HOME, FARM AND GARDEN.

—Ducks should have separate houses from other fowls. They should have troughs, as they do not like to pick and hunt on the ground like chickens.—*Cincinnati Times.*

—An old-fashioned pudding sauce that can be made in an instant is simply milk sweetened and flavored with grated nutmeg. This is really palatable with corn starch blanc-mange.—*N. Y. Post.*

—It is estimated that the value of the garden products of Massachusetts, exclusive of potatoes and beans raised on the farms, equaled $5,000,000 last year. It was ten times as great as that in 1860.

—Horses' feet need looking after during the cold, muddy, spring weather. A daily cleaning of the exposed parts is essential to their health as well as the comfort of the animals.—*Cleveland Leader.*

—An exchange says: Young chicks that are subject to weakness in the legs should receive a small allowance of fine bone-meal in the food. Weak legs come from forced growth, high feeding and close confinement, but it is not necessarily dangerous.

—Increase of bees early in the spring, when judiciously conducted, is attended with great good. The best stimulant in the spring is salty water, placed in a trough where the bees can have access to it. Do not get the water too salty; a teaspoonful to a pail of water is enough.—*Exchange.*

—Possess a good wheel-barrow. No implement equals it in utility about the garden, or on the farm for that matter. They are not expensive. Select one with reference to lightness and strength, as the boys are often delegated to use them. The common dirt barrow is the best.—*Prairie Farmer.*

—The *Textile Record* gives a formula for a solution by which cloth can be made waterproof, if immersed in it and then thoroughly dried. It is composed of gelatine five parts, soap five, alum seven and water one hundred and seventy parts. It is said that this causes the fibers of the cloth to repel drops of water as do feathers.

—*Hall's Journal of Health* recommends common baking soda as the best application for eruptions caused by poison ivy and other poisonous plants, as also for bites and stings of insects. In cases of scalds and burns it may be used on the surface of the burned places either dry or wet. When applied promptly the sense of the relief is magical. It seems to withdraw the heat and with it the pain and the healing process soon commences.

—Every farmer should possess a stencil-plate with his name and residence cut in it, so that he may plainly mark all bags, blankets, robes and boxes with it; also a brand with which he can burn his name into the handles of hoes, shovels and other tools. Then if he is blessed with a borrowing neighbor the sight of the name may remind the borrower to return the tool before he has worn it out. At least there will be less danger of his thinking he owns it because he has had it so long that he has forgotten how he came by it.—*New England Farmer.*

Testing the Vitality of Seeds.

When it is such an easy matter to test the seeds one proposes to plant, it is generally best to take the time to do it. This work may be done any time now, and then the planter will be in readiness with the advent of spring. It is always best to procure seeds which are to be purchased, or in any way gotten from others, early in the season. Upon their arrival let the first leisure time be employed in determining their vitality.

On this subject Prof. G. E. Morrow, of the Illinois Industrial University, writes the *Prairie Farmer* as follows:

"It is probable there is even less good seed corn in the great corn-producing regions of the West than was to be found last spring. It is especially important that farmers should be sure of the vitality of the seed to be used, whether that grown by themselves or that purchased. An experienced farmer can form a pretty accurate opinion by carefully examining the germ. Often a look at the cob or kernels is sufficient to enable one to decide against the sample.

"But actual test, by sprouting, is by far the safest method. This need not be especially troublesome. It is desirable to select kernels from a considerable number of ears, and from near the middle of the ears, as sometimes kernels from tips or butts will germinate when those near the middle will not.

"These kernels may be placed in earth in any pan or dish, the earth being kept moist and at moderate temperature, by being kept in a warm room. A still more convenient method is to place the kernels between layers of moist cotton or almost any kind of cloth. If the cloth is kept moist and the temperature somewhere near sixty degrees, two or three days' time will show whether the corn can be depended on for seed. It is safe to make some discount from the percentage which germinates, as the conditions in early planting may be less favorable.

"If the ears are selected from bins or cribs, care should be taken to try those near the center, at least in part. Most farmers will admit the desirability of some mode of testing seed corn, and yet a large majority fail to make any sufficient test."

