



Buildings and Grounds of the Department of Agriculture, Washington.

## OUR BOOK TABLE

### CATALOGUES, ETC., RECEIVED.

INGRAHAM GOULD, Beaver Dam, Dodge Co., Wis. Catalogue and Price List of Plants, Trees and Shrubs, for sale at the Beaver Dam Nurseries. Also various Circulars.

G. P. ROWELL & Co., No. 40 Park Row, New York City. List of Twenty-five Hundred Newspapers for which advertisements are received.

SAMUEL A. BAKER, Madison P. O., Tenn. Price List of Fruit Trees and Shrubs. Also Circular of the Wild Goose Plum.

SETH GREEN & A. S. COLLINS, Caledonia, N. Y. Treatise on Trout Culture, by Seth Green. Price \$1.00.

### REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

THE EARTHLY PARADISE. A Poem. By William Morris. Author of "The Life and Death of Jason." Part III. Boston: Roberts Brothers. Chicago: Cobb, Pritchard & Co.

The productions of this author are unlike those of any poet, either living or dead. We miss in them the fire of Byron, the earnestness of Whittier or the imagery of Moore. They are studied productions, and they need to be studied rather than read. The Earthly Paradise consists for the most part of legends derived from the classical literature, with some stories belonging to a later period. The style is at once beautiful and simple, the measure graceful and melodious. In reading it one seems to recall the old dreams of childhood, or, rather, to dream them over again. The author will never become the poet of the people, though he seems surely destined to be a favorite with persons of broad culture and high literary attainments.

HOW CROPS FEED. By Samuel W. Johnson, M. A. New York: Orange, Judd & Co. Chicago: THE PRAIRIE FARMER & CO.

This work is "the companion and complement" of "How Crops Grow," by the same author. Having read the first book with great interest and profit, we anxiously awaited the appearance of the second in the series. As to its merits our expectations were raised to the highest pitch. After a hasty reading, we are not so highly pleased with this as with the first book.

The author avoids high-sounding terms, but tells what he attempts to in a manner which is easily understood, a characteristic of a true teacher. He has looked over all the cumbersome volumes on the subject, read up to the times, condensed and sifted, and added his own rich experience, and has given in this neat volume the pith of the whole subject. The large number of experiments here mentioned, and largely to the value of the work, as they make it practical and show the student how the results have been attained.

The book will not be attractive for popular reading, but will be very instructive to the student of agriculture who has an elementary knowledge of chemistry and botany. No intelligent farmer can afford to be without it. It touches upon geology in speaking of the origin, formation and classification of soils.

A multitude of observations has demonstrated that from ninety-five to ninety-nine per cent. of the entire mass (weight) of agricultural plants is derived directly or indirectly from the atmosphere. After knowing this it seems very wonderful what results are produced by adding to the soil a few pounds of gypsum, superphosphate, or guano, or a few loads from the peat swamp or barn-yard. How Crops Feed solves some of these mysteries.

We like the following from page 104:

"For the husbandman the soil has this paramount importance, that it is the home of the roots of his crops and the exclusive theater of his labors in promoting their growth. Through it alone can he influence the amount of vegetable production, for the atmosphere and the light and heat of the sun are altogether beyond his control. Agriculture is the culture of the field. The value of the field lies in the quality of its soil. No study can have a grander material significance than the one which gives us a knowledge of the causes of fertility and barrenness, a knowledge of the means of economizing the one and overcoming the other, a knowledge of those natural laws which enable the farmer so to modify and manage his soil that all the deficiencies of the atmosphere or the vicissitudes of climate cannot deprive him of suitable reward for his exertions.

"The atmosphere and extra terrestrial influences that effect the growth of plants, are indeed in themselves beyond our control. We cannot modify them in kind or amount; but we can influence their subservience to our purposes through the medium of the soil, and a proper understanding of the characters of the latter."

In these paragraphs we think he has rather under-estimated the influence of man upon the elements. The writings of Dana, Marsh, Lap- ham and others have shown that men can modify and control to a certain extent the winds, temperature and humidity of the atmosphere. This is done by regulating the amount of the forests.

