

WEST BRANCH FARMER

For the Lewisburg Chronicle.

Mr. Editor: Book Farming is very often laughed at by our Dutch farmers, but it is necessary in good practical farming. What little experience I have had in book farming, has been invaluable to me.

The relation of the experience of my friend over the river with plaster and lime was very satisfactory to me. I agree with him, as to fresh lime land; but where there was no time for three or four years, I believe the plaster will have some good effect, and especially in a dry season.

A man can also on passing a farm, whether the owner is well acquainted with agricultural and other newspapers; for if a farmer do not read, he will soon be behind the times in this go-ahead country, where every one must act for himself.

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compound is called the hydrate of lime, and is the condition in which freshly applied lime exists in the soil, when spread and incorporated with it. After a time, however, it gradually combines with carbonic acid, forming an imperfect carbonate; and it is the alternate absorption of carbonic acid and other gases, and their relinquishment to the demands of growing vegetation, which, in the yet unsolved mysteries of agricultural chemistry, is deemed one of the most beneficial results of the action of lime.

Lime is a direct food to plants, constituting a part of the ash of all; but it is found in much greater proportions in some than in others. 1,000 lbs. of dry pea straw, sainfoin, red and white clover, each contain from 20 to 30 lbs. of lime, while lucern has nearly 50 lbs. Every other cultivated plant requires a considerable quantity of lime to mature and perfect it. But in addition to this, and its aid in bringing the gases (the organic portions) to vegetables, it greatly facilitates and disposes those chemical changes in the inorganic or earthy parts of soil, which are so essential to furnishing the plants with all they may require.

Lime serves the further purpose of altering and improving the mechanical texture of soils. Its greater density and weight induce its settling through the adhesive masses of clay soil, thereby opening them to the free admission of air and moisture. Where these lands have been underdrained and the subsoil plow has been used, the application of lime is invaluable. The addition of moderate quantities of manure on fields thus prepared, insures prolonged effects. When applied to light and sandy soils, with the addition of vegetable manures, lime compacts and renders them more adhesive. The manures, roots of grasses, &c., are thus combined in a fine mould on the surface, forming a proper conductor and radiator of heat, an absorbent of moisture, and the most appropriate bed for the roots of plants. Lime seems to exert a further, and most improving effect in both clay and sandy soils by inducing those chemical combinations in their constituents, which tend materially to correct their inherent defects. By rendering clays more porous and friable, and sands more adhesive, their mechanical texture is made to approximate as nearly as possible, towards the perfection of each. It is used with great effect on peaty soils, as it hastens the decomposition of the vegetable matter, and diminishes its porosity and sponge-like texture, thereby rendering it less absorbent of water in excess, which is one of its greatest faults. For such soils, it ought always to be applied in its caustic condition, as quicklime.

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News & Notions.

Two daily German papers are now published in Milwaukee, making five daily papers for a city not yet 14 years old.

Dr. John Dorsey, of Huntington county, is said to have committed suicide on the 4th inst., by taking a large quantity of laudanum. The rash act was committed, it is alleged, in consequence of the marriage of a young lady to whom he was deeply attached.

The New York Tribune thinks another Revolution in France is inevitable and near at hand.

A detachment of forty-five men belonging to the first regiment of U. States Dragoons, left the Carlisle Barracks on Wednesday, for Santa Fe, under command of Major Graham.

Elihu Burritt says that the best cough drops for young ladies are, to drop the practice of dressing thin when they go out into the night air.

The farmers' daughters of Massachusetts sold straw hats and bonnets last year of the value of \$1,616,596.

Abbott Lawrence, American minister to London, has taken the house of Lord Cadogan, at a rent of \$10,000 a year, just \$1,000 more than his whole salary. His private fortune however is near a million of dollars.

Jesse A. Cunningham, of Moffin county, died very suddenly on Saturday week.

The Convention called to revise the Ohio State Constitution, will be democratic by a decided majority.

