THE SENTRY'S CLOAK.

Cold in the starlight Jerusalem sleeps,
With her white temple upreared to the sky;
Cold as the night wind that plaintively sweeps
O'er the weird shades that on Calvary lie.

One who has heard the dear lips that are still
Vanquish with love the vain Pharisee throng,
Waits at the tomb on the wind beaten hill
Through the night watches, so dark and so long.

Lonely is she, for the sentinels doze,
Wrapped in their cloaks, upon buckler and sword;
All save one Roman, who, spurning repose,
Guards the dark grave of the crucified Lord.

Not on the Cross is he thinking to-night,
But on the wife and children at home;
Loved ones whose smiles were a father's delight
In that far cot of imperial Rome.

True unto Caesar and Pilate is he;
Firm is his footstep and stern is his brow;
He who to Him never lowered a knee
Feels not a thrill at the sepulchre now.

Hark! from the gloom comes a sorrowful cry,
As from a heart that is bursting with pain.
Flies the mailed hand to the sword on his thigh,
"Nay," he exclaims, "'Tis that woman again—

"She who with tears yester-even was here,
Pressing her babe to her rag-covered breast,
Watching this cavern of Arimathaea,
Where the bold Nazarene now is at rest!"

Seizing the camp torch he hastes to the form,
Saying, "The night breeze is chilly and wild;
"Take thou my cloak—it is heavy and warm—
Cover thyself and thy shivering child."

Kindly he fondles the baby that hides
In the thin robe of that watcher sincere,
Then to his dreaming companions he strides,
From his dark cheeks roughly dashing a tear.

* * * * * *

Bright dawns the sun upon Olivet's brow,
Bringing from Heaven the first Easter Day;
Duty and Faith both are slumbering now—
She on the mantle and he on the clay.

One standing near that bright Form from the dead
See's the lone woman in sleep's heavy yoke,
Cries, as he wrenches the robe from her head,
"What dost thou here in the infidel's cloak?"

Then from the lips of the Savior there come
Words full of tenderness, sorrow and pain—
"Lo, of My mission the substance and sum,
By you poor soldier told over again!"

—Thomas Frost.

ODD THINGS ABOUT EASTER.

All People Appear to Celebrate the Spring Festival.

All peoples appear to celebrate Easter in one shape or another, the festival signifying a rejoicing at the reawakening of nature in spring. Though associated in this manner with the vernal equinox, it is nevertheless particularly a moon-festival, and most of its folk-lore has to do with the lunar orb in one way or another. The Council of Nice, in the year 351 A. D., decided that Easter day should be the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox; and if the full moon fell on Sunday, then Easter Sunday was to be the Sunday after. The moon suggests a likeness to an egg, which is the symbol of resurrection, and the rebirth of things.

Now, the Chinese celebrate Easter by making so-called "moon-cakes," and indulging in various amusements that are supposed to have to do with congratulating or rewarding the moon. In their celestial cosmogony the orb of night represents the female principle in nature, and they believe that a beautiful woman lives there—the goddess of the palace of the moon.

On a gold throne, whose radiating brightness
Dazzles the eyes, enhaloing the scene,
Sits a fair form, arrayed in snowy whiteness.
She is Chang-o, the beauteous Fairy Queen.

Rainbow-winged angels softly hover o'er her,
Forming a canopy above the throne;
A host of fairy beings stand before her,
Each robed in light and girt with meteor zone.

The above is a translation from a Chinese poem, describing the Woman in the Moon.

The Chinese believe that a man, a frog and a hare also dwell in the moon, and the last-named animal constantly appears in their art and in that of Japan, painted upon the disk of a lunar orb. Nearly all over the world the hare is associated with the moon mythologically, and it is on this account that the rabbit has so much to do with Easter.

There has been much dispute as to why the hare should have anything to do with the moon, but nobody has arrived at any satisfactory conclusion on the subject. It is evidently a folk-lore notion of extreme antiquity, which partly accounts for its wide distribution. The rabbit is nocturnal in habit, coming out at night to feed, and that may have started the idea. It is asserted by students of such matters that the left hind foot of a graveyard rabbit killed in the dark of the moon represents the last quarter of the moon, and on that account is lucky.

