

AGRICULTURAL.

SUMMER MULCH.

Mulching is very often an excellent thing to preserve the moisture in the soil, and prevent evaporation.

Some people place large stones around newly-planted shade trees. These have a tendency to attract moisture from below and prevent evaporation.

THE BRIGHT SIDE OF FARM LIFE.

The farm is "full of fun" to the open-eyed and open-hearted man, who is willing to be pleased. Objects of interest, curiosity and instruction surround him on every side.

The "Bright Side of Farming" shines from every side of the compass by turns, and good it will be for us if we will take that salwart posey, the broad-faced sunflower as an exemplar, which

"Turns to its god when he sets, The same face which it turned when it roe." And, to close the exercises, let us all join in singing Longfellow's brave doxology:

FOOD FOR APPLE TREES.

Apple trees are constantly taking up potash from the soil and storing a larger portion of it in the wood, says the Germantown Telegraph, and it is for this reason that in old orchards there is sometimes a dearth in fruitage, because of a scanty supply of this essential fertilizer available for use.

THE SEX IN EGGS.

A correspondent of the London Journal of Horticulture says, in reference to the question of sex in eggs: Last winter an old poultry keeper told me he could distinguish the sex in eggs.

SOURCES OF HONEY SUPPLY.

Bees will not be diverted from their natural pastures; and the great sources of supply in early fruit blossoms, in bean and clover fields, in the woods, and in the wild flowers of our fields and meadows, must still be our dependence as honey-producing areas for our bees.

plants as possible, to meet the anxious craving of bees for their natural food.

HAVE A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING.

A day or two ago, I was at a farmer friend's when a break-down in machinery occurred. The hammer and screw-driver were called for, and neither could be found.

Farmers, like other men, ought to have some sort of system about their affairs, and one cardinal point of the system should be a place for everything, and everything in its place. This rule should apply to the kitchen also.

Uncle Ephraim's Story.

Uncle Ephraim, an aged colored man, has so many good qualities that his habit of occasionally "drawing the long bow" is pardoned him by his friends.

"Ye see," said Uncle Ephraim, "dey was a man, likely he was a turpentine buyer, was killed down in de Caffbert County woods for jist a dollah and a half—dat was de mo' money he had wid him. Dey was fo' men dat tackled outer him; an' says he, 'Hol on! I aint got but a dollah an' a half!'

"You say," said the stranger, breaking in, "that the turpentine man was killed on the spot, and not one of the four thieves was ever caught?"

"Nevah to dis day, sah." "Then how do they know there were just four of them, and how do they know what the turpentine man's last words were?"

"Dat's de question, sah?" "Look here! You say that nobody saw the crime, and the thieves haven't been caught, and the turpentine man was killed on the spot. Now who revealed all these interesting details; that you have been telling us?"

"How—how's I gwine ter know, sah, when de law itesf don't know, sah?" "Well, when people don't know things," said the stranger, "they shouldn't attempt to tell them."

Renovating Horses.

A month to grass will work a wondrous change with a horse which is feverish and getting stocked. We used to turn our horses out, at night, and keep them in the stable, if not at work, during the daytime.

When a horse is kept on dry food and fed grain for more than a year, without change, the grain does not seem to have the effect in sustaining the system that it does after eating grass.

Nerviline. What is it?

Nerviline is a combination of the most powerful pain relieving substances known. Nerviline is not a nostrum, but a preparation which has received from members of the medical profession, clergymen, the press, and others most enthusiastic endorsement.

A parrot owned in a suburb of Chicago hangs out in front of its owner's house. Whenever a young lady and her beau are passing it shouts, "Papa! papa!"

Weather Wisdom.

The curious in such matters may always find wherewithal to amuse themselves in watching the instinct shown in the every-day proceedings of the birds and animals around us, as they provide against impending changes in the weather.

A careful observer, the author of "Wild Sports of the Highlands," says that ducks go out to the grass-fields to search for the snails which they know will be found before the coming shower.

"Fish have the strongest instinct with regard to the changes of the weather, refusing obstinately to rise at the most tempting baits or flies when clouds charged with thunder or rain are passing through the air.

"The grouse foretell the approaching rains before the most weatherwise shepherd can do so, by basking themselves to the dry heights, where they sit or walk about with erect heads and necks, in a manner quite different from their usual gait.

"Warning of an approaching change in the weather may often be taken from the proceedings of wild fowl on the water. Before changes of wind these birds betake themselves to those spots which will afford them the best shelter during the coming storm."

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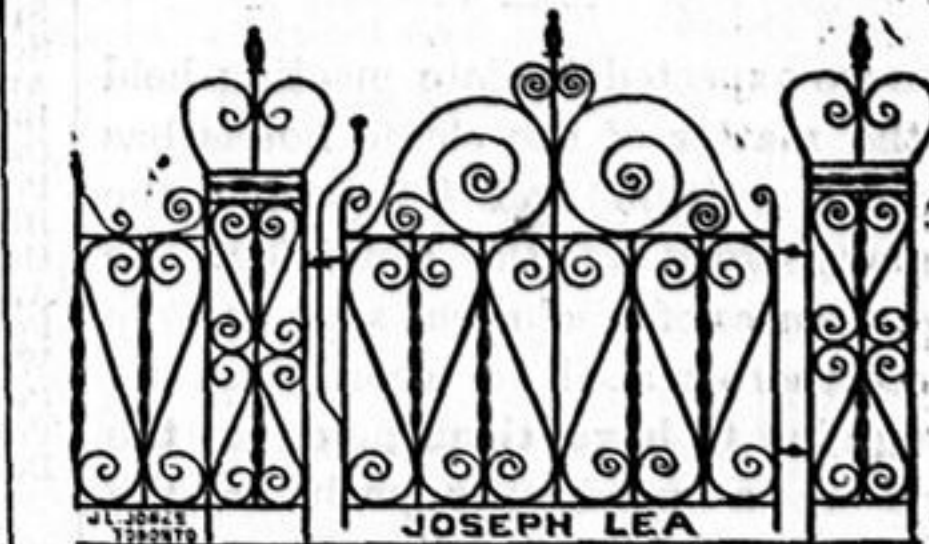
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