Downers Grove Reporter.

By WHITE & WILLIAMS.

DOWNERS GROVE, : ILLINOIS.

Trying to get something loses many a man his money.

Congessman Cobb would look well on the Kansas corn train.

Things are moving in Guatemala as usual. Another revolution has broken out.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe is 85, but Uncle Tom's cabin seems to be a thousand.

The sickness of Aubrey Beardsley was so clearly a case of retribution that one is amazed at his recovery.

A Missouri man claims to have chewed up a half mile of three-inch plug tobacco within the past sixteen years.

The towns of Cincinnati and Cleveland are now rising to prominence. They are important way-places on the road to Canton.

A number of deacons in Orange, N. J., have decided against bicycle riding on Sunday. It was easier to do this than to check the wheels at the church.

It was a feminine patient who was cured of hiccough by putting out her tongue for a few minutes. The scheme might not work so well for the quieter sex.

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. A gem is not polished without rubbing, nor is a man perfected without trials.

Miss Mamie Reddy of Chicago has been awarded $18,000 for damage in street car accident. But it is likely to be some time before the company will be ready to pay.

The New York newspaper proprietor who offered ex-President Harrison $10,000 to report the proceedings of the St. Louis convention seems to possess nerve as well as stamps.

George Delong of Benton Harbor says it's an ill wind that blows nobody good. His uncle, who was killed in the St. Louis cyclone, left him $150,000. George will now have a berry patch of his own.

When Mary McKenna, a Pittsburg woman, went home the other night she became angry with her husband because the supper did not suit her. She proceeded to kick up a row, and ended by knocking her husband down with a plate, and inflicting a severe scalp wound. She was fined $10 for usurping a man's privilege about kicking about his meals.

It is stated upon reliable authority that the Adirondack wolf is not yet extinct. Who ever supposed him to be? He hibernates during the season of ice and snow for effect, but he proves conclusively that he is anything but extinct about the first of July, when he gnashes his shining fangs of hope and opens his hotel for the summer and his jaws for the summer boarder.

The watermelon crop will be enormous this season. From Georgia alone there will be shipped 6,000 car-loads. Practically all the Georgia melons that go out to these markets are grown in that narrow strip of land extending from the Savannah river to the Chattahoochee across the state, below Macon, down to the Florida line. There are many extensive melon plantations around the town of Thomasville.

The cemetery trustees at Lansing, Mich., are really ingenious. They have adopted a unique plan for making people pay for the lots bargained for. If the obligations are not liquidated within a reasonable time the bodies buried in the lots will be disinterred and buried in the potters' field and the delinquents dispossessed of their burial places. The first thing they know somebody will be starting an opposition cemetery with cheaper lots.

An Iowa physician has demonstrated to his own satisfaction that a man who has been struck by lightning can be revived by a second application of the same agency. His patient was a man who had been unconscious for twenty minutes from a stroke in a recent storm and who revived at once when he received a charge from a galvanic battery. The difficulty in many cases will be that the victim of lightning will think he has been killed and therefore be unequal to the effort required to reach a point where he can get struck again or even receive the recuperating current from a battery. It remains to be proven also that the patient of the Iowa physician was not ready to revive in the ordinary way at the time the battery was applied. The theory is fascinating, even if incredible, and some further experiments will be awaited with interest.

A young woman of Bessemer, Mich., of the tender age of 2 years, has developed an extraordinary fondness for iron-ore, and the alert correspondent who chronicles the fact asserts her parents have great difficulty in keeping her from devouring the product of near-by mines. While ordinary children are clamoring for candy this one cries for ore and apparently thrives on the somewhat unusal diet. The phenomenon certainly calls for investigation by competent physicians, and it is not material whether they begin on the child or the correspondent first.

DISCIPLINE IN ALGIERS.

French Soldiers Tortured to Death For Slight Offences.

Another monstrous case of Algerian military discipline is reported. The victim this time was a soldier named Cheymol, brother of M. Paul Cheymol, says a Paris dispatch to the London News. He was sent, for some breach of rules, to a disciplinary company. This means a sort of penal servitude of the many fearful kinds that have survived the revolution.

