THE PATRIOT

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AT GREENSBORO, N. C.

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Established in 1821. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1877. {New Series No. 470.

From the Baltimore Gazette.

CONCERNING CRABS.

CRUSTACEA IN EVERY STYLE

Their Denominations and Transformations—Only Less Numerous than the Sands of the Sea—The Shapes of Crabs and Their Abodes—Something New and Interesting About Crabs.

Mr. Jos. J. Grindall, of this city, who has given much attention to the study of the crab, one of the great staples of the Chesapeake, delivered a very interesting lecture at Broadway Institute, on Thursday evening the 14th inst. upon that subject, in which he gave much that is new and never heretofore published, and which will prove of interest to every naturalist. We give below a summary of the lecture:

CRABS.

Crabs were amongst the first animals that sprung into existence in the far back period when the life giving principle of the Almighty first brooded upon the face of the deep, and swarmed the oceans with its progeny, hundreds of ages before man was created to contemplate them.

Countless myriads had lived and died before the human tongue could give them a name, but there is not now a language spoken on the earth that does not afford a term to designate them.

Their different genera are far more numerous than the types and tribes of the human race, and the individuals of the different species simply defy the power of arithmetic to number them. The have existed through a period of time far more extended than that measured by the generations of man, and are at this moment, as living creatures and fossil remains,

ONLY LESS NUMEROUS THAN THE SANDS OF THE SEAS

which gave them birth; and their shells, together with those of other crustacea and moluska, now not only bestrew the depths of ocean from pole to pole, but are embedded everywhere in the towering mountains and grassy valleys of the solid earth, and furnish the material called marble, from which we erect the monumental shaft over the remains of our friends and kindred, vainly aspiring and striving, by heaping death upon death, to make at least their memory immortal. The crab is an order of a class of articulated animals. The term refers to the division of their limbs into articles or sections by exterior joints. Marine articulated animals which are covered with a crust or shell are marshalled under the head crustacea, in allusion to that covering.

The division crustacea is again divided into two general classes.—The first of these is what is termed by Cuvier the malacostraca. Of this there are several orders, the first four of which embraces the genus cancer, or crab proper. Under this head our crab is known as a decaped, or

TEN FOOTED MALACOSTRACÆ.

There are many species of crabs inhabiting the tropical seas which present a variety of beautiful colorings quite as striking and remarkable as any that are traced upon the conchs, the birds or the flowers, developed in those favored regions. But their shells are not transported as curiosities because they are so fragile, and easy to crumble under the action of the atmosphere. The animal is far too numerous, and its families too diversified upon land and sea, to admit of any restriction upon the general law of variety in which nature seems so to delight, and step by step it covers every stage of demarcation between the extremes of beauty and the most beastial ugliness. It will range in size, when completely adult from the dimensions of a small field bean to the enormous size of *three and a half feet* across the shell (a specimen of the cancer pagurus of that size being now on exhibition in the British Museum,) and the probable weight of three hundred pounds.

THE SHAPE OF CRABS.

In reference to shapes, there are quadrilateral crabs, globular crabs, oblong crabs, spheriodical crabs, diamond crabs, triangular crabs, and crabs of almost every conceivable variety of profile.

There are a swimming crabs, running crabs, crawling crabs, burrowing crabs and climbing crabs.

There are no flying crabs that I am aware of but considering that one variety had attained, without wings, to the slopes of towering mountains and the topmost branches of the trees which crown them, if the Darwinian theory could hold water—and crabs too—there was no telling what might not happen in the process of crustacean evolution.

THEIR ABODES

are found everywhere, from the lesser depths of the sea, outward and upward, to the declivitous slopes of the highest mountains.—Some are entirely aquate in their habits, some appear to be amphibious, the land crabs of the migratory sort returning to the sea at intervals, where their young are hatched in the more favorable humidity of the immediate coast.—Among those which are dwellers in the deep, the larger varieties, including the cancer pagurus (the crab of the English Channel,) inhabit the greater, as well as the lesser depths, whilst the smaller kinds, including in the North American waters the brachyura, or short tailed divisions, (which term is used to distinguish them from the macrourus, or long tailed lobster like varieties,) and every family of the callinectes hastatus, which is the term applied to our Chesapeake crab, confine themselves to the shallower waters upon the coast line and its tributary rivers. Nearly all species of crabs may be said to

