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The Chronicle.

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Common Schools in Central Penn'a.

The average condition of the schools in this part of the State is not behind that of any other portion of equal extent, but is very far behind that of some localities. The second, if not the first teachers' institute ever held in the State, was that of Center county, and many of the members of that body have become emphatically teachers of teachers, widening and extending the most beneficial influences.

While teachers were a scattered flock, they were unnoticed if not despised. But union has given them strength. And the devotion and disinterestedness which they have manifested as a body; the anxiety they have shown—not to shun, but to secure superintendence; the more than submission—the gladness with which they have received and met all the onerous examinations and investigations which accompany it, have taken people by surprise, and excited their admiration. It was more than was expected from that proverbially lazy, weak, and fit-for-nothing-else portion of the community—our whilom school-masters.

Among the good consequences are better pay of taxes and of salaries, greater consideration shown for teachers and their trying labors, visits to schools, and better attendance.

The Union Graded Schools of Lock Haven are probably the best in any of the central counties, and unexcelled in the State. H. L. Dieffenbach, late Deputy Superintendent, who is as sagacious as a constant and thorough in all he undertakes, and devoted to reform and the correction of abuse, is Superintendent of the county and a Director in the borough. He and his associates in the board, have selected teachers of the very first natural and acquired endowments; they board with him; and the unanimity and skill that prevail in those schools is beyond praise. Truancy and street-education are effectually prevented by the superior attraction of the delightfully pleasant schools, and if they continue in their present auspicious condition until the present scholars become the ruling 'Young America' of the town, Lock Haven will be a model town in all respects. All teachers who can do so, should visit those schools and spend a day in the rooms, in close study of the neatness, order, system, diligence, happiness and progress that prevail there. W.

BOALSBURG, PA.

CALIFORNIA.

[We are indebted to Mr. John Chamberlain for a copy of the San Francisco Evening Bulletin received by the last steamer. It is most fully filled with notices of the gigantic frauds there perpetrated, and the gambling and other crimes which riot in that fair land. The following communication in the same paper confirms our opinion that California notwithstanding its advantages—contains the most truly wretched population of any semi-civilized country on earth.—Lewis Chron.]

"Come over and help us," was the call of the perishing Macedonian to the Apostle Paul. "Come over and help us" is the despairing cry of full fifteen hundred young men of San Francisco, who yet receive no aid.

You, Mr. King, wield a pen potent for good, can you suggest some remedy? The morning papers, if appealed to, will proffer their universal panaceas—the mines. There all may obtain work at three dollars per diem. 'Tis false, 'tis a patent, unblushing, cruel, unmitigated lie. Thirty-five dollars a month is the highest paid, and not one in ten is fortunate enough to obtain work on those or any other terms. Oh, but you can work yourself—for yourself. Gentlemen, it is a fallacy. The pen and the creasing knife are no longer the sole necessary capital of the miner. Fifty dollars to reach the mines, fifty more to prospect, an hundred and fifty for tools and support—this is the minimum. Gentlemen, we do not possess it. Fifteen hundred of us have nothing. Many are intelligent, many educated, many talented, but what avail it? We have not the means to exercise or display those advantages. We were better without them. We have honest hands, and what we ask, what we demand, is the inalienable right of every freeman—the right to labor. Thirty-five dollars a month and "found," or three dollars a day is the average remuneration of manual labor in San Francisco at present.

Give us employment at half those rates—barely sufficient to furnish food and cover our nakedness—and we will thank you. Some of us are starving. Some, with shame I confess it, have resorted to crime to procure a livelihood. Some subsist on the dole of charity, some upon the remains of former credit, a support repugnant to every honorable mind and daily becoming more precarious. One, I know, has terminated his calamities by suicide. I myself have remained for days without other food than the sweepings of the markets, and am now incurring liabilities which every day increases my inability to discharge.

But enough. My pen is a feeble one, but it has spoken the unvarnished truth. Men of San Francisco, citizens of El Dorado, listen to our plaint. We have exhausted our energies, and now lie prostrate. Devise some plan for our relief. Give ear to our petition as the Father of Mercies may give ear to yours.

