St. Tammany Farmer.

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, Should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor."

W. G. KENTZEL, Editor. COVINGTON, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1889. VOL. XIV.—NO. 52.

WHAT MATTERS IT?

What matters it, my curious friend, where lies
Our Heavenly harbor and our land of rest?
Whether it be beyond the azure skies
Or in some lower world, God knoweth best.
It offers safety from our cares, and so
What matters whether it be high or low,
It offers rest; what more should mortals know?

Rest from the weariness of burdened days,
Of bitter longings and weary hours,
Of duties leading us through darkened ways
And into efforts far beyond our powers,
Of dark temptations into secret sin,
Of constant labor, earth's poor gauds to win,
Of spirits deafened by the strife and din.

It matters nothing as to when and where
We find the haven and the welcome home;
Let curious doubt give place to trusting prayer,
And no weak soul through speculation roam.
We seek for sealed-up secrets, hidden things;
Enough for us, if on eternal wings,
We reach the country of those better things.

Vex not thy spirit, O aspiring man,
But live thy days as earnest workers must,
Nor try to pierce thy God's mysterious plan
Which obligates thee to a life of trust.
Some day, somewhere, while countless ages roll,
Thy hungry heart shall comprehend the whole,
The vail be parted for thy thankful soul.

—I. Edgar Jones.

DO YOU COMPREHEND?

What One Dollar, a Day or a Mile Really Means.

Inability of the Human Mind to Really Comprehend the Bigness of Things —One Doesn't Know Much, After All.

In the East Tennessee mountains lives a man in middle life who not long ago went twelve miles away from home. It was the first time in his life he had ever taken so long a journey, and on his return he wondered if the world was as big the other way as it was that way!

To all of us that is laughable; yet little things constantly occur, if we would but notice them, which ought to take away our conceit about our great attainments. It would not be difficult to show that the educated mind of average intelligence, with all the training it gets from school and college, has but a feeble comprehension of the real bigness of things. We think in figures after we pass beyond a very few units in distance, in time, in money, in weight, and so on. For instance, take length of time as a test. Suppose the person thinks of a duration of one hour so that he can measure it off in his mind with a true sense of the value of each part of it, so that he stretches his mind over it and *comprehends* it, in the exact etymological sense of the word "comprehend." We will agree that the mind is big enough and tenacious enough to comprehend one hour. But suppose that the person is asked to extend his comprehension to ten hours. Let any one who is perfectly candid try the experiment, and it will be strange if he does not admit that he is less able to stretch his mind over this longer period of duration, and to give to each minute of it its full value, compared with every other minute. He will more likely find that he thinks ten hours as mathematically ten times one hour, but will not stretch out his mind with an accurate sense of covering ten more units than that of his first comprehension.

So with a week compared with a day. It may fairly be doubted whether there is a general comprehension of a week as seven times longer than a day, in the sense that the mind stretches over it and perceives the relative length of the duration; but the mind rests on the mathematical knowledge that seven times one is seven. When it comes to months and years, the perceptions of comparative length fade away into a vagueness which is only relieved by the fixing of dates and by reliance upon figures as multiples of a comprehended unit, rather than by an adequate comprehension of the total. Probably most minds can really comprehend but an exceedingly limited time with any just sense of proportion.

Again, take an illustration from the familiar American standard, the dollar. Let any one think how it looks in his own mind, and see if the fourth quarter is as big to his comprehension as the first, or if the whole in all its parts is so accurately comprehended that the tenth dime is as big as the first. The inability of the mind to cover values of large amount is easily illustrated by bargains in trade. The sum is not fixed on a margin of even dollars, in all except small transactions, but on even fives or tens. As the sum increases, the bargain turns upon fifties, hundreds or thousands. The mind does not comprehend nor estimate the limits of value as sharply as in smaller transactions. The Englishman thinks in pounds sterling where the American thinks in dollars, and uses the multiples of fifties, hundreds or thousands in large transactions as does the American. Yet the variation in the two cases is not parallel, because the dollar is not to the pound as an even five or ten, or multiple of them. It shows that the mind really does not accurately estimate the differences which it nominally recognizes.