## TOPICS OF THE DAY

### GROUND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Early in 1868 we published an engraving of the Department of Agriculture Building. The same illustration has since appeared in many of the agricultural periodicals of the country, so that the appearance of the structure is tolerably familiar to the public. The present illustration, which we borrow from the Department, is given for the purpose of imparting some idea of the surrounding grounds.

For the purpose of preventing dampness in the walls, a water-tight concrete walk closely surrounds the building; opposite the principal front this concrete surface is fifty feet in width the entire length of the building, thus giving ample room for the approach and departure of carriages. The space in the immediate front is laid out as a strictly geometrical flower garden with architectural appendages, such as vases and statuary. It is divided by a terrace wall, to be ornamented with stone balustrades and pedestals for the reception of plant vases; communication with the lower garden being provided by stone steps, the whole forming a proper arrangement for the harmonious connection of the buildings and its surroundings. This connection is maintained at the ends by large growing trees, but the immediate front will be kept open, thus avoiding the common error of preventing the building from being viewed as an architectural design, a fault painfully apparent in many fine structures, in which beauty of architectural features is wholly lost by dense growths of trees and shrubbery.

The plant houses are all located west of the Department. The design includes a range of glass structures with a front three hundred and twenty feet in length by thirty feet in width. These include apartments for the culture of exotic fruits, of which a collection is being formed for a complete series of the citrus family, a class of fruits now extensively produced in Florida and other Southern States, of which family several fine varieties of oranges and lemons have already been introduced and propagated for trial in this country, and for an extensive collection of medicinal plants, also those furnishing textile fibers, useful gums, sugars and dyes. Structures for orchard houses, cold greenhouses, and other purposes, are to be extended in the rear; the entire designs forming a compact and economic arrangement specially adapted to the various purposes contemplated in its erection.

The largest portion of the enclosed area upon which the building is located will be appropriated to an arboretum, or a collection of hardy trees and shrubs. While these are planted in accordance with a botanical system, each order and tribe of plants being united, yet the landscape effect has been carefully studied, thus producing a combination altogether novel, that of forming pleasure-ground scenery, and retaining a strict systematic classification of the trees and shrubs employed in producing it.

About ten acres are set apart for experimental purposes, for testing varieties of small fruits, seeds, and for the propagation and culture of hardy plants.

### RAILROADS AND WAREHOUSES.

In consequence of collusion between railroad companies and the owners of elevators, by which all grain transported over a road was forced into such elevators as were in the ring, whereby shippers were subject to inconvenience, annoyance and unjust charges, the legislature of Illinois, in 1867, was called upon to pass, and did pass, a law for the protection of farmers, buyers, shippers and consumers in this respect. The following is one of the main provisions of said law, which is still upon the statute books:

"It shall be unlawful for any railroad or railway company to deliver any grain into any warehouse other than that into which it is consigned, without the consent of the owner or consignee thereof; and it shall be the duty of said party or parties, at the time of shipment of said grain, or before it reaches its destination, to give notice to the railroad or railway company, by card on the car, or otherwise, of the warehouse into which said grain is to be delivered; and for the failure to deliver the grain according to the direction of the owner or consignee thereof, such railroad or railway company shall be liable to the warehouseman to whom the same should have been delivered, for two months' storage of all such grain so consigned or refused, and also to such warehouseman and to the owners of such grain, for all damages either of them may have sustained

by reason of such refusal or neglect of said railroad or railway company, including all lawful expenses incurred by him or them in prosecution of any suit or suits against such railroad or railway company to recover the penalties or enforce the provisions of this act."

The validity of this act was declared in 1868, by the supreme court in the case of Vincent *et al.* v. the Chicago Alton and St. Louis railroad company. But in the face of this decision the Northwestern railroad company now seem determined to defy the law. Messrs. Spruance, Preston & Co. are owners of the "Iowa Elevator" in this city, which has a track running to within a few feet of the Northwestern railway track. The railroad company refuses to allow a connection to be made with their road. A few days since the proprietors of the Iowa Elevator advertised to receive grain for storage at one half the rates being charged by the other elevators in the city. They made arrangements to receive grain at the point on the road nearest their elevator and to have it hauled in wagons the balance of the distance. Several car loads of grain have arrived here consigned to this elevator, but the railroad has, thus far, refused to deliver it as consigned, and it is said, stored it in another elevator, where the old rates prevail. In other words the railroad company seem openly to defy the law. We trust that Messrs. Spruance, Preston & Co. will fight the matter through with determination. The courts should put such damages upon the railway company as shall teach them that extortion and law breaking have no day in the Northwest. In this act of the Northwestern Railroad Company is found another reason why every producer should attend the convention at Bloomington on the 30th of April. Read the speech of Senator Carpenter on another page. Witness this last act of a powerful corporation! Is it not time the producers met to see what may be done in self defense?

### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

The members of the Convention to revise the Constitution of the State of Illinois are now enjoying a recess of a few weeks. They will again organize for work on the 12th of April. The Convention first assembled on the 13th of December, taking a recess of ten days in the holiday season. It has therefore worked sixty-six days. The Committee of the whole has passed upon the following articles, which have been reported to the Convention, and referred to the Committee on Revision and Adjustment:

Jan. 24. Article.—On miners and mining, two sections.

Jan. 24. Preamble adopted.

Jan. 24. Article 1.—Relating to boundaries.

Feb. 5. Article.—Relating to Illinois and Michigan Canal (Mr. Browning's substitute), two sections.

Feb. 24. In reference to State, county and municipal indebtedness, two sections.

Feb. 25. Article.—Relating to military affairs, six sections.

Feb. 25. Article.—Providing for a system of township organization, two sections.

Feb. 26. Article.—Relating to roads and highways, one section.

Feb. 28. Article.—Providing for a system of homestead exemption.

Feb. 28. Article.—Executive Department, twenty-eight sections.

March 2. Article.—Legislative Department, forty-four sections.

March 2. Article.—Judiciary Department, forty-nine sections.

Reports (in some cases both majority and minority) from the Committees on Revenue, Right of Suffrage, Electoral and Representative Reform, Miscellaneous Corporations, Counties, Federal Relations, Future Amendments, etc., are yet pending and undisposed of, while the Committee on Bill of Rights and Schedule have not yet presented their reports.

### MASON & HAMLIN ORGANS.

The Mason and Hamlin Organ Company have just issued what they term a Testimony Circular, which is certainly remarkable as presenting such an amount of testimony to the excellence of their instruments. It contains six large newspaper pages, closely printed, and thus includes as much matter as an ordinary duodecimo volume. Nearly one thousand persons, most of them experts in the matter, testify to the rare excellence of the cabinet organs made by this company. The character of the testimony is indeed quite as remarkable as its quantity. Nearly all the prominent musicians in the country are quoted; the principal organists, pianists, and teachers of chief American cities are among those who say that these are the best among instruments of the class. A number of well-known European artists testify to the same effect. Extracts are given from Paris and London papers which admit that these organs are superior to those of European make. American newspapers are equally emphatic. But what is, perhaps, even more satisfactory, is the testimony of hundreds who have these organs in use, as to their working qualities. After looking over such a mass of testimony, one cannot well doubt that the reputation of this company is richly deserved. By sending his address to the Mason & Hamlin Organ Co., 154 Tremont Street, Boston, or 536 Broadway, New York, any one can have a copy of this circular sent him gratuitously, postage paid.—N. Y. Evangelist.

### WHICH?

"Which shall it be; which shall it be?" I looked at John—John looked at me. (Dear, patient John, who loves me yet, As well as though my locks were jet.) And when I found that I must speak, My voice seemed strangely low and weak; "Tell me again what Robert said," And then I, listening, bent my head. "This is his letter:

"I will give A house and land while you shall live, If, in return, from out your seven, One child to me for aye is given." I looked at John's old garments worn, I thought of all that John had borne, Of poverty, and work and care, Which I, though willing, could not share; I thought of seven months to feed, Of seven little children's need, And then of this.

"Come, John," said I, "We'll choose among them as they lie Asleep;" so, walking hand in hand, Dear John and I surveyed our band. First to the cradle lightly stepped, Where Lillian, the baby, slept, A glory 'gainst the pillow white; Softly the father stooped to lay His rough hand down in a loving way, When dream or whisper made her stir, And huskily he said, "Not her—not her." We stooped beside the trundle bed, And one long ray of lamplight shed Athwart the boyish faces there, In sleep so pitiful and fair! I saw on Jamie's rough, red cheek A tear undried. Ere John could speak, "He's but a baby yet," said I, And kissed him as we hurried by. Pale, patient Robbie's angel face, Still, in his sleep, bore suffering's trace; "No, for a thousand crowns, not him," He whispered, while our eyes were dim; Poor Dick! bad Dick! our wayward son, Turbulent, restless, idle one— Could he be spared? "Nay, he who gave, Bid us befriend him to the grave; Only a mother's heart can be Patient enough for such as he. And so," said John, "I would not dare To send him from her bedside prayer."

