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[From the Maine Farmer.]

Planting in the Moon.—The Signs, &c.

MR. EDITOR:—There are those even in this enlightened age, who plant, sow, and even harvest, guided in a great measure by mere traditions of the moon, and her wonderful effect on the animal and vegetable kingdom. Every thing must be performed when the moon is on the wax or wane, or else we shall be sadly disappointed in the reward of our labours. Our potatoes must be planted on the dark of the moon, or else they will run to tops; for it is found that all plants that give their yield on the roots, do much better when treated in this manner. And, for the same reason, all plants that yield their increase on the tops, must be planted on the moon's increase. Our beeves and porkers must be slaughtered on the increase, or else our meat, as a matter of course, will be subjected to too great a shrinkage. If our lambs happen to make their appearance on the dark of the moon, they will be giddy headed, bleating, foolish things, and finally die. When Madame Luna, in couring her orbit, happens to get into that part of her path nearest our head, or, as is generally expressed, runs high, then look out for a cold snap. But to enumerate all the whims of the above character, which are rife among us, would be a task of no little research. Again, in addition to the above infallible directions, we have the Signs—a certain indiscernible something that operates in so remarkable a measure, as to produce a salutary effect on the different parts of every living thing, as well in the vegetable as in the animal creation. These, of course, are of great utility, because they are found in most almanacs at the present day; and so admirably adapted to every emergency, that one needs only to consult Robert B. Thomas, to prove successful in every undertaking. Let the sign be right, and our calves and other sucklings may be deprived and weaned of their dams without that difficulty that might, and otherwise would attend the undertaking. In clearing swampy lands, where we have to contend with the alder, the willow, and such other varieties of wood as are very tenacious of life, all that is necessary is, to have them cut off when the sign is in the heart, and the bushes, or rather the stumps and roots, will all die, and the end be accomplished. Not only does this wonder-working agent, by its singular virtues, control all aerial animals, but those of the watery element, also, are found to be governed by the same laws, and hence it is said that "fish won't bite, unless the sign is right." Contrary to the declaration of the wise man, the wind, too, is observed, inasmuch that it is said, that if grain is sown when the wind is out, a smutty increase will almost invariably be the result. Now, Mr. Editor, I do not claim to be an astronomer, by any means, nor, even if I were, do I think it would be necessary here, to give a full description of the moon, or attempt to trace far back through heathen mythology the origin of the signs. Let it suffice to say, that the moon is simply a superior planet, capable of exerting no direct influence upon our earth or its inhabitants, save the attraction of gravitation, and reflecting her borrowed light. And as she revolves around our earth, once in twenty-seven days and seven hours, she must necessarily pass through the twelve signs of the zodiac in that time. And hence, as these signs, or clusters of stars, were anciently supposed to resemble animals the names of which they now bear, the moon or sign is said to be in the head, neck, feet, &c., merely to designate her place in the heavens. But these old, whimsical—and I wish I could say worn out—sayings have been handed down from father to son, have

grown with our growth and strengthened with our strength, until they have become firmly fixed principles with a large number of our honest farmers. To such let me say, get out of this moonshine; let the bright rays of the glorious sun, aided by the light of science, lead us on in the laborious, but consoling task of tilling the earth, until every vestige of superstition shall be driven out, and we become fully convinced that it is better to plant on *terra firma*, than to wander away to the moon.

Limerick, March 15, 1852. O. S. H.

THE BEST BREED OF SWINE.—I am perfectly satisfied from long experience, and have publicly advocated it for upwards of ten years, that the best and most profitable swine for the farmer is that breed which will nearly mature at eight to twelve months old, and weigh, well fattened and dressed, from 250 to 350 pounds. A pig that has to be wintered and kept till sixteen or nineteen months old, before fully fattened, rarely pays for itself at the ordinary price of pork; and the average weight of these, in the United States, even at a year and a half old, I do not believe exceeds 300 pounds.

