

## NOTICE.

All advertisements for the EVENING NEWS must be handed in to this Office not later than one o'clock on the day on which advertisement with them inserted.

## LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

**THEATRE.**—There is to be another performance at the Theatre on Saturday evening next, consisting of the comic Irish drama, "Handy Andy." Grand Olio, a new negro local sketch entitled "Scenes at the Museum and Menagerie," the laughable farce, "The Dead Shot," gymnastic exercises, stinging and other comicallies. The bill is ample and ought to draw. A page of wild boasts upon the stage will add to the attractions of the evening.

**SIMPLE BUT EFFECTUAL.**—While passing along Second South street, to-day, we stopped to look at the simple little contrivance fastened to the bottom of Dr. Grove's door to stop the draft. Mr. J. O. Clay is the patentee; it is called Clay's Patent metallic Weather Strip, and we think it all it is represented to be.

**MESSAGE.**—There is a message at the Democrat Telegraph office for Lucian Noble, from Cove Creek.

**NEW MACHINE SHOP.**—We took a look through the machine shop of J. W. Tuckfield, (whose card appears in our columns,) on West Tenth Street, in the building owned by Eardley Bros., formerly known as the "Democrat Pottery." Part of the building has been fitted up for a dwelling house for Bro. Tuckfield and the rest is devoted to a smith's shop, brass foundry, joiner's shop and machine room, with lathes and other requisites for the manufacture and repair of machinery. Special notice is given to the workmanship shown to us there proved to be beyond a doubt that Brother Tuckfield is an ingenious mechanic and finished workman. Now that iron ore is being developed in our Territory and coal is becoming cheap and plentiful, steam power and labor-saving machinery will be brought more generally into use, and the business of such mechanics will take a new start. We wish Brother Tuckfield success and cheerfully recommend him to the public.

**STRAY STOCK.**—There are, at the present time, a great many cattle running at large in the vicinity of Bonanza, breaking into the fields and eating off what little grain has been left by the grasshoppers. Bishop Stoker informs us that it is the intention of the people of that settlement to drive all stock running at large there, on Tuesday next, to the mountain range, and they would be pleased if persons owning such stock would look after it and not allow it to return to the fields. Persons who allow their stock to run at large to the injury to their brethren in that manner are not deserving of any, and the action is doubly reprehensible now, considering that it is so necessary for the people to save the little grain the grasshoppers have not eaten.

**PARAWAN.**—We have received, from Brother W. C. McGregor, of Parawan, the following items, under date of May 31st:

"The locusts hatched out in great numbers last spring, more than enough to have swept every green thing in our fields, but the brethren turned out in force, while the hoppers were young and treacherous against them, and burned countless numbers of them with straw. It looked like fall more than spring to see the loads of straw going in every direction. The chickens were also used to great advantage, and our big field was dotted all over with chicken coops. Many of the brethren stayed in the field night and day, for weeks together, fighting the enemy. Very little damage has yet been done by the locusts. Our crops at present are looking fine, and we trust, with the blessing of our Father, to have a bountiful harvest. Yesterday and to-day we have had a beautiful rain storm."

**EXCURSION TO LAKE SIDE.**—We look for a big "turn out" on Saturday, to visit Lake Side. The fare on the Utah Central, instead of being \$1.50 for the round trip, as was advertised, will only be \$1.00, which consideration will probably induce some to go, who otherwise would not. The train will leave this city at 8:30 a.m., and return in the evening.

**MAIL ROBBER CAPTURED.**—A man by the name of H. B. Munro, arrested for robbing the mails at Meadow Creek post office, was brought to this city yesterday in charge of the Sheriff of Beaver, and turned over to Marshal Patrick. Another by the name of Charles J. Taysom, suspected of being a accomplice, was also arrested and held to bail. Their trial will be held in Provo, on June 21st, before the District Court.

**AN OMISSION.**—In our notice, in Monday's News, of the meeting held by the President and party, at Brigham City, last Saturday afternoon, the statement that the first speaker on that occasion was Elder Franklin D. Richards was inadvertently omitted. Elder Richards addressed the assembly for about forty minutes in a very interesting manner, the subjects touched upon in his discourse, being the cordial welcome extended by the people of Brigham City to President Young and party, the peace and good order prevailing in that burg; the probable design and intent of Providence in permitting the ravages of the locusts, year after year, the success of the principle of co-operation, and other items of interest and importance to Latter-day Saints. The types will play strange freaks at times!

**"HOPPERS" IN CALIFORNIA.**—This Territory is not the only place visited by grasshoppers. They have also appeared in California. The Stockton (Cal.) Independent says that the country from the Twenty-two Mile House, north of Sonora road, swarms with them, and they are devastating the ranches and leaving only a blackened plain. They are working eastward, and will destroy everything east of the Twenty-two Mile House. They are also reported to be very numerous on the high lands north of Calaveras River, along the Camanche road.