The name of the sergeant set over Cheymol was Perrin. To humble him, Perrin ordered him to be tied by the wrists to a horse's tail, which was to be kept going at a brisk pace until the sergeant cried "enough!" After a long spell of this exercise Cheymol fell. The horse nevertheless was given rein and whip until it was evident that it was dragging not a living man, but a corpse.

A complaint has been sent by the brother to the war minister, but, as there was no breach of rule, he will probably wash his hands of the affair. M. Ernest Roche, however, has given notice of an interpellation, so that inquiry will be made between this and the 17th of May, when the chamber reassembles, of the head of the corps to which Private Cheymol belonged.

Deputy Rouanet, who was for three years in an African regiment which was not a disciplinary one, says that it was a hell upon earth. The officers and non-commissioned officers were brutalized by absinthe, by having no check of public opinion on their bad passions and by the arrogance arising from finding themselves masters of the Arabs.

He, too, was attached by the wrists to a horse's tail and had thus to go all the way in a blazing sun from Constantine to Batna, and thence to Biskra. The worst feature of this torture is the sense of loss of equilibrium. It is impossible to steady one's self, the arms being kept on the stretch, for care is taken to make the horse go at a pace which obliges the soldier tied to its tail to keep at a trot. He is absolutely powerless to prevent himself falling forward if he stumbles against a stone and when he falls he cannot rise unless the sergeant gives the order to the soldier riding the horse to stop.

Bad as were the physical conditions, the moral, M. Rouanet says, were a thousand times worse. There was no more prolific school of crime than the Algerian regiments. "Whose is the fault?" I asked. "The fault," was the reply, "is now that of parliament, which can do as it likes, but it was that old rascal, Louis Philippe, who invented the discipline of the African regiment to get rid of revolutionists in the army.

"The first disciplinary use made of Algeria was in sending there, soon after 1830, the whole battalion of the Charter, which rose against Charles X., and was not satisfied to hear that the bourgeoise monarchy was the best of republics."

CUNNING LITTLE ANIMALS.

Catching Moles Is an Art That Requires Experience and Adroitness.

San Francisco Post: "No, boys, it isn't money that makes my pockets bulge out in that way, but it is the equivalent," remarked a gray-haired, gray-bearded rancher from Mendocino, as he took in the slack of a hay rope that did services for a belt.

"To tell you the truth, my breeches pockets and my coat pockets too, are pretty well lined with moleskins. Within the last year I have developed into a mole hunter, and it pays. I have several acres in strawberries at Ukiah, and they need considerable water. I used to put in a lot of time digging little trenches and turning water this way and that, but it was disappointing to go out the next day and find that I had been irrigating a mole hill. I set watch on the little pests, and I soon learned their habits. Since then it is no trouble at all to get them.

"In the first place, I found that a mole never comes straight to the top of the ground, but always on a slant, and you will see the ground agitated for some time before he throws up his hill. If you step within twenty feet of him when he comes to the top he will instantly stop work and run. It's no use to try to catch him then.

"But a mole is the victim of habit. If he is disturbed at his work at 2 o'clock to-day he will not come back till exactly 2 o'clock to-morrow. You can set a watch by him and depend on its being right. Well, I watch around my berry patch and take the time whenever I disturb Mr. Mole. The next day when it is time for him to come back I take my station near the hole. As soon as he throws up his little mound I plant my foot behind him and close up his hole. Then all I have to do is to scoop him out of the dirt and drop him in my pocket, kicking and scratching like a good fellow. I kill him, stretch his skin on a shingle, and a man here in this city pays me $1 apiece for them to make purses of."

The Use of "Eyther."

An observant woman spoke recently of a conversation she had been having with a new acquaintance: "I thought her rather a superior person," she said, "until she let slip the touchstone 'eyther.' Then I was on the watch. Pretty soon she followed it up with 'I had ought to,' just as I knew she would.

It is stated that the Salem Museum, Massachusetts, has in its possession a cherrystone containing a dozen silver spoons. The stone is of the ordinary size, the spoons being so small that their shape and finish can be distinguished only by the microscope.

