

THE CULTURE OF FLOWERS.

This is the 20th of January. The flies have been lit for over two months, and yet not a single plant of ours has shown signs of disease, and not a single vermin has made its appearance. And why? Simply because we treat our pets as recommended in our November number. In that issue we gave instruction how to eradicate the green-fly if it made its appearance through neglect of the amateur florist.

Another enemy of plantdom is the THrips, an active little insect of leaping proclivities. The engraving shows one of natural size (fig. f), and the same magnified (fig. h). The color varies from a whitish-yellow to a dark brown, and they are so small that they readily escape notice, the largest not being over one-tenth of an inch in length. They attack young shoots and tender leaves, which become brown and shriveled, and crumble to dust if rubbed between the fingers. The same treatment recommended for the green-fly in our November number serves for this unwelcome guest also, but it does not succumb so readily. The fumigation must be more frequently practiced. Syringing and washing plants, as before recommended, will, to a great extent, prevent the thrips from multiplying.

The RED SPIDER (*scarus tillarius*), a troublesome insect, flourishes generally in an over-heated, dry atmosphere—unhealthy for ourselves as well as for plants. As the name denotes, it is red in color, and its natural size is the dot a. The same magnified (b) gives some idea of its general appearance. If you catch a glimpse of the red spider, you may be sure that the atmosphere of your plant room is too dry. If it is your living room also, it is entirely too dry for the health of its human occupants. A plant infested with the red spider will in a short time show some leaves turning yellow, indicating premature decay. When they are numerous, they will work webs on the under side of the leaves and sometimes all over them, until the plant becomes a mass of decayed and half-dead leaves. Water is fatal to the red spider, and, as before remarked, with an atmosphere of proper humidity, this insect would never get a foot-hold. When once firmly established upon the plants, the speediest way to destroy them is by the fumes of sulphur. This remedy, however, must be used with much caution, as the free use of it will cause most plants to shed their leaves. Fortunately, but little of it is required; and in the green-houses it has been found sufficient to mix a little flour of sulphur with water, or with milk (which is said to be better), and to paint or smear with it a small surface of the heating pipes or the flue. A very little of it in the atmosphere proves sufficient for the destruction of the insect. In the case of a few house plants, we think that sponging the leaves on both sides, and syringing the plants so that the water is thrown on the under as well as the upper sides of the leaves, will be effectual without recourse to sulphur. Another excellent remedy is said to be as follows: Take each plant separately, holding it bottom side up; then dust red pepper all over it, taking care not to allow any to fall on the soil.

The COCCUS, or SCALE INSECT, most generally infests the orange, the myrtle, the camelia, the oleander, and many other hard-wooded plants. There are many species of coccus, varying slightly from each other. One kind of plants is the home of one variety, and another sort devotes its attention exclusively to some other kind. The grape, the pear, the elm, and almost every kind of our cultivated and forest trees has its special representative of this class of insects. In the engraving the insect of



natural size is shown, (a); when magnified, the upper side (b), represents a shield, and the legs are only seen when it is turned on its back (c). The remedy in this case is by washing the plant by hand, and forcing the insect off with the thumb or finger-nail; or take a small stiff brush and soap-suds and brush the plant until it is thoroughly clean. The name of the species that infests the myrtle, orange, oleander, etc., is the *coccus hesperidum*.

The REALY BUG (*coccus adonidum*) is similar to the previously mentioned insect, except that it is covered with a white, mealy or downy substance. Both of them insert their beaks into the bark or leaves, and draw from the cellular substance the sap that nourishes them. A weak mixture of whale-oil soap and water in the proportion of 4 ounces of soap to 5 quarts of water will be found destructive to them. With a few plants only we would recommend the use of a soft brush and water, and in this way they can be readily removed.

An excellent wash to keep off insects of all kinds can be prepared with a tablespoonful of spirits of camphor to 1 1/2 pints of water.

Plants in pots are often troubled with angleworms. The following will not only destroy them, but will at the same time act as an excellent fertilizer. Slack a small piece of lime in hot water; then add enough cold water to make a liquid of it. Put a small piece of the lime in a bottle, pour the liquid into it, and cork up for use one pint to one gallon of ordinary water. Don't use oftener than once a month.

Fertilizers, as a rule, are used so injudiciously that it is best not to use them at all. If, however, a little judgment is exercised, any of the following—five of the most useful fertilizers known—applied once in two weeks, will benefit most all plants. Fertilizers must be applied to the soil only; never to the foliage:

- No. 1.—One tablespoonful of guano to 1 gallon of hot water; stir until dissolved. An excellent substitute for guano can be found in any pigeon-house or chicken-coop.
- No. 2.—One-quarter ounce pulverized ammonia to 1 gallon of water.
- No. 3.—A teaspoonful of aqua ammonia to 1 gallon of water.
- No. 4.—One tablespoonful of bone-powder to 1 gallon of water.
- No. 5.—Sulphate of ammonia, 4 ounces; nitrate of potash, 2 ounces; white sugar, 1 ounce. Add to this one pint of hot water, and, when dissolved, cork tightly for use. One teaspoonful of this mixture to every gallon of water. Six or eight drops of this in a hyacinth glass will improve flowering wonderfully.

