

## FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

### Home Matters.

Painted and stained floors are growing in popularity.

Japanese screens and panels are much used for decorative purposes.

The finest plain white damask is coming in fashion again for the table.

A buttermilk bath for mildewed articles, afterwards placing them in the sun, is recommended.

Old-fashioned rag-carpet is to be seen on the floors of some of the kitchens in some of our fashionable houses.

Brass poles are used for stair-ropes. They look effective over a handsome carpet, but are difficult to keep clean.

Sweet Omelettes, which are only the plain omelette jolly or jam spread over it before it is rolled, should be dusted with fine sugar at the moment of serving.

**HOME CAKE.**—Rub well into a pound of flour half-pound of good beef dripping; add one-quarter pound of sugar and one-quarter pound of currants; then one tablespoonful of brewers' yeast. Mix as bread, but do not knead; let it rise till light, and bake in a quick oven.

To make the ebony stain for furniture or mantels, use tube oil, blue-black for staining unvarnished wood. The dull tint gives the surface required, and is very different from the shining and varnished effect of jet black paint. If the color sinks in very much, as it will on soft woods, repeat the process.

The cheap palm-leaf fans are very much used for screens, being covered with drawn plush, satin, or cretonne to form a bag, finished off with small pompons round the edge at small intervals, and a large satin bow at the base of the handle. They are sometimes hung up against the wall by the side of the fireplace, handle upward, and hold a half-opened Japanese fan fire-screen, or any little odds and ends.

### The Short Rows.

A Vermont dairyman says a young calf should be fed three times a day. Overfeeding at long intervals, and especially with cold food, kills a good many valuable calves.

A writer in Hygiene Pratique states that boots and shoes may be rendered waterproof by soaking them for some hours in thick soap water. The compound forms a fatty acid within the leather, and makes it impervious to water.

"Don't forget the dust bath for the poultry. This is made by nailing together four boards in the form of a square. No bottom is needed. Place in a sunny corner and fill with dry loam or road dust, with an extra barrel full to use when needed. There is nothing equal to a good dust bath to keep the hens free from lice. If they are very lousy a bushel of wood ashes may be added to the bath.

In windy localities, says J. J. Thomas, good screens of evergreens on the exposed sides of the cattle yards have the three-fold advantage of ornament, comfort to the cattle, and economy in feed and in saving flesh. This kind of protection from wintry winds, with its great saving and little cost, is so important that there appears to be no excuse for its omission by any farmer.

A correspondent says that young horses should never have shoes imposed upon them until it is well proved that they cannot do without them. He predicts that the day is not far off when some humane benefactor of his kind and horse-kind will produce a breed of horses having such firm, tough feet in addition to all other good qualities.

The negroes of Sumter county, Ala., have a farmer's club in successful operation, with some very practical features worthy the consideration of white folks. If any member fails to attend properly to his team, or keep his fences in repair he is fined from \$1 to \$10, and the money is collected out of the first proceeds of his crop. Membership in such a club would prove expensive to a good many white farmers.

### Window Boxes.

Among the numerous plans for the coming summer made by the great army of flower lovers all over the broad land, I hope many have included one, two or more window boxes. It can be said in their favor that they offer one of the easiest methods of gardening, and one of the prettiest forms of out-door decoration; and to the large class, who, through ill health or many cares, are debarred from the ordinary flower garden, they are especially suitable. They give also rare chances for richness of tone and harmony of color, and an artist's work may be as plainly visible in a well-filled window box as in many more pretentious things.

I was especially struck with this latter fact, one day, last summer, when before the windows of an old farm house I saw so beautiful a combination of form and color that I stopped and begged permission to examine closely. The brackets that held the window boxes were fastened in place with large screws; and could be easily removed, and the boxes made of unpainted pine nailed together. Up each side of the window was a rustic ladder, made by fastening a slender cedar stick about four feet long in each corner of the box,

then tacking bits of twisted mossy branches irregularly back and forth till the desired height was reached; then longer pieces formed an arch over the top. In one box a white abutilon formed the center piece, with scarlet geraniums and sweet breathed heliotropes on either side, while delicate maurandyas, with their dainty leaves and blossoms, twined around and over the rustic supports. Then, mingling with the stronger growing German ivy, senecio scandens fell in long festoons from the arch above. Bulbs of oxalis deppi, which had been tucked in here and there, furnished abundance of prettily marked leaves, and the outside of the box was completely hidden by a perfect mat of othonna, tradescantia, German ivy and dew plant. The other box had a large, double, purple fuschia in the centre, with white geraniums on either side, surrounded by quantities of mignonette and the same charming confusion of drooping vines. These boxes were sheltered by a veranda, but had an unlimited supply of sunshine during the middle of the day, and were perfect marvels of luxuriant growth.

