. We have here enumerated twenty-nine teams at four loads per week, making one hundred and sixteen loads, and, at twenty bushels each, *two thousand three hundred and twenty bushels*. The return of two dollars per bushel amounts to $4,640 per week. Mr. Bennett thinks there will be good picking for six weeks.

McKim, the Murderer of Dr. Norcross.

On Friday, the 21st instant, is the day fixed for the execution of David S. McKim, convicted of the murder of Dr. Samuel T. Norcross. As the fatal day arrives the public will be anxious to learn something in regard to the conduct and state of mind of the condemned, and with a view of satisfying them upon these points, we subjoin the following article, written by the editor of the Blair county *Whig*, immediately after visiting the unfortunate man:—

"We found McKim calm and collected, and apparently resigned to his fate. He is quite cheerful for one in his situation, but so no more than ever, as he was when we visited him two weeks ago. He says the time appears to drag so slowly on; and, although he still persists in his innocence of the murder of Norcross, yet he acknowledges the justice of his sentence with meekness, and appears to be willing—in fact impatient—to have that sentence carried out. He says he has been wild and heedless during a portion of his life, and very fond of running after the women, but that nor his conscience nor his hands are stained with the blood of his fellow creature. When entered the hall adjoining his cell, we found him seated at a table covered with good books—some of them opened—and he met us with a pleasant, cheerful smile. Although he is handcuffed and chained to the floor, he has the length allowed sufficient privilege to the hall adjoining his cell. All he desires, he says, is about three hours on the scaffold, previous to being launched into eternity, to make a dying statement, which he wishes to be published to the world. What may be embraced in this dying statement we are unprepared to say.

"He says he has made arrangements with his brother-in-law to have his body removed to his home, in Delaware county, for burial, and requested us, through this medium, to extend an invitation to all his old friends and acquaintances to attend his funeral from his residence, in Delaware county, at such time as his friends may appoint after the transmission of his body.

"As there have been so many rumors in regard to the person who arrested him, he wishes us to state that he was arrested by Yost Koonts, and Koonts should not be entitled to one particle of the credit, let alone a portion of the reward. He (Koonts) was only employed by Wolf as a driver—his horse having given out on his way to the North Mountain—at the rate of $1.75 per day. He further says they had been at the Long Pond Hotel over an hour before Wolf arrested him. They had had their dinner; he had fed the horse and hitched it up in a small sled, which Wolf had hired at this tavern, for them to proceed fourteen miles further.

"He says, here he had every opportunity for escape, if he had felt so disposed, as he had the horse and sled at his own disposal, and not another horse within six miles of where he then was; yet, although he was suspicious, he would not take advantage of the opportunity, but had made up his mind to yield himself into the hands of the state for a trial, as he knew he was innocent. He looks forward to the day of his execution with feelings more of pleasure than of dread.

"Sheriff Port has secured the services of the following military companies to act in preserving order on next Friday, the day fixed for the execution of McKim: the Logan Rifle Rangers and Altoona Guards, from Altoona; the Allegheny Cavalry, from Duncansville, and the Washington Guards, from Johnstown."

A Rare Book.

Last Saturday evening, the New York Typographical Society received a rare and curious geographical work, accompanied by the following note:

To the Librarian of the Free Library, of the New York Typographical Society:

RESPECTED SIR: I have had in my possession for years past these four volumes—bound in two—of Pitt's English Atlas, printed in London in 1683, being 174 years ago.

We can with great ease surpass the workmanship, but still, as a herculean work of that time, it is well worth the examination of the letter-press and copper-plate printers of the present generation; I therefore present it to the institution of which you are librarian, believing it will be a better place for usefulness than my own library.

As a book of reference for ancient boundaries of nations, &c., it is valuable.

The work was probably furnished to the subscriber at two or three hundred dollars; but that in present cost may not be considered extravagant, I have set down the original price at the low sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, and added 7 per cent. per annum as interest for the past 174 years—interest due every six months. At this rate money doubles in 10 years and 27 days. Our banks make it double in 10 years; but this is the most ready way of calculation. I have adopted it, and find that the work now stands at the cost of more than thirty millions of dollars. Yet I have no idea of your giving me credit for anything like that amount for the two books.

