

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY. J. W. GOLEN, Editor and Proprietor. JOB PRINTING. DOME AT THIS OFFICE, SUCH AS Bill Heads, Letter Heads, Monthly Statements, Posters, Programmes, Circulars, Business Cards, Labels, &c., &c., printed with neatness and dispatch, and at bottom prices. SEND ALONG YOUR ORDERS.

The Union Republican

DEVOTED TO POLITICAL, AGRICULTURAL, MISCELLANEOUS AND RELIGIOUS READING. VOL. 8. WINSTON, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1879. NO. 4.

TERMS: One copy, one year, \$1.50. Three months, .50. Subscription invariably in advance. RATES OF ADVERTISING: 1 square, one insertion, \$1.00. 1 column, one month, \$18.00. 1 column, three months, \$50.00. 1 column, six months, \$85.00. 1 column, one year, \$150.00. Special notices and advertisements in local column 10 cents a line.

GENERAL DIRECTORY.

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THE FARM AND GARDEN.

New York Times. FANCY BUTTER. The frequent statements published regarding the sales of fancy butter at high prices are doubtless much exaggerated. A few rich and extravagant persons may possibly be found who will pay \$1 a pound for butter made from some fashionable dairy; but the butter probably costs more than that price to the maker, generally a person of wealth, who keeps costly cattle of high pedigree, and all that sort of thing. This happens at Boston more frequently than elsewhere, in which rather "high-toned" city there are persons who will not abide native-grown cane sugar, and consume in their homes only imported sugar made from beet-roots, just as they eat Echo farm or other fancy butter on their Vienna rolls for breakfast. The 34-cent butter is not an article of ordinary trade, and butter-makers should not despair if they can never reach such a price for their equally good product. "Kissing goes by favor," and so does \$1 a pound for butter. FANCY MILK. The writer has recently passed through a fine experience similar to the above. Having a few high-bred, costly cows, a dairy appointed accordingly, the newest and best facilities for keeping milk, and keeping and feeding cows regardless of expense so long as it would bring profit, he tried hard to find customers who would pay a few cents per quart more for the best and purest milk, put up in sealed bottles and handled with the greatest care and cleanliness. This effort was not successful. Not one milk-dealer in the whole City of New York could be found who would undertake the sale of milk so put up at the reasonable price of 10 cents per quart, delivered. Not that there were no persons who could afford to give five times that price for it, but that there was no desire to pay a few cents more for extra purity and excellence in the milk. So that much talked-of "Parisian bottled milk," in New York was driven to earth and found baseless. COMMENTS. This is the season for making composts. Notwithstanding all the opinions of farmers about spreading fresh manure upon the surface, I still adhere to the practice of decomposing manure as much as possible before using it. It should be made in a good way for little more, it becomes mineralized, soluble, and in a condition to be taken up by the roots of plants. If that is so, the riper and more thoroughly decomposed the manure is, the better. There is no more effective method of decomposing it than by making composts. This is done by mixing it with straw, horse manure, and other refuse matter, and bringing up to the stable and the yards what ever manure can be gathered from swamps, leaves and brush from woods, or cleanings of drains, ponds, large houses, &c. I have recently given a job of digging manure from a swamp at 10 cents a cubic yard, a yard being a moderate wagon load. I get the work done at half the former price, and find work for an industrious man who would otherwise be idle. MANURE FOR THE GARDEN. A generous supply of the best and finest of the manure should be kept for the garden. No other part of the farm pays so well as this for liberality. Half an acre of well-kept garden will supply a large family with vegetables and small fruits the year round, and the money value of this cannot be less than \$200 in the year. This source of income is rarely considered in calculating the returns from the farm, but it really amounts to 10 per cent on the large sum of \$2,000, and what farmer ever thinks of valuing his garden at that sum of money. The actual labor spent upon the garden is very little, and hardly worth considering. It is time now to think about getting seeds for the coming season. The dealers' catalogues are prepared, and it is always best to procure what will be needed in good season and while the dealers' stocks are fresh and full. SALT UNLESS AS A FERTILIZER. Salt is of little use as a fertilizer. A cheap grade of salt is used for this purpose. It would be better to use 100 pounds high grade potash sulphate, and 100 pounds of ammoniated superphosphate of lime per acre than the salt. PLASTER. Lead o' all kinds is benefited by plaster. It can do no injury even where it shows no good results. It is always best to procure what will be needed in good season and while the dealers' stocks are fresh and full. WORTH KNOWING. That fish may be sealed much easier by first dipping into boiling water about a minute. That salt fish are quickest and best freshened by soaking in sour milk. That salt will curdle new milk, hence in preparing milk porridge, grives, &c., the salt should not be added until the dish is prepared. That fresh meat beginning to scur will sweeten if placed out of doors in the cool air over night. That clear boiling water will remove tea stains and many fruit stains. Pour the water through the stain and thus prevent it spreading over the fabric. That boiling starch is much improved by the addition of sperm or salt, or both, or a little gum arabic dissolved. That beaver and salt will

