

THE MICHIGAN FARMER.

A Weekly Agricultural, Horticultural, Family and News Journal.

NEW SERIES.

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THE MICHIGAN FARMER,

A Large Weekly Agricultural, Family and News Paper, designed to interest and entertain Farmers, Stock-Raisers, Fruit-Growers, Mechanics, and the Families of all classes.

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MRS. L. R. ADAMS, }

Important Reduction in the terms of the Farmer.

TERMS.—One copy \$1.50; six copies \$8; ten copies \$12; fifteen copies \$17; twenty copies \$22; thirty copies \$28; forty copies \$42; fifty copies \$50 (*only \$1 each*) payable strictly in advance.

☞ Trial Subscribers supplied until January 1st for twenty-five cents.

SECURE THIS PREMIUM!

For the largest number of subscribers obtained for the *Farmer*, at \$1.25 each, previous to the first of next month, we will give the choice between a Colby's Clothes-Wringer, price \$3.50, or one of Smith's Corn-Huskens, both of which took the first prize at the last State Fair. Let the friends of home enterprize begin now to increase our list, and keep the ball rolling. There is no good reason why the circulation of the *Farmer* may not be doubled or quadrupled.

Salt as a Fertilizer.

As salt is a production of our own state, the supply being deemed inexhaustible, at least for many years to come, it is a wise policy to make use of it for all purposes for which it is well adapted—not only to give savor to human and animal food, preserve meats, butter, etc.—but to look about us and see if there are not other and new uses to which it can be applied to advantage.

Last week we referred to it as a destroyer of certain weeds, and also of vermin—and here we would ask our readers if any of them have ever tried a strong solution of salt and water as a wash for vermin on cattle, poultry and etc? If not, let it be tried, each application to be followed by a rinsing off with pure water. If any have tried it carefully, we would be pleased to hear the result.

But we purposed speaking at this time more particularly with reference to salt as a fertilizer. It will be remembered that in the account of the experiments, published last week, the narrator stated that the application of salt to destroy weeds benefitted his Mangel crop materially, increasing the product *one-fifth*. It is not warrantable to suppose that a proportionate benefit would result to all crops, and why? because some have less saline matter in their composition, and hence require less in the soil.

The points to be learned, then, are: What proportion of salt is already in the soil; and what proportion do certain products require? These points ascertained, it is easily determined how much, if any, salt it will be profitable to add, as a manure. If the soil contains enough already, all additions will at least be useless; but if the saline property is deficient for a certain product, either the deficiency should be supplied, or another kind of product, requiring less salt, should be adopted for growing upon it.

To ascertain the amount of salt already in the soil, the following plan is recommended by high authority: "Collect half a pound of soil to be tested; let it be as dry as possible; thoroughly wash it with two pints of *distilled* water, and strain it through paper, or pour off the liquid after the earthy portion has settled. If a solution of nitrate of silver or lunar caustic be applied to this liquid, it will throw down a white precipitate, which, on being exposed to the rays of the sun, becomes purple, which will be greater or less in quantity according to the quantity of salt in the soil. If it be collected and well dried, every ten grains will be equivalent to four grains of common salt in the soil. If one-half pound of dry soil should yield one grain of salt, an acre (according to Johnson) would contain nearly 1000 lbs. where the soil is 12 inches deep, and 500 lbs. where the soil is six inches deep.

Thus to the first inquiry each farmer can obtain his own answer; and the following table, the result of careful analysis by Boussingault, will afford much of the necessary data to answer the second inquiry. He found that every 100 parts of

Wheat	contained	2	of	saline	matter.
Barley	"	2	"	"	"
Oats	"	2½	"	"	"
Rye	"	1	"	"	"
Corn	"	1½	"	"	"
Buckwheat	"	1½	"	"	"
Beans	"	8	"	"	"
Peas	"	2 4 5	"	"	"
Meadow hay	"	5 to 10	"	"	"
Clover	"	9	"	"	"
Timothy	"	10½	"	"	"

There are, however, other things to be considered; for instance, the *straw* of wheat is estimated to require *five* parts of salt, so that the required proportion for both wheat and its straw would be 8½ parts in 100

A correspondent of the *Germantown Telegraph* has been making experiments with salt on wheat and grass the results of which are interesting and instructive. He says, of applying it to wheat:

"In the first experiment the crop was increased from 24 bushels to 29½ per acre by the addition of 11 bushels of salt per acre, harrowed in before the grain was sown. In the second experiment, the crop was increased from 23 bushels to 31½ by the addition of 6½ bushels sown after the seed and harrowed in with it. In another it was increased from 20 to 26½ by 5½ bushels, harrowed in before the seed. In another it was increased from 24 to 31 by the addition of 140 pounds of salt per acre.

