

Continuing on the same strain, I will relate a fact which was told me by a public officer of the town of St. Blaise, in Switzerland, where I was learning the trade of carpenter, in 1851. He told me he had a son who went to Australia and from there sent to his father a letter in which was enclosed some grains of a curious Egyptian wheat. Through a hole in the letter most of the grains were lost; only about nine were left. These were carefully planted by the window. It proved to be a seven stalked and many branched wheat. Each grain planted gave nearly two thousand grains of seed. These were planted the next season, but gave only about from nine to twelve hundred seeds each. Some of it was distributed to friends and neighbors; the balance was sown broadcast and gave only four or five hundred seeds each. In brief, that wheat was sown year by year till at last it gave less and less every year and at last gave only the same quantity as the common wheat used in my old country.

It seems to me the reason was plain; had they been careful about selecting the best and planted it away from any other kind of wheat, the result would have been quite different. I am of the opinion that if some one were to devote a little more time to selecting the seed in a careful manner, and planting it by itself, and keeping on year by year, the results would be sure to astonish even the most skeptical, but that is not all; the land must be cultivated, fertilized and enriched by having added to it the elements that constitute the plants we wish to grow. Our young generation have privileges and opportunities that we their elders and seniors were wholly lacking in. They have their high schools and especially their agricultural colleges where they can learn many things of which we were wholly ignorant, such as chemistry, botany and the science of knowing the elements and constitution of the different plants, geology, etc. How many times when I went through my garden have I wished to know of what elements the ground was composed, what were lacking and what were needed to be rid of wholly or in part in order to raise certain crops in a paying way? Truly knowledge is power when intelligently applied. Still I have found that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, because when misapplied the results are often discouraging and sometimes even disastrous. Still we need not be discouraged. "Exaltior" must be our motto, as also, "there is no excellence without labor." We ought to study as far as we can and compare results, and not keep on in the same old rut just because others have run in the same groove before us.

As a general rule hereabout, very few of our farmers are taking care of even using their manure. They plow their land and raise crops year after year, without giving back to poor starved mother earth, which they so unblushingly and cruelly rob of the elements which she gave so generously.

I have also noticed that hardly any use their straw for a bedding for their horses and cattle. They let them stand on their own excrement all winter, and when I remonstrated with some of them, they would gravely

assert that it would spoil the manure to have it mixed with straw. Whereas it is the experience of every practical, sound-sense farmer that it makes the manure better by keeping and absorbing the volatile elements such as ammonia, hydrogen, etc. inside and keeping it more moist in this dry climate of ours.

I feel that more might be said on the same subject and others relating to it, such as cutting hay, raising carrots and beets to feed horses and cows, etc. Most people are cutting their hay, especially the lucern, when it is nearly past blooming if not actually so and the stalks have become so woody as to be of little value as food for stock, except to keep them from starving.

I have raised beets and carrots these eight or ten years past to feed my cows with, and my neighbors seems to think that old Ned is a queer old crank. They keep on the old way of sending their cattle on the hills to starve all the winter and keep only such as they absolutely need home, and even these are so poorly fed that they are a pity to look at in the early spring, especially the calves, which mostly look like walking skeletons, having nothing but the skin and bones and great staring eyes that tell of the suffering they have passed through. A good many of the cattle die year by year and they ascribe all to bad luck instead of to the real cause.

All of these things lead one to reflect and think thus: farm little and farm well; and have fewer cattle and feed them well and get good breed; these two things will pay better in the long run by a great odds, than the opposite course.

January opened with us with fair weather and barely any snow in the mountains, and it seemed as if there would be a repetition of the same distress of water this year as we had last. But the last of the month and up to date the snow has fallen to such an extent as to completely reassure us on that score. All nature looks like a virgin in a white, festive dress, with here and there on the hills some dark spots showing the cedars and pine in bold relief on the landscape.

I, for my part, and a few of my neighbors agree with me, am glad to see the senatorial contest ended in our Legislature. And I hope that Mr. Rawlins will prove a faithful and efficient senator and as such will advance the interest of our young State, as well as of the whole Union.

I hope Congress will enact a law leaving to the people of the State at large to choose their senators instead of leaving it to the Legislature.

I am in favor of the abolition of the poll tax; it is a relic of feudal times. Instead, let a progressive, graduated income tax be levied. It is a shame to oblige the poor man who has only his two starved legs, to work on the road, while the rich man with his many teams is spoiling the roads. Let those that use the roads most do the most work on them. To tax the poor man and rich man alike is unjust and unfair.

The election laws need a little revising in some minor points. As they are now they don't work very harmoniously.

I should like to see Congress insti-

tute and establish a graduated tax on all properties and incomes.

The poor man has nothing for the government to take care of, whereas the government is obliged to take care of the rich man's property. So my idea is that the more a man has the more he ought to pay for its guarding and preservation, so as to equalize capital among the masses more than it is now.

The Luculluses of Rome corrupted and lost the republic. We don't want our Luculluses to corrupt and lose ours. They must be made to contribute to its support, so the government may have means on hand to give work to the poor men by building harbors, levees on the rivers, reservoirs on the mountains, etc.

H. EDOUARD DISAULES.

LETTER FROM T. J. HOOPER.

DENVER, Colo., Feb. 8, 1897.

In your issue of Dec. 30th there appears a communication from the officers of the Twelve ward, written ostensibly in denial of certain statements published over my signature some months before. It purports to give "some necessary explanations so that the real spirit and character of the gentleman may be understood." Therefore, being thrown up on the defensive, you will afford me the privilege of making some further "explanation" in order that "truth" may be vindicated, my integrity maintained, and the responsibility placed where it properly belongs.

By referring to the article in question you will see at once that it resolved itself into a tri-unitary statement:

1. Prevailing drunkenness.
2. Not limited to adults.
3. Nor limited to sexes.

It is not my purpose to enter into a further discussion of this question, although an abundance of material is at my command if I desired thus to do.

In justice to all, allow me first to state that I have a supreme regard for the truth, and if an injustice is done to any one I would use every effort to make it right. And here let me say, that from the nature of the evidence submitted, I think the number of barrels of beer should be limited to the number donated. Fortunately, however, my reputation for truthfulness and uprightness in life and conduct is too well established to be affected even by such sweeping epithets and wholesale denunciations as were contained in the communication to which I refer. Allow me to say also that the article was not the product either of a "fruitful imagination" or of "his satanic majesty;" unless produced by indirect process.

I did not know either that there was to be a picnic, or that it was customary to send a canvassing committee to solicit contributions for the same, until in my regular visitations I called upon a family whom I considered to be trustworthy and reliable and in every way worthy of my respect. It was while there I was told that the committee had just been there soliciting, and in the course of conversation was told that they (the committee) had informed them that two barrels of beer had been donated by