SMALL ECONOMIES.

TAKE CARE OF THE PENNY AND THE POUNDS WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM SELVES. One of the first lessons taught us by careful parents is that "a mickle makes a muckle;" still, it is a lesson which few of us "lay up in our hearts and practice in our lives" until we have learned it from bitter experience. The baby must burn its finger before it will dread the fire; the old child is often slow to understand that it cannot eat its cake and keep it too. Some people, indeed, never learn it. Those who, in the general January squaring of accounts stand aghast at the debit side of their bill, and are full of good resolutions for the future, cannot do better than adopt the principle taught in the heading of this article and look well to the pennies. Most of us think twice before making any large purchase; we hesitate to break a ten dollar bill, and yet when the bill is broken it melts away almost imperceptibly. Very few large fortunes have been made speedily; they have been gathered gradually, penny by penny, as the snow-flakes cover the ground. HOW THEY RECOGNIZE IN FRANCE. French thrift and economy are proverbial the world over, yet few persons realize to what an extent that thrift is carried. An American resident in Paris, in making change for some trifling purchase in a small shop, dropped a sou, the fifth of a cent, on the floor. It rolled behind a barrel and could not be found. Two weeks after, in passing the shop door, the shopkeeper called him, and, bowing, held out the coin, "Monsieur, votre sou." Fancy the American's surprise. Yet it is this carefulness in little things, this looking out for pennies, that has made France wealthy and which gives every French girl her *dot*—the marriage portion which is expected with, even the humblest bride. Money is valuable only for what it will buy, and we have no right to endanger our lives and our health for the lack of necessities which we can honestly buy. It is no economy to live poorly. Nature requires a certain amount of nourishment, and if defrauded will revenge herself, probably in diminished working power, if not by a heavy doctor's bill. To save this is penny-wise and pound-foolish. The things to save out of are, shame and self-indulgences—not necessities. Where is the economy in going without coal and eating cake; in wearing thin shoes at the risk of pneumonia and buying cigars; reading by a dim light and injuring the eyesight? The effort to keep up appearances—to make as much display as their wealthier neighbors—is the struggle which is wearing out the vitality of American women, the leak which keeps the purse empty. Very likely those same neighbors laugh at the flimsy pretence, and I would respect them more if they had the courage frankly to own themselves unable to compete with them in dress or display. There is actual waste in buying cheap silks at the price of a good cashmere, while a French man, which can be laundered, will prove more satisfactory as a ball dress and outfit two of those same cheap silks. Unfortunately, however, people are, as a rule, far more willing to dispense with necessities which their neighbors will not know of, than other things which make a show, and the lack of which they fancy will proclaim their poverty. But, after all, it is as pennies that the dollars steal away. If any woman who reads this does not keep an account of her expenditures, however small, let her at once begin to do so. She will be surprised to see how much trifles amount to in the aggregate, while the mere fact of having to set down every penny spent will tend to make her more economical. A MUCH-NEGLECTED DUTY. Every housekeeper is in duty bound to keep her accounts strictly. Without this there can be no system in expenditure. She should be able to tell at once how each month's expenses compare with the others, and also to give a satisfactory reason for any difference; to know what she pays for everything and how much she uses. If groceries are bought by wholesale, which is a considerable saving, keep the barrels where they can be locked up, and have boxes to hold the kitchen supplies. Serving out in small quantities is a great check upon servants; who are apt to think large supplies inexhaustible. To recog-