A correspondent of the *Journal d'Agriculture Pratique* recommends a test which he has used for many years with complete success. It is that of *fire.* Take at random a number of seeds from the bag, say, eight. Put some live coals on a shovel, and deposit each of the seeds successively thereon. Blow the coal, and watch how the seed behaves. If the combustion is slow, merely giving off some smoke, you may conclude that the seed had a damaged germ; if, on the other hand, the seed leaps and turns about on the coal, producing a dry sound (tac) proportional to the size, it may be inferred to have good germinative qualities. In this way the proportion of good and bad seeds may be ascertained. As for the larger seeds, such as acorns and chestnuts, it is sufficient to throw them into a fire, and keep them in view. If the quality is good, this will be indicated ere long by the detonation of the seed.—*Prairie Farmer.*

Fair Morals.

The discussions that just now occupy so much space in the agricultural journals relative to the reforms needed in the management of fairs are very timely, and in every way worthy the attention of intelligent men, and it is to be hoped that they may result in practical benefits in the directions proposed. That the reforms are needed; that the moral tone of these annual exhibitions has been greatly lowered by the concomitants to which special attention has been called, there can be no question; but while these are being so strictly considered there are other sins which, if not so heinous, are a source of much loss to those immediately interested, both in a pecuniary way and in the direction of the principal objects for which these exhibitions were organized. The sins to which reference is made are those of omission rather than of commission, and they are prevalent in all countries and sections alike.

In a report of one of the State Boards of Agriculture the list of premiums shows an excellent classification of the objects of the exhibition represented, and an evidence that there must have been a reasonable number of exhibits in each class. But this is about all that may be learned from the open page. It may tell that Mr. K—— was awarded a first premium for the best cow of a given breed and age; but the record furnishes no information as to the really practical reasons for such an award. It may be said that she had all the points of excellence, causing her to surpass in her way other animals of like character exhibited; but what was the standard attained and how was it reached? Did she mature early? If so, where is the evidence of the fact in this record? Did she give more milk, or better milk, more or better butter, than her competitor during the period of a year or more? If so, the record does not show it, and is therefore wofully lacking to that extent. In some cases statements may be found of the size and dimensions of fat animals, but the reader may learn nothing of the means employed to develop these dimensions.

These fairs were established for a twofold object: First, to stimulate endeavor in the production of the best of every kind in which agriculturalists may have an interest; and, second, to give farmers an opportunity to compare their products, and to confer as to the means to be employed to secure them. For the first object generous premiums are offered and paid; the fortunate exhibitor is glorified to that extent, and the money or prize becomes a premium that should encourage him to withold the means for promoting the second object of the fair, all description of the methods employed, and the cost involved in securing the product for which the prize is given. In this way are the worthier objects completely defeated, and the greatest benefits that are possible and should be expected are wholly lost.

What should be impressed upon the attention of fair authorities and of all intelligent agriculturalists interested in the progress of the branches in which they are severally engaged is this: Each farmer in this country, in whatever line he may be working, is largely governed by his own views, and he follows to no slight extent methods of his own devising. Different methods prevail upon different farms. Animals are bred differently, fed differently, treated differently; and, though these methods may be more or less empirical, they lead to favorable results as the splendid show rings so common in autumn make strikingly manifest. Grains are grown, and when exhibited present a fine appearance, are attractive to the eye, and are as valuable as they are attractive. But the methods of production, though largely in the same trend, differ in important particulars upon which the differences that may be noted in the products undoubtedly depend. Such differences should be made prominent upon the exhibitor's card if the farmer's are to be educated by the object lessons thus presented, and they should be accounted important elements in the determination of the recipients of the prizes. Furthermore, they should form important features in the reports of the awarding committees, so that by comparison and by careful consideration the progressive farmers may be able to improve upon past experiences, remedy past deficiencies, and see through them encouragement for the future.

It may be urged, even by writers of some prominence in the agricultural press, that the American farmers are not prepared for such details; that they care nothing for the facts that would thus be elicited from year to year, and if they did care could not fully understand or appreciate them. But it may be doubted if the farmers of the great corn and wheat belts will appreciate the compliment; on the other hand, they would highly appreciate and are ready to support any effort such as has been suggested above looking to the improvement of their methods and progress in their results. If managers of fairs, both county and State, consider these points carefully, they will see in them the changes needed to stimulate interest in the exhibitions, and to drive out by their influence the evils that have aroused the discussions referred to in the beginning of these remarks.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A Badge of Mourning.

"Well, Brown was a good fellow and I am sorry he is gone," said a Western editor to the proprietor of the paper. "He worked hard all his life and died poor, the way of most newspaper men."