The same littleness of educated, intelligent mind appears in estimates of distance. We do not half comprehend what are matters of current information and statement with us. Let a person stretch his mind over a distance, say a few inches, and cut off a piece of string of that length. Then, with that as a unit, but being careful not to think of it in inches at all, let him attempt to cut off another piece three or four times the length of the unit. Unless he is trained to watchfulness, he will be very likely to find that his mind is not big enough to compare accurately the greater length with the less. Suppose that a person can comprehend fully the distance of a mile, so that every foot of it holds its true proportion to every other foot, and his mind is stretched over the entire 5,289 feet in one instantaneous, accurate comprehension, can he do it with a second mile in addition so that he comprehends it as accurately as the first? To ask the question is to answer it in the negative. We think distances as indefinite extension, or as vague bignesses, with greater or less proportion to each other, and with comparisons based on mathematical terms. Though the traveler knows that it is three thousand miles, say, in round figures, from Boston to San Francisco, yet he knows it in experience only as a very long journey. Doubtless it would be impossible to find a man who would say that he comprehends it as just thirty times as far as from Boston to Springfield. With no miles for his unit, or with the distance from Boston to Springfield as his unit, would he not be likely to say that the transcontinental trip was much more than thirty units in that scale?

We are familiar, thanks to the astronomers, with figures representing prodigious distances, and it is perfectly safe to say that those figures are nearly meaningless to us, save as they represent an extension indefinitely and inconceivably big. We are taught that the moon is 238,000 miles from the earth, to speak in round numbers, and that the earth is 92,000,000 miles from the sun. Then it is said, as if we could comprehend it, that the earth has a velocity in its orbit of nineteen miles in a second. We are told regarding the velocity of light that it flies through space at about 300,000 miles a second, and we accept it as if we understood it, together with the companion statement that light from the nearest fixed star requires over forty years to reach us, while the scintillations from the telescope stars must have started on their ethereal flight hundreds or thousands of years before reaching the terrestrial beholder. But, though the figures are true, yet they convey but little meaning to the human mind.

Suppose we try to get an idea of speed by joining our two ideas of the distance traversed and the time occupied, with the understanding that every foot of distance and every second of time is rated at its full value. The person who tries the experiment will very soon find that he has reached the limit of his mental powers. He may know that lightning moves with a certain velocity a second; but let him attempt to comprehend the speed of the flash from the thunder cloud, and he will see partially how he fails to comprehend the object of his attention. It may be fairly doubted whether the average educated man can grasp a rate of speed much beyond that of a fast express train and comprehend its value. The mind might see that one velocity was much more than another, but it would probably fail to reach an accurate judgment. Now, the highest railroad speed with which the traveling world is familiar is that on the London & Northwestern railroad, which makes the 400 miles from London to Edinburgh in eight hours, and on a portion of the distance attains the speed of seventy-five miles an hour.

With that speed as unit, see what mean these celestial distances which we are accustomed to mention familiarly, as if we understood them. We think of the moon as near us. So it is compared with the sun; a very close neighbor compared with the telescopic stars. But if our locomotive were able to fly to the moon at seventy-five miles an hour, making no stops for water or fuel, day or night, how long would it be before the man in the moon could pass the time of day with our engineer? It would be 3,173 hours, or a continuous run, day and night, of 130 of our earthly days. That is, if our locomotive should start New Year's morning at this furious speed of seventy-five miles an hour (and that it is furious no one who has seen a train move even fifty miles an hour will question), and continue without an instant's slackening, it would reach the end of its trip the 10th of May! That may help in our comprehension of the distance, in common language, but does it not also emphasize the fact that such a distance is absolutely incomprehensible in the true meaning of the word comprehend?

But how is it with the distance to the sun? If so much time is needed to reach the moon, it will take years to reach the sun. Yes, it will—years and years. But how many? It is a mere question of mathematics. If the sun is 92,000,000 miles from us, and our locomotive travels seventy-five miles an hour, it will be 1,226,666 hours on the journey, or 51,111 days of twenty-four hours each, or 140 years. In other words, had the locomotive been known in the middle of the last century, the flight could have been begun twenty-five years before the battle of Bunker Hill, and the iron horse could have been "thundering down the ages" ever since, day and night, at this terrific speed, and not have reached the sun yet. What a distance is that! Yet that is but the radius of the orbit whose circumference the earth travels every year. Where are our ideas of speed and distance? They are too feeble for mention compared with this. Then what possible significance can it have to us to say that light, moving with a velocity of 300,000 miles a second, will reach us from a certain star in fifty years, from another in eighty, from another in one hundred and twenty-five? We are utterly overwhelmed, and our own figures are infinitely beyond our comprehension.—R. L. Bridgman, in Christian Union.

