The Grant Gift Enterprise.

Shortly after General Grant's election to the Presidency, and immediately after his brief visit to this city, last November, the *Citizen* felt forced to allude to what was then deemed a delicate matter, to wit, the General's reputation as one of the readiest of receivers. We recounted how soon after the close of the war, certain gentlemen in this city subscribed and presented to him the handsome sum of $100,000 in United States securities; how friends had bought, furnished, and stocked a house for him in Washington; how other friends had bought a house for him in Galena; how still other friends had purchased and presented yet another completely furnished house in Philadelphia; and how Grant had been the recipient of libraries, pictures, horses, wines, cigars, dogs, and pretty much everything else worth offering or bestowing—all of which had been freely poured in upon the General and as freely absorbed, till it had come to be understood throughout the country that Grant was ready to take almost anything except advice. The "gifts" which fall to a few men by nature, or come by education, in Grant's case have been compensated in a great measure by the generosity of his friends.

* * * * * *

We have to-day the scandal of a President sitting in the White House, not only as a general receiver of his "old friends," but as the pleased recipient of watever these "old friends" or new acquainatances may bring in the way of gifts, from a bank check to a new pair of boots. The President's "receptions" have a strangely literal meaning. The daily levees at the Executive Mansion are like the Sunday gatherings in the Marshalsea, when the father of that institution, the elder Dorrit, received the "testimonials" of his admirers. But to this scandal must be added the national disgrace of the yet more shameful spectacle of a daily distribution of public offices in actual return for favors received! Grant did not hesitate to unblushingly write to Mr. Washburne that he honored him for services rendered in times past to Grant "individually." It is notorious now that Borie, who was appointed Secretary of the Navy, was a generous contributor to the subscription which bought the Grant house in Philadelphia, and, so far as the public knows, Borie is noted for nothing else, and has no other claim or qualification for his new office. It is equally notorious that another man in the new Cabinet was the giver of a fine library to General Grant, and beyond this claim the man is so little known, even to his own party, that his party papers have not yet decided whether his name is Ebenezer Rockwell, or Samuel Tompkins, or something else. Besides such direct returns for substantial gifts, Grant is conferring favors right and left, a post-office here, a collectorship there, an assessorship elsewhere, upon people whose only qualifications, as confessed by Grant himself, are that they are "old friends," who have given something to Grant, or have rendered some heretofore unrequited favor. Under ordinary circumstances it might be gratifying to see the great beneficiary returning something to his old benefactors, especially if he paid his old debts from his own pockets—but Grant is President of the United States, and the whole nation has a sense of shame in seeing public places prostituted and the public treasury picked for the sake of paying off the personal obligations of the President, or of furnishing the near or remote relations of the Grant and Dent families with easy means of getting their living at the expense of tax-payers. No such disgraceful nepotism as distinguishes the first fortnight of the new administration has heretofore been seen in all the combined administrations since the establishment of the Republic.

The new President may be pachydermatous even to the sharp prods of his own party, but it is to be hoped that the "old friends," the old subscribers, and the relatives of the President's family are few in number and will soon be paid off in full for their friendship, services, presents and relationship. We implore the President, however, for the sake of his position, if not for his own sake, to now close the gift enterprise business so far as it may concern new applicants who may bring a pair of boots in the expectation of carrying away a consulship. Let the barter shop be shut and the executive office be opened for the transaction of public business in preference to private trade.—*New York Citizen, March 20.*

Sprague's Speech.

In the debate in the Senate at Washington on Friday, on the Civil-Tenure act, Senator Sprague made a speech in which he considered the qualifications of the Senate for exercising the appointing power, and specially discussed the probabilities that it would exercise the power honestly. He said:

"I, for one, in looking back upon the past history of this country—and the people, whatever philosophers may say, will come to the same conclusion—have come to believe that your war has not been won for the liberties of any class of people; your war that you have just partially concluded has had no high virtuous principle at the bottom of it. It has had simple contentions for power, for place, and for occupation, commencing here in this body, and permeating throughout the country."

Had a Democrat made a charge so fearful and startling against the party in power, it would be regarded as an exhibition of partisan rancor, and would not have challenged the attention of the people. Now we may believe that it will be considered with something of the study which this terrible arraignment deserves. It ought to be published by every newspaper in the country, and the minds of the people fixed upon the licentiousness and wickedness which govern the national legislature. Unless the people can be made to think upon this subject, and to candidly examine proofs which are presented of the corruption in Congress, the Government will sink, and that speedily, under the monstrous iniquities which it is now made to foster and carry.

