KNOT
Publishers & Pro

Only a Wash

In our wanderings down Main street, yesterday, we passed a second-hand store, outside of which was placed a washboard, on which was chalked: "10c."

If that washboard could be sold at a profit for ten cents it would have been bought for about five.

And what a vista of misery and suffering does such and item suggest.

Washerwomen and laundry women, as a rule, are looked down upon with contempt by those who do not follow that business. But there is no class that is more deserving of a good name than those "who take in washing."

The business is not inherited, it comes about by a natural progression of inevitable laws, commonly termed poverty. The woman may have held a high position in society, been wealthy and courted for her intellect. The husband, in many cases, may belong to a noble family, be educated, and a smart man. But poverty gives him and his family a smack in the face, and what is the alternitive? He can't procure work; the wife says, "We'll take in washing." They do so. Their patrons "stand them off." Want comes in at the door of their miserable abode and they sell their furniture, including the "washboard."

Oh! ye, who have never felt the pangs of hunger, and adversity, do you ever realize the sufferings of worthy poor.

In the depths of winter you throw off your dirty, and in many cases, disgusting linen, for the washerwoman. Articles that you are ashamed to expose to the view of your most intimate acquaintances. The washerwoman leans her weary shoulders over the washtub, inhaling the fumes arising from the rags she is washing.

She retires to rest about midnight The work is finished,—the child requeires medicine—the family want food.

Knock at the front door. "Go round to the back, we've visitors to night." She goes round to the back. They count the pieces. Say there is one short and complain generally about the appearance of the articles at fifty cents a dozen, and wind up by saying "call round Saturday and I will pay you."

The woman returns home without perhaps a mite, and as it is late at night, she is insulted once or twice by hoodlums. Her husband or child asks her if she got any money, no, she answers. "They told me to call, Saturday."

If there is any human being who proposes to be a christian, who expects that they will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, that beats their washwoman with indifference or contempt or "stands them off," then such a person is a foul blot on the face of human nature.

There are such people, and they will exist in spite of newspaper articles and biblical teachings, but our mission is to expose them if possible, and we will exert our best efforts to do so, for when a person can witness such an advertisemen in a "free country" and the "glorious west" as "washboard 10c" it proves there is something rotten in the state of Denmark.

A Brave Engineer.

"None of the passengers killed? That's good; lay me down; good-bye, boys." Such were the last words of Engineer Robert Gardner, who died at his locomotive throttle on Sunday night last in the railroad collision near Huntington. He could have saved himself, but he was charged with the safety of many passengers and he died at his post to save those whose lives were entrusted to his care.

When he saw that a fearful collision was inevitable, he thought only of the responsible duty he had accepted, and he stood to his throttle and gave his own life to lessen the peril to the strangers who were in his care. He weakened the crash of the collision by standing heroically at the post of duty, and when he was extricated from the wreck, mortally crushed and mangled, he thought only of the others committed to his care. When told that none of the passengers were killed, his last words were: "That's good; lay me down; good by, boys."

We keep green the memories of those who seek and win fame on the field of battle, but where in all the bloody conflict of armies is there exhibited the grander courage that gives life to duty and to the safety of others, when life should be saved by peril to others? In all the storries of heroism there is none more illustrious than the hero of the throttle, who, having saved his passengers by sacrificing his own life, when told of the safety of those intrusted to his fidelity, sank to rest saying: "That's good; lay me down; good by, boys."—*Phildelphia Times.*

—The jury at the coroner's inquest today arrived at the conclusion that Wesley Baker "died from some cause unknown to us." The cost of a chemical analysis for posion is from $50 to $500. We will give a full report in tomorrow's issue.

Improve
uable Facts Re
ing—Some Other Ma
Found to Be of Inter

The important subject in plowing has been recently sh its many phases by Professor Sanborn, in a bulletin giving a report of results and observations gained and made on the Missouri state agricultural grounds. Following is a brief summary of these observations:

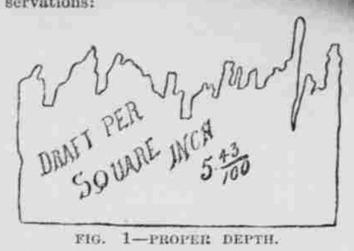


FIG. 1—PROPER DEPTH.

