

PUGET SOUND HERALD

STEILACOOM, W. T. Saturday, March 5, 1864.

LATEST EASTERN NEWS.

Washington, Feb. 14.—In the House to day Mr. Davis of Massachusetts moved that the credentials of James M. Johnson, Representative elect from Arkansas be referred to the committee on elections. A motion to table it was lost, after a lengthy debate, and it was referred to a select committee on reconstruction with instructions.

In the Senate a bill granting lands to Oregon to aid in the construction of military posts was passed.

New York, Feb. 17.—A special dispatch to the Herald from Headquarters Army of West Virginia, says: Reports are in circulation of a rebel movement towards Romney.

From two intercepted letters we glean much interesting information. One letter says that a Union association has been formed in Virginia, and is known to have over one thousand members, some of whom are wealthy and influential citizens. The letter says Jeff. Davis has ordered several suspicious persons to be arrested, and that his agents are now on the hunt for all suspected traitors.

New York, Feb. 17.—Army officers from the front express the opinion that within ten days the roads will be in condition to enable the rebels to move, and they will then, it is thought, commence spring operations by either attacking us in front and endeavor to drive us from the fortifications at Washington, or that Lee will march rapidly into Pennsylvania, plundering vast territory, and then, after fighting only pitched battles when retreating.

Providence, (R. I.) Feb. 17.—Governor Smith announces that the quota of this State under the act of March 3, 1862, is full.

A bill was introduced in the House to-day granting lands to certain railroads in Iowa. This means, as interpreted, to insure the immediate completion of the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad across Iowa to Omaha, connecting with the Pacific Railroad.

New York, Feb. 18th.—The World's Nashville letter says the army of Chattanooga is preparing for immediate operations. Chattanooga is well stored with munitions of war. The roads are improving.

The Herald's special says it is understood that on the 22d inst. Mr. Lincoln will issue a proclamation of universal emancipation including the border States.

The Times special says the committee on the conduct of the war will soon examine into the cause of the inactivity of the iron clad fleet off Charleston harbor.

A special dispatch to the World says it is understood that every member of the Senate Judiciary committee believes the resolution forbidding the property of the rebels beyond life to be unconstitutional. The committee have reported against its passage.

John Morgan is said to be in the vicinity of Dalton, Georgia, with considerable cavalry, for the purpose of aiding Gov. Yule of Alabama telegraphed to the citizens of Selma to prepare to receive non-combatants from Mobile, as that place was soon to be attacked by the Federals. Mobile papers say Sherman's plan is to compel the evacuation of Mobile.

New York, Feb. 18.—Sub Treasurer Cisco recruited to-day seven millions of the five per cent notes. The demand is very great. Three millions more can be sold here.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The House to-day passed the Senate resolution authorizing the transfer of persons from the military to the naval service.

The Enrollment Bill has passed both Senate and House, and now only awaits the signature of the President to become a law.

Twenty-eight of Mosely's men were captured to-day by a party of our cavalry at Piedmont.

New York, Feb. 19.—The Atlantic, from Hilton Head, Feb. 17th, has arrived.

The Florida expedition met with complete success. Several ports besides Jacksonville were recovered. No particulars of the expedition have been received. The following has been received at Headquarters:

BALDWIN (Fla.) Feb. 9. To Gen. Halleck:—I have the honor to report that a portion of my command, under Gen. Seymour, entered by the gunboat Newcomb, ascended the St. Johns river on the 7th, and landed at Jacksonville on the same day. The advance, consisting of two regiments and one battery, pushed forward into the interior. On the 8th they passed by the enemy's drawn up line of battle at Camp Yulee, seven miles from Jacksonville, and surprised and captured a battery three miles in their rear; started about midnight and reached this place about sunrise. At our approach the enemy abandoned all their stores, arms, and baggage, and burning 270 bales of cotton. We have taken, without the loss of a man, about 100 prisoners, nine pieces of artillery, in serviceable condition, and other valuable property to a large amount.

(Signed) Q. A. GILMORE. New York, Feb. 19.—By the Reports we learn that an official message from the rank of Major General in the Confederate army, arrived at Havana on the 18th inst. It is said that he bears a commission to Major General, and is to be sent to Vera Cruz Feb. 20th.

The Herald's special Washington dispatch says: Something of a sensation was created in the Senate to-day by the statement of a gentleman that the authorities have positive information that several rebel war steamers have left Asia for the Pacific coast, and they fear San Francisco will be menaced before protection can be afforded.

In the House Mr. Gridley stated that there would be \$74,000,000 in the Treasury by July 1st, according to the present rates of income.

Chattanooga, Feb. 19.—Adj. Gen. Thomas and staff arrived yesterday from Knoxville. Longstreet had returned beyond Francis Broad river to avoid a contest with our greatly superior force. The bridge at Loudon will be completed within a week, and railroad communication between Nashville and Knoxville will then be perfect.

Johnston has concentrated his forces at Dalton (Ga.) and advanced his picket lines to Ringgold. Several regiments of cavalry are being sent to reinforce him.

The Mobile News says Pook has been shamefully outgeneraled by Sherman, who had advanced beyond Meridian, and got between him and Montgomery.

Washington, Feb. 21st.—Prominent citizens of Virginia, recently arrived from Richmond, say the rebels are preparing to attempt to drive the Army of the Potomac back on Washington by demonstrations along the Blue Ridge and if possible to force a battle at Bull Run.

The rebels have almost entirely suspended work on their iron-clads. Three are completed at Charleston and one is in process of construction. There is only one iron-clad in James river. One at Richmond is nearly completed but the guns have been removed to the fortifications of Charleston.

Deserters continue to come in from Louisiana regiments. Nearly the whole of the 14th Louisiana regiment deserted last month.

The Virginia Convention will reassemble on the 22d. No doubt the State will be declared free. Upon the subject of the status of rebels who lay down their arms, there is a difference of opinion. A proposition that they be declared from the rights of citizenship for five years has been favorably regarded.