EVERY-DAY CLOTHES.

How They Indicate Character and Disposition in the Wearers.

There are women who go about their work, not elaborately-dressed, but who are always the embodiment of neatness. No row of paper wads above the forehead suggests the headgear of the ancient Egyptians, or reminds one that the boundary lines between civilization and barbarism are not always clearly defined. The satin smooth hair, the becoming morning dress, the spotless apron, and the collar to match, these are the outward and visible signs of the woman who fulfills King Solomon's ideal of feminine perfection. There may be occasions when she receives her friends, or goes abroad figuratively arrayed in purple and fine linen. But it is not when she goes to market, brushing against kerosene barrels and butter firkins, nor does she air her splendor in church. Tidiness for the benefit of those who are met at the breakfast table, when no stranger has been admitted to the family circle, argues tidiness in all the minute details of housekeeping. One knows instinctively that there are no dark corners in the house over which such a deft-handed Dorcas presides into which daylight penetrates but once a year—during the May moving or the annual upheaving of house-cleaning. Pantry shelves are speckless and odorless; flour, spices, sugar and salt are labled and under cover.

The drawing-room is not cluttered with fancy work and useless bric-a-brac. The chambers, sweet, pure and silent, are abodes of peace.

The books on the orderly shelves in the library are where they should be. Tennyson, in the particular nook assigned him, where he could be found at midnight in the dark, any night in the year. The dictionary is on its stand, the encyclopedias at hand for reference.

The children who have been born and reared in such surroundings have been started on their way, well disciplined and half-armed for the battle of life. They have learned the value of order as a time-saver; of cleanliness as a promoter of comfort, health, and happiness; of thrift and economy, which saves and mends and considers no labor to these ends performed in vain. The daily influence of such a home will follow the young man into the world whither he shall go to make a place and a name for himself. It will create just such another home when the daughter goes forth from her father's roof to take her place, in grace and dignity, beside that hearthstone whose good genius she is destined to be. Nor does it end there, for the force of heredity is not spent in one or two generations. It is a bane or a blessing to the end of time. It is a great advantage, says George Macdonald, to have been well born—by which he meant, born to a realization of the responsibilities of life, rather than an appreciation of its luxuries. And the obverse of all this? Unfortunately, there is one. Out of domestic chaos rises its evil genius. With the form and countenance of a woman, her garb is disheveled and unclean. Dust and ashes are her habitation; figurative, if not litoral, darkness is round her, and waste, cheerless, discomfort, unloveliness, unhappiness. Spiritual and mental training in such a home there are none, and like the more fortunate, the traits of her descendents are perpetuated forever. She is the familiar spirit of misfortune and of irremediable poverty, and though an angel were sent from Heaven, her condition and that of those dependent upon her could not be changed. That she blossoms out in unnatural freshness and newness once a week, or on state occasions, like a poor grub that becomes a butterfly for just one day, does not augur any hope for the future. It is the speech and dress and behavoir six days out of seven that determine the value of the life in its entirety.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

EASILY DISCOURAGED.

The Kind of Spirit Which Will Never Command Success.

Not long ago a young man in a neighboring city attempted to put an end to his life because he was "discouraged and couldn't get along." Disheartened and only twenty-one years of age!

Whatever may have been the reasons which so discouraged the young man in question that he wanted to die, we may say that, as a general thing, this sort of spirit, that which gives up so early in the struggle, is not the one to compel success. We have only to read the sketches of the lives of some of our leading merchants, which were given in our issue of last week, the anniversary edition, to know what the right spirit is. There is some tendency in this generation for the young to break away from old-time plodding and to look to the future and some fortunate scheme for success. Money dazzles the eyes of not a few people, and the thought of winning it without working for it blinds the eyes of the weak to their own good. There is no surer guide to this success than that which was the foundation of that of the several leading business men of whom mention has been made. Said one of them: "The legitimate trade, the honest, plodding routine of life, is the true basis of all good fortune." Patience, ability, nerve, calculation and fixedness of purpose are the elements which a young man needs who goes out to battle for a place in the world.—American Grocer.

