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The Wisconsin horticulturist: issued monthly, under the management of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society for the purpose of disseminating the horticultural information collected through the age...

Wisconsin State Horticultural Society

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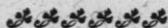
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THE WISCONSIN



HORTICULTURIST

ISSUED MONTHLY,
UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE

WISCONSIN STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

For the purpose of Disseminating the Horticultural Information
Collected through the Agency of the Society.



A. J. PHILIPS,
Editor and Manager,
West Salem.

VIE H. CAMPBELL,
Associate Editor,
Evansville.

DEMOCRAT PRINTING COMPANY,
MADISON, WIS.

Through the kindness of Hon. Robert Manning, the efficient secretary of the Massachusetts horticultural society, I am able to present to our readers this month, pictures of the pupils of one of the School Gardens of that state, in connection with a brief account of the work as given by Henry L. Clapp, principal, and George E. Davenport, sub-committee.

This work is so interesting to me that I would like to give the whole report, but want of space forbids. I also give some thoughts from our own teachers, so that it is safe to say that horticulture for the young is a specialty for this month's magazine, and although some of the knowing ones have said I am incompetent to do literary work in editing a magazine, I know I am competent to state that I am very much interested in this work for the children, for I know we older workers must soon give the work over to younger hands, and my hope is that their training may be such that they prove more competent than their teachers and parents, then the future success of our favorite calling will be assured.



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Industrial Commis'r,

C. L. WELLINGTON,
Traffic Manager.

H. F. WHITCOMB,
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SWAN SCHOOL GARDNERS, MEDFORD.



SWAN SCHOOL GARDEN, MEDFORD.

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

VOL. 1.

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NO. 9.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL GARDENS AND CHILDREN'S HERBARIUMS FOR THE YEAR 1895.

Swan School Garden, Medford.

The first systematic attempt to introduce school garden work into the schools of Medford was made at the Swan School on the corner of Park and Washington streets early in the season of 1895. The teachers and pupils entered into the spirit of the work with the utmost enthusiasm, and its success has inspired other schools in Medford with a desire for garden work, which it is hoped the school committee will be able to gratify another season with means furnished by the city.

The special aim of our School Garden and Herbarium committee being to arouse and foster an interest in, and love for native plants, particular pains were taken to aid the teachers and children of the Swan School in establishing a garden of wild plants.

The frequent visits of both teachers and children to the woods for the purpose of obtaining plants for the garden showed their interest in the work. But the large amount of land surrounding the schoolhouse and the broad plan on which the garden was laid out rendered it difficult to make the garden attractive, as a whole, in one season by the use of wild plants alone; therefore the use of cultivated plants was allowed, not only to ornament the grounds, but to add interest and furnish ready working material.

The result has been more than gratifying, and while the native plants have not been neglected, the cultivated flowers were the means of enabling some of the children during the summer vacation season to contribute something toward the pleasure of invalids in the hospitals by sending flowers from the Swan School garden to the Mission twice a week. Thus they not only

received pleasure themselves and gave pleasure to others, but were unconsciously instructed in humane principles.

In the first place they were fully instructed in the preparation and manuring of the soil. Nearly all the planting was done by the children under the guidance of their teachers. Gladiolas, Tuberoses, Pansies, Cannas, Verbenas and Daisies were planted. Hose and watering pots were furnished so they could learn to use them properly. They were also instructed in preparing the garden for winter. The expenses have been met by appropriation of School Garden Committee and by contributions from some liberal men of means, who were interested in seeing the experiment tried.

The educational value of such work is beyond question, and in some European countries is considered of sufficient importance to justify legal enactments establishing and providing for it as a necessary part of a school's equipment.

Not only do these gardens beautify school grounds and make the schools more attractive to the children, but they serve the purpose of supplying, close at hand, material for nature study of a diversified character. The plants and flowers attract a variety of birds and insects, so that the children, under the guidance of an intelligent teacher, may receive object lessons in natural history that they can get in no other way without great difficulty.

The success that has attended these schools should be an incentive for other states to emulate the example thus set before them, and it is hoped that it may not only be found in the east, but also in the states west of the great lakes. The George Putman Garden at Roxbury, as reported by Mr. Clapp, was full of interesting features. This garden has been established five years, and the size, beauty, and vigor of the plants must be ascribed no less to proper time in which plants can grow, than to good care and changing them to suitable conditions. During these five years an attempt has been made to carry out the instructions of the Committee, namely, to stock the garden with wild native plants, and economic plants, to illustrate the actual use made of the garden by means of children's graphic work, and to present photographs of such plants as would give

the Committee a somewhat adequate idea of the contents and condition of the garden.

During the long summer vacation the janitor of the school building weeds and waters the plants and cuts the grass periodically. In spring and autumn he wheels in and spreads fertilizing material, prepares new beds or rows, and resets old ones. For this work he receives ten dollars every year. When a garden has been established five years and has received yearly many additional plants, the labor involved is considerable, and it should be kept at a minimum for the salvation of the garden.

From five to eight dollars' worth of fertilizer is put into the garden at a time; this year six dollars' worth. The first prize of fifteen dollars awarded to the garden has defrayed these expenses up to this time. By this it will be seen that the garden is put on an economical and useful basis in accordance with the practical experience that comes from adapting means to ends.

It is very interesting to read over the list of prizes awarded to the children for their work. Gordon Weinz, a little boy eight years old, took the second prize for fifty flowering plants. His interest in the other children's collections was pleasant to see.

Arthur C. Faxon exhibited highest grade work in sedges, grasses, and leaf sprays of shrubs. His combination of scientific and artistic arrangements and naming were beyond criticism. It was his fourth exhibition of herbarium specimens.

He afterward presented to the George Putnam school a most valuable collection, consisting of the pressed and mounted leaves of eighty-four native trees of Massachusetts. Many of the sheets contain the flower and fruit in addition to the leaves, and the specimens are so gracefully arranged as to testify to Master Faxon's artistic skill in grouping, while the careful mounting and labeling make the collection an instructive guide to a knowledge of our own trees.

Such earnest and accurate work cannot fail to have a stimulating effect upon the many children whose privilege it will be to examine it, and the school is much indebted to Master Faxon for this important waymark in its study of nature.

Miss Ann E. Newell of South Boston, has presented to the same school some pressed specimens of rare ferns from the is-

land of St. Helena. The gift was suggested by her seeing our exhibition.

