Agricultural.

ASHES AND NIGHT-SOIL.—Which is preferable for a garden, bleached ashes or ashes just as they come from the stove?

For the garden unbleached ashes are the best; especially if a horse manure and cow dung have to be employed. The soil of the garden suffers a heavy loss of potash in the removal of all root crops, as asparagus, celery, cabbage, and the like which ashes are adapted to supply. They are also excellent as an insect-killer when dusted on plants attacked by caterpillars, slugs, or aphids as they not only choke, but cauterize these vermin. When this office is served they reach the soil with advantage as top dressing. They are also useful in promoting chemical change in the too inert organic matter of old garden soil, and where the garden has been heavily and exclusively manured with stable manure for years and has become black and mucky; a good dose of ashes well mixed with the soil often operate as beneficially as a renewed manuring of the usual kind. The ashes and seed should not come too near each other. There may be several "best ways" of applying night soil to gardens, according to circumstances. One of them, and on all accounts perhaps the very best, is to apply it by irrigation. Night soil, containing necessarily much urine, decomposes in warm weather with extraordinary rapidity, and unless it is used fresh or nearly so the best of it cannot be used at all. Convenience requires either that it be dried by the earth-closet system or diluted with bath and kitchen-slop and applied as a drench. Dry earth is not competent to save the nitrogen of night-soil, as Dr. Voelcker has lately shown, and as I had ascertained some three years ago by my own analysis. If the night-soil and other house-slops are received into a tight cistern situated in the garden the contents can be pumped up and distributed when and where they are wanted by hose, by drain pipes, or by casks on wheels with the most complete economy of all the fertilizing matters, and with no annoyance worth naming.

THIN OUT THE FRUIT.—If this important matter has not already been attended to, it should be done without delay. There is no excellence without labor and care, and this is particularly true of fruit growing. Daily vigilance is indispensably requisite in order to insure success. In horticulture, sound judgment is required, and nerve sufficient to execute its commands. When the time arrives for thinning out fruit, it must be done. We know that excessive production is always at the expense of both quantity and quality, and often results in seriously impairing the vitality of the tree. One-half the trees which bear fruit every year would be benefited by one-half of the fruit taken off as soon as it is well set; and the overbearing of a tree will in a few years destroy it.

But it requires courage to thin out fruit as much as it should be. As a rule, the fruit should be thinned out so that, when fully grown they will not touch each other. Indeed, it would be still better to thin out peaches so that the distance between them should be from two to four inches. In the latter case the result will be that what fruit is allowed to remain on will be of large size, and usually of fine color, and will command a ready sale in market at high and remunerative figures. In no instance is fruit so good when the tree or plant is overloaded, nor will it attain its proper size. The price obtained is always much less, the customers dissatisfied, and your trees suffer therefrom.

GRAFTING TREES.—If you have unproductive fruit trees or those which yield poor kinds of fruit, regraft them with better kinds at once. Graft a portion of the tree each year for three years, beginning with the highest centre branches. This will make the lower branches grow thrifty, and prepare them for grafting. In this way you will, in a very short time, change the unproductive, unprofitable tree, to a beautifully symmetrical one bearing every year an improved and desirable quality of fruit. Even old trees, many times, may be grafted profitably. In planting trees to fill up vacant spaces in your orchard, plant only the best kinds, use only the most thrifty stock you can obtain, and the result will then be satisfactory.

A WRITER in the *Boston Cultivator* finds that most of the so called strained honey sold in bottles is composed as follows: Cane or sugar is melted in a decoction of slippery elm bark in water. Some manufacturers use, instead of elm, a solution of gum arabic and starch, to give it consistency and save sugar; but this last does not resemble honey so much when dropped, as it lacks the stringy appearance. These mixtures with or without the addition of a little cheap Cuban honey, are flavored with essence, and the mess is ready for sale. The best way to obtain real honey is to buy it with the comb.

TO MAKE CUTTINGS GROW.—A correspondent of the *Western Farmer* says:—I used to have a great deal of trouble to make currant and gooseberry cuttings or slips grow, until I tried the following plan: I boiled some potatoes until they were very nearly done, and then stuck one on each slip and put it in the ground. Every slip sprouted and grew well all summer, with one or two exceptions. The idea of putting the boiled potatoes to the end of cuttings was to furnish and keep moisture enough for them to grow until the roots become large enough to gather this moisture and substance from the soil.

