Reduce the Taxes!

THE publication of the monthly debt statement gives occasion for another of the senseless periodical jubilations of the Republican press. It is asserted that the national debt has been reduced more than five millions during the month of August, and the country is asked to admire President Grant and his Secretary of the Treasury for so auspicious a result. But what have *they* done, during the month of August, to entitle them to this shallow and fulsome praise? They have been journeying and junketing, attending dances and clam-bakes, horse-races and monster musical festivals; flitting from place to place on pleasure excursions, leaving the Government to be run by clerks and subordinates; the President and whole Cabinet being absent from Washington, and as free from care as the gayest butterflies of fashion that flirt and talk nonsense on the corridors of the watering-place hotels. If the amount of the debt is lessened, small thanks to our jaunting, loafing President and finance minister, who have contributed no more to this result than they have to the unwonted abundance of the August peach crop.

Dismissing their agency in the matter as too ridiculous for consideration, let us look into the actual state of the case, and see if it affords a fair subject of congratulation. The debt has been diminished out of taxes which were laid by Congress before General Grant was inaugurated. If Secretary Boutwell had never lifted a finger, if no bonds had been purchased, if the money sent to him by the collectors of the revenue had lain in the Treasury, the monthly debt statements would nevertheless have shown a reduction. The net amount of the debt is reached by subtracting the money in the Treasury from the sum total of the bonds and greenbacks; and the balance would have been about the same if no bonds had been purchased. What the country is asked to rejoice over is the enormous amount of our taxation. The capacious pool of administrative wastefulness and extravagance is not only filled but runs over. If the revenue were less redundant, if the people were not so plundered by taxes, there would be less money for the Republican officials to squander; and because they collect more than enough to gorge their rapacity, we are expected to admire them as great geniuses in finance! Instead of praise for saving a little out of the overflowing revenues, they deserve censure for spending and wasting so much. The business of the country is crushed under oppressive taxation, and such reductions as have taken place in the debt merely attest the prodigious amount of the Federal taxes.

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The Republican glorification over the monthly debt statements is both foolish and knavish. It overlooks the disastrous and ruinous effect of our crushing taxes on the business of the country; and it is made a convenient cover for the rascality and extravagance of a spendthrift party. It is used to give a deceitful and delusive impression of prosperity, which blinds the people to the prodigal expenses of the government. If the government costs three or four times as much as it did before the war, the country is expected to feel that our resources are boundless and we can afford it, inasmuch as we have a constant surplus to be applied to the payment of the debt. That surplus is a trifle, and the country could well enough stand it, if it were not for the hundreds of millions that are annually raised and squandered to produce this delusive show of prosperity. But the country cannot stand the enormous taxation by which so many great industries are crippled and crushed; and the fact that there is a surplus over and above the prodigal expenditures of the government, proves that our taxes could be largely and immediately reduced without injustice to the public creditors, or detriment to the public credit. All that is required of us is to meet our obligations as they mature; and money that is not necessary for that purpose had better be left in the hands of the community to be productively employed in increasing the national wealth. A reduction of the rascally tariff and the abolition of the income tax are among the most urgent financial reforms demanded at this juncture of affairs.—*N. Y. World, Sept. 3.*

The Political Situation.

OUR dispatches this morning concerning the political situation are interesting and important. Attorney General Hoar has at length transmitted to the War Department his opinion with reference to the question of requiring the Reconstruction test oath of the members of the newly elected Legislature of Virginia. The opinion appears to be a somewhat complicated one, but the gist of it is that the adoption of the new constitution of Virginia supersedes the Reconstruction laws, so far as they could apply to that State, and that that instrument prescribes the only legal qualifications of the members of the Legislature. This would seem to make the General Assembly of Virginia a provisional body until the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment. That measure having been adopted, the State becomes rehabilitated and sovereign. So the Wells or Radical party of the Old Dominion are left in the vocative, and it is supposed that, acting under suggestions from Washington, Gen. Canby will proceed to the inauguration of Governor Walker and steps be taken to convene the new Legislature at an early day.

It further appears by our advices that President Grant has emphatically declined to favor the Stokes scheme of Radical revolution in Tennessee. He recognizes Senter as at least as good a Republican as his opponent in the recent election, and so will not interfere to upset the verdict of the people at the polls. The evidences accumulate that the President no longer inclines to the Radical views of Boutwell and Creswell of his Cabinet, if indeed he has ever really done so, and it seems not improbable that an open rupture among the executive officials is imminent in consequence. These circumstances are likely to have a very important effect in the fall elections, and our Washington correspondent mentions a prevalent Radical opinion that a Democratic triumph will be the result in the coming popular contests, except in Vermont and Maine.

In this connection, we may again refer to the election last Tuesday in California, where, according to our reports, the Democrats were generally successful as far as heard from. San Francisco sends a full Democratic delegation to the Legislature, and the indications point to an increased majority in that body. The election in Wyoming Territory has also resulted in a Democratic victory.—*Missouri Republican, Sept. 4.*

An Ominous Growl from a Leading Republican Journal.

