

Agriculture, etc.

DEEP AND SHALLOW PLANTING.

Some good farmers advocate deep planting by far too indiscriminately, and they refer to the result of well conducted experiments to prove that it is much better than shallow planting.

PLUM TREES.—It is said that the application of half a peck of salt in the spring around a plum tree, will be found very efficacious in promoting its growth and fruitfulness, and also in protecting it from disease.

The Stuyvesant pear tree in New York city is in full blossom for the two hundred and twentieth season.

The Oil Wells.

The discovery of petroleum is one of the great incidents of the nineteenth century, and stands in the same line, almost, with railroads and telegraphs.

Petroleum has a high value as a remedial agent, and its use in the mechanic arts is very considerable and daily increasing.

Appearance of the famous Pithole Oil Well.—A number of men were hewing and hauling logs, and making corduroy roads, to render easier the ascent to the top of the bank.

Mounting a rough ladder, you get your first view of the oil which has been so rudely disturbed from its long slumber far down in the very bowels of the earth.

Every couple of minutes the gas—which can be plainly seen issuing from the tube like waves of heat—gives the stream a little spurt, and then it resumes its even and steady flow.

"The men about the well claimed for it a steady flow of two hundred and twenty-five barrels per day. Experienced oil men who visit it, assert that it flows strong two hundred."

How Oil is Struck.—In selecting a spot for a well, the artesian driller raises a derrick about one hundred and ten feet in height, bringing up a steam-engine of about six-horse power, and then, after driving down an iron pipe about six inches in diameter through the earth and gravel some fifty feet or so, to the first strata of rock, introduces a drill of about two and a half inches in diameter attached to a temper-screw, and thence to the "walking beam" and engine, with which he bores now at the rate of eight and ten feet a day into the solid slate and soapstone, say one hundred feet; he then comes to the first stratum of sandstone, which may be ten or twelve feet in thickness; and boring through this comes again to a slate and soapstone of a bluish cast; and working on, say for twenty-five feet or so, he reaches the second stratum of sandstone, but of which there comes rushing up, if the right vein is struck, inflammable gas, salt water, and petroleum.

The Flowing Well.—There are two sorts of wells, those where the oil must be sought—dug for, and others where it presents itself at the surface of the ground.

The pumping wells were discovered some three or four years ago, but soon afterwards very rich flowing wells were discovered, which produced oil in such abundance that it was impossible to provide receptacles to contain it, and therefore the price of oil at the wells was merely nominal, several barrels of oil being given for one empty barrel.

The oil, as it comes from the well, is a dirty-looking greenish, viscid fluid, varying in thickness in the different wells, and at present in price from \$10 to \$20 per barrel.

Refining the Oil.—All the oil as it comes from the wells is impure, and is known as crude oil. This must be refined before it is suitable for use. I will attempt a brief description of the extensive refinery at Corry, owned by parties in Boston.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

The consistent Church-member abroad.—The Western Association.

And are you my friend a member of the Church of God, having been begotten from the dead through the life and power of a risen Christ? Does your business require you to be much from home, and consequently away from the communion and fellowship of those with whom you became connected in the church?

My dear Pastor and Brethren.

I have been thinking for some time past of penning a note to you, intimating my desire to remain a member of the church in Liverpool. I have frequent desires to meet with my brethren and sisters in Christ. Not that I do not enjoy the blessings of christian fellowship here.

I cannot be present in body, but frequently hold sweet communion with the church at home. Time only strengthens my love for God's people. I therefore love the church in Liverpool, better than at the time of casting in my lot with them, and desire to renew my covenant with God and his people.

There is much work to be done yet. I am backward, thinking there are so many others to go ahead; and not always feeling to love my duties, trials come upon me. A deep interest is felt here and some of our most promising young men have given themselves to God.

Further on this good young man urges upon us more fervent supplications and prayers to God, for the conversion of our sons and daughters, for the institutions of learning, and the speedy building up of the Redeemer's Kingdom on earth; closing with, "May heaven's blessings rest upon you, is the prayer of your weak brother."

THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION, your readers know, will shortly convene at Milton, which place is so contiguous to this town, as to lead us to presume that the influence of the Anniversary will be most sensibly felt among us.

A host are expected, from the large-heartedness of the Milton families, and I need not add that Liverpool is not a whit behind our beloved neighbours.

The Lord Jesus in mercy come up with his people, and make it a season of great spiritual profit.

E. N. HARRIS.

Liverpool, May 24th, 1865.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

MATILDA DAVIS.

Died, on the 20th inst., in the 25th year of her age, of rapid consumption, Matilda, second surviving daughter of the Rev. J. Davis, of Charlotte Town, P. E. I. She had her mental gifts; especially a taste for poetical composition. Some of her metrical performances have appeared in the columns of the Messenger.

"the throne of grace;" and yet the manifold invitations of Scripture, addressed to sinners as such, emboldened her to draw near that she might live. Toplady's famous hymn on the "Rock of Ages" now became especially dear to her heart.

J. DAVIS.

Charlotte Town, P. E. I., May 21st. [Christian Visitor will please copy.]

Dear Brother Selden.

Death is rapidly thinning our ranks in this region. The three brethren of whom I now urnish brief Obituaries, living near each other, tied within the space of five days—the two former within about three hours.

Yours in gospel bonds, CHARLES TUPPER.

Tremont, Aylesford, May 23, 1865.

DEACON CALVIN BAKER.

Joined the Baptist Church in this place more than 36 years ago. He constantly retained his membership, and was a Deacon for many years. He was highly esteemed as a faithful and zealous servant of the Lord.

Deacon B. was a remarkably hospitable man. The ministers of Christ, and religious people in general, were ever readily received and kindly entertained by him and his pious companion.

These valued disciples were accustomed to aid each other in maintaining family worship, and also in keeping up prayer meetings. They enjoyed the peculiar satisfaction of seeing all their children, eight in number, profess conversion, and unite with the Church to which they belonged.

Toward the close of life bro. Baker seemed at times, through bodily infirmity, unlike his former self in some respects. With reference to religious exercises, however, he appeared quite at home. The genuineness of his piety was never questioned by the writer.

On Lord's day, May 14th, (inst.) in the firm assurance of everlasting life, he closed his mortal career, at the age of 71 years, leaving a widow and 7 children. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

(Christian Visitor please copy.)

DAVID SAUNDERS, JUNR.

Son of David and Elizabeth Saunders, of Tremont, Aylesford, was also removed by death on Lord's day, May 14th, in the 30th year of his age.

On the 29th day of August, 1851, while on a load of hay that was driven over rough ground, he was thrown off, and two hay-forks, which were on the load, entered his body. The writer, who had then recently commenced his labors in Aylesford, found him in great distress, both physical and mental. It appeared that this youth—16 at that time—had previously entertained a hope in Christ; but had fallen into a state of backsliding, and now felt greatly alarmed in the prospect of immediate death. After a season of deep disquietude, he again found consolation in the blessed Jesus.

To the astonishment of all acquainted with the circumstances, including his medical attendants, he partially recovered. Being of an industrious disposition, he betook himself to the use of the reedle, and did a great amount of very neat and ingenious work while lying on his bed. After a length of time he so far recovered as to sit up some in a chair, and subsequently to walk a little with crutches.

Under all his afflictions David evinced extraordinary patience. He was fond of religious reading, and gladly embraced every opportunity in his power to attend public worship. He became a special favorite with the family and the neighbors. Having lived in this enfeebled state