

SNOW FLOWERS.

I awoke one winter morning. And I found my garden white with a host of shining blossoms. That had not been there the night before. The barren ground was covered and the naked branches quite. For the angels in the night time, Flying softly to and fro, I saw to the gates of heaven. Sprites from the earth below, Had left all upon my garden. Lovely fallurans—flowers of snow. —Minnie Irving, in New York News.

A DETECTIVE'S STORY.

I was in the active employ of Pinkerton for many years, and I took my full share of risks incident to detective work, but the very first case assigned me had more peril in it than any four others combined. I had done some "spotting" and "chasing," and had helped on two or three cases, when I was sent to Milwaukee to look after an embezzler. The case was stated in a nutshell. A Mr. Pierce, a widow of wealth, and a woman who trusted her servants altogether too much, received one day from the East by express a package of money amounting to \$14,000. She had been in the habit of sending her butler to the bank to make deposits for her, and now then to draw money on her written order. He had been with her for several years as a man of all work in the house, and she had found him strictly honest. She gave him the money to deposit without a fear of his being tempted. He did not go to the bank, and for three or four days Mrs. Pierce and other laborers under the belief that he had been killed and murdered. The hunt for his dead body was going on when I reached Milwaukee.

The name of the butler was John Lane and he was described to me as a sandy-haired, red-faced man, weighing one hundred and sixty pounds, and wearing a sandy moustache. His habits were declared to be above reproach, and Mrs. Pierce indignantly resented my suggestion that he might have run away. So did the local detective who had the case in hand. I hid from the first to the last that he had run away. He had been told to hurry back. He could reach the bank in a walk of fifteen minutes, having only two or three turns to make. It was at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and he could be in no personal danger. No one could be found who had seen him between the house and the bank, although he was well known. But the best clue was found in Lane's room. There was a handful of sandy hair in a paper under the lavatory. There was another paper spotted with lather, in which were enough bristles to make a moustache. Behind an old trunk was a bottle which had contained hair dye.

Mrs. Pierce received the money about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and she remarked to Lane that she would have him deposit it after dinner. He waited on the table at noon, and there was no change in his appearance, but between that time and two he shaved off his moustache, cut off a lot of his hair, applied the dye, and Mrs. Pierce remembered that he was muffled up as he went out, leaving by the side door.

Now came the hardest part of the work. When you know which way a criminal is leading it is quite easy to keep his trail, but when you can't say whether he is in New York or Omaha or that he has not been hidden within two blocks of you, it is quite a different matter. From the servants in the house I learned that Lane had always declared he hated the very sight of cities and towns, and he had no care for fine cloth and society. He also had a great horror of the water. This seemed to argue that he would not head for Europe, as I at first feared. It was well known that he had a holy horror of the West, having read of savage Indians, prairie fires, grizzly bears, rattlesnakes, &c. That seemed to argue that he would not go West. Would he go North or South? I was helped out of my dilemma in a curious way. I had been at every meeting office and railroad depot, meeting with no success, and was standing in front of the Second National Bank when a farmer-looking man accosted me with: "What do you say about this bill? I say it's good and the old woman says it's bad."

It was a five he had, and the "old woman" sat in a wagon on the opposite side of the street. "Why does she suspect it to be bad?" I asked, as I surveyed the bill. "Well, it was given to me four or five days ago by a chap who rode out home with us, had supper, and then cut across to the railroad station. I shouldn't have charged him over seventy-five cents at the most, and his liberality seems queer."

I was dead certain from his first words that I had got track of my man. We went into the bank to satisfy him that the bill was all right, and then crossed to the wagon. I want to tell you that country people are head and shoulders above the average city residents in the matter of observation and in remembering what they say.

"Well, one reason why I suspected this man," said the wife, "was because his hair was dead-fallen, haggled, and then dyed. Such blotchy work you never saw. His hair was all in streaks of black and red, and he'd got the dye on his ears and neck."

