

# THE MICHIGAN FARMER



FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY.  
AND FAMILY MESSENGER.

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## THE MICHIGAN FARMER,

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

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EXPLANATION.—If at any time you see just how their account with the Farmer stands at all times we have adopted the following practice: All subscriptions will expire with one of the months of the year. Those whose names have no figures after them on the address slip have paid or been paid for till January 1st 1863; those having a figure 2, to the second month—February—of this year; those having 3, to the second month of next year; those having a figure 4, to the third month—March—of this year; those having 5, to the third month of next year,—1863,—and so on.

NOTICE.—When a person receives the Farmer, the bare receipt of it is evidence that the recipient, or some other person, has paid for it, or else that we intend to make a gift of it.

Those who receive an unordered copy will please understand us as saying **Please Subscribe!**

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CONTRIBUTORS will please to hurry up their favors for next number, as we wish to have it out on time again.

GET GOOD SEED.—Don't "risk it" with doubtful seed. Our seasons are none too long, and you can't afford to run the risk of re-planting for the sake of saving a trifle on seed. Be sure to get that which is good, to begin with.

### Maple Sugar.

The season for manufacturing this article is near at hand, and the uncommon condition of the affairs of our country renders it advisable to make as much of it this season as possible without injury to the trees. Clean-

liness and rapid evaporation are great essentials to success, and hence good buckets, (largest at top on account of ice) and a good evaporator, are among the essentials.

Mr. TOOKER claims that his evaporator, elsewhere advertised, is a cheap and efficient article, and we can at least say that a specimen of the sorghum sirup manufactured upon it warrants the opinion that it is meritorious. Some have siphons to take the sap from one pan to another, but the ends must be where the sap does not boil, or steam will fill them and stop the passage of sap. Good siphons with self-acting faucets are highly spoken of.

Those who have used them say small tin spouts made tapering, and a half-round tapering bit to take out a thin shaving occasionally, yield the most sap.

"To make good sirup," says the *Country Gentleman*, "the sap must be reduced to one-twentieth or one-thirtieth of its bulk, or be boiled twice as much as sorghum juice. The sirup is then to be strained through flannel, and placed aside to cool and settle 12 to 24 hours. Then return it to the pan, and to every gallon add and stir a beaten egg and a gill of milk to clarify it, keeping it carefully from boiling till the scum has risen and has been skimmed off. Then boil it carefully until it will harden, which may be known by dropping some from a spoon into cold water. When this takes place, the liquid sugar may then be poured into proper vessels, and then the cakes placed in a box to drain. To make the sugar perfectly white, lay a few thicknesses of flannel on the top of the cakes while it is draining, these flannels to be wet and washed daily with cold water—they will thus absorb and wash out the coloring matter."

Wonder who can furnish us the nicest cake to admire and praise, this season?

**Noted People of the Bible.**

BY S. J. JAMES. NUMBER SIXTY-THREE.

**PETER.**

On the north side of the lake of Galilee, near the river Jordan, lived Simon Barjonas. James and John, as well as his brother Andrew, occupied the same house with him.— They were all partners in business. Their village was called Bethsaida, which signifies the house of hunting. It is probable that many of the inhabitants lived by pursuing the game in the mountains near by; but Peter and his friends were fishermen.

Whether they belonged to the tribe of Judah, or were descended from the remnants of the ten tribes, we are not told. We only know that they worshipped at Jerusalem, but lived in Galilee. We may be certain that it was necessity, not choice, that caused them to leave the inheritance of their fathers, wherever it lay, and seek a scanty subsistence by their nets. The Israelites were all attached, each one to the spot where his ancestors lived so long. That Peter was no exception to this, appears from the fact that he represents heaven (1 Pet. 1; 3,) under the figure of "an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away." The very words suggest to us that from his earliest youth he had heard stories about the beautiful heritage which had belonged to his fathers, until by their sin they had corrupted and defiled it, and were driven from it.— They had waited long for the promised Messiah, that he might restore them to it. He came at last, not an earthly conqueror, but a spiritual Savior, and turned their attention from the earthly Canaan to the heavenly paradise. Although well please with the change, yet he speaks of the better land with allusion to their lost inheritance, being careful to add the words, which assure the reader that as there is no sin in heaven, so there is no danger of its glory fading away.

Simon was naturally very impulsive, so ready to speak that he often did not wait to think; so ready to promise, that he could not always be depended on. Indeed, we are better pleased with the modesty of Andrew who is generally silent, than with the forward turn of his brother.

However, the all-searching eye saw in him the elements which, by divine grace, would make him a great man. Accordingly, whenever he came to Jesus, the latter gave him the name of Peter—a stone. It was his brother Andrew that first brought him to Christ. He was a disciple of John the Baptist, who pointed out Jesus to him as the Messiah. He immediately went for Peter, and both sought Christ. After this they both returned home to attend to their worldly business, for this occurred at Bethsara, fifty miles from their own village. But some time after this, when John was imprisoned, they were fishing on the lake shore, when Jesus came along preaching. He got into their boat, and preached to the people on the

shore. When the sermon was finished, he directed Peter to push out a little into the lake, and let down his net. Peter thought it was of no use, for they had been toiling all night and caught nothing; still he said that at Christ's word he would let down the net, and well was he paid for it, for they got two boat loads in the one draught. It was then that Andrew, Peter, James and John all left their fishing and became Christ's disciples.

