one, stereotyped for him by the owner before starting, and talks so learnedly of his trees, their growth and root grafts, that he induces many to engage them in advance. The trees are received in due time, and the purchaser, much to his surprise, finds long switches of some three years' growth grafted on pieces of mutilated roots, instead of such trees as he expected. But, he says, perhaps they may grow—is a small matter to quarrel about, so he plants them for an orchard, and, in three years, a good portion of them are not to be found in this world.

Such as have been reared in New England in the good old way, practiced and taught by our fathers, are more hardy, and commence a new struggle. Removed from the portion of their fellows in the nursery, they attempt to protect their naked trunks from our burning suns by twigs and leaves, but are still pursued by the old enemy, the jack-knife, if the owner finds time to use it. After growing in a state of half starvation in a soil deprived of its original ingredients necessary for their health and productiveness until thoroughly diseased, they then attempt a new existence by throwing out new limbs or sprouts but are now met by the axe and hand saw—the sprouts are broken off, and the large limbs removed in quantities, in March or April, when the owner, having completed his winter's work, has time to do it. As warm weather approaches, a poisonous sap runs from the wounds, blackening and killing the bark, when a few years ends their miserable existence.

This may look like a fancy sketch, but I ask any intelligent cultivator, looking at cause and effect if it is not the cause why so many orchards in New England are worthless at fifty years of age, instead of being healthy and fruitful at two hundred years old as they would be with proper treatment.

A tree left to itself, needs little or no pruning. Look at our fields, where we find owners of taste, we find a liberal supply of shade trees where dame nature planted the seeds, and has taken all the care of them. Does she not dispose of all the twigs and leaves on the bodies as soon as she has no use for them? And, as a whole, does she not form as good and even better, more healthy and graceful top, than we find generally in orchards that have been liberally aided with the jack-knife and hand-saw? Certainly for such a teacher we ought to be able to take some practical lessons. I do not say that pruning is never necessary, but to say that, in the culture of trees, nature should be studied and aided, never thwarted.

When one procures trees for orchard planting, his inquiry should be, not how tall, but what is their diameter at the base?—are they on entire roots?—at what distance have they grown from each other in the nursery?—what has been their exposure to winds?—have they been once or twice transplanted, so as to be well filled with fibrous roots?—and have they been grown in ordinary soil, —or have they forced growth by stimulating manures? I will not insult the common sense of any man by saying what answer should be given to these questions. No tree requiring a stake should be planted in an orchard. If not rooted and grown enough to stand alone against all winds without throw it aside as useless.

Trees properly planted require attention during the first few years, to form a well-balanced top, taking out some and shortening other limbs.—After this the pruning required is very trifling—in most trees none during the ordinary life of man. But in this wicked world we must take things as they are, and not as they should be, or would have been with proper early attention and culture, and as far as practicable, remedy evils already existing.

The most common error in pruning is thinning out the whole interior or central portion of a tree to 'let in the sun,' thus destroying one half of the bearing branches, leaving long naked limbs producing fruit only at the ends beyond the reach of any thing larger than a raccoon, without the aid of long ladders, lessening the quantity of fruit and injuring the quality. Apples protected by leaves are much better, larger and fairer, (being grown as nature designed,) than when grown on the ends of long branches, exposed to the sun in July and August. In the cool, moist and cloudy atmosphere—some of our American apples requiring the trees to be trained to a wall to ripen their fruit; but the course taught and practiced by the best English cultivators is for their climate, not for ours. A tree properly trained for them, in a few years may be ruined by the hot suns and cold winters of New England.

Trees require differing training, depending on varieties. A course to perfect the Northern Spy, or Newton Pippin, is wrong for the Rhode Island Greening and north varieties generally.

When old trees are grafted, a very different course of thinning out is necessary, and generally during the first few years it is necessary to cut out many of the grafts. It is of little use to prune old trees standing on worn out soils (as is the case with most of our old orchards) without first cultivating, manuring and supplying alkalies, of which the soil has become exhausted; but as this article is already quite too long, I shall say nothing of cultivation.