The fellow had tried to play smart in leaving the city by one of the highways, but accident had revealed his trail. He had taken the train at a station about fifteen miles away, and he had four days' start of me. The first move was to run out to the country station at which he had taken the train. I there found that he had made many inquiries about the northern and western part of the State, and had finally purchased a ticket for Fond du Lac. The description of him was good, and I was about to buy a ticket for the same place and take a train due in half an hour, when I came a boy who had been there on the evening when I saw bought his ticket. He was a lad who helped around the station, and it was plain that he had a good deal of native wit.

"Yes, that chap bought a ticket for Fond du Lac, but I don't think he went there," replied the lad when I began to question him. "What makes you think he'd not?" "Because," he answered, as he headed down a folder from his rack, "he was studying this route, which goes to Portage city. I think he meant to take this folder along, but dropped it. See how he has marked it with pencil."

So he had. He could run up to Water-ton and go through by way of Beaver Dam. He had marked the time of arrival at Portage, and it could not be that he would take all that trouble to throw any one off his trail. There was no one a term him, and he could not argue that the boy would hold the marked folder against him. I therefore changed my route to Portage city, and at the junction I got a sack of my man. He had no ticket, but had hid his face in a newspaper.

night, and the state of his hair had not been noticed, but the conductor described Lane's general appearance, and said that he had changed a \$20 bill for him. He might go no further than Beaver Dam, and I got off there and looked around for a few hours. No trace of him had been had, and I was at the depot to take the train, when a conversation between two young men became interesting.

"You ought to have told somebody," protested one. "Yes, and been laughed at," replied the other. "And he had ten thousand dollars?" "Yes, double that." "And he was counting it on the bed?" "Yes."

"It'll be he was a robber." "May be, but he was off early in the morning. Well, so long, Tom—here's the train." The one who had seen some counting money was going west by my train, and I schemed to get a seat with him and draw him out. He was a porter at one of the hotels in Portage, and he had seen a guest answering Lane's description counting such a lot of money that it colored half the bed. The porter had made his observations through the keyhole of the door, and, being ashamed of himself, had hesitated to go to the landlord. The man had arrived without baggage, but had there purchased a valise, and his nervous manner and the sight of so much money in his possession had led the porter to finally conclude that there was a mystery there somewhere, although he had not spoken of it to any one around the house. The man had purchased a suit of coarse clothes, with hat and shoes, and in leaving had taken the highway leading toward Oshkosh. He had purchased another bottle of hair dye, but had apparently given his hair up as a bad job. He not only left the bottle in his room, but by means of soap and water washed off what dye he had put on at Milwaukee.

Lane had given the landlord to understand that he was a hard working young man who had started out to look for a job, but he had departed without fixing on anything definite. I did not believe he would go to Oshkosh. He was acting like a man who reasoned that if he could hide himself away in the country for a few weeks his crime and his identity would both be forgotten. To catch the embezzler without capturing his swag would have been no credit to me. I had several days' start of me, and with this time got a job of some sort. I procured a rough suit of clothes, hired a horse, and set off on his trail. As he had gone out of town with a large valise in his hand it was easy to hear of him along the road. He headed toward Oshkosh for five or six miles, and then turned directly north. It was in the fall of the year, and the roads were in bad condition, but he made twenty-four miles that first day, not stopping at all for dinner. He went to the northeast for six miles, to the north for ten miles, and then he turned due west, almost on a line with a Crose, and went eight miles before stopping at an inn. I had only made the same number of miles on horseback, but as he had to lie by the next forenoon on account of the rain, while I had good weather, I gained half a day on him. He proceeded toward a Crose for two miles, and then went north two miles, and started about going to work in a saw mill. Next day he headed due west, and reached the Wisconsin River at a hamlet called Little Bend. It was on the sixth day after he left Milwaukee that I located him, and he had then been at work in a saw mill for a day and a half. I entered the hamlet on foot, as he had done, having a few extra clothes in a bundle, and it was soon known to the seventy-five or eighty population that I was in search of work. The owner of the only store in the place also kept a saloon and tavern, and, under pretense of being foreman and used up. I remained idle for two or three days, although the mill owner was short of hands and desired me to go to work at once.

