MISCELLANEOUS.

California Condensed.

Its Appearance in February.

While the people of Iowa were shivering over their coal fires, trying often in vain to keep out the terrible cold of this, to be, memorable winter, here in California the favored inhabitants were enjoying very different conditions. I say enjoying advisedly, for what else could they do with roses in bloom, the trees covered the follower and the hills green with soft new with foliage, and the hills green with soft new grass? While reading the Journal's accounts of the storms and snow blockades, I have often of the storms and snow blockades, I have often done so with the window open, and no suspi-cion of a fire in the grate, which for a week or more had not been lighted. A stroll through Oakland, which lies just across the bay from San Francisco, shows the roses, carnations, heliotropes, geraniums, fuchias, and a multitude of other well known plants in b'oom, in the op-n air. And such roses! Not the puny things the hot house man forces into unnatural things the hot-house man forces into unnatural bloom in less favored countries, but large, full, ruddy ones, which look as if they had sucked up from the earth, instead of water, some of the rich, red wines of the warm valleys.

And then the geraniums! What shall we say of them? Growing often six to seven feet in hight, heliotropes ten feet high, running up the walls, and covered with hundreds of delightfully fragrant flowers.

Go out of the city a few miles in the San Leandro valley, and what a sea of whiteness is to be seen in the tens of thousands of almond trees covered with their fragrant white flowers.

to be seen in the tens of thousands of almond trees covered with their fragrant white flowers. Here and there the pink tints tell us that the peach trees are also in full bloom. Now and then a round topped tree may be seen bearing half hidden in the glossy foliage, large, yellow, and luscious looking oranges.

The grain fields are green with wheat and barley, the former fully half a foot in hight, while the pasture lands are in places covered with rank herbage a foot or more high in which

with rank herbage a foot or more high in which the cattle and sheep revel with delight as they fill themselves almost to bursting.

The Climate.

California can not properly be said to have a climate, it has many. A good map of the State shows it to have next the ocean a narrow strip of land which is nearly level; then comes strip of land which is pearly level; then comes the hilly and mountainous strip made up of the Const Range mountains; next the great in-terior basin, called at the north the Sacramento valley, and at the sou h the San Joaquin valley; next to this still further towards the interior the region of the foothills; and lastly the mountainous region of the Sierras. Each strip or region specified above has its peculiar climate, and often in a ride of one hour one can pass from the chilliness of March to the warmth and mildness of June. The ocean maintains a constant temperature of fifty-two degress Fabrenheit, both summer and winter, exchet at high its immediate influence the sumnext to this still further towards the inteso that within its immediate influe: ce the sumso that within its immediate innoer ce the summers are cold and the winters warm, so warm that snow never falls and frosts raiely occur. In the Coast Range district all kinds of climate may be found, though snows are of rare occurrence in the vicinity of San Francisco. In the great central valley the summers are hot and the winters mild, no snow occurring ex-cept in the north portion. In the foothills the climate gradually becomes more severe in winter, until it finally passes into the snows and frosts of the tophiost Sierras. The emigrant may here choose his climate, and may be sure it will vary but little from a well known aver-

Rains fall from November to March, this period of time constituting the wet season, while from March to November scarcely a drop of rain troubles the farmer. This dry season is the most unpleasant part of the year, in fact it is the real winter, for during the latter part of it vegetation is as completely at rest as it is in the cold months in other climates. It might be supposed that that this long suspension of rainfall would make farming a difficult matter, but on the contrary it makes it much easier than in districts where rains come at irregular times throughout the year. Here the farmer than in districts where rains come at irregular times throughout the year. Here the farmer watches his rain gauge while the rains are falling; if it shows a precipitation of twelve inches, he knows that he may plant certain crops which demand the least amount of moisture; if fifteen or eighteen inches have fallen, he may plant almost anything; while if the gauge shows twenty inches or more, he plants of everything in abundance, knowing that there is moisture enough in the soil to mature any crop. This absence of rain is an excellent thing in harvest time, for then the furmer is not obliged to hurry up his naming ing, in fact, the latter he need not do at all Wheat when ripe may be allowed to stand for weeks before cutting, as there is but little loss by shelling as long as the rains hold off, and after cuting it may lay on the ground weeks again without damage; even after threshing it is often allowed to lie in bigs in the field without a shelter for a long time with-out the slightest injury.