The commonly assigned reason for the President's pilgrimages is that he may inform himself of the state of the country and the drift of public opinion. Not very familiar with either before assuming office, it may well be that he is now, if not an apprentice, at least a journeyman, acquiring while he practices the art of civil government. These are his wandering years, and he is to come out of them a finished master in political wisdom. The people are very tolerant of such an explanation as this, which flatters our vanity while it promises good results for an inexperienced President. But they will soon begin to inquire why it is that he confines himself to so small a part of the great country he governs—why he honors New York and New England with so much of his company, and neglects a journey through the South. That portion of the land calls for his closest inspection; it is with that he is least acquainted, while needing to be most so. If he knows so little about Tennessee, Mississippi and Texas that he cannot distinguish his friends from his enemies there, he ought to go down and learn to discriminate better. If he is debating whether to place Georgia under martial law or not, why should he not visit it, and see for himself what it seeks and what it needs? The industry, the finances, the politics, and the social aspect of the South all demand his closest study; why, then, does he avoid the line of travel that would show him something of them? Is it because in his last journey there, under the orders of Andrew Johnson, his observations and his report were so quickly contradicted by events that he bears a displeasing recollection of the trip? We believe he has not traveled through any Southern State since that flying journey in the winter of 1865-6 which ended in what Senator Sumner called a "white-washed report" of Southern affairs. Is it not time that he should repeat that journey, and compare his observations then and now? We are serious in this suggestion, and we have in view the President's best reputation in making it. It is likely to be said shortly, elsewhere than in the Democratic newspapers, that Gen. Grant is traveling for pleasure, not for his country's good, and nothing would be more injurious to his prestige than such an opinion, should it find a lodgement in the minds of the people. To while away the time is the task of kings, not the duty of American Presidents. Their business is to know their country's wants, and to meet them; to take counsel, not of flatterers and friends merely, but of opponents and of advisers and difficult circumstances. The supremacy of the party that elected Gen. Grant is fast passing away in the South, and it is growing weaker all over the North. Before the reaction culminates, and while yet there is time to temper or avert the shock of defeat, it behooves the head of the Administration to give earnest thought to the problems of Southern politics. He cannot do so better than by traversing the region of secession, gauging its needs and its desires, and seeking to shape his policy, whether of coercion or conciliation, so as to promote its best interests. We urge Gen. Grant to make his next journey to the southward of Washington.—*Springfield, Mass., Republican, August 28.*

Tylerization Proclaimed.

THE work of Tylerization, upon which the President entered immediately after being sworn into office, and which was undoubtedly commenced by him some months before, now stands open and confessed. The divisions in the Republican party in the South were under discussion in the Cabinet on Friday, and the President and Secretaries Fish, Cox, Rawlins and R[illegible]on had determined to sustain the Conservative movement in the Southern States. So far as the execution of the test oath in the Virginia Legislature is concerned, Attorney General Hoar acted with the President and the Secretaries above named.

Probably the regular Republican organization in the South knows what the Conservative movement is, and what its leaders intend. Does not Stokes know who opposed him in the late election in Tennessee? Is Wells igorant of the elements of which the opposition to him was composed in the Virginia election? These two prominent leaders in the Republican party say that the men calling themselves Conservative Republicans in the South are Democrats and ex-rebels, acting in unison with a few men who have hitherto been "loyal," and that the purpose of the Conservatives is to overthrow and utterly annihilate the regular Republican party in the States which were in rebellion.

This view has also been taken, since the Tennessee election, by a majority of the newspapers of the ruling party. Before that election they favored the Conservative movement. Now they assail it, and demand that war shall be made on Dent in Mississippi and Hamilton in Texas, although those gentlemen are working for precisely the same results that Walker and Senter sought to accomplish in Virginia and Tennessee. Since the election in the States last named, the Republican press appears to have gained information about the Conservative movement which has led it to change front.

The President has not changed front. He was with the Conservatives, secretly, from the first. He is now with them openly. He knew what their plans were, and knew that with his assistance they could triumph. If the prevailing opinion in the Republican party concerning the Conservatives be correct, their successes are, in fact, Democratic victories. The President and majority of the Cabinet, in contempt of this opinion, pledge their support to the Conservatives, and, consequently, to the movement which proposes to crush the Republican party in the South.

In this the President is sustained by General Sherman. What the opinion of the latter is concerning reconstruction, and the class of men entitled to rule in the lately rebellious States, may be known from a reading of the agreement with the rebel General Jo. Johnson, at the time of Johnson's surrender. It is as notorious that Sherman has a good opinion of the ex-rebels, and would treat them generously, as that his influence with the President is greater than that of any other man. These facts will, in part, account for the persistency and industry with which Grant has pursued his Tylerizing plans.

Those plans, by the close of November, will not only have taken the States of Virginia, Tennessee Mississippi, and Texas from the control of the Radicals, but they are now working dissension in the ranks of the ruling party in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maine, Maryland, Delaware, and Massachusetts. The fact that those dissensions exist, and are largely caused by the Presidential appointments, joined to the fact that Grant has, to all intents and purposes, declared that he would Tylerize, by joining the Conservatives, amply justifies the suspicion that the appointments were made with a view to Tylerization. What agencies the President has recently set at work in the Northern States to disrupt the ruling party will, doubtless, be disclosed before the next Presidential election.

There is good reason to believe that the Tylerizing movement has been accelerated by a reaction of public sentiment against the party in power, which has suggested to the President the policy of a renewal of his connection with the Democracy, in order to obtain a second term.

Be this as it may, the question now fairly comes up whether the political situation is such as to justify him in Tylerizing. Of course, he does so at the expense of consistency, and in violation of pledges, expressed and implied, as sacred as any which can be given by a politician. It is the duty of a President to do what he thinks best for the public interests, but it is also his duty, before he accepts the nomination of a political party, and pledges himself to stand by its policies and platform, carefully to examine its proposed course of action, and come to a definite conclusion thereon. There are such things as party obligations of a grave and binding character, and these, in Tylerizing, the President casts aside. We hope good may come of it, but it now looks as if "moral ideas" will meet with sundry pullbacks, because of the unfaithfulness of the President toward them.—*Chicago Times, Sept. 6.*

The Modest Stokes.