Your obedient servant, DANIEL FANSHAW.

New York, July, 1857.

N. B.—If the young printers of the present time will bear in mind that one dollar, at seven per cent, will become one thousand in a hundred years, many of them, before they are stiffened in age, will become Franklins, so far as relates to the accumulation of wealth. It will then be an easy affair to furnish a retreat for all worn-out respectable types.

The Mosquitoes in Florida.

We think our mosquitoes a great plague, but they are merciful compared with the Florida race. In the everglades these pests are frightfully abundant. At Fort Dallas they are so plentiful that both officers and men rave; the guard on duty pass their whole time under bars. The sentry is provided with a mosquito veil, or rather bag, thrown over the head, and kept out from the face by a hoop; and with clothes, boots, and gauntlet gloves, protect the limbs and body from their murderous attacks. Persons who have not experienced this beauty of southern life will scarcely believe that horses and cattle are actually bled to death in a single night; and woe be to that soldier or seaman who, by means of liquor, loses command of himself and falls to the ground helpless and unprotected—these insatiable vampires will fasten their fangs upon him, and draw from his besotted body what fevered blood remains.

A Talented Congress.

A correspondent of the *Lowel Journal* says, in looking over a list of the members of the Twenty-third Congress, which commenced December 2, 1833, and closed March 2, 1835, I was somewhat surprised at the number of members who have filled high positions under our Government. Six members of that Congress, J. Q. Adams, (previous,) Tyler, Polk, Fillmore, Pierce, and Buchanan, have occupied the Presidential chair. Five members, Messrs. John C. Calhoun, Johnson, Tyler, Fillmore, and King, have been Vice Presidents; and no less than eight members, Messrs. John Q. Adams, Henry Clay, John Forsyth, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, James Buchanan, John M. Clayton, and Edward Everett, have filled the office of Secretary of State. Thirty-two members have been Governors of States, and twenty-three members of the House have since served in the Senate.

Patents to Pennsylvanians.

The following is the list of Patents issued to Pennsylvanians from the United States Patent Office, for the week ending Aug. 11, 1857—each bearing that date:

Adolph Hammer, of Reading, Pa.—For improvement in brewers' steam-boiling apparatus.

Samuel Huse, of New York, N. Y.—For improvement in ships' capstans.

Nicholas Mary Aine, of Philadelphia, Pa.—For improvement in silk dyeing machines.

Jacob Peters, of Hummelstown, Pa.—For improvement in sausage cutters.

Albert Potts, of Philadelphia, Pa.—For improvement in safety tops for railway cars.

J. Z. A. Wagner, of Philadelphia, Pa., assigner to (by mediate transfer) Edward S. Renwick, of New York, N. Y.—For improvement in machines for moulding bricks.

THE CHINESE SUGAR-CANE.—The Commissioner of Patents has received a letter from Mr. Cleveland, of Cypress Springs, Austin, Texas, dated July 25. Mr. Cleveland writes that the *Sorghum Saccharatum* which he received from the Patent Office was planted on the 28th of February, and, although twice severely injured by the frost, is now from six to eight feet high, and the seed full ripe and ready for cutting.

Miscellaneous.

HOMESTEAD FOR $2.00!
LAND DISTRIBUTION!!
CHANCE FOR EVERYBODY!!

The Northwestern Mutual Land Benefit Association will make a grand distribution of $20,000 worth of real estate and maps to its members. The number of members is limited to 15,000. $2.00 and five letter stamps per membership, or a share. Any individual sending $10 and the stamps, shall be entitled to six shares; or any person sending $10 with six names, with the address of each, carefully written, shall be entitled to six shares. The distribution will be made in Chicago, Sept. 25th, 1857.