When a tree throws out sprouts on its branches, it is a sure indication of disease, and the natural remedy is to leave the best to form new limbs and gradually remove the old branches. If this is done with the first sprouts, it will be necessary to leave very few, and cut out old branches accordingly. Old decayed trees which have been entirely neglected. when filled with vigorous shoots, can in a few years have entire new tops, by reserving the strongest in proper places, and cutting out all the old limbs. These, every man understands should be cut close to the growing limbs, and so as to heal well, and cover with some composition.—The best I have ever tried, is composed of tar thicked with brick dust, and applied when warm with a brush.—Grafting wax or Gum Shellac, dissolved in alcohol, is liable to peel off on large limbs.

The time for general pruning in New England is in June or early in July, after the first growth. The sap is then rapidly formed, and decends from the leaves so that all fresh cuts commence closing immediately.—Large dead and dying limbs may be cut through the summer, and September or October, covered with composition. All winter pruning is bad. February, March and April are the worst three months in the year for pruning any trees. Sap soon after ascends, flows from the flesh wounds made by cutting large limbs, poisioning and killing the bark, and if a general pruning is then done it is very destructive.

I am aware that winter or early spring pruning is advocated by many very intelligent men, but in a country where every winter the thermometer falls from 10 to 20 deg. below zero, is it far better to let trees alone. If any one will notice it so treated (and it is often done)—see it again in August, with the black and dead bark on limbs and bodies caused by flow of sap, and marks its progress a few years, he must be satisfied it may be as well to cut a tree at the root, and remove it entire, as to cut off one-fourth of its top in the winter or early in the spring.

C. Goodrich.

Burlington, Vt., March, 1854.

A Woman on the Bone Question—Country Gentleman Vanished.

The question, "What is the best way to dissolve bones?" has been greatly agitated amongst our agricultural exchanges. The *Country Gentleman* published an elaborate editorial on the subject. Mrs. Swisshelm—the universal precedent in her case, is our justification for quoting her by name—pitches into the *Country Gentleman's* article as follows:

"It is a fact, Mrs. Smith! You need not rub your eyes and look again, for there is no mistake about it. The *Country Gentleman* is right, and the agricultural papers are positively discussing the question, 'Will ashes dissolve bones?' Aye, and discussing it as gravely as if it was a profound mystery. One agricultural paper says ashes will dissolve bones, and another says they will not, which only proves that every agricultural paper should have *one* housekeeper in its editorial corps, to keep them from being ridiculous occasionally.

"Any Western farmer's wife or daughter could answer this mooted question on the instant, and would at once say, 'that depends upon the ashes.'

"Any ashes that will make soap will dissolve bones, if you put enough on; but when so dissolved they are rather an expensive manure. We should as much think of sending to the chandler's for a dozen boxes of soap, and putting a quarter of a pound on each hill of corn, as putting all the bones of the kitchen into a hogshead, dissolving them with ashes, and using the mixture, as did the writer in the *Country Gentleman*.

"His was rather an expensive economy. His manure was simply very strong, unrefined *soap*, which, with a very little difference in the manner of preparing, would have done all the washing and cleaning in the family, when, in the form of refuse suds, it should have been poured on a bed of loam or clay, to make manure for the corn-field, or around the roots of the grape-vines and fruit-trees, as a liquid manure.

"The only difference between the plans of making *clean soap* and the dirty mixture he did make, would be to empty the ashes into a hopper, put the water on them there, let it run off in the form of ley, pour this upon the bones, and either boil them in it, or let it stand in the sun. The bones would dissolve, the limy part settle to the bottom, and the animal fatty and glutinous matter unite with the ley to make the soap.

"One hogshead full of bones and good ashes would make a full hogshead of soap, leaving the leached ashes and phosphate of lime from the bones, into the bargain.

"But quick lime used in this same manner, will dissolve bones until they are good food for plants, and this is cheaper than soap ashes."

Our Legislature and the Farming Interest.