A legend accounting for the rabbit in the moon is of Hindu origin, and was introduced into China with Buddhism. Buddha, according to this narrative, was a hare at one stage of his existence, and lived in friendship with a fox and an ape. Indra came to them disguised as a hungry pilgrim, and the fox and ape procured food for the god. But the hare was not able to capture anything suitable for the table, and, sooner than be inhospitable, he threw himself into the fire in order to become food for the guest.

At Eastertime, with radiance rare,
In all her glory, faultless, fair,
On promenade the maid appears
No traces left of Lenten tears,
An object gay and debonair.

His heart is dizzy with despair,
That stylish hat, those violets dare
To nod their heads and domineer,
At Eastertime.

He knows how much this whole affair
Makes doubly sure the subtle snare;
He is not jealous, has no fear
That he will lose her love, the dear,
The bills are what makes papa swear
At Eastertime.

—Herbert Hayes.

As a reward for his self-sacrifice Indra translated him to the moon, where he sits at the foot of a cassia tree, pounding drugs for the genii in a mortar.

An Easter Parable.

Once in a sheltered garden there bloomed a beautiful flower so sweet and pure that the south wind forsook all other spots to sweep ceaselessly, caressingly around it, whispering soft words of love.

But one day the flower faded, nor could the south wind with warm kisses revive its drooping head.

Then came the gardener through his garden, who, seeing the dying flower, plucked it from its stem and, tearing out its golden heart, buried it deep in the black earth.

"Cruel, cruel man!" shrieked the south wind, because it understood not.

All winter long the cold white snow lay on the heart of the flower, and over it the south wind sobbed its rage at the pitiless gardener.

But when the spring came, behold, the flower arose, more beautiful than before!

And the south wind, understanding, kissed the bronzed cheek of the gardener in joyous penitence.

For kind of heart is the gardener of the universe, though man, foolish and fickle as the south wind, understands him not, and, as one who loves all growing things will stoop to brush a little blemish from the humblest flower, so stoops he to remove the smallest sorrow from the tiniest blossom in his great garden of light petaled stars.

Easter Plant Legands.

The Christian legends connected with plants generally explain their behavior during Passion week. The aspen still shivers with remorse because, when Christ passed, it had boldly faced the heavens instead of bowing its head in company with the other trees. The Savior cast one look on it, and the memory of that sorrowful glance is handed down even to this generation.

The willow was used for the scourges, and ever since it has drooped its arms in misery. The elder is commonly supposed to be the tree upon which Judas hanged himself, and it is not even to be touched for firewood. However, it affords a safe refuge in a warring of the elements, for not even lightning will deign to strike it. A fungus that grows on the elder and is now known as Jew's ears was originally called Judas' ears.

The oxalis, or wood sorrel, was standing at the foot of the cross and received some drops of the precious blood. These she still carries. The Italians have the same legend and call this little blossom "alleluia," as if the very flowers rejoiced in the great gift to the world. The scarlet anemone, too, is said to bear the stains of Christ's blood.

Variety in Easter Offerings.

It has become so much the custom to send keepsakes and remembrances to one's friends on holidays that one's purse is agape almost all the year round. This Easter the shopkeepers have been most considerate, and "prices for all purses" is the rule in more than one shop that makes a specialty of appropriate holiday gifts. The silver basket filled with growing ferns or the potted lily in a jardiniere of priceless pottery is a gift of the plutocrats, but just as dainty and graceful is a bit of silver or Rayserzina costing $2 or $3, a photograph of some famous painting mounted on rough white bristol board and inscribed with an Easter greeting in gold, a piece of art glass for desk, mantel or table, a rosary, a bookmark, a daintily bound book or any one of a hundred pretty trifles. These little gifts are tied with white ribbon, with a card attached, and all one has to do is to select, pay and with one's greeting send off the offering. From 25 cents to $3 covers all expense.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

The Lesson of the Season.

Ages pass, but each returning Easter brings again its lessons of sacrifice, of unselfishness and of great love for humanity. Great snowy banks of lilies, emblems of purity, are offered in remembrance of the greatest self-abnegation in the history of the world. In vast cathedral and modest chapel vibrates the majestic music of praise for that most wonderful resurrection, upon which is based the faith of the mightiest peoples of the earth.

Gaiety is not a proof that the heart is at ease, for often in the midst of laughter the heart is sad.—De Genlis.

"PICKING" EGGS.

Eastern Story that Is Still Greatly Enjoyed by the Boys.