A Washington dispatch to the *Democrat* states:

"Besides the removal of Senter officers in Tennessee, Stokes wants the President to agree that in case Stokes returns to Tennessee and assumes the Governorship, and calls those who ran on the ticket with him together as a Legislature, the administration would recognize them as the choice of the legal voters, and therefore the State Government, and in case of trouble, act upon the call of Stokes as Governor, and furnish military aid. The President is decidedly opposed to the course of Stokes."

The time has gone by when intelligence like this would create any surprise. It is a perfect illustration of the impudence, audacity and revolutionary character of Radicalism. Doubtless General Stokes can cite many a Radical precedent in support of his demand. Congress has furnished divers instances of men being admitted to seats in that body who had been rejected by the people, and the course of the Radical party has demonstrated, throughout, that no ordinary obstacle stands in its way to prevent the absorption of political powers. This appeal by Stokes, however, although not surprising, goes a little too far to meet with a favorable response from President Grant. It seems to look to a combination of various usurpations, for which the President is as yet unprepared. Were Congress in session we might expect a speedy compliance with Stokes' wishes.—*Missouri Republican, September 2.*

A LAWYER in New York, who was pleading the cause of an infant plaintiff, took the child up in his arms and presented it to the jury suffused with tears. This had a great effect, till the opposite lawyer asked what made him cry. "He pinched me," answered the little innocent.

Saturday Night—The Worth of Woman's Love.

ONLY *another* week!

How short it has been—seven days—seven chapters of light and happiness—of joys and sorrows—of hopes and fears—of trials and conquests—of births and marriages—of sickness and of health. But a little thing is a week—but it is a life to some, in the results it doth bring.

To-night we were made to feel sad, yet happy. On the way home we passed a woman in calico leading by the arm a weak, tottering, trembling old man. His step was hardly a step—he could hardly lift his feet from the pavement—his face was wrinkled with the lines of ninety-one winters, while his scattered hairs were silky and white as the purest snow.

And the woman was past fifty. Her face was kind—her eye told volumes. The crowd on the Bowery turned aside as it hurried by to let the old man toddle on.

"Good evening, good woman—can we help you?"

"Oh, no, thank you." And she looked so kindly at us. "We are almost home—a few steps farther, and you are in a hurry—going home too, perhaps."

Almost home!

Yes—that old man who little heeded the crowd and who looked with mazed and puzzled gaze on the busy scene was almost home! A few more Saturday nights and he will be there with Him, and then he can walk, and run without stumbling or other support than He.

And we passed on to think, and think, and we thought of woman's love, and the worth of it. How she cared for him—we should think her father. Perhaps he was cross and petulant years ago, if not now, yet she was kind to him, and with care steadied his steps lest he fall and the busy crowd trample him under feet. And we thought of thousands and thousands of good women in different places who love, are good, and true, and pure, and kind—who deserve happiness here and Heaven hereafter.

All over the land we saw them as we walked home. The entire line of clouds seemed to be rolled back by some great hand as somebody said, "Look at them everywhere."

And we did look into thousands of homes. By the farmer's fire and in the woodman's cabin. By the sick bed and kneeling with grief-laden hearts and tear-wet faces, beside corpses and coffins. We saw them in calico and homespun by thousands, and they all told of woman's worth, love and devotion.

Little do men know of woman's sorrows, heart-aches, hungerings for love, temptations and resistings. Men go and come. They are busy. Avenues of labor and amusement are open to them, for they have the power to open to suit themselves. They plunge into business, engage in enterprises, hunt, fish, sport, idle, dissipate, go and come, mixing, talking, eager to be interested. When tired they rest, but woman's work is never done, and she must labor on, a prisoner within close walls, like a caged bird seeing the world but not mixing therewith lest she be lost.

We know of a home where a woman works cheerfully, for those she loves—works like us. She wears calico, and knows nothing of opera. Her heart is in her home, her loved ones, she is happy, for they all live for her as she does for them. And oh, the wonderous depth of her love. She is by the bedside, the table, the chair, everywhere. She is monarch of home, queen of hearts, and willing tributes do her subjects pay.

Her hand stills pain, her lips greet with such pure, earnest, loving kisses. Her words are ever so kind and gentle, while her life is not lost in selfishness. She is not a vain beauty, cold as marble, indifferent to others, caring only for herself, for position and the outward adornment of her person, tyrannizing over hearts, compelled by the ukase of society to pay vows where none are due. But she is a good woman, a loving woman, a loving, affectionate, gentle, caressing woman a man always loves, and is willing to care for, protect and defend.

We love a good, warm-hearted woman. Not one of these simple beauties who are gay, painted, padded, befrixed and befrizzled adornings of fashion without heart or true worth. Such are very nice to look upon— good to flirt with—nice to take to the opera, the races, the theatre, or to skirmish with when the coast is clear and willing ones seek for adventure, but they don't wear for keeps like the good, plain, sensible women who have hearts and whose worth is more than pen or tongue can tell.

Women would be better and happier if men loved them better and were more true to them. If men would strive as much to make home happy as they do to seek happiness elsewhere, the world would be better.