"Yes," responded the proprietor, with considerable feeling, "Brown was a good printer and it will be hard to fill his place."

"I suppose we ought to attach something to the door in the shape of a badge of mourning for a little while," suggested the editor.

"It would be a good idea, but I don't believe there is anything about the place that would answer the purpose, and in the present feeble financial condition of the concern I don't feel like putting out any money for crape."

"No," mused the editor, "it would be better to settle up back salaries, first, but now I think of it, I know just the thing."

"What is it?" asked the proprietor.

"We might hang out one of the composing room towels."—*Philadelphia Call.*

Society in Washington.

Leaving aside the question of political morality, few people who have passed a winter in Washington will deny the charm of its society. Acknowledging all its faults, its crudeness—narrowness, perhaps—and its lack of form, it must yet be acknowledged that it differs from all other American society in the fact that it is not founded on wealth. It is the only society which is really republican, though it has little resemblance to the "Republican Court" of the first Administration—the only one in America which has a well-defined basis. And that basis is public station, temporarily conferred, whether directly or indirectly, by the expressed wishes of fellowmen. The holding of such public station necessarily implies intelligence, and thus it is intelligence, as distinguished from lineage or wealth, which is the fundamental basis in Washington society. Such a society does not feel obliged to adopt certain customs because it is reported at second hand that they are good form in London. Its opinions are robustly independent, its information is extensive, and its subjects of conversation are many and varied. It is not to be imagined that such a society is well defined, or that its rules are clearly established—though it is true that the "Etiquette of Social Life in Washington" has been most elaborately formulated in a little pamphlet, of which a fresh edition is perennially produced, and which is said to sell in great numbers. It is undoubtedly open to the criticism of being raw, to the same extent—but no more—that society in London is subservient and snobbish, and in New York illiterate and commercial. Nothing can be more ridiculous than the public levees of the President, where the doors are thrown open that every person in the street may enter them in a crush, and stand in a slowly-moving procession for two hours, in order that during half a minute of that time the President may be seen and his arm may be wrenched. But this is not peculiar to Washington alone. Such "public receptions" are inflicted upon Presidents in all cities which they visit. Hardly less incongruous are the Wednesday afternoon receptions of the wives of Cabinet officers; when their doors are also thrown open and hundreds of strangers tramp through their parlors "to pay their respects." The wives of Judges and Senators and Representatives have to endure the same thing on other afternoons of the week. It has come to be considered as part of the price of public station But no matter what office a man may hold, no one may come to his dinner table without an invitation. And it is in dinners that Washington society excels. Diplomats and travelers from every part of the world; men distinguished in political life, on the Bench, and in war; men of science and men of letters; women of intelligence and culture, with the native grace and beauty for which American women are justly celebrated—there is no such wealth of choice in any other American city, and there are no other dinner parties so entertaining as those of Washington.—*Century.*

What the Standard Oil Company Is.

The Standard Oil Company, which is so much talked about and so little understood, has its headquarters in this city, and its executive board is said to hold a meeting on every business day in the year. The capital of the company is not very large, perhaps three or four million dollars, but the capital of the Trust Company, which manages the fiscal affairs of the Standard, is said to be as high as seventy millions. Whatever be the capital, it pays six per cent. and the stocks sell in the neighborhood of par. The men considered in the oil regions to be the master spirits of this company are both very young, Mr. Rockafeller and Mr. Archibald; the latter is hardly thirty years of age. He is the son of a Methodist preacher in the oil regions, and developed a genius for commerce and executive work when a mere lad in a country bank, and his employer gave him the capital to start an oil refinery. He attends to the details of this huge company, which has hardly a parallel on the globe for breadth of conception and infinitude of particulars. If this were an English company it would rank always with the East India Company of the time of Warren Hastings. It is to be observed that the chief operators against it are themselves speculators. Mr. James Keene was one of the leading spirits in the rival pipe-line. The Standard's pipe is a separate corporation known as the National Transit Company, and its pipes lie buried side by side, and are six inches in diameter, and it is said that the right of way was acquired for about $500 a mile. Their telegraph is an enormous concern also. The flow of oil is about 60,000 barrels a day, I understand, and this company keeps in its tanks or pipes or refineries from 30,000,000 to 36,000,000 barrels at a time. Its profits are derived from storing and forwarding the oil, which pays fifteen cents a barrel per annum for storage and twenty cents a barrel for transportation to the seaboard. They are also the greatest exporters in the United States, and often send out a ship full of lamps to teach some heathen people how to burn American oil. It is said that they are content with a profit of half a cent a gallon on the oil. Several of the young men in this company are free-hearted, generous men, and it is well known in the oil regions that Mr. Archibald provides for his former employer, who was unfortunate in business.—*Lounger, in N. Y. Tribune.*