STATEMENT OF FLAX RAISED BY MESSRS. PARRISH & MILLER, JEFFERSON, MARION CO.

There were eighty acres sown, with two bushels of seed per acre, making 160 bushels in all. This seed cost \$5 in Jefferson, and was the imported Dutch seed. The flax yielded ten bushels per acre, which will all grow, and not take more than one and a half bushels per acre to make it as thick as that which they sowed. Not more than three-fourths of the seed sown came up, being, it is thought, damaged, by a long sea voyage. The entire crop of seed is saved for sowing, and that which they do not sow themselves they will sell for \$4 per bushel or 7 cents per pound. Samples of the lint have been sent to the manufacturing firms of Smith, of Mechanicsville, Lape & Co., of Hart's Fall's; Thompson & Gaffney, of Valley Falls; and H. M. Crane of Schenectady; all of the State of New York; also, to H. G. Akin, of Johnsonville, N. Y., an experienced man in growing and dressing flax, he having been in the business for over thirty years. Mr. Akin went to these manufacturers, and they pronounced it worth twenty cents per pound, when North River flax was worth only sixteen cents, and of a better quality than any North

River flax they ever saw, and equally as good if not better than the Dutch. The last named manufacturer, Mr. Crane, is expected here in a short time, to locate in Salem or Portland, to manufacture shoe thread and all kinds of twine. Mr. Crane is an experienced manufacturer, and will make flax worth as much here as in New York city, if he locates here.

The cost of pulling this flax was as follows:

Chinamen, 219 1/2 days.....	\$219 50
White labor, 250 days.....	278 00
	\$497 50

Cost of pulling per acre, \$6 16.
Cost of whipping the seed off, rotting, spreading, taking up, binding, drawing to barns, cleansing, and drawing seed to warehouse about two miles:

Chinamen, 250 days.....	\$250 00
White labor, 160 days.....	223 50
	\$473 50

Cost per acre, \$5 91 1/2.

There were 25,000 bundles of the flax, yielding, as far as dressed, one and a half pounds per bundle, equal to 37,500 pounds of lint, which is a yield of 46 1/2 pounds per acre. The lint is worth twenty cents in New York city and fifteen cents in Portland, gold.

Value of lint per acre.....	\$99 37 1/2
Seed, at \$1 per bu., 10 bu. per acre.....	40 00
Total value per acre.....	\$109 37 1/2
Cost of seed, 2 bu. per acre.....	\$10 00
at \$5.....	12 08 1/2
Total cost of labor.....	\$22 08 1/2
Total cost per acre.....	\$87 29 1/2

Net profit per acre..... \$22 08 1/2
Farmers will perceive that this statement does not include the cost of putting in the land and of braking and scutching the land.

A future statement will be made to cover these things.

Messrs. Parrish & Miller have their mill in operation, which is located 1 1/2 miles from Jefferson, near Mr. Miller's residence. Any farmers wishing to sow flax can call on Messrs. Parrish & Miller and get all the information they desire.

Having superintended the work on the above flax, I will vouch for the correctness of this report. EDWARD AKIN, *Willamette Farmer.*

CUBERY & CO.'S PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.—We have received from the publishers of the *Pacific Churchman*, Messrs. Cubery & Co., 414 Market street, a copy of that paper containing a description of their printing establishment, which is one of the most complete on this coast. In connection with their business as printers, Messrs. Cubery & Co. have opened a purchasing and collecting agency for the benefit of country traders and others who require the aid of a reliable agent to make purchases of goods. They announce that they have made ample arrangements to do any business entrusted to them—such as the purchase and shipment of merchandise, collecting and disbursing of moneys and transacting the business of a general agency for any who may entrust their orders to their care. The head of this firm has an established reputation as a reliable business man, and gives as references the names of many of the best men in San Francisco. The firm has done collecting for us, and we have found them prompt and reliable, and therefore take pleasure in recommending them.

THE WILD GAME OF OREGON.—We very much doubt if in any State of the Union so varied and excellent or so abundant a supply of wild game, large and small, can be found, as we enjoy in this State. Just now in our markets there are wild geese, wild ducks—delicious canvas back, mallard, teal, etc.—pheasant, grouse, quail, prairie chickens, elk, deer, bear, squirrels, bears and several varieties of choice fish. And at all prices that would make an epicure from any other State—the Atlantic side, especially—at once opens his eyes and then his pockets, in the resolve for a big feasting time at dinner.—*Evening Journal.*

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

WAR DEPARTMENT, SIGNAL SERVICE U. S. ARMY, DIVISION OF TELEGRAMS AND REPORTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE.

