

Correspondence.

Amusements, Dancing, &c.—"Gilead Sets Them Up."

SALT LAKE CITY,
Sept. 24, 1874.

Editor Deseret News:

Cheerfulness is almost indispensable to health.

Recreation is a necessity, and not, as some people imagine, a mere pastime.

"Josh Billings" says, "He that kant laff iz tew be pityed, and him that wont laff iz tew be feared." Man, being the only creature that has the power to laugh, ought, I think, to exercise the privilege.

The most beneficial results are derived from social diversions, such as picnics, croquet, and other outdoor amusements.

While speaking of croquet, there are few people, in this part of the country, who realize the pleasure and benefits to be derived from this little game, in which the young and the middle-aged of both sexes can mingle in pleasant and innocent association. The father whose mind has been overtaxed in the counting house, or in the sanctum, may feel intensely relieved by joining with his family in this or some other refreshing pastime; and while so doing, set them an example of good behavior, which should characterize all sports, to render them beneficial and enjoyable.

Some people suppose that an exhausted body requires nothing but sleep to prepare it, like a machine, for "to-morrow's work." Who can tell the refreshing influence experienced by the hard wrought laborer in listening to some racy lecture, or witnessing a laughable piece of stage acting? "He who laughs needs no doctor, and the man who makes a laugh is a benefactor of mankind."

It may be urged that these pleasures cost time and money, but those who advance the objection would probably squander ten times the amount in drugs and quack nostrums, or in feeing some physician, who, if consulted in time, would recommend relaxation as a preventive, which is always preferable to a cure.

Others claim that dancing affords all the amusement and exercise needed for the young. While we admit that the ball-room furnishes a class of enjoyment which in some cases is productive of good, we cannot deny the fact that it has, at present, many objectionable features. Dancing has been regarded as a means of teaching the young how to walk and move gracefully, but the incessant "jumping up and down," now witnessed in our ball-rooms, can hardly be considered as conducive to this end. Violent exertion of this kind, protracted into the late hours of the night, has already produced undesirable results among our young women, and being mostly carried on during the winter months, guests are exposed to the sudden transition from a heated room to the midnight blast, which is dangerous in the extreme, especially where thin gauze is substituted for the more substantial winter apparel.

I do not wish to be understood as advocating the total abolition of terpsichorean exercises, but the rendering of the present mode more healthful and elegant.

How few of the old time quadrilles we now witness at our parties, and the primitive cotillion is nearly extinct. They have given place to the round dances in all their voluptuous variety and grace. "Josh Billings" says that some of the present style of dances ought to be confined entirely to married people, and each man with his own wife, and not many bystanders at that. I often smile at this remark, when I witness a "crowd" of our girls "going through" the labyrinths of a "mazourka" in every fantastic position. Now comes a couple essaying a new role of "affectionate rotarioness," the lady with elevated posterior enunciation, and her body in a semi-doubled up posture, clinging with both hands to the shoulders of the gent, who with a Darwinian air is skipping from point to point with a step "peculiar to himself—and the kangaroo."

Next comes a pair who are better broken to work in this "close communion" harness; she carries him along as if an east wind had struck him, stopping at corners for palpitating pauses, and general arrangements for another stampede.

So "the ball progresses," while

the astonished matron who is not versed in the "semiquaver wiggings" of the new style dances, occupies in amazement and consternation the unenviable position of wall flower.

Ward Stores.

SALT LAKE CITY,
Sept. 29th, 1874.

Editor Deseret News:

As I understand it, the original purpose of Z. C. M. I., the parent institution, was to be purely a wholesale establishment, and the inauguration of retail houses by that institution was an after resolution, the first intention having been to leave the retail business to the various ward or branch stores. In accordance with this idea, stores were started in most of the wards in the city, as well as in the country, some of which have proved a success and some have not.

As the parent institution appears to be relinquishing the retail business, in accordance with the earlier design, it seems to me that now would be an excellent time for the several wards to organize and take renewed hold of the retail business.

In order to do this with the greatest success and satisfaction, several points should evidently be carefully observed, and the policy regulated accordingly.