I have given this partial account of the work in these School Gardens in the hope that it may arouse those interested in Wisconsin horticulture to greater and more effective work in this direction.

A. J. Philips,
Sec'y.

HORTICULTURE IN CONNECTION WITH OUR SCHOOLS.

Miss Lulu Philips, West Salem.

Read at the Winter Meeting, Feb. 4, 1896.

A teacher was once asked (and a gentleman too), to state the difference between horticulture and agriculture. His answer was, "Agriculture is farming with oxen and horticulture is farming with horses." He evidently meant to be understood that to handle the lines and guide the horses was more elevating than to trudge after the oxen and guide them by the use of a stick.

But, to be plain and practical, we will define horticulture as the growing of fruits, flowers, vegetables and ornamental trees. By far too many of us find, when we engage in the active business of our lives, that while our education in grammar, history, philosophy, algebra and geometry has been thorough, that some of the minor studies which would add much value to us as citizens have been sadly neglected.

While there may be exceptions I believe the boy who is taught early in life to plant and care for trees and flowers on the school ground will be far more interested in his studies and will have more respect for his teachers if the latter will take pains to educate him in the work. He will certainly give better satisfaction and command better wages to work in the garden, or on the farm, or will be far better fitted to be the owner or manager of the farm and home.

He would also be more likely to grow fruit for his family, or beautify his home, where his devoted wife spends so much of her time, and where his children receive their first lessons

in life, than he would had his attention never been called to these things on the school ground.

I also believe that the girl who is taught to care for plants and flowers on the school ground will have something instilled in her mind that will better enable her to fill her allotted sphere in life, whatever it be.

When parents realize the fact that the large majority of the children in our state receive the larger part of their education in the common schools, they ought to feel the necessity of instituting the inquiry "What system of education will best fit them for usefulness?" and the study and practice of horticultural pursuits is in my opinion, one of the best plans to adopt. The nature lessons, which should be conducted in all schools, can be made very interesting, and furnish abundant material for language work. Let the children be taught to use their eyes; let them study the ever open book of nature. By this way they will have reverence for the Maker of the beautiful things around them. And the building of their character in the right way will surely follow.

It is no concern of ours to teach in school that which an observant and intelligent child would learn out of doors, but it is our concern to teach him so as to make him observant and intelligent. It would be a shame to pass our lives in this well ordered and harmonious world and catch no echo of the music of its laws. Who ever has not in youth collected plants knows not half the interest which lanes and hedge rows can assume. If we endeavor to advance our work more and more along this line, the education would be far more practical, our schools would be better, teaching more pleasant, horticulture would take a long stride in advance and members of the State Society would not say we have no more members than we had twenty years ago. What pleasanter thought for a young man to cherish, when he leaves the place of his birth, than to realize that he helped to plant trees and flowers on the school ground and around the old home.

Horticulture inculcated in the minds of the children at school will show itself later in beautifying the cities of the silent dead. How much our hearts have ached in seeing those

places neglected, and growing up to weeds. But I am glad to say that within the last few years there has been a marked improvement in our county in their care.

Like other reforms ladies have taken hold and flowers are blooming on every hand. A former resident of our town who is now dead, was once one of our school officers. He planted a number of elm trees in our school yard at his own expense and they now afford very pleasant shade. Are not these living monuments in memory of Mr. C. C. Palmer?

The pupils are always interested in beautifying the school ground and room. They enjoy bringing plants and seeds to be used for this purpose. I once applied for a situation to teach a school where the work the term before had not been very satisfactory to the parents. The clerk said, "I do not care for your certificate, what I want to know is, will you make them obey?"

He told me their school money had been thrown away the previous term, and a great amount of the property had been partially damaged or destroyed. To make a long story short he said "If you can teach the school I will pay you, and if not, you can quit."

My father was with me and intimated I had better let it alone. But I was rather anxious to try it, so engaged to teach on those terms, provided the other members of the board consented, but I confess when I saw the condition of things, my courage nearly failed. But the contract was made, the board agreeing to put the house and surroundings in proper repair, and I agreeing to keep them so, if I could.

School began, and as soon as I could I began with the assistance of the smaller girls and boys to arrange and make flower beds. As the larger boys came I found them to be quite as willing to assist in caring for the plants as they formerly had been to destroy the property.

I taught there three terms and had the satisfaction of knowing I could have held the position longer. The board said that my successor must care for the flower beds. Let us ask, do we as teachers, to whose care the fathers and mothers of our state commit the training of their dear ones, do all we

can to benefit the children? Can we not in connection with their studies use more influence to aid in the noble work of interesting school children in horticulture which was begun and is still being carried on by the State Society?

Which work will cause other states in years to come to point to Wisconsin as the leader in this, as she is now looked on as the leader in that grand work of the Farmers' Institutes.

Then let us unite horticulture with our schools. Then we will have better schools and more beautiful surroundings. This will create a desire for model homes and farms where fruits and flowers abound. And then perchance you, the members and friends here assembled, may in future years be impressed with the belief that Wisconsin has a model horticultural society.

A. A. Arnold—This paper is very suggestive and that is the beauty of a good speech or a good paper, to have it suggest thought.

HORTICULTURE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Just what should constitute the foundations for an education is a question upon which the wisest minds differ. But it has long seemed to me that the technical information with which we strive so hard to cram the minds of primary students is far less important than to inculcate in them certain ideas, as the dignity of labor, love for home, country and mankind, and methods by which they may earn an honest and comfortable living when thrown upon their own resources.

One of the new departures that I should like to see inaugurated in common schools is instruction in growing plants—the occupation by means of which by far the greater part of the world's population are and always must be fed.

Our country is unquestionably destined to work out the highest civilization the world has ever known. Our population is rapidly increasing and by the middle of the next century bids fair to reach 200 millions. As population becomes dense the products of horticulture always become more important. Grain and stock raising are driven out to newer countries and

cheaper lands, and the soil is devoted to crops that yield more food and larger cash returns per acre. The farms become more and more divided and assume more and more the aspect of orchards and gardens. This tendency is very manifest in our country today. The farms of Central New York, that half a century ago were famous for their wheat, are now famous for their nurseries, orchards and vineyards. Strawberries and other small fruits are driving corn and wheat from the prairies of Southern Illinois, and extensive vineyards are crowding cheaper crops from Northern Ohio and Western New York.

