ter of the clay by liberating potash and causing a tendency to greater absorption of ammonia. Liming also frees and physically, and assists after burning in liberating the potash. Mixing may create a physical change, and at the same time the substance applied may itself possess valuable useful as food for plants. Plowing sets by exposing the soil to the atmospheric influences, and thoroughly pulverizing, in an extended degree, by both; it also destroys weeds, insects, &c. Long slung renders clay porous, admits air, food, &c., into clay soils.

15. Paring and burning are attended by good results when combinations of potash exist in the soil, as with silica, &c., where organic matters are in excess, as peaty soil, when they alter its physical character; and when the soil is especially foul and overrun by weeds. If the soil be a light and instead of clay, if it be clean, it a soil does not require any physical change so as to lighten it, if no peculiar circumstances occur, if it be deficient in vegetable matter, then burning and paring are not good.

16. Farm-yard manure, by keeping putrifies; volatile of ammonia and ammonia are driven off; potash is carried away by the drainage, which is generally impertinent; the organic matter is reduced; carbonic acid and phosphuretted hydrogen are given off, and the mineral matter is more concentrated. It was considered by Liebig that well rotted manure owed its extra fertilizing effects to this excess of mineral matters—a mistake, he thinks, now. The remaining matters are more soluble.

17. The principle ought to be kept in all fertilizing substances, to preserve the manure in the most concentrated form (unless required for clay, or where a decomposed action is required,) and to keep it water as possible, and by compression to exclude the air. Hy heat-feeding, compression of air, keeping out rain, keeping up regular fermentations, prevention of sweeping wind's, no loss by liquid manure being away of alkalies, &c., and a more intimate mixture of the dung and urine with the straw takes place. The manure (when produced), the heap should be made large—wide at the base and narrow at the top; it should be compressed, and covered with a tarpaulin, the liquid collected in a tank and either used as such or again pumped up over the heap. The greatest care and attention will be touched upon in the next question.

18. Common methods of retaining ammonia; 1st, Road-scrapings, charcoal, clay burnt, clay subsoil, sawdust, and peat soil. These act by their powers of absorbing ammonia, by keeping out rain and air, and keeping up regular fermentation. 2d. Sulphate of iron, sulphate of magnesia, sulphate of lime, chloride of sodium. Sulphate of iron acts as a fixer by free sulphuric of ammonia, and by double decomposition, by forming sulphuret of iron with the sulphuretted hydrogen given off. Sulphate of magnesia acts by forming a double salt of magnesia and ammonia, and by uniting with phosphoric acid. Sulphate of lime is considered to fix the sulphate of ammonia and carbonate of lime. It only does this when soluble, to which state it is not readily reduced, and converts again to carbonate of ammonia and carbonate of lime. Wood-dried ashes are considered as a fixer of ammonia; it may unite with the phosphoric acid. Chloride of sodium acts by simple decomposition. Acid fixers—phosphoric mineral acids—act by entering into combination with ammonia; the latter also is may be procured cheap near some manufactories, in the cheapest, and quite effectual.

19. Artificial manures owe their fertilizing effects to ammonia which they contain, and to phosphoric acid and potash—the value, of course, depends upon the quantity of these matters they contain; they possess little physical action.

20. Peruvian guano abolitionists assert and, from quotations, and 3 pounds. To detect it is first, burn and dissolve in nullatic acid; if more than 1 per cent. of silica remains which was burnt, it is a fraud. For the loam; if the salt is colored red, loam has been used. For quicklime; after dissolving the white matter, add oxalate of silica and precipitate and alumina and lime, should be present; to the alcrate add oxalate of ammonia; if more than a trace of lime is precipitated, lime has been used to adulterate. Gypsum may be indirectly detected by a precipitate of barium.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.—Mr. Walker has reprinted a bill in the Senate of Maryland, "explanatory of the act of 1717, chap. 12, relating to servants and slaves," to meet a most singular case, the particulars of which a correspondent of the Argus thus relates:

"It appears, by the law referred to, that any white person found guilty of marrying what is commonly termed a coloured person, the parties are liable to be sold, the man and woman for a term of years (I believe seven) into some remote island, and their issue, if any, as slaves for life. The case referred to is somewhat alter this fashion married: A white citizen of this State, some years ago, married a female whom he believed to be of pure white descent. The wife is said to be handsome, of excellent qualities, and does not bear in any way the slightest marks indicative of her being otherwise than of the purest Anglo-Saxon race. The man acquired fine property and is held in great respect by all who know him and his family. They have three children. Some person having undertaken to trace out the pedigree of his wife, alleges that her blood is tainted—some of her grand or great grand parents probably have been of the colored species; and if the parties have accordingly been indicted in one of the circuit courts of this State.—A minutes of blood works the serious penalty mentioned. The indictment is said to be the result of malice. The neighbors, all who know the family, have the highest respect in their behalf. It is said that Governor Lowe, upon due representation of the case, has offered to grant a *nolle prosequi*—which would relieve the parties of the process of the court; but the parents, feeling anxious to release their offspring from all stain in public estimation, have preferred a public trial, and hence the present action of the legislature. This is not only a novel but most severe case."