—Tanner's record in fasting has been greatly surpassed by a Newburg spider that lived two hundred and four days without food or water. That specimen ought to be stuffed and mounted for permanent preservation with the record of his extraordinary fast. California spiders stuffed are in great demand for collections at fifty cents apiece. This Tanner spider ought to fetch a large price for a museum.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

—The new street game in New York is thus described: A young man insists on talking to you until there appears his confederate who is recognized as a detective and to whom he denounces you as a pickpocket. The bogus detective arrests you, but will let you off for a consideration. If you refuse they knock you down and help themselves.—*N. Y. Star.*

Fashion Notes.

The coffee-colored Venteian laces used the past season as a garniture for rich brown fabrics will be employed the coming summer to decorate the plaitings, tunics and bodices of pale-colored silks and muslins. Some of the most elaborate patterns have the designs outlined with heavy gold threads.

A stylish bonnet of modified poke shape, brought out for early spring, is of russet-brown straw, trimmed with a great deal of broad Van Dyck red satin ribbon. The brim is pliant and unwired, and is faced inside with dark red velvet, under plaitings of bronze-hued Spanish lace. On the left side of the hat is perched a large brown bird, holding in its bill a spray of wintergeen berries and leaves.

Among a number of very elegant dresses from Paris, designed for a prospective bride in this city, is a dinner toilet of royal blue corded silk of magnificent quality, cut with broad vest, close basque, and paniers, over a striped under-dress of gold satin and royal blue velvet alternating. The bodice has a high Medici collar of blue velvet lined with gold color, and finished inside with a fraise of gold lace. The corsage laces half way up the front over the full vest of gold satin.

A charming tint of blue, neither light nor dark, and with a good dash of gray in it, called "Lenten" blue, has appeared in fine plain Vicugna cloths and limousiness, and is introduced in plain and figured materials in combination with fawn, russet, maroon, ecru and bronze. Redfern has just completed a very telling gown of this color, adorning with a delicate embroidery of gold, toned down with a cunning admixture of black. The dress was ordered for a famous star actress in a celebrated play.

Among the forthcoming dresses for early spring wear are those of russet Vigogne, checked with broad, uncertain lines of dark blue and crimson, the loose skirt drawn up into two deep "bouillonnes" by means of blue and crimson ribbons, and a full apron tunic treated in the same way. Dresses for the summer, of cream white veiling or damask gauze, would look well so arranged, with runners of broad cream satin ribbon to match, knotted in long loops and flowing ends on the left side. Muslins will be made in the same manner, and are often, to suit the taste for deep coloring, made up over crimson or ruby foundations or slips of shot-surah; for instance, a princess of moss-green, shot with gold, is made up with an over-dress of ecru muslin, brocaded with Watteau designs. The dress fits like a jersey, and has paniers of the muslin edged with ruffles of ecru Renaissance lace, with deep flowers to match upon the skirt, which is demi-trained.

It is only in accessories to the toilet, and in simple variations of existing modes, that we find any change to chronicle. For the next six weeks the display of fashion will be at a standstill. As regards colors, taste is at present a bit radical; gray and a new lovely shade of Neapolitan violet lead in popularity. The last is a shade most universally trying; the tint is exquisite, but few who study what is becoming dare venture to adopt it. A costume lately worn—most beautiful in itself, though by no means complimentary to the wearer—was of heavy Ottoman silk of this shade, with panels and waistcoat of a deeper shade of violet velvet. The Langtry bonnet, composed of deep-hued Neapolitan violets, had a velvet lining and violet velvet strings. A small sable shoulder-cape was the only extra covering worn over the Louis XIV. coat, which was made of the Ottoman silk with its velvet *gilet.*

To smarten a dress in wholesale fashion for a quiet Easter afternoon tea, when the elaborate tea-gown is considered too ambitious and too frivolous, nothing equals in *chic* a pretty apron, and of these there is verily no end. The Watteau muslins and flowered organdies brought out last summer make very dressy aprons when plentifully trimmed with lace. Then there is a charm about a pure white embroidered India muslin, with lace-edged fan plaits half covering the apron, and the bib plaited to match with lace-edged fan reversed. Coffee-colored lace is much used, the strong contrast of color being considered very stylish. There are also aprons of buttercup satin cut in turrets at the edge and frilled with black lace. Entire aprons are made of black or white lace made up on net foundations. The lace is set on as a series of flounces with bright ribbons to trim.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

The Anvil.