But the horticulture of America in the twentieth century, will not be like the present horticulture of China and India. It will be far more advanced. Primitive, laborious and wasteful methods must give place to the highest application of science and art which must be largely developed through American Experiment Stations, and taught to the people, through American agricultural schools. The common school that has thus far been content to sow the seeds for a clerical or professional education must broaden its scope, and become also the nursery for the useful arts and the more economic sciences.

To my mind, there is no department of instruction more important in the foundation for an education than that relating to the principles of plant culture, and I long for the time when the common school shall awaken to the importance of this idea. Our country is behind several countries of the old world in this particular. In France, several hundred common schools have gardens attached to them, in which elementary instruction in growing plants is given, and the number is being increased as competent teachers can be procured. Germany has also several excellent horticultural schools, and if I am rightly informed the elements of the horticulture are taught in at least a few of the common schools.

Many of the primary schools in Southern Russia have orchards and kitchen gardens attached to them for the use of the schoolmaster as well as small model kitchen gardens, tree plantations or farms, in which gardening and silviculture are taught. Even vineyards are to be found in connection with some of the schools in Caucasia, and the pupils are instructed

in silkworm culture and bee keeping. The Gardeners' Chronicle remarks that besides encouraging the pursuit of agriculture as a calling, and in this way diminishing the rush of population to the towns, these school gardens have another immediate good effect, and that is upon the health of the children by the interchange of outdoor study with sedentary work in the schoolroom.

Just when and how this important innovation is to be brought about in our country, I will not undertake to say. One of the most serious obstacles is the fact that our teachers are all instructed in very different lines, and they could not give valuable instruction in horticulture even if they were expected to do so. Public opinion must be educated to demand this kind of education, and then it will be forthcoming.

E. S. Goff.

University of Wisconsin.

INFLUENCE OF HORTICULTURE UPON CHILDREN.

F. E. Doty, Principal Waupaca Schools.

Read at Summer Meeting at Waupaca.

During the past few weeks my attention has been given to the preparation of our annual school crop for the harvest; and I have no doubt that if placed in competition with your choicest exhibits of flowers and fruits it would carry off the prize. The anxiety connected with this labor has prevented me from treating the theme assigned me in anything like the way it deserves. I shall therefore discuss but one phase of it, The Moral Influence of Horticulture upon Children.

Horticulture and morality! Has it not been horticulture and immorality for the past centuries? It is not necessary to go back to the case of Adam and the apple for illustration. Has not a single well cultivated melon patch conveniently situated, given to an entire neighborhood of innocent children their first lessons in dishonesty? Has not a single plum tree, hanging its branches temptingly near the roadside awakened for the first time an accusing conscience in more than one boy

and girl? I appeal to you old gray heads, did you not twist the truth out of all form and semblance of itself for the first time in connection with some article of diet? Perhaps it was not a fruit tree but it was surely in connection with something to eat. I suspect that if the facts were known, George Washington had in reality eaten the cherries on his father's cherry tree, and was trying to conceal the evidences of his guilt, when captured, by carrying off the tree.

Do you know that a ripe strawberry to a hungry, growing boy, is twice as large as to man and that it is infinitely more delicious? Do you know too that it is far more necessary to his physical well being? Do you know that within the shining circumference of a single sun-kissed apple is contained health and the sum total of boyhood's happiness?

Fruit is a great temptation to a child. He doesn't see the sense in bottling up the miserable little pail of cherries from the only scrub cherry tree on the farm, to be stowed away for six months in a dark cellar there to lose its freshness and flavor in order to supply a winter table for invited guests. Why not enjoy it now when it is fit to be enjoyed?

A man near Waupaca has stopped raising watermelons because, he says, the neighbors' boys are too numerous; and now his own boys are obliged to walk nearly three miles and run the risk of all sorts of terrors in the dark, in order to get the supply of fruit which they feel their physical well being demands, and which their father refuses to produce for them. A friend of mine here in Waupaca owns a number of vacant lots, and the other day he told me that it would be useless to plant them to fruit because the town boys would be sure to carry it off. As a consequence, he leaves the lots vacant, derives no benefit from them himself, neither do the boys.

What is the conclusion from all this? It is inevitable, under the present conditions, taking men as we find them today, selfish and penny wise. Either the small boy or horticulture must go. Talk about your chilling frosts, your droughts, blights, birds and parasites, they are nothing in comparison with the small boy.

There is one other possible solution which I would not dare to suggest except to an audience of generous, enthusiastic

horticulturists. It was shadowed forth in the day dreams of my youth. I said—"I will own a farm when I become a man, and along its borders I will plant, not maples, poplars and elm trees, as my father does, but will plant cherries, plums and apples and they shall stand along the roadside, and under them shall walk the children on their way from school, and I will put up signs inviting them to enjoy the shade and feast upon the ripened fruits. I did not think of the possibility of encouraging tramps and perhaps for that reason would not advocate the scheme now, but it does seem possible that every farm and every city lot should have these necessary luxuries (?) Would not a reasonable abundance of fruit create a love for the home, an ambition to make it more and more beautiful and comfortable? an ambition to make it something more than a place to sleep in and work in?

People talk about the money there is in fruit. Some refuse to raise it because it doesn't pay. Others raise it because it does pay. I wish more people would raise it without a thought of pay, simply for the comfort and happiness of the family. Sell everything else if need be, but do not deprive the children of fruit in reasonable and sufficient abundance. Do you know we talk about giving children the benefit of a free education, we donate to them the use of public libraries and parks, they feast their eyes on public works of art, but the boys and girls would like it if we were to add to those benefits the privilege to do as the birds and the bees do, enjoy the sweetness of the flowers and feast freely upon God's bounty. And they are willing to work for it too; they will gladly help to set out the trees and tend the berries if a reasonable amount of youthful enthusiasm and encouragement may come from the father, to sustain them in their efforts. You know the older people sometimes talk in a very discouraging way; they say the land is too valuable, the trees will die, the frost will blight, better plant potatoes, and at last the boy concludes it will on the whole be better to trust to luck and perhaps his own ingenuity in getting at some neighbor's orchard for his supply.

Horticulture and Morality! Do you know, there is something in this worth thinking about? Honesty flourishes best where natural and reasonable desires are satisfied. It is hard

to create high ideals, love for beauty, honesty, uprightness and nobility of character in a hungry man, much harder still in a hungry boy. Our ministers have learned that. They are coming to shorten their sermons as the dinner hour approaches.

