

### High-Priced Real Estate in New York.

A recent New York letter says: The three costly buildings on Fifth Avenue, for Mr. Vanderbilt and two of his sons, are approaching completion. The double building for Vanderbilt, Sr., at Fifty-first Street, is a good piece of architecture, but would be better if the building were a story higher. It looks rather squat in proportion to the ground covered. The material is the same brown stone that is used in nearly all the buildings on the avenue. It does not wear so well as some other kinds of stone, but there is none else that looks so rich. It will probably be a year before the inside work is finished. On the next block above stands the new home of one of the juniors. It is not so large as the paternal mansion, but it is more ambitious in architecture and may be called more ornate. The angles are very numerous and the whole structure more showy. The material used is a sort of gray limestone, a novelty in stylish buildings in New York. It is not handsome, but it is different from what is seen in other buildings and that may make up for lack of good looks. Still further up, at the corner of Fifty-seventh Street, the most stylish of the Vanderbilt houses has risen to the roof and is now closed in. It looks better than either of the others. The general design is neat as well as elaborate, and the effect is pleasing. In this house the material is brick and light colored stone, in about equal proportions. There is no suggestion of bareness anywhere, nor of overloading with fancy work, either. It will take longer to finish the inside of each of the Vanderbilt mansions than it has taken to build the outside. Probably in a year from now the three will be ready to occupy. You may now walk up the avenue all the way to the park and find hardly one vacant space. Everything is built up, and symmetrical rows of brown stone fronts line the way on both sides. A man wanting to buy must pay at least one million dollars for a full sized house well finished and in good order. D. O. Mills, the California millionaire, paid something about that figure, I believe, for the mansion he bought on the avenue some time ago. Mr. Mills seems to have faith in New York real estate. His latest purchase, down in Broad Street, is the largest made here in several years. An investment of nearly \$1,500,000 is worth noting. The property bought by Mr. Mills runs from the Drexel Building, at the corner of Wall Street, down to Exchange Place, the length of an ordinary block, and it includes, besides, one lot on Wall Street, east of the Drexel, so that entrances may be had on both sides of that building. The exact price paid for the property is understood to be \$1,400,000. The cost of building on it will probably be at least 2,000,000 more. There is no place in New York where real estate pays better. The neighborhood is always in demand. It is directly opposite the main entrance to the Stock Exchange, and the most bustling spot in the city. It is at the corner of Broad Street and Exchange Place that nearly all the call loans of the brokers are made. Millions and millions change hands there every day, and most of the business is done on the sidewalk. All the brokers occupying offices on the property bought by Mr. Mills have received notice to vacate on the 1st of May. The notice has caused a great scramble for other offices in the same neighborhood, and sent rents up enormously. The rents of the vacant offices in the Drexel Building went up fifty per cent. an hour after the notice was served. It is in this building that the business of Drexel, Morgan & Co., and Morton, Bliss & Co. is carried on. The location is just one block from Trinity church. It was on the opposite corner that George Washington was inaugurated President of the United States. But Wall Street is a mighty different place now to what it was then.

### Modern Mills and Milling.

The modern flouring mill is a huge structure, employing many men, and the wheat is turned into flour by the freight-train load daily. One of the monster mills in Minneapolis, Minn., covers an area of 380 by 80 feet, and is seven stories in height. Its capacity is 4,200 barrels daily, which requires about 20,000 bushels of wheat, or fifty ear-loads, to keep the mill in operation. It does not depend upon the old-fashioned burr mill-stones to convert the wheat into flour, but the process of manufacture is to first run the wheat through a brushing machine, the old-fashioned smut machine having been discarded. After the wheat has been cleaned by running through the brush machine it is run through corrugated iron rollers, which split the crease of the berry open, thus liberating the dust which lies in the crease, so that it can be removed by bolting. A very small percentage of low grade flour is made during this first reduction. The grain then passes through a process technically known as a scalping reel, to remove the dirt and flour, after which it passes through a second set of corrugated rollers, by which it is further broken; then it is passed through a second reel, which removes the flour and middlings. This operation is repeated successively until the flour portion of the berry is entirely removed from the bran, the necessary separations being made after each reduction, sometimes requiring five or six. The middlings from the several operations are reduced to flour, after being run through the purifiers by successive reductions, on smooth iron or porcelain rollers. One of the principal objects sought by this system of grinding is to avoid all bruising of the grain; another, to extract all the dirt from the crease of the berry,

and a third to thoroughly free the bran from the flour in order to obtain as large a yield as possible.