"On hay its effects were still more perceptible. In the first experiment the hay was clover and timothy mixed; the crop was increased from one ton 16 cwt. to two tons 18 cwt. per acre, by the addition of six bushels of common salt sown broadcast. In another experiment the crop was increased from 12 to 14 cwt. by five bushels per acre. In another, seven cwt. by five bushels of salt per acre.

"Salt when applied to meadow land, at the rate of six or seven bushels to the acre, will destroy moss and various other hurtful plants, and will benefit the grass. Last spring I tried this experiment upon my front yard; the appearance of the yard had been very much spoiled by the

growth in great quantities, of that noxious plant, commonly known as dandelion."

He goes on to say that by applying about one handful of salt to every square yard the grass was benefitted, at the same time that the dandelions were nearly all killed. In his remarks relative to these experiments the editor of the *Telegraph* says: "The reason of the disappearance of the dandelion is too plain. The salt was its mortal enemy, while it was the friend of the grass when applied in proper quantity. We have long been an advocate of salt as a fertilizer, and have carried out our views by using it upon our own premises about as frequently as we do lime, or a little more frequently. We need nothing more satisfactory of the amount of salt which our different crops require, than the indisputable authority of Boussingault. As it respects garden vegetation, we have no certain information; but we have this much, that an occasional light dressing of salt of the entire garden, has exhibited the happiest effect. With respect to asparagus, it is well known that it will bear such a dose as will completely cover the ground, and destroy all other vegetation. Even meat pickle, which would kill a tree as thick as a stovepipe, may be poured over the asparagus bed, not only with impunity but with decided advantage."

As before remarked, salt is a product of this state; consequently here it is cheap and abundant, and if it will pay to use it as a fertilizer in any state, it will in Michigan, provided the soil is deficient in that property. Have any of our readers analyzed their soil to ascertain its proportion of salt? If so will they be so kind as to inform us [of the result? Let those who have not done so, undertake an analysis as directed in the foregoing, and report the result.—Information on this point will do nobody harm, and may lead to important results.

Educate the Boys.

A writer says: "Farmers often make a great mistake in keeping their boys from school to work. The little gained by their labor is dearly purchased. Let them go at the commencement of the term, and every day until the close, and see that they are not late morning or noon. Furnish suitable reading and amusement for the evening, and make inquiry about the lessons studied during the day. Let farmer's boys and girls be the best disciplined in heart and mind, of any class in the community, and when they come to act in the world, they will have a high and honorable position."

All of which is very good; but we would caution parents against sending either their boys or girls to school before they are six or eight years old. This may seem like deferring it rather long, but there are good and sufficient reasons for it.—It is shown by carefully collated statistics that a prodigious loss of human life is the result of this practice of compelling young children to sit still in one position a good portion of the day, in a room the air of which is vitiated by the exhalations of a number of persons, when they desire to be, and ought to be, out acquiring stout limbs and

Farmer Contributors.

For the Michigan Farmer.

GATHERING FRUIT.

Notwithstanding our backward season, and the unusually late maturity of the crops generally, the long delay of autumnal frosts is giving us another assurance of the promise that "seed-time and harvest shall not fail."—The past two years, however, have given us abundant warning not to presume upon the delay of winter. The writer has been led to believe that much of the premature decay of our apples during the two past winters is attributable to the effects of the sudden and severe frosts that occurred while the fruit yet remained upon the trees. This effect was particularly observable in the more tender and delicate varieties, such as Norton's Melon and Jonathan, which, although at first apparently unharmed, soon betrayed the injury by the discoloration of the flesh, in consequence of which the affected specimens, (nearly the entire crop of the above mentioned varieties,) were rendered worthless before the middle of December, instead of lasting, as they would otherwise have done till February or March.

So far as the writer's observation extends, the firmer and longer-keeping sorts may with comparative impunity be subjected to a degree of frost that would utterly ruin the more delicate and tender kinds, although the effect of frost is believed to be, in all cases, more or less injurious.

To those therefore who have not already done so, we would say, begin at once. We seldom pass the first week in October without a frost severe enough to do more or less injury. Let every man having fruit to secure put in force enough to do it promptly—Many even of the winter varieties mature early, and may with benefit to the fruit be gathered considerably in advance of the general crop. When this is attended to at the proper season the labor of securing the main crop will be greatly lightened.