The good farmer feels it a duty to supply every growing thing, plant and animal with all that it needs for perfect growth, and takes a pride in doing so. I am here simply to urge that his growing children receive the same attention, to urge a better bill of fare for the children. My father had a cow that had developed into a thief and a runaway. I hated her, the whole neighborhood hated her. No ordinary fence would keep her in; but whose fault was it? Not hers. She had been half starved in a dry and barren pasture with a field of corn just over the fence. Hunger taught her dishonesty. Hunger combined with temptation teaches children dishonesty. We have still to learn the lesson of Eve in the garden aright. My point is surely clear.

A little Horticulture is a very dangerous thing,
Dig deep, plant much in each succeeding spring.

Secretary—I wanted to wait and not give my response to the address of welcome until after we had had Prof. Doty's paper because I knew there would be more to respond to with regard to the welcome. We all appreciate it. We have come to the city of Waupaca for our summer meeting, and we have been truly and cordially welcomed. I visited Prof. Doty's school when I was here some time ago, and I thought, from the interest he was manifesting with regard to horticulture, that he could give us a good paper. I planted apple trees along the roadside and my wife said I was putting temptation in the way of the boys. I have seen the minister tie his horse and climb over the fence to get a few apples. Now I am glad if I have apples for the minister for I think he can preach a better sermon after eating a good apple. I think children should have all the fruit they can use. I think it would have helped the children if they could have been here and listened to Prof. Doty's paper. Mr. Thayer is here, who inaugurated the distribution of plants, to the school children of this state,

which has been productive of such good results in interesting the young people in horticulture. I have been sending out root-grafts this spring and it is very interesting to read the letters written by those children who have received the grafts. Children like fruit and are always eager for it. If you do not believe it you should see the children at the State Fair, on Children's Day, rush for the apples; if a bushel of apples were to be thrown out among them you would see a general rush for them and they would be picked up at once, even if they were not in a very good condition.

I am glad Prof. Doty gave us the hints he did about growing fruit for the children. I will not take any more time. When I get to talking on this subject of interesting the children in horticulture I do not know when to stop.

AN OPPORTUNITY THAT SHOULD NOT BE LOST.

Many readers of the Horticulturist are aware that the late S. I. Freeborn of Ithaca, in our State, gave much attention to growing seedling apples; but only those who visited his orchard the past season realize the amount of work he did in this direction, and the importance of this work.

In company with the President and Secretary of our Horticultural Society, and with Mr. Hatch of Ithaca, I had the pleasure of visiting this orchard early in September, and I made a second visit to it about a fortnight later.

Mr. Freeborn's seedlings were not grown from apples selected indiscriminately, but all seeds which he planted were selected because of the favorable conditions that the parent trees had for cross-fertilization with varieties of known value. As we might expect from such selections of seeds the quality of many of the seedlings is superior.

In addition to his work with seedlings, Mr. Freeborn gathered a large collection of Russian apples and pears, as well as of the most promising native varieties of the Northwest. These trees are now of bearing size and are beginning to teach some very valuable object lessons.

After looking over this orchard of seedlings and named va-

rieties the President and Secretary of our Society, Mr. Hatch and myself, were unanimous in the opinion that the work begun is so valuable and important that the expense of caring for this orchard should not be left to Mrs. Freeborn alone. It was decided that Mr. Hatch should visit Mrs. Freeborn and submit the proposition to turn the orchard over to our State Society, so far as the management of the trees is concerned. To this proposition Mrs. Freeborn gladly gives her consent, upon certain conditions, and it remains now for our Society to accept the proposal and arrange definite terms by which this orchard can be made a second Trial Station.

A number of promising seedlings have been selected and marked by Mrs. Freeborn, Mr. Philips and myself this season, and I have made descriptions of several of these according to the numbers. It is important that permanent labels be attached to these trees, and that they be removed from the rows in which they have now become crowded, in order to give opportunity for other trees to bear fruit. A large number of trees that are evidently not promising have been marked for removal. In the nursery, adjacent to the seedling orchard, are several hundred Virginia crab stocks that Mrs. Freeborn proposes to donate to our Society for top working such of the seedlings as it seems desirable to further test. These should be planted out in the spring, in the vacant spaces in the variety orchard, and as soon as they are established, they can be top worked as the Society sees fit. Permission is also offered to allow our Society to cut cions, under proper restrictions, for top working at our Trial Station at Wausau, and in the experimental orchard of our State Experiment Station.

I mention these facts in order that members of our Society may have time to consider the matter before our next winter meeting, when the subject will probably be brought up for action.

E. S. Goff.

University of Wisconsin.

FEELS MORE AND MORE IMPRESSED.

Secretary A. J. Philips:

My Dear Sir:—As each number of the Wisconsin Horticulturist comes to my table I feel more and more impressed with the wisdom of the State Horticultural Society in establishing it, and with the good it is doing your people. May it go on from strength to strength, and any little thing that I may be able to do, I hope you will be free to ask for.

The peculiar trials of the fruit growers of Wisconsin and neighboring states have always enlisted my warmest sympathies, and it has been my constant regret that I could not do much to help them. It seems to be certain that, aside from the natural inadaptability of many species and varieties of fruits to your climate, one of the main troubles lies in lack of sufficient moisture in the soil during the growing season, to enable the plants and trees to properly mature their wood and roots, and to thus fortify themselves against the evaporating influences of the following winter. Where it is at all practicable, it seems to me the thing to do is to irrigate. There are very many more places where this can be done in Wisconsin, and elsewhere, than is generally supposed. You have lakes and streams which are inexhaustible, and the winds which now sweep idly over the country might, in many cases, be harnessed into usefulness, and made to pump water into reservoirs from which it may be led at will, to the famishing plants and trees. The streams and outlets of the lakes and ponds may be made to raise a part of their own water by hydraulic rams to higher levels, and thence it may be conducted to where it will turn prospective failure into successful crops. The fact is, we are not living nearly up to our privileges in horticulture and agriculture. A few have already availed themselves of the benefits of irrigation to reinforce nature's supply of water, and the much neglected matter of thorough cultivation, to conserve it in the soil.