What have they done for the benefit of agriculture? Nothing—nothing at all. The Senate with few exceptions, were disposed to do the honest thing, and did pass acts designed to promote that important interest. But the majority of the House—and may God forgive them for their folly, not only manifested a total disregard for the farmers, and the farming interest of the state, but an open and decided hostility to it. They not only upset everything that the Senate had done, but even attempted to abrogate laws passed by former legislatures. As we stated in our last, there were some individuals there who seemed to be thrown into *spasms*, whenever the subject of agriculture was mentioned.

Some of these were farmers themselves, to their shame be it spoken, and some professional men who sided with them, would excuse themselves by pointing to them, and saying—"*why the farmers themselves are opposed to it.*"

Such farmers are probably afraid, that their occupation may rise to an equality in knowledge and influence to the *learned* professions, and that the next generation may be wiser and know more than they do. The Board of Agriculture recommended the passage of an act, authorizing the introduction of the elementary rudiments of agriculture, into our more advanced common schools, and the adoption of a text book to aid the study.

It was thought that this, while it would cost the state nothing, would be laying a firm and sure foundation for the future spread of agricultural knowledge. To this the Senate agreed, and incorporated such provisions into an act additional to an act providing for the education of youth, which they passed. But the House, as soon as it came before them struck it out, thereby virtually saying that not even the simplest form of agricultural knowledge shall enter your schools.

They then vented their spleen upon the Board of Agriculture. We happened to be present during the debate upon the question of destroying the Board.—*Maine Farmer.*

Corn Bread—*A new recipe.*—Everybody who has been at the Mansion House, Buffalo, N. Y., has learned the luxury of the corn bread there provided. The clerk is often taxed to write directions for home manufacture, and I thus procured a recipe for domestic use, which I copy for you, so that those who wish may try a piece of bread from the Mansion. It is as follows: One quart of sour milk, two table spoonsful of saleratus, four ounce of butter, three table spoonsful of flour, three eggs, and corn meal sufficient to make a stiff batter.

Buck Eye Bread.—Take a pint of new milk warm from the cow; add a tea-spoonful of salt and stir in fine Indian meal until it becomes a thick batter, a gill of fresh yeast, and put it in a warm place to rise.—When it is very light, stir into the batter three beaten eggs, adding wheat flour until it has become of the consistency of dough; knead it thoroughly, and set it by the fire until it begins to rise; then make it up into small loaves or cakes, cover them with a thick napkin, and let them stand until they rise again, then bake in a quick oven.

Fresh Meat Griddles.—Chop all the bits of cold fresh beef or veal, season with salt and pepper; make a griddle batter and lay a tea spoonful on the iron well buttered, to prevent its sticking, then a spoonful of batter over the meat, and when cooked on one side, then turn, and when done carry them on hot, and they are very nice.

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The works of Willis, Scott, Campbell, Pope, Howitt, Shakespeare, Thompson, Pollock and others; Salad for the Solitary, Lofty and the Lowly, Home Scenes, Margaret Percival, Dreamy Life, Gutties & Gravities, Sacred Streams, Snow Image, Books of Snobs, Festus, Tales of a Traveller, Dollars and Cents, Solomon Northrop, 12 y'rs a slave, May Martin and other tales, revised edition; Thompson's History of Vermont. Thompson's Vermont and Appendix, &c. &c.

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Montpelier, January 12, 1854. 65

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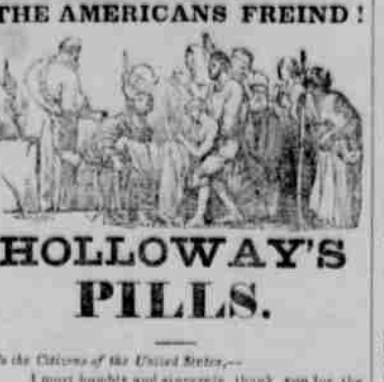

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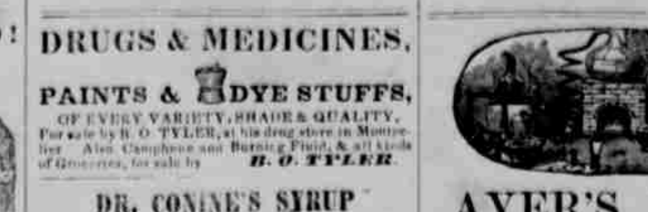

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