Thirty-three of the 709 Union officers arrived safely at 35 were re-captured, leaving 41 to be accounted for.

New York, Feb. 22.—Washington dispatches say there were 41 blacked regiments on the lower Potomac with a large amount of goods and a rebel mail.

The Herald's Texas letter says: Deserteers report: Magruder's forces at 30,000. Craney creek has been occupied and 5,000 men can be concentrated here in two days.

Louisville, Feb. 21.—Official information from Gen. Dodge was received at Gen. Eggen's Headquarters to-day, to the effect that the rebels, supposed to be Roddy's command, attempted to cross the Tennessee river, at three different points, but were driven back by Dodge's troops. Our loss is slight.

There are rumors here that Sherman has fought with Polk near Braxton, Miss., whipped him, and taken 120 prisoners.

The court martial in the case of Crittenden and McCook will adjourn to-morrow. Out-riders say both Generals will be vindicated.

Col. Pillaud of the 64th Kentucky, who arrived here at 10 o'clock last night, says that Longstreet after crossing the Holston river to the north side, returned again, destroying his pontoon bridges in his precipitate retreat. Officers from the front report all quiet at Chattanooga and Knoxville.

Portland, Maine, Feb. 20.—The Bohemian from Liverpool struck a rock four miles outside Cape Elizabeth last evening and sunk two miles from shore. All the cabin passengers saved. About 200 stowage passengers were on board. Boat swamped along side. Cargo valued at one million dollars. The account is mostly Canadian. Among names of stowage passengers were that of Martin, wife and children, of California. It is not known if any of them are saved. Through mail bags saved, one of them for California. It is thought but few passengers were lost, except those in boats. Some of them perished.

Boston, Feb. 23.—Vessels arrived bring news from Capetown, Africa, Dec. 26th. They state that the privateer Tuscarora was seized by British authorities on Feb. 18th, and placed in laws in landing portions of her cargo on the coast.

New York, Feb. 23.—Special dispatches say District Court, eastern district of Virginia, at Norfolk, Feb. 20th, decided condemnation of property under confiscation law. Decrease cover huge amount of property.

Maryland Convention instructed the delegates to the National Convention to vote for Lincoln as the first and only person for President.

Within a few weeks the Secretary of the Navy has decided to add another fleet to the Navy. Preparations have been made to construct the new vessel entirely of iron. They are not intended to participate in actual battle.

Fortress Monroe, Feb. 23.—Dispatches announce the arrival of six more prisoners. Capt. Reynolds and forty-eight men were recaptured, leaving seven still out.

New York, Feb. 23.—A Newbern letter of Feb. 18th says rebels are said to be at Kingston. Force estimated at 25,000.

Washington letters say: From near Charleston, advices report 15,000 troops had been sent on board the steamer Florida to disperse at the advance of our forces on that place. Part of those troops it is said, have been sent from Georgia and Beauregard's army.

New York, Feb. 17.—A special dispatch to the Herald, dated Knoxville, Feb. 17th, says: A detachment of 400 men, who had been threatening, but the enemy who appeared in force at Strawberry Plains, recrossed the river owing to freshets in the Holston. The enemy are now reported moving towards Georgia with a force of 10,000 men, and are passing near Smoky Mountain. There is no anticipation of an attack which may be made, however, after the river falls.

Chicago, Feb. 22.—A Knoxville telegram says: The rebels are in force at Strawberry Plains. They completed a pontoon bridge there on the 21st inst. They are in force at 700 yards from our cavalry, which had a skirmish yesterday with our cavalry six miles from here, and were driven back to the river. Gen. Haswell with a regiment of infantry and a battalion of cavalry crossed the river on the 21st inst. and killed seven and capturing nine. It is reported that reinforcements under Buckner have arrived, but this is discredited at headquarters.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Several lady refugees have arrived from Richmond, via Fredericksburg. There is a report that the rebel authorities within the last month have seized all the most in Richmond markets and forwarded it to Longstreet's army.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The Committee of Commerce, who are for maintaining the Union, spirits distilled and sold, or distilled and re-moved for consumption from the 1st July to the 31st December, 60 cents; after that, 70 cents; on distilled spirits imported until the 1st July, 40 cents; after 1st July and before the 1st January, 45 cents; after the 1st January, 50 cents. The report of the Committee will probably be acted upon finally by both Houses to-morrow.

The Union National Committee met to-day at the residence of Senator Morgan, when, after consultation, the following call for a National Convention was unanimously adopted:

The undersigned, who by their original appointments and subsequent delegations to fill vacancies, constitute the Executive Committee created by the National Convention held at Chicago on the 16th of May, 1863, call upon all patriotic citizens to assemble in Convention to meet at Baltimore on the 7th of June, 1864, for the purpose of nominating candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, each State being entitled to as many delegates as shall equal twice the number to which it is entitled in the Electoral College.

(Signed) EDWIN D. MORGAN, Chairman Executive Committee.

The following resolution was also adopted: Resolved, That while the Committee has not authority to decide whether Territories and Districts may be represented in the National Convention, they would nevertheless invite said Territories and Districts to send delegates subject to the decision of the Convention in the premises.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Richmond papers have officers' replies to the War Department dated the 18th, announcing that Sherman has arrived at Quitman on the Ohio and Mobile Railroad without opposition, but that he won't take Mobile without a desperate battle. His advance guard has been ordered to march to the west. He has from twenty-five to thirty thousand men and moves along, evidently meditating no step backwards.

Major General Seaman and staff had arrived at Richmond and were lodged in Libby prison. Fifty escaped. Yankee officers have been returned to Libby prison.

An Armstrong 900-pounder was lately tried at Shoeburyness, with complete success. A target, in the shape of a section and a Warfield's gun, was placed 11,000 yards from the gun, and the first shell which struck it completely demolished it. The shell bore a hole in the target two feet by twenty inches wide. Never, it is said, was there such a complete triumph for the gun.