FAULTS OF OUR SCHOOLS.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN PENNSYLVANIA MAKES SOME RESEMBLE SUGGESTIONS. From His Annual Report. For myself, I have long been convinced that the matter of instruction in our elementary schools is not as profitable as it might be made. A considerable portion of the ordinary text-books in geography might be omitted without loss. Tens of thousands of children are given lessons in arithmetic every day that they cannot possibly understand, and an immense amount of time is thrown away in the attempt to teach the principles of abstract grammar in primary schools. In general, the base of the knowledge imparted in our schools is not broad enough; little children are crammed with abstractions, definitions, formulas and calculations that they cannot be made to comprehend, and the whole work of teaching is thus rendered dull, mechanical and too often fruitless. And not only have we included in our courses of study much that might well be omitted, but we have omitted much that ought to be included. Little children are keen observers. They fairly revel in the world of nature, but our schools for the most part, deny them lessons on objects, animals, plants, minerals, men, and confine them to the dry, formal lessons of the text-books. A public school ought to be a powerful agency in the work of preparing its pupils to succeed in life, and yet the practical application of the branches taught is frequently overlooked, and drawing, the handmaid of so many industries, receives little attention. The theory of our institutions is that all citizens may be made to understand the science and art of government, and, therefore, it is to instruct them with the right of suffrage. But what are we doing in our schools to instruct the young in the history and traditions of our country, its Constitution and laws, the rights and duties of citizens? Then, back of all, and more important than all, is the study of man himself; what he is physically, intellectually, morally; what he is in his relation to his family, neighbors, country, mankind, nature, God. Would it not be well to have some lessons on a subject like this in exchange for the details of the geography of distant countries that will soon be forgotten or for certain half-understood abstractions in grammar and arithmetic? THE COLD WAVE. SOME OF THE CAUSES WHICH PRODUCE IT—BECOMING MORE FREQUENT. The climate of the United States, and especially the Eastern portion of it, is subject to great and rapid changes. These are caused, in many instances, by the large extent of land surface over which its territory extends and the difference in the amount of solar heat received in different parts. When large bodies of snow have been deposited in the North, the wind blowing over them is deprived of its heat, and a lower temperature is the result. When winds from more southerly latitudes come, the reverse takes place. The vicinity of the large oceans which margin the continent of North America on the West and East also tend to produce a change, water parting with its heat less readily than the land. In addition to these, the current of warm water thrown along the east coast of the United States by the Gulf Stream, and in the Pacific by the Sea of Japan, also exert a powerful influence on the climate of the United States. That waves of heat and cold travel in certain directions, and often with increasing rapidity, is generally caused by the course of chains of mountains and the vicinity of oceans and lakes. In the States east of the Alleghenies, clouds loaded with rain or snow generally come from the East or North, while in the great valley of the Mississippi the cold wave usually has its origin in the ice and snow-covered countries directly north, and periods of drought by winds from the South. In European countries the cultivation of the soil and the removal of timber have produced important climatic changes, and the same has been noticed in the United States. Our winters, probably, have not so much severe weather as occurred in the early settlement of the continent, but it takes place more suddenly and to a greater extent. This is easily accounted for, as the land, when denuded of timber, presents less obstruction to the advance of storms, and also affords a greater diversity of exposure to its surface to the rays of the sun and becomes more readily and differently heated. As is well known, wind is nothing more

THE CHINESE.