Editor of the Bulletin, give us your influence and advice—not the soulless, truthless, stereotype cant of the morning papers, but something warm and gushing from your own noble heart. "Come over and help us." Help, or we perish! D.

The incident commemorated in the following lines, appeared in a recent country newspaper, and was there given as a fact.

"FOR MOTHER'S SAKE."

BY EMLINE S. SMITH.

A father and his little son
One winter's day were sailing
Fast from their way the light of day
In cloud and gloom was fading,
And fiercely 'round them lonely bark
The stormy winds were waiting.

They knew that peril hovered near,
They prayed, "O Heaven, deliver!"
But a wilder blast came howling past,
And soon, with sob and shiver,
They struggled as the icy grasp
Of that dark, rushing river.

"Cling fast to me, my darling child,"
An anguish voice was crying,
While, silvery-clear, o'er tempests drear,
Rose softer notes, replying:
"O mind not me, my father dear—
I'm not afraid of dying."

"Oh, mind not me, but save yourself,
For Mother's sake, dear Father!
Leave me, and hasten to the shore,
Or who will comfort Mother?"

The angel forms that ever wait,
Unseen, on man attendant,
Flew up, o'erjoyed, to heaven's bright gate,
And there, on page resplendent,
High over those of heroes bold,
And martyrs famed in story,

They wrote the name of that brave boy,
And wreathed it 'round with glory.
"God bless the child!"—aye, He did bless
That noble self-sentinal,
And safely bore him to the shore
Through tempest, toil and trial;

Soon, in their bright and tranquil home,
Son, sire, and that dear mother,
For whose sweet sake so much was done,
In rapture met each other!

Amos Lawrence and Mr. Barnum.

The lives of Amos Lawrence and P. T. Barnum, both written by themselves, both histories of men who began life poor, and have risen to wealth and ranked high as capitalists, may suggest some interesting and useful comparison between the two men, and their different methods of procedure, with the final result.

Mr. Barnum as a man of undoubted energy and enterprise, as a liberal, popular man of great sagacity and business powers, deserves credit. But the publication of his life did the world no good, and did him much harm in the eyes of all thinking men. It seemed to put a premium, not upon useful industry, but upon humbug. The principle which it inculcated, as the foundation of his own success, was eminently dangerous to the morals of all young men of unsettled principles who should read it. Had Mr. Barnum continued prosperous, the effect would have been more disastrous than it will now be. He boasted that he had made his money by puffing, and made speeches in favor of humbug as the surest and best road to fortune. He had built a palace at Iranistan that cost him \$150,000; began to build a city at East Bridgeport; erected hotels and workshops costing nearly \$200,000; built a free bridge which alone cost him \$10,000, and owned all the land around. Thus he humbugged the world, and humbugged himself, into the belief that he was immensely wealthy, while covering the whole of the property with mortgages that it may never pay off. Then in turn it would seem that he was humbugged by a Yankee Clock-Pedding Company, swept clean, and is now a bankrupt, penniless, and little Tom Thumb, whom he established, is now a bigger man than he in a pecuniary point of view, and talks, it is said, of coming to his rescue. There only needs this additional chapter added to his life, and then the stories of the sea serpent, the woolly horse and all the rest, would convey their own proper moral to the numberless young men who otherwise might be apt to suppose that humbug is, after all, the best and easiest way to make a fortune.

One remark more before we part with Mr. Barnum. He has many valuable qualities; he will push forward in what he undertakes manfully. If he is wise now, and will amend in one particular, he may become a great man. Let him remain all his energy and boldness; let him awaken public attention to his schemes; let him advertise and draw crowds as he can, and thus combine as many wills and as much capital on his projects as he can, but let him abandon all humbug, and stick to the truth. He can do this, if he will. Success may be a little slower, but it will only be the more sure. Let him make his ground all solid, and then, if he will, let him pride himself on that as much as his hitherto humbug. The fact is, that when men once suspect that there is a lie or a sham somewhere, they never believe there is solidity and truth anywhere, and this suspicion and distrust cause a withholding of confidence that is fatal to any public man. He has declared that there was a principle of honesty at the bottom