FULL OF FUN.

—She meant rare or well done.—Landlady—"How do you like your beefsteak?" Boarder — "Tender."—Boston Courier.

—"My friend," said a young man as he fished Mr. Eisenstein out of the water, "you owe your life to me." "How much discount for cash?" asked Mr. Eisenstein vacantly, as he wrung the water out of his coat.—Washington Capitol.

—Willie—"I guess papa has said something that's made mama awful mad. He'll get a roasting after them callers has gone away." Johnny—"How do you know?" "She's begun to call him 'darling.'"—Chicago Tribune.

—"Young man," said a minister to a member of his congregation, "do you know what relations you sustain in this world?" "Well, just at present the only relation I am sustaining in this world is my father-in-law, but you can just gamble on it I am not going to sustain him very long," was the reply.—Texas Siftings.

—Mrs. Lumkins—"Joshua, I am going to the dentist's to have a tooth pulled out. You mind the baby while I'm gone." Mr. Lumkins (jumping for his hat)—"Say, you mind the baby and I'll go and get a tooth pulled, you know."—N. Y. Sun.

—Rusher—"Ask that man what he wants, John. He seems to be deaf and dumb." John—"He writes on this paper, sir, that he is looking for work." Rusher—"Poor wretch. Write and ask him what he can do." John—He writes here, sir, that he would like a job to tend the telephone." Rusher—"You may as well engage him; he will do as well as any one.—America.

—A nephew to his old and wealthy uncle—"I am desperate, and unless you send me two thousand dollars by this evening I shall take my life; by midnight I shall be no more." Reply of the uncle—"Yours of this date received. When, some time ago, you sent me a missive of similar import, and I sent you my revolver, what did you do? You 'spouted' the weapon. I have no more revolvers."—Judge.

—"Now, that tree over there," remarked the visitor from the city, would make a first-rate poker player, wouldn't it?" "That pear tree over there—hold up, sonny, I catch on—it's always holdin' up pears; or it's great on pears. Anyhow to get pears in it somewhere, and ye can't fool me." And the visitor from the city took the next train home.—Merchant Traveler.

AND SO IT GOES.

The Way of the World Illustrated by a Little Anecdote.

"Well! Well!" he exclaimed, as he halted while crossing Union square the other morning and shook hands with a man sitting on the bench, "but I was thinking of you that very second."

"Yes!"

"It was just such a morning as this three years ago when we sat on this very same bench. Do you remember it?"

"I do."

"I was dead broke, discouraged, and wondering if I hadn't better commit suicide. You spoke to me in a kindly way, and we began to talk. Do you remember?"

"Oh, yes."

"I told you I was a struggling young actor, and that circumstances had downed me. I was penniless and without hope. You reached over and took my hand. Remember?"

"Oh, yes."

"And you spoke kind words. You bade me call up all my courage and resolution. You predicted that I would yet climb to the top of the ladder. Remember?"

"Yes."

"And you did not stop there. You put your hand into your purse, handed me a $20 bill, and told me I could have it until able to repay the loan. Am I correct?"

"You are."

"That noble action of yours encouraged me. I went away and made a last effort, and it was a success. Three years ago I sat here a beggar. To-day I am worth $20,000 and all these diamonds. I owe it all to you. But for you I should now be moldering in a suicide's grave. Yes, I am worth $20,000 and have got a wad of $800 right here in my pocket. Think of the change in my situation. This is our first meeting since that memorable day, although I have thought of you daily. Put it there, old man."

"Yes."

"I haven't forgotten you."

"No?"

"And I never shall. God bless you! Good morning—got an engagement at sharp eleven."

He passed on, and the other sat for some minutes in deep thought. All of a sudden he rose up and looked after the vanished man and exclaimed:

"Yes, but he didn't even offer to return my $20, without interest!"—N. Y. Sun.

Only a Question of Time.

"James," said the undertaker, "have you heard how Mr. Hawkins, the sick old gentleman at the other end of the avenue, is getting along this evening?"

