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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WINSTON, Rev. P. H. Johnson, pastor. Services every Sabbath morning and evening, by the pastor. Sabbath School meets at 9 o'clock, A. M. Prayer meeting every Wednesday evening.

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MORAVIAN CHURCH, SALEM. Rev. E. A. De Schweinitz preaches the second and fourth Sabbaths of each month. Rev. Lewis Hege, D.D., preaches every Sunday night.

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SOCIETIES.

WINSTON CHAPTER, No. 21, of Royal Arch Masons meets in the Masonic Hall at Winston each [illegible] night of every month.

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SALEM LODGE, No. 261, A. F. & A. M. meets in the Hall over Siddall's Store first Thursday night in every month, at 7½ o'clock.

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WEST'S LODGE, No. 161, A. F. & A. M., meets second Saturday night of each month, and on Tuesday night in Superior Court and on the Anniversaries of the Holy St. John.

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DOMESTIC ECONOMY—II.

From the Rural New Yorker, in N. Y. Times.

In a former article we spoke of the great increase in family expenses within the recollection of those now on the stage, much of this expense being for mere show, and contributing a penny's worth to the comfort of the household. The four main leakages in the farmer's family were classed under the heads of fuel, furniture, dress, and equipage, and suggestions were made as to the reforms demanded in the two former in these days of contraction and economy. It remains to consider the two leakages in the way of dress and equipage.

In the matter of dress, farmers are far from being sinners above other men. We wish we could say as much for their sons and daughters, but showy and extravagant dress is so apparent in the rising generation, especially the female portion, as to demand sharp cuts from the pruning-knife, if farmers wish to conform their outlay to their diminished incomes. Girls have an innate love of dress. They love to make themselves attractive, and this is all right if the love is accompanied by good taste and directed by good judgment. The trouble is that they are inclined to be too dressy—or, rather, too ostentatious in their attire. This love of display is not confined to the rich and fashionable, as is too commonly supposed.

Farmers' families are not specially guilty of ostentatious extravagance in dress, but the youth in all classes, farmers' children not excepted, have a tendency in this direction, and cannot be taught too early that real gentility is indicative of real worth. The common feeling and the common expression among them is, "We must keep up with the fashions; we might as well be out of the world as out of the fashion," for the well bred—not to say high bred—lady knows that fashion is a tyrant, and has too much self-respect to comply with all her absurd demands. She therefore follows fashion at a respectful distance, but is a law unto herself as to what is proper and becoming to wear. Everybody knows that the "dude" skirts through the mud and mutter to drag a train so long that it must be held up is neither neat nor becoming, and would be called vulgar if fashion did not demand it.

With the introduction of sewing machines we were in hopes that dress-making could be done so expeditiously that women would not only find more time for intellectual and social culture, but could also be dressed more economically; but they tell us that the stitches are so multiplied on their dresses and there are so many skirts, plaits, tucks, and furbelows of one sort or another, that it requires more cloth and more time to make a dress than ever, the expense of making often exceeding the cost of cloth. This state of things would be more tolerable if there were any grace or beauty in all these furbelows.

One consideration which we wish to press home upon all young ladies given to extravagance in dress is this: that young men will be cautious in taking upon themselves the responsibilities of a family so long as the expenses of living are kept up at the present high rate. Matrimony becomes unfashionable to the same degree that stylish dressing and stylish living grow in favor. In the one State of Massachusetts it was computed, a few years since, that there were 2,000 women of marriageable age who were husbandless, "homeless and aimless," as Gov. Andrew put it. Young farmers certainly cannot afford in these times to take partners that are of the fashionable, butterfly kind. The bills of the milliner and dressmaker make large drafts on the income of farmers long established in business and having some accumulated capital, and one just starting in life will very likely be swamped if he loads himself down with such an expensive luxury as a dressy wife.

But we must hasten to consider the extravagant expenditures which are manifest in many farmers' families in the way of equipage. Here the young men are mostly at fault. The girls have a weakness for nice dresses, the boys for nice horses, and there is nothing on the farm that causes a greater leakage than a stylish turnout. The first cost of such a turnout is only the beginning. Stylish horses are generally too good for farm work, but they are just the thing to show off on the road, and, as they cannot show themselves, the boys and girls must needs go along to help the display. On such occasions the dress, lap robes, everything, must be in harmony. A showy turnout can be kept showy only by constant vigilance. The horses must be groomed carefully, the carriage must be washed each time it is taken out, and the harness must be frequently oiled and burnished. A coachman tells us that it is about all one man can do to keep such a turnout in good order, so that if a farmer is entrapped into the purchase of one, he must calculate that the time of one boy will be pretty much spent in its care. Then comes the wear and tear of the equipage. Fleet, spirited horses are wont to take the bits in their mouths and go where the driver would not, and if they don't do this, they are liable to lameness and disease. The stylish modern carriage, also, is built light and airy, is made for sale rather than use, and can stand no hard usage. The stout, heavy wheels which the fathers used make too slow a gear for the fast young men. The light carriage needs constant repairs, and, with all the doctoring it receives, is short lived. The capital invested in stylish equipage, therefore, makes constant dividends out of pocket.