Ordinary anvils are forged in six or seven pieces and then put together. Cast anvils are hardened in a float instead of being dipped, and larger-sized ones are swung into a tank by means of a crane. These latter are also frequently cast about a core, which permits them to cool more uniformly. Gold-beaters use for an anvil a steel block having a surface three by four inches in extent. Upon this the gold is reduced to a plate one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness, and afterwards beaten out on an anvil of black marble. The forms and uses of the anvil are constantly extending in variety, and, from the lilliputian one of the watch-maker to the great ones used for making cannon, they are daily growing more busy throughout the world. Many of the common blacksmith's anvils are provided with a second horn socketed upon the beak and having grooves upon its upper surface into which horse-shoes are driven for the purpose of rebevelling the inner surface, so as to prevent "balling" when traveling in snow. The various special forms of the anvil are exceedingly numerous. The progress of machines and the introduction of steam-hammers have brought into use in late years enormous anvils weighing, in many cases, several hundred tons. These are usually cast in the form of a truncated quadrangular pyramid, and placed with the smaller end upon substantial foundations of masonry.—*Industrial World.*

—It is doubtful if a team could be employed to better advantage at this season than in hauling sand for putting on the garden where the soil is clayey and heavy. It will not only make it much easier to work but will also put the soil in condition to more readily yield up its elements of fertility.—*N. Y. Times.*

"Queer Ducks."

"Newspaper men are queer ducks," said a local politician, who was one of the Committee of Arrangements for the National Republican Convention in 1880, as we turned and walked out of the theater. "They remember well when they want to, and are close as oysters when they don't want to remember. There is one of them in town who played a trick on our committee in 1880 that upsets me whenever I think of it. Tickets, you know, were very scarce, and we were driven nearly crazy by persistent applications from distinguished visitors.

"The man I speak of made no applications for tickets. He went to a regalia store and purchased the most striking and elaborate badge he could find. He took this to a printing-office and printed on it 'Grand Marshal of the Convention,' and with that worn conspicuously on his coat he sailed by the door-keepers without being challenged, and passed and repassed, receiving from ushers, detectives and guards the most respectful consideration. He grew bolder the second day, and passed in probably a dozen persons. The next day he took in twice as many, and in the end passed in to the Exposition Building probably a hundred persons. All this was done with the flourish of certainty, courage and conviction, and the fun of the thing was that none of the committee thought at the time of inquiring into the matter."

"The same man," said a night editor of one of the morning papers when he heard the name, "is the fellow who is mainly responsible for the inauguration of the movement that drove Dr. Thomas out of the Methodist Church. He was present at the gathering of a few friends when the Doctor was called upon to make a few remarks over the remains of an actor who had died the day before. The Doctor, in the plentitude of his sympathy, had written out some general observations suited to the occasion, but after looking them over decided to take up a slightly different line of thought.

"He put the manuscript in his coat pocket and proceeded to speak off-hand such words of comfort as came to his mind. His newspaper friend, seeing that the Doctor was absorbed in his subject, extracted the manuscript from his coat-tail pocket and took it to a morning paper, in which it was printed as a verbatim report of what Thomas said at an actor's funeral. The Doctor was embarrassed in his denial because he knew that the alleged report was what he had written but had not spoken. Out of these circumstances came the agitation that led to the withdrawal of Dr. Thomas from the Methodist Church.—*Chicago Inter Ocean.*

Care of Harnesses.

There are few things on the farm that are treated with more neglect than the harness, yet there are few things that are so sure to be injured, if not well cared for. When a new harness is purchased, it is usually kept clean for a short time, but as soon as its newness is worn off, it is usually entirely neglected, and left to hang in the barn or stable exposed to the dust and the gases, both of which destroy the looks as well as the strength of the leather. Every carriage house should be provided with a tight closet in which to hang the harnesses, and it is always best to have two carriage harnesses, one to use in pleasant weather and the other in rainy weather. The new harness should be frequently cleaned, using for the purpose a sponge moistened with harness soap and water; by rubbing this over the harness it very much improves its appearance and condition, and requires but a few moments time to do it. Whenever the leather shows any signs of dryness, the harness should be all taken apart and thoroughly washed in soap and water; after being dried it should be well oiled with good neatsfoot oil, always rubbing it well into the leather with a woolen cloth, using all the oil that will dry; after laying one day, all the parts of the harness should be wiped clean and put together. A harness that is thus cared for will last more than twice as long as one that is neglected, and as it is work that can be easily done by the farmer during leisure hours, it ought not to be neglected.