Bogonias are among the most suitable plants for this kind of gardening, and the tuberous-rooted varieties reduce the labor to a minimum. A box on my own veranda, last summer, contained our of the latter, while Maderia vines clambered over the lattice work of slender willows to the ends, and wreathed the upper part of the window with their own peculiar drapery of green leaves, and faintly sweet flowers. A quantity of variegated periwinkles completed the effect. On the approach of cold weather, such a box can easily be removed to warmer quarters, gradually dried off, and then placed in a frost-proof room or dry cellar until the following spring.

A collection of fuchsias, half a dozen different kinds, in a large box is also a charming, and unlike specimen pot plants, they can be left to their own devices, and neither trimmed nor trained.

For a good-sized box no vine is more desirable than the cobra scandens, and it is easily grown from seed. Two little pots filled with moist earth and placed side by side in an empty match box, the spaces around them tightly packed with wet moss, the seeds planted edge down, the whole covered with a pane of glass, set in a warm place and not watered, have year after year started beautiful little plants for me. After the seeds have germinated, they ask little favor of any one, and their rapidity of growth is something marvellous.

Nothing adds so much to the charms of the rich, glowing colors of foliage plants as a judicious mixture of ferns, and some of our native ones are quite equal to the greenhouse varieties. Taken up in early spring before the fronds have begun to unroll themselves in the sunlight, and put here and there among brilliant coleus or crimson dracaenas, they will grow and thrive either in shade or sunshine, and lend grace and beauty to their surroundings. Rustic boxes filled entirely with ferns, and wild grasses, and draped with mitchella vines, may deck a sheltered veranda all summer, and then do duty at a north window as ferneries all winter.

Cyperus alternifolius, also, though usually recommended for Wardian cases, will give charming effects among bouvardias or abutilons in a large window box, and sweet peas and mignonette are always acceptable. Sweet peas must be covered three or four inches when sown, or the vines will soon turn yellow and droop away without a single blossom.

In regard to the size, shape and ornamentation of the boxes much will depend on the plants chosen. For strong, quick-growing ones, depth of soil and plenty of root room are required, while for the lower-growing and delicate ones shallow boxes are more desirable. One thing bear in mind; no art can decorate equal to the forms, colors, shadings, intricate loopings and draperies of healthy vines and flowers, so there is no necessity for elaborate ornament in the box itself; it should always be subordinate to the plants therein. The soil should be light and rich, and the supply of water must be ample.—Vick's Illustrated Magazine.

### Early Pig Pasture.

What is it best to sow for an early pasture for pigs, the coming summer, on a prairie soil newly broken?

Ans.—It is not advisable to pasture some grasses at all, or to pasture very early, the same season the seed is sown; but the best you can do is to sow four pounds of Orchard Grass, six pounds White Clover, four pounds Kentucky Blue Grass and 12 pounds Red clover seed to the acre. To this you might add three pounds of Northern Red Top. The White Clover is very early and is closely followed by Kentucky Blue Grass and Orchard Grass. Harrow the ground well and brush in the seeds. If you can do this just before a rain all the better. All the seeds mentioned may be sown together in the early spring. You might sow a patch of rye for pasture to ease the grass, but the success of this you can best determine for yourself.—Rural New Yorker.

### Growing Celery.

From the Western Rural.