TO MAKE a nest egg, take an ordinary hen's egg, break a small hole in the small end, about ¼ of an inch in diameter, extract the contents, and, after it is thoroughly clear inside, fill it with powered slacked lime, tamping it in order to make it contain as much as possible. After it is full, seal it up with plaster of Paris, and you have a nest egg which cannot be distinguished by the hen from the other eggs, and one which will not crack (like other eggs) by being frozen.

IT IS SAID that two teaspoonfuls of nitrate of potassa to two gallons of rain water, sprinkled over the currant bushes twice a day for a few days will effectually rid the bushes of the currant worms. For the potato bug, the same remedy is effectual, having this advantage over other "eradicators," that it is harmless to plants—really an advantage.

TO CURE leg weakness in chickens, a correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer* gives each of the chickens from three to eight grains of citrate of iron daily, and a due supply of nutritious food care being taken to select such substances as are flesh producing, and no fattening—wheat, barley, and a due supply of worms, or in default, some chopped raw meat.

FATTENING POULTRY.—Coop up poultry to fatten, and they will do well up to twelve or fourteen days. Keep them in the coops beyond that time, and feed them as much as you like, they will grow leaner every day, until they grow into a skinful of bones and die.

Among feathered creatures, the eagle, the raven, the swan and parrot are centenarians. On the Thames they annually "nick" the swans of the "Vintners' Company," under whose keeping they have been for five centuries, and find some swans have lived one hundred and fifty years.

Scientific.

THEORY OF COMETS.—Prof. Newton, of Yale College, delivered a lecture on the 9th of March last before the Sheffield Scientific School on Bielas' Comet. The Professor gives the history of the comet from its discovery one hundred and two years ago, to its destruction. He says the nucleus of the comet was of a hard substance—stone in fact, and that it cracked to pieces on its near approach to the sun. Showers of meteors seen from the earth were the result of the dissolution of the comet. The grand meteoric display of November, 1872, is attributed to this cause. The Professor says "a meteoroid is a small comet, not having, however, the comet's tail."

As to the material of which the comet was composed, and we suppose of which all comets are composed, the Professor says:

At some time, probably in the historic ages, it came near the huge planet Jupiter. When it had gone out of his reach it had just momentum enough left to go around the sun in its present orbit of 6¾ years. It went away from Jupiter an entire and single comet. As it came near the sun, his burning heat acting upon the cold rocky body of the comet cracked off and scattered in every direction small angular bits. At the same time a very thin vapor, shining by its own light, was set free. To this vapor both comet and sun had an unaccountable repulsion. It was driven off first by the comet every way. But soon that which was sent towards the sun was driven back again, and it went streaming off into space to form the comet's tail, a process ably set forth by Prof. Norton.

So here we have the theory that comets are composed of rocky meteoric substance, that they move slowly when comparatively far distant from the sun, that their motion is accelerated as they approach the sun, and that the tail is caused by the heat of the sun acting upon the material of which the comet is composed. And further, that meteoric showers may be attributed to the dissolution of comets.

BLACK LEADING OF IRON.—In these days of general diffusion of chemical knowledge, it is scarcely necessary to state that the "black lead" or "plumbago" of commerce is not lead at all, or any compound of lead, that it includes no lead whatever in its composition. Neither is it a carburet of iron, as is sometimes stated. It is simply carbon; pure plumbago is pure carbon, impure plumbago is impure carbon. Its proper name is graphite, that is, writing stone. I may venture to describe it as the softest of all true solids, and have often pondered wonderingly upon the apparently unnoticed, but very curious chemico-mechanical, paradox that the hardest and softest of all the solids existing upon this earth are, chemically speaking, the same substance: graphite and the diamond, being both carbon.