**"THE WRONG BOTTLE."**—The Ogden Junction of yesterday, says:

"The other night, while fumbling about in the dark for the bottle containing his 'bitters,' an artist clutched one containing ammonia. He raised the phial to his mouth, and drank a part of its contents before he discovered his mistake. Medical aid was called, the doctor administered the proper remedy, and now the artist, we learn, is doing well. Gentlemen, be careful that you do not drink out of the wrong bottle."

That a plant possesses any faculty like our power of thought, probably no one would claim; but is there anything in vegetable life which for that sphere of creation answers the purpose which reason or instinct serves in human or brute life? It is commonly supposed that all animal life is superior to all vegetable life—that the lowest form of animal, in which vitality is scarcely recognizable, is of a higher order than the highest form of vegetable structure. Certain plants show a greater sensitiveness to touch, and a greater variety of movements, than some of the lowest specimens of the animal kingdom. But is this sensitiveness and these movements purely mechanical, without any feeling or even knowledge of the event on the plant's part? It is easier to ask than to answer such questions, and without attempting their solution—or even to define our idea of what thought means—we propose presenting some carefully baited hooks to catch the subtle, which we have gleaned from various sources. There may be different theories for accounting for these things and our readers may be able to solve the problem to their own satisfaction. We must confess that to ourselves there has appeared no entirely satisfactory reply to the question, "Do vegetables think?"

No one yet has found anything approaching to an explanation why the seed invariably sends its root downward and its stalk upward. All kinds of reasons have been given: the most common is that plants strive toward the sun. Experiments of the most various kinds have proved that no external cause whatever can be found to account for this inveterate tendency. Some of the experiments are very curious. Acorns and beans placed in tubes full of earth, have been turned and turned about, whirled round wheels day and night, till one would have thought they must have lost all ideas of zenith and nadir; but, in spite of all ingenious attempts which have been made to confuse the vegetable mind it persists in sending its stalk upward, and its root downward. One of the most conclusive experiments was made by M. Drouchet: he filled with earth a vase whose bottom was pierced with holes, in the holes he placed bean seeds, so that each plant had every inducement to thrust its roots upward to get earth, and its stalk downward to have the light and air; but no again! It remained true to the education which every baby seed must receive on leaving its mother, and which every plant must follow or die: it thrust its root downward into empty air, and its stalk upward through the dark thick earth. The first withered, the latter was suffocated, and the infant bean plant perished as a martyr to the law of nature; but it proved its incorruptible autonomy and invincible constancy.

Another peculiar example of autonomy and constancy in plants is shown in creeping and climbing plants which turn in spirals round any support; they will obstinately persist in climbing in the direction of the first spiral turn, be it to left or right. No surprise—no system of coaxing will make the plant forget or change the direction it first began to climb with its infant shoots. What then is this energy—this invincible desire which exhibits itself in the spiral of the twining plant, and which overcomes any obstacle? Some plants, like the ampelepis hederacea, may be seen climbing a wall, throwing their delicate arms, like feelers, dying of disappointment where they fail to find a resting place; but where they do, clinging to the wall with little discs like a fly's foot, and so creeping up and up in search of heat and warmth.

As to that strange phenomenon known as the sleep of plants, though it is neither an argument in favor of instinct nor sensibility, it demonstrates a further likeness in their vitality to that of animals. Sleep, indeed, seems an improper expression for the state of vegetable contraction which plants experience at certain times. The leaves in this plant-sleep are drawn together, and become crisp and hard to the touch, and they return to their former state as though extended by a spring. The lotus of the Nile, and the water-lily, as is well known, go to sleep at night, and even withdraw their flowers beneath the surface of the water. Other plants, however, sleep at all hours of the day and night with such regularity and diversity, that Linnaeus made a flower-clock, which he called the dial of Flora, by means of rows of flowers, which expanded in regular succession day and night. But even the flower-clock of Linnaeus is not more marvelous than the oscillating movements of the leaflets of the hedyasrum gynaecium of Bengal, of which two out of every three united on one stem, and forming the leaves of the tree, oscillate one after the other exactly like the pendulum of a clock, and their ascending movements are with jerks precisely like the second hand of a watch.