"I see the shop windows full of all sorts of pretty things that betoken the approach of Easter," said Mr. Snoggleton, "but none of the displays attracts me so much as that in a Main street window which is largely devoted to dyed eggs and dyes for coloring Easter eggs. It takes me back to boyhood as nothing else could do. They tell me that here in the north the children don't have very much fun with Easter eggs, but in the south, where I was raised, we used to have great sport from Good Friday to Easter Monday, and the old customs still survive to a large extent. 'Picking' eggs was the popular sport with the boys. It was not altogether as harmless a form of gambling as fond parents usually imagined.

"The process is simple. The contestants must first be provided with the requisite number of hard boiled eggs, usually dyed in gay colors. Sometimes we used to be able to buy real dyes and boil the eggs in them, but the popular method in the little town where I was raised was to get all the scraps of gay colored calico that could be obtained, wrap each egg carefully in the calico and boil it. This would result in transferring the pattern of the calico to the egg, and the gaudier the colors the better we liked them. The brilliantly colored prints which are made for the negro trade in the south are seldom seen in the north, but they were just the things we wanted.

"In 'picking' eggs the challenger attempts to break the shell of the other contestant's eggs with his own egg. The eggs are held tightly in the closed hands, only the points protruding, and one boy strikes with the point of his egg the point of the other, the blows being only just hard enough to crack the shell of one of the eggs. The one whose egg is broken forfeits the egg to the owner of the stronger egg. I have known boys to accumulate many dozen eggs in this way in the course of the Easter holidays, although if there is no cheating the best egg is sure to be broken sooner or later.

"But the boys in my town used to be up to all sorts of tricks. Of course all eggshells are not alike. Some have much more lime in them than others, and the eggs of the guinea hen, or 'guinea keat,' as the fowl is always called in the south, are ever so much harder than ordinary hens' eggs. So guinea keat eggs were barred in egg picking, and every egg offered for picking was carefully inspected by the other boy before the challenge was accepted to make sure that it was not a keat egg. It is easy enough to tell the difference ordinarily, the keat egg being smaller and of a more pointed shape."—Buffalo Express.

EASTER ISLAND.

A Curious Story About One of the Polynesian Group.

Far away in the Pacific ocean lies a lonely volcanic island which is called Easter island from the fact that it was discovered on Easter day, 1722, by a navigator named Roggereen, a Dutch admiral. Its real name is Rapa-Nui, and its Polynesian inhabitants are fast dying out. Comparatively few explorers have visited it, and, contrary to the joyous spring name it has, it is a deserted place.

What makes Easter island of interest are the numbers of curious colossal stone heads and busts, called moai, which abound there, evidently the work of the natives hundreds of years ago. A few of these are erect, but many have fallen.

The legend says that King Tukuihu settled in Rapa-Nui and retired into a cave, where he carved and cut all the gigantic heads, which removed themselves to their present position on the island.

When he became old, he did not die, but was turned into a butterfly, which is called in that country by his name.

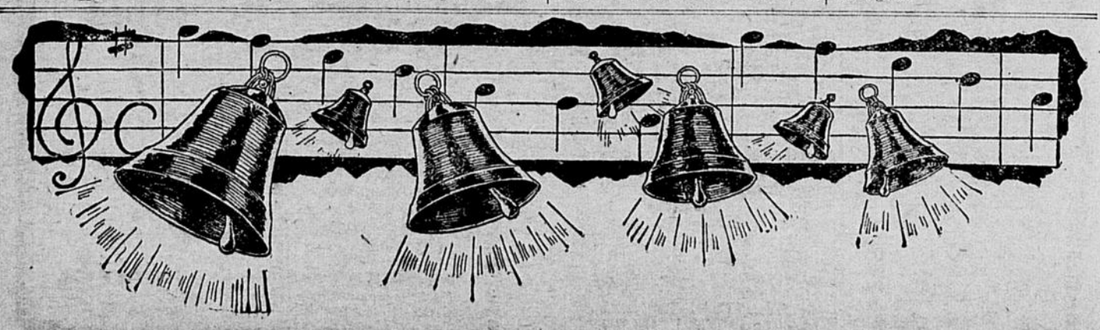
Tukuihu used to search for eggs in the nests of the sea birds, and when he lost his human form the chiefs who wished to succeed him agreed to search for a certain number of eggs and the first to collect them was appointed king. It seems singular that eggs without any especial significance should have been so important on Easter island.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Easter Pastime and Benevolence.