It is this wonderful softness, combined with persistent solidity, that enables us to smear it over any other solid surface, and thus obtain a solid paint, all body and no medium. For the class of castings to which it is commonly applied, where its application can be readily repeated, and where it is not exposed to the direct action of water, it is unrivaled as a protecting film to iron. Its chemical action, so far as it does act when cold, is reducing or anti-oxidising. Its color and tone are so similar to iron that Mr. Ruskin himself could scarcely make any æsthetic objections to its use, and the film is so marvelously thin that it obliterates nothing. I have never met with any attempt to estimate the thickness of a well brushed film of graphite, but I suspect that, if a hundred strata of such films could be piled in contact with each other, their combined thickness would fall short of that of the thinnest gold leaf.

ALL the ingredients of corn, according to Leconte, may be utilized. The grain is, in the first place, to be saturated with a solution of caustic soda in large cisterns, and transferred to cylindrical sieves; then dipped in water, and ground in connection with a continuous stream of pure, or somewhat caustic water. The quantity of soda, depending on its quality, the oily contents of the grain, and the temperature, should be such as to saponify the oil of the grain while allowing the starch to appear solid and firm. The liquid as it leaves the mill, passes over sieves, on which the germs, hulls, etc., are retained, while the starch and soap pass through, and flow over large, inclined surfaces, upon which the starch settles and the dilute soap solution collects in cisterns. The starch is then washed with pure water in cisterns, again passed through sieves into cisterns, allowed to settle twenty-four hours and, after drawing off the supernatant liquid, removed and dried. Excellent soap may be obtained from the dilute solution, and the germs, etc., can be utilized in paper manufacture.

OZONING AIR.—An easy way of ozoning the air of a sick-room, as described in a German periodical, consists in the use of a powder composed of peroxide of manganese, permanganate of potash, and oxalic acid, which has the property of giving out, in contact with water, an abundant quantity of ozone. For a chamber of middling size it is sufficient to use about two tablespoonfuls of the power, over which are poured from one to one and a half tablespoonfuls of water every two hours. In this way the quantity of ozone produced is exactly what is wanted; the presence of a larger quantity in the air would occasion irritation of the throat and coughing. All metals, except gold and platinum, must be removed, on account of the oxidizing effects of the ozone.

FOSSILS OF THE DEPARTED.—A German inventor, Dr. Von Steinfels, seems to have hit a happy medium for disposing of the dead, which is at least free from the objections urged against burial, while it does no violence to the feelings which naturally shrink from destroying by fire the corpse of a beloved friend. It is proposed to place the body in a sarcophagus made of stone, and to pack around the corpse artificial stone or cement in a plastic state. The latter being allowed to harden, the remains become like a fossil embedded in the solid rock, and, if need be, the deceased finds his grave and his monument in one and the same mass.

A NEW method of joining gas pipes has been perfected. Instead of the usual projecting end, the pipes have creases or channels around them. When placed in contact, end to end, a strip of soft lead is bound about them, and pressed tightly against the pipes by a wrought iron ring. The advantages claimed are that the pipes are lighter and more easily cast; less lead is required to make the joint tight; no heat is required for applying it; it is quickly done; and especially that the joint is somewhat elastic, and will last much longer in soft ground, or when heavily loaded.

SOFTENING VIOLIN NOTES.—A writer in *Les Mondes*, states that the disagreeable rasping tone peculiar to some violins may be avoided by placing a small strip of wax on the upper portion of the bridge. The notes are immediately rendered sweet and soft, and can be suited to the ear by regulating the size of the piece of wax.

Domestic.

HOW PLANTS PURIFY THE AIR.—Plants gain their nourishment by the absorption, through their roots, of certain substances from the soil, and by the decomposition through their green portions, of a particular gas contained in the atmosphere—carbonic-acid gas. They decompose this gas into carbon, which they assimilate, and oxygen, which they reject. Now, this phenomenon, which is the vegetable's mode of respiration, can only be accomplished with the assistance of solar light.

Charles Bonnet, of Geneva, who began his career by experimenting on plants, and left this attractive subject to devote hsmself to philosophy, only in consequence of a serious affection of his sight, was the first to detect this joint work, about the middle of the eighteenth century. He remarked that vegetables grow vertically, and tend toward the sun, in whatever position the seed may have been planted in the earth. He proved the generality of the fact that, in dark places, plants always turn toward the point whence light comes. He discovered, too, that plants immersed in water release bubbles of gas under the influence of sunlight.