of his various humbogs, after all; so that he never failed to give the public their money's worth for their money, although he may have pretended to give them a great deal more. Hence it was that men even liked to be humbugged by Barnum. But let him only now adhere to this idea of giving people their money's worth, and abjure the pretence of any more than he solidly and fairly performs, and success may yet be his. That enterprise at East Bridgeport, of building a free bridge, may have been a little ahead of the time, or of his real capital, but it was doubtless a liberal and wise movement, and increased the value of his lands far more than it cost. His plans of advertising have given an impulse to enterprise and to movements for making mammoth combinations that has done the country immense good. Thousands owe their fortunes to imitating Barnum in this particular.

In the life of Amos Lawrence, of Boston, we see some of the very highest elements of mercantile success developing themselves. Enterprising on a gigantic scale, liberal beyond any man of his day, he carefully avoided debt. He never, when a young man, let a Saturday night close around him, without having every account settled up; had no mortgages on any property he ever made, to be foreclosed as soon as he got into a tight place. He tells us how he cut himself clear from all expensive and bad habits, from drinking and smoking, and from the company of the idle, and those who cared not to improve their minds. This man made money, literally by the million, and he kept it. Yet he was absolutely princely in his liberality. He gave away many hundreds of thousands of dollars, and this not merely to public charities, but privately and unostentatiously, because he loved to give. At one time a minister of another denomination, with whom he was but little acquainted, being about to travel in Europe, he "took the liberty to enclose a check for a thousand dollars," to assist in defraying his expenses. And he was constantly doing such things. He has left one of the largest fortunes of New England, all made by himself, and a family nobly trained in the exalted principles which distinguished him.—Public Ledger.

Sunday Labor.

In December last, William Lotz and others, were brought before a Justice of the Peace, in Mifflin Co., Pa., and summarily convicted under our Act of Assembly of 1794, for having violated the Sabbath day, in doing the work necessary to keep in blast the furnace of Etting Graff & Co. The case was taken to the Common Pleas on a writ of Certiorari, where Judge Wilson delivered an elaborate opinion, reversing the decision of the Justice. The Judge says he is persuaded that the stoppage of the blast furnaces twenty-four hours out of every seven days, would be essentially fatal to the manufacture of iron in this country. We have read the opinion carefully, and might be convinced by its reasoning, did not facts show Judge Wilson to be mistaken. The Iron Age Register, published in the heart of the iron region of Ohio, thus comments on his decision:

"Light can not have entered Mifflin county, Pa., or if it has it can not have shone upon the eyes of Judge Wilson. Robert Hamilton, of Pine Grove Furnace, in this county, many years since, clearly demonstrated that a blast furnace can 'stop twenty-four hours out of seven days' without injuries consequent, &c., and Pine Grove Furnace has stopped on the Sabbath ever since Dec. 20, 1844. It is needless to add, perhaps, that Pine Grove has been one of the most successful furnaces in this iron region. Of the other eleven furnaces in this county, two have not been in blast for more than a year; of the remaining nine, all, we believe, stopped on the Sabbath last season. Some of the furnace companies leave the matter with the principal hands, to stop or not as they please."

The experiment, if such it can now be called, of stopping a furnace on the Sabbath, has been successfully tried much nearer Judge Wilson's home than Lawrence county, Ohio. Martin Bell, Esq., of Sabbath Rest, Blair Co., Pa., for the last seven years has regularly avoided working about his furnace on the Sabbath, and is convinced that he has gained by it in a pecuniary point of view, as well as morally. These facts reverse Judge Wilson's theology as easily as he reversed the Justice's law. But, throwing the religious question out of view, we believe one day's rest out of every seven is a strict necessity—that it is a great physiological fact, that "the Sabbath was made for man."—Johnston Echo.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON, March 20.

SENATE.—The Senate was crowded to suffocation. A large number of ladies had come in early, crowding the gallery and pre-occupying the reporters' seats, thus rendering note-taking next to impossible, in consequence of the dense pressure on the reporters. The two Senators from Illinois were to speak on the two Reports relative to Kansas.