To return, however, to phenomena denoting sensibility and instinct. We may note that plants may be put to sleep by narcotics, as well as destroyed by poison, and that in the sensitive plant, a drop of sulphuric acid placed on the root of the leaf, not only kills the leaf itself, but when it contracts at the first touch of the poison, all the leaves shut with a sympathetic shudder. The sensitive plant being the most delicate creature in the whole range of vegetable sensibility, is necessarily a stranger to none of its symptoms. It goes to sleep regularly in the evening, gathering all its leaves up, and toward midnight it gives them a gentle quiver like a bird or a little lady rousing an instant from sleep, turning over and going to sleep again, and with the first rays of the sun it distends its leaves, and stretches itself out in the sunshine. The exquisite sensibility of this delicate creature is so great that a shock, a noise, a too loud voice, and even a strong smell, gives it convulsions. In the West Indies, if you come upon it suddenly, not properly announced, your very shadow is sufficient to give it—not an attack of nerves, for it has been proved to have none, but a fainting fit; but all these isolated symptoms are nothing to the fact that a whole field of them may be thrown into a state of alarm, if their advanced guard discovers an enemy. You may walk up to a bed of them, and by touching the nearest ones with a cane throw the whole republic into a state of terror: from leaf to leaf, from branch to branch, fear takes possession of the whole commonwealth—the enemy is in sight. This proof of sympathetic sensibility, extraordinary as it is, does not, however, surpass the exhibition of sensitiveness made by a plant on a journey in the carriage.

shut itself up in a fright—it was a motion it had not been accustomed to; however, it was gently treated, and getting reconciled to the motion, its confidence returned, it opened its leaves, and seemed quite happy. When the carriage stopped, the courage of the sensitive plant failed again—something dreadful had surely happened; it shrank itself up in a fright, and so remained until the carriage went on once more. After a few experiments the plant was educated into being a courageous traveler, and it got quite resigned to the little incidents of travel, and never fainted again on any occasion. But what shall we say of the dionaea muscipula of North Carolina, which belongs to the same family, yet is by no means as innocent, since it passes its whole existence in altering flies into its clutches and putting them to death. Every leaf of the dionaea is a villainous fly-trap. As soon as the insect alights on the leaf, which the perfidious plant carefully baits with juicy drops of its leaf, which has a hinge in the center, doubles up and catches the fly a prisoner; when he is dead the leaf opens, and he is allowed to fall out. The trap is set again, and the dionaea muscipula goes on catching flies to the end of its wicked existence.

We must confess that to ourselves there has appeared no entirely satisfactory reply to the question, "Do vegetables think?"

It is well known to every botanist, horticulturist and farmer that fruit trees set more fruit than they perfect or ripen. To illustrate our thought we will select a single spray of—say an apple tree—though it might be of any other fruit tree, just as well. The tree of which this spray is a part has set a profusion of fruit, and the whole crop has progressed to a certain size, with uniform health and vigor. But now the tree has become conscious, by some means, that by reason of drought, injury, sickness or other cause, it will not be able to ripen and perfect all the apples it has begun. Let us suppose that the spray we have selected has upon it five of these apples that are yet to be grown, all of which have thus far been equally healthy and vigorous. But it has now become evident to the tree that the whole upon it cannot be perfected, and that a part must be sacrificed as the only means of saving the remainder. And here two questions are to be determined: first, the number of the growing apples that are to be sacrificed; second, the selection and identification of the particular individuals that are to be thus disposed of.

These two questions—or one, if you prefer—are only to be settled by the tree itself. It alone first determines the necessity of any sacrifice, and then it, alone, fixes the number that must be lost, and ordains the particular individuals that are to constitute this number. Let us now return to our selected spray, with the five apples upon it; and we may suppose that two of these are of the number to be sacrificed. Mark, it is not simply two-fifths of these, but it is two specific individual apples, of these five apples, that are to be lost. And now for the process of destroying these particular apples, after they are appointed by the parent tree, to die. The tree which has condemned and sentenced these selected apples to destruction has yet to select their executioner. This it has become the power to do in only one way, and that is to withhold nourishment from them. This is done, and as consequence, they are literally starved to death.

From the time the fate of these victims is determined the nourishment for their support is rigidly withheld from them, and so they inevitably wither and die. Again two certain ones of these five are of the condemned number. All the leaves of this spray, and each of the selected apples that are to be perfected, being three in number, continue to receive their full and proper supply of nutriment, while the victims are wholly deprived of all sustenance, and so wither and die. The same is true of all other parts of the tree as of this part; and so of all other trees and of all plants, no less than of the apple tree. Among the conifers, or jointed algaes, is a genus called oscillatoria, the members of which might almost be mistaken for a number of worms writhing together. These shift their position with very considerable alacrity. If, for example, a patch of them be placed in water in a plate, and a black bell glass be inverted over them in such a manner as not to quite touch the bottom of the plate, the conifers in a very short time will be found to have glided out at that side of the bell glass most exposed to light. They have been observed to travel in a few hours to a distance of ten times their own length. The young of certain species of them, too, when separated from the mother plant, move onward in the water with velocity until they reach a shady spot, when they take root and remain fixed.—Haney's Journal.

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