1. A deflection of the traces when under draught from a straight line from shoulder to doubletree results in a decided loss of power, and such loss is applied to the galling and worrying of the horse.

2. The use of a truck or a little wheel under the end of the plough beam gained 14.1 per cent. of the draft as an average of the trials made, and in addition gave a more uniform furrow and relieved the plowman. This saving can be made only when the line of draft is right.

3. The use of the coulter was, without exception, attended with a decided loss of force or increased draft by whatever form of coulter used, but was less with the new style coulter than with the rolling and old fashioned coulter. The average gain of draft by dispensing with the coulter was 15.6 per cent. The coulter invariably disturbed the line of draft, resulting in a furrow of different dimensions from those formed without it.

4. The draft of a plow decreases as depth of furrow increases until it reaches the plow's normal capacity, and then increases as the depth is increased beyond this capacity of the plow. This law is modified by the fact that as a furrow increases in size the ratio of cutting face or edge of plow to the furrow turned decreases.

5. The draft of a plow decreases as width of furrow increases until the normal capacity of the plow is reached, after which it increases again under the same limitations as in previous case of depth, yet it does not increase in as rapid a ratio as is seen in case of depth. The absolute draft in a 15-inch furrow was less than for a 10-inch furrow.

6. The discord of these results with those previously found by others has several possible explanations, one of which may possibly be the influence of plow improvement.

7. The necessity of intelligently adjusting the furrow to the normal capacity of the plow or using only plows that will be normal to the furrow turned was made apparent. The loss in draft from a furrow varying from the plow's normal capacity by two points only was for an average of all trials of varying widths and depths 21 per cent. From the standpoint of draft it is poor economy to turn a small furrow. Three horses are better than two in plowing.

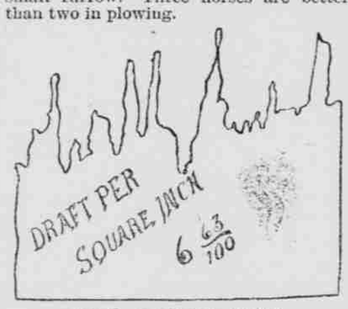


FIG. 2—IMPROPER DEPTH.

8. If one adds the saving from the three factors discussed—truck, coulters and width and depth—one gets 49.7 per cent.; or a plow with truck on, coulter off, and plow a good sized furrow, will give this per cent. of gain when put against a plow with coulter on, truck off and turning a shallow, narrow furrow; or rather the latter will draw 49.7 per cent. harder than the former, if the professor's data are correct.

9. A seven by fourteen inch furrow requires about three horse power to turn it. Those who use two horses, either turn a small, costly furrow or overdraw their horses upon sod land of the kind in question—a clay loam.

10. A furrow turned whose size is not normal to the plow is usually, if not always, a jerky or uneven one, poor and hard on the workman. The accompanying cuts, which represent the actual draft and its fluctuations at varying depths and widths, show this. Attention is called to the irregularity of the lines in Figs. 1 (proper depth) and 2 (improper depth) in comparison. The wrong depth gives an uneven draft. The same was found in cuts taken where a too narrow furrow is compared with a furrow of proper width. In both cases the more irregular lines drew the harder of the two.

The Planting and Cultivating of Corn.

The time for corn planting varies with the latitude and also depends much upon the weather. As soon as the days are mild and the ground warm is a safe rule, wherever that may be, in all localities. Three conditions are essential to the production of a paying crop of corn, namely good seed, a rich friable soil and thorough tillage. Progressive farmers have demonstrated the economy of a thorough preparation of the soil for the seed; indeed not a few of our most successful growers advocate and practice, as best and easiest, the cultivation previous to planting; that is to say, they do not use a plow after planting, but let all the deep culture of the soil precede it.