Now, what the farmers want is a large breed with fine points and great growth. Such a breed can be made fat at any age, and invariably matures quick. But recollect they must have *fine points*; by this I mean fine or small heads, ears, legs, feet and tail, a wide, deep chest, and a round, full body, like a barrel. These constitute what are technically called fine points. None of your big heads, large lop ears, coarse bristles and hair, long legs, great feet, and flabby, thin, slab-sided bodies, after the alligator or landpike order. Of the large breeds I prefer the Lincoln.

In order to get pigs to weigh well they must come early. February in the Southern, March in the Middle, and April in the most Northern States, are the best months to drop pigs. Feed them from the start, all they will eat, and they will be ready to kill from October to January; and thus you dispense with wintering any, except those reserved for breeding.—*The Plough.*

PHOSPHATE OF LIME IN CONSUMPTION.—When an account of Dr. Stone's (of New Orleans) success in treatment of consumption was published, it naturally enough interested the profession, as well as the friends of those who were suffering, because it raised a gleam of hope in cases where none existed. The following facts have come to our knowledge, and may be considered favorable in regard to this method of treatment. A gentleman of the neighboring city of Charlestown, whose son was considered in a hopeless state from the diseased condition of the respiratory apparatus, was induced to administer Dr. Stone's medicine. All the phosphate of lime procured at the shops appeared to be imperfectly prepared—being coarse and otherwise objectionable. A purer article was prepared especially for the occasion, reduced to an impalpable powder, and ten grains were administered three times a day, followed by a swallow of cod-liver oil. No material change was discoverable in the patient for two weeks. Suddenly, as it were, a fixed pain of long standing in the chest then abated; sleep became refreshing, the appetite improved, strength returned, and from being moved about the apartment reclining on an invalid chair, he is now daily riding on an average, ten miles on horseback, facing the wind and breasting the cold with impunity. This is a synopsis of a case related by a grateful parent, who would be glad to have others, under similar circumstances, make an effort with the phosphate, combined with cod-liver oil.—*Boston Medical Journal.*

A Word About Butter.

M. Chalambel has laid before the Academie at Paris a "Note on a Modification to be introduced in the Preparation of Butter, which improves its quality and prolongs its Preservation" "If butter," he observes, "contained only the fat parts of milk, it would undergo only very slow alterations when in contact with the air; but it retains a certain quantity of caseum, found in the cream, which caseum, by its fermentation, produces butyric-acid, and to which is owing the disagreeable flavor of rancid butter. The usual washing of butter rids it but very imperfectly of this cause of alteration, for the water does not wet the butter, and cannot dissolve the caseum, which has become insoluble under the influence of the acids that develop themselves in the cream. A more complete separation would be obtained if these acids were saturated; the caseum would again be soluble, and consequently the quantity retained in the butter would be almost entirely carried by the washing water."

The remedy proposed is: "When the cream is in the churn, pour in—a little at a time, and keep stirring—enough of lime-wash to destroy the acidity entirely. The cream is then to be churned until the butter separates: but before it forms into lumps, the butter-milk is to be poured off, and replaced by cold water, in which the churning is to be continued until the butter is complete, when it is to be taken from the churn and treated as usual. I have," says M. Chalambel, "by following this method, obtained butter always better, and which kept longer, than when made in the ordinary way. The buttermilk deprived of its sharp taste, was drunk with pleasure by men and animals, and had lost its laxative properties." By means of lime-wash or lime-water, he has restored butter so "far gone" that it could only have been recovered by melting; but any alkaline lixivium will answer the same purpose.