Crops

The crops are as varied as the clima'e. The great interior basin is the granary of the State, producing annually millions of bushels of wheat and barley, I should have said millions of centals, for that is the measure we use here. A cental is a weight of one hundred pounds A cental is a weight of one hundred pounds.)
In the coast range and the shore region fruits
of all sor's are largely grown. Among such
may be mentioned almonds, peaches, plums,
prunes, currants, strawberries for the San
Francisco latitude, with the addition of clives, Francisco latitude, with the addition or clives, oranges, lemons, limes and figs further to the south. In the region of the foot-bills the grape grows to perfection, as also the apple and the peach. All these, including the grain, have a peculiarly fine appearance, no doubt due to the favoring climate. The California wheats are famed the world over for their whiteness and plumpness, especially the varieties known as the "Australian" and "Chili." I may mention the "Australian" and "Chill." I may mention right here as an item of interest to your reaners, that I have purchased sufficient quantities of these two varieties for trial at the College this year. I am curious to see what effect our Iowa elimate will have upon the color and size of the

All along the Coast Range are found immense groves of redwood trees, which fornish an abundance of a fine red colored wood, which is in many particulars very nearly like white pine, being, however, much more durable when ex-posed to the weather. This is the timber tree of California. Next in value is a fire box posed to the weather. This is the timber tree of California. Next in value is a fir, known as Oregon fir, or erroneously Oregon pine, which is found in northern California, and also in Oregon. Then also sugar pine, yellow pine, eadar and spruce from the Bierras are extensively mand for many purposes.

sedar and spruce from the Sierras are extensively used for many purposes.

The hard wood trees are mostly small, and in many cases of inferior quality. The cake are just now coming into use, though most of the species are too brittle to be profitably used. There are no hickories, no elma, no beeches; there is but one small sized ash, one rather rare, and small walnut and one valuable maple. To effect this dediciency there are several valuable trees not found elsewhere, such as the California hurel, which furnishes a most beautiful light colored wood; the madrona, a small cized, heavy wooded tree; and the manuanita, a small

tree which furnishes a dense, heavy, dark colored wood, much resembling mahogany. Minerals.

We generally think of California as the land of gold, forgetting that it has rich sup-lies of nearly every other mineral of value. I need not attempt to enumerate them, and will only say that of coal, building stone, iron and gypsum, there are inexhaustitle supplies.

The People.

Generally the people, from living much in the open sir, and having windows and doors open for so great a part of the year, are stout and healthy in appearance. Whether they live longer or not I do not know, but judging from their full faces and healthy color, I have no doubt that the average length of life is somewhat greater than in colder and more inclement regions.

Socially I see but little difference between people here and elsewhere. Possibly the American nervousness is a little more fully de-American nervousness is a little more fully developed here, on account of the gold fevers which rage now and then. Wealthy men are numerous, and as a consequence there is much extravagant living. I never found a place where common people spent more per week than here in Oak'and. Costly houses, costly furniture, fine gardens and fine dinners need and receive a great deal of money.

The Money.

How strange it seems to have gold and silver in my pocket. The first silver I received for a torn "greenback," I rolled over and over in my pocket, and then and there I real zed what ser's sensation must be when he counts his a miser's sensation must be with nice counts in-money. How big the half dollars seemed, and the quarters and dimes, and even the diminu-tive half dime, how they put to shame their poor relations, the "fractional currency," and the "nickles." But when I drew one day from the "nickles." But when I drew one day from the bank some gold pieces, twenties, tens, fives, and two fifties, I could scarcely repress my feelings. I did not pay my board bill immedi-nicly, for I could not bare the thoughts of parting with such be utiful things. I went to my room, took out those gold pieces, piled them up as I had seen the banker doing, then grasped

Whooping Crane.