PATCHING AND DARNING.—Mr. Whitney has given $80 to New York City and State Agricultural Society for a premium for the best specimen of patching and darning. A contemporary remarks that persons who can embroidery and worried work are not enough in their way, but the encouragement of good darning and patching is of much greater importance.

At Wheeling, dried apples have advanced to $1 50 per bushel.

The confidence they have in me assures me their sympathy towards her whom I have chosen: and you, gentlemen, after learning to know her better, will be convinced of this also. I have been blessed by Providence.

Shocking Occurrence.

On the 3d instant, about half-past six o'clock, P. M., the valet of the Union at Hotel, in Washington City, was thrown into great and painful excitement by a tragical occurrence that took place on the steps immediately at the entrance to the hotel. The valet was deliberate shooting of Mr. Edward H. Fuller, of this city, by the hands of Lieut. James W. Schaumburg, formerly of Philadelphia, we believe, but who for many years past resided in Washington and has recently boarded at the National. The following is reported to be a correct account of the rise and cause of this sad affair:

Several years since Schaumburg boarded at Fuller's new Willard's Hotel, kept by A. Fuller, Esq. C. W. When the firm became insolvent he was indebted to it several hundred dollars, and has so continued ever since, notwithstanding he has from time to time for payment by the surviving partner, Edward H. Fuller, have been demanded by law, as we learn, on the ground that the debt was due not to Mr. Fuller, but to the trustees under a deed of trust. Mr. Fuller, nevertheless, pursued the claim, and in an altercation on the subject some two years ago with Schaumburg personally threatened him.—This circumstance was matter of general notoriety at the time, and got into the newspapers.

Public notice was again drawn to the matter on Tuesday morning last by the appearance of a number of large handbills posted in the most public way along Pennsylvania avenue, purporting, under the signature of Edward H. Fuller, that James W. Schaumburg was a coward, liar, and swindler, with other allegations and statements to substantiate it.

On Tuesday and yesterday afternoon and evening Schaumburg was seen passing backward and forward along the avenue, suspected by many, and, as it would seem, rightly, with deadly intent, on search for Fuller. Unhappily, last evening, at the time above named, Mr. Fuller had mounted the steps of the Union Hotel from Sixth street, when he was espied by Schaumburg, who was standing near the corner of the hotel and portico; and when Fuller approached at the distance of about four feet he received the fire of one barrel of a revolver in the hands of Schaumburg, and instantly retreated across towards the same side of the avenue, pursued and by Schaumburg, with, as some says, a drawn bowie-knife in his hand. A number of hackmen and others followed Schaumburg with hostile shouts indicated him to give up the pursuit, and retire to the hotel, which he did, immediately ascending a private room to room to elude the excited crowd from the street, he at last gave himself up to the police, and was conducted to the office of Justice Morsell, he was duly committed to the county jail, where he now remains.

Mr. Fuller is still in a very critical state. During the afternoon of the 4th his pulse rose to 120, with much local irritation, and symptoms generally unfavorable. At a late hour he was reported easier, having obtained a little sleep. The ball has not been extracted; indeed its place is not known with precision. Mr. Fuller is perfect possession of his mental faculties.

Change in the Pension Law.