A Hungarian Easter custom is the Kalaka. It is a custom with something besides either foolish superstition or perverted church legends behind it. The farmers of a certain district get together and give one of their number, the poorest man in the place, a day's work. After the day of communistic labor is over a supper and a dance are given.

A saving bank for colored people, with a colored woman for president, has been established recently in Richmond, Va. The aggregate deposits for the first day were $75,000.

Locomotive engineers, on the run from Crews to London, a distance of 166 miles, have to notice no fewer than 285 signals.



THE STATE OF IOWA.

OCCURRENCES DURING THE PAST WEEK.

Sister of Charity Elopes from Convent with Lover—Bloodhounds Not Counted Reliable Witnesses—Wants $5,000 Damages for Physical Hurts.

Forgetting the devotion to goodness and the vows she had taken to bury herself from the world in the robes of a Sister of Charity, the charming young Catholic woman who took the name of Sister Annette eloped a few evenings ago with an old sweetheart from the mother home at Cedar Rapids. From Chicago, where the romance was culminated in a marriage, she has written friends in Burlington that she is glad to be again of the world and is not sorry for what she has done. She said: "Had I not been obliged to teach music to young men till 8 o'clock in the evening I in all probability would not have taken the step I have." Last year Sister Annette was a music teacher connected with Lourdes Academy, one of the most popular of the parochial schools in the State, at Burlington. Last July she was transferred to Cedar Rapids, where life became a dull monotony for her. Suddenly there was a change. On one of her few excursions to the city she met an old sweetheart. Just what plans were laid and how rapidly are not known. A few days ago, however, after night had fallen and just before the sisters were to retire for the night a black-hooded creature climbed down the fire escape of the school and, enveloped in a heavy coat, was hurried away by her lover, who had come from Burlington. Taking a fast train to Chicago, the couple were married, and now all Iowa Catholicism is discussing the elopement. It is the first time in the history of the State that the sacred vows have been so broken.

Bloodhounds Not Reliable Witnesses.

The Supreme Court in an opinion by Judge Weaver granted a new trial in the famous bloodhound case in which Harry McClurg claimed damages of Mayor Brenton and Chief of Police Brackett in the sum of $10,000. The case was tried by Judge McHenry, and the court directed a verdict for the Mayor and chief. The court holds the case should have gone to the jury. In the opinion Judge Weaver says a man has the right to undisturbed possession of his home, and that the work of bloodhounds in tracking a man to his home is not presumptive of his guilt. In the summer of 1902 Des Moines had an epidemic of chicken thieves. The Mayor procured bloodhounds, who smelt a scent to the home of McClurg, a deacon in the Valley Junction M. E. Church. The Mayor and chief forced an entrance and made the arrest, but acquittal followed and later the damage suit.

Wants $5,000 Damages.

Suit has been filed in the District Court by Harry Goodnow, a farmer living southwest of Ames, against Willis Ball, also a farmer, asking for $5,000 damages for injuries received in a fistic encounter at the Goodnow home. It seems that the trouble started at the Ball home a few nights previous. Both parties had been imbibing quite freely and Goodnow made some threats that he would do Ball up. A few nights later Ball with several of his companions went to the Goodnow home and called the young man in question outside and immediately assaulted him with his fists and succeeded in breaking three ribs, breaking his jaw bone and badly injuring one eye.

Woman Killed by Cars.

Mrs. Charles Hildebrand, the wife of a prominent stock shipper living at Lockbridge, was instantly killed by a fast freight train near Lockridge depot. Mrs. Hildebrand was assisting her son in loading a car of horses, and stepped from one track to avoid a passing freight, on to another in front of a passenger train.

Kills Herself and Child.

Because she was jealous of another woman, Mrs. William Greenfield, 35 years old, killed herself and her 1-year-old child in Des Moines. Mrs. Greenfield, with the child, locked herself in a room and turned on the gas, where she was found by her husband.

State News in Brief.

There is an unusual amount of petty thieving at Dubuque.

Council Bluffs Republicans renominated Mayor Dell G. Morgan.

Fort Dodge has let the contract for two miles of asphalt paving.

Burlington business men are agitating for the abolition of the trading stamp.

Robert Taylor, a Plymouth County farmer, was killed in a runaway accident.

L. R. Jones, for seventeen years a guard at the Fort Madison prison, is dead.

Improvements aggregating $50,000 will be added to the Ottumwa water works plant.