Where manure is required the better way is to spread it broadcast and plow it in, if coarse, or harrow it in, if well pulverized and decomposed. When manure is thoroughly incorporated in the soil, the roots of the plants are certain to take it up, and the development of ear and grain will correspond with that of stalk and leaves, which is not the case when a limited amount of fertilizer is placed in hill or drill only. To gain the best results from the employment of stimulating elements in hill or drill, available plant food must be near at hand and in sufficient quantity to carry the plant, once started, on to the perfection of

for the suppo
as was formerly suppo
there is also a saving of labor in
culture system. A plan of drill
favored by some on light and
dry upland, is what is known as
row system of planting. Th
broken up as usual and made level. At the time of planting one thorough harrowing is given and the furrows laid off and thrown up into five feet beds, the corn being planted in the furrows between the beds. The object of this plan is to insure moisture to the crop. The fertilizers are sown in the bottom of the furrows and mixed with the soil by running along the furrows a sharp single shovel coulter or dragging a chain through them. Then the seed is dropped and covered.

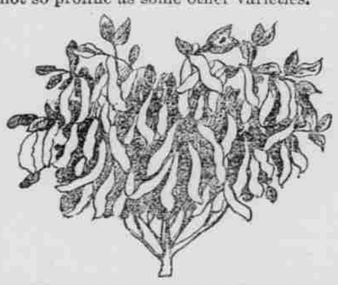
The after cultivation is done with cultivators, which gradually level down the surface of the beds, returning the soil to the corn and leaving the general surface level when completed.

The system of "checking" corn, so that the cultivation may be in two directions, direct and across, is much practiced in the northern and western states. At the east and in many of the middle states planting in drills and cultivating shallow and flat with cultivator and hoe prevails among the more progressive farmers.

As to the matter of seed, farmers are advised for their general crops to plant such varieties as in former years have proven successful in their own localities and in soils similar to their own. Small plots may be profitably employed in testing new and promising kinds introduced by trustworthy seedsmen or other farmers.

An Improved Wax Bean.

The old German wax bean has long enjoyed an enviable reputation among wax beans. It matures early, the flavor is superior and its pods are tender, but it is not so prolific as some other varieties.



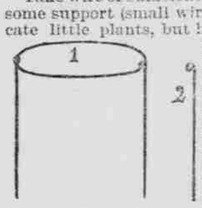
NEW PROLIFIC GERMAN WAX BEAN.

And now is introduced for the first time to the public the new prolific German wax bean, an improved strain of the old favorite German wax. This new strain, which has been tested in many localities with both field and garden culture, appears to have given very general satisfaction. Vick, who has been testing it for four years, has it catalogued this season under the name of New Prolific German Wax. His stock was started from a single seed of the old German wax, and while the general appearance of the plant of the new prolific resembles the old and retains its good points, Vick claims for the newcomer that it is a stronger and more robust grower; its pods are straighter, longer, rounder, and that it is more than twice as productive—in fact, combines all the good qualities of the old with the improvements wrought by years of careful selection and cultivation.

Wire Plant Stakes.

American Garden made an admirable suggestion when it advised wire plant stakes as worthy of adoption. In these days, when wire is so much used for fences and arbors, there are always short lengths left over that can be utilized for stakes. The authority referred to tells just how to do this:

Take wire of sufficient strength to afford some support (small wire will do for delicate little plants, but heavy ones require stout); straighten it and cut into lengths from one to three and a half feet; then, with a strong pair of pliers or use of an anvil swage, bend one end into a ring, as in Fig. 2. It is important to put this curve on the end, as it holds the tying material in place without being so tight as to choke the plant, and without it the sharp wires are a constant source of danger, being liable to catch in the clothing and seriously injure any one thrown upon them. Groups of flower stalks can be tied up by taking three of the stakes and passing the string through the wire loops. A better way when shaping the wires is to make some of them into pairs, shaped as in Fig. 1, where the tops catch together, forming a wire circle to support the plants, allowing them to develop their natural beauty of growth. If these wires are dipped into thin paint or black varnish they will last for years. An easy way to do this is to stop up one end of a piece of two inch gas pipe of the right length, fill with the varnish and quickly dip the stakes in and hang them up to dry. Make these now and you will be glad of it when staking time comes.