Heretofore, the small branch stores in the several wards have not all proved successful for several reasons, some of which I may perhaps indicate with sufficient distinctness by jotting down a few particulars which appear to me to be desirable to take into sufficient account in the conduct of such branch stores.

1. It is a difficult thing to divert business from what have come to be business localities, and therefore retail stores in the several wards do not do as much business as they would be likely to do if they were situated in a main business street. The inference is, therefore, that where it is conveniently practicable, it would be well for the ward stores to be situated in a business locality. In order to do this, it would probably be necessary for some of the wards to have a retail store in the business part of the town, as well as a smaller branch store in the ward, both stores under one direction.

2. People always like to go to a store where there is a large and varied assortment of goods, giving them plenty of choice. Nobody likes to be compelled to a narrow choice of goods, and at last have to take something very unsuitable, both as to kind and price. Some people will not be so compelled, but will at once bestow their patronage elsewhere. In this particular some of the ward stores have made serious mistakes. A very limited stock, both in variety and quantity, has been kept, in order to do business with the smallest possible amount of capital, so that the greater returns might accrue. It strikes me that in some instances this has been a penny wise and pound foolish policy.

3. These co-operative branch stores are supposed to be established for the benefit of the wards, that is, of the public living in the wards. This general benefit is not attained by small business and large dividends, but rather by large business and small dividends.

4. Large dividends are an incentive to men of means to buy up all the shares they can, and this of course is at the expense of the poorer portion of the community. Thus a few reap the benefits of the business, while the public generally pay for it. On the contrary, if selling prices are low, and the dividends small, there will not be such great incentives to a few persons to buy up the shares, while the public will be benefited by the low prices, and every body who can will thereby be stimulated to have a share or two, so that the institution may remain prosperous and continue to benefit the public, who by the greater quantity they receive for their money when they trade at the store do actually receive a dividend every time they go there, and consequently go there they will, especially if they find a liberal choice of articles, and accommodating and courteous attention on the part of those who serve in the store.

5. One thing should be uncompromisingly acted upon—the best ability available should be secured to conduct these stores, not only as to business capability, but also

as to assiduous attention and strict integrity.

6. As to selling on credit. The cash system is the best where it can be insisted on. But where it is concluded to allow credit, it should be done upon a clearly defined policy as to amount, kind of persons allowed credit, and ultimate payment, all with the full understanding and approval of the directors, who should be the best and most capable men that can be obtained.

I may be in error, but I am inclined to think that if these suggestions were acted upon as fully as possible, by ward stores, they could hardly fail to be highly successful, as the satisfaction they would give would be very great and very general, though the actual declared dividends might be small.

BIZ.

Shade and Forest Trees.

SPRING CITY, Sept. 6, 1874.

Editor Deseret News:

Will you please publish, at your earliest convenience, the best kind of shade or ornamental trees, and most profitable, in your judgment, to cultivate in the valleys of Utah, combining thriftiness of growth, quality of timber, beauty and cleanliness of the tree?

By answering the foregoing through the NEWS, you will confer a great favor upon me, and perhaps upon many others of the readers of your valuable paper. Trees also for forests of many acres. The rapid decrease of our native timber naturally suggests inquiries of the foregoing kind. Very truly,

Your friend and brother,

ORSON HYDE.

Answer by John Reading, Cor. Sec. of Horticultural Society, Salt Lake City.

OF PROPER SOIL.

Each kind of tree has a soil peculiarly its own. In that soil it will do better than any other tree. The subject, then, is one of some moment.

Science may some day explain this with exactness. Practice and experiment have taught us chiefly what we know so far. We have been enabled to learn what trees are well adapted to certain soils, and in what soil any given tree will do well.

This is of more importance to the man of small means than to the man of fortune. The latter can have any tree he chooses, because he can make the soil to suit. The other cannot afford the expense—he must select the trees that suit his soil.

The number of species and varieties is now so great, that a fine collection of trees may be had in even a piece of ground with one uniform soil. If one tree only be wanted I prefer it to be different from one's neighbor's adjoining. In addition to the charm of variety, which is added to the pleasure of shade, emulation has here an innocent outlet for its course, which will not fail to bring its reward.