In 1771, Priestley, in England, tried another experiment. He let a candle burn in a confined space till the light went out, that is, until the contained air grew unfit for combustion. Then he placed the green parts of a fresh plant in the enclosure, and at the end of ten days the air had become sufficiently purified to permit the relighting of the candle. Thus he proved that plants replace gas made impure by combustion with a combustible gas.

BOILED WHEAT,—Excellent dishes for breakfast, dinner or supper can be made from unground wheat boiled. The freshest and cleanest wheat, with the plumpest kernels, should be selected. The white and the amber-colored wheats cook the most readily, and they are also preferable on account of having a thinner skin. Time is saved, in picking it over, to have it first run through a smut machine and then washed, though the cooking over is indispensable. Put it to boil with five or six parts water to one of wheat, by measure. Cover close, and after it begins to boil set it where it will barely simmer. Cook it four or five hours, or until the kernels mash readily between the thumb and finger. Hard wheat of any kind will require still more time, and some kinds may be cooked all day without softening.

When done it should be even full of water or juice, which thickens and becomes gelatinous on cooking. Salt and send to the table warm, to eat with meats and vegetables at dinner. It can also be eaten by itself, trimmed with sugar or butter, or both, or syrup, or milk. It moulds nicely, and may be served cold at breakfast or supper, or it may be steamed up and served hot at breakfast. The long cooking it requires, of course precludes its being served fresh at that meal. After it has once cooled, however, it cannot be made so soft and liquid as at first by any subsequent cooking. Like other starch, when it once sets it loses its liquidity.

LIGHT WITHOUT MATCHES.—To obtain light instantly without the use of matches and without the danger of setting things afire, take an oblong phial of the whitest and clearest glass; put into a piece of phosphorus about the size of a pea, upon which pour some olive oil, heated to the boiling point, filling the phial about one-third full and then seal the phial hermetically. To use it, remove the cork and allow the air to enter the phial, and then recork it. The empty space in the bottle will then become luminous, and the light obtained will be equal to that of a lamp. As soon as the light grows weak its powers can be increased by opening the phial and allowing a fresh supply of air to enter. In winter it is sometimes necessary to heat the phial between the hands to increase the fluidity of the oil. Thus prepared the phial may be used for six months. This contrivance is now used by the watchmen of Paris in all magazines where explosive or inflammable materials are used.

TOMATO BATTER CAKE.—The season for that highly esteemed vegetable, the tomato, being at hand, we take occasion to recommend a mode of serving them, and which, after trial, we can pronounce excellent. It is to slice them, when ripe, cover them with batter, and fry on a griddle, like other cakes. They should be seasoned while frying. Large and solid tomatoes are the best for this dish. Those who are fond of tomatoes will take new delight in them fried in this way for breakfast; and we believe that many who have not fancied them in the old styles of serving, will find them most palatable in this way.

FRICASSEE OF COLD ROAST BEEF.—Cut the beef into very thin slices, season it with a little pepper and salt, shred a bunch of parsley very small, cut an onion into pieces, and put all together into a stewpan with a piece of butter and three-quarters of a pint of good broth. Let it all simmer slowly, then stir in the yolks of two well-beaten eggs, a teaspoonful of vinegar, or the juice of a lemon, and a wine glass of port wine. Stir it briskly over the fire, and turn the fricassee into a hot dish. If the flavor of shalot is liked, the dish can be previously rubbed with one.

BLACKBERRY WINE.—Put the berries in a large tub; to every gallon of berries pour one pint of boiling water. Bruise them with a mallet, and let them remain until next day. Strain through a thick cloth. To every gallon of juice add two and a half pounds of sugar. Drain again and put into a cask; cover the bung with muslin; put it in a cool place. Shake the cask daily until fermentation ceases; cork it tight, and by September it will be ready for use, but improve with age. This recipe has been followed for ten years and never failed.

TO COOK ONIONS.—The strong disagreeable taste and smell of onions may be in a large measure removed by leaving them to soak in cold salt water for an hour after the outside skin has been removed; then boil them in milk and water till thoroughly tender; lay in a deep dish, season with pepper and salt, and pour over them some melted butter.