PLANT STAKES.

Here and There.

Now is the time to study the catalogues of trustworthy seedmen.

According to late accounts the Louisiana strawberry crop is the largest ever grown.

Arkansas and Texas claim that the immigration into those states during the past year has been greater than in any previous season.

Prof. De Muth is quoted as saying, that hay fed to a cow between meals is worse than wasted, as it interferes with the digestion of the regular ration.

In no way can a farmer with less trouble enrich a poor field with scanty herbage than by feeding sheep on it. So affirms an English sheep farmer.

Readers interested in the production of silk cocoons can obtain information on the subject by applying to the commissioner of agriculture, Washington, D. C., who has on hand some silkworm eggs for distribution.

make
such a
most gloomy looking clothing?

A bystander ventured the remark that he didn't see anything particularly somber about the average American attire.

"You don't? Have you ever been up in the Western Union tower? Well, you ought to go up there. I made the ascent the other day, difficult as it is. The view is entrancing. But when I looked down into Broadway it made me shiver. The hurrying crowds on the sidewalks looked like two unending funeral processions moving in opposite directions. Black, black everywhere. All the red haired girls must have been up town, for there wasn't a white horse to be seen. The only relief to the eye was an occasional Broadway surface car. It was the most gloomy spectacle I ever looked down upon, yet I knew that beneath the dark exterior there were warm hearts, active brains and hands equally ready to fight or work."

"Well, what would you have us do? Dress in bright colors during the winter?" was asked.

"Not at all. Use common sense, that is all. Europeans generally do not see the necessity for dark colors in winter. So long as the clothing is heavy and warm the color doesn't matter. You can wear black over there if you like without exciting remark. But here, if a man wears a heavy plaid suit in winter he is contemptuously regarded by a native, even though his critic may be shivering in his thin, black clothes. Take a New England town, New Haven for instance, if you want to see this provincial spirit in an exaggerated form. A faultlessly dressed New Yorker is an object of universal admiration. People run out of stores to look at him. A slabbily dressed man, even though his clothes fit him better than those of the average New Haven dude, is at once and on all sides regarded as a sneak thief who ought to be in the lockup. But an Englishman or other foreigner in a plaid suit is an object of horror. To see the open mouths, and uplifted hands one would think Barnum's rhinoceros was loose in the street. I always put on a black suit when I go to New Haven, for I cannot do business there in any other sort of clothing."—New York Evening Sun.

An Editor's Pigeon Holes.

When, in the midst of my writing, something turns up that "must go" in or before the next paper, I shove it into a pigeon hole marked "Immediate." This pigeon hole claims first attention when I have breathing space. After this is cleared I turn to one marked "Advance"—matters that need time to develop, and want to be started well in advance.

One marked "Current" is devoted to matters that ought to be attended to regularly with every issue, though not necessarily before a given day. Things accumulate here sometimes, but sooner or later they are ground exceeding fine.

Best of all is a pigeon hole labeled "Contingent." It is practical, comprehensive, and—within human limits—unerring; it is packed with heads and tails for which I know the missing extremities will some day be crying: "Here is a curious contrivance; I want a description of it; I saw one once; then I shall find it here." I do. "You promised." "Oh, no!" "Oh, yes! I have your letter here;" and I have. "What is the man's address? If I ever had it it will be here;" it is. What date was it sent? There was a receipt. Look here." "Where is that circular; that price list; that funny letter? What was the size of that page? How many did I count? Here!" "Oh, you want your 'Ode to a Violet?' I don't remember it; but if you inclosed stamps we shall surely find it here, without any name attached."