Senator Sprague tells the truth of Congress. The people had noble aims in carrying on the war, but Congress was controlled by such motives from the commencement of the rebellion as are stated in the closing of the extract. Such staunch Republicans and members of Congress as Messrs. Hale, Dawes, and others, have given testimony directly bearing on this point and to this effect.

The lives, and blood, and substance of the people were made matters for speculation and barter by Congressmen during the war. Laws were passed and offences were created for the sole purpose of affording spoil to hungry favorite Congressmen, and to create opportunities to plunder. The national capitol was crowded with Lobbyists, fertile in devising schemes to deplete the treasury, and with no more hesitancy in approaching Congressmen with a bribe than if the offer of the money was an honest business transaction. To-day there are thousands of men in the country who, from personal experience, know that the Senate and House at Washington can be bought as women of the street are bought.—*Chicago Times, March 26th.*

About Schuyler.

Mack writes from Washington: "I heard a good and true story about the Hon. Schuyler, which so well illustrates the man, and so faithfully, perhaps, the new Vice-President, that I cannot withhold it from the reading public. Mr. Prescott Smith, the Superintendent of the railroad between Washington and New York, received, during the holidays, a long letter from Schuyler—three whole pages—congratulating him on the management and success of the road, and even praising the rolling stock as the best of its kind. Mr. Smith was beginning to feel very good over such a distinguished commendation, when a few lines from the "yours truly" the milk leaked out of the cocoanut to this effect: It was prefaced by and unpretentious "by-the-by," but was in fact the aim and object of the epistle. Schuyler had been coming from New York to Washton, accompanied by Mrs. Schuyler. He presented his pass, which only named his dear little self, and the conductor refused to amend it so as to include Mrs. Schuyler. He insisted on collecting fare for the latter—whereat the Hon. Schuyler was wrathy, and "merely mentioned the matter" to Mr. Smith "to call attention to this conduct of a subordinate," which, of course Mr. Smith "would not approve." Of course not, except that if the conductor had done differently, he would have been discharged. Then there was another "by-the by," which prefaced the announcement that the Hon. Schuyler was going north shortly and would like a pass to put him through.

A Republican Senator on the Situation.

The following is the telegraphic synopsis of the remarks of Senator Sprague in the Senate on the Tenure-of-Office question, March 24:

Mr. Sprague administered a rebuke to the galleries for laughing at him the other day for saying they reminded him of the idiotic inmates of a burning dwelling, who laughed at all warning, and perished in the flames.

He would nevertheless repeat his warning. The affairs of the Congress were being mismanaged and ruined by men of the class he had spoken of before (lawyers). The people of England would not tolerate such a state of things. The men who controlled the affairs of England (Gladstone and D'Israeli) were not lawyers; they were men of wider culture, with the instincts of statesmen, fit to control the destinies of a great nation. He had felt deeply interested in the success of the Republican party in the past, and had contributed to it, he thought, as much in character, and a good deal more in money, than other Senators; indeed, he believed that his contribution of the latter kind had been greater than those of all the other Senators combined. When the war broke upon the people without warning and found them unprepared, he had been among the first to rush to the support of the Government; but now there was a great danger pending, and he felt it his duty to warn the people of it. He read a long account of the character and career of the notorious Judge Jeffreys, and of the condition of England in his time, which, he said, was very like the condition at the present time. England at that time was just after a revolution, and the country was thrown under the control of despotic power, and Jeffreys was the eager instrument. Four years ago, this country had come out of a great civil war. Since that time the great work of Congress had been, or should have been, to restore harmony and prosperity to the country. How had that work been carried on? Is there, he asked, peace at the South? Is there prosperity or contentment among the people there? Are they not rather in a state of chronic revolution? Is there justice in the land? Who that is a poor man dare attack one that is rich in any court in this land? Is there protection for the rights or liberties of the citizen in this boasted land of freedom? The immigration of this country had fallen off 30,000 during the last year, and it would continue to fall off, because the industry and agriculture of the country were so prostrated at the West that immigrants could not find remunerative employment, and if they went to farm in the West they could not sell their products for enough to supply them with the necessaries of life. Whenever any one in the Senate or elsewhere asked the reason of the depression of our commerce and manufactures, he was sure to be met with the answer that it was owing to the fact that we were not paying specie; but the real reason was that the legislation and the administration of the Government were so shaped as to encourage capital to speculate upon every industrial occupation in the country. If this course was to be continued, in less than five years there would be a clamor for a tariff to keep out foreign cotton; but great as was the mismanagement of our national affairs in every department, the greatest abuses were in our financial policy. That policy was directed and controlled by the bankers. They no doubt gave as good advice as they could, but experience had always shown that dealers in money know little or nothing about the relations of money to other occupations and interests. The bearing of all this upon the pending bill was this: If the legislators of the country had done their own work so badly, how could they dare to assume the powers and duties of the Executive also. He had intended to say a few words about the relations between himself and certain other Senators, by way of showing the unfitness of the Senate to exercise a revisory power over the acts of the President, but he would reserve them for another occasion. * * * The country was on the brink of a precipice, and, unless the people could be roused from their apathy, all was lost. He had wished for and aided in the election of General Grant to the Presidency, because he believed that he (President Grant) had not been contaminated by the politicians and had the capacity required to see through and defeat their machinations. He had listened to the inaugural address with intense interest, and had been pleased by the President's expression of his purpose to be independent in the discharge of his official duties, but when he heard the passage asserting the sacredness of the public debt he had gone away disheartened and sorrowful, because it had shown him that the canker that possessed the American body politic had got possession of the President also. Still he was not without hope. He hoped that the President would yet discover the great error into which bad advisers had led him, and would turn away from this policy as from a charnel-house.