"There is no use talking" about going back to the slow old "pokes" which our fathers hitched up to the same lumber-wagon, for hauling out manure on week days and driving the family to church Sundays. We would not go back to that style if we could, and could not if we would. There is abundant need for reform in the fashion of the equipage which fast young farmers are into dulging, but there is a golden mean between a modern 2:40 horses and expensive carriages and the rough style of a former generation. It is perfect folly for farmers to ape the style of rich city merchants who go into the country of a Summer with their elegant turnouts and liveried servants. By the next season, very possibly, these merchants, by some turn of the wheel of fortune, will be bankrupt. Farmers need to pursue the even tenor of their way, and let their moderation and honesty be known to all men. If they get up into a coach, this year they may get down to a cart next year.

There is a fascination about a fast horse to the young which must be restrained, or it will run away with their fame and their fortune. A covered carriage may be a convenience of a rainy day, but at all other times a cover is a nuisance. It is far pleasanter to ride in an open vehicle and see the country as we pass through it. If the sun shines, let it shine. Sunshine is healthy. If it rains, hoist an umbrella. Umbrellas are cheap, but covered carriages are dear.

In all matters of luxury and show the times demand economy; but it is also true, as the old Roman Columella said: "Farmers need to cultivate the frenzy of spending." This spending should be in making permanent improvements, increasing the crops, adding to the stock, and, above all, for developing a higher culture in the family.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.

FENCES.

The sixth clause of Sec. 7 of the Act charges your Board "with the collection of statistics relating to the subject of fences, with suggestions for diminishing their cost, and the conditions under which they may be dispensed with altogether."

To learn the amount of fencing kept up by our farmers, and believing that accuracy could be more nearly approximated by ascertaining the number of panels on each farm than by any other method, I arranged a column on the blanks for Farm Statistics for that purpose. The returns show that in the counties reported, exclusive of the twenty-four townships omitted, there are 101,071,698 panels, or 143,567 miles of fencing. One hundred and five dollars per mile (all things considered) is a moderate average estimate for the ordinary zig-zag fence used on our farms. Thus these partial figures show that if the fences, as reported for these counties, were destroyed, they could not be replaced for less than $15,030,000. And this estimate does not embrace gates, draw-bars, &c., which were not included in the returns. It is generally estimated that the repairing necessary to keep our fences in lawful condition for eight years is equivalent to building anew; so that every recurring period of eight years our farmers incur this enormous expense.

An expenditure imposing such a stupendous tax on their energies should be investigated in all its bearings with the most earnest deliberation. It is not so much the meagre returns for their labor, or the small profits realized on it, that retards the progress of our farmers, as the prodigious waste of labor and energy.

No one subject connected with our farm economy involves, perhaps, such important relations to the future prosperity of the State as the one under consideration. Our laws requiring our farmers to fence in their crops were enacted under widely different conditions from those now existing in many portions of the State; hence in those districts intelligent men feel that no law should be made to conform to the demands which the changes of time have created. Throughout the State, and particularly in all that portion east of the Blue Ridge, there is an active and growing interest manifested on this subject; and especially has this interest increased and strengthened since the county of Mecklenburg, under a Special Act passed by our Legislature two years ago, has tested with entire success and satisfaction, the experiment of fencing-in the stock instead of the crops. The North Carolina State Agricultural Society, and the Roanoke and Tar River Agricultural Association, at their annual meetings last fall, appointed committees, composed of intelligent representative farmers from different portions of the State, with instructions to visit that county, and, by observation and in conference with the lessees, to ascertain the exact facts in regard to the operation of the system. Very interesting and elaborate reports from these committees have been published, and they express their surprise as well as gratification at finding such remarkable unanimity among all classes, both black and white, in support and advocacy of the system. It has also been tried for several years in the adjoining county of Cabarrus with equal satisfaction.

