OUR FARM DEPARTMENT.

Farm Matters.

Records of the past help to sell the horses of today. It is quite as well to plunge into the flood of success by breeding in the fashion as to wait for something to develope.

John E. Madden's 2-year-old, Electioneer, full brother to Express, 2:21, by Electioneer, went a quarter on the Lexington track, last week, in 34½ seconds.

Pilot Medium now leads all stallions of his age. At 22 years old he has to his credit twenty-nine, with records ranging from 2:12½ to 2:30, among them two 2-year-olds and five 3-year-olds.

Guy Wilkes 2:15¼, foaled 1879, is sire to six trotters and two pacers with records of 2:20 and better. This showing has never been equalled by any horse of his age in the 2:20 list.

Three yearlings out of the five that have beaten 2:30 trace to the great sire Strathmore. The record-holders, Frou-Frou, 2:25¼ trotting and Fausta, 2:22¾ pacing, through their sire, Sidney; and Athadon, 2:28, through his dam.

The latest equine wonder is a colt that, when only 4 months and 7 days old trotted a quarter to halter in 41 seconds. This precocious trottes is by Governor Stanford (son of Electioneer and barnes, by Whipple's Hambletonian,) dam by Kentucky Prince.

McKinney is now resting on his well earned laurels. He went through the season without suffering a defeat, and crowned his glorious campaign by retiring with a record of 2:12½, which is the world's record for a 4-year-old stallion. It is Durfee's present intention to take McKinney east next year and enter him in the free-for-all classes. The greatest son of Alcyone should make a remarkable campaign. His wonderful staying qualities make him a dangerous factor in a race with the best free-for-all horses in the land.

Farm Notes.

Use plenty of bedding for the stock.

Plan to do away with all unnecessary fencing.

Good grade stock has the advantage of scrubs in every way.

Blue grass is one of the best seeds that can be sown for pastorage alone.

There is nothing that so insures despatch in farm work as good teams.

In feeding the first purposes is to make the animal do the best that it will.

The liquids are more valuable than the solids in the manure; arrange to save it all.

Get seed corn from some variety that has given good results in the section it is grow.

When oats or wheat fall down before they mature, the land needs potash; apply ashes.

The more thoroughly the work is planned out ahead, the more certain it can be done in season.

Improved breeds of stock have increased our wealth and made farming more desirable.

Sod land can often be plowed when it would be entirely too wet to plow almost any other kind of ground.

Plan to secure good yields. Better a less acreage and a larger yield per acre, than a large acreage and a light yield.

It is enough to make any human man's heart ache to note how the average farmer raises his calves; not one calf in a hundred has a fair chance for itself, says Hoard's Dairyman. The burning sun on their tender, thin skins tormented with flies, given no food whatever that their baby stomachs can digest and assimilate, they advertise the stupid inhumanity of the owner.

Eggs are nearly universally sold by the dozen but the variation in their weight makes this rule an unfair one. A medium sized egg weighs two ounces, making the weight of a dozen of eggs 1½ pounds. A dozen of Minorca eggs weigh over 1¼ pounds. When eggs are high a difference of a half pound in the amount of food is a considerable item.

The Solids and Fluids in Corn.

We all know our common Indian corn and what a quantity of food for man and beast it furnishes. Take a large plant of fully matured corn; make it into a compact shape and weigh it. Then put it into an oven and dry it thoroughly, as a chemist would in his drying bath. Now weigh it again and you will find the weight of the water it has lost and will be surprised to note the amount which this mature corn contained. Now take the dried corn plant and burn it slowly so that no part of the ashes can be blown away; continue the burning until the ashes are left perfectly white, gathering the ashes in a crucible for this purpose. We will find that these white ashes weigh very little when compared with the weight of the great stalks, ear and foliage we begin with.

What has gone with all the rest now that we have but a handful of ashes? The fire has destroyed it, you say. No, we cannot destroy anything. The burning only changed the form of the plant. The things which made up the greater part of the corn still exist, but they have gone back to the air from whence the plant first got them. The pile of ashes in our hand is about one-twentieth of the original weight of the dry plant, and in it are the materials that the plant got from the soil. The nine-tenths that have disappeared in the air show how large a part of all plants comes from the air. The ashes are in the mineral part and got into the plant by being completely dissolved in the soil water, which it took up in making its growth.—W. F. Massey, in Home and Farm.