The Schenck Bill Explained.

Schenck's bill "to strengthen the public credit," which passed Congress a few days ago, distinctly pledged the government to the redemption of the treasury notes in coin. The bill fixes no time for their payment other than "the earliest practicable moment." Whether this moment will come in one year, or not within a hundred years, is a question which every man who has one or more of the notes may answer for himself.

In the debate on the national currency bill, in the Senate, on Friday, Mr. Wilson moved an amendment, providing for the funding of treasury notes in 10-40 bonds, whenever the national and bank currency should exceed $650,000,000. Senator Morton said the amendment was in violation of the pledge given by Congress in the Schenck bill for the redemption of the bonds. Senator Fessenden denied this, and said the funding of the currency under the Wilson amendment could only be carried forward with the consent of the holder. If before the arrival of "the earliest practicable moment" named in the Schenck bill as the period for redemption, holders of treasury notes chose to change them into 10-40 bonds, the government would not violate the Schenck bill in making the change. This is true. The modification of an agreement by the consent of the parties thereto, is not a violation of it.

It is in the power of Congress, under the Schenck bill, to so legislate as to make holders of greenbacks willing to change them for bonds bearing a low rate of interest, but such legislation will be in contempt of the construction generally given the bill, and the one its authors intended it should receive. It is supposed that the bill is a pledge for an early return to specie payments. Five years will hardly be considered an early return, or even three years. Propositions for funding treasury notes will generally be found to rest on an idea that there will be an early return to specie-payments.

There is very much implied, but nothing expressed, in the Schenck bill to prevent Congress from legislating to depreciate the value of the currency with a view to entering the market as a purchaser. Mr. Fessenden's little speech has shown how easily this may be done.

All propositions for funding the debt at a lower rate of interest rest on the idea that Congress can so legislate as to make the government bonds now outstanding of less value to the owners than would be bonds not returning as much income. What will make creditors change obligations bearing six per cent. interest into those which bear only four per cent.? It is said daily by a majority of our Congressmen that the creditors of the Government *will* make such a change. It is not said they *shall* make it. The Government will use no compulsion. The generosity of the bondholders will lead them to make such a sacrifice. What sort of legislation will it be that shall awaken that generosity.

What is the difference in principle between a plain proposition to repudiate a debt, and one to take action which will make it for the interest of the creditor to take less than is due him, supposing the debtor to be solvent? To pay a debt according to its terms, is said by the men who voted for the Schenck bill to be dishonorable. To adopt a policy which will, in fact, compel Government creditors to change their bonds for those of less value, because bearing a less rate of interest, is said by Mr. Schenck and his followers to be entirely honest. Into what nonsense and inconsistencies are legislators driven when attempting to justify acts of wrong in favor of a class and against the interests of the people at large.—*Chicago Times, March 29.*

Sawdust for Bedding.