Besides the saving in dollars and cents, the harness that is well cared for always looks well, and what is of still more importance is not as likely to break when the horse becomes frightened. A neglected harness often becomes rotten where it is not noticed until it breaks. It is not safe to have such a harness, especially on a horse that is nervous. A harness that is occasionally taken apart and cleaned discloses weak places; besides, when kept oiled, the water does not penetrate to destroy the strength of the leather. A good harness well cared for, and properly used, will last many years of constant use, but the best of harnesses, if not well cared for, will last but a few years.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

Why He Wanted to Help Him.

Mr. Garrison was on the piazza one morning, mending his fishing-rod, when his neighbor's little boy Neddy came up the steps and asked if he could not help him with his work. "No," said that gentleman, "there is really nothing you can do, Neddy." "But I'd so like to do something!" urged the child. "Can't you think of something for me to do that'll help you, Mr. Garrison?" "Well, I suppose you might pick up that twine." Neddy picked up the cord from the floor, and a moment later asked: "Now, Mr. Garrison, isn't there something else I can do?" "Well, no, I can not say that there is." "But can't you think of something else?" persisted Neddy; "I should so like to help you!" "You can hand me that part of my rod, if you will," Mr. Garrison finally answered. Neddy obeyed with alacrity, following up his handing Mr. Garrison the section of his rod with the old question of whether there was nothing else he could do. Mr. Garrison was quite sure he could think of nothing else. "I do wish there was something more!" said Neddy disappointedly. "I'd so like to help you some more, Mr. Garrison; and if I did about one thing more, I think I should have to charge you a cent."—*Harper's Bazar.*

Extent of the Czar's Estate.

One may form some idea of the extent of the possessions belonging to the Russian Emperor, as property immediately attached to the crown, when we hear that the Altai estates alone cover an area of 40,000,000 desjatins, or over 170,000 square miles, being about three times the size of England and Wales. The Nertchinsk estates, in Eastern Siberia, are estimated at about 18,000,000 desjatins. In the Altai estates are situated the gold and silver mines of Barnaul, Paulov, Smijov, and Loktjepp, the copper foundry at Sasoum, and the great iron works at Gavrilov, in the Salagirov district. The receipts from these enormous estates are in a ridiculously pitiful ratio to their extent. In the year 1882 they amounted to 950,000 rubles, or a little more than £95,000; while for 1883 the revenue was estimated at less than half this sum, or about 400,000 rubles. The rents, etc., gave a surplus over expense of administration of about 1,500,000 rubles. On the other hand, the working of the mines showed a deficiency of over 1,000,000 rubles; hence the result just indicated. A partial explanation of this very unsatisfactory state of things is to be found in the situation of the mines, which are generally in places quite destitute of wood, while the smelting works were naturally situated in districts where wood abounds, sometimes as much as six hundred or seven hundred kilometers distant from the mines. The cost of transport of raw materials became considerable in this way. By degrees all the wood available in the neighborhood of the smelting works became used up, and it was necessary to fetch wood from distances of even over one hundred kilometers. Formerly the mines were really penal settlements, worked by convicts, who were partly helped by immigrants whose sons were exempted from military service on the condition of working in the mines. But since the abolition of serfdom this system has been quite altered, and there is now a great deal of free labor on the ordinary conditions.—*London Times.*

Beds and Bedrooms.

