

amount of opposition has been advanced to the traveling of portable engines over arable land, but having got them in the field, apparently doing their work as economically as any of the other systems, and even more so, the more philosophical course is to leave the great practical question at issue to be settled at a bar of experiment."

This is a sensible advice. The traction system will yet be the one adopted, because it is the most simple.—*Scient. American.*

HOW TO CLEAN ANIMALS AND PLANTS OF VERMIN.

The Agricultor publishes a letter from M. Raspail, giving an account of a plan for destroying vermin on animals, and also trees and plants. The process he recommends is to make a solution of aloes, (one gramme of that gum to a little water,) and by means of a long brush to wash over the trunks and branches of trees, with this solution, which will speedily, he says, destroy all the vermin on them, and effectually prevent others from approaching. In order to clean sheep and animals with long hair, they must either be bathed with this solution or be well washed with it. The writer mentions several trials which he had made of the solution with the most complete success, and very strongly recommends it to general use.—*PARIS CORRESPONDENT OF MORNING ADVERTISER.*

THE VALUE OF THE CHINA TREE.

This beautiful shade tree under whose wide spreading branches the Southern people spend so much of their leisure time in the hot summer, [says the Port Gibson Herald,] truly to them one of the greatest blessings of Providence. There is an inviting and welcome look about its refreshing shade, and we hold that man is a misanthrope indeed who loves not the china tree. But the China tree, while it is such a friend to man, is an unrelenting foe to insects and vermin.

Man has no terror about him to hold little ant in his "wild hunt after" something to eat, and in his little pleasure excursions, but in neither his hunting nor pleasure trips, nor in his aspirations for the higher life, will he climb the China tree.—

And the catapillar refuses to grace it with its handsome turnout of butterflies. The tree frog leaps from it as it would from the little urchin armed with a stick for its destruction; and those ear splitting little tormentors, the locust and the cataday, are said to refuse to make melody in its branches.

This repulsiveness about the China tree to insects and vermin, has led some observing and thoughtful persons to experiment with it. Its branches hung about fresh meat will keep off flies. A tea made of its roots is said to be death to garden worms. The skipper fly will not trouble meat which has been smoked with the berry or wood of the tree. Fleas and bed bugs refuse to keep company with its leaves. In fact the China tree needs only the application of the inventive genius of a live Yankee to draw from it some balm for most of "ills that flesh is heir to." Truly the China tree is a great tree—the pride of the South as well as of China.

INTERESTING TO CORN PLANTERS.

A writer in a Memphis paper recommends the subjoined plan for killing crows:

Take a horse hair two inches long, tie a knot at one end, run it through a grain of corn, and throw the grains broadcast over your farms. The crow will swallow the grain—the hair sticks out at the mouth, and produces irritation and inflammation which causes the crow to commit suicide by clawing his throat for relief. This is no humbug.

HOW TO SELECT FLOUR.

1. Look at its color; if it is white, with a slightly yellowish or straw-colored tint it is a good sign. If it is very white with a bluish cast, or with black specks in it, the flour is not good. 2. Examine its adhesiveness: wet and knead a little of it between the fingers; if it works dry and elastic, it is good; if it works soft and sticky, it is poor. Flour made from spring wheat is likely to be sticky. 3. Throw a little lump of dry flour against a dry, smooth, perpendicular surface; if it falls like powder, it is bad. 4. Squeeze some of the flour in your hand; if it retains the shape given it by pressure, that too is a good sign. Flour that will stand all these tests it is safe to buy. These modes were given by old flour dealers, and we make no apology for printing them, as they pertain to a matter that concerns every body, namely, the quality of that which is the staff of life.—*Ohio Farmer.*

A friend that you buy with presents will be bought from you.