The *London Field* contains the following account of an experiment with this material: "Having used sawdust as bedding for horses for a length of time, results of my experience may not be unacceptable to some of your inquiring readers. I litter the horses on it to the depth of six to nine inches, raking off the damp and soiled surface every morning, and spreading evenly a little fresh, removing the whole only four times a year. Its advantages appear to be many, of which I will state a few which give it, in my estimation, its great superiority over straw. It is much cleaner and more easily arranged, and of course much cheaper at first cost, making, in the end, excellent manure. It is peculiarly beneficial to the feet, affording them a cool, porous stuffing, a substitute for the soil or earth we always find in the hoofs of a horse at grass, and presents the nearest resemblance to the horse's natural footing—the earth.

"We have never had a diseased foot since the introduction of sawdust in the stable, now some years since. Horses bedded on sawdust are also freer from dust and stains than when on ordinary litter, (simply because sawdust is a better absorbent, perhaps,) and testify to their own approval of it by frequently rolling and lying down for hours in the day. It has also the recommendation of being uneatable—an advantage which all in charge of horses with the habit of consuming their litter, will readily admit. Being free from pungent smell, which is apt to accompany straw, (unless scrupulously kept,) it is innocent to weak eyes, and its slight turpentine odor is rather a sweetener than otherwise. It makes (when converted into manure) the best possible foundation for hotbeds, and, unlike other stable manure, forms no harbor of refuge for vermin. Pine sawdust is the best, and oak the worst, as the latter turns black the second day."

"Catching Cold."

A large number of fatal diseases result from taking cold, and often from such slight causes, apparently, as to appear incredible. But, although the causes are various, the result is the same, and arises from the violation of a single principle, to wit, cooling off too soon after exercise. Perhaps this may be more practically instructive if individual instances are named, which, in the opinion of those subsequently seeking advice in the various stages of consumption, were the causes of the great misfortune, premising that when the cold is once taken, marvelously slight causes serve to increase it for the first few days—causes which, under ordinary circumstances, even a moderately healthful system would have warded off.

Rachel, the tragedienne, increased the cold which ended her life, by insufficient clothing in the cars, traveling from New York to Boston; this was her own statement.

The immediate cause of the last illness of Abbott Lawrence, the financier and the philanthropist, was an injudicious change of clothing.

An eminent clergyman got into a cold bed in mid-winter, fifteen minutes after preaching an earnest discourse; he was instantly chilled and died within forty-eight hours.

A promising young teacher walked two miles for exercise, and on returning to his room, it being considered too late to light a fire, sat for half an hour reading a book, and before he knew it a chill passed over him. The next day he had spitting of blood, which was the beginning of the end.

A mother sat sewing for her children to a late hour in the night, and noticing that the fire had gone out, she concluded to retire at once; but thinking that she could "finish" in a few minutes, she forgot the passing time, until an hour or more passed, and she found herself "thoroughly chilled," and a month's illness followed to pay for that one hour.

A little cold taken after a public speech in Chicago, so "little" that no attention was paid to it for several days, culminated in the fatal illness of Stephen A. Douglas. It was a slight cold taken in midsummer, resulting in congestion of the lungs, that hurried Elizabeth Barrett Browning to the grave within a week. A vigorous young man laid down on an ice chest on a warm summer's day, fell asleep, waked up in a chill which ended in confirmed consumption, of which he died three years later. A man in robust health and in the prime of life began the practice of a cold bath every morning on getting out of bed and standing with his bare feet on a zinc floor during the whole operation; his health soon declined, and ultimately his constitution was entirely undermined.

Many a cold, cough and consumption are excited into action by pulling off the hat or overcoat as to men, and the bonnet and shawl as to women, immediately on entering the house in winter, after a walk. An interval of at least five or ten minutes should be allowed; for however warm or "close" the apartment may appear on first entering, it will seem much less so at the end of five minutes, if the outer garments remain as they were before entering. Any one who judiciously uses this observation, will find a multifold reward in the course of a lifetime.—*Exchange.*

Farm and Household.

Food for Poultry.

Never stint poultry in the variety or quality of their food. Good food is a positive economy. The best and heaviest corn is the cheapest. The best food is that which gives the most of what nature demands for the formation of muscle, bone and fat. Fine bran or middlings is richer in two of these important ingredients than any other *one* kind of food, but being deficient in gluten, is not warmth-giving, and is better when combined with the whole grain, which, when mashed, forms a most wholesome and nutritious food.

Barley is much used in Europe, but should never be the only food in the poultry-yard. Fowls do not fatten on it.

Oats are good as a change, but are inferior in nutriment.

