

Max Aldeiler, who writes for a Philadelphia paper, has a friend named Simmer, who deserves pity.

We would call the attention of farmers at this time to the value of sunflowers as a crop, and encourage some of their values and uses.

In the first place, the flowers abound in honey and furnish food for bees. The seeds contain oleaginous matter, and will yield oil at the rate of one gallon to the bushel, which is but little inferior to olive oil.

The stalks while growing may be utilized as bean poles, where they are scarce and difficult to be obtained, and when dry they may be used as roofing, or set up against a fence to form a wind-break.

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"Oh, Henry, dear Henry! We are united at last! Are you well? Is aunt Martha still alive? Haven't you longed to see your own Louise?"

"Madame," said he solemnly, "if I am the person alluded to as Henry, permit me to say, reading the other day, and when reaching the depot he happened to look into the ladies' room."

Then she buried her bonnet deeper into his waistcoat, and began to cry harder than ever, and said: "Oh, Henry, how can you pretend you are not my husband, Simmer, if you do not cease kissing my shirt bosom, and remove your umbrella from my car. I shall be obliged to call the police. Let me go, I say."

"The children are here," she persisted. They recognize their dear father. Don't you recognize them?" "Yes, yes," she exclaimed, "it's papa, it's our dear papa."

And then they grasped Simmer by the trousers leg and hung to his coat tail. "Woman!" he shrieked, "this is getting serious. Unhand me, I say."

And he tried to disengage himself from her embrace—while all the brakemen, and the baggage master, and the newsboys stood around, and said his conduct was infamous. In the midst of the struggle, a stranger entered with a carpet bag. He looked exactly like Simmer—and when he saw his wife in Simmer's arms he became excited, and flared Simmer with that carpet bag, and sat on him, and smothered his nose against the top of his head, and asked him what he meant.

Simmer was removed on a stretcher, and the enemy went off with his wife and family in a cab. He called next day to apologize. His wife had made the mistake because of Simmer's likeness to her husband. And now Simmer wishes he may soon be kicked in the face by a mule, so that he will resemble no other human being on earth.

It seems probable that vegetable matter may under favorable conditions, be converted into coal much more rapidly than most chemical geologists are in the habit of assuming. At least, a curious instance of an approach to such a conversion has been reported in the history of the coal field before the German Geological Society of Halle, Hirschwald, of Berlin. In one of the old mines in the Upper Harz—the Dorothea Mine, near Clausthal—some of the wood originally employed as timbering has become so far altered as to assume some of the characters of a true lignite, or brown coal.

It appears that certain of the levels in the ancient workings of this mine are filled with refuse matter, consisting chiefly of fragments of clay-slate, more or less saturated with mine water, and containing here and there fragments of the old timbering. This wood, when in the mine, is wet, and of a leathery consistency, but on exposure to the air it rapidly hardens to a solid substance, having, most, if not all, the characters of a true lignite.

It stands with a well-marked conchoidal fracture, and the parts which are most altered present the black lustrous appearance characteristic of the German "pitch-coals." At the same time, chemical examination of the altered wood shows that it stands actually nearer to true coal than do some of the younger tertiary lignites.

This instance seems, therefore, to prove that pine wood, when placed under highly favorable conditions, may be converted into a genuine lignite within a period which, from what we know of the history of mining in the Harz, cannot have extended beyond four centuries—Athens—London.

Many a wheel is ruined by oiling too plentifully. A well made wheel will endure a long service, and to twenty years, if care is taken to use the kind and proper amount of oil; that if the matter is not attended to the wheel will be used in five or six years, or it may be sooner.

Dr. Pouchet records that the insensible transpiration of the sunflower is seventeen times as great as our own. Hales ascertained, by daily weighing it in scales, that it lost, by the transpiration of its leaves only, twenty ounces of water in twenty-four hours.

Experiments by farmers in malarious districts might result in the confirmation of the idea that the sunflower exercises a healthy influence over human beings. Should such result ensue, it would require a long time to communicate the fact to the people, for our farmers are not, as a class, readers of agricultural papers.

It is the right time of year for the propagation of doleful prophecies in regard to the crops. In due course we receive some unpleasant statements, forerunners of others still more unhappy, which are yet to come. The first installment arrives from Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas, and it comes by way of Indiana, which is rather an unusual route; but Indiana informs us all about the States southwest of her, and we learn that there is to be a lamentable falling off in the cotton crop. The exact decrease in the area of planted ground is stated to be fourteen per cent, and six-tenths of one per cent, in cotton figures, which shows that the measurement has been very close. In corn there is no increase in area of nine and seven-tenths per cent, a consoling assurance which will insure an appreciable addition to the number of hoochies which may be eaten to their favorite regions. The indications are, therefore, that there will be more to eat than to wear in the southwest, a condition of things which may insure partial happiness, partial joy, and a little Paris green in death to them. Keep it in a four dredging-box, label it poison, and apply it weekly to their haunts. Bed bugs or chinch bugs may also be dispersed and utterly routed, with this remedy; and both cockroaches and bed bugs will die from powdered borax. Travelers should always carry a paper of borax in their bags, and sprinkle it under and over their pillows. If they fear to become food to the last named wretches, sprigs of wormwood will drive away large black ants; and none of them, whether black, red, or brown, relish winter green, tansy, Paris-green, cayenne or kerosene; so they invade our pantries we can, by a judicious application of some one of these articles, make the premises too unpleasant for them.

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FRANK T. PAINTER, DEALER IN PIANOS AND ORGANS, SOMERSET, PA.



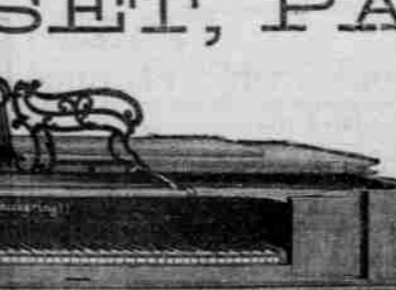
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