HOW THEY WORSHIP. The Chinese have a Large Joss house on Pine street, San Francisco, where I once attended a religious festival, or what should compare to an enlightened modern church fair, only I saw no one purchasing anything and they did not ask us to take "chances" in any of the articles displayed. They had many long tables or counters covered with all sorts of fancy articles, while the walls and ceilings were hung with the greatest profusion (and apparently the greatest confusion) of pictures, embroderies, fluffing paper and waxing leathers. Ranged around the room and an assorted lot of gods, large and small, principally large—in fact giants in size. They seemed to be only huge frames covered with gilt or colored paper and richly dressed in silks and satins. Their bustness was so apparent that I could but wonder at the looks of rapé awe and reverence with which the Chinese stood before them. At one end of the room, on a raised platform, sat the musicians. They were playing on Chinese fiddles, which somewhat resemble the banjo, only they have but three strings and the body is a solid block of wood. You can readily imagine that the sound made by these instruments is not deafening. At intervals they closed their eyes and sang something that seemed to have neither time nor tune. No two of them sang together. From their stinging lamps that emitted a dense smoke, which had the effect of making the visits of Americans anything but lengthy. The building is four stories high and each floor was almost a counterpart of the first. This fair is kept up for several days, during which they do as little work as possible. Their New Year is a great religious holiday, which seems to consist of much feasting and firing of crackers. This festival lasts about three days, and on the last day they build a huge figure which resembles an overgrown Chinaman. With great din of horns and trumpets and bursting of bombs, in fact anything that will make a noise, they frighten all the evil spirits into this image and then set it on fire. The Chinese quarter is then supposed to be safe from the influence of evil for another year. It is a part of a Chinaman's contract, when he leaves his native land, that his bones shall be returned to him on a foreign shore. This is a contract to have some effect on his future prospects, consequently the custom is rigidly adhered to. As it would be expensive and inconvenient to embalm and forward separately every one who dies, they have burial grounds where hundreds are deposited and left until kind nature has transformed the flesh into dust, when the bones are disinterred and put in large boxes, dozens of skeletons in each one, and in that manner tons of them are shipped at one time. QUEEN VICTORIA'S APPLES. From the Savannah News. D. G. Purse, our well-known fellow citizen, received on Saturday, from a friend at Calpepper C. H., Virginia, a barrel of the celebrated Albemarle apples, noted for their delicious flavor and for the historical reputation they enjoy. When Hon. Andrew Stevenson was Minister to England under the administration of President Martin Van Buren, he presented her Majesty Queen Victoria with a barrel of these apples, which are grown only in Albemarle county, Virginia. Her Majesty was so much pleased with the fruit, and so greatly enjoyed their peculiarly delicious flavor that she had an act of Parliament passed admitting the Albemarle apples into Great Britain forever thereafter free of duty. We learn that since then large quantities of them are shipped to England every year from the county of Albemarle, and are highly prized and command ready sale, being sent to England upon which duty is not paid. Those of Mr. Purse's friends who have sampled some of the fruit he received express no surprise that England's Queen should have been so well pleased with them, as their flavor is certainly delicious. They are of medium size and very firm.

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

make your rusty flat-irons as clean and smooth as glass. Tie a lump of wax in a rag and keep it for that purpose. When the irons are hot, rub them first with the wax rag, then scour with a paper or cloth sprinkled with salt. That line of time at and kerosene mixed in equal proportions and applied to bedsteads is an unfailling bug remedy, and that a coat of whitewash is ditto for a log house. That kerosene will make your tea kettle as bright as new. Saturate a woolen rag and rub it with it. It will also remove stains from the clean varnished furniture. That cold rain water and soap will remove machine grease from washable fabrics. HOLDING THE BEAR. The beautiful constellation of the Great Bear, even it has contributed less to the safety of navigation and the extension of commerce and civilization than the Great and the Little Bear, which constantly adorn the northern sky. FAULTS OF OUR SCHOOLS. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN PENNSYLVANIA MAKES SOME RESEMBLE SUGGESTIONS. From His Annual Report. For myself, I have long been convinced that the matter of instruction in our elementary schools is not as profitable as it might be made. A considerable portion of the ordinary text-books in geography might be omitted without loss. Tens of thousands of children are given lessons in arithmetic every day that they cannot possibly understand, and an immense amount of time is thrown away in the attempt to teach the principles of abstract grammar in primary schools. In general, the base of the knowledge imparted in our schools is not broad enough; little children are crammed with abstractions, definitions, formulas and calculations that they cannot be made to comprehend, and the whole work of teaching is thus rendered dull, mechanical and too often fruitless. And not only have we included in our courses of study much that might well be omitted, but we have omitted much that ought to be included. Little children are keen observers. 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In European countries the cultivation of the soil and the removal of timber have produced important climatic changes, and the same has been noticed in the United States. Our winters, probably, have not so much severe weather as occurred in the early settlement of the continent, but it takes place more suddenly and to a greater extent. This is easily accounted for, as the land, when denuded of timber, presents less obstruction to the advance of storms, and also affords a greater diversity of exposure to its surface to the rays of the sun and becomes more readily and differently heated. As is well known, wind is nothing more

GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE.

