

THE LIFE-LEDGER.

Our sufferings we reckon o'er,
With skill minute and formal:
The cheerful ease that fills the score
We treat as merely normal.
Our list of ills, how full, how great!
We mourn our lot should fall so,
I wonder, do we calculate
Our happinesses also?
Were it not best to keep account
Of all days, if of any?
Perhaps the dark ones might amount
To not so very many.
Men's looks are nigh as often gay
As sad, or even solemn;
Behold my entry for to-day
Is in the "happy" column.
—Chambers' Journal.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOMESTEAD ACT.

AN ACT to enable honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, their widows and orphan children, to acquire homesteads on the public lands of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every private soldier and officer who has served in the army of the United States during the recent rebellion for ninety days, or more, and who was honorably discharged, and has remained loyal to the government, including the troops mustered into the service of the United States by virtue of the third section of an act entitled "An act making appropriations for completing the defenses of Washington, and for other purposes," approved February thirteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and every seaman, marine, and officer who has served in the navy of the United States, or in the marine corps, during the rebellion, for ninety days, and who was honorably discharged, and has remained loyal to the government, shall, on compliance with the provisions of an act entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and the acts amendatory thereof, as hereinafter modified, be entitled to enter upon and receive patents for a quantity of public lands (not mineral) not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, or one quarter section, to be taken in compact form according to legal subdivisions, including the alternate reserved sections of public lands along the line of any railroad or other public work, not otherwise reserved or appropriated, and other lands subject to entry under the homestead laws of the United States: *Provided*, That said homestead settler shall be allowed six months after locating his homestead within which to commence his settlement and improvement: *And Provided also*, That the time which the homestead settler shall have served in the army, navy, or marine corps aforesaid, shall be deducted from the time heretofore required to perfect title, or if discharged on account of wounds received, or disability incurred in the line of duty, then the term of enlistment shall be deducted from the time heretofore required to perfect title, without reference to the length of time he may have served: *Provided, however*, That no patent shall issue to any homestead settler who has not resided upon, improved, and cultivated his said homestead for a period of at least one year after he shall commence his improvements as aforesaid.

SEC. 2 That any person entitled under the provisions of the foregoing section to enter a homestead, who may have heretofore entered under the homestead laws a quantity of land less than one hundred and sixty acres, shall be permitted to enter under the provisions of this act so much land as, when added to the quantity previously entered, shall not exceed one hundred and sixty acres.

SEC. 3. That in case of the death of any person who would be entitled to a homestead under the provisions of the first section of this act, his widow, if unmarried, or in case of her death or marriage, then his minor orphan children, by a guardian duly appointed and officially accredited at the Department of the Interior, shall be entitled to all the benefits enumerated in this act, subject to all the provisions as to settlement and improvements therein contained: *Provided*, That if such person died during his term of enlistment, the whole term of his enlistment shall be deducted from the time heretofore required to perfect the title.

SEC. 4. That where a party at the date of his entry of a tract of land under the homestead laws, or subse-

quently thereto, was actually enlisted and employed in the army or navy of the United States, his services therein shall, in the administration of said homestead laws, be construed to be equivalent, to all intents and purposes, to a residence for the same length of time upon the tract so entered: *Provided*, That if his entry has been canceled by reason of his absence from said tract while in the military or naval service of the United States, and such tract has not been disposed of, his entry shall be restored and confirmed: *And provided further*, That if such tract has been disposed of, said party may enter another tract subject to entry under said laws; and his right to a patent therefor shall be determined by the proofs touching his residence and cultivation of the first tract, and his absence therefrom in such service.

SEC. 5. That any soldier, sailor, marine, officer, or other person coming within the provisions of this act, may, as well by an agent as in person, enter upon said homestead: *Provided*, That said claimant in person shall, within the time prescribed, commence settlements and improvements on the same, and thereafter fulfill all the requirements of this act.

SEC. 6. That the Commissioner of the General Land Office shall have authority to make all needful rules and regulations to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

Approved April 4, 1872.

SENATOR COLE ON HOMESTEADS.