"Yes, sir," responded the shop boy. "The doctor gave him a dose of 'lixir of life last night, and ——"

"I think, James," said the undertaker with cheerful sadness, "you may set that lamp in the window and turn the light up a little. If any body should call for me within the next half hour I shall be lying on the lounge just inside the door of the back room."—Chicago Tribune.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

—Turnip tops, chopped and mixed with straw, have been used in the silos in Scotland, and good results are claimed therefrom.

—You can purchase improved stock and secure the benefit of the work of others cheaper than you can do the same work yourself.

—Pin up two facts to be considered when you are discouraged: There are fewer business failures among farmers than among any other class; more men begin without capital and become owners of good business in farming than in any other vocation.—American Agriculturist.

—If corn fodder is cut and steamed or moistened with boiling water, it will be found an excelent and agreeable change of diet for the cows. Cows that are given a variety of food occasionally will always keep in better condition than those that are fed on a sameness of diet continually.

—The sterility of many soils is due more to their mechanical condition, their texture and relations to heat and moisture, than to lack of plant food. Such soils want amendment first and manure afterward. Some soils will give good returns for manuring; others without irrigation or amendment by draining, tillage, the use of lime, marl or muck, etc., will not.

—In German experiments during the last two seasons copperas increased the yield of vines and protected the vineyards against parasites; increased the yield of clover and lucerne from twenty-five to thirty-three per cent.; increased the yield of potatoes, and tended to suppress potato disease when applied to the young plants, and gave good results with grain.

—There are at present forty-six experiment stations all over the United States, employing over three hundred and seventy trained men in the prosecution of experimental inquiry, and the United States annually provides $595,000 for the support of these stations, and several States $125,000, making a total of $720,000 for that purpose.—Massachusetts Plowman.

—A flagstone floor with cemented joints is best for the dairy. Wooden floors are apt to rot out, and brick floors absorb the spilled milk, soon becoming very offensive. If bricks are used the floor should be kept painted all the time, and even with this extra trouble it is not so good as flagstone and cement. The flagstone underground is always easily kept cool, as a dairy floor should be.

—Milking rapidly does not mean jerking sharply or moving with hasty or irregular motions in the presence of the cow. Such a course would counteract the very thing aimed at. The motion of the milker should not be such as to attract her suspicions; they should be deliberate and cool; but when set down to milking nothing should be allowed to interrupt or retard the work. This will induce continual "letting down" by giving continual relief to the udder.

AFRICAN FORESTS.

They Will Probably Furnish Lumber for Our Great-Grandchildren.

The item being circulated so industriously by most of our exchanges in reference to the discovery by Stanley of a tract of timber in Africa, containing an area of 226,000 square miles, is a trifle on the Munchausen order. That there is a tract of such an extent is not improbable, but that an eminent discoverer was so profoundly impressed by its importance to the commercial world that, notwithstanding the dangers surrounding him from malaria, wild beasts and wilder and more savage men, with compass and chain he would stop his journey and take upon himself the extra task of traveling 1,500 to 2,000 miles for the express purpose of ascertaining exactly the area of that body of timber, is something akin to the preposterous. If we would believe such a tale, would it not be reasonable to believe that he also carefully estimated the quantity of standing timber and that when he returns he will have his estimates so carefully prepared that he can give within a hundred feet the quantity standing on each 40 or 80 acre tract. That Africa with an area of 12,000,000 square miles contains only this 226,000-mile forest tract, according to the impression conveyed by our erudite contemporaries, reveals a lamentable condition of affairs for the "Dark Continent." But providentially Africa is not so unfortunately situated. The territory practically tributary to the Congo, the Zambesia, and the Upper Nile and their tributaries, draining some 7,000,000 square miles—an area almost equal in extent to that of the United States and British America combined—is represented by the African explorers as marvelously blessed with extensive forests, so dense that it is next to impossible to penetrate many of them, and so vast in extent that with the present superficial knowledge of the country it is impossible to form an intelligent idea as to their extent. The designs of Providence are inscrutable, but at the present rate of consumption another century will have to elapse before the merchantable timber of North America, Europe, Asia and Australia will have disappeared, and since the nineteenth-century man seems so unconcerned as to providing for posterity it is not unreasonable to suppose that the great forests of Africa and South America are being held in reserve for the requirements of the lumbermen of the twentieth and twenty first centuries.—Lumber Trade Journal.

SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL.

Sub-Irrigated Gardens.

An interesting series of experiments in growing vegetables by sub-irrigation is going forward in South Florida, and the results achieved have been so satisfactory that the area of this method of culture is being largely and rapidly increased.

By sub-irrigation the cultivator becomes in a great measure independent of the weather. It matters little to him whether the heavens give or withhold a regular and sufficient supply of moisture. In the first case his irrigating trenches carry off all superabundance of moisture, in the latter the supply is kept up by artificial means; by the use of flowing wells or by pumps worked by steam, by hand, or by windmills. The latter, however, develop so small an amount of power that they are of very little use.

A very small sub-irrigated garden is required to supply all the vegetables that can be used by a family. Some who have used them to grow vegetables for sale, and have kept a record of the quantities produced and sold, find on figuring up the results that their returns have exceeded the rate of two thousand dollars per acre. Further, that a large variety of vegetables can be successfully grown any month in the year, the constant supply of manure giving a uniformity of growth that in a great degree seems to dispense with the usual effects of the different seasons of the year.

One important feature of the method is the fact that it emphasizes the importance of intensive cultivation. It shows the folly of spreading one's self out thin over ten acres, when much more satisfactory results can be secured from one acre, if the fertilizer and the effort be concentrated on the smaller tract. It brings in sharp contrast the position of the gardener and the tiller of the soil, the laborer on large fields, greatly to the advantage of the former. Success with small plots of land means the multiplication of homes where plenty abounds.

Though sub-irrigated gardens can not fail to be of great benefit in all parts of Uncle Sam's broad domains, South Florida is evidently the locality in which they will doubtless secure their highest development. A few of the more pertinent reasons are that this section is exempt from destructive frosts nearly the whole year, there being occasional exception, in December and January, but at no time sufficiently severe to injure hardy vegetables; the temperature rarely going lower than 35 or 40 degrees. Secondly, the several weeks of dry weather each spring and autumn make sub-irrigation a prime necessity to supply the daily needs of the people as well as secure to the planter the most satisfactory practical results. They would also be of great advantage in producing vegetables for shipment to sections locked fast in ice and snow, and also, in supplying canning factories at other seasons. Finally, they will tend to concentrate effort on smaller areas and greatly increase the wealth as well as the comfort of increasingly prosperous communities.

Varied modes are being adopted, the standard garden being about as follows: Trenches four feet wide by 22 inches deep are dug across the garden 11 feet from center to center; in the bottom a perfectly level bed of cement is laid, and the sides brought up four inches, making a trough four inches deep and level from side to side and end to end. When this has hardened it is given a thin coating of cement to make it absolutely water tight. This is then filled with shell, fragments of rock, or of wood; or boards 1x4 inches are set on edge about an inch apart and small spaces left between the ends that the water may percolate freely. At intervals of a few feet boxes made of six-inch boards are set upright, reaching above the level of the ground to give a supply of air. The shell, rock or boards are then covered with grass, palmetto leaves, bush, etc., and the trench filled with the earth removed, or with more fertile soil. A pipe connects each trench with the source of water supply, and the inflowing stream is regulated by a stop-cock. An outlet is also provided to carry off all surplus water. In case of continued wet weather the trenches act as drains; is there a drought, the water in the cement reservoirs is drawn up by capillary attraction, and the plants are supplied at all times with the exact amount of moisture required. The cost of the work is from $500 to $1,000 per acre. Other plans and modifications of this plan are being tried, of which I may give an account in a future article.—Sherman Adams, in American Garden.

Methods of Culture.

In answer to queries of correspondents who fail to entirely grasp Truitt's Method, the Southern Cultivator gives the following:

"It is a fact of not uncommon observation that moderately fertile upland, well fertilized, will produce a larger yield of cotton than a rich alluvial soil. This is due to several causes. The greater abundance of moisture together with the larger percentage of organic vegetable matter (yielding nitrogen) that we find in alluvial soils induces an abnormal and excessive development of foliage, which is unfavorable to the rapid and early maturity of the bolls. The excess of moisture, the dense shade and imperfect circulation tend to produce boll rot. Cotton is emphatically a sun plant, and its ripening bolls especially require sun heat and dryness in order to mature. The maturing of the bolls is largely a drying process. They are ruptured and opened by the pressure of the confined fiber as the latter dries out its moisture and assumes the spongy, elastic state. Any condition of the plant, or of the air, which retards this drying process invites the fungus which produces rot, and by so much diminishes the yield.