Hours do come when men admit the power, the worth of woman. Not in sunshine so much as in shade and storm. When engrossed with business and rolling on the sea of success, we too often forget the ones without whom life would be a blank, and only fly to the havens and shelters—the love and gentle caresses of woman—when the waves are high and to remain abroad is to perish.

Then comes the hour when all admit the power of the weak. It is the care of woman which makes millions of homes beautiful, and makes love's palaces of laborer's cottages. It is the love we have for woman—the love they have for us men, that drives us ahead to conquests and victories. The words kindly spoken, the smile of those we love, the commendation of those we respect of women, make men of all who are not debased, and draw our hearts to them with irresistible power. And as we see them day after day patiently, earnestly toiling to help others walk, as we see them leading the weak, aiding the unfortunate, and by the wondrous power of their God given love, and the magic of their smiles, caresses, and prayers, we wonder that all men do not pay more tribute to the worth of woman's love.—*New York Democrat.*

Birds on the Wing.

THE body of the bird does not require to be much lifted by each stroke of the wing; it only requires to be sustained; and when more than this is needed—as when a bird rises from the ground, or from the sea, or when it ascends rapidly in the air—greatly increased exertion—in many cases, very violent exertion—is required. And then it is to be remembered that long wings economize the vital force in another way; when a strong current of air strikes against the wings of a bird the same sustaining effect is produced as when the wing strikes against the air. Consequently, birds with very long wings have this advantage, that with pre-acquired momentum, they can sustain themselves a very long time without flapping their wings at all. Under these circumstances a bird is sustained very much as a boy's kite is sustained in the air. The string which the boy holds, and by which he pulls the kite downwards with a certain force, performs for the kite the same offices which its own weight and balance and momentum perform for the bird. The great long-winged oceanic birds often appear to float rather than fly. The stronger the gale, their flight, though less rapid, is all the more easy, so easy, indeed, as to appear buoyant; because the blasts which strike against their wings are enough to sustain the bird with comparatively little exertion of his own, except of holding the wing vanes stretched and exposed at proper angles to the wind. And whenever the onward force previously acquired by flapping becomes at length exhausted, and the ceaseless, inexorable force of gravity is beginning to overcome it, the bird again rises by a few easy and gentle half-strokes of the wind. This is a constant action with all the oceanic birds.

Those who have seen the albatross have described themselves as never tired of watching its glorious and triumphant motion—

> Tranquil its spirit seemed, and floated slow;
> Even in its very motion there was rest.

Rest—where there is nothing else at rest in the tremendous turmoil of its own stormy seas! Sometimes for a whole hour together this splendid bird will sail or wheel round a ship in every possible variety of direction without requiring to give a single stroke to his pinions. Now, the albatross has the extreme form of this kind of wing. Its wings are immensely long—about fourteen or fifteen feet from tip to tip—and almost as narrow in proportion as a ribbon. On the other hand, birds of short wing, though their flight is sometimes very fast, are never able to sustain it very long. The muscular exertion they require is greater, because it does not work to the same advantage. Most of the gallinaceous birds (such as the common fowl, pheasants, partridges, etc.,) have wings of this kind; and some of them never fly except to escape an enemy, or to change their feeding ground.—*Duke of Argyle.*

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

DOWN in the world—A miner.

ROCHESTER boasts of two base-ball clubs, called the "Early Birds" and "Unfortunate Worms." In a recent match the latter beat the former.

AN observing correspondent says that New York city is a growing town, owned chiefly by hotel clerks.

"MAMMA's darling didn't hurt his little cousin purposely, did he, dear? It was all an accident, to be sure." "Yes, mamma, and all I want is a chance to crack him again."

IN view of the modern improvements, it has been suggested that old Father Time should throw away his hour glass and scythe and buy a watch and mowing machine.

"WON'T you take half of this poor apple?" said a pretty damsel. "No, I thank you. I would prefer a better half." Eliza blushed and referred him to papa.

THE Buffalo *Commercial* speaks of the Vanderbilt-Crawford wedding as the union of December and May. It is more like the union of December and April 1.—*Detroit Tribune.*

A ZEALOUS expressman of Buffalo, wishing to convey an idea of great celerity in the prosecution of his business, has daubed on the side of his wagon the intelligent notice, "LITEN eXPRES."

THE last society spoken of in California is the "Pay-Nothings!" It is said to be alarmingly prosperous. The pass-word is "Lend me a dollar?" The response, "Broke!"

As they have stopped boring the St. Louis artesian well at a depth of 3,843 feet, Mark Twain, in the Buffalo *Express*, asks why they don't go around and try the other end, as there must be water there somewhere.

A MAN who had been arrested as a vagrant protested that he had a regular trade and calling, to-wit: Smoking glass for a total eclipse of the sun; and as these occur only a few times in a century, he was not to blame for being out of employment a good deal.

A PARTY of Frenchmen were discussing foreign customs, and one of them remarked upon the American habit of designating streets, not after celebrated men, noted battles, &c., but by numbers, as Seventeenth street, Fortieth street, &c. "Exactly," remarked one of the party. "And the Americans name their generals in the same way. We have just had here General *Dix.*"

AN individual, the other day, went to one of the drug stores of Boston and called for a pint of whisky, claiming that he wanted to put it on some roots for medicine. He obtained the whisky, and immediately raised the bottle to his lips and imbibed a grown person's dose of the ardent. The drug clerk remonstrated with the customer for his duplicity, and was informed that it was for the roots of his tongue for which he desired the whisky.