It may be thought strange that I did not at once arrest Lane and have done with it. Had I overhauled him on route that would have been the plan, for the money would have been in his valise. He had taken board at the tavern, and during my first half day there I had found his room open and his valise unlocked. There was nothing in it which any one would want to take away. He had, like a sharp man, taken his money out and planted it. He could not justly suspect that I was after him, for after three or four days I went to work alongside of him and held him at a distance. He tried hard to get acquainted with me, but I was taciturn and unsocial. He gave me an opportunity to ask him questions, but I refused to profit by it. I admitted, for a purpose, that I left Milwaukee four or five days behind him, and after seeming to reflect for a while, he asked:

"Was there any special news when you left?" "I don't remember." "No murders or robberies?" "There was a mystery of some sort, I believe. Somebody had a lot of money out of the bank, and all the hands of the bankers, and they were looking in the river and lake for his dead body."

"I'll" he coughed, and that ended our conversation, though I did not fail to notice the look of gratification which crept over his face. That he had hidden the treasure was certain. That he would visit it sooner or later was dead sure. I watched him closely during the day, and I saw that he was nervous and preoccupied. I expected he would go out to inspect his treasure at night, and I took my precautions that he should not escape me, but he made no move. He went to work on Friday noon of one week and I on Thursday of the next. When Sunday week came it was a bright sunny day, and I made up my mind not to lose sight of him all day. I went to the mill after breakfast I went to the mill, climbed up in the attic, and had the yard and the hamlet under my eye. At about 10 o'clock Lane came down into the yard, wandered about in an aimless sort of way, though all the time keeping his eyes open, and by and by I saw him inspecting a huge log lying near a thorn-apple tree, which was the only tree or bush in the yard. I had been hauling logs with the cattle to the bank and dumping them off for the elevator or car to carry them up the incline into the mill, and had noticed the big log. It had been there for years, and was worthless. Now that I saw Lane in the vicinity I made up my mind that he had hidden his money close by, and I slipped out and went for a ramble in the woods.

That night at midnight, without anything having happened, to create suspicion in Lane's part, I dressed myself and crept out of the tavern to make a hunt for the money. On my way out I passed at his door, and he was breathing like a man fast asleep. I had my revolver and a pair of handcuffs ready to take with me, but missed them after I got outside. Everything about was so quiet that I set off, thinking to be back with the money in a few minutes. The big log lay within twenty feet of the bank. There was a low way in one end, but no money. The other end was solid. I climbed over it and passed around it, and had just discovered a hollow which had been the base of a big limb, when I got a blow on the neck which rolled me over and over for ten feet. Before I could get up Lane was upon me. He was a good deal the larger and stouter man, but he could not hold me still. I could roll under him, and while his elbow seemed to be to clutch my throat, I gave him two good blows in the face and got up on my feet. Not a word was spoken either of us. We stood for a moment gasping for breath, and then he rushed at me like an enraged bull, and we both clinched. He handled me almost as if I had been a boy, and it wasn't over a minute before we were on the bank above water twelve feet deep. There was a thin skim of ice over it, and the man who went in there could not live long.

In a boxing match I could have got the better of Lane. In such a clinch his brute strength was a terrible advantage. His object was, of course, to pitch me into the river, but I hung to him so well that he was baffled. We were still struggling on the bank, when a great slice of the bank gave way, and we went into the ice cold water, both having a firm hold, but on top. Lane must have had his mouth open, for he began to struggle at once, and if I ever worked hard for three minutes it was to save him. He was unconscious when I got him to the bank and pulled him up, while I was as good as frozen. By a liberal use of my voice I aroused three or four men, and we got Lane to a hotel, and worked over him for half an hour before he opened his eyes. Then I tucked him up, gave him a big drink of hot whiskey, and went out and got the money. He had spent about \$40 of it. Not a word did he reply as I told him who I was, who he was, and showed him the money. Not a word did he utter all the way back to Milwaukee, and it was only after Mrs. Pierce had refused to prosecute him and he was turned loose that he suddenly muttered:

"I was just fool enough to argue that no detective living could overhaul me."