The following bill passed both branches of Congress, last week. The President will no doubt sign it if he has not already done so:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all widows and children who were granted and allowed five years' half-pay by the provisions of the act approved the twenty-first day of July, on different rights hereded and forty-eighth, entitled "An act amending the act granting half-pay to widows and children where their husbands or fathers have died of wounds received in the military service of the United States, and in case of deceased officers and soldiers of the militia and volunteers, passed July fourth, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, be and the same are hereby, thirty-second day of February, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, entitled "An act granting five half pay to certain widows and orphans of officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, both regulars and volunteers," be, and they are hereby, granted a continuance of said half-pay, under like limitations and restrictions, for a further period of five years, to commence at the expiration of the half-pay provided for by the aforesaid acts—*provided, however*, That in case of the death or marriage of such widow before the expiration of said term of five years, the half-pay for the remainder of the term shall go to the child or children of the deceased officer or soldier, whilst under the age of sixteen years; and in like manner the child or children of such deceased, when the widow shall be paid no longer than while there is a child or children under the age aforesaid: *And provided further*, That no greater sum shall be allowed in any case to the widow or the child or children of any officer than the half-pay of a lieutenant colonel: *Provided further*, That the act approved the 22d of February, 1849, "granting five years' half-pay to certain widows and orphans of officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, both regular and volunteer," be so extended and construed as to embrace the widows and minor children of officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates of the regular, militia, and volunteers of the war of 1812, and of the various Indian wars since 1790.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the widows of officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates of the Revolutionary army, A. D. 1800, shall be allowed pension in the same manner as those who were married before that date.

AN INDIAN CAPTIVE RETURNED.—A son of Mr. Chubbs, of Allen, Michigan, who was stolen by Indians fourteen years ago, when he was only six years old, returned to his father, near Dayton, Ohio, on the 1st inst. He was sold by his captors to another tribe, who subsequently re-sold him to a different tribe; the latter married the daughter of an Indian chief, and that, having adopted the custom, he is about to go back to them.

THE STAR AND BANNER.
GETTYSBURG.
Friday Evening, Feb., 11 1853.

What does it Mean?

We had occasion, a few months ago, to come end the Post-Office Department for its liberality, and energy in putting on a Daily Mail between this place and Hanover, at the request of our citizens, thus accomodating the travelling and business public of this entire region. We learn that the Department, within a few days, has ordered said mail to be discontinued—why, or wherefore, we cannot tell. But our citizens should see to it, and, if undue *foreign* influence has been at work, have the matter rectified. Hanover, at present, is the main point of communication from this place, and a direct Daily Mail is every-way desirable.

State Temperance Convention.

A call for a State Convention of the friends of the Maine Law, in Harrisburg, on the 22d and 23d of February, will be found in to-day's paper. NEAL DOW, Esq., of Portland, the author of the Maine Law, is expected to be present.

National Agricultural Society.

The first annual meeting of this Society was held at the Smithsonian institute, on the 2d inst., Marshall P. Wilder, of Mass. President, in the chair and S. H. King, of R. I., acting as Secretary. The President delivered an address upon its rise, progress and prospects. A resolution was adopted to memorialize Congress to establish a department of Agriculture. Marshall P. Wilder was re-elected President. There is one President for each State, Frederick Watts being for Pennsylvania. An executive Committee were elected. The corresponding Secretary is J. C. G. Kennedy; Recording Secretary, Wm. S. King; and the Treasurer, Wm. Selden. The meeting adjourned until the last Wednesday in February in 1854. No business of much practical importance was transacted.

Sixty-Twelfth Birthday.

The 14th of February, next, is to be a day sacred to St. Valentine. The origin of the custom of sending love-letters on the day is from an old belief, alluded to by Shakspeare, that birds choose their mates on that day. Of late years the custom has been much abused by the transmission of villainous caricatures designed to wound the feelings of those to whom they were sent. We hope that on the approaching anniversary the abuse of this time-honored custom will be avoided by the sensible young folks of this community. When the custom is properly observed it is an innocent amusement. The Valentine does no one that day, although only temporarily, often became the partner for life. Many an interesting and happy acquaintance, might then date its rise; and indeed, among the numerous customs which seem to be hallowed by age as the pastime of many generations, there are few so harmless, and none better calculated to foster the affections and lead ultimately to happiness.

Ash-Wednesday.

The Lenten or Spring Fast, which the Saxon word signifies, commenced on Wednesday, and continues forty days, omitting Sundays, or until Easter-day. The number of days is fixed in particular reference to the forty days' fasting of our Lord, just before his temptation. Ash-Wednesday is so called from the custom in the primitive church of imposing ashes on the heads of notorious offenders, who were then excommunicated.

The rains of last week occasioned a considerable freshet along the Susquehanna, Hudson, and other rivers, doing a good deal of damage to lumber, &c., along the banks. At Harrisburg, on Monday, the water was within four feet of being as high as it was at the time of the great flood in 1846. Mr. Vanhorn, who resides on the Susquehanna, informs us that the water was at the time of the great flood in 1846. Mr. Vanhorn, who resides on the Susquehanna, informs us that the water was within four feet of being as high as it