Western Patents.

THE following Western patents were issued from the United States Patent office for the week ending August 31, 1869, as reported by Messrs. Farwell, Ellsworth & Co., solicitors of patents and counselors in patent causes, 162 Lake street, Chicago, Ill.:

FOR ILLINOIS.

Pump—A. Dixon, Aurora.
Mangle—P. H. Hunk & H. Kaack, Moline.
Spring Bed Bottom—C. & M. Hogeboom and L. Van Vleck, Winslow.
Base-Burning Stove—M. W. Lester, Chicago.
Hot-Air Furnace—M. W. Lester, Chicago.
Fence—S. M. Prentice, Aurora.
Vapor Burner—William Aurich, Chicago.
Spring Wagon Seat—J. I. Bear, Decatur.
Furling and Reefing Sails—E. W. Brown, Cambridge.
Lamp—J. M. A. Derr, Chicago.
Plow Clevis—T. Dorr, Yorktown.
Ditch Gauge Scoop—O. Gore, Carlinville.
Grain Drier—R. Grotz, Chicago.
Water-Wheel—J. Hepperly, Peoria.
Cooking Stove—C. McClain, Carlyle.
Plow Coupling—Wm. Peck, Mendota.
Window—G. Shatswell, Chicago.
Moth Roof Lining—J. R. Smith, Chicago.
Millstone Balance—G. W. Wilson, Tolono.
Steam Engine Piston—R. Withy, Chicago.
Stove—O. Bartlett & S. D. Edson, Rockford.
Corn Planter and Grain Drill—G. W. Dickinson, Charleston.
Compound for Curing Cholera in Hogs and Chickens—A. C. McMahan, Lincoln.
Rotary Washing Machine—W. H. Welch, Bloomington.

FOR WISCONSIN.

Seeding Machine—W. A. Van Brunt, Horicon.
Bag-Holder—J. N. Collins, Menasha.
Ruffling Attachment for Sewing Machines—J. O. Fairbairn, Milwaukee.
Wagon Standard—G. Richards, Richland Centre.
Hollow Grate Bar—N. Shaw, West Eau Claire.
Corn Harvester—J. W. Shanard, S. Bryan & H. Hunt, Janesville.

FOR IOWA.

Washing Machine—J. W. Myers, Lyons.
Wash Boiler—O. Baldwin, Keokuk.
Parlor Bedstead—J. A. Morgan, Bloomfield.
Grain Binder—L. F. Parker, Davenport.
Rake for Harvesters—C. H. Periter, Washington.

FOR INDIANA.

Button or Stud—J. B. Carter, Hartsville.
Marker for Corn Ground—O. H. Catey, Williamsburg.
Process of Preparing Wood Fibre for Paper Stock—G. E. Marshall, Laurel.
Rack for Sugar, Cream, Salt, &c.—Mary A. S. Mullin, Osgood.
Extension Table Slide—O. E. Sanford, La Porte.
Crout Cutter—J. G. Schirarz, Indianapolis.
Evaporator—A. W. Shidler, South Bend.
Clod Fender—D. Applegate, Noblesville.
Tank Regulator—J. M. Crowe, Lebanon.
Ax—A. H. Jumper, Summa[illegible].
Seats for Schools, Halls, Churches, &c.—H. Ogborn, Richmond.
Evaporator for Sugar and other Liquids—L. Scantlin and J. M. Scantlin, Evansville.
Planter and Cultivator—N. Whitehall, Newtown.
Plow—J. C. Bell, Lebanon.
Corn Planter—J. A. Johnson, Pendleton.
Cultivator—E. Walker and J. J. Platt, La Porte.

The Oldest City in the World.

DAMASCUS is the oldest city in the world. Tyre and Sidon have crumbled on the shore; Baalbec is a ruin; Palmyra is buried in a desert; Nineveh and Babylon have disappeared from the Tigris and Euphrates. Damascus remains what it was before the days of Abraham—a center of trade and travel—an island of verdure in the desert—"a presidential capital," with martial and sacred associations extending through thirty centuries. It was near Damascus that Saul of Tarsus saw the light above the brightness of the sun; the street which is called Strait, in which it was said "he prayed," still runs through the city. The caravan comes and goes as it did a thousand years ago; there is still the sheik, the ass and the water wheel; the merchants of the Euprates and the Mediterranean still "occupy" these "with the multitude of their wares." The city which Mahomet surveyed from a neighboring height, and was afraid to enter "because it was given to man to have but one paradise, and for his part, he was resolved not to have it in this world," is to-day what Julian called the "eye of the East," as it was in the time of Isaiah "the head of Syria."

From Damascus came the damson, our blue plums, and the delicious apricot of Portugal, called damasco, damask, our beautiful fabric of cotton and silk, with vines and flowers raised upon a smooth, bright ground; the damask rose, introduced into England in the time of Henry VIII., the Damascus blade, so famous the world over for its keen edge and wonderful elasticity, the secret of whose manufacture was lost when Tamerlane carried off the artist into Persia; and that beautiful art of inlaying wood and steel with silver and gold, a kind of mosaic engraving and sculptural united—called damaskening—with which boxes, bureaus, swords and guns are ornamented. It is still a city of flowers and bright waters; the streams of Lebanon and the "silk of gold" still murmur and sparkle in the wilderness of the Syrian gardens.