—New York Sun.

How Valentines Are Made.

A factory in this city has, during the past ten months, turned out 15,000,000 comic and 5,000,000 sentimental valentines. The many operations through which toy books and valentines pass before they are ready to be delivered to the retailer are interesting. The first floor of the factory is occupied by paper cutting and embossing machines. The paper on which valentines are printed is received from the manufacturer direct, and is not in condition for use. It must be cut in pieces, 4 1/2 by 7, and on which are stamped sixteen comic valentines. After being cut the paper is taken to the second floor and printed. Three hundred out of the four hundred employees in the factory are women and girls. While the majority of the work is done by skilled labor, some departments are operated wholly by machinery.

On the sixth or top floor half a dozen artists draw the pictures used in valentines and toy books. After a drawing is made and photographed the negative is coated with a solution and exposed to the sun. The negative is again coated, this time with lithographic ink, and placed in a basin of water barely deep enough to cover it. The ink is washed off, except that part of the plate on which the drawing has been photographed. The negative is then ready for the etcher. The etching process is too well known to bear repeating here. After the drawing has been etched on a zinc plate it is ready for the press. The operation by which rough zinc is made smooth is interesting. The zinc is placed under movable emery papers, which are changed half hourly. The constant friction of the emery wears away the roughness, so that in time it becomes as fine as glass. Seven papers, differing in quality and thickness, are used in the operation. —Brooklyn Eagle.

Breaking Balky Horses.

A correspondent of the Allentown (Pa.) News, D. N. Kern, of Shimmersville, writes: Some time ago, while driving through Lehigh county, I met a man who had a very balky horse. I have been so lucky that I have never had a balky horse, but if I had one I would know half a dozen ways how to starve him. First—Pat the horse on the neck, examine him carefully, first one side, then the other; if you can get a handful of grass give it to him, and speak encouragingly to him. Then jump into the wagon and give the word go, and he will generally obey. Second—Taking the horse out of the shafts and turning him around in a circle until he is giddy will generally start him. Third—Another way to cure a balky horse is, place your hand over his nose and shut off his wind until he wants to go. Fourth—Then, again, take a couple of turns of stout twine around the fore legs just below the knee, tight enough for the horse to feel it; tie in a bow knot; at the first click he will probably go dancing off. After going a short distance you can get out and remove the string, to prevent injury to the tendons. Fifth—Again, you can try the following: Take the tail of the horse between the hind legs, and tie it by a cord to the saddle girth. Sixth—The last remedy I know is as follows: Tie a string around the horse's ear, close to the head; this will divert his attention and start him.

A Sheep's Big Jump.

Abram Cretis, of Grant County, W. Va., sends to the South Branch Gazette the following account of a remarkable leap lately made by a sheep. One day he was out on the other day after a bunch of sheep belonging to Amber Harper, which ranged on the mountain near Petersburg Gap. Six sheep ran around the rocks over the precipice, and in order to get them out the shepherd dog was dropped over the rocks to where they were concealed. They all came out but one, which appeared to be frightened at the unexpected appearance of the shepherd dog, and leaped down the chasm and landed 150 to 175 feet below, strange to say, uninjured, except breathless for a time. We watched it in its flight and found that it passed the tops of several tall pines, leaving little tufts of wool as mementoes, and appeared to light in a top, when it was thrown back against the mountain and there struck another top, and so on until it reached the ground.

Costly Books.