There are in Minneapolis twenty-eight of these huge merchant mills, making it the largest flour manufacturing place in the world, and its products are sent to all parts of the earth. The grower of wheat no longer patronizes the grist mill, but buys his flour of the retail dealer. The grist mills of the Eastern or Middle States are small and unpretentious concerns, only useful in grinding provender for the farmers of the neighborhood for the purpose of feeding their horses, stock and swine. And even now they are forced to compete with large mills in the West and Northwest which make a specialty of grinding feed for the car load and sending it to an Eastern market. The miller of ancient times, who used to be regarded as an important factor of society, is nearly obsolete, and the time is not far distant when he and his toll-dish will be relegated to the domain of the flax-spinning wheel, the handloom and the reaping sickle.

### A New Illuminating Fluid.

Highly interesting experiments with a newly-discovered mineral essence took place a few evenings ago at the laboratory of the eminent Parisian analytical chemist, M. Wurtz, in the presence of several members of the Academie des Sciences. Having filled a lamp with the liquid in question, and ignited the wick, M. Kordig, the discoverer of the essence, tossed the lighted lamp up against the ceiling, besprinkling the bystanders as well as himself with the flaming fluid, which, however, to the astonishment of all present, proved utterly devoid of heat or burning capacity. He then soaked his pocket-handkerchief in the essence, and set it on fire; the essence burnt itself out, but the handkerchief remained uninjured, as did his hat after subjection to a similar trial. Then M. Wurtz, Dumas and Friedel plunged their hands into a pan filled with the burning liquid, withdrawing them with fingers all alight, like so many thick jets of gas. They experienced no sensation of heat whatsoever upon the skin surface thus apparently in a state of active combustion. Other experiments followed of an equally wonderful nature, conclusively demonstrating that the "Kordig essence" is capable of producing light without heat. All that is at present known of its special physical characteristics seems to be that it is a thin and colorless oil, evaporating with great rapidity. Its discoverer proposes to adapt it to general domestic use for lighting purposes, its chief recommendation being absolute harmlessness, for it is altogether incapable of exploding, and may be poured while burning upon the most delicate textile fabric without the least risk of igniting the substance.—London Telegraph.

### Folk Lullabies.

Babies show an early appreciation of rhythm. They rejoice in measured noise, whether it takes the form of words, music or the jingle of a bunch of keys. In the way of poetry we are afraid they must be admitted to have a perverse preference for what goes by the name of sing-song. It will be a long time before the infantile public are brought round to Walt Whitman's views on versification. For the rest, they are not very severe critics. The small ancient Roman asked for nothing better than the song of his nurse:

Lulla, lulla, lulla,  
Aut dormi, aut laete.

This two-line lullaby constitutes one of the few, but sufficient, proofs which have come down to us of the existence among the people of old Rome of a sort of folk verse not by any means resembling the Latin classics, but bearing a considerable likeness to the *canti popolari* of the modern Italian peasant. It may be said parenthetically that the study of dialect tends altogether to the conviction that there are country people now living in Italy to whom, rather than to Cicero, we should go if we want to know what style of speech was in use among the humbler subjects of the Caesars. The lettered language of the cultivated classes changes; the spoken tongue of the uneducated remains the same; or, if it too undergoes a process of change, the rate at which it moves is to the other what the pace of a tortoise is to the speed of an express train. About 800 years ago a handful of Lombards went to Sicily, where they still preserve the Lombard idiom. The Ober-Engadiner could hold converse with his remote ancestors who took refuge in the Alps three or four centuries before Christ; the Aragonese colony at Alghero, in Sardinia, yet discourses in Catalan; the Roumanian language still contains terms and expressions which, though dissimilar to both Latin and standard Italian, find their analogues in the dialects of those eastward-facing "Latin plains" whence, in all probability, the people of Roumania sprang.

—The Practical Farmer says: "A single loose stone, which might be thrown out in two seconds, is sometime struck by wagon wheels fifty times a day, or more than 10,000 times a year. Ten thousand blows of a sledge-hammer as hard on one wagon would probably demolish it entirely, and the stone does no less harm because it divides its blows among a hundred vehicles. There is, therefore, probably no investment that would pay a higher rate of profit than a few dollars' worth of work in clearing public highways of loose and fixed stones."