—During the morning service at the Unitarian Church, in Leominster, Mass., on a recent Sunday, a lady went into a fit. Two other ladies immediately fainted, and before these were all disposed of, a message came to Mrs. Wm. H. Locke, that her father, Mr. Stevenson, who lived in Lancaster, had suddenly died while in the act of shaving. The news caused her to scream aloud, but during all the disturbance the minister kept on with his sermon "all the same."

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

USEFUL RECIPES, ETC.

COOKED meal is nearly double the bulk of uncooked, yet quart for quart it is said to go as far. The difference is, that much of the food is undigested unless cooked.

IT is said that the juice of one lemon a day, taken in water, will cure the most obstinate case of neuralgia. No sugar should be taken, as it has a tendency to counteract the effects of the lemon juice.

TWO QUARTS of hot water, one pound of Indian meal and a quarter of a pound of unbolted wheat flour, will make more eggs when fed warm to hens than twice the amount of whole grain. So says an exchange.

THE black knots on plum and cherry trees have been decided on good authority to be neither the production nor the special nest of any species of insect, but a little parasitic plant of the class Fungi. The only cure is to lop off and burn the affected branches, as if left until late in the season they throw off innumerable *spores*, which lodge on healthy branches and there vegetate.

WHEN hogs are kept in pens and cannot hunt green food, they should have clover and other succulent grasses given them occasionally. Sods, charcoal, stonecoal or clay should be given to them frequently. These tend to correct and prevent diseases, and are very much relished by them. A little attention to this subject will prevent much disease among hogs.

IF you plow down your weeds before they go to seed they will prove a benefit to your land instead of a curse. If they are allowed to go to seed they will be a source of endless trouble. Plowed under, they are worth as much as a dressing of manure. Beside enriching the soil they tend to keep it loose. If you add from twenty-five to fifty bushels of lime per acre to the ground, and harrow it in, it will convert your weeds into plant food.

A LADY sends to the Farmers' Club the following pickle prescription, which she has used several years with success, and she has repeatedly heard the pickles called superior: "Pick over the vines every other day, select the perfect fruit, wash clean, and cover with a strong brine for twenty-four hours. Then take them from the brine, rinse with clear water, and drain them dry. When dry, pack them close in stone jars, and cover with good vinegar. Red peppers may be added if we like. Good old vinegar will keep pickles prepared in this way for a year without its being changed. Watered, flashy vinegar will scum over and need to be changed."

WHEAT VS. CHEAT.—Wheat never turns to cheat, nor does cheat ever turn to wheat. If cheat is not sown with the wheat, and there is none in the ground, there will be none found in the growing crop. Cheat is often found growing so closely among the roots of wheat as to have the appearance of having come from the same seed. But that is not the case. Wheat never will become cheat, however badly it may be damaged or degenerated. The two are quite different plants.—*Farm Journal.*

PACKING BUTTER.—It is of the first importance, in packing butter, either for market or home consumption, that the vessel in which it is placed should not only be clean, but made of a material from which the butter will not derive any unpleasant flavor. In speaking on this subject, the Toronto *Globe* warns farmers against the use of pine firkins and tubs, and continues: "The idea of using pine originated with country storekeepers, who generally furnish the package to the farmers' wives to fill, and desire to go to as little expense as possible rather than to give the buttermaker a good name in the market. Use stone jars or crocks for packing butter for home use, or to be sold to neighbors or to city consumers. When wooden packages are used, have them made only of the best seasoned white oak, maple, or any kind of good, hard wood. Pine, or any kind of resinous wood, however well it may be seasoned, scalded, or whatever else is done to it, will still give a bad flavor to butter when used as a package; the salt in the butter seems to draw out the resinous flavor from the wood at some time or other after the butter is put in. We should imagine that so cheap and strong an article as glass could be made much use of for the purpose of making butter packages."

Items of Agricultural Experience.

1. ALL soils are benefited by being underdrained, but the benefit is more apparent and lasting in those of a clayey nature, or having a subsoil retentive of moisture.

2. After drainage, subsoiling and good cultivation are necessary to ensure good crops on heavy soils.

3. Lime is the best manure to supply strong clay soils. It renders them more pervious to light and heat, and also corrects their acidity, by combining with some of the chemical salts in the soil, making plant food of poison.

4. Summer fallowing is the most efficient and profitable means of preparing strong soils for wheat, and of beginning a rotation, after grass has been grown for a length of time.

5. Green crops plowed under, when in the most succulent state, are powerful auxiliaries in rendering a light soil fertile, but if this is done too often successively, the soil becomes overcharged with carbonaceous matter.

6. Leached ashes applied in large quantities to sandy soils, or those containing too much vegetable humus, will greatly ameliorate their condition, and render them more compact.

7. There is no soil so poor or sterile but some mode may be found of ameliorating and enriching it.

8. Blowing sands may be gradually made productive by spreading six inches thick of straw over them, to remain till rotted. Then seed thickly with clover on the surface, without plowing, and when the clover has taken hold and becomes established, pasture sheep upon the land for two or three years preparatory to manuring and cultivating it.

9. Two successive grain crops on the same land leave it very foul.

10. Summer fallowing ameliorates a soil, and if properly done gets rid of most of the weeds and noxious plants infesting it.—*Canada Farmer.*

Removing Honey-Boxes from Hives.

EVERY skillful apiarian knows that if he depends upon the increase of the colonies alone as the only means of making his apiary profitable, and render the business of keeping bees worthy of his attention, he will fail to realize success. Hence it is that hives have been invented, and brought to a high standard of excellence, for the purpose of obtaining surplus honey, and at the same time not to interfere with the operation of the bees in rearing broods, and increasing their numbers.