In one Broadway store you can get a fair Shakespeare for \$2.75, or, if your purse is large enough, you can go up to the stupendous figure of \$3,500. This is the highest of the whole list. The catalogue of one house only quotes Scott in sets from \$67 to \$450; Cooper, from \$15 to \$225; Carlyle, from \$9 to \$200; Dickens, from \$8 to \$175; Thackeray, from \$6.75 to \$165; Irving, from \$4.75 to \$125; and Hawthorne, from \$20 to \$80. The sale of the expensive editions is, of course, limited, and the profit of each set has to be large. —New York Letter.

AGRICULTURAL.

TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

Feeding Value of Oats.

Oats contain a larger proportion of husk than any other grain; the kernel yields only 66 per cent. of meal, the husk forming 34 per cent. of the grain. But the kernel itself contains some bran matter, and the meal has at least 11 per cent. of this substance, which, however, is largely digestible and contains a larger proportion of phosphoric acid in the form of various phosphates. For feeding cattle the oats are very valuable, but alone do not give as good results as when mixed. This is due to the fact that a larger amount of the nutritive elements of the oats is digested when fed with other food. Oats contain 97 1/2 per cent. of organic matter and 2 1/2 per cent. of ash; the organic matter contains 17 per cent. of albuminoid or flesh-forming matters, 6 1/2 per cent. of fatty matter, 53 per cent. of starch, sugar and gum, and 23 1/2 per cent. of woody fiber. This grain has been found most useful when ground with corn in the proportion of 3 bushels, or 100 pounds, with 5 bushels, or 300 pounds, of corn. —New York Times.

Best Varieties of Bees.

At the recent meeting of the Michigan State Beekeepers' Association the question as to best varieties of bees was discussed. D. D. Wood, who had given the Syrians a trial, found them hard to handle and finally discarded them in favor of the Italians. W. Z. Hutchinson had experimented with the Caroleans, which he found gentle enough, but not superior to the black bees, which are his preference. A. J. Root's remarks were listened to with interest, inasmuch as having had large experience it naturally follows he ought to know just what he was talking about. In regard to the Caroleans, he said that his colony of this variety was strongest in the spring and began rearing brood first, but it stored no surplus. Many of his patrons would have hybrids only, and he questioned if it was profitable for honey producers to breed for any pure race.

Mr. Taylor agreed with the above remarks and said he was certain that the time was at hand when apiarists must feed bees for business, regardless of color or markings. He had found Italians very cross at time of hiving. Professor Cook said that no one variety of bees possesses all the good qualities, but that we must cross the best sorts and thus eliminate the undesirable characteristics and promote the good ones. —New York World.

The Uses of Straw.

The value of straw is too little taken into account either on or off the farm, says the Farm, Field and Stockman. Too many farmers seem to act on the principle that it should be fed to cattle. This is the least important of its uses. Its value as food is so slight that cattle fed exclusively on straw would die about as soon as when fed on any such substance as dead leaves, for instance, the only use of which is to properly distend the stomach. The feeding use of straw, therefore, is only in connection with concentrated food.

But there are other uses of the straw of cereal grains which render it an important factor in farm economy. One of these is the covering of sheds. Another use is in which it may be profitably used when cold and winds are severe, is in forming an impervious barrier by filling a space a foot wide between two rough walls of sheds. These walls may be made of any rough material, as slabs, poles, but near enough together to prevent the pulling out of straw by the animals. Thus sheds and stables may be rendered as warm as much more costly structures.

The use of straw is too much ignored as a means of comfort used as bedding for animals. Under sheds it should be laid a foot thick, and in the yards not less than six inches. In stables that are regularly cleaned it should not be less than six inches in thickness. Thus it will fully soak up and hold the liquids and retain them while spread on the land to be plowed under. It takes no more material as bedding six inches in thickness than less than only the oilier portions need be removed. The added value to the animals in conserving warmth is not generally estimated.

It not only keeps animals comfortable, but as manure straw is valuable primarily in proportion to the liquid manure it has soaked up. It will pay to use liberally in the directions we have mentioned, and less so as a food in winter than is generally practiced.

Farm and Garden Notes.