Then stole we softly up above, And knelt by Mary, child of love. "Perhaps, for her 'twould better be," I said to John. Quite silently He lifted up a curl that lay Across her cheek in wilful way, And shook his head. "Nay, love, not thee," The while my heart beat audibly. Only one more, our eldest lad, Trusty and truthful, good and glad— So like his father, "No, John, no—I cannot, will not let him go!"

And so we wrote in courteous way, We could not drive one child away. And afterward toil lighter seemed, Thinking of that of which we dreamed, Happy in that not one dear face We missed from his accustomed place; Thankful to rest for all the seven, Trusting the work to One in Heaven!

### GLEANINGS.

A NEGRO woman in Virginia, 71 years old, recently took it into her head to learn to read and write, and cipher; so she entered a school, and regularly every day brought ten cents, which she paid to the teacher. She got along very well until near the close of the second week, when she "missed her lesson," and was ignominiously kept in during recess, greatly to her disappointment at not being permitted to "play with the rest of the children."

An artist in Indianapolis, Ind., has in his studio a very fine Madonna picture—one that he takes pride in showing to his visitors. Imagine his feelings when, the other day, a lady, who had examined the previous productions displayed upon the walls, pointing to the Madonna, said: "But the one I like best is that tired nurse girl. Don't she look natural?"

The Prussian Government has military maps of every foot of its territory, so complete that every hill, ravine, brooklet, field and forest is delineated with perfect accuracy. It is a common boast of Prussian military men, that within eight days 848,000 men can be concentrated to the defense of any single point within the kingdom.

An old horse that was awaiting his fate at the hand of some New York soap-fat boiler,

broke away from his stable recently, and, crushing open the door of a neighboring tenement, walked up three flights of stairs, poked his head out of a window, and took a long gaze at the scenery.

A NICE little game has been stopped at the New York Custom House. Some of the men have been accustomed to wear "stomach canteens," fitting about the body under the coat, into which they would syphon off liquor from casks unloading, carry it away, empty it safely, and return.

A SOUTHERN paper complains that the pine tree on Isle aux Poins, known as the "English Lookout," from having been used as a post of observation by the English after their retreat from before New Orleans, was cut down the other day by railroad contractors and sold to a saw mill.

THE Covington (Ky.) papers contain the following notice: "The overcoat of Rev. Mr. Kellogg, which was stolen from the vestry room of Trinity Church, on Sunday evening last, contained an able sermon, which the thief is requested to return to the owner after he has read it."

AT Kansas city a merchant detected a thief who robbed his money drawer by the testimony of a little four-year-old girl, who saw him and recognized him when he came in again.

## HUMOROUS

### MISS A TRAIN.

I do not love Miss-Fortune— To her arts I bid defiance; And I never should importune To a marriage Miss-Alliance. I've hated Miss-Construction Whenever I have seen her, So I should not by induction, Much care for Miss-Demeanor. But of all the Misses various— That are of horrid pain— The cause, like grinders carious— The worst is "Miss A Train!"

"Say, Mr. Junis, is dar any place in de Bible whar a cullid pusson is mentioned?" said old Caesar to his friend. "Well, dar is, an' if you'd been to meet'n Sunday you'd heard de preacher read how Nigger Demus wanted to be born again." "Wh-wh- what he want to be born again for?" "I dunno. I spec he tought he might be born a white man next time, an' dar's a good many niggers alibe now jes like old Demus, but dey'll allers be niggers anyhow."

A POOR man was killed in Michigan, a few weeks ago, under distressing circumstances, leaving his wife sick and penniless. A bachelor friend interested himself in the matter, and raised sixteen hundred dollars for the widow, then proposed, and being accepted, he married her, and pocketed the money himself.