The whooping crane or sand-hill crane, so familiar on this coast, breeds from California nor hward to the Arctic regions, whence it removes southward early in autumn, and soon arrives in the regions of the United States, from North Carolina to Texas, and thence westward to the Rocky mountains, and remains throughout the winter. In the Middle States, east of the Allerhanies, it is very rarely seen, and thence eastward to Maine it is unknown, all its migrations being performed far inland. While migrating it travels both by day and night, and in total disregard of the character of the we ther, its power of flight enabling it to resist the force of heavy gales. Thirty or forty form a flock, which is sometimes arranged in an acute-angled triangle, sometimes in a long line, and at others with an extended front, and sometimes flying in apparent disorder, each bird sounding his loud note in succession, as upon all occasions of alarm

The middle of October or beginning of November is the period of the arrival of this species in the United States, and the end of April or beginning of May of its departure for the North. They here frequent the edges of large ponds supplied with rank herbage, on fields or savannas, now in swampy woods, and again on extensive marshes. The interior of the country and the neighborhood of seashores suit them equally well, so long as the temperature is sufficiently high. Both the old and the young may be seen digging through the mud before the rains have begun to cover the shal-low ponds. They work assiduously with their bills, and succeed in uncovering the roots of the great water-lily, which often run to a depth of two or three feet. Several cranes operate



THE "WHOOPING" OR SAND-SILL CRANE.

them sll in my hand again and rattled them. at the same root and devour it together when I could almost have hugged them (had there obtained. They may then be approached been enough of them) they looked so pretty. I could almost have hugged them (had there obtained. They may then be approached been enough of them) they looked so pretty. I could be same root and devour it together when obtained. They may then be approached been enough of them) they looked so pretty. When this de-cription of food fails they resort I could almost have hugged them (had there been enough of them) they looked so pretty. But they had to go. The landlord took them But they had to go. The landlord took them as unconcern diy as landlords in Des Moines take greenbacks, and with a chick they werlost to my sight and purse. Gold and silver are true currency, how I wish we had it all over the United States. C. E. Brssey.

Oakland, California, March. 12, 1875

— Western Farm Journal.

MODE OF ASCERTAINING THE VARIOUS KINDS Mode of Ascentaining the Various Kinds of Materials in Mixed Fabrics.—A German industrial journal gives, after M. Vupp, the following treatment for fabrics containing silk and wool, with vegetable fibers. All vegetable fibers resist caustic alkaline solutions, even when boiling, and are dissolved by sulphuric, nitric, hydrochloric acids, even when diluted with odor. Vegetable fibers when burnt do not give forth any characteristic odor. Wool, insoluble in the above acids, is readily attacked to average at the second of the contains at the contai insoluble in the above acids, is readily attacked by caustic alkalies, especially when hot; the sulphur which it contains combines with the alkali, and the solution becomes black when acetate of lead is added to it. In burning, acetate of lead is added to it. In burning, wool produces the same smell as horn. Silk is dissolved both in the acids and the caustic alkalies, and produces an odor similar to that of wool, but it contains no sulphur, and, consequently, its solution in alkalis is not blackened by acetate of lead. In order to distinguish these materials in a tissue, it is treated first with concentrated hydrochtoric acid, cold; the residue is then washed in a filter, and, if necessary, bleached, by means of water containing chlorine, and then washed again in pure water and boiled with caustic soda, which dissolves the wool, leaving the vegetable fiber intact. The wool is distinguished from silk by adding acetate of lead to the liquid, as already mentioned.

Composition of Wool Greass.—According to Schulze and Urich, the bulk of the nature wool grease of sheep consists of compoun others. A part of alcohols and fatty soids are in a free condition.

to the fields, to d vour corn, peas, sweet pota toes and cotton seeds, and in the wet fields soize on water insects, toads and frogs, and occasionally a mole, a meadow-mouse, or a snake, but not upon fish, as is believed. Tuey

snake, but not upon fish, as is believed. They feed only during the day.