Table showing the Daily and Monthly Means of Barometer and Thermometer, Monthly Velocity of Wind and amount of Rainfall, with the Prevailing Direction of Wind for the Month of November, 1871.

Date.	Mean Daily Barometer.	Mean Daily Thermometer.	Rainfall.
Dec. 1	30.763	53.2	.00
" 2	30.879	52.2	.31
" 3	30.798	55.2	.11
" 4	30.255	45.2	.00
" 5	30.203	45.7	.39
" 6	30.195	51.5	.00
" 7	30.305	57.5	.00
" 8	30.128	57.2	.20
" 9	30.277	57.0	.00
" 10	30.317	53.2	.00
" 11	30.094	50.2	.17
" 12	30.240	48.0	.37
" 13	30.214	49.8	.01
" 14	30.335	50.8	.00
" 15	30.363	41.8	.00
" 16	30.270	38.8	.00
" 17	30.216	30.2	.00
" 18	29.860	43.2	.50
" 19	29.900	30.5	1.49
" 20	30.125	42.0	.14
" 21	30.212	38.0	.14
" 22	30.140	55.0	.07
" 23	30.175	45.8	.27
" 24	29.780	37.2	.68
" 25	29.940	41.0	.30
" 26	29.954	38.2	1.18
" 27	29.920	45.2	.00
" 28	29.925	43.0	.00
" 29	29.987	40.8	.18
" 30	30.067	42.8	.56
" 31	29.908	43.7	2.79

Monthly mean, 30.075 47.8 13.01
Highest barometer, December 15, 9 A. M., 30.82
Lowest barometer, December 20, 3 P. M., 27.82
Monthly range of barometer, 13.00
Highest temperature, December 5, 3 P. M., 57 degrees.
Lowest temperature, December 17, 3 A. M., 30 degrees.
Monthly range of temperature, 26 degrees.
Greatest daily range of temperature, December 17, 18 degrees.
Mean of maximum temperatures, 52.4
Mean of minimum temperatures, 42.6
Mean daily range of temperature, 9.8
Total rainfall or melted snow, 13.91 inches.
Prevailing wind, south.
Total number of miles traveled, 4,800.
Maximum velocity of wind, December 21, 4 A. M., 30 miles per hour.
Number of cloudy days, other than those on which rain fell, three (3).
Number of days on which rain fell, twenty-four (24).

J. E. EVANS, Sergeant, Signal Service, U. S. A.

PEOPLE who accuse Oregonians of telling big stories about the mildness of the climate should be here just about now and cured of their skepticism. What other country that has none of the inconveniences of an extreme southern climate can tell of roses, pansies and other flowers blooming out of doors in the middle of December. There are now to be seen in this city many instances of this. The grass is green as in May and growing only less rapidly. And instead of the eternal rains which our State is reputed to have in winter, the sky is bright overhead and the air as balmy as a New Orleans winter. This fact of the case may be said to be exceptional, however, as our clear weather here in winter is usually a little colder than the present; but it is nevertheless true almost every winter—generally a little later than this—we have more or less of just such weather as we are having now. Think of this, or even of the warm rainy weather which constitutes our ordinary winter, and contrast it with the freezing weather they are now having at the East—rivers closed by ice, water pipes bursting, the mercury ranging from zero to fifteen or twenty degrees below, and no hope of its "letting up" for two or three months, and then say what you think of Oregon climate. An Oregonian who would not do a little bragging now and then, would deserve to be transported to Greenland.—*Oregonian.*

WRITING MASTER WANTED.—If you don't believe it read the following received from L. Samuel, publisher of the excellent WEST SHORE: "I can't make out the name of the P. O. you desire to have Mr. Pickering's paper sent to. Please write again." We shan't do any such thing, we'll print it in this paragraph—"Hornesville, N. Y." That's better than writing it—no danger of it being sent back.—*East Oregonian.*

Correct brother Bull, here are a few guesses we and a dozen others made at the name: Hamsmill, Hunlissmill Himm-smill, Hounsmill, Himmeldonnerwetter our own guess.

The city of Portland with a population of 12,500, makes the following exhibit of her riches. Can any city of our size in the United States beat it.

Real estate.....	\$ 6,967,600
Personal.....	4,112,000
Total.....	\$11,079,600
Indebtedness.....	\$2,719,400
Taxable property.....	7,460,200
The following real estate is exempt:	
Church property.....	\$ 53,000
School property.....	74,800
Charitable institutions.....	23,000
City, county and other public.....	227,200
Total untaxable.....	\$378,000

The present population of Seattle, exclusive of Indians and Chinese, is estimated at 3,480.