BE IN NO CASE PARTICULAR ABOUT THEIR DIET,

although some are natural vegetarians. They will, in general, attack and devour with great voracity, living animals—even each other—and do not object to feeding upon the dead, although the subject may be far advanced in putrefaction. If with them it is not fish, it will be flesh, and if neither "fish, flesh nor fowl" the most delicate fruits and vegetables, especially of the tropical climates furnish them a diet, or rather they furnish themselves, strange as it may seem to some, by clambering to the tops of the highest trees and enjoying their repast between earth and sky. There is no species of crustacea more vicious and voracious than the crab, and this latter endowment may be the compensation for the long fasts which nature has fitted, and accident often obliges it to endure.

Although all crabs are perfect gourmands and supplied with a multiplication of jaws, some of them located in the most singular situations, the Jamaica land crab, with his natural instinct for food and these extraordinary means of masticating it, has been known to arrive in England, after a six week's voyage without a morsel to eat on the passage, as cheerful as could be expected and much more lively than agreeable.

This latter variety and its kindred species are most destructive enemy to the sugar plantation—often cutting down whole fields of cane and feeding upon its succulent juices. They are too numerous and vicious to become a prey to dogs; and hogs, though efficient upon hard ground even with rattle snakes, would sink into helplessness themselves in their swampy habitations; and showers of bird-shot have been tried in vain, rattling with a merry sound from their impervious shells, they simply designing to turn

"Clattering their iron teeth
And staring wide with stony eyes,"

and wondering, perhaps, what idiot it was who don't know better than to try to tickle a crab who is always seriously inclined and never known to smile at anything.

Of the climbing crab, Mr. Darwin has examined and reported a species which is most remarkable. It is a decaped, and after climbing to the top of the highest trees is enabled, by its powerful claws, to break through the hard glazed exterior covering of the full ripe cocoanut, to strip its tough and compacted fibres from the interior shell, to pierce that by clearing away the softer matter which closes the eye with which the stem connects, and finally, after imbibing the milky juice, to extract and feed upon the fruit by the aid of an additional pair of

LONG AND DELICATE POSTERIOR PINCERS

occupying the place of the swimming feet of the aquatic varieties. The Malays and Polynesian Islanders frequently rob their nests under the roots of decayed trees, of great quantities of this cocoa-fibre, which has now become an important article of commerce.

The edible crabs in England and America are all decapeds, and belong to the brachyural, or short tailed division, and like the whole cancer family are supplied with a double set of organs.

Being of a fierce and pugnacious disposition nature has provided them with the faculty of suddenly shedding their claws to escape from danger, and also with that of their reproduction, up to a certain period—in the space of about ninety days—when lost voluntarily or otherwise. One writer says that

THE CRAB HAS NO BRAIN,

his instincts being guided by ganglions of highly sensitive nerves.—But another asserts that he has brains enough to be a pretty good surgeon, having been observed whilst in the aquarium, where he had lost a part of a section of a claw, to bite off that section back to the next joint, conscious that the new member must there begin its developement.

Being of a highly carnivorous and voracious nature, they are supplied with a double mouth, having a sort of flexible teeth on the outside, called maxilliary mandables; and besides these another aid to digestion is provided in the lower part of the stomach, at the mouth of what might be called the great colon, in the shape of a third set of grinders. The outer set closes upon the interior mouth, which, in an old Chesapeake channeller, contains two teeth as broad and hard, and quite as long, as any human dent. They are set fronting each other and operate latterally as they do in all invertebrate animals.

The eyes of crabs stand on movable peduncles to afford a greater extent of vision and contain a multitude of facets, each with its separate nerve and pupil, embracing thousands of objects in as many directions.

The ordinary English crab is generally about a foot across the shell, and a furnish a good breakfast for any reasonable Englishman. The California crabs, the cancer magister and productus, are not so large as the English crab, but are much larger than our own.

Our channeller crab was doubtless so designated by our ancestors who settled on the Chesapeake, because of its nearer approach in size to the English channel crab, than the younger and smaller members of the family.