The Union Fur Company has been very successful last year. Over 4,000 packs of Buffalo robes had been brought in.

Toronto, Canada, April 5. Incassant rains, with a rapid thaw of the snow, had for two days, produced a great freshet in all the rivers in this part of the country, carrying away bridges, mill-dams, quantities of timber, and other property.

Two members of the late House of Representatives of Louisiana, Mr. McCrane and Mr. Livingston, were seized with the cholera on their way home after the adjournment of that body, and both died before they reached their residences.

California is described by Senator Seward, as "the youthful Queen of the Pacific, in the robes of Freedom, gorgeously inlaid with gold."

Mrs. Partington asks, very indignantly, if the bills before Congress are not counterfeits, why there should be such difficulty in passing them?

The Jacksonville (Ala.) Republican, announces the death, on the 19th ult., of John Chandler, at the advanced age of 104 years. He served seven years in the revolutionary war, under Generals Green and Sumpter; and participated in the battles of Eatow, Camden and Cowpens, and other skirmishes with the Tories.

The dwelling house of J. W. Reed, of Lycoming Co., Lycoming county, was destroyed by fire on the 9th inst. Loss \$4,350. No insurance.

In dry pasture dig for water on the brow of a hill; springs are more frequently near the surface on a height than in a vale.

We have reports from Texas of continued Indian depredations.

In Villa Clara, Cuba, a young woman recently was safely delivered of four children at a birth.

The prospect of an abundant grain and fruit crop in Ohio is said to be very flattering.

The Alexandria Gazette says that the market is supplied with some fine new potatoes from the Bermuda islands.

A sale of 2,500 bushels choice Missouri red wheat was made in the St. Louis market on the 23d ult., at \$1.20 per bushel, exclusive of sacks.

Mr. Calhoun's original work on the constitution, which he had been some years engaged, was completed in December last.

It is said that South Florida is well adapted to raising coffee; they should cultivate it now that there is a diminution in the supply of coffee, and a consequent advance in prices.

Eleven Camels were imported into Baltimore last week from the Canary Islands. They are intended for the fur west, to test whether they can be raised and acclimated.

Another Rally for the Union.—The Port Gibson Herald, published in Claiborne county, Miss., contains a call for a Union meeting signed by two hundred and fifty-two of the most substantial citizens of that county. Mississippi is fast coming right on this question.

The New Orleans papers of the 3d inst. say the cholera has assumed an epidemic form.

The cholera has appeared at Camden, Ark., and three deaths occurred on the 21st ult.

The powder mill at Newtown, N. J., was blown up on the 2d inst., and two boys killed: There were a 120 kegs in the house at the time of the explosion.

An earthquake was sensibly felt at Louisville, Ky., and New Albany, Ind., on the night of the 4th inst.

Curious Coincidence.—The body servant of Mr. Calhoun died on Sunday night—the evening of the same day his master died.

An extraordinary eruption of Mt. Vesuvius occurred in February last. A naval officer writes: "It is at least fifteen miles distant, yet its thunders, which are incessant, jar the cabin windows. It throws up a column of flame, at least a thousand feet above the crater. It certainly surpasses every thing that I have ever before seen. It is awfully sublime. The lava has burst through the cone, on the east side, opposite to us, and now flows in a stream, about a

quarter of a mile wide, fourteen miles into the country. In its course was a village and a palace, both of which were swept away by the fiery torrent and destroyed."

It is stated that several persons who visited the mountain, had been killed and injured by the falling stones. Midshipman Bayard had his arm broken and mangled by a stone, and died three days after.

THE CHRONICLE.

E. G. HICKOK, Editor. O. N. WORDEEN, Publisher.

At \$1.25 each in advance. \$1.75 in three months. \$2 paid within the year, and \$2.50 at the end of the year. Agents in Philadelphia—V. B. Palmer and E. W. Carr.

Lewisburg, Pa. Wednesday Morning, April 10.

Cesar's Head.

