

THE STANDARD.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1888.
The Farm and Fireside.

Sowing Mixed Wheat.

M. de Vilmorin, says the Mark Lane Express of England, advances some cogent arguments in favor of a practice seldom followed in wheat cultivation in England—the sowing of mixed seeds. He observes that it has been established by numerous experiments that the sowing together of two distinct kinds of wheat gives almost invariably a better yield of grain than would have been obtained from the same total quantity of either kind sown separately; and, speaking of France, he says that skillful cultivators often employ mixtures of seed corn. In support of this practice it is remarked that each variety of wheat differs from all others not only in its external characters, but to some extent in the manner of its nourishment, in its special needs, and in the proportions of the materials it draws from the soil—slight differences, it is true, and yet sufficient to exercise a distinct influence upon the yield. It has been truly observed in criticism of too thick seeding that the most powerful enemy the wheat plant has to compete with is the wheat plant itself. This is particularly the case if the plants which find themselves in strife belong to the same variety, for the roots of each plant are continuously in contact with those of adjacent plants, which at the same time and at the same depth are seeking in the soil precisely the same food. If, however, two different varieties have been sown together the competition will be less severe for each. Another advantage of sowing mixed seed is that it yields in general a grain of better appearance, and this is especially the case when a white or yellow grain is sown with a red one or a soft-grained variety with one of which the grain is horny or polished.

Fall Pruning Grape-Vines.

I advise the practice of fall pruning of grape-vines over that of spring pruning, writes a correspondent of *Vick's Magazine*. I do this because in the fall the ground is hard and firm, and as grape-vines are often a part of the garden fruitage it is more desirable to stand upon a dry, firm soil while pruning than upon a wet one, as is often the case in spring. Then, too, the weather is more propitious. In the spring the weather is frequently so unfavorable, even until quite late, that outdoor work is almost always delayed. The cutting winds of March are far more severe than the temperature of November, and one not accustomed to great exposure frequently dreads to perform this labor at a season as early as necessary. The weather, however, would furnish but a shallow reason were it the only one, but it is not. My vines have done better the next season after fall pruning, and this fact is worth more than a thousand theories and opinions. I am not aware that any exact experiments have been made to test this point. In my own practice the difference is sufficiently marked to warrant my adhesion to fall pruning, but if the product of the vines is not greater the advantages are still with fall pruning.

The Farmer's Pest.

Rats and mice are among the most vexatious and destructive of all enemies that beset the farmer, and careless people who leave litter in old buildings in which they can shelter and breed are guilty of a serious nuisance. The best checks upon them are metal and neatness—the former to come between them and all crib, granary and feed-room stores, and the latter which prevents their finding anything eatable lying about. Dogs and cats trained to hunt them soon make their quarters too uncomfortable, and they suddenly vanish to other safer places, where food is not so shut up. They cannot endure copperas, and are said to leave when it is strewn about, put in their holes, or used in the whitewash.—*New York Tribune*.

The Queen of England never sends her personal correspondence through the regular mail as her subjects do. Every trivial communication, whether of a personal or private nature, is delivered at its destination by a Queen's messenger. She is the only European sovereign who does this.

THAT VICIOUS OLD BUCKET.

How fresh in my mind are the scenes of my childhood, As fond recollections present them to view—
The cow-stall, the pig-pen, the ten cords of firewood,
And all the tough chores that I had to go through.
The weeds in the garden, the stones in the stubble,
The errands to run, and the white beans to shell;
And when I'd already a surplus of trouble,
The bucket that viciously dropped in the well—
The rotten-roped bucket, the iron-bound bucket,
The confounded bucket that dropped in the well.

After trading all day in the wake of a harrow,
The team I must water ere getting my grab;
Cross, footsore and tired clear into the morning,
I'd seize on the windlass to fill up the tub
So downward that bucket demurely meandered,
And then with hard lugging it to "rose from the well;"
But ere I could dump it the rope had disbandled,
And spang to the bottom the "tar-nald thing fell!"

Then with grapples and "creepers" and like botherations,
I bent over the well like a capital A,
And mingled my tears with devout invocations,
I sprinkled them down as I angled away.
How it caught—and slipped off—and at last caught securely!
I pulled with a joy that my words cannot tell;
And I hugged, not for love, but to hold it more surely,
The mud covered bucket that rose from the well.
The slippery old bucket, the rotten-roped bucket,
The mud covered bucket that rose from the well!

Uncle Sam's Whitewash.

Excursionists who travel along the sea coast in summer are often attracted by the remarkable whiteness of the lighthouse, beacons and keepers' dwellings, and they wonder how these guides to the mariner are kept in such a shining condition during the winter as well as summer. The material used is simply whitewash, and here is the United States government formula for mixing a whitewash that when properly made and applied gives a white that does not easily wash or rub off.

To ten parts of best freshly slaked lime add one part of the best hydraulic cement. Mix well with salt water and apply quite thin.—*New York Sun*.

A Pretty Gelatine Pudding.

A pretty pudding, which tastes somewhat like Charlotte russe and is very ornamental for dessert, is made according to the following recipe. Pink gelatine is used for best effect, but the ordinary gelatine will do. With the yolks of four eggs, a pint of milk and sugar to taste; make a boiled custard. Having soaked one-third of a box of gelatine in a little cold water for a few minutes, dissolve it with three-fourths of a cupful of boiling water. When the custard is cool, add the gelatine and the whites of four eggs beaten stiff; flavor with vanilla, stir all together and put into a mold.

