

that of promoting the happiness and prosperity of its citizens.

What a useful lesson would such a plan prove to the Governments of Europe; and what an example would it furnish to the republican care for the good of all, thus promoted by our happy institutions.

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The Farmer.

For the Lewisburg Chronicle.

Birds vs. Insects.

Mr. Editor: In a conversation with you a few days since, relative to the preservation of birds, and the benefits they confer upon the farmer in the destruction of the numerous bugs, worms, and insects that prey upon his crops, I mentioned in the column of illustration, that came under my own observation; you desired a more particular statement, and having a little leisure this rainy morning, I will give you a brief account of it.

I accordingly commenced operations on the first day of January, 1860, by selecting seventeen hens and one cock from our other stock of fowls—they were a mixture of Jersey Blues and common breeds, and were considered in these parts good layers and of large size—the hens weighing 5 1/2 to 7 lbs. each, and the cock 10 lbs.

I appropriated part of an unoccupied farm building for their use, put up suitable fixtures for them to roost on, and sandy boxes and old flour casks laid on their sides, with a little hay or straw in them for nests to lay in. The door of this building I suspended into an adjoining yard of about 25 feet square, and was kept open night and day in the summer, but shut every night in winter, and if very stormy or cold weather it was only left open about five or six hours daily.

There is no mystery about the calamity. We are not left, as in the case of the Amazon, to conjecture the origin of the disaster. Just what happened to the Orion of the Scottish coast, or to the Great Finlayshire, has happened now. Captain Salmon, the officer in command, anxious to shorten the run to Algiers as much as possible, and more than was prudent, hugged the shore too closely.

Every man did as he was directed, and there was not a cry or murmur among them until the vessel made her final plunge. I could not name any individual officer, who did more than another. All received their orders, and had them carried out as if the men were embarked, instead of going to the bottom; there was only this difference—that I never saw any embarkation conducted with so little noise or confusion.

But, to return to the "incident," which you will think I have forgotten. A few years since, we mowed a heavy crop of clover from a field, and left it to grow up again. The weather was favorable, and in a short time the whole field was covered with a luxuriant growth of clover. Soon after this, we discovered two or three spots in the field, beginning to change color and assume an appearance resembling dry stubble.

the rapidly with which they spread, we concluded that the whole field would soon become a prey to their ravages, as we knew of no means by which to arrest their progress.

They continued to spread, till they had covered several acres, when one morning we saw a large flock of blackbirds alight on one of the spots, and soon they were very busy; we could easily conjecture the object of their visit. The number of the birds increased every day, till in a short time not a worm was to be found in the field.

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Profits of Keeping Fowls.

Mr. Editor: As the fowl mania appears to have been prevalent in some parts of the country for a few years past, and having seen some very exaggerated statements, in regard to the large profits to be derived from keeping a large stock of hens for laying, raising chickens, &c., and on the contrary, having heard it positively asserted by many of my neighbors that a hen if well fed, will produce in a year, from one to four or five hundred eggs, I determined to ascertain whether any or either of these statements were correct.

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Looking-Glasses for Birds.

The following plan is perfectly efficacious for scaring birds from fruit and other produce. One of my servants having by chance broken a looking-glass, it occurred to me that broken pieces, suspended by a string, so as to turn freely in every direction would give the appearance of something moving about, which would alarm the birds. I accordingly tried the plan, and found that no bird, not even the most foolhardy of them, dare come near. They had attacked my peas; on suspending a few bits of the looking-glass, amongst them, the marauders left the place.

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Foreign News.

Total Wreck of the British Frigate Birkenhead.

Loss of Four hundred and Fifty-four Lives—Wonderful Discipline of the British Troops. Another terrible disaster has happened at sea. At 2 o'clock in the morning of the 26th of February, her majesty's steamer, the Birkenhead, was wrecked between two and three miles from the shore of Southern Africa. The exact spot at which the calamity happened was Point Danger.

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Whig National Convention.

WASHINGTON, April 30, 11 P. M.—The Whig Caucus re-assembled this evening pursuant to adjournment, and was well attended. Mr. Mangum, of North Carolina, presided, and Messrs. Chandler, of Pennsylvania, and Dockery, of North Carolina, acted as Secretaries.

News and Notions.

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Baltimore, April 20.—The southern mail to night brings nothing from beyond Mobile. The papers of that city mention a rumor, which had reached there, that she new St. Louis Theatre, in New Orleans, fell down on the opening night, the 14th inst., causing great loss of life, the building being densely crowded. The authority for the rumor is not mentioned.

Richmond, April 20.—We learn from Richmond that the James River was very high yesterday, overflowing its banks, but the damage in the city was but slight; along the river, however, the loss of property has been very severe, and the Canal has suffered very greatly. The water was still rising last night, and was nearly as high as during the freshet five years ago. Several vessels parted their anchors and were carried off.

Harrisburg, April 20.—We have accounts from Columbia and Wrightsville, representing a considerable portion of both these towns as inundated by the freshet in the Susquehanna, and the destruction of property has been very great.

New York, April 20.—The gale last night blew down eleven three story brick houses, in course of erection in the upper part of the city.

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