Buckwheat is much liked by poultry, is greedily devoured, and is more productive of eggs early and in abundance than any other grain.

Hemp seed is also productive of eggs and is also very strengthening. The latter is one of the best things that can be fed during moulting.

In preparing birds for exhibition, flaxseed may be given occasionally; it increases the secretion of oil, and gives luster to their plumage. In giving soft feed it should be mixed stiff, *i. e.*, not *mushy;* fowls do not relish it in this state. A good food of this kind is composed of equal quantities of fine bran and Indian meal. This should be mixed with *hot* or *scalding* water, or of such consistency that it breaks or *crumbles* when thrown on the ground. Another good soft feed is made of small potatoes, washed clean, boiled, and mashed with an equal quantity of Indian meal.

In giving soft feed never use a feeding dish or trough. If the yards are clean, as they should be, the ground is the best place to feed from. The gravel and sand swallowed with the food is necessary for digestion; besides, poultry prefer to pick their food from the ground.

Don't neglect *green* food. We have spoken of it before in a former number, and only refer to it now to impress more forcibly the necessity of it if you wish to succeed with your poultry; a little chopped vegetables of some kind—whether cabbage, lettuce, spinach, onions, or other greens—is better given *every* day than a great deal once or twice a week.

If you wish *perfect* eggs, lime in some form *must* be furnished. Broken bones, lime rubbish, pounded shells (oyster or clam) are all good.

Beef or pork scraps are productive of good results. In the winter when the fowls do not get worms and grubs, a cake laid in the yard for them to pick at, or a little chopped off and broken up and fed to them, adds to their health and to the contents of the egg basket. So also an occasional dish of raw meat chopped into pieces about as large as hazel nuts.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Robins Indispensable to the Farmer.

The mischief which birds do is often of daily occurrence, is open, palpable, and not to be gainsaid. And yet these very birds are often really our greatest benefactors. Let us take up first for our consideration the Robin. Where will you find, hereabouts, one more complained of, more generally denounced, than he? Is he not, by common consent, pronounced by most of our fruit-growers the pest of horticulturists? Does he not steal our cherries, plunder our strawberries, strip our currant bushes, pilfer our raspberries, help himself to our choicest grapes, and, if we have some rare Shepardia berries, will not the glutton take the whole? And does he not, some one else will add, attack and spoil our handsomest pears? In reply to the last charge we cannot respond affirmatively. We do not believe it, and if it were true, we should say to whoever made this charge: "My dear sir, it only serves you right. You should not leave summer pears on the tree long enough to become so soft as to tempt a bird to peck at them. Your fruit should have been gathered when so hard that no bird could molest it, and thus you would have saved your pears and improved their quality!" But we are getting off our track, and will return to the Robin.

With the exception of the pear-accusation, which we believe to be bosh, we admit the truth of all these charges—but what then? What do they prove? Simply that the worst traits in the character of the Robin are those which, unfortunately for his reputation, are the most apparent, and which are brought home to the notice of all who have fruit to be plundered, while his beneficial deeds escape the general observation. The Robin is eminently one of those who delight in doing good by stealth, but alas! he is very rarely put to the blush by finding it fame. The world, as a general thing, is but too prompt to recognize the mischief he does, but knows little or nothing of his good deeds, far overbalancing his faults.

Fortunately for the reputation of the Robin, careful and faithful friends have looked into his record, and the result of their investigations proves him to be an invaluable friend to the farmer, and demonstrate by indisputable evidence, that his services are of an indispensable importance. Nearly eleven years since, the very same gentleman who this last summer signalized his imperfect knowledge of birds by protesting against the European Sparrow's coming to Boston, because it was not an insect-eater, at a meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society introduced a motion in favor of the presentation of a petition to the State Legislature, in the name of the Society, praying for the repeal of all legislation for the protection of the Robin. After an animated discussion, in which it was shown that the Robin was not even then without strong friends, the Society, instead of adopting the motion, very wisely voted to look into the matter before they thus committed themselves, and referred the whole subject of the habits of the Robin to a select committee, who were desired to make thorough investigation. Fortunately at the head of this committee was placed J. W. P. Jenks, Esq., of Middleboro, an ardent and zealous friend of the bird. He entered upon his duties with an alacrity and an interest, and completed them with a fidelity and a thoroughness that reflect upon him the highest credit. The leisure hours of an entire year were devoted by this gentleman to a careful and minute investigation of the subject committed to his charge. Day by day, and at all hours of the day, he procured specimens of the birds for the purpose of carefully examining the contents of their several stomachs, for evidences of the general character of their food. Robins were thus obtained by him, both from the villages and from the more rural districts, apart from gardens and orchards. Beginning with the first week in March, 1858, these examinations were continued, with more or less frequency, until the same month of the succeeding year.