A Convenient Recipe for Mince Meat.

The following recipe by Mrs. Henderson will be found convenient for making two or three mince pies from the remnants of a roast of beef: One cupful of chopped meat (one-quarter of it fat), two cupfuls of apple, one teaspoonful of salt, one tablespoonful of ground allspice, half a teaspoonful of ground cinnamon, half a teaspoonful of ground cloves, one cupful of sugar, half a cupful of raisins, half a cupful of currants, one cupful of cider, or, if one has no cider, use the same amount of cider vinegar and water mixed—say one-half of each.

A Table of Nutriment.

A pint of white beans, weighing one pound, and costing 7 cents, contains as much nutriment as three pounds and a half of roast beef, costing 87 cents. Of all the articles that can be eaten, the cheapest are bread, butter, molasses, beans and rice. A pound of corn meal goes as far as a pound of flour. If corn and wheat were ground, and the whole product, bran and all, were made into bread, 15 per cent. of nutriment would be saved, with much greater healthfulness.—*American Analyst*.

A new appointed cleric in a county court in Australia, where there are many Chinese, was ordered by the Judge to summon a witness to the stand. "Call for Ah Song," was the command. Pat was puzzled for a moment; he glanced dryly at the Judge, and found him as grave as an undertaker. Then, turning to the spectators, he blandly simpered: "Gentlemen, would any of you favor his Honor with a song?"

Time flies and stays for no man. The only fellow who can beat it is the musician.

Wit and Humor.

Toast to the Old Mare.

Our scientists are sometimes up to tricks, but they have a purpose that makes the tricks sometimes far reaching in result. It is quite possible something may come of a dinner lately given by Dr. Rush Huidekoper, chief of the veterinary school of the University of Pennsylvania. The dinner was given to a number of his friends, at the Philadelphia club. The doctor has long owned a famous gray mare, named Pandora. At the dinner one of the principal dishes was on the card as "filet a la Pandora." It was eaten and pronounced superb, leading to many inquiries. The doctor quietly waited till all had partaken and approved, when he congratulated himself that his favorite mare was as popular as ever with his friends; "for," he said, "you have just eaten her." No revulsions of feelings or sentiment are reported; only the toast to the old mare was drunk in silence. There is no reason known or namable why horse flesh should be wasted any more than cow's flesh. In France the old prejudice is pretty well used up.—*Globe Democrat*.

Bound for the Gallows.

We attended church the other evening in company with Hank Rifer's oldest girl, Sarah. When the contribution box was passed we intended to chip in a quarter, but got hold of a dollar by accident. After the services we went to Deacon Jagers, who runs the box, and requested seventy-five cents rebate. He refused to make it, saying the Lord never allowed discounts or rebates. The deacon being this sort of a man, the Kicker does not hesitate to record the fact that he broke jail at Akron, O., twelve years ago, and is still wanted in that State for bigamy. We have been keeping still on him because we were trotting Sarah about, and because the deacon claimed that he was doing work for the Lord in this locality. We have given Sarah the shake, and we shall now stand the deacon out to the public in a way that will make him anxious to move before Christmas.—*Arizona Kicker*.

He Got It Bad.

"Look here, old man," said a young lawyer to a more successful professional brother as he rushed into the latter's office one afternoon. "I want \$5, and I want it bad!" The money was forthcoming, and the unfortunate young limb of the law tucked the bill into his pocket and flew out of the door. The next morning he returned in a great state of excitement and exclaimed: "Say, that bill you gave me yesterday was a counterfeit, and it came near getting me into trouble." The friend swung around in his chair and answered: "Well, you said when you rushed in here that you wanted it bad, and I gave it to you that way."—*Albany Journal*.

The other day an Irish tramp, through mistake, went into a young lawyer's office, and asked him to give him a bit of something. The young lawyer, who was reading an article on astronomy at the time, thought he would have some fun, and asked the Irishman if he would like to get an asteroid. "No, indeed," said the Irishman, "I don't want an ass to ride, and if I did, you would be too wako to carry me." That lawyer don't offer asteroids now, particularly if green looking Irishmen are hanging around loose.—*Wilson Mirror*.

The Tarboro Southerner has the following conversation, overheard between a white man and a negro: "De tariff had nothin' to do wid de nigger vote. We didn't vote agin low tariff."
"Yes you did," said the white man. "On a suit of clothes costing twenty dollars you have to pay a tariff tax of eight dollars."
"No Sah!"
"Why?"
"Why? when a nigger buys de suit he gits it for six dollars. De white man has already worn de tariff off'n 'em."

The editor of an esteemed contemporary wonders how he will get his clothes on over his wings when he gets to heaven. Don't worry on that score, dear brother. You may sometimes find difficulty in getting your boots on over your cloven hoofs, or making your hat cover your horns, but don't bother about the wings.—*Minneapolis Tribune*.

Speaking of doughnuts, an exchange says the quickest way to digest them is to eat only the ho's and throw the rest away. Despite this suggestion, the whole of the doughnut will be eaten as usual.

A suit department.—A courtroom.

A scratch race.—A yard fowl.

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