—Eggs for hatching should not be more than two weeks old.

### Double-Purpose Trees.

In most cases trees may be selected, planted and cultivated so that they will subserve more than one purpose. A wind-break may be made highly ornamental as well as very useful. If composed of European larch or Norway spruce trees it will effectually break the force of the wind and at the same time be a lasting ornament to the premises it protects. On the farm of D. S. Seofield, Esq., of Elgin, Kane County, is a wind-break of European larch trees that will repay a visit of fifty miles to see. Never did a rare and exquisite painting ornament the wall of a parlor as this line of trees, tall and graceful, beautifies the farm in part incloses. The trees are, at once, majestic and graceful. In summer the drooping branches form long waves of verdure as they are swayed by the passing breezes. Occupying but little space, it affords protection to many acres of land. It is the perfection of vegetable beauty. Still it is vastly more useful than wind-breaks that disfigure the premises where they stand and which are often composed of locust, poplar and cottonwood trees.

Many fruit trees are highly ornamental, and in raising them on a lawn or pleasure ground two purposes may be secured. A well-pruned early Richmond cherry tree is in every respect very beautiful. The foliage is deep green, the blossoms pure white, and the fruit a brilliant red. Whether the branches are covered with leaves, buds, flowers or cherries, they present a most charming appearance. By judiciously selecting and arranging pear trees, not only a supply of one of the most luscious fruits but a very beautiful effect may be secured. Many pear trees are majestic, and some very graceful. Dwarfs when full of ripening fruits are exceedingly beautiful. Several varieties of apple trees are highly ornamental. Especially is this the case with those that produce highly-colored fruit. The blossoms of all varieties of apple trees are very beautiful and highly fragrant. Few trees are more ornamental than some of the improved varieties of the crab apple. They occupy but little room, produce a wealth of fragrant blossoms, while the highly-colored fruit remains on the branches a very long time.

Trees which produce nuts are almost invariably of value for timber as well as for fuel. The nuts themselves are valuable not only for food for men but for domestic animals. The nuts produced on hickory, pecan, walnut and butternut trees are desirable for use in the family, and command a ready sale in the market. A given area of land in nut-bearing trees will produce almost as much food for hogs as when planted to annual crops. After the trees are sufficiently large to bear they require no attention. The wood of all our native trees that produce large, oily nuts is valuable for posts, rails and for many other purposes, while it ranks very high as fuel. Acorns possess more value as stock food than most people suppose they do. In Great Britain they are held in high esteem for feeding to both pigs and sheep. The oak is a liberal bearer, is hearty and long-lived. The wood of several varieties is very valuable for posts, for handles to tools, and for materials for barrels and casks. Some kinds of oak make most excellent and all kinds make a very fair quality of fuel. There is no more valuable tree than the chestnut in places where it can be grown. It pays to raise it on broken and rocky land for the nuts it bears or for the timber or fuel furnished by the wood itself. Nut-bearing trees are always useful for two purposes, often for three, and sometimes, as when they furnish good shade and serve as ornaments to the farm, are valuable for no less than five distinct uses. Nut-bearing trees generally prefer broken, rocky land, which is not adapted to the production of annual crops, or the banks of streams and lakes where the plow can not be employed to good advantage. Many persons object to nut-bearing trees because it is difficult to transplant them on account of their tap roots, which are quite long, even when the trees are very young. It is easy, however, to raise them by planting the seed in the places where the trees are desired, and by adopting this course the expense of purchasing trees is saved.

All the varieties of the ash are valuable for other purposes than fuel. The wood is used in the construction of a large number of agricultural implements, for finishing houses, for staves and heading for barrels and casks, for making baskets, for dimension timber and rails. Most varieties of the ash flourish best on land that is too moist for most agricultural purposes, and is unsuitable for the production of the better kinds of grass. A few kinds of trees, as the basswood or linden, produce a large amount of blossoms which secrete honey. A basswood forest is of great value to bee-keepers. The wood of these trees is now in active demand for materials for boxes and other packages for berries and other small fruits. The linden grows very rapidly, is readily propagated by seed or suckers that spring up around the main trunk. The young trees stand transplanting well and flourish on a variety of soils. The trees cast a dense shade. The trees when placed in suitable situations are highly ornamental. When of large size they present a very stately and picturesque appearance.