We are asked to give directions for the cultivation of celery. Sow the seed in the open ground as soon as the ground is fit to work. The ground should be level and the soil mellow and rich, and it is better when it is being thoroughly pulverised, which it ought to be, to mix it with short stable manure. Sow in rows eight inches apart, using one ounce of seed to every twenty feet

of row. After sowing roll or pat down with a spade. As soon as the plants appear hoe lightly between the rows, and pull out the weeds as soon as they are seen. As the plants advance in growth cut off the tops—perhaps twice before planting—as that process induces a stocky growth and plants treated thus suffer less in transplanting. It may be planted any time from the middle of June to the middle of August, but little is gained in planting before July. Prepare ground, and plant on a level surface with rows three feet apart and the plants sixteen inches apart in the rows, if it is a dwarf variety, five feet apart if of the large varieties. Firm the soil about the plant, especially if it is dry. After planting, nothing need be done for six weeks, except to run between the rows with a cultivator and keep the plants free from weeds. About the middle of August begin to earth up to blanch up what is wanted for use in September, October and November. Draw the soil up about the plant with a hoe and firm it about it, so that the leaves shall be in an upright position. Then draw more dirt up about the row. A plow may be used for this purpose. But the blanching process is completed only when the soil is taken from between the rows and banked up to the top of the plants on each side.

### When to Sow Clover.

I see an inquiry in your paper as to the time to sow clover seed. I was glad to see some one raise the discussion on clover. I will give my experience of forty years, and what I have gathered from others I have talked with. My facilities for knowing have been somewhat better than those of most farmers, as I have been selling a seed sower for the last ten years. From what I can gather, about the 15th of April is the best time, if the season is favorable; if not, sow later, when the ground is dry and cracked, and before a rain. I don't sow on a snow or in the moon, but on the ground when out of the way of frost. By this plan a man won't miss getting a stand more than once in five or seven years, but if he sows early and the seed germinates he is a goner.—Indiana Farmer.

### Caution in Regard to Seed-corn.

D. S., Ionia County, Mich., writes: "For 15 years there has not been a season so bad for ripening corn as that of 1883. It is estimated that 150,000 bushels of seed-corn will be needed in the State of Wisconsin alone, owing to the failure of the corn to ripen. Similar conditions prevail in all corn-growing states, and probably not one farmer in fifty has saved corn that is fit for seed. Every one should to-day test his seed-corn by placing several average samples between folds of moistened flannel and if it does not germinate then look sharp for corn that will grow or the result will be hundreds and thousands of dollars of loss to the farmers and millions to the country. Look sharp, too, for corn of the best varieties which ripened in 1883. So far as I can learn there was only one variety that ripened perfectly in this state the past season. Also procure a pure, fixed, and distinct variety which has been thoroughly tested, and which is an extra early and not a hard, flinty corn.

### Management of Swine.

How can we best manage our present crop of hogs during spring and early summer, and how can we get the earliest green feed for them, as corn is scarce and dear?

Ans.—Hogs which have been wintered, will not only live, but thrive on grass or clover pasture. They can be kept along on such pasture without other food until spring grain is ripe. Peas are the best feed for hogs, and these will be ready in about 24 months after sowing. Barley is next best of the spring grains, and will mature sooner than the peas. Early sweet corn can be utilized to good advantage, to be followed by later varieties, and fed stalks and all, and the hogs will eat it with great relish. There are more fattening properties in sweet corn-stalks than most people suppose. With the above auxiliaries hogs may be kept growing through the summer, and be fattened without any corn. Young pigs, however, will require something more than pasture. Wheat middlings, or ground oats with the hulls sifted out, and slightly fermented, will make the best kind of food for pigs. The hulls of the oats are excellent for the calves or cows. If sows are suckling pigs, they will require additional food until the peas or barley are ready for them. The hogs may be turned into the peas, and thus harvesting and grinding will be unnecessary. Wheat might take the place of corn, and if ground entire in small quantities it will be excellent food for swine.—Rural New Yorker.

A gentleman living at Aiken, S. C., according to a local newspaper, owned a pair of ponies which the family had driven for years. Recently the roads became so bad that he sent the ponies out to his plantation to pasture, and bought a team of stout horses. When the ponies went to the farm the old coach-dog, which had run with them for years, accompanied them. They had been there a week when the dog trotted back to town to see his master. He hovered around the new horses for a few minutes, and then put off briskly for the farm. In an hour he came back, followed by the two faithful old ponies whose places had been usurped by the horses.—

### Compressed Paragraphs.

A Chicago paper says: "The following illustrates the career of a great showman, 1870, unknown; 1872, a man named Haverly; 1874, Jack Haverly; 1876, Mr. John H. Haverly; 1878, Manager Haverly; 1880, Colonel J. H. Haverly; 1880, Gen. J. H. Haverly; 1884, Jack Haverly."