Some fine colts, said to be equal to any in the Southern States, have been raised in the vineyard of Mr. J. A. Watson, Los Angeles. Eighty bulls were found upon a single stalk.

MICELLANEOUS NEWS FROM. In Boston there are 277 schools of all kinds. Denmark and Sweden have formed an alliance.

Postoffice savings banks are being established in England.

The Polish instruction was increasing, at last advices.

Cattle are dying in southern California from drought.

The wreck of the Jenny Ford was told in San Francisco for \$310.

Garibaldi has entirely recovered his health, and is ready for another fight.

By the new Constitution of Venezuela, slavery is forever abolished in that country.

A hen in Santa Rosa, Cal., has voluntarily undertaken the care of a litter of pups.

Switzerland is the only state in Europe which increases neither its army nor its budget.

The emigration to New York in 1863 was more than double that of the preceding year.

The receipts of hogs at Chicago from Thursday to Sunday, one week lately, were 70,000 head.

The number of political journals in Paris and the departments at present is 818, of unpolitical 670.

Thirty six boxes of tobacco, raised in Linn County, Oregon, were a few days since shipped from Salem to Umatilla.

The Aquila had 1400 tons of cargo on board when she went down, 130 of which were discharged in one day.

England is preparing to take an active part in the Danish imbroglio, and is placing her army on a war footing.

The Danish government is said to have purchased a powerful ironclad constructed on the Clyde for the Confederates.

A bill before Congress proposes to set apart a portion of Texas for the settlement of free blacks under the Homestead law.

A couple announce in the Providence Post their marriage, and add to the notice, "No cards, nor any money to get them with."

Not a single person was killed or injured on the Great Western railway in the year 1863, though 8,500,000 passengers were carried over it.

A drayman in San Francisco has been fined \$25 for unnecessarily blocking up the street with his dray, and stopping the street cars for 15 minutes.

The masts of a new French ironclad, lately launched near Toulon, are each made of a single piece of tree. The timber was obtained on Puget Sound.

Miss Reynolds, a celebrated English horse-tamer and breaker, has recovered \$250 from the Earl of Dudley for breaking in one of his unruly steeds.

A family of five persons, and a sixth person named Mrs. Bean, died suddenly in Yamhill county, Oregon, two or three weeks since, of congestive chills.

A jealous woman in Washington cohabited her husband for dancing with an old sweethearth, and was fined \$3 and costs for disorderly conduct and threatened violence.

A negro conspirator, imprisoned at Washington, who persisted in protruding his head from a window, after being warned to withdraw, was shot dead by the guard, whom he was abusing.

Associations called "Steelboys" are organizing in Ireland, whose operations are of a disorderly character, and are exemplified by assisting defaulting tenants to carry off their crops.

Complaint is made in Tunis of a practice of enrolling poor boys for the purpose of sending them to foreign cities, where they become organ grinders and beggars, to earn money for their masters.

A London letter says that the bereaved George Jordan has gone into court, through his counsel, and accepted ten pounds sterling damages for being imprisoned in connection with the Bourgeois affair.

Whenever the Union party think there is any danger of McClellan being a formidable opposition candidate, all they have to do is to ask the Government to put him at the helm of the rebels, and they will drop him like a hot potato.

The St. Joseph Herald says a gentleman residing in Pike county, Mo., by the name of Cotter, has recently furnished 90 of his slaves to serve their country. This is encouraging, and shows that old Pike is determined on filling up her quota without a draft.

Francis A. Brownell, who killed Jackson, the assassin of Ellsworth, of the Fire Zouaves, at Alexandria, Va., has been placed on the retired list of the army, for physical disability. He was promoted from the ranks to a first lieutenancy in the regular army, for killing Jackson.

E. M. Strango has commenced suit in San Francisco against the estate of Horace P. Jancs for \$73,000. It is stated that in 1856, a judgment of \$33,000 was transferred to Jancs for collection, but that he procrastinated until it became worthless, and the present suit is for principal and interest.

Geo. D. Prentice has become a common drunkard. The Louisville Journal long since passed his name out of circulation, and editorially his wife retaining his interest, however. Personal friends have purchased for him a homestead, out of respect to his talents and former industry.

Surgeon C. D. White, of the navy, while on his way to Baltimore, a few weeks since, accidentally dropped his revolver; one barrel exploded, lodging a ball in the calf of his leg. He only made two incisions in his leg with his knife, extracted the bullet, sewed up the wound and proceeded on his journey.

A new ferry boat, called the Chebire, has commenced plying on the Mosony, between Liverpool and Birkenhead. She is constructed on the American plan, has a rudder at each end, and the steerman is placed in a small round house on the upper deck. She easily accommodates 2,000 passengers.

The Ebony Casket.

CHAPTER III.

Six months had passed, six prosperous months to John Rudderforth, but he was still in his modest bachelor's home. Success had not lured him to adopt a more expensive establishment. His simple requirements were fully gratified by his kind mother's thrifty hand, and his friends brightened by her never waning spirit of affection.

It was December, the evening was bleak and chilly, but the quiet parlor of John's home gathered an aspect of unusual comfort from the light of a cheerful lamp and the glow of a rusty fire. The tea things were on the table, and the mother's kindly face was beaming on her son with a look of expectancy.

"Mr. Sherwood is generally so punctual," she remarked.

A ring at the bell, followed by the presence of that gentleman in the room, interrupted further comment.

"I trust I have not detained you," said Hugh, after the customary greetings.

"Oh, no," said Mrs. Rudderforth, as she seated herself at the table.

Hugh took a vacant easy chair by the fire with the air of a man who had determined to enjoy himself.

"Ah, John," said Hugh, smilingly, "whatever bitterness you may find in the world, this home circle must modify, if not do away it."

"Yes," replied John, "I have much to be envied and much to be grateful for."

And so, Mrs. Rudderforth, said Hugh, the lady looked up with a cup of tea, "the time approaches when you must resign your presidency here?"

"Yes, sir," said Mrs. Rudderforth, in her gentle manner. "And when is your bachelor life to end?"

