

Miscellaneous.

seed ends, 170: Peach Blows, butt ends, 225: seed ends, 179. The potatoes from the butt ends were much larger than those from the seed ends, and appeared to be from a week to ten days earlier. This result corresponds with my former experiments. Had the whole field been planted with butt ends, the yield would have been more than 500 bushels to the acre. I also planted two rows next to the above: in one of which I put only large potatoes, half a tuber in each hill, cut lengthwise so as to divide the eyes equally, and in the other row I dropped only small potatoes, one in each hill.—From the former I dug 131 pounds, and from the latter 134 pounds. I should add that the average yield of the field was about 180 pounds to the row; and that large (not the very largest) potatoes were used for seed cut lengthwise, with a half of a tuber in each hill."

APPLES.—In grafting large trees, several varieties of scions are frequently employed in forming a new top; there are several objections to this practice. Every one at all familiar with fruit trees, must have observed that each variety has a mode of growth peculiar to itself, and those who have had much experience can often ascertain the kind when not in fruit, by this circumstance alone.—Some varieties are vigorous and of rapid growth, others are slow and unthrifty, and others of short duration and subject to decay early. A tree combining these discordant elements can possess little of symmetry or beauty, and the most audacious pruning cannot remedy the evil. For instance, a tree may be grafted with the Northern Spy, which is of remarkable upright growth; the Roxbury Russet, which is horizontal or spreading, and the Spitzenburg, whose branches are drooping or pendant. In a few years the scions clash and entangle, and it will be impossible to give them the proper form or direction, and when the trees come into bearing the defect will be still more apparent. There is another objection to having more than one variety in a tree; it creates confusion in gathering the fruit, and where the kinds somewhat resemble each other, they are liable to get mixed, causing dissatisfaction among the purchasers.

PLANTING TREES.—Those who intend to plant in the fall should immediately attend both to the preparation of the ground and selecting the trees.—With regard to the latter, a better estimate can be made of the general habit and health of a plant before the fall of the leaves. It may be necessary to caution beginners against the prevailing error of selecting the largest trees. Medium sized trees come up with better roots, are easier handled, less liable to casualties in transportation, and grow faster than those that have been drawn up tall, weak, and unshapely in nursery rows. Old trees have strong roots, and these must necessarily be cut in removing. The tops must then be pruned down, to correspond with this mutilation, in order to secure a healthy start. So that there is nothing gained by the way of size. Even should they live, it is only eking out a miserable existence for two or three years; meanwhile the smaller tree far exceeds it both in health and height.

The question as to whether autumn or spring planting is most successful, has been often discussed. The arguments favoring autumn planting are based upon the well known fact that the roots and branches may be separately excited to growth.—This is well exemplified in the rooting of slips or cuttings. To favor root formation the cuttings are placed in soil kept warmer than the surrounding atmosphere. In the fall the soil is warmer than the air; the formation of the roots proceeds while the branches are dormant; when spring arrives, the balance of the tree being in a great measure restored, growth commences vigorously, and the plant becomes established and able to bear up against summer aridity.

But to insure these good results, planting should be proceeded with immediately after the leaves have fallen; if delayed beyond October success will be less certain.

Holes should be made six or eight feet in diameter and fourteen to eighteen inches deep. In clayey subsoils, breadth should be considered of more importance than depth. A portion of well pulverised soil should be in readiness when planting season arrives. It is poor economy to pay a couple of dollars for a tree, and then begrudge a shilling for planting it.

The editor of the American Mechanic has encountered trials unknown to ordinary men. Just hearken unto his wailings: Owing to the fact that our paper maker disappointed us, the failure of the mails deprived us of our exchanges, a Dutch pedlar stole our scissors, the rats ran off with our paste and the devils went to the circus, while the editor was at home tending the baby, our paper is unavoidably postponed beyond the period of its publication."

THE VALUE OF SELF-EXERTION.—The value of self-exertion appears no where more decided than when we follow the track of those who become eminent without having the vantage ground of instruction from which to start. There is scarcely anything more gratifying to the mind than the well-written life of a person who struggles through every difficulty arising from want of instruction, want of books, want of examples, want of patronage, and who, notwithstanding these impediments, continues to struggle till he triumphantly emerges into notice. Art surrenders some of her choicest secrets; science smiles; and fame or emolument, or both, place the successful experimenter high above common names. Not scantily are the niches in the temple of fame ornamented with lasting memorials of persons thus claiming their well-deserved honors—persons who have been the boast and blessing of their country, by dint of unshaken patience, fortitude, and vivacious genius. Every department of art and science is filled with them.—The fears of the timorous they do not listen to.—Determined to excel, they do excel. Their native energies urge them forward in the honorable career, till success, more or less complete, crowns their glowing ardor.

REPRODUCTIVE POWER OF FILTH.—A single atom of Spanish moss, says Hall's Journal of Health, attaches itself to a southern tree,—and every moment and hour, day and night, summer and winter, it steadily extends itself, until the whole tree is hung in the drapery of death.