Dr. Miller who made the examination of Guitau's brain, has been devoting considerable attention to the effect of different professions on longevity. His conclusion is that the average life of business men is fifty years in this country and sixty in England, statesmen seventy-two in England to seventy here, English chief justices sixty-eight, Americans, sixty. The Americans, in his opinion, are too active and not regular enough in their habits.

A Boston man writes of doctors who advertise: "Many such advertisers are specialists, and an old physician frankly tells me that as the practice of medicine is all an experiment, the 'regulars' always use the goods which these specialists have proven to be efficacious. They spend years studying the eye, ear or some other part of the body, and consequently know more about it than a doctor with a general practice, who consults old books and is not progressive."

The City of Mexico possesses many delights for the northern visitor, but there is one drawback mentioned by a correspondent which is rarely referred to. He says: "For the first two days I was a little troubled for breath on this lofty plateau (2,000 feet higher than the top of Mount Washington), and my lips were dry and my throat parched; but my lungs have now become accustomed to the rarified air, and by taking outdoor exercise only in the morning and evening and drinking a little claret and a good deal less water, I succeed in being very comfortable."

A scientific physician says: "In the morning there is an acid state of the secretions, and nothing is so well calculated to correct it as peaches, apples, etc. The small seed fruits, such as figs, blackberries, raspberries and strawberries, may be classed among the best fruits and medicines. The sugar in them is nutritious, the acid purifying and the seeds laxative. We should look more to our gardens for our medicines and less to our drug stores."

It is not fair to charge workmen with being low in their tastes or with preferring the saloon, and the beer-hall, and the tavern, until they have had the opportunity to educate themselves. The success of the workmen's Sunday concerts in New York ought to be the starting point for similar efforts in other cities, and it only needs a trifling generosity on the part of our wealthy men to repeat the success. The rich have their Sunday service in churches to which the poor cannot afford to go. Let the poor have their service also, and what better service can they have than good music on the only day of rest they have?—Chicago Tribune.

The origin of attar of roses is said to have been this: To please a voluptuous monarch his favorite sultana caused his bath in the palace garden to be filled to the brim with rose water. The action of the sun soon concentrated the oily particles floating on the surface, and the attendant, supposing the water to have become corrupt, began to skim it for the purpose of taking off the oil. The globules burst under the process, and emitted such a delightful odor that the idea of preparing this beautiful perfume was at once suggested.

In an article by Charles F. Thwing on "Gifts to Colleges and Universities," published in the Bay State Monthly, it is stated that the amount contributed to college and university education in the United States during the past ten years is \$35,622,000, and since 1874 the total amount given has not been less than \$50,000,000.

Simon Cameron said to a Philadelphia Record reporter in regard to Florida: "I found no traces of malaria down there, and I was told that there had been no serious sickness during the two years that the white workmen had been laboring on the canal. There is a salt breeze almost always from the Gulf or the Atlantic. The community is made up mainly of hotel-keepers—Yankees—who prefer to import canned vegetables from New York for their guests rather than raise the vegetables in the ground. They say they have no help, but that is all nonsense."

### Personal Gossip.

Grant smokes a medium-strength cigar, which he imports from Cuba. He talks while smoking, never lets a cigar go out, and smokes the stub on a wooden toothpick. Sherman smokes nervously, and is always relighting his cigar. Sheridan enjoys a quiet smoke, but can't do anything else while he is smoking. Butler rarely lights a cigar, but carries the wrong end in his mouth. Logan smokes only at long intervals, but when he smokes at all, it is incessantly.

It is well to be posted in the French names of some of the brand new shades which fashion has introduced; "Gris" is a steely drab shade. "Shauvette," a shade of drab beige. "Armande," a delicate salmon yellow. "Isard," an ashes of rose or pinkish, beige shade. "Champignon" is a yellowish soft drab,

or, as its name suggests, a mushroom shade.