A business man would have all these classified, because of a great quantity; but I have only an "infinite variety" of "contingencies," with perhaps two or three of each kind; and it is easy to subdivide when the quantity presses. Every memorandum or paper which I want to forget until called for, and then find handy, I put here; those which are likely not to be called for soon I put in a big drawer, which I label—in my mind—"Remote Contingent." It is thick with the dust of ages.—Wolstan Dixey in The Writer.

Cuba's Two Meals a Day.

Only two meals a day are served at Cuban hotels. They live much as people do in some parts of France and Switzerland. You take an orange or two with a cup of coffee and a roll in the early morning; a liberal breakfast, in courses, is served at 11 o'clock, and a ceremonious dinner at 4 or 5 in the afternoon. This mode of living is admirably suited to the climate, and you fall in with the custom and like it at once.

The breakfast opens with small olives and fresh radishes served in the same dish; the next course is fish, then eggs, meats, etc. You are not asked what you prefer, but each course is set before you and you partake of it or not. Instead of beginning with fruit, the Cuban breakfast ends with it—pineapples cut from the stalk the same morning, bananas freshly picked, sapodillas, a faint and rather over sweet morsel, with oranges ad libitum.

In Florida, and in many other parts of the country, the orange is cut in halves and its juice and pulp are passed to the mouth with a teaspoon. In Havana the orange is served whole on the table, peeled down to the juicy "meat of the fruit, and you present the golden ball to your lips on the prongs of a fork.

At any and every American hotel the moment you sit down the question is almost flung at you, "Tea or coffee?" Cubans better understand what is healthful. They follow nature's plan and take their meals more as the lower animals do. Cubans do not fill their stomachs with fluids during meals. After breakfast is over, then tea or coffee is served—coffee in French style, at least one-half the cup being filled with milk.—Home Journal.

A Protest Against Grammar.

It is to be wished there was a law prohibiting the use of spelling books and grammars. I studied grammar in the ordinary way about three weeks, just long enough to find out what a genius some people can show in putting asunder what God hath joined together. It is a splendid device for using up a poor boy's time and souring his disposition; but it will not keep him out of the grave, nor help him pay rent and butcher's bills.—Rev. C. H. Parkhurst.

Scissors and Paste Man Plays
Human Frailty—Curious Evidence
Weakness of Mankind—Gather-
Notices.

Habit of reading newspapers for
profit, which was started in this city
not very long ago, is said to
make way to swamp itself by too rapid
two concerns are now devoted to
and each claims to have all it
can to keep pace with its own
The original clipper, Henry Ro-
experimented with the idea in
Then went into the business in
a larger scale, has made a stock
his establishment there, and
company to carry out his system
Their premise, he says, is of something
gigantic in the line of scissors and paste pot manipulation. Seven thousand papers were read and 9,000 notices clipped from them last week for several hundred clients on his lists.

CLIENTS AND THEIR WANTS.

A glance at his books gives a curious insight into the weaknesses of men and women whose names are familiar in widely different circles of life. The name of each client heads a page, and under it is a brief note of what particular news or information that person wants from the papers. Fully half of the names have after them but the one word, "Personal." Whatever is said about themselves they want. It would be great satisfaction to scores of snubbed reporters about town to see in these books the evidence of the anxiety of great lawyers who have nothing to say to reporters, city officials who have no time to bother with newspaper men, and society women who wouldn't have their names in the paper for anything to see whatever is printed about them. "Everything about the Sharp case" was an order that drew much money from the pockets of one lawyer last year. "Everything about her reception" is under the name of a leading society woman. "Everything bearing on fraud at elections" is the curious order of a city official. Artists and literary men are the worst. They all want to see everything that is printed about their latest picture or their newest book. About the time the picture is exhibited, or the book printed, they send in an order for all the paragraphs referring to the work, and then probably quit work for a week, in order to revel in the evidence of the tide of popularity that they expect will roll over them. Often there is not a solicitary clipping charged to their account. Many times there are one or two only. If the picture is a daub or the book bad, the paragraphs may run up into the hundreds; but statistics on this point are incomplete, as the order is always canceled after a week of this.