THE COMMON EDIBLE CRAB

on this side of the North Atlantic is divided into several classes of the genus callinectes, ours being known as the callinectes hastatus, to distinguish it from several other divisions, the C. Larratus, Ornatus, Diacanthus, &c. There is no very remarkable difference to the common eye between the eight or ten varieties of the Callinectes, but naturalists have detected it in many minor points.

No one has yet determined with positive certainty the time required for the generation and production of their young, but from what data I have gathered I am convinced that it is about nine months.

A distinguished New England professor not yet in print upon the subject, has estimated the number of young to be 2,000,000 from a single female at one time. The impregnated eggs lodge in a large spongy mass which forms under the apron, where they ripen and discharge the young.

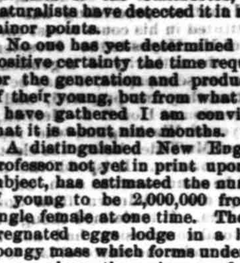
It is not probable that our blue crab endures longer than three years, but it is claimed for the Lymulus Polyphemus, commonly known as the "king crab" that it

WILL LIVE FIFTY YEARS.

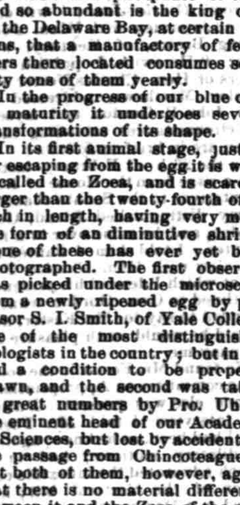
Crustaceans in general will yield from their shells, upon analysis, from sixty to eighty per cent. of the carbonate and phosphate of lime, and so abundant is the king crab in the Delaware Bay, at certain seasons, that a manufactory of fertilizers there located consumes some fifty tons of them yearly.

In the progress of our blue crab to maturity it undergoes several transformations of its shape.

In its first animal stage, just after escaping from the egg it is what is called the Zoea, and is scarcely larger than the twenty-fourth of an inch in length, having very much the form of an diminutive shrimp. None of these has ever yet been photographed. The first observed was picked under the microscope from a newly ripened egg by professor S. I. Smith, of Yale College, one of the most distinguished biologists in the country; but in too bad a condition to be properly drawn, and the second was taken in great numbers by Pro. Ubler, the eminent head of our Academy of Sciences, but lost by accident on the passage from Chincoteague.—But both of them, however, agree that there is no material difference between it and the Zoea of the cancer irroratus, a decaped of the New England coasts, of which the following was exhibited as a correct drawing.



From this stage the first moulting of the shell, which must occur in a very short time, transforms it into what is called the megalops stage, in which it is somewhat larger than the zoea and its legs are seen protruding laterally and its abdomen projecting posteriorly from the shell. The following was exhibited as a correct drawing of the megalops, kindly furnished by Professor Smith, of Yale:



At another moulting it increases in size and enters upon the third stage—the post megalops—in which the abdomen is enclosed in what is called the apron, and folded closely upon the breast or belly, and the shell is extended laterally, presenting somewhat of the eliptical shape of the adult. The following was exhibited as a drawing of the post megalops, received from the same source:

Neither of these latter two stages had ever before been exhibited to the public.

At the next moulting, it assumes the perfect shape of the adult, which is familiar to all, and at that early period is not more than three-eights of an inch across the shell. All these changes take place at very short intervals and occupy probably not more than a lunar month.

These transformations are common to both sexes, but there is another peculiar to the female.

When in the post megalops stage, the apron encloses the abdomen and folds in upon the breast, it assumes a pyramidical shape which it preserves until such time as it is fitted by nature for the reproduction of its species. At this period it assumes by moulting a semi-circular form, and the animal becomes what old fishermen call a "*sow*."

THE MALE AND FEMALE.

The male is distinguished from the female not only by the number of segments or joints in, and the shape of his apron, which is greatly elongated, but also by a difference in the color of the Ductyll or pincers on the feeding claws, those of the male being blue tipped with purple, and those of the female red, tipped with the same color. When overtaken in the change of seasons by a lower temperature than what they consider healthy, they plant themselves promptly in the mud at convenient point and begin their season of hibernation. The first that are brought here during the early spring are lifted from their beds by the oystermen in the region of Lynnhaven bay.