Commander McCracken of the cruiser Des Moines is a native of Jefferson County.

Rev. J. H. Sharpe has resigned the pastorate of the Denison Presbyterian Church.

Work will begin on the new Iowa Methodist hospital at Des Moines in a few days.

Woodbury County teachers have appealed to the boards of education for higher wages.

There is an epidemic of measles at Clarion, between fifty and sixty cases being reported.

The city of Ottumwa has not been defeated in a single damage suit in the past five years.

William Hatch, a pioneer resident of Dubuque County, dropped dead at Farley while shoveling snow from the walk in front of his home.

Bids for the Y. M. C. A. building, which is to be erected at the Iowa State College at Ames this summer, have been opened. The lowest bid was $40,400.

Max Seligman, a clever insurance swindler at Des Moines, who defrauded the Equitable Life Company out of several thousand dollars by false representations in securing notes which the company cashed, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

In Iowa City A. W. Hannafin committed suicide by hanging himself with a steel wire. He was in Mercy hospital for treatment.

Charles Lovelett was terribly burned at Washington. He was starting a fire with kerosene, when there was an explosion. He may die.

J. F. Benckendorf, a prosperous farmer owning one of the finest farms in Calhoun County, has sold his property and joined Dowie's ranks.

The City Council of West Liberty unanimously granted franchise privileges to the Iowa City, Davenport and Muscatine Railway Company.

A telephone message from Goose Lake tells of the robbery of Charles Buech's clothing store of clothing valued at $500. Suits and overcoats constituted most of the loss.

George Irnscher, of Dubuque, who claims title to the Servian throne, has employed an attorney and will see to establish his claim and secure what money may be due him as a member of a royal family.

Veterans of the Franco-Prussian war, residing in Davenport, are considering a plan for the erection of a monument in one of the public parks of that city in commemoration of the establishment of peace between France and Germany.

Des Moines policemen want a raise in salary.

Mayor R. H. Kain of LeMars has resigned.

The Tama Commercial Club has been reorganized.

An outbreak of smallpox has occurred at Wadena.

An addition will be built to the Des Moines City Hall.

The cigaret has been tabooed in the Woodbury County jail.

Burlington women have begun an agitation for a cleaner city.

Burlington socialists nominated William Strauss for Mayor.

Fire destroyed the residence of J. S. Wilson, near Washington.

The city officials of New Sharon have purchased a pair of bloodhounds.

The Dubuque woman's club has started a campaign for a cleaner city.

Des Moines is to have a new State bank, headed by G. E. McKinnon.

The Iowa building at the world's fair is completed. It cost about $37,000.

Potatoes are now being imported into the State from far-away Washington.

The Chicago Great Western has begun work on its new depot at Clarion.

Workmen are placing the foundation for McGregor's new electric light plant.

C. N. Smith's store at Grinnell was damaged by fire to the extent of $1,000.

An effort is being made to cancel the $2,000 debt on the Washington academy.

W. J. Adams, for six years chief of the Mason City fire department, has resigned.

The $25,000 debt against the Davenport Presbyterian Church has been cancelled.

An underwriters' club has been organized by the insurance men of Fort Dodge.

Oliver E. Reece has been appointed postmaster at Abbot, vice J. C. Zoller, resigned.

Ottumwa is to have a city laboratory for the detection of germs of infectious diseases.

The present prison population at Fort Madison is 456, eighteen less than a year ago.

Des Moines college is trying to raise funds for the erection of needed new buildings.

West Liberty citizens have raised nearly $2,000 for the purchase of a library site.

A saloon consent petition is in circulation in Carroll County. A bitter fight has developed.

Flower growers of Davenport, Rock Island and Moline have formed the Tri-City Florists' Club.

Sneak thieves have recently stolen $200 worth of goods from the Batterson store at Muscatine.

Mayor Becker of Davenport says he will veto the ordinance requiring steel curtains in theaters.

The Des Moines park commission will offer prizes in order to stimulate the beautifying of the city.

Iowa railroads are laying in a very large supply of coal, fearing a bitter miners' strike in the East.

Dubuque socialists named Ernest Holtz for Mayor and also placed a complete ticket in the field.

John Sullivan, 18 years old, of Dubuque, has confessed to the burglary of a saloon in that city.