The toad-stool mushroom, so deadly in its nature, is the work of a night, and augments with wonderful rapidity.

So it is with a low grade of animal and vegetable growth, which feeds on filth, and reproduces itself with the utmost celerity, thus spreading its area, and concentrating its corrupting and destructive agencies, sweeping away human life like chaff.

These pernicious growths, scarcely themselves perceptible to the naked eye, have something immeasurably more minute, which answer to seeds, which, flying in every direction, and attaching themselves to all moist surfaces, begin instantly to grow. Thus it is, that spots of neglected filth need but a little moisture and warmth to breed their deadly contagions, and scatter their leprous diseases far and wide.

Let every family, then, remember that each particle of damp dirt about their dwellings is a plague spot; and let every servant and child be visited with the severest reproof, who knowingly permits its continuance for a single moment.

USES OF AMBITION.—It is very strange to consider that a creature like man, who is sensible of so many weaknesses and imperfections, should be actuated by a love of fame: that vice and ignorance, imperfection and misery, should contend for and endeavor as much as possible to make themselves objects of admiration. But, however unreasonable and absurd this passion for admiration may appear in such a creature as man, it is not wholly to be discouraged: since it often produces very good effects, not only as it restrains him from doing anything which is mean and contemptible, but as it pushes him to actions which are great and glorious. The principle may be defective or faulty, but the consequences it produces are so good that, for the benefit of mankind, it ought not to be extinguished.

If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble into dust. But if we work upon immortal minds—if we imbue them with high principles, with the just fear of God, and of their fellow men, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface—but which will brighten to all eternity.—[Daniel Webster.]

FUN.—The Sierra Citizen, edited in a spirited manner among the mountains of California, has the following little chapter on fun:—

We like fun, "It is a great institution." If it was to come to that, we should vote for it with a big ballot. Fun! It is what keep most of us from getting sour—it adjusts the equipoise of life—it mellows the flesh, oils the bones, elates the brain—sets one right, when his tendency is another way. Blessing on the man, woman, or who or what else invented fun. How much has it done for you, reader, yourself, Smith, Brown, Jenkins, & the rest of the folks? What a monster what a "brute." Dark, sour, gloomy, sepulchral, cold. Bah! Everybody avoids him. And then woman who recoil or repulse fun! Conscience and the Crimea, what beings! Her countenance is an appalling cloud—her voice as of the tomb—her disposition a cross between the lost ship of lemons and a demijohn of

sulphuric acid! Ugh? Turn your feet, your eyes, your hand, from her. She's either spoiled in making, growing, or keeping. Fun. What would the world do with it? Momus and Jõe Miller forever! What sunshine and roses are to nature, so is fun to man and woman.

Any one who has sought to avail himself of the benefits of Life Insurance has been amused, if not provoked, with the number, variety, and troublesome-ness of the questions which he is obliged to answer, and get his physician and some friend of his to make an affidavit unto. It is proposed to add the following questions to the printed list:

"Did your great grandmother ever complain of having been frightened to death?"

"Are you in the habit of reading Mr. Alison's histories, or the Morning Advertiser, or any other publications tending to lengthen life?"

"Is your wife a strong-minded woman?"

"Do you know any members of Congress, and is there any chance of your getting into political or other arguments with the owner of a revolver?"

"Are you a polite man, who does not mind running out of a hot opera-house to get up a carriage on a wet night?"

"Do you run after fancy preachers, and do they make you cry?"

"What was the general state of your ancestors' health in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries?"

"Was any member of your family ever swallowed up by an earthquake?"

"Do you always take care not to tread on orange peel in the street?"

"Were you ever afflicted with Irishmen, or any other epidemic?"

"Who cuts your hair?"

INFLUENCE OF NEWSPAPERS.—A school teacher, who had been engaged a long time in his profession and witnessed the influence of a newspaper on the minds of a family of children, writes as follows:

I have found it to be a universal fact, without exception, that the scholars of both sexes and of all ages who had access to newspapers at houses when compared with those who have not, are:

1. Better readers, excelling in pronunciation, and consequently read more understandingly.

2. They are better spellers and define words with ease and accuracy.

3. They obtain a practical knowledge of geography in almost half the time it requires others, as the newspaper has made them familiar with the location of the most important places, nations, their government and doings, on the globe.

4. They are better grammarians, for having become so familiar with every variety of style in the newspaper, from the common place advertisement to the finished and classical oration of the statesman, they more readily comprehend the meaning of the text, and consequently analyze its construction with accuracy.