When the process of moulting is over the crab remains from two to three minutes in a perfect state of inertia, but so rapid is the process of revitalization that in from five to six minutes he is able to make feeble efforts at self-defence.

There is no natural or sentimental affection in the nature of a crab, but the males do not destroy the female indiscriminately, sated or hungry or pleased, but only occasionally, and not without some incentive or provocation.

The frequency of moulting cannot be reduced to an uniform rule, as it is necessarily, to a great extent arbitrary with individuals depending somewhat on circumstances. It may take place at any time during their summer life, and even during the earlier stages of their hiber nation, but occurs most generally during the last quarter of the moon. The process itself is nothing short of a natural wonder. For some days previous to its accomplishment a thin integument begins to form between the shell and the interior body, and the seperate coverings of its minutest parts. The whole muscular system becomes watery and relaxed, so that it is capable of great compression without injury to its integrity. Were this not the case it would be impossible for the animal to withdraw itself entire, posteriorily as it does, and extract its legs with their new and delicate integument complete from their more rigid covering, particularly its frontal claws, which are much larger *between* than *at* the joints and could not otherwise be dragged, without injury, through the narrower portions.

When the process is finally completed he is called a soft crab, but he doubtless recoguizes in himself

A WEAK AND NERVOUS INVALID

But it is well for the breed of crabs and the business of crabbers, that he recovers with a rapidity more wonderful than the process which reduced him to helplessness. After from five to eight minutes the vital powers are in full activity, and in about twelve hours the next tide finds him feeling never better in his life, with a shell about the consistency of thin writing paper. In about twelve hours more his shell becomes as hard as what is called "buckram" still yielding and cracking under slight pressure.

In forty-eight hours "Hastatus is himself again," with a shell as hard and an appetite as keen as ever, and going for a good square meal, which is all that he requires to excite in him an admiration of the ways of Providence.

Just previous to his withdrawal from the shell it opens along the back at the basal segment of the abdomen, and under side of the frontal shell, in a line which can be clearly traced, even in the hard state, and when he retires the shall closes again from the front, and to the common observer appears to be still a perfect crab.

It has been aptly said that in this process the crab swallows his own stomach, and in very truth some such physological legerdemain must be the initial stage of exuviation. A close examination of the empty shell will show that he has left a sort of cuticle of every organ in his body, whether lying longitudinally, laterally, or vertically, or whether large or microscopically small, including the stomach, and the grinders which it contains at the bottom, and has literally escaped "by the skin of his teeth."

Important to Drummers.

The State Treasurer, J. M. Worth, Esq., has issued the following circular containing important information to Drummers:

The following section of "An Act to raise revenue," ratified March 10th, 1877, is published for the information of persons to whom it applies, and of Sheriffs and other officers of the counties of the State who have authority to prosecute for penalties under its provisions:

"SECTION 24 *Schedule* B. Every person acting as a drummer in his own behalf, ar as agent for any other person, who shall sell or attempt to sell goods, wares or merchandise not of his own manufacture, or any spirituous, vinous or malt liquors, with or without samples, except agricultural implements or fruit trees, and seeds of all kinds intended for the improvement of agriculture, shall, before soliciting orders or making any such sale, obtain a license to sell one year, from the Public Treasurer, by paying said Treasurer an annual tax of fifty dollars, but shall not be liable to be taxed by any county because of his sales. But any dealer shall pay, when such articles are sold by the retail in this State, the same taxes thereon as are now required by law to be paid by merchants of every class doing business in this State, said tax to be paid to the Sheriff of the county. Any person violating the provisions of this paragraph shall be fined not exceeding fifty dollars or imprisoned not exceeding thirty days, and shall forfeit and pay besides two hundred dollars to the Sheriff, to be collected distress or, otherwise, one half of which shall be accounted for as other taxes, the other half to the use of the informer and the Sheriff equally; and it shall be the duty of all county and township bonded officers to prosecute for penalties under this section."