Though these birds may be easily killed while intent upon exhuning their food, their senses of sight and hearing are so acute, and their wariness is so great, that it requires the practice of much advoitness to approach them. They are on the alert the moment a man appears, though a fourth of a mile distant; and. pears, though a fourth of a mile distant; and, if not seen, the scapping of a twig beneath his feet, or the closing of a gate behind him, is sufficent to challenge their vigitance. They observe his motions with unerring precision. Mr. Andubon says he would as soon undertake to catch a deer by fair running as to shoot one of these cranes which had observed him. When wounded they are capable of inflicting severe injury upon an unwary sportsman, Wilson states that one of them has even been known to drive his bill through a man's hand at such a time. The young are more numerous st such a time. The young are more numerous than the old. They are killed both for their flesh, which many relish, and for their beauti-ful long feathers, of which fans and fly-brushes are sometimes made.

In some regions, these birds leave their feed-ing grounds an hour before sunset, and silently repair to the interior of a highland forest, where six or seven of them alight on the branches of a lofty tree to roost. Here, after dressing their feathers for half an hour, they crouch in the manner of wild turkeys, and crouch in the manner of wild turkeys, and when there is mosollight may then be shot. In other regions they roost in the midst of tail grass, cat-tails and other plants, near the marshes, selecting a dry hillock, upon which they stand on one foot, the other being drawn under the body, while the head is thrust beneath the broad feathers of the shoulder. In captivity they become gentle, and feed on grain and other vegetables, though they are occasionally mischievous, and wantonly pick and main chickens and other poultry. They probably do not attain their full size nor perfect plumage before they are four or five years old.

Alfalfa Outside of California.

[From Pacific Rural Press.]

With a prudence characteristic of farmers, our friends in other States are slow to embark in alfalfa growing. They eviden'ly suppose that because its success has been notable in California, this country must possess some peculiar advantages in this connection; and though they are not disposed to give it up to us entirely, they seem to scarcely hope that it will do as well with them as it does with us.

The following letter, addressed to the RURAL Parss, and written by a gentleman of Colorado Springs, Col., is one of many such as we are receiving from parties in various portions of the country:

"I am carrying on a large live stock and "I am carrying on a large live stock and farming business here, and would like to try a crop of alfalfa this spring. It is not known in this country, and has never been grown here. Not knowing any seed dealers in California, I take the liberty of writing to you for information concerning it—cost of seed per paind, number of pounds to acre, best time for sowing, made of cultivation, etc. I would like to try about ten acres of it if it is thought adapted to our cold climate." our cold climate.

In answer to the above, we would say that prime alfalfa seed is worth in San Francisco 20 prime alfalfa seed is worth in San Francisco 20 cents per pound by the hundred pound. This does not include d ayage and extra 'acks. There is a grade of slidalfa seed in market selling at 9 cents per pound. Where it is to be grown for sheep or hogs, it might be advisable to sow this, but for other purposes, the best seed will be the cheapest in the end.

The amount of seed required per acre varies, according to soil and climate; the latter having most influence. The farmers in California

most influence. The farmers in California have learned by experience that it is decidedly a "pound foolish" practice to scrimp in the number of pounds of seed sown to the acre. The growing of alfalfa in California was com-neuced on a basis of 15 pounds to the acre; it was soon found, however, that the thiuly-sown was soon found, however, that the thiuly-sown fields suffered most from the sun and drying winds in spring. In passing through this ordeal, there is found to be the same difference between light and h-avily seeded alf if a fields that there is between late and early sown grain. As in the case of the grain, the early sown gets a good stand, and covering the ground protects the roots from the sun and wind, which falling upon the late sown while the cround is partially bare and the root are wind, which, falling upon the late sown while the ground is partially bare and the roots are tender and weak produces a crust on the surface s.il, and the rays of the sun follow the slender stalks down to their roots, and blight ensues. So in the alfalfa field where the sowing has been liberal, the heavy stand of an early growth covers the soil and renders the hot sun and blighting wind new-loss for avil while and blighting wind powerless for evil, while that which was stinted in seed is unable to withstand the exposure. In most other farming that which was stitted in seed is unable to withstand the exposure. In mostother farming countries, this late sown grain, or thinly sown alfalfa, would have derived no injury from a similar setback in spring; on the contrary, it would have been turned to advantage by stooling, but experience has taught the farmers of California that this is the severest ordeal to which grain and grass are subjected in this country. They have found a remedy in heavy seeding, and 20 pounds of alfalfa to the area is now the standard seeding here. Some sow still heavier; we know of one of the most experienced alfalfa growers in the Siare, an extensive dairyman, who is this season sowing 30 pounds to the acre. By this liberal seeding the young growth is less liable to suffer from the impending drouth, as stated above, and another marked advantage is gained by the alfalfa at once getting the upper hand of any foulness which the soil may contain.