Political men, and especially congressmen, seem to be the steadiest patrons of the institution, but they generally mean business and not vanity. Through it they collect masses of statistics as to some particular interest for which they stand sponsor, or get evidence of the tendency of public sentiment by which they can trim their sails. They all add "Personal" to their order, however. "Himself and the Pacific Railroads" is one order. A senator wants "Himself and the Chinese question." "Himself and Peru" is the order of a well known ex-mayor, Mayor Francis of St. Louis gets lots of complimentry notices now on the subject of the convention and St. Louis, and he wants them all. A common order limits the clippings to "paragraphs attacking him only." Lord Randalph Churchill once gave an order of that sort to the London institution, and his bill the first month was for a 1,000 clippings. "Great Heavens! I can't stand this," he said. Send me the favorable ones after this for a a change," and his bill fell to nominal figures.

MEN WHO HAVE HOBBIES.

Men with hobbies are steady patrons. All that is printed about Volapuk goes to one college professor in this city. Paragraphs on the Nicaraguan canal go to another man, and a French official here gets all the De Lesseps items. One engineers wants every reference to the Quaker bridge dam, another paragraphs of the Harlem bridge, and several are getting all there is printed about Hudson river tunnel and bridge schemes. Several leading firms of architects and engineers want the earliest mentions of the proposed erection of large buildings, bridges, dams, or other structures. These are clipped from local papers all over the country, and whenever the firm sees a prospect of a job it sends in an application for the work of designing or constructing. Usually they are thus the first applicants, and have proportionately better chance for the work. Two firework manufacturing companies keep themselves posted in the same way as to the coming celebrations all over the country, the nature of the exercises, amount to be expended, and similar matters Contractors and others with an eye out for new lines of railroad to be constructed, are also patrons of the paper readers. Important events in business are apt to bring patrons around. "Himself and his failure," is a common entry. As a general thing the patrons are only those who think they are likely to get complimentry press notices. People whose notoriety is of an unpleasant nature, do not care to see what the papers say about them. Nobody involved in a scandal, a divorce suit or a similar affair has yet asked for clippings.

The growth of the business has necessitated the introduction into it of a complicated system and has developed it in several novel directions. The leading topics of newspaper comment, such as art, literate, the drama, politics and similar subjects, are made separate divisions of the business, and everything pertaining to each is clipped by the first readers. These clippings are then gone over by the men in charge of each department, and those which may fit the orders of any patron are sorted out at the close of each day's work and mailed to him at once. He has paid in advance $5 for 100 "clips," or at decreasing rates up to $40 for 1,000, and when he has received the number paid for the service stops until a new payment is made. A man's account may run along for months without his getting over forty or fifty of the 1,000 paragraphs he has paid for, and then he may kill his mother-in-law, or do some other famous thing and get the balance of his "clips" in less than a week.

Clippings are also made on speculation. If a well-know man dies, all his obituaries are collected and afterward offered to some sorrowing relative for a certain amount of cash. Notices of weddings and other events are collected and peddled in the same way, and it is said that the instances are comparatively rare in which a sale is not effected.—New York Sun.

Japanese Seedless Oranges.

The Japanese seedless orange is now being introduced into California, and is attracting attention because this dwarf variety is more hardy than ordinary kinds. The fruit, although small, is remarkably sweet. Should it thrive on this coast it will extend the range of citrus fruits, for it is claimed that it is hardy enough to resist considerable frost.—Pacific States Weekly.

Dr. Schliemann has gone to Alexandria with Professor Virchew, and will spend several months in Egypt making explorations.

The Deluge in the South.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 29.—The great rain-storm continues, and reports from all parts of the state tell of tremendous floods and great damage. Many bridges have been swept away and washouts are reported on all railroads leading into the city. No trains are moving.

An observant metropolitan barber says that he can tell one's physical condition by the state of the hair!