On the 22nd of April the bill (S. No. 447) to enable honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, their widows and orphan children, to acquire homesteads on the public lands of the United States, being before the Senate for consideration, Mr. Cole of California sought to amend, so as to authorize homestead settlements upon lands granted to railroads in case there has been neglect upon the part of the railroad company to comply with the law making the grant; and in course of debate on his amendment he said the following, among many other good things:

"It is time that some of our legislation looked to the benefit of the citizen—the poor man, the soldier—rather than the benefit exclusively of those large corporations. I know it is a fact that those who are powerful enough to take care of themselves are those who exact the most legislation of Congress, and those who are least able to take care of themselves and those who need protection are those who have been receiving the least consideration at the hands of the two Houses of Congress. It is time that we reversed our policy; it is time we did something for the benefit of the people and soldiers of the country; and I ask now only what is right on their behalf, that when these corporations have neglected their duty, have violated their obligations, the honest settler may go and make his home upon what still remains public land, which has not passed from the public ownership.

"We are told that the amendment will probably defeat the bill; that it will create discussion in the other House. How do we know that? If the question is to be determined whether the railroad companies of the country are stronger than Congress, who are supposed to represent the people, let us have that question determined now, and on this bill. I think it is quite time that the people had some exhibition of their wishes in connection with these things, as well as the railroad companies.

"I think this is a very proper place to offer this amendment. I would have offered it in committee if I had had an opportunity. I have presented several bills to the Committee on Public Lands, some of which have, I believe, been well considered by them, but none of them exactly embodying this principle. But, sir, I am in favor of opening all the public lands that can be opened to actual homestead settlers. That was the intention that Congress had originally when it established our public land system, in according to each settler 160 acres of land upon which he might establish a home. The very policy of our government required that as many homesteads, as many landholders, should exist in the country as possible, and they made it easy and cheap for persons to become possessors of land in their own right. Sir, the possession of land adds to the independence of men. It improves the character of our citizenship. It is of great advantage to the Republic at large, and we should not lose sight of it in these latter days.

"I believe that this amendment, if adopted, will be no objection to the bill. I know of no reason why the bill should not pass the other House more readily on this account, because it offers the soldier something more, much more, indeed, than is offered him in the bill as reported by the committee. Let our soldiers go on these lands, when they by right belong to the government of the United States, when by the forfeiture of the railroad companies the soldiers become part owners of them. Why, sir, every American citizen is part owner in the public land. He owns them in common with the rest of the citizens of the United States, and when he chooses to go upon them and make his settlements there, they become his private property."

THE PRECISE DATE OF CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION.—A distinguished German scholar, Herr Kelk, in a recently published work, considers that he has settled the true date of the crucifixion. He shows that there was a total eclipse of the moon concomitant with the earthquake which occurred when Julius Caesar was assassinated on the 15th of March, B. C. 44. He has also calculated the Jewish calendar to A. D. 34, and the result of his researches confirms the facts recorded by the Evangelists of the wonderful physical events that accompanied the crucifixion. His astronomical calculations also show that on the 5th of April, A. D. 61, there was a total eclipse of the sun, accompanied, in all probability, by the earthquake spoken of in Matthew. This mode of reckoning is verified by another calculation, made by calculating backward from the great total eclipse of 1818, which also gives April 5th as the date of the new moon A. D. 31. As the vernal equinox of the year fell on March 28th, and the Jews ate their Easter lamb and celebrated their Feast of the Passover on the following new moon, it is clear April 6th was identified with Gisan 14 of the Jewish calendar, which moreover was on Friday, the day of preparation for the Sabbath, and this agrees with the Hebrew Talmud, so that astronomy, archaeology, traditional and Biblical history seem to unite in fixing the date of the crucifixion at April 6, A. D. 31.—*N. Y. Evening Mail*.

AGRICULTURAL.

DR. GEORGE SPRAGUE, the prominent breeder of live stock at Des Moines, Iowa, says that for every animal that has been injured by over-feeding 10,000 have been injured in their growth and for breeding purposes by being scantily nourished and insufficiently housed.

THE State Entomologist of Missouri says that the washing of fruit trees with soap, or the application of any alkaline solution, is an infallible protection against borers; and this is confirmed by the experience of some of the most extensive fruit-growers in that section. We have told our readers this more than a dozen years ago.

WHEN turnips and rutabagas are fed to milk cows and fattening sheep and hives, the milk and butter and meat will have a decided flavor of the roots. This may be prevented by feeding the cows only immediately after milking; and by changing the feed of fat animals from roots to hay and meal for three or four days previous to slaughtering there will be no unpleasant flavor in the meat.