Confining ourselves here to such portions of the results as may have a direct bearing upon the points we seek to establish, we find that Professor Jenks has demonstrated, among other things, that during the whole of March, April, and May not a particle of vegetable matter of any kind whatever could be found in the food of the robins. Insects, in large quantities, varying greatly as to kind, condition, and development, were during all these months their sole and exclusive food. The larvæ of a species of fly known to naturalists as the *Bibio albipennis* of Say, formed a large proportion of the contents of their stomachs. Not unfrequently as many as two hundred of these insects, in this stage of development, were taken from a single bird, and for the most part wherever any were found they were the only food in the bird's stomach.—*Thomas M. Brewer, in Atlantic Monthly for April.*

USEFUL RECIPES, ETC.

An agricultural paper says: "We know a cultivator who had heavy crops of plums seventeen years in succession—his swine for these seventeen years, without a season's interruption, being allowed the run of the yard.

In plowing down green crops attach a heavy chain to the front of the plow beam, which drags down the grass, so that it does not choke the plow. In this way it can be plowed down so nicely that one would hardly believe two feet of clover had been turned under.—*Exchange.*

The *Lancet* recommends a French way of preserving eggs by plunging into a cauldron of boiling water, a colander containing one dozen, and allowing them to remain for one minute. This immersion coagulates a thin layer of albumen on the surface, and the admission of air is thereby prevented.

A housekeeper writes: "Having some stone jars in which lard had been packed until they became unfit for use, I made them perfectly sweet by packing them full of fresh earth, and letting it remain two or three weeks. This is an experiment with me, and I suspect it would be equally effective in any case of foul earthen or stone ware."

Warmth of Animals.—A careful observer in England has noticed that his farm animals are uncomfortable in an artificial temperature above 60 deg. He has found that the best condition of stables as to heat is between 40 deg. and 50 deg. Below that the food consumed goes to enable the animal to resist cold, and at high temperatures the winter function of the skin is impaired, and the animal's health is injured.

Removing Foul Air from Wells.—A correspondent gives us an account of an ingeniously extemporized apparatus for removing carbonic acid from wells. It was simply an umbrella let down and rapidly hauled up a number of times in succession. The effect was to remove the gas in a few minutes from a well so foul as to instantly extinguish a candle previous to the use of the umbrella.—*Scientific American.*

Weaning Colts.—Says a writer in an exchange: "I put the colt in a good pasture, and if I can do so I give it some good company that it is acquainted with. But, at any rate, I put the mare in an adjoining field; then they both feel as though they were not separated, and do not wear off any flesh by anxiety and running. And I take the mare in to the colt twice a day for two or three days, and let it suck. After that I let it suck once a day, for two or three days; then I let it suck for every other day for two or three days; and it necessary to dry up the mare, I will perhaps let it suck once or twice in the course of the next week. By that course the colt will get weaned, and the mare will be dried up, and neither of them lose flesh or be punished, which is both to my interest and their mutual comfort." Another correspondent advises to take the colts from the dam, tie in stables by themselves and give them cow's milk which they will drink after a trial or two if they get no water. Then give a few oats and all the hay and green clover they will eat.

How to Dig Up Timber-Trees.

The butt-end of a large timber-tree is usually much firmer and tougher timber than the wood which grows thirty or forty feet, or even twenty-five feet from the ground. When cutting down a large white oak, for example, the timber left in the stump, and that which is wasted by means of a large kerf, had the tree been dug up, would have made more than five dollars' worth of the very choicest kind of spoke-timber. Or, had the log been sawed into plank or scantling for farm implements, the amount of first-rate *tough* timber saved by digging up the tree would be equivalent, in dollars and cents, to much more than the extra expense of felling the tree by digging it up.

Every skillful mechanic understands that the extreme butt-end of a tough timber tree, of any kind, is always much more valuable for any purpose than timber out of the same tree farther from the butt-end. For making whiffletrees, neck-yokes, fork-handles, and for a hundred other purposes, when heavy and tough timber is exceedingly desirable, it will pay satisfactorily to dig up the trees rather than to fell them with axes. More than this the labor required to dig up a large tree will not be so very expensive, provided the operator begins right and manages skillfully.