THE VASTNESS OF LONDON.—In an article on "The growth of the Map of London," in the last number of the Edinburgh Review, it is stated that, assuming that the ratio of increase, in coming years will remain the same as in the years from 1741 to 1851, it is calculated that the population of London will raise to six millions of souls before the end of the present century! The writer continues:—

The Metropolis already covers eighty thousand acres; it is bewildering to think of its prospective vastness when thus peopled. And some of these acres, in the heart of the Metropolis, are acquiring a money value probably never equalled in any time or country. Small patches of ground, in the centre of the city, have lately been let on building leases, at rentals which calculated at 30 years' purchase, would amount to a price of £300,000, £500,000, and £800,000, per acre; may, in one case the price thus calculated, actually exceeds one million sterling per acre. Gloomy forebodings occupy some minds on the subject of the future of this large Metropolis. History does not record such a stupendous civic population; and having no precedent to serve as its basis, men are at loss to conjecture the possible economy of six millions of human beings living in one city.

One must be easy in his mind to go to sleep quietly, but what must have been the feelings of the stranger who was sent upstairs in a Western hotel to sleep with a backwoodsman, who gave him this welcome:

"Wa'al, stranger, I've no objection to your sleeping with me, none in the least; but it seems to me the bed's rather narrow for you to sleep comfortable, considerin' how I dream. You see, I am an old trapper, and generally dream of shooting and scalping injuns. Where I stopped night afore last, they charged me five dollars extra cause I happened to whittle up the head-board with my knife while I was dreaming. But you can come to bed, if you like. I feel kinder peaceable to-night."

A Western cattle-dealer, who rarely had the privilege of sitting down to meat with a family, and had never been in a minister's house in his life, was not long ago benighted and lost in his ride across the prairies, and compelled to ask for lodgings at the first house he could find. Happily for him it proved to be the dwelling of a good man, a parson, who gave him a cordial welcome, and, what was specially agreeable, told him supper would soon be ready. The traveler's appetite was ravenous, and the moment he was asked to sit by he complied; and without waiting for a second invitation, he laid hold of what he could reach.

"Stop, stop!" said the good man of the house; "we are in the habit of saying something here before we eat."

This hint to wait till a blessing was asked, the rough customer did not understand, but with his mouth full he muttered,

"Go ahead, say what you like; you can't turn my stomach now!"

STUDYING LATIN.—The New Era relates the story of a farmer whose son had for a long time been ostensibly studying Latin in a popular academy.—The farmer not being satisfied with the course of the young hopeful; recalled him from school, and placing him by the side of a cart one day, thus addressed him:

"Now, Joseph, here is a fork and there is a heap of manure and a cart; what do you call them in Latin?"

"Forkibus, cartibus et manuribus" said Joseph.

"Well now" said the old man, "if you don't take that forkibus pretty quickibus and pitch that manuribus into the cartibus, I'll break your lazy backibus."

Joseph went to workibus forthwithibus.

THE WINDY SIDE THE HEALTHIEST.—A recent discovery, made and announced to the Academy of sciences at Paris, by Messrs. Paillet, Bousingault and Beaumont, all of them very distinguished savans, has a very important bearing on the matter of public health. It is not an accident, they say that the west end of London is the best end, nor is due to topographical configuration, but it is the result of a great hygienic law which, though not hitherto distinctly recognized, has operated in the distribution of popularity in most of the large cities and towns in Europe. It is simply that those inhabitants who regard health and comfort seek residences in the direction of the prevailing wind—which in Europe are from the west—for the purpose of breathing the pure air as it comes from the country, instead of air which has passed through the city laden with noxious vapors.

IMPROVE YOUR MOMENTS.—Many people are in the habit of mourning over their ignorance and complaining because they have no opportunities for study. If they would spend the time which is consumed in making these complaints, in studying useful books, they might become comparatively well educated. One of the best informed men we ever knew was a mechanic, who had devoted only twenty minutes a day to study, and had reflected over his reading, as he best could, while working at his trade. Any person who wants to become well informed, will gain his wishes, no matter what difficulties may beset his path; while those who only desire to clutch the honors which learning gives, but care nothing for knowledge itself, will remain to ignorance, though surrounded with abundant helps to education.

FACETIE.

A SERVANT GIRL'S REMEDY.—A gentleman, observing a servant girl, who was left-handed, placing the knives and forks on the dinner table in the same awkward position, remarked to her that she was laying them left handed. "Oh, indeed!" said she, "so I have! Be pleased, sir, to help me to turn the table round."

FAT AND LEAN.—A man praising porter, said it was so excellent a beverage that, though taken in great quantities, it always made him fat. "I have seen the time when it made you lean."—"When? I should be glad to know," said the eulogist. "Why, no longer since than last night—against a wall."

An old gentleman of our acquaintance, who is opposed to using anything but stone for building purposes, says that as your house, like your hat, is intended to shelter your head, the less "bricks" you have in it, the better.

A REASON.—Some one asking Mr. Curran why a countryman of his walked about London with his tongue out of his mouth. He said that he supposed "he did so to catch the English accent."

A debtor says: "My creditors are singularly unfortunate. They invariably apply the day after I have spent all my money. I always say to them, 'Now this is very provoking! Why didn't you come yesterday, and I could have paid you in full? But no, they never will. They seem to take a perverse pleasure in arriving too late. It's my belief the rascals do it on purpose.'"