The following is the real estate to be distributed:

No. 1. An improved farm of 50 acres in Cooke Co., Illinois, valued at $3,000
No. 2. An improved farm of 160 acres in Whiteside Co., Illinois, valued at 3,000
No. 3. An improved farm of 160 acres in Whiteside Co., Illinois, valued at 3,000
No. 4. An excellent private residence in Dubuque, Iowa, valued at 3,000
No. 5. 160 acres superior farm land in Cooke Co., Illinois, valued at 2,000
No. 6. 160 acres well pine timbered in Waupacca Co., Wisconsin, valued at 2,000
No. 7. A good lot and cottage residence in Chicago, Illinois, valued at 2,000
No. 8. 160 acres superior land in Whiteside Co., Illinois, valued at 1,000
No. 9. 160 acres good land in Chippeway Co., Wisconsin, valued at 900
No. 10. 160 acres good land in Chippeway Co., Wisconsin, valued at 900
No. 11. 160 acres good land in Chippeway Co., Wisconsin, valued at 800
No. 12. 160 acres good land in Dunn Co., Wisconsin, valued at 800
No. 13. 80 acres good land in Marshall Co., Iowa, valued at 600
No. 14. 80 acres good land in Marshall Co., Iowa, valued at 600
No. 15. 80 acres good land in Marshall Co., Iowa, valued at 600
No. 16. 40 acres good land in Marshall Co., Iowa, valued at 300
No. 17. 40 acres good land in Linn Co., Iowa, valued at 300
No. 18. 40 acres good land in Linn Co., Iowa, valued at 300
No. 19. 40 acres good land in Linn Co., Iowa, valued at 300
No. 20. One building lot in Dubuque, Iowa, valued at 200
No. 21. One building lot in Sterling, Illinois, valued at 200
No. 22. One building lot in Sterling, Illinois, valued at 200
No. 23. One building lot in Sterling, Illinois, valued at 200
No. 24. 40 acres farm land in Grant Co., Wisconsin, valued at 300
No. 25. 40 acres farm land in Grant Co., Wisconsin, valued at 300
No. 26. 40 acres land in Grant Co., Wisconsin, valued at 300
No. 27. 40 acres land in Grant Co., Wisconsin, valued at 240
No. 28. 40 acres land in Crawford Co., Wisconsin, valued at 200
No. 29. 40 acres land in Crawford Co., Wisconsin, valued at 200
No. 30. 40 acres land in Crawford Co., Wisconsin, valued at 200
No. 31. 40 acres land in Monroe Co., Wisconsin, valued at 200
No. 32. 40 acres land in Monroe Co., Wisconsin, valued at 160
No. 33. 40 acres land in Jackson Co., Wisconsin, valued at 160
No. 34. 40 acres land in Jackson Co., Wisconsin, valued at 160
No. 35. 40 acres land in Bad Axe Co., Wisconsin, valued at 160
No. 36. 40 acres land in Bad Axe Co., Wisconsin, valued at 160
No. 37. 40 acres land in Bad Axe Co., Wisconsin, valued at 160
No. 38. One lot in Fulton, Illinois, valued at 100
No. 39. One lot in Fulton, Illinois, valued at 100
No. 40. One lot in Fulton, Illinois, valued at 100

The distribution will be conducted fairly and honorably. The names and address of stockholders shall be written on as many small cards as they have shares, and the whole placed in a box, and the first name taken out shall have the first choice of the property in the above list, and the next taken out will be entitled to No. 2, and so on until the 40 items of real estate are all distributed. Then to each of the remaining 14,060 stockholders will be sent a Homestead in some Western State or Territory. A full account of the distribution will be forwarded in a printed circular, to each member of the Association, with the names and address of such as may receive the real estate—to whom also the deeds will be sent and immediate possession given. Each application must be accompanied with $2.00 and five letter stamps. Address LINDELL'S AGENCY,
au-13 No. 5 Chicago, Illinois.

CHOICE FARM LANDS FOR SALE.—THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY is now prepared to sell about 1,500,000 acres of choice Farming lands, in tracts of 40 acres and upwards, on long credit, at low rates of interest.

These lands were granted by the Government to aid in the construction of this Road, and are among the richest and most fertile in the world. They extend from Middle Illinois and North-West, through the middle of the State, to the extreme South, and include every variety of climate and productions found between those parallels of latitude. The Northern portion is chiefly prairie, interspersed with fine groves, and in the middle and Southern sections timber predominates, alternating with beautiful prairies and groves.

The climate is more healthy, mild and equable, than any other part of the country—the air is dry, pure and bracing, while living streams and springs of excellent water abound.

Bituminous Coal is extensively mined, and supplies a cheap and desirable fuel, being furnished at many points at $2 to $4 per ton—and wood can be had at the same rate per cord.

