

olina and Florida. The one element of soil nutrition which is in some measure deficient and expensive is

Potash.

We are very large importers of potash from Stassfurt, Saxony. If I am rightly informed the mine from which this supply comes had been worked as a salt mine. The salt on the first level giving out, borings were undertaken to find a lower stratum, which passed through an intermediate stratum, striking salt. The borings of the intermediate stratum were thrown aside, which happening to attract the attention of an outside chemist, proved to be potash in different combinations. This mine has proved such an adequate source of supply at low cost, with enormous profit to the owners, as to have practically stopped supplies from many other sources.

As this deposit of potash exists in combination with salt, may it not be judicious to investigate the conditions of our own salt and alkali deposits with the specific purpose and intention of discovering a potash mine? To this end the suggestion will be made to the consular representatives of the United States in Germany to report upon the Stassfurt product and upon the geologic conditions and surroundings of that mine, accompanying such report by samples of what I suppose may be called the different ores. The suggestion will also be made to the Philadelphia Museum to make a thorough investigation of the sources of potash, especially the Stassfurt mine, in the thorough manner which marks all the work of that institution.

Look For Wealth.

The suggestion is now made to certain persons to whom this missive will be sent to take this matter up and perhaps enter upon a "grub stake" with "a prospector" in order to find a potash mine. Such a discovery will add much more to the wealth and welfare of this country than any discovery in gold or silver mining could possibly add.

Who Answers?

All of which is respectfully submitted for whatever it may be worth, with the caveat on the part of the writer that he is entitled to make this suggestion by what he doesn't know but wants to know. Therefore if there are scientific reports relating to the subject of potash in our Geologic Survey, or if there has been any undertaking with the specific view of discovering a potash mine, information on these points would be very welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
EDWARD ATKINSON.

In the storm of protests against assimilation stirred up by home producers of tobacco, rice, and sugar, the Philadelphia Ledger (Rep.) sees "some chance that arguments for prudent, conservative action and just, honorable policies may be accorded a hearing, at least."

THE GRACE OF SILENCE.

Of all the graces that we seek
To make our lives complete,
Not one more heavenly beauty wears
Nor shines with light more sweet
Than the true grace which seals the lips
And checks the words that spring
With careless mirth or bitter scorn,
Until the tongue is lashed to fling
A taunt to one who turns from good
And falls in Life's swift rush—
Ah then, O lips, in silence wait,
The loving Father bids thee hush.

The one who wanders may have trod
So thoughtlessly along,
Too eagerly, too far led on
By pleasure's subtle song.
Or burdened with a hidden woe
Some saddened hearts may ache
Until their weary, blinded eyes
See not the path they take.
Ah, who so perfect as to feel
No penitential blush?
O kingly words of Christ! "Judge not."
Close lips. God's mercy bids thee hush.

—MARY FRENCH MORTON.

AN OLD TIMER.

MY DEAR EDITOR:

Yours of the 17th received in regard to your request for publication. While I did not write as carefully as I would have, had I intended it for the public, I have no objections to your publishing it if you prime it up a little. In regard to the convention, I intended to say the first democratic territorial convention. And in respect to the resolutions that came to me in council, a tie vote, I cast my vote against them, defeating them; the man from Sarpy afterwards changed his vote, moved to reconsider and the resolutions passed. I wish to say that I was not an advocate of slavery, but believed the constitution recognized slaves as property, and therefore it was not the way to remove the evil. I never believed in the Kansas and Nebraska bill, and what was called squatter sovereignty, but had faith in the Benton doctrine, that the territories were the wards of the states until they had a sufficient population to form a state to be admitted to the Union, and then to decide whether it should be free or slave. The Kansas and Nebraska bill was a proposition north to make the territory free, and south to make it slave and it made Kansas the checkerboard on which pro-slavery and anti-slavery game was played. I was a witness to the game, being all the time on the border in Andrew county, Mo; but enough of this.

How many of the old members that served with you and me are living? I know but few. Gov. Furnas and Dr. Miller served the territory and state in many responsible positions, with honor to themselves and great good to the commonwealth. They, with yourself, were the leading journalists of the territory. But I must close. I will try and visit Nebraska and attend the old settlers' convention this year; it would give me great pleasure to meet Furnas, Hans-

comb, Dr. Miller and a few more of the early settlers.

I am now a non-partisan member of the St. Joseph school board and give it the most of my time. My friends say I am the most active old man in the city; when I take hold of any thing I usually make a full hand.

Respectfully,
E. A. DONELAN.

THE DEVIL.

When THE CONSERVATIVE entered upon the publication of a newspaper from the block-house of old Fort Kearney, upon the site of which Nebraska City now stands, the nineteenth century was only a little more than half-grown. The first number of that pioneer periodical was issued April 12th, 1855. The "printer's devil" of that establishment was John W. Freeman, a lad of fifteen, who was soon lured into the job of piloting a six-yoke team of oxen across the plains to California. He was a fine, honest, industrious, handsome boy, and for more than forty years has been a valued correspondent.

The Woodland Daily Democrat, of Yolo county, California, on the 22d of January, 1900, mentions our successful devil thus:

"John Freeman will ship a carload of thoroughbred bull calves about forty in number, from Davisville on Wednesday, to his stock range in the state of Nevada. These calves were purchased from Frank and Will Chiles and the Montgomery Bros. They are Durhams, and Mr. Freeman says they are as good calves as he has seen anywhere in the state. Before purchasing he made a trip to Merced and other counties in the San Joaquin valley. He also visited one of the Miller & Lux stock farms, where calves of the same breed and no better form are sold for \$100 a head. Mr. Freeman paid an average of \$40 a head for the Yolo county calves and is well pleased with his bargain. He will accompany the shipment to Nevada.

From the foregoing it seems that modern devils enter into cattle instead of swine, and go out into green pastures instead of down into the sea.

"If a two-thirds vote is required to expel a member of the House," reasons the Baltimore News (Dem.), "this is precisely because it has been deliberately adjudged, as a general and permanent principle, that a man duly elected and possessed of the constitutional qualifications shall not be deprived of his seat unless the case against him on other grounds is so clear as to command a two-thirds vote in the House. What the precedent will do, if Roberts is excluded instead of being expelled, will be to subject future members-elect to expulsion by a bare partisan majority, when the reason for it is not strong enough to stand the regularly established legal test."