

Communications.

To the Standard: Homestead Fertilizer and Corn.

W. B. HILL, Esq.: Dear Sir—With pleasure I answer your various inquiries, through the STANDARD, about Homestead fertilizer and its effects on corn in different soils. First, however, I wish to say that the estimate reported by me in a former communication to the STANDARD was not overdrawn. And further I will say that a small plat of about 3 acres (2 acres and 128 poles) which we are gathering today, will yield 12 barrels or more to the acre. This plat of land has been in meadow for ten years. In May of this year the grass disappeared and a heavy crop of weeds sprang up. This we turned under the last days of May and planted in corn, drilling the same 4 to 5 feet apart, drilling in with the corn 100 pounds of fertilizer to the acre, also a heavy crop of peas.

Your 15 acres described to me in your letter of the 12th inst., will yield kindly to the Homestead fertilizer if well broken and cultivated, and you need not fear a worm nor bug or anything else. Break your poor knolls deeply and plant, putting the same quantity of fertilizer in the hill and scatter lightly barnyard manure over the surface.

Answer to inquiry No. 1: I used 80 pounds fertilizer to the acre in my test as stated in the STANDARD of the 10th—800 pounds for ten acres, costing \$20. Hauling \$2, dropping the same in the hill \$1, making the total cost of the ten acres \$23. I estimate the extra product of the two years at 80 barrels, which, at \$2 per barrel, is \$160. From this take the cost, \$23, and have left a clear profit of \$127 in two crops.

Your inquiries 3 and 4: I did not get a good stand the first planting, owing to the coldness of the ground and the corn coming in contact with the fertilizer. Later in the season, when the ground gets warm and dry, the corn will come up before the fertilizer injures the heart.

G. M. SMARTT.

From Gallatin.

To the Standard:

The Nashville Convocation recently held here is said to have been the most successful ever held in the Diocese of Middle Tennessee. The following were present; Dr. C. W. Gray, Dean; Rev. W. G. Thompson, Secretary; Rev. C. M. Gray, Treasurer; Dr. Beckett, Columbia, Dr. Howard, Tullahoma, Rev. P. A. Fitts, Clarksville, Rev. R. Totton, head master Otey school, Rev. Alfred Anderson, col., Cumberland Furnace, Mr. Radford, Clarksville, and Mr. Parker, Mount Pleasant, lay delegates. The next meeting will be held at the church of the Holy Trinity, Nashville. Circuit court, Judge Stark presiding, adjourned last Tuesday. We understand Gallatin is to have the next meeting of the State Teachers Institute, which will be in December. Gallatin is an appropriate place, as it is an educational point of some importance. The weather has been very changeable lately. A few days ago the thermometer was down to 18, and now it is 56.

From Viola.

To the Standard:

Viola is quiet this week. Farmers are very busy gathering corn. The work on the college is moving on nicely. Our millinery shop is in full headway now. Mr. H. C. Dodd, who has been confined to his bed for some time, is improving. Arna St. John and Miss Laura Stubblefield have returned from a visit to Cannon county. There is talk of a Christmas tree in the college if it is completed in time.

VENICE.

Chancellorship.

To the Standard.

NASHVILLE, Nov. 21.—On my arrival at Nashville, I took rooms at the Nicholson House, where I had the pleasure of meeting with a goodly number of the legal lights of your Chancery circuit attending Federal Court and each, too, performing a friendly office for his preference for Chancery Judge to fill a vacancy in your circuit. Hancock, of Murfreesboro, seems to be the nearest timber. The Governor has but little time left him after hearing the speeches and pe-

titions of the friends of the various applicants. The Governor is not likely to appoint any one for a few days, designing evidently, to demonstrate a sort of respectable consideration for the claims of all.

About Marketing Apples.

Complaint is frequently heard concerning the quality of apples sold in city markets, and even by the best dealers. The trouble arises from the fact that the grading is not done at the right time, nor at the proper place. Not one farmer in five knows, or probably cares, what constitutes a first-class marketable apple. The fault lies with the farmer and with the country dealer. Apples are gathered up largely by buyers who go through the country with teams, in many instances barreling the fruit in the orchards as it is gathered, and thence sending it directly to the market. Every fall a class of men, generally sharp, shrewd fellows, who have always by them a little ready cash, go into the apple business with active energy. The point is to make money, and to make it quickly. Their plan of operation is to start buyers out over the country, and to also have a depot or ware room in the county-seat. There a man is stationed to take care of what is brought in by the farmers themselves. Some attempt is made at sorting, so far as relates to keeping different varieties separate, but no attention, at most not sufficient attention, is paid to other details of far more importance.