"Oh, when indeed?" said Hugh lightly; "but tell me, old friend," he added, turning to John, "now that you near the matrimonial precipice, does not the thought sometimes occur to you that you might have formed a more profitable alliance?"

"That is a strange question from you," said John; "but how more profitable?"

"I have no wish to depreciate Clemency Maybrook's worth," said Hugh; "indeed, I have not the power to do so. But you are now a rising man; a wife of fortune and position would be a powerful lever to lift you up the golden ladder."

"Are wives of fortune and position so easily obtainable?" asked John, with grave humor.

"A thriving, prosperous banker like yourself, they are not quite so scarce and unobtainable," replied Hugh.

"I was neither thriving nor prosperous to any great extent when Clemency promised to be mine," said John to himself.

"But," he added aloud, "if I were modest in my aspirations, and found a wife who could bring with her a fortune of say ten thousand pounds, I have a sort of old-fashioned belief that I should be doing her a grievous wrong in taking her to share my fate."

"How so?" inquired his friend.

"Because," replied John, "reared in affluence, it is more than probable she would have contracted luxurious and costly habits."

"That is only natural, I grant," said Hugh.

"Then do you think it would be an easy task suddenly to descend from her position and accommodate herself to the usages of a quiet home?" inquired John.

"The income derived from such a fortune would be but small, say three or four hundred a year. On which side of my ledger should I find a balance, if she incurred an expenditure, by virtue of her family and dowry, of as many thousands?"

"There are reasonable women in the world," remarked Hugh.

"Perhaps they are the exception, tho'," said John, with a quiet chuckle, "and not the rule. But grant I found the exception—found one who at the shrine of her husband's passion would be content to sacrifice her expensive tastes—do you think her affections would become chilled, her temper embittered by being perpetually restrained?"

And would not my better sense be outraged, if for the mere sake of administering to her vanities, I let loose the curb which I saw daily gallant that harmony which makes the true comfort of a man's home? Such a union would be profitless and void of honor."

"John, a quiet right," said his mother, with blessing prayer.

"In Cleopatra, Maybrook," continued John, "my heart tells me, and I believe I could not have a safer counselor, that I have found a companion free from petty ambitions, who accepts as a blessing, not as an obligation, the little ease it is in my power to bestow; who will feel it to be a wife's sacred duty to help me to husband whatever my industry acquires, and lastly, who will shed the halo of virtue and religion over my name."

"I merely started the question for the sake of argument," said Hugh; "feeling assured I should soon be vanquished. And when do you propose bringing Clemency away as mistress?"

"We begin our new life with the new year," replied John.

"I am afraid Grace will sorely miss her old companion," said Hugh.

"All the better for you," said John; "take pity on her loneliness and storm the citadel of her good heart."

"I dare not," said Hugh.

"Why?" asked his friend.

"You consider yourself too poor to marry a rich wife," replied Hugh with pointed sarcasm; "and I do not consider myself rich enough to marry a poor one."

bloom. They felt that although the future might perhaps dim it, only death could blot it entirely out.

John Rudderforth had arrived, and was waiting in the drawing-room at Belgrave House when Grace entered with her arms encircling the young bride's waist. There was an inharmonious contrast in the chamber craped over by Grace and the chaste bridal robes of Clemency. It brought with a sudden quickness the death-scene in the library to John's mind, and drove for a moment the color from his cheek.

"A holier tie," said Grace, pressing back her tears, "is about to replace our old bond of affection; still you will let me live in your memory, Clemency."

"I can't speak, Grace," sobbed Clemency, "my heart is full, too. God bless you, again and again and for ever evermore!"

"Miss Bateful," said John, "I cannot tell how grateful I feel to you for yielding to another, without a murmur, the companionship of one who is grown so very dear to you."

"I never felt its real extent myself till now," replied Grace.

With a solemn sense of his new duty, John Rudderforth bore his youthful bride from her former home to the better trading safeguard of his own strong arm, and the more sacred shelter of his holier love.

CHAPTER IV. AND LAST.

Days glided into weeks, weeks little months, and Grace Babington's lonely existence still wore its unchanged aspect. The former gay visitants of Belgrave House now drove past the doors with supercilious indifference and averted heads. The gloomy repose which had interrupted the long succession of balls and banquets had no attraction for the brilliant but fortuneless; the pall of death had obscured the once garish tints, so like the swallows, they winged their flight to sunnier skies. When a man's hospitality is extended from a mere selfish love of display, he must not be surprised if his sparkling wine-cup is dealued with the loss of ingratitude.

Gradually, however, and almost imperceptibly, Hugh Sherwood's sterling comeliness stamped its impression on Grace's volatile nature. She showed it not so much in spoken words as by a readier acquiescence in his generous devices to amuse or guide her, until at length she awoke from her nightmare of wilful pride and looked on him with truer eyes.

The June sunshine was again playing among the flowers and touching with its pleasant light the statues and fountains in the garden. Hugh and Grace were seated under the shady limes, her hand resting in his; her blushing face was veiled beneath her golden curls as she listened to the eaves of his aspirations, replied Hugh.

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A placid contentment, homely yet refined, always filled the atmosphere of John Rudderforth's abode, and gave it a educative charm to Hugh. His visits there were frequent and usually long; that night, however, a restlessness pervaded his spirit, and his stay was short.

The New Year's day came, dawning cold, clear and sunny. The day that was to be set in golden letters high above all others in the calendar of time, and for ever to be looked back upon with joyful memories by the two hearts whose union it consecrated.

The bridal party was void of pretensions show and display. Grace's unexpired time of mourning precluded her from acting as Clemency's bridesmaid; but the paring between the two girls was one of regret to both. They had never realized till that hour what a bright world of mutual joy was their brought to a close. There had not been the love of blood or kindred, but the rarer one that had sprung from untold deeds of loving kindness, and had grown and flourished with persistent strength in the bygone days of womanhood's first fresh bloom.