Varied and beautiful as is the scenery of the United States, there are still many of its most striking and magnificent features that repose in almost primeval solitude, unknown to the world at large, and but little appreciated by the few scattered settlers who have chanced to locate in their vicinity. An Alpine precipice in South Carolina, bearing the name which heads this article, (derived from a fancied resemblance of a portion of the rock to a human countenance,) furnishes a remarkable illustration of this fact.

A glance at the map of this section, will show the reader that the Alleghenias bound that State on the north-west, and in places extend several miles over the line. From the foot of the Blue Ridge, as it is there called, eastward to the shore of the Atlantic, the country is an inclined plane of gradual and uniform descent for two-thirds of the way, when it becomes low and level, and covered with pine forests. The upper part is rolling and diversified, but presents no high hills or mountain ridges, and is covered with forests of oak, hickory and short-strawed pines. Up near the mountains but a few scattered plantations appear to break the wildness and uniformity of the scene, and they are from ten to fifteen and twenty miles apart. We may remark, in passing, that it is in this remote region, a few miles from the Pendleton Court House, that the lamented John C. Calhoun had fixed his residence.

Not far from Greenville; and projecting from the south side of the Blue Ridge, is the celebrated Table Mountain, with its rocky crest lifted to the giddy height of twelve hundred feet. It has hitherto been the centre of attraction for strangers and travellers, who, of course, find their way to it from the lower country, and as they do not happen to come down over the mountains from the north-west, go away in total ignorance of the incomparably greater magnificence of its near neighbor, Cesar's Head, all the while in full view, but its peculiar attractions generally unknown and therefore unvisited. But reverse the point of approach, and let the visitor come leisurely on foot, as did our informant, Mr. M., in November last, down through the picturesque and romantic valley between the ridges of the Alleghenies from the Virginia line in Ashe county, North Carolina, towards the Pickens' Court House, in South Carolina, and he will stumble in his way upon scenery that in scope and sublimity has no parallel in the known world, and once looked upon will be treasured amongst the heart's best memories until celestial glories burst upon life's parting vision.

Passing thus along the valley, you leave Black Mountain on your left, lifting its rounded cone above the clouds, densely clothed to the very top with the balsam fir tree, which gives it an aspect dark as night, without its starry brightness. A short distance south of Asheville you have a fine view of the Blue Ridge on the east, and on the west, at the distance of thirty miles, and in striking contrast, the lofty peaks of the Iron Mountains meet your eye, their mantle of balsam firs giving them a hue of almost ebony blackness. The whole valley lies high, but beyond Henderson, (where Mr. M. was informed in a vague, indifferently way that a pretty good view could be had from a place on his route called Cesar's Head, and of which he had not before heard,) the country rises gradually, but as Mr. M. said, without indications of any great elevation, except the temperature, sparse vegetation and stunted growth of the pines, until the narrow foot-path turned off rather abruptly to the left, and after proceeding a few rods, an opening in the trees on the right gave him a glimpse of scenery of surprising extent and beauty.

Turning off a few steps from the path, appearances induced him to move guardedly. He placed his hat on the ground with a stone in it, to keep it there, and moving along on his hands and knees among the rocks and boulders that lay scattered around, with a strong north-easter blowing at his back, he suddenly found himself on the perilous edge of a precipice of primitive rock two thousand eight hundred feet above the level of the country below—the first thousand feet as perpendicular as a plummet could have made it, and the remainder rough, rugged and precipitous. And what a prospect lay stretched out before him! He said that if ever ejaculations of prayer and adoration went up from his heart to the Almighty, it was at that mo-

ment. All the land-views combined that he had ever looked upon, and the sublime scenes he had ever encountered upon the ocean wave could not compare with the amazing panorama that now met his startled gaze.