As to mode of cultivation in districts subject to spring frosts, defer sewing until there is no longer any danger from this quarter. Plow

to spring frosts, deter sewing until there is no longer any danger from this quarter. Plow deep, harrow mellow and fine, brush the seed in and roll with medium weight roller. The seed should not be put in deep, and it is desirable that it be well covered—not by lumps, however, and that the fine soil be brought all about the seed; brushing and light rolling will death;

do this.

If the above principles and precepts are properly considered and practiced, and the field receives such subsequent treatment as any good pasture or meadow ought to receive, it will not need reseeding for twenty years.

Starch.

The discovery of starch is not a modern achievement. Pliny places it anterior to the suppose that it was not unknown to the ancient deities, and that the flowing robe which graced the form of Venus was perhaps starched and frilled. Be this as it may, starch has always retained a strong hold upon the popular favor. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was in great demand in England to stiffen the enormous ruffs of that period. It must, however, have been an inferior article, as we see it spoker of in the occasional historical allusions as of a yellow greenish color, showing that the manufacture was still in a crude state. Only during the last quarter of a century, and in the United States, has the refining of starch approached

In 1858 the Messrs. Duryea, at Glen Cove. Long Island, began the manufacture and refining of starch from maize or Indian corn.
Their business has in reased to such a degree that their works at Glen Cove now cover twelve acres, and have a manufacturing capac-ity of thirty tons per day. Duryea's starch received the first prize medal at the Paris expo-sition of 1867 for "Perfection of Quality." This, where the article was brought in compe tition with the manufacturers of the whole world, was a triumph. Duryea's starch is of world, was a triumph. Duryea's starch is of a pure white, while many starches will be found to have a golden or yellow tinge. This is accounted for by the superior process of manufacturing made use of by the Messra. Duryea, which enables them to segregate the perisper m or albumen from the gluten and fatty matter of the maize. The Duryea starch, as prepared for the market, answers well the description of Brande: "Starch is a snow white and often glistening powder, which, pressed with the fingers, produces a peculiar crackling noise."

How to Use a Geindertone.—Common grindstone spindles, with a crank at one end, are
open to the great objection that the stone will
never keep round, because every person is inclined, more or less, to follow the motion of
his foot with his hand, which causes the pressure is always applied to the very same part of
stone, and will soon make it uneven, so that it
is impossible to grind a tool true. To avoid
this, put in place of the crank a small cogwheel of 13 cogs, to work into the former. The
stone will make about '07 of a revolution more
than the crank, and the harder pressure of the
tool on the stone will change to another place
at every turn, and the stone will keep perfectly
round if it is a good one. This is a very simple contrivance, but it will be new to many of
our readers How to Use a GRINDSTONE .- Common grind

GENERAL Spinner, treasurer of the United

Mohair.

(From Pacific Rural Press.)

EDITORS PRESS:--Enclosed you will find a speci men of work done by McCracken and Welch o San Jose, which we think worthy of your attention, and that of your many readers.