ON THE CHOICE OF TREES.

For shade trees it is considered advantageous to possess the property of transplanting easily. This is a great reason why certain trees become so popular in some districts as to give them character.

In choosing trees, prefer those raised in a nursery to those growing naturally. Most persons are aware of the difficulty of getting the latter to do well. A glance at the nature of the roots will teach us the reason. There are two sets of roots to most trees, perhaps to all. One consists of *fibres*, the sole office of which is to draw matter from the soil for the use of the tree; the other of *true roots*, which extend and keep the tree in position, affording at the same time channels for the conveyance of the matter absorbed by the fibres.

PRUNING.

Is it necessary to cut the branches of a tree on transplanting? As much so as it may be necessary to cut off a man's limb to save his life. In either case, it is a necessity upon which the operator might well ponder and hesitate to act.

If fall planting be adopted, the elaborated sap, contained in every branch, will assist in the formation of roots. As there is little or no evaporation from the tree in the winter season, the branches can do no harm any way; and by the Spring the trees will have made

roots to serve them. The whole question is reduced to one of evaporation. If there be fibres enough to sustain evaporation, the less cut the better.

THE OPERATION OF TRANSPLANTING.

The common mode of planting is to dig out a hole, stick in a tree, and leave the rest to nature. This is not care enough. A tree will repay reasonable attention.

ON THE SELECTION OF SHADE TREES.

A shade tree should have a wide spreading head, abundant leaves or dense foliage. It should bud forth early in the Spring, and retain its leaves late in the autumn. It should also be free from unpleasant odors and liability to attacks of disease or insects. Fine selections can be made from amongst the horse-chestnuts and buckeyes, maples, some birches, ashes, tulip-tree, English buttonwood, the oaks, sweet chestnut, lindens and elms.

TREES INDIVIDUALLY.

Acer daycarpum—Silver Maple. Native of the northern and middle States. One of the finest of our native trees. It branches out pretty near the base, and spreads to a great extent. Thrives best in a deep rich loam. Propagated by seeds sown as soon as ripe.*Acer plantanoides*—Norway Maple. Native of the northern parts of Europe. A very ornamental tree in any situation; its ample, broad leaves give a fine shade, which is heightened by their dark green color. It is very hardy and will thrive in any soil or situation. Propagated by seeds.*Acer pseudoplatanus*—Sycamore. It is readily distinguished by its habit, which is stiff and little inclined to branch. It is a rapid grower, thriving in a deep, rich loam. Propagated by seeds.*Acer saccharinum*—Sugar maple. This tree has none of the graceful airiness of the silver maple, or the rusticity of branches as the Norway, but excels them both in nobility of appearance. It is much admired on account of its rich golden hue, often tinged with red, in the fall of the year. It is easily cultivated, doing well in any situation, except in the dry and confined atmosphere of a densely built city. Prefers a loose loam, with a substratum of clay.*Esculus Ohioensis*—American horse-chestnut, sometimes Ohio buckeye. This species half unites the buckeye with the true horse chestnut, having the appearance of the one with the prickly fruit, the chief characteristic of the other. Grows about forty feet high, thrives in a deep, rich loam, and is propagated by seeds.*Ailanthus glandulosa*—Tree of Heaven. Native of China. Flowers in June or July. A tree once in great demand, but it received a severe stroke by the pen of the late Mr. Downing. It has many disadvantages. On the other hand, it is a rapid grower, and, in appearance, often rivals the black walnut. It is liable to sucker, if pruned severely. Its suckering propensities cannot injure anything in the street, and there its value, by its freedom from insects, may atone for its stench while in flower.*Betula Lenta*—Sweet black birch. Native of the Northern States. One of the handsomest of the birches. It is one of the earliest to put out its foliage in the Spring. It will grow sixty or seventy feet high under favorable circumstances. Propagated by seeds.*Carya amara*—Bitternut. This is a very useful tree for this country, as it thrives best on dry, rocky or gravelly plains. The foliage is always of a pale yellow tint, changing to a fine golden yellow in the fall. Propagated by the nuts sown as soon as ripe.*Castanea vesca*—Chesnut tree. Native of Europe and America. Flowers in June. Nothing can make a prettier object than this tree when well grown. It frequently outgrows the oak, which it somewhat resembles in appearance. It will thrive in the most barren soils, especially those of a rocky or gravelly nature, doing equally as well in a deep, rich loam, or any soil but a wet one. It is, in fact, a tree for any situation. Propagated by seed sown in the Spring or Fall.*Cetis crassifolia*—Hackberry. Native of the Northern and Middle States. This fine tree is very little known in our vicinity. Its branches spread, and the whole appearance