The exemptions of the section have been enlarged, and are as follows: Goods, wares or merchandise of a manufacturer, sold or attempted to be sold by himself or agent; agricultural implements or fruit trees and seeds of all kinds intended for the improvement of agriculture.

Manufacturers of liquors are not exempt.

A license with the new sections accompaning it will be issued at this office to every party applying for it, which must be in the possession of the party while prosecuting his business, either for himself, or as agent, so as to secure his protection. The licenses will operate one year from their date.

A license can be used by only one person at one time. Every person or house employing more than one agent at the same time, must procure a license for each agent, and a person cannot act for more than one house under one license.

I have cause to believe that many persons have been, and are still, allowed to travel unmolested through the State in the prosecution of their business without having obtained the license.

It is enjoined on the sheriffs and other authorized officers to use proper diligence and legal measures in preventing a violation of this law.

JOHN M. WORTH.
State Treasurer.

The Origin of Man.

(Not from Darwin.)

One of the delightful days of last week a young lady, well known in the exclusive first circles of San Francisco society for unrivaled personal charms and elegance of accomplishments, was driven around to make a congraulatory call upon a married lady friend who was happily convalecing from that occasional sacred event in the lives of wedded ladies, which, far from being a sickness, is the perfect culmination of their health. She was shown into the parlor, and for the few minutes required to arrange for the reception in that room where mother and child were doing as well as could be expected, was left with no other to entertain her than the only son and heir of the house, Master Charles, then in his fourth year. But Charlie was fully equal to the situation, and promises to grow up into an ornament of society that will never be abashed by beauty, however brilliant, into the painful negative of "no conversation." After some unessential preliminary remarks, Master Charles approached nearer the visitor and, lowering his tone into the confidential, asked:

"Miss———, oo dot a baby?"

The young lady gave one swift glance around to assure herself there was no other hearer of this pertinent question, and replied:

"No, Charlie, dear, I have not."

"And did oo never have a baby?"

In spite of the youth of her eager interlocutor her handsome eyes dropped before his ingenuous gaze, and her pretty face flushed as she replied:

"No, Charlie, I never did. Is not this a beautiful day?"

"And ain't oo never doin to have no baby?" persisted Charlie declining to enter on the tempting conversational sidetrack of the weather.

"My boy, I can't tell. Tell me all the names of whom those are the photographs."

"And don't oo want a baby?"

"Why, Charlie, what a close questioner you are. If you are not careful you will grow into one of those newspaper interviewers, and then what will your poor mamma think of you?"

"Because," continued Charlie, utterly refusing to be switched off, "I know where oo tan det one. The doctor brought my mamma one, and he keepth them in hith offith. You juth do down Ellith threet to Martet threet and den oo do down Martet threet to Tarney threet, and den oo do down Tarney threet ever tho far, and den oo do up a lot of thairth and thath where he teeps 'em. And they're awful cheap, too. My papa hathn't paid for my mamma's baby yet, but heth doin' to."

"Well, Charlie, I'm sure I'm much obliged to you for your full directions, and I'll know just where to go."

"Oh Mith———, oo needn't do. I'll tell my papa just ath thoon ath ever he tums home that oo want a baby and he'll det one for oo, and ——."

That young lady seized that little boy by his two shoulders, and, leaning over so as to look full into his eyes, she said, with an impressiveness lent by sudden terror:

"See here, Charlie, listen to me. I don't want any baby yet, and if you ever say anything about it to your papa, I 'll never like you any more at all, at all, never, never, never. Now, will you promise?"

"Well, if oo don't want a baby I won't; but I t'ot everybody liked to have babieth. *I* do."

The interview was here terminated by the entrance of a servant to usher the visitor into the presence of the convalescent lady.—*San Francisco paper.*

Peas should be planted at intervals of a few weeks till mid-summer, to insure fresh supplies for the table. Keep clean and hoe frequently.

Grant as a Bank President.

A Scene During Banking Hours.

[Puck.]

WANTED—Employment by a prominent politician, out of work—no objection to manage a Bank. Address, Ex-President, care of New York Custom House.