Our people, always cautious in accepting innovations, may be slow to adopt a system which must ultimately revolutionize long-established habits and ideas; but the investigation of this subject, now so actively instituted, will no doubt direct their sober judgment to a correct conclusion.

The wants and necessities of different localities vary greatly, and any law arbitrarily abolishing the present system, while it might meet the requirements of old and thickly settled communities, would doubtless work hardship and damage to those not so well advanced.

I would, therefore, respectfully ask your Board to recommend to the General Assembly the enactment of a general law for the government of such township or county in the State as may at any time, by a majority of the votes of its landowners, declare in favor of abolishing the crop-fence system. The existence of such a law would evoke reflection, discussion and research, which would doubtless result in a decision that would best subserve the true interests of the people.

Another matter intimately connected with this subject, and which I respectfully submit as well worthy the attention of our Legislature, is the damage done by mischievous stock allowed to run at large. The owner of any stock which may be adjudged, upon proper evidence, to be of habitually mischievous habits, should be required to keep it confined to his own premises. Especially is this demanded by the present peculiar condition of our farmers. Not only the large planter, upon the liberation of his slaves, found himself with a large and unwieldy plantation, which he has since been unable to keep fenced properly; but the statistics show that all our people had more land fenced than they were able to keep up; hence, since the war, the fences have been gradually deteriorating, and are generally in a very dilapidated condition throughout the State; and with mischievous stock roving at large, it is a fruitful source of perplexity, loss and litigation. That our people must have a new system, that will either lessen the cost or dispense altogether with fences around their crops, is only a question of time; and until then it would be the dictate of policy and wisdom to alleviate, as far as practicable, the evils of the present system.

NICHOLAS, THE AUTOCRAT OF RUSSIA.

North American Review.

A relative of mine, who was then a student at the St. Petersburg University, had, with a few friends, formed a literary society, in which the works of contemporary political economists, publicists, and philosophers were read and debated. One of the innumerable spies of the secret Police denounced the society as a "secret revolutionary organization," and my relative as president thereof. The latter was, of course, arrested, locked up in one of the underground cells of the St. Petersburg fortress, and summarily condemned, by a special military court, to transportation to Siberia for life. All the influence which our family possessed in high quarters was brought to bear on the Czar, but all in vain. At last the mother of the prisoner meeting the Czar one day during one of his solitary walks in the Summer Garden, threw herself at his feet, averring her son's innocence, and imploring his pardon. The Czar seemed to be profoundly touched. He raised the old lady with the most courteous and pitying deference, and promised her to reconsider her son's case, and to have a personal interview with him. Nicholas was true to his word. The very next day the prisoner was brought out of his cell, and a few moments later, he stood alone before the Emperor. The latter took him by the hand, led him before an image of the Saviour suspended in a corner of the room, and forcing him down on his knees, exclaimed: "Can you swear before the Almighty God that neither you nor your associates had any criminal design against my life? Can you swear that you believe in the holiness and eternity of the Russian autocracy?" As soon as the prisoner had recovered from his unbounded surprise, he answered: "I can swear to your Majesty that neither I nor any of my friends had the remotest design against your safety. As to the autocratic form of government, I cannot conscientiously swear that I believe in its eternity. The history of other countries teaches us that the time must come, even in Russia, when the people itself will take part in its government." The Czar answered not a syllable, embraced the young man with almost paternal tenderness, and drawing a ring from his own finger, gave it to him, saying: "This is a token of respect from your Czar. You have been sincere and truthful to me; and there is nothing I hate so much as a lie." He then approached his writing table, on which the sentence of the court concerning my relative was lying, and with one stroke of the pen negatived the paper!

"I pity you from the bottom of my heart," he said; "you are an honest man, and an honest man, true to his convictions, is more dangerous to autocracy than an unprincipled rascal. Therefore I must punish you, though never was this duty more painful to me than now. God bless you, my son, and judge me mercifully if I should appear to be in the wrong."

And, once more embracing his victim, he led him to the door.

This story, every particular of which I have heard from my relative himself, who, at the beginning of the present reign was pardoned and returned to St. Petersburg, depicts vividly the peculiarities of Nicholas' great but entirely deranged mind. The holiness of his position as defender of autocracy became a mania, a fixed idea, for which he would have sacrificed his life as he did those of others, if the occasion of doing so had presented itself. Nicholas might have been called the "Brutus of autocracy." Like all the Princes of the Romanoff family, he had received but a miserable education. Accustomed from childhood to deal either with fawning courtiers or with severely-disciplined soldiers, he considered a soldier the ideal of a true citizen, implicit obedience the only civic virtue, and a barrack the model of political organization. In his mind a spirit of military discipline was to pervade the whole country. The free will of each citizen was limited by the scope of his private life. In all public matters the "holy power" of the Czar reigned paramount, and not only criticism, but a plain discussion, even a thorough knowledge, of such matters, on the part of a private citizen, was considered criminal.