To be successful in keeping fruit the owner should attend in person to the gathering, as very few persons can be depended upon to handle it with sufficient care, unless closely watched. No fruit can be relied upon to keep that has been shaken off, or allowed to drop, and with most varieties it is a matter of economy as well as convenience to use small baskets, well lined with some elastic material to guard against bruising, for gathering.

For expedition in gathering, a very convenient and effective ladder was exhibited at the late fair,—the subject of a recent patent,—and which we believe is manufactured somewhere in the State, but we suppose the editor will demur to a very pointed puff, as it is not advertised in the *Farmer*.

Where the individual has a dry, airy cellar, with shallow bins, the fruit may with safety be placed there at once; but if not, they should be spread out in an airy room secure

from frost for two or three weeks, to undergo a sweating process before being stored away for winter.

A large and important class of apples, (russets,) soon shrivel and become tough and leathery, if kept for a considerable time open to the air. To prevent this it is indispensable that they should be stored in bins or barrels sufficiently tight to prevent all circulation of air.

A still more effective mode of preserving the juice and crispness of this class of apples is to bury them with straw and earth like potatoes, but this is done at the sacrifice of their keeping qualities, as they will decay at once on their return from their winter quarters.

Plymouth, Oct 4th, 1861.

T. T. LYON.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Noted People of the Bible.

BY SLOW JAMIE.—NUMBER FIFTY TWO.

HEZEKIAH.

Few princes came to the throne of Judah, or indeed of any kingdom, under more unfavorable circumstances than the good Hezekiah. His father Ahaz was a weak and foolish ruler, and had brought the country to the verge of ruin. It was but lately that the ten tribes had made an invasion and killed a hundred and twenty thousand of the ablest men in the kingdom and Hezekiah's own brother among the rest. Ahaz had very foolishly invited the Assyrians to his aid. To do so he had to make his kingdom tributary to the Assyrians. They took his money but gave little or no help. The Philistines, a troublesome tribe of half shepherds, half thieves, emboldened by the weakness of their neighbors had commenced to make depredations rendering agriculture insecure and traveling dangerous.

Hezekiah's first care was to abolish the idolatry introduced by his father, and to restore the ancient worship of the true God.—The temple was opened and repaired, the priests invited back, and the people assembled to celebrate the feast of the Passover. The king also sent an invitation, in the most courteous terms, to the ten tribes to come up and worship. For the most part his messengers were only insulted by that degenerate people. However a few gladly accepted the invitation, and they had a large and pleasant assembly. After this he abolished idolatry with its attendant immorality throughout the kingdom, and provided the people with suitable teachers.

But while he was attending to these religious duties, he did not neglect the temporal welfare of his people. In the true spirit of the old Puritan who said, "Don't forget your prayers, but mind and keep your powder dry," he turned his arms against the Philistines and he regained all the towns which they had taken from Judah and forced them back into their own territories. He also chastised the Edomites who had taken advantage of the former troubles to plunder the Jews,

Nor did he stop here; he boldly declared the kingdom independent, and refused to pay the accustomed tribute to Assyria, although he had to do this in opposition to a large party in Jerusalem who gloried in a connection with such a great empire, even though it brought vassalage with it.

His revolt brought upon him Salmaneser king of Assyria, with all his forces, but they were detained on the way to reduce Tyre, and Samaria, as both cities had thrown off the Assyrian yoke, Hezekiah was able to render the Samaritans so much assistance, that they held out three years, but at last the city was taken.

By this time the king of Ethiopia had become jealous of the growing power of the Assyrians, and raised a great army to fight him. To meet such a force the king of Assyria found it necessary to return home and raise a larger army. There he died and his son Sennacherib took his place. He raised a great army and met the Ethiopians and Egyptians, whom he completely routed.

The power of the empire was now turned against Judah, and fortress after fortress fell. The party in favor of alliance with Assyria now gained the upper hand, and Hezekiah in a moment of weakness yielded and made an ignominious peace. He not only paid a ruinous fine, but made acknowledgements.—The gold and silver which he was required to pay was worth nearly a million of dollars.—To raise this sum he had not only to empty his treasures, but even to rob the temple of some of its gold. For this humiliation he was well repaid. Sennacherib took the money, and broke the treaty. Marching towards Jerusalem he laid the whole country waste.—The tenth chapter of Isaiah describes the consternation of Jerusalem as he approached.