After some unimportant business, Mr. DOUGLAS proceeded to reply to Mr. Trumbull.

Mr. D. regarded his colleague's opening the debate on the Kansas report, the other day, as a violation of that courtesy which gives the Chairman of a committee that privilege. Among other points in the minority report on Kansas affairs, he referred to the charge that the Legislature of Kansas was a spurious body, and elected by fraudulent and illegal votes, and the people of Kansas as invaded and conquered by armed Missourians. Mr. Douglas said it was admitted that in seven districts there was illegal voting, and Gov. Reeder denied the members their certificates for that reason; but in the other fifteen districts, there was no protest, nor proofs of illegal voting. Then, admitting, for the sake of argument, that the allegation was true as to seven districts, there was a clear majority of the Legislature legally elected, and hence their acts were binding. The majority report shows the fact that, after the Legislature assembled at Pawnee and organized, a resolution was adopted, by which every person whomsoever was authorized to contest the right of any member holding a seat, on giving notice to the sitting member. This was more than three months after the alleged invasion. If the people were so much intimidated as has been said, it was to be supposed they would have recovered from their fright in the course of three months. But at that time no man was found who desired to contest the seats of any of the fifteen members; and it was universally admitted that the fact that Gov. Reeder had given these certificates was conclusive regarding their election.

[Gov. Reeder, however, has no doubt of the illegality of the election of those fifteen, but, as there was no one in those districts to make the contest within the time required, it was not his province to reject them on mere rumor. It will be recollected, too, that the spurious members turned out all the Free Soil members, who, at the second election, were sent from the seven contested districts, leaving only one Free Soil member, and he refused to stay. The idea of "contesting" the majority of members before the very majority itself—all of one stripe, and judge and jury in their own case!—is a piece of impudence worthy of Douglas only.—Ed. Chron.]

Mr. Douglas charged that the minority had suppressed the evidence in order to make out a case. That report declared the Topeka Convention justifiable, on the ground that, under a clause in the Constitution, the people had a right to assemble peaceably for the redress of their grievances. Mr. Douglas characterized the Topeka Convention as an act of rebellion, and should it result in a bloody issue, it would be high treason, and the traitors ought to be hanged.

Mr. TRUMBULL, in replying, said he had learned most of his Democracy from Mr. D., and had little thought, at the time, that he was cherishing "Black Republicanism," with which Mr. Douglas had recently charged him. He was sitting at the people's gate, and would not bow down and worship his colleague; and if, on the scaffold erected by Mr. Douglas for him, there should be found another laughing, it would not be his (Mr. Trumbull's) fault. As to the absurd proposition of his colleague that both should now resign their office, he had only to say that the people had sanctioned him, recently; first, by electing him a Representative, and then a Senator. That certainly was a modest proposition. Let the Senator himself resign, and if, after going back to his constituents, he should be re-elected, [Mr. Trumbull] would join him in a resignation. Thus they would stand on equal terms. The people of Illinois stand on the Democratic platform, erected by the aid of Mr. Douglas, and others, in 1850. The proposition to resign, reminded Mr. Trumbull of the unsuccessful client in Court. Having lost his case, he was ready and asked for a new trial. [Laughter.]

Mr. Trumbull maintained that the Kansas Legislature was fraudulently elected. He said: My colleague speaks of hanging traitors, and thinks they may be found without going to Kansas. If the people there have committed errors, is it not in consequence of falling into my colleague's lead? Has it not been proclaimed in the majority report, that the people shall settle their affairs in their own way? If they committed an error, no one was more instrumental in bringing it about than my colleague.

After replying to other points, he said that when the question here was threatening civil war and disunion, and the peace and happiness of thirty millions at stake, and the cause of republicanism throughout the world involved, into what insignificance do these petty squabbles sink! As a member of the Senate, he hoped never to be drawn into them again.

