

## HOME, FARM AND GARDEN.

It is better not to trust to one's self two years old.—*Cleveland Leader*.

The higher the ground intended for grape planting the better.—*Brown New York*.

The *Farm Journal* advises that we keep grubbing horses loose in stables without mangers. Let them eat off the floor.

Make up your mind that every acre you cultivate in the coming season shall be made to do its very best.—*Troy Times*.

A herd of cows having only a very poor and weak to drink were seriously affected with the disease called lame-brainitis, when the herd was supplied with hard water (lime) the disease disappeared, but only to reappear when the cattle were put back on the soft water again. Prof. Caldwell mentions the views in the *New York Tribune*.

Poor trees seldom need trimming after they go to bearing except cutting out dead wood, if there is any. The best condition for a pear or haw is to keep the head in soil and never to plow it, but only to reseed when the roots are dug up, put back on the soft water again. Prof. Caldwell mentions the views in the *New York Tribune*.

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Prepare the land for strawberries as soon as the weather opens. Work it well and make it nice set the plants early as so to get the benefit of the early rains. A plentiful supply of superphosphate and manure of potash should be given to the plants by sowing it least once over the bed before setting them. Work the plants well, keep out intruding weeds, and also grasses, and do not allow any blossoms to form. Bananas would also be kept away.—*Albany Journal*.

Bananas are more profitable than may be supposed, as they often hatch and raise as many as ten pairs of squids in a year. No one should expect them to pay a profit unless suitable poultry has been provided. It is best to have the coops built in the garden. Hundreds of squids and adults are destroyed without the knowledge of the keeper by such malignant insects. The hawks also destroy the old birds during the day, but the owl is the principal enemy.—*Boston Transcript*.

## CATTLE SHELTER.

Warm Barns Not So Desirable in Some Cases, as Open Sheds.

It is not my purpose to discuss this question, but to call attention to an important consideration in the use of warm barns or ample wind-sheds. Stock of any kind, made comfortable in warm barns during the night, and turned out in the morning to face a cold, north-west wind, with the thermometer indicating ten, twenty, thirty or forty degrees below zero, is under worse conditons than where sheds only are provided with ample grave protection. Many farmers have built warm barns upon the open prairie with their hay shed, grainery or dry protection, and the stock turned out for water in the morning, and allowed to remain all day. Such a course is bound to lay the foundation of disease, to which may be due larvae living off the excrements, poor fattening qualities, inferior milk and low vitality. It under such conditions that some farmers have condemned barns. We are not discussing the economic features of comfortable barns versus sheds, but simply the plan by which the best results can be secured by a severe climate.

Upon the prairies of the northwest, every farmer should provide a comfortable barn, but never so simple and inexpensive enough shade to break the wind and storms during the day, and around the whole should be grown a belt of timber impervious to the winds. A pioneer of semi-desertive experience has described his model timber wind-break, to consist of ten rods in width of dense white willow, ten rods of white pine, and again willow three rods wide.

The external willow protects the pine from severe winds and drifting snows; the interior willow stands the trampling of the stock, while the pine constitutes the impervious lining. If some other farmer should prefer a different plan I should not object, only to insist that it should form a complete protection. There are now warm winter suns, and the suns are sure to pay the highest rent in speed, heat, milk, wool and pork for comfortable places in which to tend stock and put the farms while the blizzard is howling without.—G. A. Bumpus, in *Breeder Gazette*.

## SPECULATING FARMERS.

The Farm Always a Safe Investment for Capital.

The example of farmers investing money in railways, gold mines, Chicago corner lots, margins on grain, and speculative schemes generally, calls up the fact that in a majority of instances these farmers have been "bluffed," and nothing has resulted but loss to their fondest calculations.

This raises the inquiry, in a number of cases, the money that was invested in speculation and lost would not if put upon the farm in permanent improvements have been a judicious move and ended in substantial gain. But few farms are worked up to their possible best; but few farms are evidence where money can be safely invested in improvements, and all farms have waste lands and unproductive fields to some extent, that if made productive would be better stock than a "wildcat" mine in the east or mid-west mountains. That prices are low & does not argue for a suspension of production, and that times are hard does not indicate that farms are allowed to go to ruin, that the pastures and tares of the farm are not to be for years again realized, does not point the farmer to the investment of his money in speculative systems, that after all are dependent upon the agricultural industry of the country.

The farm is not like a mine from which all is taken and nothing returned, the more complete and exhaustive, the greater the profit, but it is instead a field in which certain things are stored from which harvests result, and the more thorough the conditions, and the more complete are ample the investments to profit the returns from that investment. These investments are made under the eye of the farmer. No robbers to plunder, no cashiers to "skip," no Wards to invest in visionary "deals," but under the farmer's guiding and molding hand, controlled by his own judgment, the farm always is a safe investment of capital.—*Cleveland Herald*.

## SUN SPOTS.

*Bill Nye, After an Exhaustive Discussion, Says He Can't Explain Them.*

This luminous body is 92,000,000 miles from the earth, though there have seen mornings this winter when it seemed to me that it was further than that. A railway train going at the rate of 40 miles per hour would be 263 years going there, to say nothing of stopping to wait for freight trains to pass. Several years ago, it was discovered that a slight error had been made in the calculation of the sun's distance from the earth, and owing to misplaced legislation, or something of that kind, a mile of 3,600,000 miles was made in the result. People can not be too careful in such matters. Supposing that on the strength of the information contained in the old-time tables a man should start out with only provisions sufficient to take him 80,000,000 miles, and should then find that 3,600,000 miles still stretched out ahead of him. He would then have to buy fresh firs of the train in order to sustain life. Think of moving 80,000 firs on a train that had been out 250 years!

Oman Digges' original name was Alphonse Vigne. He died a full-blooded Frenchman. He sold at one time sold as a slave to Mohammed Ahmed el Melki, but quickly rose in that prophet's favor and became his son-in-law. He is now about fifty-three years old.

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The sun can not be examined through an ordinary microscope, you discover that it has a curled or mottled appearance, as though suffering from biliousness. It is also marked here and there by long streaks of light called faculae which look like faint flecks below a cataract. The spots on the sun vary from minute pores the size of an ordinary school district to spots 100,000 miles in diameter, visible to the naked eye. The center of these spots is a black as a teacup saucer, and is called the umbra. The penumbra, or the next edge of the spots, is the penumbral ring.

A man who examined the sun through an ordinary solar microscope, you discover that it was a truth upon the mind. Accordingly, I think that he is right.

In February, 1890, Abraham Lincoln registered at one of the Philadelphia hotels. No one knew him, and he was given a rather high-up-room. His bill was two dollars, which he paid and departed as he came alone. In just one year from that time he registered at the same hotel, the President-elect of the United States was given the best room in the house, and his coming and going were known by everybody in the city.

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Being free from all anxiety—for no servant of the State has so secure a position as a Judge, who can only be removed from his office by a joint address of both Houses—with congenial work, with regular hours, and regular holidays, a Judge ought to live to a great age. Most of them do so. Several among them have intellectual pursuits other than the law, and enjoy ample time in which to gratify them.

One of our Judges is devoted to physical science, and is said to know even more of it than of law; another is a skillful painter and has been hung on the walls. Another is a considerable Greek and Latin scholar, and would probably edit classical books sooner than do anything else if he thought that a Judge might decently do so.

Another is an ardent essayist. Another is a learned and widely known musician and a skillful performer on the violin.

Another is understood to lecture unfatigued for what is commonly called the greatest of National sources, and we must have enough facts.—St. James Gazette.

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