It is frequently desiable to dig up white-oak trees to be sawed into plank for sleigh-runners. The first important consideration is to find a tree that is not defective at the heart, and that will yield plank having an excellent natural crook. We will suppose for example that the crook is on the north side of the tree. Now, in order to avoid the mistake that most laborers make when digging down a large tree, by letting it fall without a large fulcrum near the butt to lift the roots out of the ground, let a log ten or more feet long be placed on the south side of the standing tree, about eight feet from the butt. A log, a foot or more in diameter, elevated on blocks, so as to be two feet high, will lift the roots clean from the ground, as the tree falls, and thus save much heavy labor.

Now, when the north wind blows a furious gale, let the digging and cutting off the roots be done. Excavate on the south side first, and cut off all the brace roots. Then the tree will fall in the desired place. Now remove the earth for two feet in depth, if the brace-roots or the cook's extend to that depth, before using the axes. In one or two hours an active digger will lay the roots bare, so that one can see at a glance where to chop most advantageously.

As the timber is very tough in the crook of the brace-roots, the tree can be felled with less labor by excavating the earth to such an extent that the chopping may be done in the roots, which may always be chopped more easily than the timber above the surface of the ground. As the tree falls, the advantage of a large fulcrum will be apparent, as it will lift the butt—roots and all—clean from the ground, with the sleigh-crook upward, where it always should be. But, when a large fulcrum is not employed, digging up a tree is a laborious task, which most men dislike. If these directions be followed, the job will be comparatively easy and by no means difficult.—*Hearth and Home.*

Cultivation and Management of Broom-Corn.

A writer in the *Western Rural* says:

As I have had considerable experience both in growing and manufacturing broom corn, I send you a few remarks on these subjects which may be interesting. The soil for broom corn should be rich and free from weeds. Heavy clay lands are unsuited to it. Rich mellow bottoms are best adapted to its growth. The soil is prepared the same as for corn and the seed is sown as early in spring as the ground is fit to receive it; in drills 3½ to 4 feet asunder. About four quarts of seed will be sufficient for an acre, if not in carefully with a drill-machine. When the plants are strong they should be thinned, and the ground between them hoed to keep down weeds. The harrow and cultivator should be kept going between the rows, and a double-mould board plow is used by some growers with good effect.

The evergreen variety gives the greatest return, but it is somewhat later in ripening than the common and dwarf kinds. When it is nicely brushed out, the tops are bent and allowed to stand in this position for a week or so, more or less, according to the state of the weather. It is then cut and piled or spread in little bundles consisting of about an armful in each. It is easier cured if spread a little. It is generally cut when the straw is just beginning to change from a green to a yellow, and while the grain is in a milky state. Frost is injurious to it, so is rain. The latter coming when the brush is lying in the field after being cut, causes it to heat and mildew, making it brittle and discolored.

Green brush sells best, but when baled too green, it heats and spoils rapidly. After being cut, one day's exposure will be sufficient if the weather is fine; better house it at once after cutting than allow it to get rain. It can be cured in sheds or houses, on racks or joists, far enough asunder to permit a circulation of air. A large quantity of brush may be cured in a medium sized house or shed, by having several tiers of racks one over the other, with spaces of a foot or more between each. When well cured the brush is baled. When cut too green the stalks will shrivel and be unfit for market. When allowed too become too ripe the brush turns yellow and becomes brittle; a mean between the two extremes is the safest and best way of proceeding.

The evergreen variety may be allowed to become riper before cutting than the common or dwarf, and in some cases may be permitted to bring the seed to perfection without danger to the brush. The seed is taken off by a machine constructed for the purpose, and is sometimes scraped off by simpler means. From 200 to 250 bushels of brush are put into a bale. The acreable yield is from 500 to 1,000 pounds, more or less, according to the richness of the soil, and also to the variety that is grown. The price of the brush has a very wide range, varying from $50 to $150 per ton, according to the quality. When cultivated on a large scale, with appropriate buildings and machinery for the manufacture of the broom, the profit is much greater than when operations are performed on a smale scale without suitable conveniences.