is very much like an elm, with perhaps a darker hue. There are some fine specimens on the grounds of the late Willard Richards, also in front of Mr. Jennings' residence.

Diospyrus virginianum—Persimmon. In good soil this tree will frequently grow forty or fifty feet high. It is interesting at all seasons. It thrives best in a deep rich loam. It is propagated by its seeds, sown as soon as ripe. It is one of those trees which do not transplant readily, if not carefully cultivated while young.*Fraxinus Americana*—White ash. It is one of our prettiest trees. The head is flat when the tree is full grown. The roots of all the ashes run near the surface. They require a rich loam and plenty of room to arrive at perfection. Propagated by seeds sown as soon as ripe.*Gleditsia triacanthos*—Honey locust. Opinions are divided in regard to the value of this tree. In spite of its many defects, its place in some situations cannot be better supplied. It thrives best in a deep rich loam, and is readily propagated by seeds early in the spring.*Juglans cinerea*—Butternut. White walnut. A good substitute for the alanthus, grows about fifty feet high, is generally round headed, with an inclination to become flat. Thrives best in a cool, deep, and rich loam. Propagated by nuts sown in the spring, covered about two inches, they are difficult to transplant, and the sooner they are removed to their final position the better.*J. Nigra*—Black walnut. A larger tree every way than the preceding. They should grow by themselves, on account of their unneighborly propensity of injuring every thing growing about them. Culture the same as butternut.*Laurus—Sassatras*. One of the most interesting trees that can be in the landscape. The glaucous green of the foliage is so uncommon, and is one of the first to aid in forming that beautiful picture of autumnal forest scenery which has so enraptured European travelers, and gives the American landscape a position amongst the special beauties of the world. It thrives well in a dry, sandy loam, but it will grow in any situation. Propagated by seeds sown in June as soon as ripe, or by suckers.*Morus Rubra*—Mulberry. It is very regularly round headed, and the leaves are very large, giving it a bold and strong appearance. The rich colored fruit with which it abounds in June and July, adds to its interest. It thrives best in a deep rich loam.*Negundo Aceroides*—Box Elder. Ash leaved maple, not so common as it ought to be. It very much resembles the ash. It has a darker hue than most of that family. It thrives well in any soil except the driest, in which it is usually short lived. Propagated by seed and layers.*Paulownia imperialis*.—The only known species is a native of Japan, and thrives admirably in America. It is as rapid a grower as the *ailanthus*, the wood and trunk of the tree also resembling it. The leaves are rather coarse, looking like large melon leaves; but the beauty of the large clusters of sky blue flowers, which appear in June, covers all blemishes. It will thrive in any good loam. It would make an interesting street tree.*Populus deltata*—Lombardy Poplar. A well known and formerly very popular tree, on account of its easy and rapid growth and singular fastigate appearance. In the Fall the leaves turn to a rich, golden yellow hue, equalled by few other trees.*Robinia pseudacacia*—Yellow Locust. This varies from one of the handsomest of ornamental trees to one of the ugliest. When young, with its bold round head, its elegant foliage and luxuriant growth, profusely covered with its large clusters of deliciously-scented flowers, it laughs at its rivals. But the case is different as it advances in age; large branches broken off by every stiff breeze, others dying "voluntarily," like suicides, through grief for loss of the power to please. Then the borer, which attacks the tree most unrelentingly, and its innumerable suckers, make a bad end to its chapter of history.*Tilia Americana*—American Linden. In the Middle States this is very popular as a shade tree. When full grown it has a rather irregular round head, and to most