GUNPOWDER.

Nature.

It has, of late, grown to be an axiom that the larger the gun the larger must be the grains of powder. A large grain of gunpowder burns slow because the fire is sometime reaching the centre, and a slow burning powder is what artillerists require for rifled guns. In a smooth-bore weapon the cannon-ball fits loosely, and may be expelled at a bound; but in rifled cannon the shot, so to speak, moves upon a sort of railway, and it would never do to get the shot into motion too suddenly. An undue strain would be exerted upon the gun, while the velocity of the shot would not be increased. For a rifled gun, therefore, a slow-burning charge is absolutely necessary, and this is to be secured only by reducing the surface to be kindled. In the case of the prismatic powder, the grains, if they may be called by that name, are so closely packed that no fire can get between them, and hence the action of kindling is still further reduced. Not only is the shape and density of powder grains now attracting particular attention, but the percentage of moisture contained in the material has also lately been understudy. The amount of water in gunpowder, even to the minute extent existing in ordinary samples, is found to influence combustion in a very marked degree, and nothing but an exhaustive series of trials can give sufficient data for practical application of so important an element in the science of explosives. In the meantime chemists are pointing out yet another source of uncertainty in the combustion of gunpowder, to which, notwithstanding their repeated warnings, but little attention has hitherto been given. We mean the composition of the charcoal. According to the manner of preparing this, the method adopted for charring and the material employed, so does the chemical composition of the charcoal differ. Some samples, for instance, prove on analysis to contain 85 per cent of carbon, while others have 20 per cent. less; it is scarcely to be expected that gunpowder made from the two kinds will have the same burning qualities, and yet with gunpowder manufacturers charcoal is charcoal, no matter how much its component parts of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and ash may differ. It is of little use, therefore, paying any particular attention to the physical qualities of gunpowder so long as its chemical composition is almost entirely ignored.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Gen. McClellan, Governor of New Jersey, in his message to the Legislature of that State, gives utterance to the following words on the subject of public Education. They are universal in application, and worthy the study of the thoughtful:—

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

As our institutions are based upon the supposition that all males of mature age participate in the affairs of Government, as electors at least, all will agree that the Government should in some way assure itself that all citizens possess sufficient intelligence to enable them to perform properly at least their lowest duties as citizens. It will probably be conceded that it is the duty of the State to insist that all children shall be thoroughly instructed in reading, writing, composition and arithmetic, with a pretty accurate knowledge of the geography, constitution, and history of our own country, together with a general acquaintance with the history and geography of other countries. Thus much, at least, in the way of preparation for their political duties. But if the duty of the State terminates here, its interests do not, and the question at once arises as to how far it can safely go, or, perhaps, what is the least it can properly do, in the direction of preparing its youth to become useful and industrious citizens, skilled workmen, producers of wealth. It would appear to be a sound proposition that, having reached the limit of the subjects as to the necessity of which all agree, further progress in education should, in a great measure, be regulated by the probable future pursuits of the majority of the pupils in the different localities. For example, in an agricultural region, where most of the boys will probably become farmers, it would seem natural to turn their studies in the direction of farming pursuits. They might be taught enough of the fundamental principles of the science of agriculture to enable them afterward to pursue the study of agricultural chemistry and economy, enough of the principles of mechanics to enable them to learn how to detect the difference between a good and bad machine, enough of the principles of engineering to enable them afterward to learn the best method of draining and the use of materials in rural construction, &c. So, in the larger cities, where manufactures and the mechanic arts flourish, their instruction might well be turned in those directions without in any case attempting to convert the public schools into technical schools. I can see no harm, but much good, as probably resulting from devoting a little time in the public schools to the practical instruction of the girls in some of those branches of domestic industry which can easily be taught and are most certain to prove useful to them in the households over which they will eventually be called to preside. The purpose of public school education ought to be to furnish the boys and girls with the tools of education, and teach them how to use them in educating themselves for their various pursuits in life. It is clearly good political economy in the State which educates its children, to make that education tend, in some measure at least, to the benefit of the commerical and other industries of the State.

Scissorial Scintillations.