An artesian well, to be at least 1,600 feet deep, is being sunk at West Liberty. It will cost nearly $4,000.

Iowa operators and miners have postponed a decision on the wage scale, awaiting a decision in the East.

Morris Less, a Des Moines carpenter, drew $650 from a bank and in half an hour had lost $500 on the street.

Three more worthless citizens of Denison have left that city, following the urgent invitation of a vigilance committee.

All telegraph and telephone wires in the business district of Des Moines will be placed under ground the coming summer.

A new bank has been organized by the business men of Garrison and prominent farmers living in the vicinity of that town.

Charles H. Dilworth, president of the West Des Moines school board and a prominent citizen and banker, died suddenly.

The Farmers' Bank of Garden Grove, with a capital of $60,000, and the Bank of Coin, having assets of $30,000, have assigned.

The Waterloo ministerial union has appointed a committee to revive, if possible, the Chautauqua in that city.

The club women and business men of Marshalltown have united in guaranteeing support for the Chautauqua proposed for that city.

A number of G. A. R. posts throughout the State have adopted resolutions favoring the proposition for a State park at Davenport.

The management of the Burlington Y. M. C. A. is endeavoring to raise $20,000, payable within five years, to clear off its indebtedness.

The creditors of the Pisgah bank, which failed last July, have employed counsel and will endeavor to force a settlement of their claims.

Jos. Moore, a prominent business man of Onawa, is defendant in a $5,000 breach of promise suit, brought by Lucinda Greek, of the same place.

At Des Moines, G. B. McNabb has sued the Elliott Hotel Company for $10,000 for false arrest. McNabb was charged with trying to beat a board bill.

E. L. Pardee, a rural mail carrier at Walnut, resigned and was re-appointed and given a $300 contribution by the patrons of the route when no successor could be found.

The report of the superintendent to the board of control shows that the industrial school for girls at Mitchellville had 210 inmates Feb. 29, as compared with 208 on Jan. 31.

Gov. Cummins has named George Blanch of Belle Plaine as a member of the State board of veterinary medical examiners. He will succeed Wm. H. Heck of Maquoketa.

Keokuk's water is not good, says the State chemist, after examining samples of water sent him. The report says the people are drinking nine hundred colonies of bacteria to the cubic centimeter.

The total cost of the North Sixth avenue Melan arch bridge at Des Moines is now estimated at $145,500, more than $50,000 above the original estimate made three years ago, when the contract was let.

Gov. Cummins has issued a proclamation setting aside Friday, April 29, as Arbor day. He urges a general observance of the spirit of the day, and recommends such exercises in the schools of the State as will stimulate a love of nature. The planting of trees in practicable places, the original purpose of the day, is given significant emphasis as an important service to the public and to future generations.

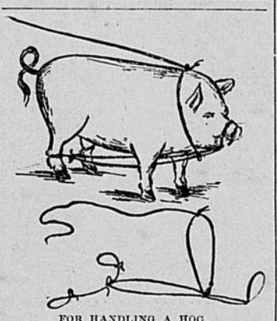
The Supreme Court has sustained the decision of Judge McVey in the Bonbright case from Polk County, and upheld the judgment of $15,615 against the estate of John S. Bonbright in favor of his widow on a pre-nuptial contract entered into at the time of his second marriage in 1889. The heirs of the estate had sought to have the decree set aside on the statute of limitations and for other reasons.

Nearly all the stock necessary to build at Cambridge a canning factory which will employ about a hundred men, women and boys and which will pack from thirty-five to forty thousand cans of corn per day has been subscribed.

Handling an Unruly Hog.

Any one who has tried it will testify that it is not an easy task to handle a stubborn hog, and most hogs are stubborn. If one has occasion to do this work the device shown in the cut is simple and effective. Take a strong rope about the diameter of a clothesline and about ten or twelve feet long. From this cut off three feet and tie a loop in each end, then tie the remaining piece in the center of the looped piece and bring the loop over the snout of the hog after slipping the loops in the first piece over his hind feet.

Have a ring in the long looped piece, and through this slip another rope, also looped, so as to come over his neck, as shown in the cut. This rope may be heavier than the first one, and if the



FOR HANDLING A HOG.

animal is unruly and strong, the end which is shown over the back of the hog extending to the hand of the one who is driving it, may be slipped over his rump and into the lower loop and tied, leaving a long loop in the driver's hands for better control. The illustrations show clearly how the contrivance is constructed.