AN honest old darkey down South says:—"Day tell us dar war pervisions in de Constitution for we collud folks, but dat was a lie—dem pervisions didn't come. 'Fore God, massa, I aint seen de fust moutful."

AN observer of human nature reports that he has seen some people possessing the peculiarity of three hands—a right hand, a left hand, and a little behind hand.

A MALICIOUS libel is going the rounds, that vegetation is so scarce at Cape Cod that two mullen stalks and a whortleberry bush is called a grove.

FRITZ says that at the lecture the other evening, the audience was so quiet you could hear a bed tick.

WHEN Adam and Eve partook of the tree of knowledge, did they study the higher branches?

How long can a goose stand on one foot? Try it—that's the way the goose found out.

### New Advertisements.

## WANTED---Agents to Sell "The Medical Adviser."

By Dr. THOMPSON, Author of "Thompson on Fever," &c.

A work of over 1,000 large octavo pages and illustrated with numerous engravings. It embraces the results of long experience and varied practice, and is full, accurate and comprehensive. The simplicity of its instructions, the comprehensiveness of its subject, the accuracy of its teachings, the facilities afforded in its perfect arrangement, and the attractiveness of its style, will make it a household work, and a "medical adviser" to every family in the land. Both the Glossary and Index are full and complete.

From the great number of commendatory notices received for this book, we take pleasure in calling public attention to the following:

FROM THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL, BUFFALO, N. Y.

"It treats concisely, intelligently and correctly on the topics it presents, and the accompanying illustrations are frequent and remarkably good."

FROM J. A. THACKER, M. D., CINCINNATI.

"Dr. Thompson's book is written in plain, easily understood language, and indicates correct information. A family possessing and studying it will find in it a fund of knowledge calculated to be of the highest benefit."

FROM A. K. GARDNER, A. M., M. D., NEW YORK.

"You have the good fortune of issuing one of the most valuable as well as typographically beautiful works that has appeared in this country."

FROM M. F. BASSETT, M. D., QUINCY, ILL.

"I accord to the work my unqualified approbation. I hope the enterprise of introducing it into domestic use will be encouraged by the profession and all intelligent heads of families."

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"I know of no work on the 'Theory and Practice of Medicine' that is better adapted to family use than this. It should be in the library of every family."

FROM I. W. WILEY, M. D., D. D., EDITOR LADIES' REPOSITORY, CINCINNATI, O.

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APPLE Trees; splendid assortment of the best Western varieties, 3 years, \$15—2 years, \$10 per 100, packed and delivered on cars or boats. Kettling and Mo. Mammoth Blackberries, \$1 per doz.; \$3 per 100; \$15 per 1,000; Clark Raspberries, \$1.50 per doz.; \$4 per 100; Dwarf Pears, good cellar, \$25 per 100; 2 yrs. Standard Pear, splendid stock, all sizes from \$15 to \$75 per 100; \$8 to \$10 per doz.; Early Richmond, Eng. Morrell, Louis Philipe, Gov. Wood and other hardy cherries, beautiful trees. American Chestnut, 2 1/2 to 4 ft., \$3 per doz.; \$15 per 100. Persimmon seedlings, Evergreen, Roses, Shade trees, Maples all sizes, very cheap, and every thing in the Nursery line at the lowest rates. 8¢ and free price list.

Address D. B. WIER, Agent, Lacon, Ill.

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## The Duches de Bordeaux Pear,

A NEW and unsurpassed Winter Variety. Very late keeper.

Inquire of SMITH, CLARK & POWELL, Syracuse Nurseries, Syracuse, N. Y.

## 2,000 MORE

Richmond Cherry, 4 to 7 feet, well branched, \$30 per 100. 1,000 Dwarf Pears, 3 to 5 feet, extra, \$25 per 100. 50,000 Apple Grats at low rates. Siberian Crab, 5 to 7 feet, \$30 per 100. Address D. MASON, Knox Co. Nursery, Galesburg, Ill. (10 3p 17)

## Osage Orange Seed.

WE have a few hundred bushels of No. 1 New Seed, selected by ourselves in Texas, and a few millions of No. 2 Plants—all of which we will sell very low. Our plants were up before the first hard freeze. Address SUTTON & BRO., El Paso, Ill. (13)