CURE FOR BIG HEAD.—The following cure for Big Head in Horses we copy from the *Prairie Farmer*:

I will give my prescription (not as a doctor) so that any one may mix his own medicine:—Take of sanguinaria or blood root, pulverized, a table spoon heaping full; of coperas and lime, each the same; saltpetre and sulphur, each a teaspoonful; make this into a decoction and either drench or feed in a bran mash, if the horse will eat it, twice a day for three weeks, then continue it once a day for four or five weeks longer; and I will almost insure a cure effectual. I gave this to one of my neighbors last spring, and effected a cure. I now have one that three weeks ago was beyond all use, and now you can hardly tell that it was ever afflicted. I will further state, that my first one had given out entirely before I had determined on a course of medicine; and in three weeks time I had her at the plough.

Now for the philosophy: the saltpetre cools, and with the sanguinaria forms the best of purifiers; coperas, (sulphate of iron) lime and sulphur being the components of bone, naturally restore the bones to life and health.

This medicine is also an effectual remedy for the yellow water.

The Hudson River has been closed the present season 102 days, being twelve days more than the average of the 67 years from 1785 to 1852. The longest time of suspension of navigation on record is 136 days, in 1842-3—the shortest in 1805-6, 42 days. The boats are now plying regularly on the river, the morning and evening lines having both commenced operations.—*Scientific American.*

THE ANGLICAN CONGREGATION IN ROME. We have just received the following "extract" from Rome. It is taken from the statement "on Church Principles" of the Right Hon. John Nicholl, Doctor of Civil Law, circulated in that city among the English, as the justification for the course pursued by the committee of the congregation in rejecting the oversight of the Bishop of Gibraltar. The avowal is sufficiently explicit, and we shall be greatly surprised if some steps are not taken, by some parties or other, to disavow the scandal which such a statement inflicts on the cause of British Protestantism in the city of the Popes:—

That any attempt of the Church of England to give authority to any of its Bishops to exercise jurisdiction within the diocese of Rome whom she recognises as a Bishop of a true branch of the Universal Church, or any attempt of any Bishop of the Church of England to exercise such jurisdiction, or any recognition of, or submission to, such jurisdiction by any minister or member of the Church of England, would severally be, on the part of such Church, bishop, minister, or member respectively, an act of schism as part of the Universal Church.—*Dr. Nicholl's Pamphlet*, pp. 27, 28.

CAMPENE—ITS DANGERS.—A Mr. Ennis recently delivered a lecture in Newark, N. J., on the employment of camphene in common lamps. He stated that very unjust views were entertained respecting the dangers of camphene. The danger, he asserted, was not from explosions, but the overflowing of the fluid, and want of presence of mind in persons when an overflow took place. "If they would blow out the lamp at once no danger would happen." There can be no doubt but this is true, but the difficulty lies in providing a remedy. We could burn camphene for a hundred years and fear no danger, and so could every man, but then women, as a general thing, get easily frightened, and have not the care nor coolness of men in cases of danger. We advise persons who have children not to employ camphene, nor should it be used in any house except under the care of a man, or a discreet and careful woman.—*Scientific American.*

THE SABBATH IN PARIS.—Louis Napoleon recently invited the new British Minister in Paris to dine with him at Elysee, on a Sunday, as a first and formal reception of the representative of England. Lord Cowley declined, on the ground that he made a practice of not attending public dinners on a Sunday. The President manifested his respect for the act and the motive by substituting Monday for Sunday. The anecdote does honour to both parties, and exhibits Lord Cowley as representing not only the English Government, but the sound religious feeling of England.

SAD ACCIDENT.—We are sorry to learn that an officer of the Garrison, said to be the Adjutant of H. M. 97th Regiment, met with a serious accident on Thursday last while engaged in a Moose-hunting excursion. It appears that his companion in the chase, an Indian, accidentally discharged his piece, the contents of which passed through the leg and knee of the officer. The Indian did the best he could under the circumstances; he built a temporary wigwam, and hastened into the town for assistance with all possible speed.—*Halifax North American.*

The St. Louis Times states that there are three hundred families in that city preparing to emigrate to Salt Lake city, to join the Latter Day Saints. The contemplated emigration to the great valley of the Salt Lake this season is five thousand souls.