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The Farmer's Corner.

Communications on Agricultural subjects, from subscribers and others, are invited for these columns.

Grinding and Cooking Corn.

The following statement made by the Shakers of Lebanon, N. Y., as to the relative value of ground and unground, cooked and uncooked corn for feeding and fattening hogs and cattle, we find in the Patent Office report:

"The experience of more than thirty years leads us to estimate ground corn much higher than unground, as food for cattle, and especially for fattening pork; hence it has been the practice of our Society for more than a quarter of a century, to grind all our provender. The same experience induces us to put a higher value upon cooked than upon raw meal; and for fattening animals, swine particularly, we consider three of cooked, equal to four bushels of raw meal. Until within the last three or four years, our Society fattened, annually, for thirty years, from forty to fifty thousand pounds of pork, exclusive of lard and offal fat; and it is a constant practice to cook the meal, for which purpose six or seven potato-kettles are used. Notwithstanding that there is abundance of testimony to the same effect, there are a few farmers who are in the habit of practicing the wasteful method of feeding corn in the ear to hogs, horses, etc., or feeding raw meal in fattening. The testimony above given, with much other like it, would certainly, if duly considered, put an end to such wasteful methods of feeding. Many would probably give up feeding meal raw, were it not that they find the cooking of it quite a troublesome process. To such we would suggest that there is an easy method, which is nearly as good as thorough cooking, and which consists in pouring boiling water on the meal that is to be fed twelve or twenty hours afterward. This plan we have adopted for years in feeding swine and milk cows, and in finishing off the fattening of hogs, and are sure that meal thus prepared is worth twice as much as raw meal.

Effects of Thorough Drainage.

The editor of the Boston Cultivator has recently been down to Salem to look after Dr. Leasing's farming. He gives an account of the draining of a small piece of land and the result, which we commend to the attention of our readers. Months ago we referred to this underdrained field and the enormous crops it produced, and we now append the Cultivator's statement: "The drainage was commenced in the winter of 1857 and '58. The lot consisted of 5 1/2 acres, very level, the tith of a dark loam, a foot or more in depth, with a stiff tenacious clay subsoil. It had depended upon ridge culture and dead furrows chiefly for drainage, there running through the center a large open ditch. The crop, as summer before drainage was begun, was about a ton of hay per acre, and of a poor quality, consisting largely of our aquatic plants. The main ditch, for the outlet, was first opened through the whole length of the field, from three to five feet in depth. Within it were laid two rows of 4-inch tile. Lateral drains were then opened varying from 20 to 40 feet apart, averaging about 34 feet in depth. Thus was this lot drained. Now for the result the past season: on 4 1/2 acres there were cut and cured 17 tons of hay and 10 tons of rowen, in all 28 tons of good hay, where before drainage 4 1/2 tons of ordinary hay were cut. The writer saw this piece of ground cut, and it was drained, and the change that has taken place is truly marvellous, clearly demonstrating the advantages of thorough tile drainage. This soil, once clammy and heavy, flooded in wet weather, parched and baked in hot weather, is now a loamy, well aerated soil, easily and early worked, producing good root, cereal, or grass crops, as the cultivator willeth or desireth. This experiment is a grand confirmation of the utility of tile draining. It cost about \$50 an acre to do it. To say nothing of the crops of maize, roots, &c., the surplus the past season would pay the expense of drainage. The question then would seem to be, Who can economically refuse to drain such land, rather than who can afford it? The Doctor has drained another field of three acres, at an expense of about \$30 an acre, with good results. Let farmers make a note of these facts and raminate thereon between this and the advent of spring, and good will come of it, it is hoped. Rather consider how much can be economically done on the farm, rather than how little you can get along with." There is a further article by the same writer, in which he says that the soil is the best he has ever seen, and that it is the best he has ever seen, and that it is the best he has ever seen.

Use of Salt in Cooking Vegetables.

A German Professor says that if one portion of vegetables be boiled in pure distilled or rain water, and another in water in which a little salt has been added, a decided difference is perceptible in the tenderness of the two. Vegetables boiled in pure water are, in fact, inferior in flavor. This inferiority may go so far in the case of onions that they are almost entirely destitute of either taste or odor; though when cooked in salt water, in addition to the pleasant salt taste, is a peculiar sweetness and a strong aroma. They also contain more soluble matter than when cooked in pure water. Water which contains 250 parts of its weight in salt is far better for cooking vegetables than pure water, because the salt hinders the solution and coagulation of the soluble and favoring principles of the vegetables.

DAMAGE TO SHEEP.

In the report of the State Board of Agriculture for Ohio, it is stated that the number of sheep killed by dogs in 1863 was 26,778, and during the same period 24,972 were injured—the total value of the entire destruction being \$138,247.

Requirements of Science may be termed the armor of the mind; but that armor would be worn that unless that we all we had and left us nothing to defend.

Agriculture, like the leader of Israel, strikes the rock—the waters flow, and the famished people are satisfied.

The Homestead Law—How to Obtain a Free Home.

The following is a brief statement of the provisions of the law:

I. The persons entitled to free homes, or unappropriated public lands, are: Any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration of intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, if he has never borne arms against the United States Government or given aid and comfort to its enemies; and any loyal person, of whatever age, who has rendered not less than 14 days' service, during actual war, in the army or navy of the United States.

Proof of these conditions to be made by affidavit before the Receiver or Register of public lands, in the section where it is desired to make the location. The names of these officers can be readily learned in any desired locality.

If any such person may take up, for actual occupancy by self or family as a homestead, not more than 160 acres of public lands valued at \$1.25 per acre (or 80 acres valued at \$2.50 per acre), located in one body, and the boundaries agreeing with the usual subdivisions of public surveys—as follows:

1st. Select the land that is regularly surveyed and present the following application, with \$10 to pay survey, and usual fees (about \$1), to the Receiver, who will administer the proper affidavit and receipt the money. On presenting these, the Register will enter the application and file the affidavit.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

"I [A. B., of town, County, and State] do hereby apply to enter, under the provision of the Act of Congress, approved May 20, 1862, entitled 'An Act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain,' the section of township _____ of range _____, containing _____ acres."