If the hygienic principles of clothing were more generally understood, quilts would be wholly superseded by woolen blankets. Put a piece of woolen cloth over a kettleful of hot water, and observe how fast the steam will make its way through the weft, while a cotton lined coat would stop it like an iron lid. In the same way the quilt tends to check the exhalations of the human body. For under bedding, a woven wire mattress, covered with a blanket and sheet, would deserve the hygienic premium, with the next prize for a cleanly straw tick, that can be emptied and refilled in ten minutes, while it takes a day's hard work to disinfect a horse-hair mattress by loosening, steaming and drying the compacted stuffing. Swiss feather beds become odious to all who have learned to appreciate the more solid comfort of an English bed; though our hardy forefathers went even further, and thought it unmanly to sleep on anything softer than a deer-hide. Those who evinced a penchant in that direction were denounced as Barenhauter—bear-skin wallowers; and even Frederick the Great distinctly instructed his captains to limit their bedding baggage to a couple of eight pound blankets; though general officers were permitted to retain an additional sack and a hope of filling it at a convenient barn. The healthiest dormitories are probably those of the Bogota creoles, who pass the rainless nights of their highland on the platform of a terraced roof; and the unhealthiest, perhaps, are those of the Silesian weavers, who shorten their wretched lives by sleeping in alkovens, or closet-like openings in the wall behind the stove, after closing the alkoven door, as well as the doors and windows of the adjoining room.—*Felix L. Oswald, in Lippincott's.*

Exploration of New Guinea.

* * * "In connection with the Waltham Watch Company, it may be stated that when the proprietors of *The Age* desired to present Mr. G. E. Morrison (the explorer of New Guinea) with a reliable chronometer, acting upon the advice of Mr. R. L. J. Ellery, the Govern't Astronomer, two Waltham watches were, however, procured for Mr. Morrison instead. These were kept at the Melbourne Observatory for a fortnight, and thoroughly and carefully tested, and were found at that time, to be *better* suited for Mr. Morrison's requirements than any chronometer."—*Ext. from Melbourne Age.*

THE GENERAL MARKETS.

KANSAS CITY, March 25, 1884.			
CATTLE—Shipping Steers	5 60	@	6 25
Native Heifers	4 00	@	4 75
Native Cows	3 00	@	4 50
Butchers' Steers	4 50	@	5 00
HOGS—Good to choice heavy	6 20	@	6 50
Light	5 90	@	6 25
WHEAT—No. 1	1 01	@	1 01½
No. 2	91	@	92
No. 3	77	@	78
CORN—No. 2	40½	@	41
OATS—No. 2	31½	@	32
RYE—No. 2	50	@	51
FLOUR—Fancy, per sack	2 25	@	2 35
HAY—Car lots, bright	7 00	@	8 50
BUTTER—Choice dairy	25	@	30
CHEESE—Kansas, new	13	@	14
EGGS—Choice	16	@	16½
PORK—Hams	13	@	13½
Shoulders	8	@	9
Sides	10	@	10½
LARD	9	@	9½
WOOL—Missouri, unwashed	17	@	18
POTATOES—Per bushel	40	@	45
ST. LOUIS.			
CATTLE—Shipping Steers	6 25	@	6 75
Butchers' Steers	5 00	@	5 75
HOGS—Good to choice	6 50	@	6 75
SHEEP—Fair to choice	4 00	@	6 00
FLOUR—XXX to choice	3 40	@	4 65
WHEAT—No. 2 Winter	1 06	@	1 07
No. 3	[illegible]	@	[illegible]
CORN—No. 2 mixed	48½	@	49
OATS—No. 2	32½	@	33
RYE—No. 2	56	@	57
PORK	18 00	@	18 25
COTTON—Middling	10½	@	10¾
TOBACCO—New lugs	5 00	@	6 00
Medium new leaf	[illegible]	@	[illegible]
CHICAGO.			
CATTLE—Good shipping	6 10	@	6 75
HOGS—Good to choice	6 50	@	7 00
SHEEP—Fair to choice	5 50	@	6 50
FLOUR—Common to choice	3 75	@	5 50
WHEAT—No. 2 red	[illegible]	@	[illegible]
No. 3	[illegible]	@	[illegible]
No. 2 Spring	[illegible]	@	[illegible]
CORN—No. 2	52½	@	53
OATS—No. 2	32½	@	33
RYE	60	@	60½
PORK—New Mess	[illegible]	@	[illegible]
NEW YORK.			
CATTLE—Exports	5 50	@	7 25
HOGS—Good to choice	6 75	@	7 10
COTTON—Middling	[illegible]	@	[illegible]
FLOUR—Good to choice	4 50	@	6 50
WHEAT—No. 2 red	[illegible]	@	[illegible]
No. 2 Spring	[illegible]	@	[illegible]
CORN—No. 2	61	@	61½
OATS—Western mixed	40	@	42
PORK—Standard Mess	17 50	@	18 00