Close in to the right at a distance of ten miles, you look down upon Table Mountain, while beyond, in the same direction, the Blue Ridge bends around westward until it soon recedes from view. In front, eye and brain fairly reel as they attempt to measure the dizzy depths below, where the early frost has tinged the leaves with crimson and gold. To the left, the mountain you stand on passes on out of sight to the north-east. Then, from centre to circumference, sweeping that vast semi-circle with a radius of ninety miles, so far off into the dim blue distance that the eye falters in its flight, you look upon a seemingly illimitable, shoreless ocean of foliage, arrayed in nature's gorgeous autumnal robes, threaded here and there by silver streams, and reposing in the mellow sunlight as still and pulseless as an Eden sabbath—with no break in the horizon, no cloud to dim the sky above, and no high hills or mountain gorges to disturb the uniformity below.

After lingering for hours over this scene of entrancing beauty, our friend found his way, by a circuitous, dangerous route of three miles to the foot of the mountain, and spent the night with a hospitable planter. He here learned that an officer of the American navy who had traveled extensively in Europe and Mexico, as well as in the United States, had a short time before visited that neighborhood, and after scaling both these elevations, assured his host that in all his travels he had never found scenery that could at all compare with the transcendent beauty and sublimity of the prospect from Cesar's Head.

Public Exercises.

The Semi-Annual Examination of the several Classes of the Lewisburg University, will commence on Monday afternoon next, in the Academy building, and continue until Wednesday noon.

The exercises in Declamation and Composition, will commence at 10 o'clock, P. M., of Wednesday, in the large room in the third story.

The citizens of the town and vicinity are cordially invited to attend on these occasions and we have no doubt will be agreeably entertained, besides affording by their presence stimulus and encouragement to the pupils.

We have been favored with a copy of the "North Pennsylvanian," a Democratic paper recently started in Bradford county, by Wein Forney. It is printed in quarto form, well edited, and presents a very neat and tasteful appearance. In politics, it will, in some things, have to breast heavy adverse currents of popular opinion, yet if its editor possesses a fillet of the talent and energy of his distinguished namesake, Col. Forney of the Philada. Pennsylvanian, he will doubtless make his mark, and his influence will be felt, in that region.

"The Working Farmer," is the title of a monthly periodical, on our table, published at New York by Kingman, Cross & Co., and edited by Prof. Jas. J. Mapes, devoted to Agriculture and kindred subjects, which it discusses with great thoroughness and ability. It is a publication of sterling merit, and should receive a liberal patronage. Terms \$1 a year. Each No. contains 24 large pages of closely printed matter.

The small-pox is said to be raging at Columbia, Pa., and as the lumbermen are now moving up stream in considerable numbers on their way home, there is some danger of this loathsome disease spreading along the river. Inoculation is the only reliable preventive, and the sooner it is resorted to, the better.

The recent elections in Connecticut have resulted in a signal Democratic victory. The Democrats have a sufficient majority in the Legislature to elect a U. S. Senator, and Governor of the State, no one of the gubernatorial candidates having received a majority of the popular vote.

Rev. M. J. ALLEN some time since accepted a call to the Pastoral charge of the Lutheran congregation in this place, and has this week removed to this place from Northumberland where he lately resided. He comes among us under flattering auspices.

The Philad. "Spirit of the Times" of the 8th inst., comes down on legislative divorces, and the means and men employed to obtain them, with terrible severity. Right, say we. No terms that can be employed are too strong for the merits of some of these atrocious cases.

Maj. Gen. Kase has appointed Mr. H. S. Graham, of this place, Division Inspector of the 8th Division Uniformed Militia, with the rank of Major, and Gov. Johnston has issued his commission accordingly.

If the "Miltonian" wishes more aid and comfort in behalf of 'Freeland' county, we respectfully suggest that a copy of the Partition on that subject, on our first page, would doubtless have a conclusive effect on the Solons at Harrisburg.

Col. John Bigler (brother of Col. Wm. Bigler, of Clearfield, Pa.), is Speaker of the House of Representatives, in California.