It was no secret that Ex-President Grant was the advertiser, and immediately a lively competition ensued among the directors of the various banks to secure his invaluable services. The fourth National was the first in the field, with an offer of a salary of $25,000 a year, with a box of Reinas Victorias daily—and a barrel of Bourbon whiskey a month. Grant entertained this proposal favorably, but would only accept this appointment on condition that Babcock should be engaged as messenger. The directors were willing to give way, but the stockholders, while they were not particular to an extra ten or fifteen thousand dollars a year to induce Grant to accept the presidency of the institution, courteously but firmly refused to have Babcock at any price. The Manhattan Company, the Marine Bank, the Merchant's National, and the Bank of New York made similar offers, but Messenger Babcock was the stumbling-block. Grant, however, would not budge an inch; and at last the "Bulldozers and Carpetbaggers National," by a bold stroke, secured his services on the following terms.

Salary, $75,000 a year, and half the net profits of the bank, with whiskey and cigars *ad lib.* The president to have the privilege of appointing all the officers and clerks and Babcock to be engaged as messenger-in-chief. There was tremendous excitement on Wall street, and especially in the Clearing-House, when it was known that Grant had really condescended to accept such a position. Governor Roberson at once proclaimed a public holiday, and special thanksgiving services were held in all churches for the same reason. The directors of the other banks, the presidency of which Grant had refused, could ill conceal their jealousy of the lucky Bulldozers' & Carpet-baggers', which now had transferred to it the best acounts in the city, including those of Henry Clews, Jay Cooke, Duncan, Sherman & Co., and the Boston, Hartford & Erie Railway.

The following are the principal officers under the new regime:

President.
Ulysses S. Grant.
Cashier.
Ex-Secretary Belknap.
Receiving Teller.
J. Madison Wells.
Paying Teller.
Governor Chamberlain.
Messenger-in-Chief.
General Babcock.

* * * * * * *

Scene.—The Bank President's Office. Grant. Belknap.

President Grant (*lighting a cigar and poring over abstract of the balances*).—I can't understand these things. Here, Secretary of the Treas—I mean Cashier Belknap—you'll have to make the figures come right somehow.

Belknap.—I'll try. What about those checks on the "Reporters' and Post Traders'," which they don't want to go to the Clearing-House to-morrow, when they ought to be presented.

President.—Present and fire them at once! No man worthy of office of the President would, &c., &c. *Exit Belknap.*

Enter Wells.

Wells.—Shall I treat these checks (*showing them*) of Zach Chandler's as cash?

President.—Don't bother me. Treat him to whiskey and let him help himself to greenbacks. "Let us have peace." *Exit Wells.*

Enter Chamberlain.

Chamberlain.—William H. Vanderbilt and Jay Gould want to know if you'll lend them ten dollars until to-morrow—they have brought a thousand shares, each, New York Central and Union Pacific, as security.

President.—Certainly not. Have them arrested. "Let no guilty man escape."

Exit Chamberlain.

Enter Babcock.

Babcock.—Mr. President!

President.—Be brief—I'm sick,

Babcock.—I have two or three notes of mine I'd like you to discount.

President.—Discount? Oh! Count what you like—but don't go behind the returns.

Exit Babcock.

Re enter Belknap.

Belknap.—"Reporters' and Post Traders'" has just closed—the checks can't be presented until to-morrow.

President (*furious, shying a box of cigars and a demijohn of whiskey at Belknap's head*)—Just closed! Go and break open that bank—and take the money out of the safe. I'll teach them to shut up at three o'clock. Tell Babcock to order General Ruger to march with troops to burn down their internal old ranche. (*Pants for breath. Aside:*) I really think I'd rather have a third term in the White House than one term here. *Rushes out in despair.*

CURTAIN.

The day laborer must strike for hire wages.

Peaceful sleep is the sheet anchor of health.

Better be upright with poverty than unprincipled with plenty.

There are ten printers in the United States Senate.

A bit of nonsense—One that will not check a horse.

The Cattle for the Farmer.