The gospel of Mark used to be called, among the ancients, Peter's gospel. Mark was a particular friend of Peter's, and it is said that he wrote the whole book as Peter dictated to him. At least he had often heard the apostle relate what he records. It is not likely that this Mark was the same, who is called John Mark in the Acts. That one was a nephew of Barnabas, but Peter calls this Mark, his own soul, i. e., he converted him. Da Costa thinks that the author of the gospel was the devout soldier, whom Cornelius sent for Peter. And this is probable, for there are some Latin words in the original, and the whole book is one that would be suited to the Gentiles, leaving out genealogies and other things interesting only to the Jews. If the style indicates a Roman and a soldier, the matter shows Peter. It notices the emotions of the people on different occasions, as 'they were astonished beyond measure.' As has been remarked before, we are here told many particulars which Matthew, in telling the same story, passes in silence.— For instance, the story of raising the girl from the dead, Mark alone tells us that the father's name was Jairus, that the daughter was twelve years of age, and that Jesus ordered them to give her something to eat. Now these particulars are of no account in themselves. Matthew's story is just as instructive, and so much shorter, but there is a life in Peter's (or Mark's) account that makes us read it with more interest.

Peter was selected to be the first to carry the gospel to the gentiles, because his lively manner and energetic style would suit the Romans, and also because his greatness of mind would lead him to break over Jewish prejudices more readily than the rest.

His two epistles are models of theological composition. Every sentence is teeming with thought. We have already noticed how a single word often expresses his views on what he treats. But it is not so much the richness of the doctrine, as the warmth of his emotion; that gives the great interest to his writings. He glows with love, he exults with joy, and communicates his delight to the attentive reader. This great and good man was crucified about the same time that Paul was beheaded, which was thirty-six years after the death of Christ.

When beef fat and mutton fat are dissolved in benzole the former will crystallize at 68 deg. Fah., while butter will remain soluble until it reaches 53 deg. Fah., when it falls in masses of beautiful velvety crystals. By this method of treating, the adulteration of butter with fat can easily be detected.

**School Hygiene.**

A writer of the Indiana School Journal gives some important hints on this subject. We commend the following paragraphs to the careful thought of our readers:

"Who has not seen a small school room, sufficient to hold twenty-five scholars, crammed with fifty. A stove in the center heated excessively; low ceiling; no facilities for egress of the heated, noxious vapors rising from fifty lungs and bodies of the inmates.— Some par-boiled, others cold. Teachers and pupils soon become uneasy, stupid. Scholars fitful, turbulent and disorderly. The cold clammy sweat rolls off the vexed and worried teacher, little imagining that a noxious atmosphere is poisoning his body, and the bodies of his pupils—stupefying their minds and destroying their nervous energy; and will in many cases induce premature death or protracted and painful diseases. Every teacher should know that every human being needs each moment a constant supply of pure air, to oxygenate his blood, of which he cannot long be deprived with impunity.

Proper facilities for ventilation should be provided in every school room, and then teachers should know how and when to apply them. The noxious atmosphere should not only have a ready exit, but fresh new air should constantly enter, keeping up a uniform current."

"Much injury is also done scholars by allowing them to occupy uncomfortable seats, improper positions, and long and tedious sittings in rooms where the air may be pure and healthful. They are allowed to select their own positions, in studying and sitting, often just what they should not. Students under twelve years of age should have recess every hour, in the open air, if not less than fifteen minutes, and be encouraged to active, lively exercise during that time.— The position of the scholar has much importance and should receive especial attention from the teacher."

**Cloves.**

Cloves are unopen flowers of a small evergreen tree that resembles in appearance the laurel or the bay. It is a native of the Molucca or Spice Islands, but has been carried to all warmer parts of the world, and is largely cultivated in the tropical regions of America. The flowers are small in size and grow in large numbers, in clusters, at the very end of the branches. The cloves we use are flowers gathered before they are opened, and whilst they are green. After they are gathered they are smoked by a wood fire, and then dried in the sun. Each consists of two parts, a round head, which is which is the four petals or leaves of the flower rolled up, inclosing a number of small stocks or filaments. The other part of the clove is terminated with four points, and is, in fact, the flower cup and the unripe seed vessel. All these parts may be shown, if a few cloves are soaked a short time in hot water, when the leaves of the flowers soften and readily unroll. The small of cloves is very strong and aromatic, but not unpleasant. Their taste is pungent, acrid, and lasting. Both the taste and smell depend upon the quantity of oil they contain. Sometimes the oil is separated from the cloves before they are sold, and the odor and taste in consequence is much weakened by this proceeding.

Type metal is composed of 100 parts, by weight, of lead, 28 of antimony 4 of tin.— About five per cent loss is usually entailed in forming this alloy.