These blank forms and necessary information, are furnished by Receivers and Registers.

2d. Not less than 5, nor more than 7 years after entry of application, the applicant will make proof by affidavit and two witnesses, of residence on or cultivation of the homestead for five successive years before the application—that no portion has been sold or otherwise parted with—and that the applicant remains loyal—when a certificate for full ownership deed (or patent) will be granted by the Register, on payment of the usual fee (about \$1); the deed may then be procured from Washington, D. C.

3d. In case of the claimant's death, the widow or lawful heirs are entitled to the homestead by completing the conditions. If the heirs are infant children, it may be sold at any time for any debt contracted before the patent (or certificate) was granted. Any abandonment of the homestead by the applicant, for more than six months at a time, forfeits the claim for the patent.

On the Value and Use of Urine as a Fertilizer.

The following is copied from the Agricultural Report, for 1860. It shows the value of human urine:

"If we calculate the quantity for a single individual at 500 lbs. per annum, this would give for 1000 inhabitants, 233 tons, which according to Prof. Johnson's values, would amount to about \$11,000. But human urine is more valuable than guano, as will be evident by reference to the following table of Prof. Humboldt and Schubler, showing the results of experiments with different manures:

Table with 3 columns: Quantity in proportion to seed, No manure, 3 times, 5 times, 7 times, 10 times, 12 times, 14 times.

It also gives the largest proportion of urine which applied to wheat crops, as seen by the next table:

Table with 2 columns: Urine, Straw, Bran, &c., Human urine, 35.1 39.3 25.6, Night soil, 34.2 41.3 25.5, Bull soil, 33.1 41.4 25.5, Horse dung, 13.7 61.6 24.7.

A pound of wheat, therefore, raised from land manured with urine would be nearly three times more nourishing than that produced on land manured with horse dung, a circumstance of some importance in a social and economical point of view."

Farmers, think of this and save the urine.

Worse than the Spaniards.—When reminded of their want of progress in agriculture and manufactures, the Spaniards relate a legend, that Adam, once upon a time, requested leave to revisit this world; leave was granted, and an angel commissioned to conduct him. On wings of love the patriarch hastened to his native earth; but so changed, so strange all seemed to him, that he felt at home nowhere until he came to Portugal. "Ah, here," exclaimed he, "set me down here—everything here is just as I left it."

Fun is the most conservative element of society, and ought to be cherished and encouraged by all lawful means. People never plot mischief when they are merry. Laughter is an enemy to malice, a foe to scandal and a friend to every virtue. It promotes good temper, enlivens the heart, and brightens the intellect. Let us laugh when we can.

To MAKE COWS "GIVE DOWN."—Put a bag of meal, or any other weight, on their back. This is almost a sure way.

CURE FOR HORSES RUBBING THEIR TAILS.—Wash three or four times with stale urine. It is a most effectual method.

The Virginia Biddies refuse to lay for their rebel owners, consequently eggs are \$3.50 per dozen in Richmond.

Wash your tea trays with cold soda, polish with a little flour, and rub with a cloth.

Frozen potatoes make more starch than fresh ones, and they make very nice cakes.

Old straw is best for filling beds; should be changed once a year.

A bit of soap rubbed on the hinges of doors will prevent their creaking.

Domestic Recipes.

GROUND RICE PIE.—Put one quart of milk on the fire to boil; mix one teaspoonful of rice flour in cold milk, when the milk, which is upon the fire, comes to a boil, pour the rice flour into it, and let it boil five or ten minutes; when cold, add the yolks of eight eggs, and the grated rind of one lemon, with sugar to your liking; then pour it into some paste, and bake it until almost done. Have ready the whites of your eggs—well beaten—mixed with a quarter of a pound of sifted sugar, and pour your oven, and spread the egg over the top of it—heaping it up; then put the pie to bake into the oven, and brown it.

WAFFER PANCAKES.—Beat four eggs well with two spoonfuls of fine flour, two of cream, one ounce of loaf sugar—beaten and sifted—and half a nutmeg, grated. Butter your pan well, pour in your batter, and make it as thin as a wafer; fry it only on one side. Put the pancakes on a dish, sift sugar between each one, and send them hot to table.

ALMOND PUDDING.—Blanch and pound a couple dozen of sweet, and the same of bitter almonds; have ready a piece of butter the size of a large egg—one quart and one pint of milk—half a paper of rice flour, and sugar to your taste. Boil the milk, while boiling add the ingredients and stir as for custard; pour it into a pudding dish. Beat the whites of two eggs with six or eight tablespoonfuls of white sugar, as for icing—pour it over the surface of the pudding, then put the dish into the oven long enough to brown the top. Let it get cold, and serve it with cream.

FLESHY.—Put one ounce of butter, and one ounce of sweet almonds into a dish, pour some boiling water over them, strip off the skins, and throw the kernels into cold water; then take them out, beat them in a marble mortar with a little rose water, then put it into a pint of calf's foot stock, set it over the fire, and sweeten it to your taste with loaf sugar. As soon as it boils strain it through a piece of muslin or gauze, and when a little cold put it into a pint of thick cream, and keep stirring it frequently till it grows thick and cold. Have ready some moulds—wet them in cold water, and pour in the slumery. Let them stand five or six hours at least before you turn them out.

BAVARIAN CREAM.—Procure one quart of cream. Take one pint of it, whip it, and lay it on a sieve; take the other pint and boil it, adding the yolks of four eggs, well beaten—make it into a custard, season it to your taste; then put into it half an ounce of isinglass, and set it on some ice. When it begins to thicken, stir in the whip cream, a spoonful at a time, and beat it until it becomes the consistency of sponge cake; then pour it in your moulds, and put in on ice.