Good Curing Ham.

After the animal is grown and the hams cut, the very important question of curing them must be considered. Many hams, like cider vinegar, are spoilt in curing. A good brine for curing them may be made as follows: Five pounds of sugar to 100 pounds of meat, one ounce of saltpetre to 20 pounds of meat; one ounce of salt to every pound of meat, and water to cover all the hams packed in this brine. It should be understood that the lower the temperature the longer it takes to to cure the hams and in very cold winters the temperature in the cellars for ordinary pork-curing is so slow that considerable time for the curing is required. If the hams have been in the brine they should be smoked for three days, and if cut then, and it is found that the pickle has not reached all the way through them, the brine should be boiled over and skimmed. Pack the hams away again in a temperature of about 40 degrees. They should then be returned to the smoke-house for a day, but they should not be hung here until the brine has dried off them. A bitter taste will be given to them if hung in the smoke-house wet with the brine. To give them the rich brown color so well known in market hams they should be hung near a stove for several days and then be rubbed over thoroughly with cotton cloth. Fine looking and nicely flavored ham will thus be secured.—American Cultivator.

When more food is taken than can disposed of healthfully, there is a double loss; the food is wasted and the animal is weakened by disease.—Ex.

Farmers who should become prosperous should plant alfalfa where it is scarce, and increase their milk or feeding herds.—Ex.

Cattle should not be allowed the range of the farm late in the autumn. It is bad for the farm and useless to the cattle.—Ex.

Facts and Figures

Only one couple in 11,500 live to celebrate their diamond wedding.

Kennebunk, Me., claims the youngest grandfather in the state in the person of David, who is only thirty-six years of age.

The overseers of Harvard college have decided that the Australian system of voting shall be used in future elections of members of the board of overseers.

The name Bridget is from the Celtic, meaning strength; the name is found in the French, Spanish and Italian as well as the English language; though varying from the common Irish form.

A story from Parkersburg, W. V., relates that recently John Hall, a boy seventeen years old, met, attacked and slew a bear with a small pocket knife, and escaped himself with only a few slight scratches.

A large rat committed suicide lately by leaping from one of the windows in the Tribune building in New York, and came with a tremendous crash through the skylight of the Sun composing room causing great consternation to the compositors.

Gen. Joubert, commander-in-chief in the Transvaal, said the other day, in an address on education, that he was eighteen years old before he had seen a newspaper, and his whole education had cost less than that of two weeks' schooling for his youngest child.

A Lincoln county (Oregon) judge has been severely rebuked by the state supreme court for reading a newspaper, eating candy and otherwise conducting himself in an undignified and unbecoming manner during the progress before him of an important murder trial.

How to Give Niter.

Sweet spirit of niter is one of the most popular domestic medicines. The dose for an adult is from one-half to one teaspoonful well diluted with water. When using it in fevers it is best to give small doses at long intervals. One-half a teaspoonful in a tumberful of cold water, drink a little at a time through the night, will be more effective in subduing fever and bringing on perspiration than a whole teaspoonful taken at once.—Hall's Journal of Health.

A Woman Real Estate Dealer.

The only licensed woman real estate dealer in Washington is Miss Grace Thomas. A year ago she secured her first license, and when she had paid the regular fee of fifty dollars she had a capital of sixty-five cents left with which to begin operations. She had, however, a good business training in that special line as well as plenty of enterprise, good sense and grit. This year, after paying again the government tithe she had a snug little capital of dollars and dimes.—Washington Letter.

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

Preached from the ominous words Jeremiah xxviii., 16: "This year thou shalt die."

Jeremiah, accustomed to saying bold things, addresses Hananiah in these words. They prove true. In sixty days Hananiah had departed this life.

This is the first Sabbath of the year. It is a time for review and for anticipation. A man must be a genius at stupidity who does not think now. The old year died in giving birth to the new, as the life of Jane Seymour, the English queen, departed when that of her son, Edward VI., dawned. The old year was a queen. The new shall be a king. The grave of the one and the cradle of the other are side by side. We can hardly guess what the child will be It is only two days old, but I prophesy for it an eventful future. Year of mirth and madness! Year of pageant and conflagration! It will laugh; it will sing; it will groan; it will die.