Another reason is that the alluvial lands can not be planted so early in the spring, nor do the plants develop so rapidly from one stage to another. "First blooms," and "first open bolls," always occur on the uplands.

On a good upland soil, naturally well adapted to cotton, a fertilizer may be prepared which, while bringing such soil fully up to the richest alluvial in point of content of available plant-food, yet at the same time preserves a proper relation between the several elements of food. It is well known that ammonia and moisture in abundance induce a rank and succulent growth. So when we manure heavily we can withhold ammonia, or supply it in moderate quantity; and when the natural conditions present too much moisture, by insuring drainage. In the case of corn, sugar corn and forage crops, the conditions, or alluvial land, are especially favorable to the large yield, because the crops, as a rule, require a maximum of moisture and of ammonia.

Of course, the method of cultivation is important, and we are of opinion that surface cultivation, as practiced in the older States east of Mississippi, would give better results. High beds are probably necessary in Mississippi bottoms, on account of too much moisture in early spring, and during protracted wet spells. But there appears no reason why sweeps and cultivators may not be used as elsewhere. Deep plowing induces large development of weed, and is opposed to fruitfulness.

We have no doubt that cotton is generally too closely crowded on most lands, but especially in the rich soils of the Mississippi valley. As a general rule the rows should be as wide apart as the average height of stalks when full grown; and should be not closer to each other along the row than one-half the width of the rows. Certainly five feet rows and ten to eighteen inches apart in the drill in a very unequal proportion and much too close for your rich alluvials.

One of the most important considerations on such soil is the selection of seed. We would suggest the use of seed of some prolific variety grown on the uplands of Middle Tennessee; or some other more northern locality. Such seed will be apt to produce short-limbed, prolific and early maturing plants.

We think the open secret of Mr. Truitt's success, is thorough preparation, high manuring, good distance, the best seed, and through, shallow cultivation.

HERE AND THERE.

—Piles of brush or stubble afford harboring places for the insects, and they can be better destroyed by burning such material early than to delay until the ground is frozen.

—Bran and skimmed milk will make more growth on pigs now than anything else. Corn is required only when the pig is to be made very fat. A ration in which corn is a portion of the food will give better results than to depend entirely on it for fattening.

—When a farmer has more grass than he can mow, or use in any manner, it will pay him to attach a heavy chain to a two-horse plow and turn the grass under, as it will prove more serviceable as a green manurial crop.

—A small crack in the wall of the stable will do greater injury than to leave a window out. More harm results from a constant current of air coming on a portion of the body of an animal than when the animal is exposed entirely.

—A successful dairyman for many years gives it as his conclusion that a well-fed cow that does not earn her entire value in a single year is not worth keeping in the dairy. Says he: "A cow that has cost seventy-five dollars should make a net earning of seventy-five dollars."

—When a man wants to sell a cow pretty badly—unless it is the breeder of cows for sale—the cow he wants to sell is a good cow not to buy as a rule. We shall never believe that a man can get a good cow in any way as easily as he can get her by intelligent breeding and raising the calf.—Western Rural.

—The hog will thrive better if kept clean and given plenty of water. Milk will not answer as water. The water-trough should be kept filled with clean water at all times. Many hogs fail to thrive owing to the fact that they are given plenty of slop and no pure water.

—Land devoted to timber should be completely occupied. It should be thinned out, but never cleared off, unless it is to be used for another purpose. We are no longer obliged to destroy a hive or colony of bees in order to get the honey, so we need not destroy our wood lot in order to get timber.

—A Jersey cow knocked one of her horns off early in the spring. The accident was discovered before it became cold. It was put back in its place and tied. In a few days it grew fast, and is now the same as the others. Nothing was done except to pick it from the ground and put it in position while the blood was stilling oozing from the stump.—Country Gentleman.