Every farmer must keep some cattle, and the cost of keeping good cattle is not greater than sorry ones; yet the profit of the former is greater than the latter. In cattle are three things that make them profitable to the farmer. First, their milk and butter qualities; secondly, size for beef and work oxen; thirdly, a hardy, healthy stock, suited to the climate. In a country like ours where milk and butter enter so largely into the consumption of every family, it is astonishing that so little attention is given to milk cows, and while farmers have milk and butter in summer, they let their cows go dry and have neither milk or butter in winter. From neglect they have degenerated, until many of them are worthless for milk and butter; they do not pay for feeding and should not be kept. The sooner slaughtered the better, but a good cow for milk and butter will not only pay for feeding, but, will give a handsome profit in the surplus butter and milk for market or for use in the family. The farmer who raises corn, wheat and hay, as well as cotton, can keep a good cow very cheap by feeding equal quantities of cornmeal and wheat, bran and cotton seed, and with a good supply of hay or fodder, is all that is necessary except the spring and summer pasture. Many years ago a farmer, in speaking of good milk cows, remarked, "I tell you, sir, if you want a good milk cow you must put in her mouth," and many years has convinced me that good feeding makes good cows for milk and butter. Some cows are worthless for milk, and every farmer should keep only such cows as are good milkers in quantity and quality as there is a great difference in quality as quantity. Two gallons of milk from a good butter cow will turn out at least one pound of rich, nice butter, when it will take three gallons of ordinary milk to make one pound. Therefore be careful to keep only such cows as give good, rich milk and plenty of it. Most farmers keep too many milk cows, when a smaller number well kept, will be much more profitable. Then the farmer wants size for beef and work oxen, for every farmer should keep at least one good yoke for farm purposes. He also needs a hardy stock, easily kept and suited to the climate. To gain these desirable qualities take our best common (or grade) cows and cross them with the Jersey or other rich milk stock, and for size cross with best milk stock of the Durham or Short horns. You must remember that—there is not only a great difference between our common or grade cows, but a great difference in the milk and butter qualities as well as size among these improved breeds. And you should look well to the sires from which you breed, because many of them are bred for sale without reference to these qualities. Unless the dams and sires from which they are bred are of the best stock, they will not be much better than scrubs. It is said by experienced breeders, that our common or grade produce all the best qualities of the males to which they are bred. Therefore look at all these things and you will soon have the best farm cattle.

Healthy Poultry.

The birds of the air are never sick; they die either by old age or natural casualties. They choose their food according to the season and their actual wants. Poultry at large upon a farm are supposed to have at command all they need for health and business (the business of producing eggs.) But this is not often really the case, very few farms being able to supply the many things needful. Lime, gravel, sand, good water at will, and a full variety of both hard and soft feed, grain and insects, worms, etc., are seldom found on any one farm.—When they are, and the shelter from extremes of heat and cold (trees in summer and warm housing in winter) are ample, there is no cholera, crup, pip, or other disease.

When a man knows what his farm lacks for his poultry, it is generally easily supplied; but few persons can tell exactly what is lacking. There is one thing, however, which is very important, which nature does not supply and which civilization makes necessary, and that is charcoal to keep the stomach sweet, to prevent indigestion and to maintain a constant good appetite.

Charcoal made of wood does not answer the purpose; it has no taste of food, is not attractive to the fowl, and is seldom eaten. But if any will put an *ear of ripe corn* into the fire till the grains are well charred, and then shell off the corn and throw it to his flock, he will see an eagerness developed and a healthy condition brought about which will make a decided improvement. All pale combs will become a bright red, that busy song which precedes laying will be heard, and the average yield of eggs will be greatly increased.

Improve the Poultry.—Just now is a good good time for our lady readers to increase the value by improving the quality of the poultry. We take it for granted that this is woman's business, as the "sterner sex" universally so regard it. Well, it is a pleasant accupation, this taking care of chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese, and it can be made very profitable, too, by judicious investments in improved stock.

Farming is the foundation of all the arts of civilization, the support of commerce, the ground work of natural wealth, the prop and stay and substratum of public morals and national strength.

A Fort Madison man went into his cow stable the other day, and, by mistake, mixed her up a nice mash in a box full of saw dust instead of bran. The cow, merely supposing the hard times had come and they were all going to economize, meekly ate her supper, and that man never discovered his mistake until the next morning, when he milked that cow, and she let down a half gallon of turpentine, a quart of shoe peggs, and a bundle of laths.