The text will probably prove true of some of us. The probability is augmented by the fact that all of us who are over 35 years of age have gone beyond the average of human life. The note is more than due. It is only by sufferance that it is not collected. We are like a debtor who is taking the "three days' grace" of the banks. Our race started with 900 years for a lifetime. We read of but one ante-deluvian youth whose early death disappointed the hopes of his parents by his dying at 777 years of age. The world then may have been ahead of what it is now for men had so long a time in which to study, and invent, and plan. If an artist or a philosohpher has forty years for work, he makes great achievements; but what must the artists and philosophers have done who had 900 years before them? In the nearly 2,000 years before the flood, considering the longevity of the inhabitants, there may have been nearly as many people as there are now. The flood was not a freshet that washed a few people off a planet, but a disaster that may have swept away 1,000,000,000. If the Atlantic ocean, by a lurch of the earth tonight, should drown this hemisphere, and the Pacific ocean, by a sudden lurch of the earth, should down the other hemisphere, leaving about as many beings as could be got in one or two ocean steamers, it would give you an idea of what the ancient flood was.

At that time God started the race with a shorter allowance of life. The 900 years were hewn down until, in the time of Vespasian, a census was taken, only 124 persons were found 100 years old, and three or four persons 140 years old. Now a man who has come to 100 years of age is a curiosity and we go miles to see him. The vast majority of the race pass off before twenty years.

The character of our occupations adds to the probability. Those who are in the professions are undergoing a sapping of the brain and nerve foundations. Literary men in this country are driven with whip and spur to their topmost speed. Not one brain-worker out of a hundred observes any moderation. There is something so stimulating in our climate that, if John Brown, the essayist of Edinburgh, had lived here he would have broken down at 35 instead of 55, and Charles Dickens would have dropped at 40. There is something in all our occupations which prediaposes to disease. If we be stout, to disorders ranging from fever to apoplexy. If we be frail, to diseases ranging from consumption to paralysis. Printers rarely reach 50 years. Watchmakers, in marking the time for others, shorten their own. Chemists breathe death in their laboratories, and potters absorb paralysis. Painters fall under their own brush. Foundrymen take death in with the filings. Shoemakers pound away their own lives on the last. Overdriven merchants measure off their own lives with the yard-stick. Millers grind their own lives with the grist. Masons dig their graves with the trowel. And in all our occupations and professions there are the elements of peril.

In view of this, I advise that you have your temporal matters adjusted. Do not leave your worldy affairs at the mercy of administrators. Have your receipts properly pasted, and your letters filed, and your books balanced. If you have "trust funds," see that they are rightly deposited and accounted for. Let no widow or orphan scratch on your tombstone, "Thism an wronged me of my inheritadce." Many a man has died, leaving a competency, whose property has, through his own carelessness, afterward been divided between the administrators, the surrogate, the lawyers, and the sheriffs. I charge you before many days have gone, as far as possible, have all your worldly matters made straight, for "this year thou shalt die."

I advise also that you be busy in Christian work. How many Sabbaths in the year? Fifty-two. If the text be true of you, it does not say at what time you may go, and therefore, it is unsafe to count on all of the fifty-two Sundays. As you are as likely to go in the first half of the year as in the last half, I think we had better divide the fifty-two into halves, and calculate only twenty-six Sabbaths. Come, Christian men, Christian men, Christian women, what can you do in twenty-six Sabbaths? Divide the 365 days into two parts: what can you do in 182 days? What, by the way of saving your family the church and the world? You will [illegible] all the ages of eternity in heaven, get over the dishonor and outrage of going into glory, and having helped none up to the same place. It will be found that many a Sabbath school teacher has taken into heaven her whole class; that Daniel Baker, the evangelist, took thousands into heaven; that Doddridge has taken in hundreds of thousands; that Paul took in a hundred million.