THE YELLOW CRAB-APPLE is a very ornamental tree when in blossom, and also when loaded with golden fruit. It is very productive, and the fruit is valuable. The Large Red is not so showy, but the fruit is equal to the foregoing. The Small Red is equally beautiful in blossom or in fruit, but the fruit is not equal to the others.

LEMON CAKE.—One teacup butter, three teacups sugar; rub them to a cream, and stir in the yolks of five eggs well beaten; one teaspoon soda; one cup milk; the juice and grated peel of one lemon, the whites of five eggs, and sift in, as lightly as possible, four and one-half cups flour. Bake in shallow pans half an hour.

HOW TO REMOVE STAINS FROM STEEL KNIVES.—The very best way to clean a stained steel knife, is to cut a solid potato in two, dip one of the pieces in brick-dust (such as in usually used in knife-cleaning), and rub the blade with it.

Humorous.

Pat O'Brien to Dennis O'Rafferty.

Oh, Dennis, me honey, I'm weary of life,
I feel sich a throuble wid Biddy, me wife.
She's rilin us rackin from mornin till night,
And schwears til me face that she will her the right.

And niver a stitch of the work will she do;
In the name of St. Patrick how will I get through?
For what wid the barins, the cow and the pig,
There's niver a bit of time left me t'ill dig.

There's poor Johnny Doil, who swills lager beer,
His wife will be sheriff for sure the nixt year.
And he has gone crazy, clean out of his head,
He niver gets scilleep any more on his bed.

He's ravin and singin the weary night long,
Womens' Rights! Womens' Rights! is the bulk of his song.
And niver a whit does he know of his wains,
Of course he will tarriten to knock out their brains.

Now, Dennis, me boy, you've a warm Irish heart,
Some good counsilation to me will impart;
But I know you will say, as a matter of coorce,
I must part wid my Biddy and gets a divoorce.

Now, Dennis, when you write again
Of bonnie ladies dashin,
Just leave your clumsy brogues at home,
Or faes ye might be smashin.

Yours, forever,
PAT O'BRIEN.

SITTING UP WITH HER.—She was expecting him Sunday night; the parlor curtains were down; the old folks notified that it was healthy to go to bed at eight o'clock, and Johnny bribed with a cent to permit himself to be tucked away at sundown. He sneaked up the path, one eye on the dog and the other watching for the "old man," who didn't like him any too well, gave a faint knock at the door, and it was opened, and he was escorted to the parlor. He said he couldn't stay but a minute, though he didn't mean to go home for hours. She wanted to know how his mother was; if his father had returned from York State; if his brother Bill's rheumatism was any better; and he went over and sat down on the sofa so as not to strain his voice. Then, conversation flagged and he played with his hat, and she nibbled on the sofa tidy. He finally said it was a beautiful evening, and she replied that her father had predicted a snow storm. He said he guessed it wouldn't snow, as the moon was not crooked enough to hang a powder horn on the end, and she said she didn't believe it would either. This mutual understanding seemed to give them both courage, and then he wanted to know if she had seen Bill Jones lately. She hadn't, she said, and she didn't want to. Then they went on talking about the donation visit which was to be given before long to Elder Berry, and he carelessly dropped his right hand on hers—his right hand, while his left arm sneaked along the sofa and got behind her shoulders. She pretended not to notice it, and he looked down at his boots, and wanted to know if she thought mutton tallow rotted out boots faster than lard and lamp black. She couldn't say, but she had an idea that it did. He had just commenced to hook fingers with her, when she discovered that something ailed the lamp; she rose up and turned the light down a half making the room look dim. It took him five minutes to get hold of her fingers again, and she pretended to want to draw her hand away all the time. After a long pause he lowered his voice to a whisper, and said he didn't see what made folks love each other. She bit her handkerchief and admitted her ignorance. He said he could name a dozen young men who were going to get married right away, and his left arm fell down and gave her a hug. Then he went over and looked out of the window, to make sure that it was or was not going to snow, and, coming back, he turned the light down a little more, and then sat down and wanted to know if she didn't want to rest herself by leaning her head on his shoulder.

Ah, me! We have all been there, and who of us cared a cent when the old clock struck twelve, and we five miles from home? The old man was fast asleep, the watch-dog gone a visiting, and the handsomest girl in the country didn't see why we need be in a hurry.