To Grow Fine Celery.

A Michigan gardener writes: Take any land that will stand drought, put at least one load of well-rotted manure on every square rod of ground, plow and fit the ground well, set plants in rows 16 inches apart and six to eight inches apart in the row (set with an old brick trowel), keep the surface well worked till the plants cover the ground, after which no weeds will bother. By raising celery by this method the plants become dense, and consequently darken the lower parts of the plants, causing the celery to grow white from the center. None but White Plume will grow successfully this way. White Plume can be grown in single row and be blanched by placing bundles of corn stalks on both rows. Bundles should be at least eight inches in diameter. I grew White Plume celery 33 inches high last year on high ground, and it was as white as snow. I find the Giant Pascal is best for late winter use, but it has to be earthed to blanch. These two varieties are the best to my notion.

One-Man Corn Sled.

Make two runners, one 5 feet and one 7 or 8 feet long; use 2x6 stuff; place 2 feet apart and nail boards on top as shown in cut. Fasten a scythe blade on for knife. It is better than the steel plate knives. Knife should run high on edge and at an angle of about 45 degrees from the runners.

A ONE-MAN CORN SLED.

The object of the long runner is to keep the sled from bucking to one side, which is caused by the cutting being all done on one side. We stand up to cut in large corn, and put on a box and sit down in small. It is a waste of labor to knock the corn down on sled and pick it up again. Keep it up in your arms. The single sled is now preferred to the double ones here. I am a boy 14 years old. My father has taken the Practical Farmer since before I was born.—Archie Orange, Galesburg, Kan.

Sheep for Mutton.

Mutton as a human food is gaining rapidly in reputation. So much improvement has been made in the methods of breeding, fattening, slaughtering and ripening mutton that a great army of people who were once prejudiced against it no longer find anything the matter with it. Good authorities predict that the time is rapidly approaching when as many sheep and lambs will be slaughtered in this country as there are hogs and cattle slaughtered now. History shows us that in old countries mutton is the poor man's meat. The reason for this is that it can be raised at less cost.

Digestibility of Foods.

The value of cattle foods depends largely upon their digestibility. There is more protein in straw than in corn fodder, but the latter is more digestible. Some coarse foods are valuable, however, in assisting to digest the concentrated foods by giving bulk to the mess and separating the materials, especially when the coarse foods are reduced to a fine condition. Even if but a portion of the straw foods is digested, they are prepared for the manure heap by the animals and are thus increased in value compared with wasteful use.

On Sowing Clover.

Sowing clover is an absorbing question with farmers who desire to keep up the fertility of their land. When seed is high there is always a disposition, with some, to defer sowing clover until another year, and plow up the fields again. Seed may be cheaper next year, you know. This management may have kept these same fields under the plow for years, making it more uncertain to secure a catch, and requiring more acres, every year, to secure the requisite amount of grain. It is unwise and foolish to fail to sow clover because seed is dear.

Diversified Farming in the Extreme.

The managers of the Maryville (Mo.) Street Fair offered a $10 prize to the Nodaway County agriculturist who should exhibit the largest number of farm products grown on his farm this season. W. R. Bosley, of Ravenwood, drove up with a wagon load of stuff and took the prize.

His wagon contained a stalk of corn thirteen and one-half feet high; white, red, yellow and speckled corn in ear; wheat, rye, buckwheat, rape, timothy-seed, oats, thirteen kinds of green beans and peas, three kinds of popcorn, two kinds of cucumbers, one red pig, a turkey, two chickens, two Guinea fowls, hedge balls, strawberry vines, one cabbage weighing fifteen pounds, celery, summer and winter lettuce, peanuts, two kinds of beets, horseradish, asparagus, bluestem grass, slough grass, clover hay, prairie hay, carrots, green mustard, six kinds of pickles, seven kinds of jelly, jam, cherries, three kinds of parsnips, three gourds, two kinds of sunflower seed, sweet corn, can of honey, castor bean, one sunflower, the flower of which measured forty-six inches in circumference; sugar cane, two kinds of millet in stalk, an oyster plant, four kinds of radishes, turnips, four kinds of Irish potatoes, two kinds of sweet potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, two kinds of squash, green lettuce and onions.—Baltimore American.

Weeding Out the Cows.