The Focooloo (China) Methodist Conference reports 1,354 members (increase, 119), and 950 probationers (decrease, 116). The churches raised over \$700. The Central Tennessee Conference, a colored Methodist body, reports 5,103 members, 78 local preachers, 93 churches, and 97 Sunday-schools, with 3,945 scholars. Rev. David Pense, a Baptist minister, 95 years of age, died recently at Ashfield, Mass. He was a prominent Abolitionist and a co-worker with Gerrit Smith and William Lloyd Garrison. The total of British contributions last year to foreign missions is set down at \$5,508,965. Of this amount, \$38,165 was raised by the Catholics, and \$2,330,865 by Church of England societies. Several Southern Methodist Conferences have recently met and reported statistics. The West Virginia Conference has 14,187 members; the Virginia, 54,446; the Illinois, 6,313; the Missouri, 26,364. When John Wesley died, in 1791, he left 70,000 followers in England. Since then, the smallest decennial increase has been 25,419. The increase for the last decade has been 32,405, and the original number has been multiplied by five. The Paris Exposition was attended, during the six months from May to November, by 64,044 English, 23,524 Germans, 21,419 Belgians, 14,550 Americans (U. S.), 14,550 Italians, 13,284 Swiss, 10,234 Spaniards, 9,072 Austrians; giving a total of 170,677 visitors of nationalities other than French. The King of Belgium, in his speech from the throne, says, concerning public schools, that "teaching given at the expense of the State must be placed under the effective surveillance of the civil authority." This is one of the propositions condemned by the Pope. A recent decision of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in a church union case, affirms that churches holding the same faith and order, but forming distinct denominations, may unite if their Assemblies so agree, and that all rights of property will remain unchanged, and will pass to the church formed by the union. The statistical reports for the Protestant Episcopal Church, just compiled, show that there are 48 dioceses, 18 missionary districts, 133 bishops, 8,333 clergymen, 2,900 parishes, and 312,718 communicants. The last item shows a very large increase. During the year, 66 clergy men died and 193 were ordained—93 as deacons and 100 as priests. The baptisms numbered 42,054 and the confirmations 25,190. The total of contributions was \$5,738,268. In the Sunday-schools there were 265,555 scholars. Dr. J. M. Anders maintains that a large proportion of the vapor that rises into the atmosphere may be accounted for through the process of transpiration from plant life, when there is about from 25 to 30 per cent of wood and in a country, and on this ground, considers that the practice of forest culture should be highly commended as a means of improving atmospheric conditions. Mantegazz confirms Darwin's statement that the posterior molar, or wisdom tooth, is tending to become rudimentary in the more civilized races of mankind. The examination of the fine craniological collection in the National Museum at Florence showed that this molar was absent in 42.42 per cent of the skulls of the higher races, but it only 19.86 per cent of those of the lower races. At the University of Cambridge, England, mechanical workshops have been fitted up with machinery for the construction of instruments and apparatus to be employed in electrical operations. Good workmen have been employed as teachers. Several University men, who intend becoming engineers, have become members of the classes now formed for regular instruction in the use of tools and machine construction. Japan is pushing ahead quietly but steadily with her industries, and much faster than some people will like. The large cotton mills and spinning factory erected at Sakai several years ago are in successful operation. A report to these establishments reports that the buildings are very substantial, and that they are provided with good machinery. In the factory there were employed about 150 hands. In considering the conditions of successful foreign trade, it will not do much longer for Western nations to overlook the fact that a people of the East are doing for themselves, not only in Japan, but in China and India. The total population of the globe, according to Behm & Wagner's *Bevölkerung der Erde*, fifth publication, just issued, is 1,429,145,300, distributed thus over the great land divisions: Europe, 312,398,480; Asia, 831,000,000; Africa, 206,319,500; Australasia and Polynesia, 4,111,340; and Antarctica, 16,000. Since the first publication of Behm & Wagner's statistics, the estimated population of the earth shows an increase of 15,000,000, and this is assigned in part to the more exact censuses now obtainable, and in part to natural growth. Sir W. Armstrong uses the electric light in the picture gallery of his residence at Cragside, about 18 miles from Newcastle-upon-Tyne. There is an outfit from a lake a mile, and a half from the house, and he uses the water to drive a turbine which communicates motion to a dynamo electric machine. A stout copper wire conveys the electricity to the house, where it is converted into light in a Siemens lamp. Of course, a second wire is employed to take the return current. Although he likes the light well enough, and although the power of the prime mover is a fine thing, Sir William complains of the expense of the entire apparatus. He remarks, therefore, when it is required, to employ an electric engine, to be connected with the wire, and use the motive power thus obtainable for domestic purposes.