ANTS IN THE ORCHARD AND GARDEN.—We see the ant pronounced a nuisance by some writers on agriculture, but our experience and observation leads us to the contrary opinion. While they do little or no actual damage to vegetation, they drive away and destroy lice and other insects which would do serious damage. We have long looked upon the ant as a friend, and are glad to see some others defending the industrious ant.

STRAW, if properly managed, can be made to serve a more profitable purpose than mere littering, or to add bulk to the manure pile. In England, and among the English farmers in Canada, most of the bullocks are fed and fattened on straw, with roots and meal. No hay is used, that being kept for the horses. Thus a larger number of the stock can be fed. Straw cut, wetted and sprinkled with ground food or oil meal, will carry cattle very well through the winter. Oat, barley, rye and wheat straw are proportionately valuable in the order in which they are placed. Pea straw is more valuable than oat straw.

BACON or pork in some shape or other is too common an article of diet among farmers the world over. This is doubtless due to the fact that markets and butchers are not very plentiful in the country. But farmers could well use more mutton and less pork, and if the taste were once created, the convenience of pork for regular diet would be found not so great as is now thought. With fresh or dried mutton and more cheese, the farmer's table might be more agreeably and equally well supplied, as with the present perpetual pork.—*Hearth and Home*.

CHARCOAL FOR SICK CATTLE.—The *Country Gentleman* says: Nearly all the cattle become sick from improper eating. In nine cases out of ten, the digestion is wrong. Charcoal is the most efficient and rapid corrective. It will cure in a majority of cases, if properly administered. An example of its use—the hired man came in with the intelligence that one of the finest cows was very sick, and a kind neighbor proposed the usual drugs and poisons. The owner being ill, and unable to examine the cow, concluded that the trouble came from some over-eating, and ordered a teacup of pulverized charcoal given in water. It was mixed, placed in a junk bottle, the head held upward, and the water with its charcoal poured downward. In five minutes an improvement was visible, and in a few hours the animal was in the pasture quietly eating the grass. Another instance of equal success occurred with a young heifer which became badly bloated by eating green apples after a hard wind. The bloat was so severe that the sides were almost as hard as a barrel. The old remedy, saleratus, was tried for the purpose of correcting the acidity. But the attempt to put it down always caused coughing, and did little good. Half a teacupful of fresh powdered charcoal was next given. In six hours all appearance of bloat had gone and the heifer was well.

GROWING THE TOMATO.—One would suppose that at this late day we knew pretty much all about cultivating the Tomato; but it seems that we do not, inasmuch as we see daily recommendations as to the best mode of getting the most fruit, from all quarters, even from persons that one would suppose had a flight a little higher than speculating in tomato-seed, and undertaking, fancy men as they are, to tell us old practical cultivators how to raise it! Some people train the vines over elaborate trellis-work or frames, at no little expense; others trellis them; others stick them with brush about the size or little larger than that used for peas; others simply throw brush down for them to run over; and others allow the vines to creep over the ground without any support, only previously mulching the ground with grass or straw.

We have tried every mode here mentioned, and we have found that where the plants are stuck, brushed, trellised, frame worked or allowed to run unsupported over the ground, the yield is about the same. We prefer the brush-sticking process. It produces full as great a crop as any other mode, with only half the trouble and expense, and looking more picturesque and not so artificial as the trellises and frames; and if the brush is firmly inserted in the ground, it admits of passing between the rows to pick the fruit, and gives free access to the air. When the vines are allowed to run over the ground unsupported, however much the ground may be mulched, the flavor of the tomato is more or less extracted by the natural attraction of the soil, by which the fruit is rendered almost worthless; besides, the vines are all in a mass, and to get at the fruit is inconvenient to the picker and injurious to the crop.—*German town Telegraph*.

The London *Economist* gives figures to show that England has lately increased her purchases and investments in all parts of the world, the former being partly due to the rise in prices of many of her articles of import, and the latter to her various foreign loans. The amount of bullion moved from England to Bombay, Calcutta, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Cape and West Africa, Spain, Portugal and Brazil, was 10,552,000 pounds sterling in 1871, which was over ten times more than the amount to the same places in 1870.

One of the results of the civilization of Japan is to leave 10,000 Buddhist priests penniless and without employment.