I operate a farm dairy, make butter a specialty, and I wish to say that in my opinion you cannot too strongly urge the farmers who keep cows to keep a daily record of what they are doing, weighing each mess of milk and testing often enough to get an average of its butter-fat, so that at the end of the year they can tell just what each cow is worth, from a butter point of view. For more than two years we have done so. At the end of the first year, although we thought our herd was all good, we found twelve out of twenty-five cows that did not pay. We sold these and replaced with others; some of our own raising and some by purchase. This year we find 30 per cent profit over last year. We have not found the daily record hard to keep. Few farmers stop to figure. A cow that produces 200 pounds of butter per year from $30 worth of feed, which sells for 20 cents per pound, leaves only $10 for care and the risk. The cow which makes 400 pounds of butter from $30 worth of feed leaves $50 for care, risk and profit, besides a whole lot of satisfaction to her owner. You never know which cow makes this profit for you except by using the scales and the test.—F. C. Shepherd, in National Stockman.

How to Market the Butter.

Those who possess the knack of making butter that has that fragrant flavor that distinguishes the produce of many farm dairies, often make the mistake of keeping the butter on hand too long after it is made before marketing it. It will be found that however palatable it may be, and however good the flavor it possesses when first made, it will have escaped after too long keeping. Even when transported long distances it loses its distinctiveness while in transit. In fact, it seems that butter which possesses to a large degree this much-desired flavor deteriorates much quicker than an inferior kind. As a consequence of this, the farmer's wife who makes a superior article which has a local reputation for excellence should endeavor to dispose of the product to local trade, or at least sell it so near home that it will be but a day or two between the churn and the customer. This can be easily managed in almost any locality where there is a market for it by securing a list of private customers and furnish it to them direct as they need it. This class of patrons are much more profitable year in and year out than the city hotels or the commission houses or those customers who buy in the general market.

To Prevent Black Rot.

As a preventive of black rot in vineyards next season the North Carolina experiment station recommends that all dead leaves and rotten grapes be raked up and removed and rotter grapes clinging to the vines and trellises picked off.

Loose shredded bark that can be readily pulled from the vines prunings, dead grass and weeds should be burned; in fact, anything capable of harboring the dustlike spore should be destroyed or taken away.

While the vines are still in a dormant condition, spray with the copper sulphate solution, thoroughly wetting the vines and posts, and paying particular attention to bunches of tendrils or rough surfaces on the posts that would be likely to retain the spores. It is much easier to keep black rot out of a vineyard once cleaned than to keep it down in a vineyard not cleaned.

Asparagus for the Family.

One hundred plants will furnish the average family with a supply of this most delicious early vegetable. They should not cost over $1, and hence instead of being looked upon as a luxury it should be common in every family garden. Rich sandy soil is best, but it will thrive in any soil if given a reasonable show. Palmetto, Conover's, Collossal and Baris Mammoth are recommended as very satisfactory varieties. The plants should be set as early in the spring as possible, in rows 30 inches apart and 18 in the row. Plant in holes or trench, six inches deep, filling it up gradually, and do not cut the stalks, except sparingly, until the third season. It readily responds to good care and fertilization and should be liberally top-dressed with manure each fall.

Some Kansas Wheat Yields.

The banner yield of wheat in Kansas is said to be that of Joseph C. Ort, in Gove county, who thrashed 228 bushels of 62-pound wheat from three acres of an old corral, and 4,563 bushels (elevator weight) from a 100-acre field. The seed was Turkey red, one bushel to the acre. The three-acre piece had been heavily fertilized for vegetables, and after these were gone he again fertilized and plowed it four inches deep.

Good Milkers' Milk Veins.

Good milkers will almost invariably show a well-developed milk vein. This big vein which carries the blood from the bag or udder to the heart for purification should constitute considerable of a network on the udder itself and should then continue well forward on the belly and disappear in the region of the heart.

Paint the Wagons.

Well-painted implements are generally accepted signs of thrifty farming. A dollar's worth of raw linseed oil and color will answer to cover the running part of a farm wagon. Have plenty of shed room with closed front and raise the wheels away from the damp earth when the wagons are stored for any great length of time.

Blowing Out Woodchucks.

A quarter of a pound of blasting powder will usually do the work. It is done up in a stout paper bag with a yard of common blasting fuse tied into it. Poke the charge as far down as possible. Tamp the hole solid with stones and earth, light the fuse and proceed to the next hole to repeat the operation.