I notice with deepest interest the efforts of those who are endeavoring to improve the varieties of fruit by producing new seedlings which will be not only hardier, but better in

quality. It is probable that there will always be a demand for a part of the very early fruits from other states and for some of their winter apples, but there is no good reason why the fruit growers of Wisconsin may not fill their own towns and cities with nearly all that they need in the way of fruits, and ship more extensively than at present to the Southern states, berries and other things that are out of season there.

The memory of such of your devoted workers as J. M. Smith and Geo. P. Peffer, who were among my dearest personal friends, and others who are yet living, is always fresh in mind, and I cherish the hope that I may again behold you all face to face again, as well as many others who I only know by their noble work.

Yours fraternally,

H. E. Van Deman.

Parksley, Va., Oct. 10, 1896.

THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER.

From Thayer's Berry Bulletin for November, published by M. A. Thayer, Sparta, Wisconsin, we extract the following:

For several successive seasons, disappointments have come to growers of small fruits. Frosts and drouths have ruined the crop in some localities while large production, unequal distribution and low prices have been equally discouraging in others. Soil, location, cultivation and mulching are all important factors in guarding against drouth. Results should be carefully noted.

Overproduction is practically impossible for many years to come, if distribution can be made more uniform. The great study should be, not only to produce best fruit, but so distribute it that all may have some and none too much. The great cities are often glutted with inferior fruit, carelessly picked, poorly packed and roughly handled, making reshipment to small towns and cities an impossibility. While this may result in good pay for the transportation companies, it leaves small profits for the commission man and certain loss for the producer. Growers should understand that it costs just as much to pick, transport and sell poor fruit as good; good fruit

in a fair market is sure to pay well, while poor fruit in any market is almost certain to return a loss. The remedy is in giving more care to all the details of production and working for better markets in the smaller towns and cities. Many good local markets are entirely overlooked in the mad rush of shipments to the larger cities. Near local markets are often best; study them well. The proper distribution of small fruits will not be complete until special refrigerator cars are placed on all lines from which sales can be made at any point, the same as meats at the present time. Better methods of distribution would lessen cost to consumer and largely increase the demand. Fruits would then be considered a necessity with other food, not a luxury for occasional use. The universal consumption of fruit means the employment of millions of women and children in a pleasant occupation; it means the most perfect combination of the useful and the beautiful, in the common walks of life, a stimulant to better health, higher thought and a deeper interest in rural pursuits. With a growing demand, promising a larger consumption, we will next consider, who shall grow small fruits.

APPLE BULLETIN.

Chicago, Nov. 2nd, 1896.

By a recent report we find that the supposed claim of the apple buyer that our crop is the greatest ever known, has proven wrong.

We are free to confess that in Michigan, New York state and parts of New England, they have an immense crop, but we also find that in the Central and Western states, which had an immense crop last year, the crop is small and in some prominent producing localities, not sufficient for home consumption. The abundant crop of the East and Michigan must be called upon to supply the markets which have been taken care of by these Western and Central states besides taking care of their own section. Furthermore, the export demand alone will take away a large share of the surplus. Just think of it: so far this year America has exported six times as much as up

to this time last year, and three times as much as during the entire season last year. Furthermore, this demand is increasing for since the first shock, owing to enormous arrivals in Liverpool and London and the consequent slump in prices, these markets under still heavier shipments are reported to the American Fruit Growers' Union as advancing rapidly. On the continent the demand is just commencing and as we can deliver them there at present prices at which growers are holding for 25 per cent less than their local fruit is bringing, any one can see that they will rapidly take hold of our apples.

The report mentioned above states that the entire crop of 1896 is in round numbers 59,000,000 barrels against 60,500,000 in 1895 and 57,000,000 in 1894, that the greater part of this crop is in New York, New England and Michigan. It also says that the report from the Central West shows that the crop in many instances is insufficient to supply home requirements, reports the exports to be in excess of 1,000,000 barrels to date and that the United States Consul report that the foreign markets have a capacity for absorbing further vast quantities before spring, all of which only confirms the information that has been supplied the American Fruit Growers' Union by its agents, and has been given to the growers from time to time in the bulletins issued by that Association.

We believe the situation to be stronger than at any time this year, speculative buyers being anxious to buy at former prices, and willing to stand a small advance. We believe that if the growers will demand their rights, work with the Union, take the advice of the Union, better results can be obtained. We would advise those of our friends who can, to take advantage of the storage facilities which the Union has secured in the various markets and obtain the advance in price which is sure to come.

American Fruit Growers' Union.

BENEFITS DERIVED FROM A LOCAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A. S. Robinson, Centralia.

Winter meeting, 1896.

The object of this paper is to give in a plain and concise way some of the benefits that we are receiving by having a local horticultural society. It has been something over three years since we first organized, and in that time we have collected about 700 books and pamphlets, forming a nucleus for a valuable library that we could not purchase for any money.

This library gives the results of careful and accurate tests on different lines of agriculture, horticulture, etc., carried on by the different experiment stations in different parts of the United States, conducted on a scientific basis and contains facts of great value, collected under all of the climatic conditions that are found in different parts of the union.

Now, there is a great benefit to be derived from the use of this library. And I do not know of a better or more practical way to get the matter before you than by giving you a brief synopsis, of the number of articles that his library contains, on a few subjects taken at random.

On potatoes we have reports on Variety tests, twenty-five articles; on Care, culture and management, forty-five articles; on Diseases and remedies, sixty-one articles. On apples, we have on Variety tests, thirty-two articles; on Care, culture and management, forty-one articles; on Diseases and remedies, ninety-six articles.

On strawberries, we have reports on Variety tests, thirty-seven articles; on Care, culture and management, twenty-seven articles; on Diseases and remedies, sixteen articles; on Special reports on strawberries, two articles; of Spraying Bulletins, giving the time for spraying different crops, the ingredients for and manner of making spray fluids for general garden application, we have eighteen.

On manure and its application, we have forty-two general articles; on Stable manure, twenty-three articles.

On Commercial fertilizers, including the wholesale price of the ingredients and instructions for mixing at home, thirty-eight articles. On green manuring, thirty-seven articles and reports; on Value of special fertilizers, such as wood ashes, bone, lime, plaster, phosphate rock, muck, marl, etc., we have twenty-eight publications; on Chemical analysis and composition of common manures, we have eight general articles and treatises.

On corn we have reports on Variety tests, eight; on Care, culture and management, fifteen; on Diseases and remedies, two; general articles on such subjects as Stover and shredded fodder, etc., fifteen.