Two points should never be lost sight of in attempting to raise forest trees with a view to profit. One is to place them on land that is of comparatively little value for general agricultural purposes. On nearly every farm of considerable size there is some land too rocky, broken or moist for general cultivation. This land is always adapted to the production of one or more varie-

ties of valuable trees. By planting them on these waste places the appearance of the farm may be improved and its value increased. The other point is to plant those varieties of trees that are available for more than one purpose. Before expending money for trees to set out, it is best to ascertain if they are likely to succeed in the locality for which they are designed. Large sums have been expended in Northern Illinois for chestnut, hemlock and beech trees by persons who were accustomed to them in other parts of the country, and who desired to have their old friends in their new homes. With rare exceptions their time and money have been expended in vain.—Chicago Times.

### Transplanting.

There is scarcely any operation in gardening where there is so much opportunity for the exercise of skill and good judgment as in transplanting. The skillful gardener will move his plants so that they will hardly receive any check in their growth, while the careless removal of plants or the choice of too dry weather, with subsequent neglect, occasions the loss of many thousands of plants every year and much disappointment. In order to bear transplanting well the plant should be in thrifty, growing condition, but not by any means "drawn" or "long-legged," as gardeners are wont to call such plants as have suffered from crowding or too rapid forcing under glass; they should be grown in sandy loam, which favors fibrous growth of roots, and should be well watered a few hours before moving, so as to have the roots moist when moved. Then care should be given to have the loam in which the plants are planted moist enough and warm enough to favor rapid growth; and if possible, they should be shaded from sun and wind for a few days after transplanting if the sun is hot.

In order to insure plants against wilting when transplanted, they may be grown in pots, but this involves a good deal of expense, and a simpler method is in use among the gardeners, for moving such tender plants as cucumbers, melons, summer squashes, Lima beans, &c. The plants are pricked out under glass, in groups of four plants each, the hills being nine inches square, or thirty-two to a sash; when grown so as to require transplanting, which will be in about two weeks, or by the time they begin to run, have the ground ready for them, and wet them down well over night, so that the earth will cling to the roots; have ready a few square rings of sheet zinc, nine inches square, made by folding a strip of zinc three inches wide and three feet long, into a nine-inch square prism, without top or bottom, and soldering the edges together. Take a ring and press it down into the earth around one of the hills; then run a spade under it, and lift the hill, ring and all, on the spade, and carry it to its destination, where a hole is made with a hoe to receive it; place the cluster of plants on the spade in the hole, draw the earth around the spade and remove first the spade, then the ring, and the work is complete. These tender plants cannot be transplanted safely to the open field much before June 10. But cucumbers are transplanted thus under glass whenever the glass is ready for them. In transplanting vines, choose a hot day, and avoid rainy, cold weather. If well moistened before transplanting, and carefully handled, they will not wilt much, but may need a little shade for a few days.


The transplanting of celery, cabbage and cauliflower plants is simple and easy—now in the cool, moist weather of early spring, but in the hot weather of midsummer, requires some skill. Much depends upon having the land in which the plants are to be set thoroughly fine; if coarse, or lumpy, it is much more likely to dry up and destroy the plants. Choose, if possible, a cloudy day after a rain, but if this can't be done, and the weather is dry and hot, the plants must be watered. Keep the roots wet while setting them, and water every day till they grow, or till rain comes. This is laborious work, where large fields are set, but it is often the only way to be sure of a crop. To make the earth fine for setting plants it may be thrown into drills with a plough, and then raked down; or, if it is desirable to set the plants low, as in the case of celery and cauliflower, the rows are marked first with the wheel marker, and the spots where the plants are to be set made fine by chopping with a hoe.—New England Farmer.

—The late Prof. Henry is quoted as once saying that there was not a city in the world that could produce so many able, cultivated and learned men as Washington City; and in support of his statement he said that he had occasion to have a scientific document translated into thirteen different languages, and he had not the slightest difficulty in finding individuals connected with the administration of the Government who were able to translate quickly and easily the document into all those languages.

—Gilholo asked a Galveston lawyer what he thought of the assassination of the Czar. "Well," replied the Galveston lawyer, stroking his chin, and looking as wise as three or four Solomons, "I think the man who done the shooting ought to have a change of venue on account of public prejudice against him. I'd get him out of the scrape if he was over here—and had plenty of money."

—The Mayor of Cambridge, Mass., declares that he would like to see it a "live New England town and something more than a literary city, suitable only for the residence of a few poets."

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