Perhaps I shouldn't have written of this, but as I was going by Saunders' the other day, thinking of the night I heard him whisper in her ear at spelling school, that he'd love her shadow as long as he lived, he raised the window and called to her, as she was picking up chips in the road:

"Sue Saunders, come in here and find the b'ar's grease for my sore heel, or I'll break every bone in your body."

BOSTON has at least one very polite car conductor. A paper of that city says:—On a Highland car, early last evening, just as the conducter was about collecting his fares, a lady started up and rang the bell. The conductor naturally stepped forward, to receive her ticket as she was about to get out.

"Oh! sir," she said, "I've forgotten my pocketbook, and I was going to get out and walk."

"There is no necessity for that, madam," politely said the conductor; "be seated."

Several gentlemen offered the lady a ticket. She accepted one and proffered it to the conductor.

"Keep it, madam," he said; "you will need it to ride home with."

"MY DEAR, where is my Morning and Evening Devotion?" asked Mr. Paul Partington—meaning a small book with that title, in which he sometimes read. "Here it is," said Mrs. Partington, producing from the closet a dark bottle and setting it on the table with a clean glass. "Here it is, Paul." He looked intently into her face to see if malice were actuating her; but he found there all calmly serene. He would not destroy the pleasure of her satisfaction in having thus obliged him, so he refrained from explanation, and partook.

IT is hard to understand why the following advertisement should have been published in the *Witness*, of Montreal, a daily religious journal: "If the lady who took my black silk umbrella out of Miss Clendinning's store, Radegonde street, will call at 47 Metcalfe, she can have my parasol also.

A PAISLEY manufacturer got, by some accident, a severe cut across the nose, and having no court-plaster at hand, stuck on his unfortunate organ one of his gum tickets, on which was the usual intimation: "Warranted three hundred and fifty yards long."

"NEVER marry for wealth," says a contemporary, "but remember that it is just as easy to love a girl who has a brick house, with a Mansard roof and a silver-plated door bell, as one who hasn't anything but an auburn head and an amiable disposition."

"THAT dog of yourn flew at me this morning, and bit me on the leg, and I notify you that I intend to shoot it the first time I see it." "The dog is not mad." "I know he's not mad. What has he got to be mad about! It's me that's mad."

RECTOR'S WIFE—"And what's your father, my boy?" Boy—"My father's a 'hagitator,' an' he says he won't have me learnt no Catechism, 'r else you'll all of yer 'ear ov it!"—*Punch.*

"YOU ought to lay up something for a rainy day," said an anxious father to his profligate son. "And so I have," replied the youth. "What?" "An umbrella."

A WIDOWER compares marriage to a besieged fortress. Those who are outside would like to be within and those who are within would like to be without.

NOW MIND your P's and Q's—that is to say your peas and q-cumbers.

Miscellany.

Discovering Comets.

As the method used by astronomers in discovering comets is unknown to the general public, a short description may be of interest. In making the observations a small telescope called a comet seeker, so mounted as to be readily moved in any direction, is used. After deciding in what part of the heavens to observe, which is usually in the neighborhood of the equator, although any part of the heavens may be used—for comets appear in all parts—he carefully looks through the instrument, at the same time slowly moving it in any desired direction, and watches the stars as they pass. After sweeping a certain distance he elevates the telescope, so as to include a space of the heavens above that previously scanned. Backwards and forwards the comet seeker is moved, raising the instrument on each return so as not to waste time in looking over the same path. In these observations he soon may notice, besides the stars, a faint white cloudy patch. He has now found either a nebula or a comet. If his instrument is properly adjusted, he reads the graduation of the two circles attached to the telescope, taking also the time of his clock, and from them he approximately knows the object's position. If the comet seeker is not in adjustment, he must then observe through the equatorial telescope, which is always so. Having thus determined the nebula or comet's place, he looks over a catalogue of nebulæ, in which are arranged the position of all known. The two Herschels published such a catalogue, containing a list of 5,079, the result of twelve years of observations. If any nebula is found in the catalogue having the same position as the one seen in the telescope, the objects are probably identical; but if none is recorded, the following observations are made: A micrometer is attached to the telescope to measure the distance of the probable comet from two or more of the brightest stars seen in the instrument, and if necessary a drawing is made of their relative positions that these stars may be recognized. After a few hours these measurements are repeated, and if there is any difference between them the object has moved and it must consequently be a comet; but if there is no motion, it is a nebula. By referring to a catalogue of fixed stars, the position of the stars used in these measurements is known, and the position of the new comet can be readily computed from them by using the previous measurements. The position thus obtained, together with the direction of the comet's motion and its brightness, is immediately telegraphed to the Smithsonian Institute. The Institute telegraphs to all the American Observatories and to the Royal Observatory, at Greenwich, England, which in its turn informs those of Europe. As observations are thus made from different places, delays from cloudy weather are diminished. The position determined on three different evenings (although in case of necessity an interval of a few hours can be used) gives sufficient data to compute the comet's orbit. It may seem a simple thing to discover a comet, but it requires considerable skill and excellent eyesight. This straining the eye endeavoring to see such faint objects is a great tax on vision. Patience, especially, has to be cultivated, for one may carry on this work for months, even for years, without being rewarded for his work by any discovery.