Buildings of excellent quality also abound, which can be procured for little more than the expense of transportation.

The great fertility of these lands, which are a black rich mould, from two to five feet deep, and gently rolling; their contiguity to this road, by which every facility is furnished for travel and transportation to the principal markets North, South, East, West, and the economy with which they can be cultivated, render them the most valuable investment that can be found, and present the most favorable opportunity for persons of industrious habits and small means to acquire a comfortable independence in a few years.

Chicago is now the greatest grain market in the world; and the facility and economy with which the products of these lands can be transported to that market make them much more profitable, at the prices ruling, than those more remote at government prices, after additional cost of transportation is a perpetual tax on the latter, which must be borne by the producer, in the reduced price he receives for his grain.

The title is perfect—and when the final payments are made, deeds are executed by the Trustees appointed by the State, and in whom the title is vested, to the purchasers, which convey to them absolute titles in fee simple, free and clear of every incumbrance, lien or mortgage.

The prices are from $6 to $30: interest only 3 per ct. Twenty per ct. will be deducted from the price for cash.

Those who purchase on long credit, give notes payable in two, three, four, five and six years after date, and are required to improve one-tenth annually for five years, so as to have one-half the land under cultivation at the end of that time.

Competent surveyors will accompany those who wish to examine these Lands, free of charge, and aid them in making selections.

The Land Department furnishing unsold are as rich and valuable as those which have been disposed of.

SECTIONAL MAPS

Will be sent to any one who will enclose fifty cents in postage stamps, and books or pamphlets containing numerous instances of successful farming, signed by respectable and well known farmers living in the neighborhood of the Railroad Lands, throughout the State—also the cost of fencing, price of cattle, expense of harvesting, threshing, etc.,—or any other information—will be cheerfully given on application, either personally or by letter, in English, French, or German, addressed to JOHN WILSON,
Land Commissioner of the Illinois Central R. R. Co.
Office in Illinois Central Railroad Depot, Chicago, Illinois. sul

LOCAL FREIGHT NOTICE—THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY are now prepared to receive and forward FREIGHT between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and Columbia, at the following rates per hundred pounds:

BETWEEN PHILA. AND COLUMBIA.

First Class.	Second Class.	Third Class.	Fourth Class.
22 cts.	18 cts.	16 cts.	14 cts.

Flour, 18 cts. per barrel.
Pig metal, 10 cts. per 100 pounds.

BETWEEN PHILA. AND LANCASTER.

First Class.	Second Class.	Third Class.	Fourth Class.
20 cts.	17 cts.	15 cts.	13 cts.

Flour, 25 cts. per barrel.
Pig Metal, 10 cts. per 100 pounds.

ARTICLES OF FIRST CLASS.

Books, Fresh fish,
Boots and Shoes, Nuts in Bags,
Cedar and Wooden Ware, Porter and Ale in bottles,
Dry Goods, Poultry in coops,
Eggs, Pork, (fresh),
Furniture, Poultry, (dressed,)
Feathers, Wrapping Paper.

ARTICLES OF 2D CLASS.

Apples, Molasses,
Cheese, Melons,
Cordage and Grass Seed, Oils in casks or barrels,
Crockery, Paper in boxes,
Candles, Pasteboard,
Casks or Barrels, (empty,) Peaches, (dried,)
Groceries, Printing Paper,
Guns and Rifles, Paper Hangings,
Herring in boxes and kegs, Queensware,
Hardware, Sweet Potatoes,
Hops, Tobacco in bales,
Iron, hoop, band, or sheet, Tea,
Leather, Type,
Liquor in wood, Tallow,
Marble Slabs and Marble Turpentine, (spts.!)
Monuments, Varnish.

ARTICLES OF 3D CLASS.

Alcohol, Potatoes,
Coffee, Turnips,
Hides, (green,) Vinegar,
Lard, White Lead,
Oysters & Clams, (in shell) Window Glass,
Tobacco, (manufactured,)

ARTICLES OF 4TH CLASS.

Codfish, Rosin,
Cotton, Salt,
Fish, salted, Tobacco, (leaf,)
Grain of all kinds, Tin,
Nails and Spikes, Tar,
Pitch, Whiskey,
Plaster.