CASSIUS M. CLAY'S FAILURE.—The Cincinnati Gazette has been shown a private letter from Mr. Clay with reference to his failure, noticed a few days since. He says his creditors have allowed him to go on, and he will be able to pay all his debts and have a handsome estate left. He did not lose a dollar this season in the pork trade.

Cassius M. Clay. [A Southern correspondent of the Northern Christian Advocate, gives the following as Cassius M. Clay's mode of managing the Kentucky audiences by "moral suasion."]

He sends an appointment to a given place to lecture at a certain time; perhaps some of the natives will send word that he will not be permitted to lecture there; he sends back word that he will lecture there according to previous notice. The time comes, a great crowd is collected to hear the mob; presently the lecturer comes. He passes directly through the crowd, mounts the forum, waves his hand for attention, all eyes are turned towards the speaker. He commences with a firm, clear, and decided tone of voice the following remarks:

Gentlemen, (says he,) I have a few preliminaries to settle previous to entering upon the main subject for discussion. I want to make three short appeals to three classes of persons, (when he holds up a small Bible.) These gentlemen, says he, is the great charter record of human rights on which all law and equality is based, deserving the name of law, this is my appeal to the religious part of society, and lays it down on the stand before him. Then he holds up the Constitution of the United States. Here gentlemen, says he, is the bond of our Union, the noble Constitution of our glorious Republic, which says that all men are born free and equal, with certain inalienable rights, &c., &c. This is an appeal to gentlemen, to patriots and to all Americans, and he places it with his Bible before him. Then he puts his hand into his pocket, and brings out an enormous six shooter, holding it before the audience, he says: and here, gentlemen, is a six shooter, every barrel of which is heavily loaded with powder and cold lead. This is my appeal to mobocrats, and I will blow its contents through the heart of the first man who offers to lay his hands on me to silence me in my native State, or gag free speech in my presence. This he lays down upon the stand, with his two former appeals, ready for action, then he commences a perfect storm against the peculiar institutions, enough to wring the sweat of old Kentucky from every pore. By this time are all awed into submissive silence.

"THE MOTHER OF PRESIDENTS."—The political ascendancy of Virginia and the activity of her leading men, are strikingly exemplified in the fact that in no instance has there been a Presidential election, except once, in 1828, when there was not one of her native born citizens in the field either for the first or second office in the gift of the people. The exception was when Jackson and Calhoun ran against Adams and Rush.

It is estimated by somebody that the clergy cost the United States six million dollars per year; the criminals, twelve millions; the dogs, ten millions; and the lawyers, thirty-five millions.

Laugh at no man for his pug nose—you can't tell what may turn up.

THE FARM—The Garden—The Orchard.

Dr. Darlington on the Use of Lime.

"The quantity of lime per acre which can be used advantageously varies with the condition and original character of the soil. Highly improved land will bear a heavier dressing than poor land. On a soil of medium condition, the usual dressing is forty or fifty bushels per acre. A deep rich soil or limestone land in the great valley, will receive seventy to eighty (and I am told even one hundred) bushels to the acre, with advantage. On very poor land, twenty to thirty bushels per acre is deemed most advantageous to commence with. It is usually repeated every five or six years, i. e., every time the field comes in turn to be broken up with the plow; and as the land improves, the quantity of lime is increased. The prevailing practice here is to plow down the sod or lay in the fall or early in the spring; harrow it once, and then spread the lime, (previously slaked to a powder) preparatory to plowing the field in corn. Every field in rotation, receives this kind of dressing; and as our farms are mostly divided into about half a dozen fields, the dressing, of course, comes once in six years, more or less, according to the number of the fields. Some enterprising farmers, however, give their fields an intermediate dressing on the sod, after they come into grass; which I consider an excellent practice, tending rapidly to improve the condition of the land."

In speaking of the state in which the lime is applied, Dr. Darlington says: "It is usually obtained in a caustic state from the kilns, deposited in heaps in the fields where it is to be spread, and water sufficient to slake it to a powder is then thrown upon it. As soon as slaked it is loaded into carts, and men with shovels distribute it as equally as possible over the ground. It is generally considered best to put it on the ground while it is fresh, or warm, as the phrase is, and it is certainly easier to spread it equally while

in a light pulverized state, than after it gets much wet with rains. I am inclined to think, too, it is better for the land applied fresh from the kiln."