The Riverside.—In the April *Riverside*, Hans Andersen sends a special greeting to his young friends in America. His pretty story "Luck may lie in a Pin," ends with a word to his readers which every child lover of Andersen ought to see. Andersen's connection with the *Riverside* seems to be a fast one; each month he sends some new story, which is printed for American children before Danish children may see it. Porte Crayon, who has a portfolio full of stories and pictures about old Virginia, reappears here in his serial, "The Young Virginians." Dr. Abbott tells a big fish story. Mr. Benjamin, author of "The Turk and the Greek," begins a series of rambles about Constantinople. There are stories about flowers and about dogs; "Suggestions for Tableaux;" one of Anne Silvernail's charming sketches, with a child's droll picture; a story from the Bible,—"Sitting in the midst of the Doctors;" a horse-car story,—"Tom and Jom;" a practical paper on the use of legs; and finally, as it began with a frontispiece of boys playing horse, it ends with a "Velocipede Race." A lively out-of-doors number. Published by Hurd & Houghton, New York. $2.50 a year.

Once a Month.—The April number contains chapters seven, eight and nine of the original story entitled The Mills of Tuxbury; Triumph of the Wing—The Frigate Bird—with full page illustration; Sailing Out—original; After the Lessons; Summer in Labrador; Savonarola; The Coal Mines of Pennsylvania—a highly interesting original article; The Birch and the Boudoir; John White's Signboard; A Bad Custom; A Pistol Shot—original; The Great West; Three Representative Women; A New Star; Charlotte Bronte; Man as seen by Woman; The Great Pitt Diamond; Rebuke; Musical Pitch: Is there such a thing as Sex?; Secret Societies of Paris; Legend in Alsace. T. S. Arthur & Sons, Philadelphia, Pa., $2.00 a year in advance; three copies, $5.00; six copies, and one extra, $10.00; ten and one extra, $15.00. Single copies 20 cents.

The Children's Hour.—*A Magazine for the Little Ones.*—The April number is a capital one, and the little ones ought certainly to be delighted with its contents—stories, sketches and illustrations—all so well adapted to their wants, and so well calculated to lead them into the knowledge of things good, and true, and beautiful." Published by T. S. Arthur & Sons, Philadelphia, Pa. Single copies per year, $1.25; one copy three years, $3.00; five copies one year, $5.00; ten copies, and one extra, $10.00. Single numbers, 15 cents.

Two hundred and sixty newspapers are published in London.

Valuable Medicine.—We presume no medical preparation ever offered to the public has been more thoroughly tested than PERRY DAVIS' PAIN KILLER. Thousands of persons, were they called on to do so, would cheerfully testify that they have used it for various ills, with the most satisfactory success. It is within our own knowledge, that an immense amount of suffering has been relieved by it. Its proprietors, Messrs. Perry Davis & Son, save no pains or expense in order to satisfy the public. Being strictly honorable men, they observe the utmost uniformity in the manufacture of their celebrated Pain Killer. The materials of which it is composed are carefully selected—none but the best quality being used. By these means the high reputation which the Pain Killer has long since acquired is at all times triumphantly sustained. In view of these facts, we are by no means surprised to learn that Messrs. Davis & Son's sales are constantly and rapidly increasing. While we congratulate our friends generally that so valuable a preparation as the Pain Killer is placed within their reach, we must be permitted to rejoice at the well merited success of its liberal and enterprising proprietors. *Providence General Advertiser.*

Strength to the Blood.

Without a certain proportion of *Iron*, the blood loses its strength and purity. Blood enters every organ through the circulation, distributing the nutritive principle to every texture and the source of every secretion; hence the importance of keeping it duly enriched. If it has become weak, the entire system will be weak, and danger of incurring disease imminent; in short, good blood makes us healthy—bad blood makes us sick. Here we are admonished of the superior advantages of MISHLER'S HERB BITTERS. The Iron in these Bitters is readily absorbed into the circulation, and a strong and vigorous constitution created. The circulation is regulated by them, and if any organ be weaker than the rest, the deposits which cause boils, carbuncles, tumors, lumps, &c., are checked and removed, and a healthy tone imparted to the entire system. It always cures, and never fails to prevent diseases arising from impure blood.

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The *masses*, happily for themselves, are less skeptical. There is such a thing as *bigoted unbelief*, as well as *bigoted credulity*, and a golden mean between the two, which men and women who are gifted with common sense adopt and profit by. These are the class that patronize and recommend HOSTETTER'S BITTERS. Why do they approve this famous anti-dyspeptic and anti-bilious preparation? Simply because they have not been too much the slaves of senseless prejudice to give it a fair trial, and have found that when all other tonics, stimulants and stomachics failed, it produced the desired effect.

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