☞ For further information apply to
E. J. SNEEDER, Freight Agent, Phila.
E. K. BOICE, Freight Agent, Columbia.
au13 W. H. MYERS, Freight Agent, Lancaster.

IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENT—NEW GAS CONSUMING FURNACE.
CHILSON'S NEW CONE FURNACE,
after having been put to the most severe test, during the two COLD WINTERS OF 1856 AND 1857, has proved to be the most *powerful heater in the world*, saving from ⅓ to ½ the fuel consumed by any other furnace now in use. THESE FURNACES are constructed with a cast iron ash pit, and a broad, shallow pan-shaped fire pot, lined with fire-brick or iron staves. The fire pot is surmounted with

A SERIES OF CONES, OR TAPERING RADIATORS, large and broad at their base, but tapering to small apertures at the top, and uniting with the annular chamber, through which the heat and smoke pass to the flue. THE WHOLE products of combustion in the form of *smoke* and GASES, are suspended directly over the fire, COMPELLED OR COMPRESSED into the tapering CONES and CONTINUALLY EXPOSED to the direct action of the rays of heat and light from the fire.

This heat and light is brought to a FOCUS in EACH CONE, and strike the

COLLECTION OF THE SUN'S RAYS,

to a focal point through an ordinary lens, causing the SMOKE AND GASES to become intensely heated and thoroughly CONSUMED, by the operation the SMOKE AND GASES are MADE EQUALLY AVAILABLE with the FUEL ITSELF for heating purposes, while, in other furnaces, it is GARNERED OFF AND WASTED IN THE CHIMNEY.

All persons desirous of obtaining the best and MOST ECONOMICAL HEATING APPARATUS, should not fail to examine the NEW GAS CONSUMING CONE FURNACE, before purchasing any other. The attention of architects and builders is particularly requested.

ARNOLD & WILSON,
(Successors to S. A. Harrison,)
No. 524 WALNUT Street,
Opposite Independence Square.
aul-tf

PHILADELPHIA TYPE FOUNDRY—N. W. Cor. THIRD and CHESNUT Sts.

L. PELOUZE & SON, thankful for the liberal patronage heretofore accorded to their Establishment, and desirous to merit its continuance, would announce to Printers and Publishers that their new SPECIMEN BOOK is now ready, and from their increased facilities are now prepared to furnish every thing necessary in a complete Printing Establishment, at the shortest notice. Their long practical experience in the business, and the fact of their personal superintendence of the manufacturing department, justifies them in asserting that they can furnish a more durable and better finished article than their competitors.

Those, therefore, who desire Printing Materials, would do well to apply to them previous to purchasing elsewhere.

Old type taken at 9 cents per pound, in exchange for new at specimen prices. aul-tf

THE ADAMS EXPRESS CO., OFFICE, 320 CHESTNUT STREET, forwards PARCELS, PACKAGES, MERCHANDIZE, BANK NOTES and SPECIE, either by its own LINES, or in connection with other EXPRESS COMPANIES, to all the principal TOWNS and CITIES of the United States.

E. S. SANDFORD,
General Superintendent.

Savings Funds.

SAVING FUND—FIVE PER CENT. INTEREST—NATIONAL SAFETY TRUST COMPANY—WALNUT STREET, SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF THIRD, PHILADELPHIA.

INCORPORATED BY THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Money is received in any sum, large or small, and interest paid from the day of deposit to the day of withdrawal.

The office is open every day from 9 o'clock in the morning till 7 o'clock in the evening, and on Monday and Thursday evenings till 9 o'clock.

All sums, large or small, are paid back in gold on demand, without notice, to any amount.

HON. HENRY L. BENNER, President.
ROBERT SELFRIDGE, Vice President.
WM. J. REED, Secretary.

DIRECTORS:

Hon. Henry L. Benner,	C. Landreth Munns,
Edward L. Carter,	F. Carroll Brewster,
Robert Selfridge,	Joseph B. Barry,
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This Company confines its business entirely to the receiving of money on interest. The investments, amounting to over

ONE MILLION AND A HALF OF DOLLARS,

are made in conformity with the provisions of the charter, in REAL ESTATE, BOND AND MORTGAGE, GROUND REN