In answer to a question put to him as "to what crop lime is most advantageously applied," and "at what seasons," Dr. Darlington remarks:

"It is usually applied, as already intimated, to the crop of Indian corn, in the spring of the year. * * * Occasionally it is applied preparatory to sowing wheat in autumn. When used as a top-dressing, on the sod, it is generally applied in the fall—say November. The prevailing impression is, that it is most advantageously applied to the Indian corn crop; and hence the general practice. But the truth is, it is highly advantageous at any and at all seasons, and our shrewd old farmers have a saying: Get your lime on for your corn crop if you can—but be sure that you get it on the land some time in the year."

The mode of spreading and incorporating the lime, he describes as follows: "The lime is spread as equally as possible over the field, and the ground is well harrowed in different directions, in order to incorporate the lime with the soil."

Farmers' Work for Early Spring.

March, fitful as it is, brings its duties. If the frost should get out of the ground, the latter part of the month, you can commence TRENCHING the garden. Do it thoroughly, and work in horse manure, if you have it, to the depth of two feet. The temperature of the soil is raised by the fermenting manure, and all excess of moisture passes down readily below the seeds. Trenching prepares the way for early crops, and for a second and even a third crop the same season.

SEED SOWING, quite likely, will be possible the last of the month. Radishes, onions, parsnips, and lettuce can be put in as early as the ground is in a condition to be worked. Make the seed beds and sow early. Peas may also be sown this month. The Early June and Prince Albert are good varieties.

ONIONS may be set out for rareripes, and for seed. This is a good crop to grow with carrots—sowing the latter between the rows about the first of June, and leave the ground to the succession crop.

CARTING OUT MANURE should be attended to this month. It is an advantage to cart out upon the frozen ground at least a part of the barn cellar stores. Make the heaps large, and cover them with loam, mixed with plaster of Paris to prevent evaporation. Do not spread the manure until you are ready to plow it in.

CELLARS AND OUT-HOUSES should now be attended to. The filth and waste matter that has accumulated from the winter store of vegetables should now be removed. Sort over the potatoes, reserving the middling size for seed. Sell what you have to dispose of. Clear up the poultry house. Put clean fresh hay into the nests. Feed the poultry with cooked vegetables, mixed with warm meal, and a little fresh meat occasionally.

CLOVER SEED can be best sown toward the latter part of this month, when the snow is gone, and before freezing nights are over. Sow it upon the slightly frozen ground, on a calm morning. The surface of the soil is then craked into crevices, into which the seeds fall, and when thawing takes place they are covered in a most perfect manner. A crop of clover plowed under when it is at its full growth, or just at the time of blooming, is one of the cheapest and best fertilizers.

PLASTER can also be sown this month upon old pastures, to good advantage. On soils that show its effects, it is a profitable investment.

IMPLEMENTS AND TOOLS.—Let all these be examined again, and see if everything is in order. Do it now. If you lack any good tools, buy them, and have them all ready.

SHEEP will need special attention. Let them have a place of shelter, to which they can resort in the cold storms in this month. Give them an occasional meal of roots cut fine, or a little grain.

YOUNG STOCK should also have particular attention. The first year of an animal's life is its most important year. Do not turn them out into the woods or pastures, as soon as the snow is off. There is very little nourishment in the shadow of a snow bank.

MILK COWS.—Good food and plenty of it, brings large fine calves, udders, and brimming pails of milk in summer; meal and cut feed with roots will pay.

BREEDING SOWS.—Take care of the expectant mothers. Give them plenty of room, and keep them in good thriving condition. They should not be allowed to fatten. A little animal food occasionally, and a little salt in the feed is of advantage a short time before they drop their young. Look well to the sows.

WORKING OXEN.—They must have full feed in order to perform the labors. A pair of cattle in full flesh make light work of plowing.