NARROW ESCAPE.—On Sunday evening last, shortly after dark, while people generally were at church, the dwelling-house of Col. Eli Sifer, in this place, narrowly escaped destruction by fire. Mrs. S. having occasion to open the stairway leading to the attic chamber over the kitchen, discovered it to be filled with a dense volume of smoke, and a lot of comforts and quilts hanging on a line were all in a blaze. There was no person in the house with her except her little children, but with great presence of mind she instantly seized a bucket of water and dashed it on the flames, and ran to the pump for more. She persevered in her efforts until the fire was got under, and by the time her little son could alarm the neighbors the most imminent danger was past.

The fire is supposed to have originated from a lighted candle, which had been carried thro' the chamber a short time before by the girl. This case is a warning that ought not to be forgotten. It is impossible to be too careful in carrying lighted candles about a building.

Enterprise.

Messrs. Frick & Sifer have this spring launched fifteen of their large coal boats each of 300 tons burthen, for a New York Company. The last of the fleet took their departure down the river to tide on Monday last. Seven boats have also been launched lately from Selingsgrove, where they were built under a sub contract. This makes thirty-two boats that this enterprising firm have sent to New York city since last May. They this week removed their Boat Yard to this side of the river on the north bank of the Buffalo Creek, and already have five new frames on the stocks. We understand they have taken a contract to build eighty more of these boats, in addition to their former contract. Their business now gives constant employment to near 300 hands.

Yesterday people were busy making garden, sowing lettuce, setting out onions, planting peas and potatoes, &c., and to-day the weather is cold and wintry, and the mountains are enveloped in snow storms.—P. S. It has since moderated a little.

The Whigs have carried Rhode Island, without any opposition worth counting. No wonder—for the Governor elect is an Editor.

U. S. CONGRESS.

In the Senate there have been some animated discussions on the California question. Col. Benton and Gen. Shields (Dem.) have defined their position. The former advocated the immediate admission of California, separate from any other proposition. The latter signified his intention to obey his instructions in favor of the Wilmot Proviso; asserted the constitutional authority of Congress to restrict slavery, and deprecated all movements to promote sectional strife. He was in favor of any proper terms of Compromise, but said California should be received at once by herself, and good governments established for the territories. The South must give up its hope of an equilibrium as an absurdity.

In the House there has been nothing done of importance.

The magnetic telegraph in Potomac, is now in operation as far as Danville—where the citizens of that place are vastly pleased. Not so, however, the good people, at the county seat, to whom the wires do not descend to reveal any of its passing secrets.

[In giving place to the following letter it may be well enough to remark that it was written by a citizen of this county, who is a radical Democrat.]

HARRISBURG, April 6, 1850. Mr. Editor: In compliance with your request, I proceed to give you, very briefly, some of the facts and fancies. As you no doubt have learned, the Apportionment Bill has passed both houses, Speaker Best voting in favor of it. Many of the more reasonable and candid of both parties regard it as rather a gem.

We learn that an enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Dauphin has been called this evening, to request of Gov. Johnston to veto it. However, it is generally understood, among the knowing ones, that he will do this without any solicitation, on the ground of its "un-constitutionality."

The Forrest divorce case, which has excited so much interest both in and out of the legislature, after being twice defeated in the Senate was for the first time brought up, in the House, on yesterday afternoon. Col. Sifer, who very justly looks upon it as a most infamous case, called for the orders of the day; this brought down upon him the dire indignation of the friends of the bill. He however stood up fearlessly, for his rights and the rules of the House; maintaining that at this late stage of the session, the time of the House should not be consumed in the settlement of petty family quarrels, to the exclusion of more important business. After all the appliances which have been made use of, (such as the giving of suppers, the employment of a lot of borens, &c.) it is very doubtful whether the present legislature will dissolve the matrimonial bond in this case. Mr. Forrest is rather noble in his appearance, though he did not fully meet my expectations. He lacks that free, open countenance which is somewhat indicative of character, and which is so prepossessing. He appears to be a man of about forty-five, full of life, and in ease and gracefulness of manner, he possesses the very poetry of motion, which he has acquired by a long and successful career upon the stage. I confess a certain feeling of awe at first