On market gardening, twenty-eight articles; general articles on Horticulture, 119. These are only a few from over 200 subjects contained in the catalogue of our library.

But you see from this partial list that there is not a farmer, horticulturist, fruit-grower or market gardener but can find something of value and practical use to them in such a library.

Now allow me to cite you two cases (and there are many of them) where the parties have received valuable knowledge from this library, that came under my own observation. A thrifty German farmer came into the office of our librarian, the very picture of disconsolation, the sweat standing in great drops on his manly and honest countenance, his whole frame quivering with excitement, and when he had become sufficiently calmed, stated the object of his visit. Some new enemy, of kind unknown to him, was eating his tomato vines (of which he had some acres), making the leaves full of little round holes. Our librarian, being somewhat of an entomologist, soon discovered the trouble when he took from his pocket a small vial containing a number of flea beetles. So he was told of a remedy to try on them, and he was told to also apply the same to his potato vines. But he said there were none on his potatoes. A few days later he came to town an entirely different looking man. Smiles and sunshine had taken the place of wrinkles and frowns, and he exclaimed, "By golly, I kill dem leedle fellers so kvick as never vas. Day sthick py dem feet aber day no eat." He further states that they had

been working on his potatoes too, but he had not noticed them there until he was told that they worked on potatoes. The other case was an ex-county school superintendent; he had lately come into possession of a farm in the southern part of this state, and on his farm were some grape vines that had been allowed to go unpruned for several years. He, not having had any experience of his own, wished, through our society, to learn the proper method of trimming and training. We invited him up into our office, and found for him a number of articles on grape culture. He spent nearly two hours in reading and studying, and borrowed some of our books; he afterward expressed himself as well paid for his trouble.

Another thing we consider of great value to us is our experimental work. For two years we have carried on a series of tests to determine the value of new varieties of potatoes. Living, as we do, in what is known as the potato belt, it is of great importance to us to find out what varieties are best suited to our locality, climatic conditions and soil. Out of a list of sixty-eight varieties tested we find less than ten that are any improvement over our old standards. Now the varieties tested are mostly of the new and recent kinds, having a wonderful seed catalogue reputation, but when placed side by side with the old standards in our trial plat, where the soil condition was as near alike as possible to find on dry land, most of them failed to substantiate, either in productiveness or freedom from disease, their introducers' claims for them. Some of these kinds cost us twenty cents per single tuber, a price which we would be glad to receive per bushel now.

These experiments have run through two years but unfortunately they have both been dry ones. However, I have an idea that a year of average rainfall would not change the comparative results very materially. These experiments cost us \$45 and resulted in the discovery of six extra fine varieties.

Twenty of our members raise potatoes on soils similar to the ones on which our tests were carried on. There is no reason to suppose that they could have made the tests cheaper than the society did. Had each member made the test it would have cost them altogether \$900, and the results would

have been of little more, perhaps of not so much, value, saving to the community \$855.

Our regular meetings are held monthly and at each meeting we generally manage to have a paper on some topic of local interest, and have it discussed, so that the members of our society may each and every one receive some benefit. We usually have these papers published in our local newspapers.

These three years of excessive drouth have worked a marked change in the locality where I reside and our conditions are wonderfully changed, horticulturally. Three years ago our cranberry lands were giving us a paying return for the capital invested, and the owners were considered "well fixed," most of them having a good bank credit. But the wild marsh fires, so fierce in their destructiveness, have produced a marked change, and most of these once valuable and desirable cranberry lands are at the present time of but little money value, and are generally known as the "burned marsh land of Northern Wisconsin." Now these lands are rich, and the question is, "What shall be done with them?" "What variety of crops are best suited to their changed condition?" Our society has taken hold of these questions, hoping through papers, discussions and experiments to find answers to them.

So you see, we, both individually and as a community, are receiving good returns by having the society with us.

This paper would be incomplete if I did not make some special mention of the great object lesson that met our vision at the regular June meeting of the State Society at Grand Rapids. It was just simply grand, and the words of encouragement and instruction that we there received from practical horticulturists and fruit growers, although now past, will long be remembered and put to use, and the pleasant associations and new acquaintances formed will long hold a green place in our memories.

Now, in conclusion I wish to say that if I have made any suggestion or remark by which some discouraged member in the great work of organizing and maintaining a local horticultural society shall take new courage, the object of this paper will be accomplished. Remember that the few, in all great achievements and enterprise, must work for the many.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Five six months' subscribers so far is all I can report. Our members are not doing much work in canvassing yet, but now there is more leisure and suppose they will begin to come in.

Our readers will have an opportunity to peruse a good letter from Prof. H. E. VanDeman; hope he will send us more.

The Annual meeting of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society commences December 1st at Minneapolis, and continues three days. To the Wisconsin people in the northwest part of the state this meeting is easy of access, and they invite all to attend.

Our specialties and plates for December number will be the Columbian Raspberry and top working apple trees. If you have had any experience in the latter send it in.

Most of Wisconsin has been favored since election with quite heavy snows, not the direct result of any one's election or defeat; but coming on the soil not yet frozen will thaw and soak in gradually, thereby doing a vast amount of good in supplying moisture, the scarcity of which decreased yields of fruit and damaged plants and trees very much during the past two years.

NEW FRUITS.

I have been notified and have seen during the past two months many new seedling apples, some fruiting for the first time this year. Many of them are fine, but we must bear in mind that during the past ten or twelve years we have not had what we call a trying winter in Wisconsin. So be careful about trying to new apples until they are more thoroughly tested—experiment carefully.

The United States report for October says: The average condition of apples has remained practically stationary during September, and there is little to add to previous reports. The crop is heavy and of fine quality in the northern tier of States, and prices are extremely low. This is particularly the case in Michigan, where the markets are glutted. Fine packed fruit is selling in that state as low as 35 cents per barrel, and evaporating stock at 10 cents per 100 pounds.

Mr. Geo. C. Hill of Fond du Lac county has fruited the past season a seedling pear. It is a summer variety of fine quality and the tree is fine in appearance and so far is free from blight.

HOW APPLES PAY.