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

T. W. HIGGINSON, in Harper's Bazar, in discussing farm ownership of lands for summer residences, half opens up a painful as well as pleasant feature of the residence of wealthy people on country estates. The absorption of large blocks of land in the introduction of tenants not bound to the locality by personal investments or permanent interests can scarcely be considered a gain when the system replaces a sturdy farmer from native stock of the community. Fortunately the summer comers content themselves with a lot or at most a moderate sized farm, and generally leave for the protection of the buildings in winter a very good class of men. The introduction of the new forces that now tend to a consolidation of farms may change all this, and large blocks of land may be attached to a virtual manorial estate. Col. Higginson, after recounting the natural conditions induced by large estates in Ireland, said: "Yet now, when he looks from the windows of his summer abode in New Hampshire, almost every inch of land he sees, including several thousand acres, belongs to two or three, or at the utmost five, proprietors, and tends from year to year to rather concentrate than to further subdivision. All of these are city proprietors who have bought up what once were cultivated farms, in some cases throwing several farms into one. Some of these proprietors have undertaken farming and abandoned it, letting afterward little portions of their land to tenants; others have simply let their farms relapse into forests; only one still farms on a large scale. Nevertheless, the old order is changed so effectually by the process that it is pretty certain that it will never return. This will not again become a community of small farmers until the city people practically abandon it, and then the forests will have so grown up again that a new generation of pioneers will have to clear it anew. And what is going on here is proceeding as steadily over many square miles of each of our older states. Even in the comparatively new state of Iowa it will be observed, although new farms are being opened, yet the increase of tenant farmers is almost five times as great as that of freehold owners."

Science and Farming.

It has been by the most rigid and persistent application of scientific principles that we have come into possession of the improved breeds of cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, and poultry, whose well-developed and symmetrical forms make them the objects of admiration at our agricultural fairs. If a farmer, impressed with the vast superiority of these animals as compared with the scrubs he has been raising, buys a pair and takes them home, but ignorant of those scientific or physiological laws, attention to which originally secured the improvement, in the neglect of these laws he soon finds a marked deterioration in the progeny of his improved stock. In his disappointment at the result of the investment he pronounces it a humbug and a failure, whereas the failure is attributable directly to his ignorance. Whatever sins of omission or of commission agricultural societies may have laid to their charge, they have at all events accomplished a very important work in awakening a more general interest in agricultural and other productive industries. In bringing before the eyes of the community the best results attained in the improvement of all kinds of domestic animals, fruits and cereals, also the progress in the mechanic arts as applied to farming implements, they have enlisted the sympathy of men and women of intelligence and thought and raised labor to high position of honor and respectability.—R. G. Baird.

Propagation from Cuttings.

Success in rooting cuttings will, in general, be in proportion to our skill in preventing the cutting feeling its removal from the parent plant. Hence, other things being equal, well-ripened shoots of deciduous plants are more easily rooted than those in a less mature condition, though if proper conditions were at hand the latter would root the soonest. Suppose you have a nice growing plant in your window early in May, and it has many young shoots on it two or three inches long, slip them off close to the stem, cut off a few of the lower leaves and insert in a pot of sand, expose them to the sun and air in your window and most likely your labor will be in vain; but cover the pot with a piece of glass, to keep the atmosphere about them moist, and shade from sunshine until they can bear it without wilting, and you will have rooted plants in as many days as you would have in weeks from deciduous cuttings. In general it is best to have a cutting cut off at a bud, as the vital forces are stronger there and there is less danger of their decaying from extra absorption of water. Sand as a medium in which to root cuttings is preferable to anything else, because it prevents too much water collecting about the base of the cutting, on the one hand and on the other the entrance of too much air to dry it up. Other methods of propagation are chiefly the separating of tuberous and bulbous plants and the dividing of the roots of herbaceous plants.—J. H. Gardner.

Darwin on Fertilization.