COLD CREAM.—Ingredients: one quart of new milk, half a pint of cream, quarter of a pound of powdered white sugar, a large glassful of wine, and a nutmeg, grated. Mix the milk, cream, and sugar together—strain the wine into it, and pour the mixture into cups; set them in a warm place near the fire until they become a curd. Then set them in a very cold place, and grate nutmeg over them.

BIRD'S-NEST PUDDING.—Pare and core six or eight nice tart apples, and put them in a pudding dish. Take a quart of milk, six eggs, and sufficient flour to make a thin batter—pour it over the apples until the dish is nearly full. Bake it until the apples are clear, or you think it is done, eat it with wine sauce—or, cold sauce made of butter, sugar and nutmeg beat well together.

BOILED BREAD PUDDING.—Take a loaf of stale bread, and cut it up; pour one quart of cold milk over the bread, and let it stand awhile; then wash it smooth with a spoon, and add six eggs, beaten light. Flour a pudding bag, well, put the batter into it, and let it boil one hour and a half. To be served with wine sauce.

FROZEN CUSTARD.—Boil one quart of milk with some lemon peel and cinnamon, and when the milk is reduced to half, add the yolks of six eggs, well beaten, and mixed with a pint of cream. When the milk is sufficiently flavored, sweeten it, pour it into an iron pot, and stir it well one way; then give the custard a simmer until it is of a proper thickness—but do not let it boil. You must stir it one way whilst it is simmering.

LEMON CREAM.—Take four lemons, and pare them very thin; then squeeze in the juice, adding to the peel and juice a pint of water, the yolks of eight eggs, four whites of egg, a half pound of loaf sugar, and some rose water. Put the ingredients on the fire, stirring the mixture until it thickens; then strain it through a sieve, and pour it into glasses.

RICED CAKES.—Mix together half a pound of soft boiled rice, one quarter of a pound of butter, one quart of milk, six eggs, and flour enough to make a thin batter. Bake them on a griddle.

GERMAN PASTE—FOR CHICKEN, OYSTERS, OR MEAT PIE.—To every pound and a quarter of flour, take three quarters of a pound of butter. Rub it in the flour, and mix it up with gin and water to a paste. Take care not to handle the dough much.

TO KEEP CHEESE FROM MOULDING.—After it is cut, wrap it in a linen cloth and keep it in a tight tin box. Bread will keep much longer fresh in this way, also doughnuts and all kinds of cake.

EGG SAUCE FOR FOWLS.—Boil two eggs hard; half chop the whites, then add the yolks and chop both together—but not very fine—put them into a quarter of a pound of good melted butter, and serve it in a sauce-boat.

TO KEEP EGGS.—Put two saucers full of slacked lime in a keg full of water, and drop the eggs into it. In this way eggs are kept perfectly sweet for nine months.

Coffee is as much improved by washing before roasting as potatoes before cooking, for those who dislike to drink dirt.

Save your seeds for gardens and plants, or for the purpose of hardening yards when sandy.

If your flat irons are rough, rub them well with fine salt and it will make them smooth.

Ribbons of any kind should be washed in cold soap-suds and should not be rinsed.

A bit of glue dissolved in skim-milk and water will restore rusty oil cans.

HUMAN ANGELS.

Hand in hand with angels Through the world we go; Brighter eyes are on us Than we blind ones know; Tenderer voices cheer us Than we deaf will own; Never, walking heavenward, Can we walk alone.

Hand in hand with angels, In the busy street, By the winter heart-fires, Everywhere, we meet— Though unpledged and songless— Birds of Paradise; Heaven looks at us daily, Out of human eyes.

Hand in hand with angels, Walking every day; We the chain may lengthen, None of us may say; Yet we know it reaches From earth's lowliest coasts To the lofty seraph Standing in the sun.

Hand in hand with angels, Blessed so to be; Helped are all the helpers— Giving light, they see; He who aids another, Blesses more than one— Sinking earth, he grasps To the Great White Throne.

The Serpent's Den.

In the year 1792, a man by the name of Job Slocum, together with his family, consisting of a wife and two sons, settled in the north-western portion of Virginia. His rough cabin was built upon the banks of a beautiful and romantic stream, that, after meandering in the valley and through the dense forests, at length emptied its waters into the Ohio.

One day, in the spring of 1799, Job's two sons, Jesse and Thomas, in company with several other of the neighboring settlers, had made up a hunting party, intending to be gone some days. They took up their line of march into a dense piece of woods to the northward, and after making their exit from this, commenced the ascent of a steep and rocky declivity. They had reached about half-way up, when all at once the foremost of them started back with a shriek and horror, as the well-known sound of the rattlesnake fell upon their ears.

Immediately following the alarm they beheld numbers of these venomous reptiles directly in their path, some of them of huge size, and all having their heads raised and thrown back in a threatening manner. But the early pioneers were men not easily frightened by such a foe; and our heroes, after procuring good hickory cudgels, pressed on to the encounter.

As they approached, the serpents—which, while the party had been cutting their staves, had become passive—again roused up and assumed the defensive, darting out their tongues and snapping their rattles fiercely in defiance. The battle now commenced in earnest—the snakes striking in great anger at the men, and they in turn avoiding the danger of being bitten, and showering desperate blows upon the reptiles. The latter, after a prolonged and savage contest, finally fled, or rather retreated, down into the crevice of some rocks near the brow of the hill.

The attacking party advanced with great caution to the opening, expecting to see the enemy start up and renew the fight. Hearing no rattles, however, the boldest of them stepped down upon their knees, peered into the fissure; but nothing was to be seen of the serpents.

On counting the number that had been killed, the hunters found that there were nearly five feet in length, and in the largest part of the body were as thick as a man's leg below the calf.

None of the party having received any injury, they all proceeded on their way to the place where they intended to hunt. After prolonging the excursion some three or four days, the company returned in fine spirits. Jesse and Thomas mentioned the incident of their encountering the rattlesnakes to their father, who, after questioning them as to the natural peculiarities of the spot, rejoined:

"Well, lads, we will go over there tomorrow, and I'll warrant you, we'll have a fine time of it."