I have a small orchard of about 75 trees, a little over one acre, near my house, which was cultivated almost every year up to six years ago and is manured every season and ashes put around the trees. The trunks are washed with lye and sometimes with lime, and they are sprayed thoroughly. In '93 I sold 39 barrels for \$69.75. The next year sold 20 barrels at \$1.10 and last year 95 barrels at same price, besides having all we wanted for home use, while in '91 I received \$150 for the crop at \$2 per barrel; the total expense including use of land, etc., ran from \$15 to \$25 per acre. Half are Kings, Baldwins and Spies, the rest mainly Greenings. Every thrifty farmer looks after his apple orchard, and they are mostly of that class around here. Some new orchards have been set out this year and old ones reset. There is no crop that pays better than apples, take it one year with another, and this fact ought to be remembered in a season of large production like the present.

Schuyler Co., N. Y.

H. B. Elliott.

A Plea for the Horse, in Wisconsin Horticulturist, shows the old love of the horse, as well as the love of fruit and flowers abides with Secretary Philips. The writer, speaking of an old family horse that when retired would often take his place unharnessed before or beside the new team in drawing a load. The new team were driven without a whip; they learned the sound of the dinner bell and would answer by a whinny. Probably Agassiz is right, who said he saw no reason why animals should not have a hereafter, and certainly Talmage is, who said the man that does not love a good horse, ought to be kicked by a mule. Till electricity becomes cheaper and more practical horticulture and general farming will still largely depend for success upon the work of this faithful servant.—Western Agriculturalist, Chicago.

FRUIT TREES ALONG HIGHWAYS.

Some 10 years ago S. P. Young owned an eighty-acre farm, which is now within the city limits of Harvey, Ill. Most of it he laid out in town lots and instead of planting forest trees along the streets, he set out some 2,000 or more Transcendent and Hyslop crabs. The greater number lived, and made beautiful shade trees, helping to sell the lots, and are more desirable along sidewalks than many ornamental varieties. The present residents have all the fruit they want. Trees on the lots not sold supply the general public with fruit. In Germany, France and England this practice has been followed for years, the highways being lined with fruit trees. The yield belongs to the public. Why cannot the American people follow this plan more generally and plant hardy pears, apples, crabs, etc., instead of maples, walnuts and elms? For pears, the Lincoln, Flemish Beauty and Sudduth do well; among apples, the Duchess of Oldenberg, Wealthy, Fameuse, are suitable, while for crabs, plant Whitney No. 20, Transcendent. If forest trees are desired, and they certainly are for variety, plant nuts such as chestnuts, black walnuts, shelled-bark hickory, pecans, etc.

A. H. Gaston.

In the foregoing, location makes quite a difference. I doubt if it would be expedient near a large city. But for me I have to destroy the forest of which I have too much to make more room for fruit trees, so for years I have set nothing for shade, protection or profit but apple trees. I set them along the highway, along fences where they will support the wire in a few years, in the front yard, around the lots and along division fences. It is a handy place to mulch and pick fruit and some say a handy place to steal. But I have found that those who take apples on a man's farm by the roadside will not hesitate to go into the orchard if no one is watching, so about so much is taken anyway.

Secretary.

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

MRS. VIE H. CAMPBELL, EDITOR.

HYMN.

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

O painter of the fruits and flowers,
We own Thy wise design,
Whereby these human hands of ours
May share the work of Thine!

Apart from Thee we plant in vain
The root and sow the seed;
Thy early and Thy later rain,
Thy sun and dew we need.

Our toil is sweet with thankfulness,
Our burden is our boon;
The curse of earth's gray morning is
The blessing of its noon.

Why search the wide world everywhere
For Eden's unknown ground?
That garden of the primal pair
May nevermore be found.

But blest by Thee, our patient toil
May right the ancient wrong,
And give to every clime and soil
The beauty lost so long.

Our homestead flowers and fruited trees
May Eden's orchard shame;
We taste the tempting sweets of these
Like Eve, without her blame.

And, north and south and east and west
The pride of every zone,
The fairest, rarest and the best
May all be made our own.

Its earliest shrines the young world sought
In hill-groves and in bowers,
The fittest offerings thither brought
Were Thy own fruits and flowers.

And still with reverent hands we cull
Thy gifts each year renewed;
The good is always beautiful,
The beautiful is good.

PARKS AT RAILWAY STATIONS.

B. S. Hoxie, in "Folk Lore and Best Thoughts."

Many of the railway stations in the East are beautified with small parks where suitable ground is available near the station, but for some reason this plan does not prevail in the West.

One reason, perhaps, is because the officers and station agents are too much engrossed in the earnings of the road, and can see no cash value in such work as flower beds or clean grass plots, but the Northwestern Company, on their line at Evansville, Wis., is an exception. Just south of the station, between the two lines of track, is a small plat of ground about 30x80 feet, perhaps, where formerly stood the water tank and pump-house. About a year ago Assistant Superintendent Morse, of Baraboo, conceived the idea of converting this into a park, and had it leveled down and suitably enclosed with an iron fence, but nothing was done to otherwise improve it until this spring—except the sowing of some grass seed, which the lateness of the season and excessive dry weather prevented from growing.

The station agent and baggage master are both great lovers of plants and flowers, so by their taste and skill, with the voluntary help of the station employes, beds were laid out for flowers. As a nucleus for these they had a pile of round, white boulders, left over from mounds around telegraph poles on the line of road. These were placed as borders, to give shape to the beds, of which there are three at present—one a large circle, one the shape of the trade mark or symbol of the company (an oblong with half diamond-shaped ends, with half circle on either side), and the other a circle for the center, with a seven-pointed star forming the outer circle; these points are sloping towards the ground formed of smaller stones, and are to be filled with broken quartz, white and glistening. The beds are now filled with plants donated in part by the ladies of the city and purchased by the company from the greenhouse.

A few days since the company had two car loads of rich surface soil dumped in, in order to make a good seed bed for lawn

grass, which will be sown next spring, and besides this, the boys will plant out climbing vines as screens to all out buildings around the station.

Is there any extra labor in caring for these plants and flowers? Yes, but it is a labor of love, and part of the pay will come back, in thanks and God bless you, when the tired, worn-out mother asks for one little flower for her sick child.

A large, neatly painted sign, supported by iron rods, is placed in the center of this plat, which reads "North Western Line."

I am glad to write this item because it is worthy of imitation, and because there are hundreds of railway stations on the Northwestern and other lines that could be similarly improved, and the bit of green sod and bright flowers would make glad all weary travelers.