Lay in your stock of seeds for spring now. Every preparation should be made before the busy season opens in the spring. Cows that have no bedding are often injured in the knees by getting up or down, especially if the floors be wet and slippery. Beets and parsnips may be kept fresh by packing in sand. This will preserve their flavor and keep them from drying up. Lime is a purifier and should be used often as a wash to coops, perches and nest boxes. Sprinkle the place most frequented by them with air-slacked lime. Kerosene will cure the scaly legs on fowls. Anoint the legs once or twice with kerosene for three or four weeks and the legs will become perfectly clean. Sheep will eat more, be more contented and thrive better on a new than an old range. Frequent change of range for them is important at this season of the year.

Instead of selling old cast iron at half a cent per pound, place small pieces near the roots of grapes, currants, gooseberries and fruit trees. It is very beneficial. A good way to kill out sorrel is to salt the sleep on it. Care should be taken never to allow the sorrel to seed, as it can be carried to other points in the manure. Do not sacrifice your best lambs and ewes because the butcher offers an extra price, but retain them for breeding purposes, first securing a pure bred male for grading up. Cooking feed for stock is a subject much discussed at present, and as good authority as Professor Stewart is reported as advocating it for all kinds of domestic animals.

This is the season when looked after the horses' legs should be well looked after. One way of turning from a muddy drive wash them well at once dry thoroughly by gentle rubbing. The Captain said he was shaming and set a trap for him (sailor-like) which nearly broke his neck. He has been moon blind, or twilight blind, ever since. It is said to be the first and only case of "moon blindness" on record at the Nautical General Hospital, and the second ever seen by the most experienced physician at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. —Montreal Witness.

Moon Blind.

What with the glorious round full moon, the electric lights, and the gas, the leading streets are as bright as, or seemingly brighter, than day. But one of Montreal's bravest young citizens (an Irishman, of course) dare not stir out alone. He is moon blind. A few years ago, having met with a sad domestic loss, and influenced by his long and enjoyable experiences as an amateur yachtsman on the English coast, he determined to try "two years before the mast." It was a case of "out of the frying-pan into the fire," or as the Dutch more comically put it, "out of the rain under the eaves-pout." An A. B.'s life in the northern latitudes is too often little else but grumbling, swearing, wretchedness, and accidents of every kind. When the wind is fair it is an understood thing in some ships that if any of the night-watch (except the "lookout" and "wheel") select a soft plank and sleep on deck, the officer on duty when he passes near always happens to look the other way. Our yachtsman one night curled himself in the main hatch in the full glare of a tropical moon. An old sailer woke him and told him he risked moon blindness. He replied with a forcible maritime monosyllable and slept again. Next night he began tumbling over everything he touched, and could not see the ropes. The Captain said he was shaming and set a trap for him (sailor-like) which nearly broke his neck. He has been moon blind, or twilight blind, ever since. It is said to be the first and only case of "moon blindness" on record at the Nautical General Hospital, and the second ever seen by the most experienced physician at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. —Montreal Witness.