In first-class apples uniformity of size is desirable; in the next place, soundness. If an apple be wormy, if the worm-hole is red and discolored, or if the fruit is bruised, no matter how slightly, then it is second class fruit, and should be classed as such. Wind-fall apples, or those which have been shaken from the trees should never be put with fruit which has been carefully picked. Apples may appear to be perfectly sound and yet have lain so long under the trees as to be scarcely rated as second-class fruit. Small fruit is apt to be hard and green, as well as knotty and wormy, while very large apples are just as likely to be over-ripe, soft and utterly unfit for long keeping. No light, spongy apples, nor those in the least specked should be packed with first class fruit. A leading horticulturist has well said that if farmers and fruit-growers were to throw all small and inferior grades away and not use them at all, the increased price their good fruit would command would more than pay them for their loss. This is true; but it is well known that it is not necessary to throw these grades away. They need not be lost; they have a use, and can be turned to profit, but not by mixing them in with that which is branded and sold as a first-class article. These grades are valuable for cider and vinegar making, and should be so used. But it seems that short-sighted greed impels some farmers and fruit-growers to put inferior fruit into barrels with the good fruit and delude themselves with the idea that they are making by the operation. If the entire crop of an orchard is second-class it will pay to grade it as such. If, out of a yield of 500 bushels, 100 are first-class, carefully grade them as such and let the rest go for what they will bring as second-class fruit. Sober thought will convince the farmer that his own interest will be advanced by following at least some of the advice here given. With the demand that exists for good cider vinegar, and with the prices he can obtain for first-class or even second class fruit, by careful management the orchard can be made to pay in the future far better than it has in the past.—Chicago Tribune.

Nashville American: Mr. T. M. Schleier, of this city, the photographer who accompanied General Manager J. W. Thomas and the officials of the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad upon their tour of inspection over the Sparta extension, exhibited at the American office, yesterday, photographs of the bridge over the Caney Fork, and also the falls of that stream and the surrounding country owned by Hon. Asa Faulkner. The photographs are unusually well executed, and give a fine representation of the famous picturesque country along the line of the extension.

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A GIANT AFFAIR. The Strangest Marriage Ever Witnessed in Pittsburg.

PITTSBURG, Nov. 20.—The much advertised and long talked-of wedding of giants occurred here today, the ceremony being witnessed by an immense throng of people at the German Evangelical church. The groom was Patrick William O'Brien, the Irish giant, and the bride Christian D. Dunz, the German giantess. Outside of the church a crowd gathered in such numbers as to obstruct the traffic in spite of the efforts of a large force of police. Mr. O'Brien wore a full dress suit, and a medal, presented to him by the land league, ornamented his breast. The bride wore an orange-blossom wreath and a veil that covered a superb dress of white satin. In her hand she held a bouquet of enormous size. After the service, the bridal party drove at once to Harris' museum and held a public reception. This evening a special reception will be given at the Hamilton Hotel. The wedding cake is the largest ever made, measuring nine feet in circumference, and three feet in thickness. A giant loaf of bread, five feet in length will decorate the table. This was the first marriage of giants in America and the second in the world. The combined height of the bridal pair is fifteen feet and three inches, and they tip the beam at 540 pounds. The wedding ring weighed seventeen pennyweights and five inches in circumference.

A Famous Galaxy.

People who delight in beautiful and good books will be astonished when they see, if they have not already seen, the announcements of the "Caxton Illustrated" and other editions of standard authors, issued this season. The typography, and all mechanical qualities of printing and binding are simply superb, and the prices a veritable marvel to the old time book-buyer. The list includes the works, complete, of Dickens, 15 volumes, reduced in price from \$22.50 to \$9.00 net; Thackeray's from \$16.50 to \$6.75; George Eliot's from \$12 to \$3.75; Washington Irving's from \$20 to \$4; Scott's Waverley Novels, from \$30 to \$7.50; Hawthorne's Works, from \$21 to \$6.50; J. Fenimore Cooper's, from \$32 to \$12.50; Wm. Black's, from \$15 to \$4; De Quincey's, from \$18 to \$6.50. The publisher sends them to any one for examination before requiring any payment, on reasonable evidence of good faith, and will send a large catalogue of these and other works free upon application. John B. Alden, Publisher, 18 Vesey St., New York.

Value of Fairs.

An intelligent stockman remarked to us at the Ohio State Fair last week that he never saw a better educator than that exhibition, or a better opportunity than it afforded for observing men to learn. And it is not likely that many who were in attendance will express a contrary opinion. It was certainly such a school for the agriculturist as can be found in no other place than at such an exhibition. Nowhere outside of the fairs can the farmer see the best of everything he aims to produce, and finds the models to the equality of which he is trying to bring up the results of his labors. Here his view is a comprehensive one. He is not shut in by the prejudice and preferences of a neighborhood, his horizon reaching practically over the world. Here he can measure his work by the work of others—by the men who have won national reputation through the excellence of their products.—Pittsburgh Stockman.

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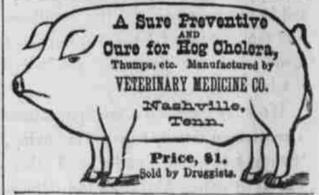
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