In view of the probabilities mentioned I advise all the men and women not ready for eternity to get ready. If the text be true you have no time to talk about nonessentials, asking why God let sin come into the world; or whether the book of Jonah is inspired; or who Melchisedec was, or what about the eternal decrees. If you are near eternity as some of you seem to be, there is no time for anything but the question. What must I do to be saved? The drowning man, when a plank is thrown him, stops not to ask what sawmill made it, or whether it is oak or cedar or who threw it. The moment it is thrown he clutches it. If this year you are to die there is no time for anything but immediately laying hold on God. It is high time to get out of your sins. You say, "I have committed no great transgressions." But are you not aware that your life has been sinful? The snow comes down on the Alps flake by flake, and it is so light you may hold it on the tip of your finger without feeling any weight.

Let me announce that Christ, the Lord, stands ready to save any man who wants to be saved. He waited for you last year, and all your life. He has waited for you with blood on his brow, and tears in his eye and two outstretched mangled hands of love.

You come home some night and find the mark of muddy feet on your front steps. You hasten in and find an excited group around your child. He fell into a pond, and had it not been for a brave lad, who plunged in and brought him out, and carried him home to be resuscitated, you would have been childless. You feel that you cannot do enough for the rescuer. You throw your arms around him. You offer him any compensation. You say to him, "Anything that you want shall be yours. I will never cease to be grateful." But my Lord Jesus sees your soul sinking, and attempts to bring it ashore and you not only refuse him thanks, but stand on the beach and say, "Drop that soul! If I want it saved I will save it myself."

A great plague came in Marseilles. The doctors held a consultation and decided that a corpse must be dissected or they would never know how to stop the plague. A Dr. Guyon said, "Tomorrow morning I will procede to a dissection." He made his will; prepared for death; went into the hospital; dissected a body; wrote out the results of the dissection and died in twelve hours. Beautiful self-sacrifice you say. Our Lord Jesus looked out from heaven and saw a plague-stricken race. Sin must be dissected. He made his will giving everything to his people. He comes down into the reeking hospital of earth. He lays his hand to work. Under our plague he dies—the healthy for the sick, the pure for the polluted the innocent for the guilty. Behold the love! Behold the sacrifice! Behold the rescue!

Decide, on this first Sabbath of the year, whether or not you will have Jesus. He will not stand forever begging for your love. With some here his plea ends right speedily. "This year thou shalt die."

This great salvation of the gospel I now offer to every man woman and child. You cannot buy it. You cannot earn it.

I am coming to the close of my sermon. I sought for a text appropriate for the occasion. I thought of taking one in Job. "My days fly as a weaver's shuttle;" of a text in the Psalms, "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom;" of the prayer of the vine dresser. "Lord, let it alone this year also;" but pressed upon my attention, first of all and last of all, and above all were the words "This year thou shalt die."

Perhaps it may mean me. Thou in perfect health now, it does not take God one week to bring down the strongest physical constitution. I do not want to die this year. We have plans and projects on foot that I want to see completed; but God knows best and he has a thousand better men than I to do the work yet undone. I have a hope that, not-withstanding all my sins and wanderings, I shall through the infinite mercy of my Savior, come out at the right place. I have nothing to brag of by way of Christian experience, but two things I have learned—my utter helplessness before God, and the all-abounding grace of the Lord Jesus. If the text means some of you, my hearers I do not want you to be caught unprepared. I would like to have you either through money you have laid up or a "life insurance," be able to leave the world feeling that your family need not become paupers. But if you have done your best and you leave not one dollar's worth of estate you may confidently trust the Lord who hath promised to care for the widow and the fatherless. I would like to have your soul fitted out for eternity, so that if any morning or noon, or evening or night of these 365 days, death should look in and ask, "Are you ready?" you might, with an outburst of Christian triumph answer, "Ay, ay! all ready."

But I must close this sermon. This is the last January to some who are present. You have entered the year, but will not close it. Within these twelve months your eyes will shut for the last sleep. Other hands will plant the Christmas tree and give the New Year's congratulations. As a proclamation of joy to some, and as a matter of warning to others I leave in your ears these five words of one syllable each, "This year thou shalt die!"