Judge Dickey, of the Illinois Supreme Court, shed tears when on the Shiloh battlefield a few days ago. He told the three hundred Union veterans around him how the husband of his daughter General Wallace, was killed near the spot then under foot. During the battle Mrs. Wallace, approaching to join her husband, met a messenger, who told her of the General's fall.

At a station in Montana the other day a Boston girl stuck her head out of a Northern Pacific car and exclaimed: "The bewildering womanhood which crowns this transcendent scenery with such indescrivable fascination and tinges its every feath with such overpowering interest quite breaks me up!" And a number of members of the local vigilance committee standing on the platform look grimly into each other's faces and mutters, "Oh, if it was only a man."

The Montreal (Can.) Witness says: "Among other worthy deeds, the late Joseph Mackay left \$10,000 for a Professorship in Montreal Presbyterian College. His surviving brother, Edward, supplemented this by a gift of \$40,000 and called the professorship after his brother. At his death the late Edward Mackay left \$10,000 to found a chair in the college. Now his three nephews have added \$40,000, and call the professorship after their uncle."

"The Indian girl of Eureka, Nev.," says the San Francisco Chronicle, "who had been given all the benefits of civilization, including dresses of the latest style, and who recently cast them aside and went to live in a wigwag with a Piute buck, has repented of her passion for savage life. Recently, after drinking bad whiskey all night, he arose in the morning and began to beat and kick her. She escaped to town and has once more donned the garb of civilization. Perhaps it would be a good thing to send her east as a lecturer on the beauties of savage life."

The present wife of the emperor of Germany was not his first choice. The lady whom he wanted to marry was the Princess Elizabeth Radziwill. The latter returned his love to the highest degree, but she was much too noble-minded to accept the sacrifice of her hand, and in a last interview with the prince, she besought him to release her. She went into a nunnery, and Wilhelm wedded Augusta, but their married life was not for many years a very happy one. It is only since the different attempts on the emperor's life that their relations have become warmer, and on those occasions the empress always spent many hours daily near the bedside of her husband.

### Egotism of Victor Hugo.

The Chicago Tribune undertakes to show that Victor Hugo is a very much overrated man. Although his genius is undoubted, he is eaten up with egotism. "Notwithstanding his extraordinary physical and mental vigor," says this critic, "he really belongs to the past. He has no affinity for the simplicity and naturalness representative of the literature of the day. Indeed, he has not caught the contemporaneous spirit, nor does he wish to. Surrounded by satellites, they talk to him only of himself; and fill his ear with extravagant eulogiums. Everybody addresses him as 'dear master,' and strangers who call on him—he is very accessible—do little else than echo the praises he expects as his due. Many of these praises are ludicrously excessive; but they never sound so to him. His hearing has grown callous to the exaggerated compliments that have so long assailed it. No Anglo-Saxon could or would endure such a battery of adulation. Superlatives have become so familiar to him that the positive degree might awaken resentment. He is continually accosted as 'divine,' 'the greatest of poets,' 'the monarch of mirth,' 'the intellectual ruler of the age,' and the like. A not uncommon form of greeting is: 'How is the good god?' to which he responds with wonderful ingenueness: 'The good god is very well.'"

### A Northwestern Bishop.

Bishop Paddock, (Episcopal) of Washington Territory, will return to his missionary diocese at the close of this month. He has been occupied during the winter in raising money for a second school at Tacoma. Mr. Wright, of Philadelphia, offered two years ago to give the land and an endowment fund of \$50,000 for each of two church schools, one for girls and the other for boys, provided the Bishop would furnish a building fund of \$25,000 in each instance. The corner-stone for one of the schools was laid last year, the building fund having been secured. The Bishop has succeeded in raising \$15,000 for the second school, and is confident that the remainder will be in hand in time to secure the second endowment of \$50,000. He has also opened a hospital on the coast, and placed a third school at Walls Walla on a self-supporting basis. These four institutions will give the religious body which he represents great influence in the rapidly growing Territory, soon to become a State. The Bishop's daughter, who was married in Brooklyn last October to Lieutenant Mills, U. S. A., is now at Fort Coeur d'Alene, on the border of her father's diocese.