Supposing the hives to be of the most improved patterns, and honey-boxes placed upon them at the proper time, I propose to give a few directions as to the best way of removing them when filled. It is never good policy to destroy a single bee when it can be avoided, and especially in the honey harvest, when every bee is required to gather the produce of the flowers. Careless apiarians are very apt to destroy bees unnecessarily while obtaining surplus honey.

When hives are so constructed as to allow of the use, a piece of sheet iron or tin to slide under the box to be taken off, so as to prevent the bees from below from flying out when the box was removed, is very handy. Smoke of some kind, (either tobacco, rags or wood, will answer the purpose) and should always be used to quiet the bees, and prevent them from stinging the operator. A little blown under the box as it is lifted from the hive will cause the bees to be very peaceable and harmless. As soon as a box is removed, an empty one should be put on, for if it be delayed, the bee keeper will often lose the best of the harvest, for a few days in the height of the honey-season are often of more value than weeks afterwards would be.

The best method I have ever tried for driving the bees from the boxes, is to take them off just before night and place them upon the table after supper. They should be inverted, as several of them can be placed side by side, and a box of some kind turned over them, which is just large enough to cover the entrance of the caps. In the morning the bees will be found clustered together, when they can be set out of doors and allowed to seek their own hives. Or if it is preferred, each set of boxes may be numbered, and kept separate from others, and the bees emptied in front of the hive from which they were taken. The chief advantage this plan possesses over others is that it prevents the jarring of the boxes, which in warm weather, when the comb is tender, often does serious injury to the honey, both in appearance and value.—*Cor. Rural American.*

Washing Sweated Horses.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *London Field* answers an inquiry whether it is a safe practice to wash sweated horses in cold water. He says he has adopted it, and with beneficial results, both in summer and winter. After washing, the animal should be rubbed dry, as far as practicable, and the legs especially. Should the hair on them be too long to admit of this being sufficiently done, flannel bandages should be put on, and a woolen rug thrown loosely over, but without the roller. In the course of an hour the horse will be tolerably dry, and should have another rub down, and be clothed in the ordinary manner. If horses were treated in a more rational manner than is often the case, with pure air and scrupulous cleanliness disease would be far less common.

What is more refreshing to a man after a hard day's shooting, or rather luxurious exercise, than a warm or cold bath? And I believe it to be equally so to the horse. To the tired hunter, a warm foot bath and fomentation, if the animal is sufficiently quiet, is most refreshing. With gentle treatment, most horses can be used to almost anything. Some years ago, I visited the royal stables at Buckingham Palace. There, as I was informed—and at the time myself witnessed the operation—every horse, summer and winter, was washed from head to foot with cold water, after returning from work, no matter whether it had been out one hour or six. A regular bath house, cold water and plenty of it, two men after the ablution, scraping, scrubbing, etc.; a kind of web cloth was thrown over to admit the evaporation, and the horse was afterward rubbed down and clothed as usual in the course of an hour or two. We cannot all have such appliances, but still I consider the plan rational and conducive to the health of the horse, if only ordinary care is taken.

Food for Fattening Sheep.

THE question is frequently asked: "What kind of grain is best for fattening sheep?" I answer, for me, corn is the best for the main feed, although I like a few oats mixed to start with, and have no objections to beans, peas and oil-meal, if they don't cost too much. Whenever they cost as much or more than corn, I dispense with them, as a sheep feeder must count his cost as well as his reputation if he intends to succeed.

Another question arises: "Do you find whole or ground feed best?" For horses, cattle and pigs, I prefer ground feed, but for sheep, especially fattening sheep, I choose whole or unground feed. I find that the sheep will grind it just as well as the mill to which we must give every tenth bushel, besides having the trouble of hauling the grain to and from it. I also find that fat sheep will hold up to their full feed much better, especially in soft weather, on whole than on ground feed; consequently drawing grain to and from the mill, and paying toll, is, in my estimation, labor and money lost.

It is asked, "What kind of hay is best for sheep?" Emphatically I say clover, but it should be cut early, and cured nice and green. Timothy is probably best for horses, but for cattle and sheep I prefer clover, and would rather have a ton of nice green fine clover than a ton of timothy, although in market one ton of timothy will bring as much as two of clover. I have sometimes fed some timothy hay to my sheep, but always found that it was not the kind for them; they would grow lank and thin upon it—not a very good sign that a fattening animal is thriving well. As soon as they got the clover again they would plump up and look full and nice, and I can assure you unless your sheep look full and plump, they are not fattening very fast.

Is straw good for feeding sheep? One feed at noon of nice bright oat, barley or pea straw, I prefer to hay, as they not only relish it, but it is a change for them. Sheep are very fond of a variety, and will eat daisies, weeds, thistles or almost anything of the kind that is cut and cured green. Nice green corn-stalks are not very bad for sheep, and when I have plenty of them I always feed the sheep with them at least once a day, and consider them as good as hay. I prefer, however, feeding them the fore part of the winter, as towards spring they will sometimes contract dampness, and then the sheep do not eat them as well.

With regard to the value of roots for feeding, my experience is that whenever they are worth more than seventy-five cents per barrel, and corn not over from one dollar to one dollar and twenty-five cents per bushel, the corn is the cheapest, and I would use only a few roots as a substitute for green food. I consider carrots and ruta bagas better than common turnips; still by feeding a little more of the latter than the former, I think the sheep do just as well on them.—*N. Y. Agricultural Report.*

Colt-Breaking.