PLANTING TREES.—Dig the holes this month, and get the bones and compost. A hole six feet across and two feet deep, will pay better than any smaller hole. If

you can find bones readily, put in a bushel to a tree, scattering them in with the compost. They will pay interest for twenty years to come. Plant some shade trees this spring without fail.

HIRING LABOR is attended to this month. Be sure and have enough of it. Farmers err in employing too small a force. If they have work enough, it is just as good economy to hire three men for the season, as it is to hire one. Secure the best labor, even if you have to pay more for it.

HOT BEDS.

Some gardeners make their beds on the level ground, but it is always safest to make them in pits from eighteen inches to two feet deep; in order to do this, the pits should be dug in autumn, or a heap of dung may be deposited on the ground intended for the beds before the frosts set in, and good earth may be obtained from the pits without difficulty.

The frames should be made of good sound planks; the back planks may be two foot wide, and the end ones may be sloped as to make fifteen-inch plank do for the front. A frame calculated for four sashes, of three feet in width by six in length, as above described, should be nearly thirteen feet long, and about six broad at the top.

The frame being set over the pit, and properly fastened, fresh dung should be spread regularly in the pit to the depth of twenty or twenty-four inches; if the dung be in a good heating condition, cover it six or eight inches deep with mould, then lay on the sashes, and protect the bed from the inclemency of the weather. In two or three days the rank steam will pass off; it will then be necessary to stir the mould before the seed is sown, to prevent the growth of young weeds that may be germinating; then sow the seed either in shallow drills or broadcast, as equally as possible, reserving a small quantity of the warm mould to be sown lightly over the seed.—Bridgman's Gardener's Assistant.

How to Cook Potatoes.

Potatoes will, in a month, become water-cured, or waxy, and when the cook does not fully understand how to boil a potato—and few of them do—this favorite vegetable falls very much in our estimation. A paper in yankee humor, has published a secret in boiling old potatoes, communicated to it by a "Vermont woman," who, it says, "has surprised us by making old potatoes as good as new, dry, mealy, and fresh, and disclosed to us the process she puts them through to effect a desirable result. The potatoes are pared and put to soak in cold water from four to six hours; then dropped into water which is already boiling—an essential point; and a little salt added to water improves them. Take them from the fire the moment they are done; pour off all the water, let them stand uncovered in the kettle over the fire till the water evaporates from the surface, and they are ready for the table. The result will astonish those who try it for the first time, and they will never return to the old method of boiling them with the skins on."

We hope ALL our housekeeper readers will try this plan—prove it—and enjoy the luxury.

Cheap and Excellent Candles.

The following recipe I have tried twice, and find it all that it is cracked up to be. I have no doubt that it would have been worth more than \$20 to me, if I had known it twenty years ago. Most farmers have a surplus of stale fat and dirty grease which can be made into good candles at a trifling expense.

I kept both tallow and lard candles through the last summer, the lard candles standing the heat best, and burning quite as well, and giving us good light as tallow ones. Directions for making good candles from lard.—For 12 lbs. of lard, take one lb. of saltpetre, and one lb. of alum; mix and pulverize, then dissolve them in a gallon of boiling water; pour the compound into the lard before it is quite all melted; stir the whole until it boils; skim off what rises; let it simmer until the water is all boiled out, or till it ceases to throw off steam; pour off the lard as soon as it is done, and clean the boiler while it is hot. And if the candles are to be run you may commence immediately; if to be dipped, let the lard cool first to a cake, and then treat it as you would tallow.

Spirits of Turpentine for Black Knot.

Mr. A. E. Porter, in a communication by him in the New England Farmer, recommends the application of spirits of turpentine as a remedy for the black knot in plum trees. He says that a friend of his used it in the following manner. He was at work in his garden and about to cut down a plum tree that was half covered with black knot. "Having" said he "some spirits of turpentine on hand, he thought himself to make an experiment on this tree before destroying it. He cut the knots with a sharp knife down to the wood, and made a thorough application to turpentine. Months passed, the tree lived, did well, and the black knot was destroyed. Since then he has been very successful with this remedy, and so have others who have followed his example."

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