Clothing of "Seventy-Six."

The people of those times were respectably clad. Their scores of clothing was abundant, many of the fabrics used were elegant, and the fashion of their dress was frequently very stately. Pantaloons were not yet in vogue, but instead there were breeches of leather, buckskin, worsted, homespun, stockinet, black and brown broadcloth, plush, and velvet for winter; and for summer of linen, cotton, nankeen, white dimity, and drilling. Dressecoats, surtouts, and great-coats were made of bear-skin, buckskin, homespun, denim, wilton, broadcloth, velvet, and sagathy (a kind of serge); and cloaks of camlet, broadcloth, and kersey. Their vests were of linen, twilled cotton, diaper, white dimity, serge, broadcloth, and velvet; their gloves of leather and yarn; their hats of felt, castor, and velvet; their shirts of linen, cotton, homespun, and tow; their stockings of woolen, cotton, and linnen. For boots and shoes almost every household had in his house whole dressed calfskins and sides of sole and other leather. Such were the materials of which the garments of the men of "Seventy-six" were made, and they bespeak comfort in every case, and dignified respectability in most.

The apparel of the ladies was still more varied, and exhibits their characteristic love of gay colors and delicate fabrics. The assortment presented in these old inventories is fairly bewildering. Judging by them, the ladies of those days must have all considered caps and aprons indispensable to their toilets, the humblest among them having been possessors of an indefinite number of each, the former having been for the most part of cambric, taffeta, millinet, gauze, and linen, and the latter of lawn, holland-linen, taffeta, muslin, millinet, down through the gamut to check, homespun, and tow. Their hats, bonnets, and hoods were of beaver, satin, and bright-colored silks and velvet; their cloaks of worsted, broadcloth, camlet, gay-colored silks, white and black satin, purple and black and blue velvet, and especially of brilliant scarlet flannel or cloth. Their dresses were formed of an endless variety of materials. The common short gown, which seems to have been generally affected when they were not in full toilet, was of kersey, holland-linen, worsted, wilton, calamanco (a stuff resembling prunella), check, homespun, linsey-wolsey. Their long gowns were of check, striped homespun, ralico, "boughten" calico, muslin, chintz, outside chintz lined with calico, white holland, blue and striped holland, black and blue durant (the fabric known as "everlasting"), groset, bombazine, blue and black russel (a species of linsey-woolsey), moreen, poplin, French tabby, velvet, and of lutestring, white, crimson, and other colored silks and satins. For the hands they wore gloves of thread, knit stuffs, silk, and leather; their stockings were of thread, cotton, muslin, yarn, linen, worsted, and silk; and their shoes were of cloth, prunella, calamanco, leather, and silk. Shawls were of cloth, cashmere, and taffeta; handkerchiefs and kerchiefs abounded in their wardrobes, and were of linen, cambric, taffeta, muslin, gauze, and Barcelona and other thin silks. Of petticoats they supply was inexhaustible, some ladies recounting the loss of twelve, fifteen, and twenty of each, the former having been constructed of homespun and muslin, but chiefly of fine five and six hundred linen, and the latter of linsey, tow, flannel, kersey, dimity, bombazine, and calamanco.—[Harper's Magazine.

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