The news came that they had already come to Aiath, within twelve miles of Jerusalem. Other scouts soon follow with the intelligence that they had laid up their carriages at Michmash, three miles nearer, and were passing through the gap of the mountains. The next news was that they had made a halt at Geba only seven miles from the city. The inhabitants of Gibeah, once the royal city, had fled. Anathoth was a city of priests three miles north of Jerusalem, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem imagined they heard their cry of lamentation, as they collected to flee. At length the enemy appears on the heights of Nob, about two miles from the capital. Their flying colors, their martial music, and their immense moving columns, would have presented a grand spectacle, had they come in peace. But the sight gave little joy to those who knew that such a magnificent array, spoke of bloodshed in torrents, and little children dashed against the stones. The terrified citizens felt a little relief when they saw the army halting at Nob, and found that they were going to stay there for one day. The mother looked at the child and said "one day more." Life was bitter

with fear, yet they were glad to have it prolonged one day.

In the meantime Hezekiah had taken counsel with the venerable prophet Isaiah, and in answer to the united prayers of both, had received assurance of divine aid. Nor had he long to wait. The enemy beleaguered the city but the night following, a deadly pestilence fell upon them. In the morning the trumpets gaily sounded the reveille, but whole divisions of the camp gave no response. The officers hurried through, and found as Byron says, that

"There lay the horse with his nostril all wide,
But through it there rolled not the breath of his pride
And here lay the rider distorted and pale,
The dew on his brow and the dust on his mail.

The Jews were surprised to see from the walls, the miserable remains of the army in full retreat. To keep the infection from spreading a great fire of wood and brimstone was made in the valley of Himmon, and the corpses consumed.

After this Hezekiah himself was taken down with a mortal disease. Of the nature of his sickness we know nothing except that there was a sore attending it. Some think he suffered with the same pestilence that destroyed his enemies, and that this was the plague spot. At all events he had warning from Isaiah that his days were numbered.—Although a good man, he felt himself scarcely prepared for death. He was loth to go just now when after a long conflict, there was a prospect of peace. Nor could his kingdom spare him well when it required the most prudent management to recover it from the wasting effects of the war. In answer to his prayers and tears, his life was spared, and it was told to him, what was probably revealed to no other mortal, the exact number of years he had to live.

After fourteen years of trouble and toil, he now enjoyed fifteen years of prosperity.—He made great improvements in the country, and the remains of his water-works at Jerusalem, can be seen at this day.

The inspired historian pronounces Hezekiah the best of the kings of Judah, that were either before or after him. In wisdom he could not excel Solomon. In either piety or prowess, he could not excel David. How he was the best I am at a loss to know, unless, as some think, he had only one wife. We hear of but one, whose name was Heabzi bah, which signifies, "my delight is in her." As Isaiah who prophesied in his days is called the evangelical prophet, so the higher light which he brought may have already begun to do away with the old abuses, and polygamy among the rest.

The *Kennebec Journal* suggests that Verbena plants may be kept alive through the winter by placing them in a well drained trench two feet deep and there securely covered with boards and banked with earth.

Daniel Ball & Co., of Grand Rapids, failed on Saturday morning last.

For the Michigan Farmer.

A Fragment.

BY O. M. H. HASCALL.

Pity the man

Who cares more for his body than his soul.
He who is satisfied so long as all
His daily wants he has supplied. Who seems
To think that he was brought into the world
Just like the butterfly—simply to live,
To flit around awhile, to taste the sweets
Of life, and then—to die. Who has no thought
That he was born to dwell in higher, far,
And nobler spheres than this "more speck of earth";—
Spheres to such as few of wealth, or of high birth
Or rank, can entrance gain. These things of earth,
Seemingly great to us—for reason of
The power with which they're used to govern poor,
Weak, ignorant ones—are but the dross of this
First sphere. The next requires material
Of finer texture. On, thus on, until
Of finest mold we are.

Awake! awake!

Thou man who like the butterfly would be.
There's a world within, around, thou hast not known.—
A world of mind. In seeking but to please
Thy outer form, thou hast lost sight of that
Best part—thy soul. True happiness is found
In action. Work!—work for development
Of all thy physical and mental self.
Thus wilt thou be a beacon light, guiding
The weak, unwary ones to drink of bright
And sparkling streams that flow from well-springs of
Our inner life.