Use the soot from the stovepipes and chimneys. It is excellent for flowers and young plants. Mix it with water, about a peck of soot to a barrel of water, and apply with a watering pot. Cider vinegar may be quickly made, when the cider is pure, by removing the latter to a high temperature and pouring from one barrel to another, to bring it into more direct contact with the air. A French horticulturist, M. Nobbe, has found that the seeds of the finest variety of grapes germinate more quickly than those of commoner sorts, and that seeds fresh from the fruit germinate better than those which have been dried. Of the varieties of ducks the Pekin stand foremost, but they are not as tame as the common kinds. They grow very large, often reaching eight or nine pounds each, and yield feathers of a white color and equal to those of the goose. The nearer the freezing point the cellar can be maintained without actually endangering the stored fruit the better for apples. Heat and light do more damage than cold. Alternate freezing and thawing will soon destroy fruit and vegetables. An exchange advises planting peach trees closely, not over twelve to fourteen feet apart, and cutting back strong and putting only planted crops among them for a year or two, and then giving the ground to the orchard, keeping it well cultivated. The cherry is about the only fruit tree which can be recommended for shade in pasture along roadsides, as the hardy varieties of cherries are not affected by the tramping of stock or passing of vehicles, which would prove injurious to most other fruit trees. Those who fed their cows liberally during the drouth, are now reaping the benefits. Cows that are permitted to run down in milk are exceedingly hard to get back to a good flow. In most instances, however good the feed and how much the quantity, the cows will not regain what has been lost. A North Carolina farmer has a silo built on top of the ground of heavy plank. It has double walls four inches apart, filled with earth to exclude the air. The ensilage is covered with boards and the boards covered with earth, an ordinary roof keeping off the rain. It is 13x16 feet, and cost only \$50. Orchards may be pruned at any time from the present until the birds begin to swell, but the earlier the work is done the better. Grape vines may also be pruned now and should be, lest the work be deferred too late. In the early spring the vines will bleed too much and for this reason it is best not to delay this work. Flour of sulphur is the great remedy employed in Canada to check mildew on grape vines, but the National Agricultural Society of France, in its session of a few weeks ago, brought into prominence another remedy, which M. Pasteur says is so effectual that the inventor should be discovered if possible, and a suitable reward conferred upon him. The remedy is a mixture of milk and lime and sulphate of copper. Iron is an important part of the blood, giving it red color, but this does not necessitate taking solutions of iron for health. All well-developed vegetation contains some iron. It is the coloring matter of green leaves. In soils from which every trace of iron has been removed seeds will germinate, but they will be white. Pouring a solution of copper or sulphate of iron on the soil will change the leaves to a dark green color. A cross of the Dorking and light Brahms makes excellent capons. They should be hatched as early as possible and kept until February 1st. The best time to sell is in February and March, during which periods the prices are often as high as fifty cents per pound, while choice capons will weigh from twelve to fourteen pounds each. The proper crosses should be used in order to produce large capons. Leghorns, Hamburgs, black Spanish and other small breeds are worthless as capons. Only the large breeds should be used. Without doubt the greatest and most common loss in team management is from keeping poor horses unable at any time to do a full day's work. It is the most difficult thing possible for many farmers to get the idea into their heads that a horse capable of doing but little is valueless. An old, worn out horse will always sell for something, no matter how poor he may be, and always for a greater price in proportion to his value when most worthless. For farm purposes, with the dear wages now paid to farm help, it does not require much reduction from a full day's team work each day to make up the value of a first-class team in every respect. If possible celery should be stored in the soil where the crop grew, for it is found to do better stored here than in other, and different soil. For family use, it would be an advantage if it could be sufficiently protected just where it grew, over digging and packing away elsewhere. And this can easily be done by setting up boards along and two feet from the row, and filling in the space between with leaves, or other litter, to keep out the frost. Then it can be taken up from one end as wanted, always returning a good coat here, each time some is dug. In storing large quantities, it will be better to bring it within a small compass, but the protecting should also be done, with a view to making the celery easy accessible at all times.

What with the glorious round full moon, the electric lights, and the gas, the leading streets are as bright as, or seemingly brighter, than day. But one of Montreal's bravest young citizens (an Irishman, of course) dare not stir out alone. He is moon blind. A few years ago, having met with a sad domestic loss, and influenced by his long and enjoyable experiences as an amateur yachtsman on the English coast, he determined to try "two years before the mast." It was a case of "out of the frying-pan into the fire," or as the Dutch more comically put it, "out of the rain under the eaves-pout." An A. B.'s life in the northern latitudes is too often little else but grumbling, swearing, wretchedness, and accidents of every kind. When the wind is fair it is an understood thing in some ships that if any of the night-watch (except the "lookout" and "wheel") select a soft plank and sleep on deck, the officer on duty when he passes near always happens to look the other way. Our yachtsman one night curled himself in the main hatch in the full glare of a tropical moon. An old sailer woke him and told him he risked moon blindness. He replied with a forcible maritime monosyllable and slept again. Next night he began tumbling over everything he touched, and could not see the ropes. The Captain said he was shaming and set a trap for him (sailor-like) which nearly broke his neck. He has been moon blind, or twilight blind, ever since. It is said to be the first and only case of "moon blindness" on record at the Nautical General Hospital, and the second ever seen by the most experienced physician at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. —Montreal Witness.

