

rain water, and it produced a plant which weighed fourteen pounds, though the earth producing it had suffered no sensible diminution."

"A willow tree was planted by Van Helmont, in a vessel containing a thousand pounds of earth. This plant was watered with distilled water; and the vessel was so covered as to exclude all solid matter. At the end of five years, upon taking out the plant, he found it had increased in weight 119 pounds, though the earth had lost only two ounces of its original weight."

There is another theory as to the action of simple water when used for irrigation, which I will state. It is believed by some that all plants excrete certain matters from their roots which are hurtful to other plants of the same kind; that the cultivated grasses, being in time affected by their own excretions, do not continue permanently healthy in the same site, and therefore mosses and other inferior plants, spring up and extirpate them; that the water of irrigation, in its descent through the soil and subsoil, washes away this excrementitious matter from the roots of the grasses, and carries it off in solution; and that hence, in a good degree, the healthfulness and verdure of irrigated meadows.

[Cul.]

During a discussion at one of the agricultural meetings in Albany, Mr. ———, (whose name we did not learn,) made some remarks in regard to smut. He had sown a piece of ground with seed wheat that was a little smutty, but scarcely enough to be noticed—did not apply lime or any thing to prevent smut, and the crop was two-thirds smut. His son sowed some of the same seed, prepared by soaking in brine, and then limed, and the crop had hardly any smut in it. He inquired whether this accorded with general experience. Several gentlemen replied that they had never been troubled with smut, when the seed was treated with lime, alkali, or vitriol.—[Cultivator.]

As several of our farmers suffered in their wheat crops, the past year from smut, we would recommend them if they know of nothing better, to soak their seed wheat in urine,—and we give this recommendation, on account of information which we have received from a source worthy of notice.—[Ed.]

TONS OF MEAT AND DRINK USED UP BY ONE MAN.—Some genius has perpetrated the following calculation:

"I have been married 32 years, during which time I have received from the hands of my wife, three cups of coffee each day, two in the morning and one in the night, making about 35,040 cups of a half pint each, nearly 70 barrels of 30 gallons each, weighing 17,520 lbs., or nearly nine tons weight. Yet from that period I have scarcely varied in weight myself from 160 lbs. It will therefore be seen that I have drank, in coffee alone, 218 times my own weight. I am not much of an eater, yet I presume I have consumed about 18 ounces a day, which makes 5,806 lbs., or ten oxen. Of flour I have consumed in 32 years, about 50 barrels. For 20 years of this time, I drank two wine glasses of brandy each day, making 900 quarts.—The port wine, Madeira, whiskey punch, &c. I am not able to count, but they are not large.

When we take into account all the vegetables in addition, such as potatoes, peas, asparagus, strawberries, cherries, pears, peaches, raisins, &c., the amount consumed by an individual is most enormous. Now my body has been renewed more than four times in 32 years; and taking it for granted that the water, of which I have drank more, acts merely as a dilutant, yet taken together, I conclude that I have consumed in 32 years, about the weight of 1100 men of 160 lbs each."

PARSNEPS FOR PIGS.—The Sussex (Eng.) Express says, "at our farm we have been in the habit of employing parsneps for this purpose for some time. Upon reference to our books, we find that on the 11th of October, 1847, we put up two shoats of eleven weeks old, and fed them on skim milk and parsneps for three months, when they were killed, weighing 231 and 238 pounds. They were well fattened, firm in flesh, and the meat of excellent flavor. The quantity of parsneps consumed by them was nine bushels each."

The mail brought by the Oregon in 1850, was contained in SEVENTY-TWO bags, and numbered 45,000 letters, besides an immense amount of newspapers—double the size of any single mail which was ever received in New York.—[Pacific (San Francisco) News.]

POPPING THE QUESTION!

MR. EDITOR:—As the following letters did IN FACT pass between a lady and gentleman upon a TENDER SUBJECT, I send them to you for publication, as they will afford your readers considerable amusement, and will also teach those who are LOVINGLY inclined, to do up the delicate matter upon SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

LETTER OF THE GENTLEMAN TO THE LADY.

Romans, 1st chapter, from the 9th to the 12th verses inclusive. "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you; for I long to see you; that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift to the end ye may be established.—That is, that I may be comforted together with you, by the mutual faith both of you and me."

Please to give me an answer as soon as convenient. Most affectionately yours, &c.

TO WHICH THE LADY BY LETTER REPLIED:

Luke, 14th chapter, part of the 18th verse. "I pray thee have me excused."

[Boston Journal.]

"Early marriages make us IMMORTAL. It is the soul and chief end of empire: that man who resolves to live without woman, and that woman who resolves to live without man, are enemies to the community in which they dwell, injurious to themselves, destructive to the whole world, apostates from nature, and rebels against heaven and earth.—[Facitus.]

For the News.

INNUENDOES.

AGAIN DOCTOR, I solicit a space in your columns, to say a few words upon "the weather," which is so wonderfully FORETOLD by the almanac maker, or the printer's devil, in many almanacs, for the vexing consola-

tion of farmers, travellers, and some visiting women. It cannot, at this time, be exactly told who first invented this kind of prophecy, but English sovereignty, and the Yankee nation have held it in as much repute as the subjects of a potentate do his word:—THE KING CAN DO NO WRONG.

In addition to this kind of soothsaying, a large majority of mankind actually believe, that the moon holds an immense sway, at her changes, over the weather; and this serves to strengthen the almanac maker's, or the printer's devil's faith, or cunning, or calculations, in foretelling the hidden treasures of the weather,—to the great gratification of a Christian, or enlightened world. The Christian, however, with his cotemporary, Deist, believes that there are no gifts and prophecies now; so that the saying of Jesus to the Jews applies to these weather prophets, first rate: "when it is evening, ye say it will be fair weather, for the sky is red; and in the morning, it will be foul weather to-day, for the sky is red and lowering: O ye hypocrites! ye can discern the face of the sky, but ye cannot discern the signs of the times!"

As to the influences, supposed from the changes of the moon, over the weather, a few words to common sense minds, will suffice. Who does not know that every day over all the earth, where the sun's rays are not too oblique, all the beautiful varieties of a year, are in successful growth, and operation? The joyful spring; the rosy summer; the golden fall, and the hoary winter. For instance: now the sun is south of the equator, making every day, by degrees, the flower of spring before him; the glory and grace of summer around him; the fruit and fading of fall behind, with the glare and gloom of winter as a rear ward: so are the days of the year diversified; not by philosophy, religion, or men; but in the wisdom of all eternity.

Again: what effect has the moon upon the mountains of polar ice, while she rolls round her ring, or orbit, alternately two weeks above the horizon at the north pole,—and two weeks at the south pole? Does the moon, as a kind of sergeant-at-arms, give France and Italy a beautiful, mild climate, and Canada a stormy, severe one in the same parallel of latitude? What ingenuity must the moon possess, to temper down the hot winds from the burning sands of Africa, when they reach the shores of Central America, into soft breezes? And how are her silver glances thrown over the States, to give a continuity of rain through the summer, while the Great Basin is counterbalanced by months of clear weather? All that need be said, is, "beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy, and vain deceit, after the traditions of men; and after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Now, I think if any one prophecies of the weather, he must be one of the devil's prophets; for Paul says the children of disobedience walk by the "prince of the power of air." And Jesus said to his disciples,— "hereafter the prince of this world cometh, and he hath nothing in me."

Should any one ask, what is philosophy, after the traditions of men, &c.—answer,—it is governing worlds and nations, by attraction and repulsion, according to gravitation, and making the moon and wise fools, control the weather, independent of Jehovah:—and skulk off, when the prediction fails, under the