There is weighty and abundant evidence, says Darwin, that the flowers of most kinds of plants are constructed so as to be occasionally or habitually cross-fertilized by pollen from another flower, produced either by the same plant, or generally, as we shall hereafter see reason to believe by a distinct plant. Cross-fertilization is sometimes insured by the sexes being separated, and in a large number of cases by the pollen and stigma of the same flower being matured at different times. It is also insured, in many cases, by mechanical contrivances of wonderful beauty, preventing the impregnation of the flowers by their own pollen. Again, there is a class in which the ovule absolutely refuse to be fertilized by pollen from the same plant, but can be fertilized by pollen from any other individual of the same species. There are also very many species which are partially sterile with their own pollen. Lastly, there is a class in which the flowers present no apparent obstacle of any kind to self-fertilization; nevertheless, these plants are frequently intercrossed, owing to the prepotency of pollen from another individual or variety over the plant's own pollen. There are, however, some cases which seem especially contrived for self-fertilization. The number is much smaller than would be supposed by a hasty observation.

Water for House Plants.

Rainwater is best, as nothing is more certain than that hard water will kill hard-wooded, fine-rooted plants. It should be used at a temperature somewhat near that of the room, and is improved by exposure to sun and air. When kept in tanks below ground it is frequently rendered as hard as spring water from its absorbing magnesia or lime from the materials of which the walls of the cistern are composed. Stronger liquids, containing some manurial matter in solution, if given, should generally be done at the period of flowering. Such solution should be weak and clear. All over stimulation of the plant-system should be avoided, some plants bear it, but others, as in the carnation and the rose, a distortion of the flower may ensue. The stamen may change into petals, petals into leaves, or the flower may become altogether double if the soil is too rich.

Watch the Bees.

We have come to the time when bees need close attention; for a little neglect now may result in an entire failure to secure any surplus honey, even though the season prove a favorable one, says a writer in Journal of Agriculture. I have said in these columns several times that bees do not need much attention, but what they do need should be given at the proper time, or else they will prove to be very unprofitable property. Swarming is nature's method of multiplying the honey bee, and it is just as natural for them to swarm when the conditions are right, as it is for them to eat. Some have talked, dreamed, and written about non-swarming races of bees, but I doubt very much if we ever come any nearer having them than we do now. Neither do I think they are to be desired. It is the swarming bees that are generally the honey gatherers. "But," says one, "I thought that the up-to-date bee-keeper did not let his bees swarm." Well, that depends! If I want honey, I let them swarm. If I wanted more bees, then I would divide them. As it is much easier to secure bees than honey, I do but very little dividing, and let nature have her own way. The first thing to be looked after in order to control swarming, for this is what we want to do and not to prevent it, is to see that all strong colonies have plenty of room for storing surplus honey just as fast as they are ready to occupy it. I said in a former article that as soon as the first surplus arrangement was partly full, it should be lifted up and an empty one put under it. If the season is an extra good one, this process may be repeated until there are four or five supers, each with a capacity of twenty-four pounds of honey, on all of the strong colonies. If these supers are given them in plenty of time, swarming may be delayed for several days, and a large amount of honey secured from each colony. During a good season it is about as easy to get four supers filled with honey, if properly manipulated, as it is to get one, if the bees are neglected. Watch the bees closely, and when a swarm emerges from a hive, just as soon as the bees are all in the air, remove the hive to some other part of the yard, and place the brood chamber only of another hive on the old stand where the hive stood from which the swarm issued. The frames in this hive should all be filled with comb foundation, if one is anxious to secure the largest possible amount of honey. The cost of this seems heavy at times, but the foundation will pay for itself several times in extra honey. Now take all the surplus arrangements off of the old hive and place them, bees and all, on the new hive. Hive your swarm in this hive as thus prepared, and then, if the season is a good one, watch them work, and you will know why I am not anxious for a non-swarming race of bees.

Feeding Watermelons to Bees.

The editor of L'Apiculture once fed 1,500 watermelons, many of which were unripe (worth in all $19.50) to his apiary of 100 colonies, from the middle of August to the end of September, when there was an absolute dearth of forage. It would have cost him three times as much to have fed honey or sugar. These bees did well on their food, and even stored a few pounds of surplus, which was of good body, but little colored, and very agreeable in taste. Twenty or more a day were fed, according to size. He does not say whether the bees wintered on that food, but it is to be presumed that they did, for the next season, though there was a little flow of honey, he again fed watermelons "to complete their winter provision," from which it would appear that it did not hurt them. Care was taken that the juice they obtained was fresh every day. He noticed that they voided the watery portion during their return to the hive, at a distance of only a few yards from the feeding place. Before feeding the fresh melons, he had tried boiling the pulp with a little water, but the bees took little notice of it.—F. L. Tompson, in Review.