Use the soot from the stovepipes and chimneys. It is excellent for flowers and young plants. Mix it with water, about a peck of soot to a barrel of water, and apply with a watering pot. Cider vinegar may be quickly made, when the cider is pure, by removing the latter to a high temperature and pouring from one barrel to another, to bring it into more direct contact with the air. A French horticulturist, M. Nobbe, has found that the seeds of the finest variety of grapes germinate more quickly than those of commoner sorts, and that seeds fresh from the fruit germinate better than those which have been dried. Of the varieties of ducks the Pekin stand foremost, but they are not as tame as the common kinds. They grow very large, often reaching eight or nine pounds each, and yield feathers of a white color and equal to those of the goose. The nearer the freezing point the cellar can be maintained without actually endangering the stored fruit the better for apples. Heat and light do more damage than cold. Alternate freezing and thawing will soon destroy fruit and vegetables. An exchange advises planting peach trees closely, not over twelve to fourteen feet apart, and cutting back strong and putting only planted crops among them for a year or two, and then giving the ground to the orchard, keeping it well cultivated. The cherry is about the only fruit tree which can be recommended for shade in pasture along roadsides, as the hardy varieties of cherries are not affected by the tramping of stock or passing of vehicles, which would prove injurious to most other fruit trees. Those who fed their cows liberally during the drouth, are now reaping the benefits. Cows that are permitted to run down in milk are exceedingly hard to get back to a good flow. In most instances, however good the feed and how much the quantity, the cows will not regain what has been lost. A North Carolina farmer has a silo built on top of the ground of heavy plank. It has double walls four inches apart, filled with earth to exclude the air. The ensilage is covered with boards and the boards covered with earth, an ordinary roof keeping off the rain. It is 13x16 feet, and cost only \$50. Orchards may be pruned at any time from the present until the birds begin to swell, but the earlier the work is done the better. Grape vines may also be pruned now and should be, lest the work be deferred too late. In the early spring the vines will bleed too much and for this reason it is best not to delay this work. Flour of sulphur is the great remedy employed in Canada to check mildew on grape vines, but the National Agricultural Society of France, in its session of a few weeks ago, brought into prominence another remedy, which M. Pasteur says is so effectual that the inventor should be discovered if possible, and a suitable reward conferred upon him. The remedy is a mixture of milk and lime and sulphate of copper. Iron is an important part of the blood, giving it red color, but this does not necessitate taking solutions of iron for health. All well-developed vegetation contains some iron. It is the coloring matter of green leaves. In soils from which every trace of iron has been removed seeds will germinate, but they will be white. Pouring a solution of copper or sulphate of iron on the soil will change the leaves to a dark green color. A cross of the Dorking and light Brahms makes excellent capons. They should be hatched as early as possible and kept until February 1st. The best time to sell is in February and March, during which periods the prices are often as high as fifty cents per pound, while choice capons will weigh from twelve to fourteen pounds each. The proper crosses should be used in order to produce large capons. Leghorns, Hamburgs, black Spanish and other small breeds are worthless as capons. Only the large breeds should be used. 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ARTIFICIAL COLD.

NATURAL ICE SUPPLANTED IN MANY PLACES.

Liquid Ammonia Doing the Work of Ice — How Ice-Making Machines are Operated—Cooling Mixture for Dwellings. Within the last ten years the business of producing artificial cold for the purpose of brewers, meat packers and the refrigeration of storehouses has attained enormous proportions, not dreamed of when the business was in its infancy. An expert thoroughly familiar with the whole business estimates that if it were not for the refrigerating machines in New York at present, it would be