'Tis well to work to rise

Above the many petty grievances
That cluster round our daily walk, and seem
To try, like giant weeds, to crush out all
Our better self. 'Tis well, I say, for us
To work to rise above these weaknesses,
So little, yet so troublesome. For we,
In pulling up the weeds within ourselves,
Will learn to exercise sweet charity
Toward those who are more weak than we. The day
When man will "love his neighbor as himself"
Is yet to come. But this remember: If
We "have not charity," nothing are we
That's grand, noble, or manly. Work, *work!*—to free
Thyself. Then keep thy "lamp well trimmed" that it
May give abundant light to those yet in
The folds of error, darkness, grief and sin.

Youths' Department.

Aunt Fanny's Talk to Little Girls.

Mrs. FRANCES D. GAGE is one of the most pleasing writers of the age. Her pen productions are always overflowing with progressive practical thoughts, gloriously tinted with true christian sunlight. She has a special talent for interesting at the same that she instructs the little folks. The following from her pen, taken from *Field Notes*, should be carefully read and remembered by all little girls:

I walked down the street, thinking, thinking, and as I turned the corner, two sweet little girls with rosy cheeks and bright eyes that laughed fairly under their little brown hats, met on the sidewalk right before me.—"Oh Minnie!" exclaimed one, "you ought to have been down to Mrs. Wright's."

"What were you doing?" asked Minnie.

"Oh, we've had such a splendid time.—You know that deep shady alley in the garden, where the cedar trees meet over head so sweet, well, Mrs. Wright said we might keep house, and we got brooms and swept it all out, and put down a carpet, and fastened up curtains all round, just as if it was night, and hung up a lamp, and pretended to have a great party you know. And we had grapes and cakes, and we got some dishes and handed them round, and Mattie True put on Nannie's dress. Oh you ought

to have seen her, taking a stiff in her trail, dragging it round on our carpet, as if she was a big fashion lady."

"Was Ella Brent there?"

"No, indeed! we wouldn't let her know anything about it."

"Why? she always wears pretty clothes."

"Well I don't care if she does, she always wants to have her own way, and gets the pouts if we won't let her."

"Well, she says her pa is richer than all ours put together."

"I don't care if he is; my pa is just as good as her pa, if he is rich, and she needn't think she is going to have everything her own way."

The little speaker scowled angrily. I had walked slowly a little way, on purpose to hear all about that "splendid time" in the garden, but I could hear no more, and walked on, thinking, thinking, what a pity it was that these two sweet little girls should so suddenly have drawn the cloud over their sunny faces by talking illy of their young companion. Perhaps she deserved it; if so, it was a great pity to be sure, that Ella Brent should be so proud, and overbearing, because she could wear fine clothes, and had a rich pa; and what a pity, too, that Minnie, sweet, blue-eyed Minnie, should seem to think that riches and fine clothes were all things needed to make Ella an acceptable playmate. Susan Cross, who was telling about the play-house and the garden party, was a very good girl, and I liked her idea, that her pa, if he was not rich, was as good as any body's pa; she was right, too, in thinking that a girl who pouted because she could not have her own way, was not a pleasant companion; but she ought not to have pouted herself, or to have spoken so spitefully. They all needed some little lessons to help them to get the right of things.

And so I kept thinking, thinking thinking, how all these little girls had good thoughts and pleasant ways, and happy feelings; and each of them had also some ways and thoughts that were not so good, and how easy it is to spoil a good character by a very little fault that may be corrected by a very little pains.

So thinking, thinking, I got home, and went into my garden to pluck some flowers for a friend. There was one beautiful daily rose just opening, as sweet, and fair, and fresh, and full of sunshine, as the faces of the two little girls; I clipped it with my scissors, and was just putting it to my nose for a good smell, when I discovered a little worm lying right on its heart. I was tempted to throw it from me, and then I said "no! I will not, it is only one worm to a dozen beautiful petals, and I will shake it out;" and so I did, and my rose was so beautiful when the worm was gone; and that act set me to thinking, thinking again, that the little worm that spoils the sweetness of so many darling little roses which we call boys and girls, might be shaken out if they would only try for it; and then they would be all lovely, like my flower; but if those hateful worms of jealousy, pride, arrogance, pettishness, ill-humor, listlessness, idleness, selfishness, and I don't know how many more, are allowed to lay at the heart and eat into the core, until they grow to be men and women, they will not be good or lovable or beautiful; no one will put such a flower in a bouquet, or choose such a boy or girl for a friend.

Last week's Enigma was first answered by Mrs. Samuel P. Wormley, of Marshall.—The answer is "Live and Help Live." It is worthy of being substituted for the motto,