

Orkney and the Orkneys.

The people of Orkney, and especially of Kirkwall, are almost a race to themselves, morally, if not physically. They are peculiarly radical in their notions, and think the world should be governed on the principles of equality and fraternity.

In many of the shops the air they assume seems to intimate that they confer an honor upon you by serving you. A gentleman living near Kirkwall had occasion to ask several questions of the Postmaster, and received a reply intimating in polite terms that he was to mind his own business.

It happened to be his business, as much as it was the Postmaster's duty to give the required information, the gentleman in question referred the matter to the chief office in Scotland, and the Postmaster was brought to his senses.

This peculiar conceit, this idea of equality, was very much more apparent in Shetland. There it became occasionally offensive; in Orkney, never. And there is an element in the Orkney shepherders, as in the Scotch, that is generally lacking further southward.

Everywhere among the Orkneys, the variety here named when full grown assumes handsome proportions, and most of them have brilliant and attractive foliage in the fall. In planting shade-trees, the road-side, especially in a clay country, they should be set at least fifty feet apart, for if closer there will be too much shade, and tad, set roads in the spring are sure to follow.

PLASTER FOR VINES.—I have a large quantity of grape vines planted in the open ground, and trained on poles and wires along the gravel walks. In planting these I had the holes dug about twenty-five inches deep. I then threw into each hole five or six lumps of old plaster, about the size of my fist.

PAID AT LAST.—The bread on the waters has returned to a young lady in Clapperton, Pa., after a few years. On December 28, 1873, she met, on a railroad train, a lady who was very ill, and kindly ministered unto her, taking care of her and accompanying her to her place of destination.

AGRICULTURE.

WHAT SHADE-TREES TO PLANT.—There is great satisfaction in knowing what selection of shade-trees who are competent to judge would make for the road or lawn. Just such information is now before the public, and it will prove of very great value to those who intend to beautify their roadsides or private grounds.

This is an excellent assortment to select from for most small plantations. Every variety here named when full grown assumes handsome proportions, and most of them have brilliant and attractive foliage in the fall.

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SCIENTIFIC.

A Short Lined Lake.—Professor Florentini gives in the *Patria* the history of a new lake in Italy, the formation of which dates from 1870. In the month of January of that year, in the mountains of the Apennines, near the town of Bologna, occurred a great landslide on the left of the Savena, bringing down trees, trees and houses, and obstructing the bed of the torrent to the height of 30 metres, and consequently forcing the waters to rise so far in order to surmount the new obstacle.

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DOMESTIC.

RULES OF TABLE ETIQUETTE.—Do not keep others waiting for you either at the beginning or the close of a meal. Don't dip soup from the lip but from the spoon. Do not spit. Do not spill or drop anything on the table cloth. Keep your plate clean; do not heap all sorts of food on it at once.

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HUMOROUS.

A MISTAKE IN THE NAME.—A prominent church has been afflicted in its last two pastors, one of whom has died, and the other being a dilettante, a milder climate for the winter. One of the brethren a correspondent of the absent pastor, knowing the anxiety to locate the minister, was notified, and announced at one of the meetings his latest intelligence just received, but by singular infelicity got the deceased pastor's name into the place of the dilettante one. "I have just got," he remarked, "a letter from our dear absent pastor," giving the deceased minister's name, Boston, Mass., and that he was warmly invited, unusually and unaccountably so, to take up his abode in the town of Kirkwall, Orkney.

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