Accordingly, the next morning, together with his two sons and several of his neighbors, Job proceeded to the scene of the previous encounter. And there, piled in a heap, he saw the dead serpents, just as they had been left by the victors. But the most thorough search of the locality failed to discover the whereabouts of a single living one. This very much astonished all present, with the exception of old Job, who, turning to Jesse, said:

"Lead me that pole, lad, and I'll see if I can't find them."

Having obtained the instrument referred to, which was nothing more than a large and heavy plane iron, lashed to the extremity of a long ash pole, he proceeded to the crevice where the reptiles had retreated after their previous defeat. Parting some of the thick underbrush that covered it partially over, he thrust his weapon as far down the crevice as he could reach, and, after a few moments, he heard a rattling sound, and then at an imminent risk to himself, crept over his prostrate body, and caught the edge of the pit.

Carefully, very carefully, did Jesse Slocum follow his father. When he came within reach, every hand was extended, and he was almost lifted to a sure footing on terra firma. An exultant shout of joy now rang through the silent forest, at the almost miraculous escape. It was believed, after a few more rounds were fired, that all the reptiles were killed. As to the exact number destroyed, the hunters could form no just estimate; but all agreed that there were at least from four to six hundred. Doubtless this secluded pit had been for years their breeding place, as many of them were of enormous size.

"Did you not say, Ellen, that Mr. A. is poor?" "Yes, he has only his profession." "Will your uncle favor his suit?" "No, and I can expect nothing from him."

"Then, Ellen, you will have to resign fashionable society." "No matter; I shall see more of Fred." "You must give up expensive dress." "O, Fred admires simplicity." "You cannot keep a carriage." "But we have had delightful walks." "You must live in a small house, and furnish it plainly."

"Yes, for elegant furniture would be out of place in a cottage." "You will have to cover your floors with thin carpets." "Then I shall hear his footsteps sooner."

A young lady lately, reading the "Prisoner of Chillon" to another, came to the part where the prisoner's hair was changed gradually from dark to white, when she was interrupted with: "White! how odd, to be sure! Well, I know nothing about men's hair; but there is our old friend, Mrs. Graham, the lady who has just been 20 years old for the last 15 years—her husband died, you know, last winter, at which misfortune her grief was so intense, that her hair turned completely black within twenty-four hours after the occurrence of that melancholy event."

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The only chance to retreat was through an opening in the side some twenty feet below the ground; and in order that none of the reptiles should escape through this, the hunters, obtaining water from a neighboring spring, made a thick paste from a quantity of rich mould lying about, and dropping it down, rammed it tightly in the opening, thus plugging it entirely up.

And now the slaughter commenced. A volley that did much execution was fired down into the midst of the serpents, which the entrapped rattlesnakes, which, finding no way of getting out of their fatal confinement, moved round and round their prison with astonishing celerity.

Jesse Slocum, Job's eldest son, at last becoming tired of firing, seized his ready constructed lance, and creeping midway out upon the trunk of the fallen tree, commenced to drive the sharp edge of the plane iron at the bodies and heads of the writhing, wriggling snakes, which now presented a horrid appearance. Covered with their own blood, the furious reptiles, leaping and almost flying around their den, rendered the sides thereof, to the height of six or eight feet, red and gory.

For some time Jesse Slocum occupied his position, dealing death below; when one of his companions, noticing a peculiar swaying motion of the tree, called to him to come off at once, or there might be an accident. At this he burst into a hearty laugh, and renewed his work, exclaiming:

"If you'll only hush up, I'll have some nice rattlesnake pie ready for you in a very little while."

As he finished this remark, a huge serpent arose from the almost seething mass directly under him, on perceiving which he raised his weapon as high as possible, and taking a true aim, delivered a terrible blow directly upon the reptile's neck. But even as he did so, the further end of the tree split, and with a harsh, scraping noise, about half way down the side of the horrid wall, where, resting for a moment, it fell with a dull thump to the bottom.

Jesse was a powerfully built man, and when he saw his danger, he had like lightning managed to turn himself completely round and clasp the trunk with both hands as the tree fell—the roots of which still held, however—the shock caused him to slip from the upper to the under side, so that he was now compelled to support his own weight in that perilous position. Neither could he move, for should he attempt to recover himself he would inevitably fall into the seething, hellish mass beneath, where he would have become the victim of those rattlesnakes which had so escaped their doom. Many of the venomous reptiles would now and then strike at Jesse, or else at his cap, that had dropped from his head among them. Finding himself fast living out, he called out in a husky, choking voice to one of his companions:

"Shoot me—shoot me, Bill, for heaven's sake! You can't save me, and so don't let me fall in alive!"

The father, who till this moment seemed rooted to the ground with his son's danger, as the tones of the fearful entreaty fell upon his ear, started, and turning to the ground him, inquired in a cool, firm tone, "Have any of you any things?"

"Here's some," cried several in a breath. Grasping them quickly, he turned to Jesse, exclaiming in an encouraging tone: "Hold on a little longer, lad, and I'll save you."

Then, seizing a hatchet from one of the group, Job Slocum hastened along the tree to where his son's arms clutched the trunk. Drawing his stout knife, he placed the point in a crack, and with a blow or so with the hatchet, drove it up to the knot in the wood. Doubling one of his thumbs, he hooped it round the primitive staple, and whirling the two loose ends under Jesse's body, caught them, and drawing the thong tightly up, knotted it about the handle of the knife. Creeping further along, he secured, in a similar manner, the ankles of his son; and then facing about, took hold of his feet and held them firmly, while the imperilled man exerted his own strength to regain his former position. It was exceedingly difficult to do this, but he at last succeeded.

As soon as the desired object was accomplished, Job severed the thong which bound his son's ankles, and then at an imminent risk to himself, crept over his prostrate body, and caught the cord around his shoulders, and regained the edge of the pit.

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Table listing American Periodicals with prices: Boston Herald, Boston Herald.

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