The Petrified Forests of Arizona

From the Atlantic & Pacific railroad it is not hard to reach one of the greatest of natural curiosities—the pertrified forests Arizona. Much the nearest point is the little station of Billings, but there are the scantiest accommodations for the traveller. Only a mile south of the track at that point, one may see a low, dark ridge, marked by a single cotton-wood tree. Walking thither (over a valley so alive with jack rabbits that there is some excuse for the cowboy declaration that "you can walk clear across on their backs!") one soon reaches the northern edge of the forest which covers hundreds of square miles. Unless you are more hardened to wonderful sights than I am, you will almost fancy yourself in some enchanted spot. You seem to stand on the glass of a gigantic kaleidoscope, over whose sparkling surface the sun breaks in infininte rainbows. You are ankle deep in such chips as I'll warrant you never saw from any other woodpile. What do you think of chips from trees that are mossagate, and amethyst, and smoky topaz, and agate of every hue? Such are the marvellous splinters that cover the ground for miles here, around the huge prostrate trunks—some of them five feet through—from which Time's patient axe has hewn them. I broke a specimen from the heat of a tree there years ago which had around the stone pith a remarkable array of large and exquisite crystals; for on one side of the specimen—which is not so large as my hand—is a beautiful mass of crystals of royal purple amethyst, and on the other an equally beautiful array of smoky topaz crystals. One can get also magnificent cross-sections of a whole trunk, so thin as to be portable and showing every vein and "year-ring," and even the bark. There is not a chip in all those miles which is not worthy a place, just as it is, in proudest cabinet; and, when polished, I know no other rock so splendid. It is one of the hardest stones in the world, and takes and keeps an incomparable polish.—Charles F. Lummis, in St. Nicholas.

Will Not Cross a Funeral Cortege

You may get some idea of how widespread is the superstitious belief that "crossing a funeral procession" brings bad luck. If you will stand any day at the New York or Brooklyn entrance to the East river bridge and wait until a hearse and a long line of carriages appear. You won't have to wait very long. So many mourners pass over the bridge that it is almost entitled to be called the "Bridge of Sighs." And when your patience is rewarded by the arrival of the cortege, if you are on either the New York or the Brooklyn side you will observe that, though the horses are moving slowly and though there is plenty of room to pass between, the carriages, many men and women who have been walking rapidly halt suddenly and wait until the last carriage has gone by. Some do not stop but hurry on. They are the indifferent or the ignorant, or the reckless ones.—New York Herald.

Speed of Ocean Currents.

The speed of ocean currents varies a good deal, and no very definite infromation can be given on the subject. It is true that bottles and other objects have very often been set afloat with a view to obtaining exact data as to the rate at which different currents flew along, but it is never possible to tell exactly how long they have floated about near the shore with the ebb and flow of the tide before they have been found. The greater part of them, indeed, never are found, often, no doubt, because of the accumulation of barnacles, which have caused them to sink.—Yankee Blade.

Shopping as a Profession.

Shopping has risen from a pastime to a profession. It is said there are several thousand women in New York city who live on the percentage allowed them by the big shops in which they spend other people's money. In the rushing season—about holiday time, and just before the summer exodus begins—some of them make as high as $200 a week. These lucky ones, though, usually have money of their own. They watch bargain sales carefully and manage generally to secure the cream of them. Then when an order comes they are often able to fill it from their private stock and pocket the comfor, table difference betwixt the regular and the bargain price.—New York Sun.

Sandwich Island Alphabet

The Sandwich Islands alphabet has 12 letters; the Burmese, 19; Italian, 20; Bengalese, 21, Hebrew, Syrian, Chaldee and Samaritan, 22 each; French, 23; Greek 24; Latin, 25; German. Dutch and English, 26 each; Spanish and Sclavonic, 27; Armenian, 38; Arabic, 28; Persian and Coptic, 32; Georgian, 35; Russian, 41; Muscovite, 48; Sanskrit and Japanese, 50; Ethiopic and Tartarian have 202 each.

WOMEN'S DEPARTME

Domestic Helps.

The practice of using ear[illegible] dangerous and often causes [illegible]

A salve of equal parts of tal[illegible] salt will often cure the worst [illegible] felons.

A good remedy for damp [illegible] four ounces of cologne to half [illegible] of belladonna, the hands to be [illegible] in this several times a day.

New muslin curtains are distin[illegible] from those of last season by be[illegible] ished with a narrower hemstit[illegible] styles in these goods vary as the [illegible] handkerchiefs.

It is believed that sweet oil is [illegible] thing to use in removing an in[illegible] the ear. This will entangle the[illegible] they can be removed by gentle [illegible] ing with warm water.