The Southern Methodists added about 50,000 to their membership in 1878.

More than $270,000 was raised in Great Britain for the relief of the famine sufferers in China.

In 43 Methodist churches in Philadelphia there are 283 classes, with 11,178 members. Of this number only 5,219 attended class-meetings last year. This shows how the Methodist class-meeting is decaying.

The nuns of the Ursuline Convent burned near Columbia, S. C., as alleged, by Federal forces, are getting everybody in the State to sign a petition to Congress for an appropriation of $100,000 to reimburse them.

One-seventh of the population of North Carolina are members of the Baptist Church. About half of the number, 160,000, are colored people, who added to their churches last year 9,000 members.

The Edinburgh Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland has passed a resolution recommending the Synod to declare that marriage with a deceased wife's sister shall no longer be a bar to membership in the Church; but British law is against it, nevertheless.

The debt of the Southern Methodist Publishing House, at Nashville, Tenn., is $300,000, which matures the 1st of July. The assets are estimated at $280,000, but it is not believed that more than $100,000 could be obtained at public sale. To meet the debt about $100,000 has been raised on bonds.

At the suggestion of Rabbi Samuel Sonnenschein, the Synagogue of Shaare Emeth, St. Louis, was tendered to the congregation of the Second Baptist Church, whose edifice had been destroyed by fire, for Sunday services. The offer was gratefully accepted, and the pastor, Dr. Boyd, celebrated the Lord's Supper in the synagogue.

The Darwinian theory that the heaviest and finest seeds tend to produce the finest plants has found support in the observations and tests made by Mr. A. S. Wilson on turnip seeds. Large seeds gave a product of 2 pounds 7 ounces per seed, against 2 pounds 14 ounces in the case of small seeds.

The forthcoming Baptist *Year Book* for 1879 will show that there are now in the United States 2,102,034 Baptists, an increase of nearly 78,000, with 1,075 associations, 24,499 churches (an increase of about 600), and 14,954 ordained ministers, an increase of 388. The baptisms for the year numbered 102,736.

The Belgian Chamber has taken in hand for investigation a church scandal in Brussels, to the effect that the city clergy have promised to say more masses for the release of souls from purgatory than was possible, and sublet part of the contract to rural priests who charge only half price. It is said that the middleman has cleared $17,000.

Rev. Eugene A. Fruenauff, of Bethlehem, Penn., a prominent Moravian minister, is dead, at the of 72. He was elected last Fall as one of the delegates to the General Synod at Herrnhut, Germany, having been also a member of the last General Synod, which met in 1857. He had charge many years of Linden Hall, a denominational school.

The United Brethern in Christ, a Methodistic denomination, reports for 1878, 46 annual Conferences, 4,187 organized churches, 152,231 members, 2,152 ministers, 3,060 Sunday-schools, and 153,159 Sunday-school scholars. The Church has 12 educational institutions and a Biblical seminary, sustains a prosperous mission in Africa, and is engaged in the prosecution of Home Missions.

There are now in Japan 106 Protestant missionaries and 44 organized churches. Of the congregations, 12 are wholly self-supporting and 26 partly so. The number of native church members is 1,617, who contributed last year $3,552. There are three theological schools, with 109 students, and 9 native ordained preachers, with 93 assistants. The Presbyterian Mission churches are already talking of sending a missionary to Corea on their own account.

Several denominations are very strong in Virginia, a very large proportion of whose population are church-members. The Methodist Episcopal Church South has 901 churches and 107,030 members; the Baptists, 1,225 churches and 184,026 members; the Presbyterians, 259 churches and 23,265 members; the Episcopalians, 135 clergymen and 12,345 communicants; the Lutherans, 153 churches and 13,400 communicants; the Disciples of Christ, 140 churches and 12,500 members; the Roman Catholics, 26 churches, 25 chapels, and 17,000 adherents.

During the past year the American and the British and Foreign Bible Societies have issued 3,859,376 copies of the Scriptures, an increase of nearly 300,000 over the previous year. The two societies also sent out the Bible, in whole or in part, in 64 new translations. In Russia 740,023 volumes, in 60 different languages, were distributed, and in Turkey 61,508 volumes, in nine languages. Following are the figures of the distribution carried on by the two societies in Roman Catholic countries and heathen lands: India, 313,616 volumes; China, 159,193; Japan, 61,393; Italy, 32,825; France, 131,163; Servia and Roumania, 1,8,179; Spain, 63,333; Austria, 274,331; Germany, 46,108; South America, 55,325; Mexico, about 30,000.