The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

Old Rye's Speech.

I was made to be eaten,
And not to be drank;
To be threshed in a barn,
Not soaked in a tank,
I come as a blessing,
When put through a mill,
As a blight and a curse
When run through a still.
Make me up into loaves,
And your children are fed;
But if into drink,
I will starve them instead.
In bread I'm a servant,
The eater shall rule;
In drink I am master,
The drinker a fool.
Then remember the warning:
My strength I'll employ,
If eaten, to strengthen;
If drank, to destroy.

Sowing Seeds.

The spring is about on us, and seed-sowing in the garden and on the farm will soon be here. As myriads of seeds are wasted every year, a few hints may be seasonable and serviceable.

The most successful sower we ever knew lets his garden ground get a little dry before sowing. Then he stretches the line along where the seeds are to go, sows the seeds on the surface, and then walks sideways along the line, pressing the seeds with his "flat foot." He says he never has a seed to miss, and so sows them thinly just where every plant is to grow. There is not only no waste of seed but no waste in thinning. There is no raking in of the seed and the whole is as simple as possible. His wife is a good flower gardener. Her mignionette and phloxes always grow, and a ten cent paper is enough for the whole garden. She sows on the surface "pats" down, as she says, the earth with the back of her cast-steel trowel, puts the stick with the name in the centre of the little patch, and they sprout at once.

Now this is all reasonable enough when we think of it. There are lots of people who believe that rag-weed and other rubbish will keep seed fresh for years when but plowed down a few inches. Whether this is so or not, deep sowing is known to be unfavorable to germination. Seed like to be near the air, but near the moisture too, and all that is neccessary to this is that they be pressed firmly in the ground. Of course the seed need not be "tramped" in. There are ways enough of covering seed properly with implements. We only refer to our friend's experience for the lesson it teaches.

A Small Flower Garden.

A writer in the *Western Farm Journal* recommends for a small flower garden the following list, as they do not require treatment, are good sturdy varieties, will staud neglect, yet do well: Asters, balsams, dianthus, petunias, phlox, calliopsis, verbenas, sweet peas, miginonette, cinnias, marigolds, and portulacas. The same writer again says: "The plants I have named will afford a profusion of flowers from June to October. Phlox will be the first to blossom, and then petunias will come on, and both of these flowers continue to increase in beauty until hard frosts come. Asters will be in perfection in August and September. Calliopsis begins to blossom in July, and nearly all the others come on early in that month. If old flowers are removed and not allowed to go to seed, you will have a much greater profusion of bloom. If you do not remove faded flowers, but allow them to perfect seed, you will soon see that your plants are losing a large share of their former glory. You can't expect a plant to ripen seed and blossom profusely at the same time."

Fruit Law.

A bill has been presented to the Vermont legislature, on petition of S. W. Jewett and others, to protect fruit growers by compelling people to take proper care of their trees, on penalty of fine if found guilty of wanton neglect. We know of many cases where such a law, if enforced, would be of great benefit to communities. A single tree sometimes becomes the pest distributor of a large neighborhood, which if attended to in season might be wholly prevented.

☞ Beefsteak may be covered while broiling, but should never be backed while cooking, nor pounded before cooking; simply lay it upon the gridiron, and turn it but once, as at every turning you lose the juice of the meat; when done, lay upon the dish it is to be served in, sprinkle over it a little salt and spread over it some good sweet butter, and let stand five minutes in the oven.

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