And now, why should not the Northwestern Company build a hot house for propagating the common bedding plants at some central distributing point? I am sure that some of your faithful servants, who have worked for years, but now disqualified for road duties, may be found who, for a small salary, would care for such a house. This would be a storing place in the fall for such plants as are kept over from year to year and the distributing center for all the parks along the line in the spring. The expense would only be a trifle compared to the real value and added attraction to the line of road.

Editor Horticulturist:

The following query has been received and I take the liberty of answering through the Horticulturist:

"What is the cause of lettuce rot in the greenhouse? And what is the remedy, and is it likely to spread from one bed to another? I have discovered today what I suppose is the rot, at any rate a good many of the under leaves of the full grown lettuce were withered up and I found two plants rotted off at the root. I have lettuce in all stages of growth from plants just set to full grown, will it be necessary for me to pull up the whole crop and remove it to stop the rot? The younger plants show no signs of rot."

From your description I think this is lettuce rot, although it is impossible to state positively without an examination of the diseased plants. The conditions that cause this disease are too high temperature, imperfect drainage, too much moisture in the house, especially at night, and lack of plant food in the soil. It will not be necessary to throw out the whole crop, but remove and burn all diseased plants, also all leaves and rubbish of any kind. Keep the house at 38-40 degrees at night, and give plenty of air in the day time for a few days. Lettuce will grow vigorously in a temperature in which the disease will make little progress. Avoid over watering.

Lettuce is a cool weather plant and will not stand much forcing. Too much water in the soil with too high temperature causes a rapid but weak growth that is liable to be attacked by rot or mildew. We should strive to imitate the conditions under which the crop thrives best out of doors; that is, cool nights and days not very warm.

Yours truly,

Frederick Cranefield,

Agr. Exp. Sta.

FLOWERS IN ST. LOUIS.

While in St. Louis, recently, by the courtesy of J. F. Beneke, I had the rare opportunity of attending the Chrysanthemum Show and Floral Exhibition held in one of the halls of the great Exposition building. The arrangement of the exhibit was very fine and reflected great credit upon those who had it in charge.

The Southland is a paradise of flowers, and they were displayed in profusion. There were Chrysanthemums in the height of their regal glory from the single specimen plant to the tree with its fifty superb blossoms, and varieties to please the most fastidious grower. Carnations of varied hues, larger than any I ever saw before, lent their delicious fragrance to the air, and beautiful roses tried to rival the attractions of rare potted plants. A finer display of Cyclamens I never saw. Stately Palms and graceful

Ferns formed a charming background to the rich and varied coloring of the flowers. There was an especially fine exhibit of Orchids composed of numerous varieties of those lovely flowers; the coloring of some of them was so dainty and exquisite that one could easily imagine them to have been painted by angel fingers.

The premiums offered were very liberal, for instance, we find that "For the largest and best collection of named Palms, not less than twelve kinds" a premium of thirty-five dollars was offered, for second premium twenty-five and third, fifteen dollars. "Best twelve blooms of Mignonne, five dollars." Such premiums almost take away the breath of the northern horticulturist.

I waited more than an hour to see the busy man who had charge of the magnificent exhibit and waited in vain, much to my disappointment, because I wished to get some items of interest to present to Wisconsin readers.

There were exhibitors from Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.

A fine orchestra gave concerts every afternoon and evening and the hall was thronged with admiring and enthusiastic lovers of flowers.

One can scarcely realize the moral influence such an exhibit has upon the people who visit it, and I could not help wishing that the morally sick people of that vast city could spend an hour or more in the midst of those beautiful flowers, which our Indian brothers so reverently call "God's smiles," for I believe they would be conscious of a healing influence and would go away stimulated to live purer, better lives.

We thankfully acknowledge the receipt, presumably from the hands of the Secretary, Mrs. Jos. D. Trelevin, of the premium list of the annual Chrysanthemum show and fair of the Omro horticultural society. The fair opens Nov. 11, and continues three days. The Omro society is wide-awake and has availed itself of a fine opportunity to awaken an interest in horticulture and increase its membership.

We hope to have a report for our next issue.

The neat and attractive premium list for the "Annual Chrysanthemum Show and Exhibit" by the Rushford Horticultural Society, held at Eureka, Wisconsin, November 16, 17, 18, has come to the editor's table. The large number of premiums offered are indicative of the energy and push of the officers and members of this enterprising society; they believe in the uplifting tendency of horticulture, and are doing all they can to advance its interests by interesting the public.

HINTS.

If you have not potted bulbs for winter blooming, do not hesitate to do so now, they will amply repay you for your trouble, even though they are started late.

Retard the growth of Hyacinths and Easter Lilies, and you will have a succession of bloom which is desirable at the season of the year when flowers are a rarity.

Attend the Chrysanthemum shows, and then resolve to grow some of these desirable plants for yourself next year. The home can be made gay with their many colored blossoms.

If you have not transplanted those rose bushes which you have intended to, do it this month; if it is late, it is better to move them now than to defer until spring.

JACQUEMINOTS.

[SELECTED.]

I may not speak in words, dear, but let my words be flowers,
 To tell their crimson secret in leaves of fragrant fire;
 They plead for smiles and kisses as summer fields for showers,
 And every purple veinlet thrills with exquisite desire.

O let me see the glance, dear, the gleam of soft confession.
 You give my amorous roses for the tender hope they prove;
 And press their heart-leaves back, love, to drink their deeper passion,
 For their sweetest, wildest perfume is the whisper of my love!

My roses, tell her, pleading, all the fondness and the sighing,
 All the longing of a heart that reaches thirsting for its bliss;
 And tell her, roses, tell her, that my lips and eyes are dying
 For the melting of her love-look and the rapture of her kiss.

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

WHICH ONE WAS KEPT.

There were two little kittens, a black and a gray,
And grandma said with a frown:
"It never will do to keep them both,
The black one we'd better drown.

"Don't cry, my dear," to tiny Bess,
"One kitten 's enough to keep;
Now run for nurse, for 'tis growing late
And time you were fast asleep."

The morrow dawned, and rosy and sweet
Came little Bess from her nap.
The nurse said, "Go into mama's room
And look in grandma's lap."

"Come here," said grandmama with a smile
From the rocking chair, where she sat;
"God has sent you two little sisters;
Now what do you think of that?"

Bess looked at the babies a moment,
With their wee heads, yellow and brown,
And then to grandma soberly said,
"Which one are you going to drown?"

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RIPON, WIS.,

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Address,

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