In an obstinate case of earac[illegible] about the ear with laudanum [illegible] been warmed by standing the [illegible] for a few minutes in warm wa[illegible] cover with cotton batting.

For chapped hands take one [illegible] half ounces of spermaceti tal[illegible] tablespoonfuls of oil of white [illegible] and three-quarters of an o[illegible] camphor gum. Heat until [illegible] stirring constantly, then pou[illegible] molds.

The newest sofa pillows [illegible] cover of India silk gathered [illegible] a frill on all four sides, and [illegible] about with a broad ribbon [illegible] each way, and made into a [illegible] bow in the centre. Very [illegible] yellow pillows are made in the [illegible] style, crossed with a deep ora[illegible] tied in an Empire knot.

The greatest care is necessary [illegible] ing venison. Like all game it [illegible] served very hot. The cold pas[illegible] only exception to the rule. [illegible] cooked so that it loses all its [illegible] becomes dry and flavorless, [illegible] digestible as "devil's venison" according to Dr. Kitchener, [illegible] stuffed with tenpenny nails.

For a lip salve dissolve a [illegible] white sugar in a teaspoonfu[illegible] water. Let it stand at the ba[illegible] stove to simmer slowly. [illegible] tablespoonfuls of nice olive o[illegible] piece of spermaceti the size of [illegible] Add a mere drop of cochineal [illegible] matter to turn it into a lit[illegible] porcelain box kept for the [illegible] It should be small enough to b[illegible] a few tablespoonfuls.

Home Work

Young women of leisure are [illegible] enthusiastic and the most de[illegible] of amateur workers in this [illegible] crusade of work, because [illegible] eagerness and happy uncons[illegible] they rush in where wiser [illegible] would hardly dare to go, and [illegible] fashion to applaud their doing [illegible] out regard to results.

It was formerly the custom [illegible] daughter to be the helper and [illegible] lon of the mother. Now the [illegible] is emancipated and the mother [illegible] If she is ill and can afford one [illegible] have a trained nurse to take [illegible] her, but otherwise there will [illegible] inducement to protract illness [illegible] valescence. There is, in fact, [illegible] the desire for work, a great [illegible] real work done at home.—"T[illegible] Her Own Resources," by Jen[illegible]

She Does Several Things [illegible]

On Saturday afternoon Mi[illegible] West, a recent graduate of [illegible] university, at Delaware, O[illegible] gunning on her father's Lit[illegible] farm, near Unionville, with h[illegible] er's shotgun, bird dog and rub[illegible] The result of her afternoon [illegible] fourteen quails, three rabbits [illegible] bird dog's tail. The latter wa[illegible] by the premature discharge [illegible] young lady's gun while she w[illegible] ing through a wire fence. M[illegible] is locally noted as an excellen[illegible] keeper, with a passion for ga[illegible] ture, and writes very pleas[illegible] when she has time to indulge [illegible] in that direction.—Cincinnati [illegible]

She Will Go Around the Wo[illegible]

Mlle. Saint-Omer, a Fren[illegible] sixty-four years of age, is to [illegible] ranks of lady explorers, and w[illegible] a tour around the world, fol[illegible] course south of and parallel [illegible] equator. Her purpose is [illegible] data regarding the life of wo[illegible] the training of children in the [illegible] countries for the Geographic[illegible] of Paris. She takes no lugg[illegible] her, and expects to extend h[illegible] over a period of three years [illegible] already made a voyage a[illegible] world, paying her own [illegible] Paris Letter.

Mrs. Livingstone's Gra[illegible]

Much regret is felt in Engla[illegible] discovery of the neglected sta[illegible] Livingstone's grave in Africa, [illegible] even devoid of a headstone. [illegible] sionary, Dr. Henry, has been [illegible] sioned to attend to the nece[illegible] quirements in order to suitably [illegible] the grave of the woman wh[illegible] life with the illustrious explo[illegible] Baltimore American.

A new organization of w[illegible] San Francisco styled the [illegible] Daughters, is devoted to the [illegible] of the need of poor people [illegible] distress on account of ill[illegible] family. There are about fo[illegible] daughters with a following [illegible] 200 associate members.