IT is by no means an uncommon practice with persons in the country, who wish to break a horse to harness, "to put him into a strong cart, and then he can't do any harm;" perhaps he may not, but the chance is, that, by this mode of commencing his harness education, he will do no good. This may be breaking; it is not teaching. The horse is not accustomed by nature to propel anything with his shoulders; the act is therefore unusual to him; his natural act would be to recoil from it if he could. Of course, therefore, the heavier the weight he feels against him is, the more disposed he is to recoil from it. A good and well-trained cart-horse will pull twenty times running at an immovable object, for this reason: he has been accustomed to find that by increased exertion he has generally succeeded in moving an object to which he has been attached; he therefore always expects to be able to do this, consequently will try to do so; but the novice in harness, if he feels a great weight behind, will most probably do everything but what he ought to do, which is, to resolutely set his shoulders to the collar. The fact is, in this as in all cases with horses, they should never, if possible, be put to do that which it is likely they will refuse to do. It is quite natural a horse should at first refuse to face a collar with 500 lbs. pressing against him—none would refuse to do so with 5 lbs. The 500 lbs., therefore, should never be tried till we know he will draw the 5 lbs., and then increase the draft by degrees. Neglecting to do this is one of the great causes that produces jibbing, which is the almost certain result of injudicious treatment.—*Prairie Farmer.*

Stray Grains for Chickens.

Under this title the *Gardener's Magazine* (English) gives the following hints:

Feed your poultry on raw onions chopped fine, mixed with other food, about twice a week. It is better than a dozen cures for chicken cholera. Fowls exposed to dampness are apt to be troubled with catarrh, which will run to roup, if not attended to. Red pepper mixed with soft feed, fed several times a week, will remove the cold. Pulverized charcoal, given occasionally, is a preventive of putrid affections, to which fowls are very subject. Sitting hens can be cured by putting water in a vessel to the depth of one inch, putting the hen into it, and covering the top of the vessel for about 24 hours. The vessel should be deep enough to allow the fowl to stand up. This is the best remedy I have ever tried. Pulverized chalk administered with soft feed will cure diarrhea. This disorder is caused by want of variety in the food, or by too much green food. Garlic feed once or twice a week is excellent for colds.

What an Eclipse Might Be.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Boston *Post* says: "Few people trouble themselves to think what the effect would be if the eclipse of Saturday were to last any length of time, and the sun were blotted from the heavens. Philosophy declares that not only would a horror of darkness cover the earth, but the moisture of the atmosphere would be precipitated in vast showers to the earth, and the temperature fall to a fearful point of cold, nothing less than 230 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit. The earth would be the seat of darkness, and more than arctic desolation. Nothing could survive such freezing cold a moment, more than one could breathe in scalding water. In three days after the cooling process began, nothing created would be alive but monsters that wallow in the deep ocean and the eyeless reptiles that make their haunts in caves which penetrate far under ground."

Prussing's Vinegar.

As the pickling season is now at hand, and many housekeepers are concerned about getting Vinegar that will keep their pickles, we deem it our duty to inform our readers that Prusssing's Vinegar is admitted by all who have tried it to have no superior in the market for this purpose. Mr. Prussing warrants his Vinegar to be free from all poisonous acids, and to preserve pickles. His works are the largest of the kind in the United States, and owing to the extra quality of his Vinegar, it is rapidly superseding all others with the city and country trade. Dealers and consumers should not fail to ask for it when replenishing their stock.—*Springfield (Ill.) Journal.*

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Chicago is noted for her great undertakings and great successes. See her lake and river tunnels, her boulevards and driving parks, and her incomparable hotels. Prominent among the latter stands the Briggs House, centrally located and near to all places of amusements. It contains 250 elegantly furnished rooms. B. H. Skinner, the host, takes the world as he finds it, and never frets. Geo. H. French, the affable superintendent, has been twelve years in the house. Frank Wentworth is cashier, and "The Man who Laughs" and enjoys the good things of this life, can always be found at the Briggs.

Painless Digestion.

"No man," says Sir Astley Cooper, "ought to know by his sensations that he has a stomach." In other words, when digestion is perfect there is neither pain nor uneasiness in the region where it takes place. Nausea, want of appetite, flatulency, oppression after eating, shooting pains in the epigastrium, a flushing of the face at meal times, and a furred tongue in the morning, are among the direct symptoms of indigestion. Constipation, biliousness, headache, nervous irritability, physical weakness, and low spirits, are its almost invariable accompaniments. All these indications of DYSPEPSIA, whether immediate or secondary, are usually aggravated by hot weather.

The close of summer is therefore the season when the victim of dyspepsia most urgently needs a tonic and regulating medicine. Of course, every invalid has many advisers. One friend recommends one drug, another another; but in a multitude of counsellors there is not always safety. The STANDARD REMEDY OF THE PRESENT AGE FOR INDIGESTION, in all its stages, is HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS. Time, that proves all things, has established its reputation on an impregnable foundation,—the spontaneous testimony of millions of intelligent witnesses. No acrid oil or acid defiles its stimulating principle; its tonic constituents are the finest that botanical research has yet discovered; it combines the properties of a gentle evacuant, a blood depurent, and an anti-bilious medicine, with invigorating qualities of the highest order, and is admitted both by the public and the profession to be the surest protection against all diseases that are produced or propagated by pestiferous air or unwholesome water, that has ever been used either in the United States or Tropical America.

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