Orchard Culture.

In the spring of 1891 and experiment was begun to give a practical illustration of the effects of different kinds of treatment for young orchards. Plat No. 1, containing four trees, was seeded at once to lucern; No. 2 seeded to clover, No. 3 to timothy, and No. 4 seeded to a mixture of timothy and clover, all being allowed to grow close around the trees. Each plat contained four trees set twenty-four feet apart. All the trees in the lucern died the first summer. The four plats were watered alike, but the locern plat suffered most. On the other three plats one-half the trees died. All were reset in the spring of 1892 and more water applied than the previous year. The lucern by this time seemed to have such a full possession of the land that it was very difficult to keep the trees from drying. Some of them lived through the summer, but were dead in the spring of 1893. The trees on the other three plats were in about the condition as the previous year.—Utah Experiment Station.

Moisture and Mulching.

The best and most practical way to preserve this moisture and place it just where it is most available for plant use is by frequent shallow cultivation, forming a fine earth mulch. This applies to gardens and all hoed crops. Where soil cannot all be cultivated as with small fruits then use manure, leaves, straw, clover, marsh hay, or any material to shade the ground and retard evaporation. With coarse mulch; close around fruit plants, and a fine earth mulch between the rows, large crops may be carried safely through severe drouths. Commence at once and continue until products are mature.—M. A. Thayer.

Origin of Arbor Day.—The phrase and the anniversary "Arbor Day" were originated by the present Secretary of Agriculture when president of the Nebraska board of agriculture. The date of its adoption by the Nebraska board was January 4, 1872. The first proclamation declaring it a holiday was issued by Gov. R. W. Furnas, March 31, 1874. That proclamation made April 8 Arbor day. Premiums were offered on this holiday by planting trees, making recitations relative to forests and woodlands and by other methods paying tribute to the necessity of the conservation of the forests of the United States, and likewise of the restoration of those sections which have been entirely denuded of trees.—Secretary J. S. Morton.

Cow Peas and Corn.—When the corn is from six inches to knee high, go through a few rows and plant two or three southern cow peas in or near each hill. They will start and grow, slowly at first, but rapidly later, and when the corn is ready to lay by, they will spread and nearly cover the ground. After the corn is cut off the hogs may be turned in to eat the peas, or the whole mass may be turned under for green manuring. In some ways, this will be better than trying to sow a row of peas between the rows of corn. As a green crop, this will be surer than crimson clover, and more valuable than rye. Try it in a small way.—Rural New Yorker.

Prepared or Unprepared. — The farmer who is always ready for rain when it comes may safely be said to be up-to-date. Time and tide wait for no man, and the same is true of the rains. The farmer often waits for rain and frequently waits in vain, and I know of farmers who, having waited for rain to reduce some of the lumps in their fields, instead of themselves preventing the formation of lumps, are now wishing it would quit raining so they can get into the field and plant corn.—Ex.

The Raspberry.—The raspberry, in one form or another, is found growing wild in many parts of the world. Its name is supposed to be derived from "rasping," in allusion to the roughness or prickliness of its wood. In some parts of Scotland the term "raspis" is still used. Its botanical name, Rubus Idaeus, or the Mount Ida bramble, is obtained from the fact that it was first introduced into Southern Europe from Mount Ida.—Ex.

Necessity for Spraying.—The fact that insect and fungous enemies of the orchard may be held in check by careful attention to spraying with certain materials, has been so often and so plainly demonstrated that further proof seems unnecessary. By our more progressive farmers the practice is now looked upon as a necessity in successful orchard management.

Disillusionment.

Mamma—And so he complained of your biscuits, did he? Well, I wouldn't mind; you will soon learn to make better ones, and then you will please him.

New Wife—But it is not that, mamma; I don't mind his finding fault with my cooking. But to think that love, which I supposed was a sentiment of the heart, is only an affair of the stomach!—Boston Transcript.

ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

CANADA CLAIMS THE MOST PICTURESQUE FEATURES.

If the Dominion Line Is Allowed the United States Will Lose Glacier Bay, the Inlet and the Muir Glacier—British Greed Again.

ELIZA R. Scidmore discusses "The Alaska Boundary Question" in the Century. The writer says:

The change of boundary indicated by the Cameron line would not only take from Alaska several rich mineral sections, but our most unique scenic possessions. Portland Channel itself is a fiord of surpassing beauty; Behm canal is justly extolled as the finest landscape reach on the coast; Revillagigedo is the scenic island; and John Muir is author of the saying that the Stikine river is "a Yosemite one hundred miles long." The Cameron Line would annex all these to Canada, crossing the Stikine at its muddy mouth, and taking away over sixty miles of that navigable Yosemite, on whose banks four places have been accepted as the temporary boundary in the past. Three times the Hudson Bay Company post and the British custom house were removed and rebuilt, until at last, during the Cassiar mining boom, the British custom house was allowed to remain on acknowledged Alaskan soil at the foot of the Great Glacier, for the temporary convenience of the British authorities and the United States military officers at Fort Wrangell, near the mouth of the Stikine river. Later a town site was surveyed around this very custom house, and entered at Victoria, B. C.

The most beautiful tide-water glacier on the coast would be lost to us by Gen. Cameron's penciled annexation of Taku Inlet. The boundary line, which had always been drawn at the crest of the mountain range at the head of Lynn Canal, was moved down to tideline sixty miles farther south, to the very entrance of that magnificent fiord, gathering in all the water on the Canadian map of 1884; and in 1887 Gen. Cameron moved the line sixty miles farther south, to the magnificent fiord, gathering in all the Berner's Bay mines, the canneries at the head of Lynn Canal, the great Davidson Glacier, and the scores of lesser ice-streams that constitute the glory of that greater Lyngenfiord of the New World.

Least pleasant to contemplate in this proposed partition or gerrymandering of scenic Alaska is the taking away of Glacier Bay, which, discovered by John Muir in 1879, visited and named by Admiral Beardslee in 1880, has been the goal of regular excursion steamers for thirteen seasons past. Alaska tourists learn with dismay that the Cameron Line, cutting across Glacier Bay at its very entrance, would transfer the great glaciers to the British flag, and prevent United States steamers from landing passengers at Muir Glacier, just as the Canadian excursion steamer has been debarred from landing visitors in Muir Inlet for want of a United States custom house.

So far the so-called Canadian "aggressions" are all on paper. The Cameron line has been drawn, but has only imaginary existence. For a quarter of a century there has been complete indifference to the unsettled Alaska boundary line on the part of the United States, followed recently by excited and intemperate utterances in the newspapers, based on half information, miners' yarns, and imagination, as deplorable in effect as the former indifference. Public opinion is being misled and prejudiced to a degree that renders peaceable considerations of the question difficult. Wild editorials have given such hints, points, and suggestions for Canadian "aggressions," were such intended, that one might believe the Jingo journalists hypnotized from across the border, so much better do they serve the Dominion's ends than those of our "neglected estate" of Alaska.

The Sun, the Moon and the Tides.

Most people suppose that the moon alone is responsible for the phenomenon of tides, but the attraction of the sun is also an important factor. Of course, the distance of the sun from the earth is unthinkably greater than that of the moon, but its mass is so enormous that it has considerable tide-producing influence. The force which the sun exerts is the same on both sides of the earth at the same time, the tide-producing force of the great orb being about four-tenths that of the moon. At the time of both new and full moons the "wane spheroids produced by both the sun and the moon have their axes coincident"—that is to say, the two great orbs unite their energies on the fluids of our planet and as a result the tides are higher than the average for the remaining portions of the month. These are the "spring tides." The "neap tides" come in the time of the moon's first and third quarters and are not as great as the average because the moon and the sun are working in opposition to each other.—St. Louis Republic.

Divorce.

The prevalence of divorce in this country is one of the alarming symptoms of a dreadful disease in the family life of the nation. From 1870 to 1890 the ratio of divorce increased three times as fast as the population of the United States.—Rev. A. E. Davis.