The dyers of America have tried in vain to

find a mordant, that would set a jet black dye on any kind of a fur skin without injury to the skin or fiber, and we know of but one house in England that has made a perfect success of dressing and dying fur skins black-hence our furs and other pelts have mostly been sent to England to be dressed and dyed where a black was requirred. We pay a duty of \$4 on seal skins to get them to England and returned, therefore Angora pelts of a jet black have been very costly and rare. We think McCracken and Welch are now making as perfect a jet black as can be done in England, and as fast black as can be done in England, and as fast color; retaining the lustre and beauty of the fiber, and the soft pliability of the strength of the skin. This is evidently a success achieved in this line, worthy of the highest commendation; they can dress and dye Augora pe ts, and other furs, for much less than the duty alone if sent to Europe to be dyed; and will therefore, by cheapening the article, throw millions of pelts into market that would not otherwise even and their way there for want of a suitable dye. by cheapening the article, throw millions of pelts into market that would not otherwise even find their way there, for want of a suitable dye. At a reasonable price, these men, are preparing to dress and dye skins on a large scale. In San José we have lately heard of another American invention, of considerable importance, particul rly to breeders of Angora goats. John Shinn, of Philadelphia, has invented a loom for weaving a pile fabic, at any depth of pile and in connection with the Corn bank of Philadelphia and others is now engaged in building a factory for the manufacture of mohair plushes. The firm of Niblet, Brown, Niblet & Co. are interested in the factory; they are supposed to be the heaviest importers of mohair plushes in Am rica. These plushes all come from France, and comprise all the finest class of plushes in the world. They are used for all the finest car coaches and other fine furniture. This company now propose to use when under weigh 1,000 pounds of mohair—Angora goat fleece—per day. This will include all grades of mohair; they propose to use the crassest buck fleeces and grade fleece, down as low as it can be sheared off, into the various qualities of plushes, and the finer qualities of mohair into imitation of seal skin, which they say they can make very perfect, even better than the genuine seal skin.

Following is a P. S. from Mr. Shian in answer to inquires in regard to a sample of our lowest grade fleece:

swer to inquires in regard to a sample of our lowest grade fleece: P. S.—I am right among the manufactory of

ingrain carpe's, and am personally acquainted with most of them. The samples of % and % breeds is two thirds of it too good for in grains; about one-third the short fibers wil grains; about one-third the short hoers will make good filling. The balance would make a first class warp yarn, but though I think it is too good for that purpose. It will make excellent yarn for velvet carpets and rugs. I am personally acquainted with several of our largest wool dealers, and I think I will get you sale for all you have like the sample I have re-Respectfully,
J. SHINN.

I a'so erclo-e samples of ladies' dress goods, made by Hall & Turner, of Jamestown, New York, from California mohair, the first mohair goods made in their new alpaca and mohair factory. Mr. Hall pronounces the mixed goods a success, but says he will improve on the lus-ter of the black in the next lot which he is now making. I have shown these goods to several merchants and they all agree that they com-pare favorably with English mehair dress goods. Mr. Shinn remarks in his communica-tion: "The only trouble I have to dispose of tion: "The only trouble I have to dispose of my patent loom is, when I spproach manufacturers they say I would like your looms but can't get the mehair," and at the same time the breeders say, "Where is our market." Now, he says, "Let them send on their fleece and we will give them a market." The fleece is all we want to make a success with our loom, in furniture, plushes, velvets or seal skin imitation.

Of Landrum & Roddens,

Of LANDRUM & RODGERS, Watsonville, March 23, 1875.

Sheep in Trouble.

Having had much experience with sheep I advise no doctoring or attempting to care diseases; but the instant any sickness seems to be coming on a sheep of any age, slaughter it right away, before the completed has time to affect the mest. I have had several hundreds in charge of shepherds under my superintendence and it is very rarely any sheep ever does any good after ailing; therefore my plan was for the shepherd to kill every sheep or lamb that had shepherd to kill every sheep or lamb that had any kind of disease coming on or if it stood alone without eating or wanting to join the rest of the flock. By this means I had one of the most healthy flocks in existence—not such a flock as is termed a flock now-a-days, but about seven hundred; and after the first two years there was not one in a hundred ever came to "grief." It is breeding from sheep prone to lickness which causes a flock to be having ail-

ing sheep in it.

Of course there must be no nonsensical solf course there must be no nonsensical solfering of sheep out of rain in the summer season, for it does them good to be out day and night, and in winter they ought to have a run out in the day or the confinement will cause trouble. Where the climate is mild, they

should never be housed. all copied the recipes for curing complaints and I assure every owner of sheep there never was a greater mass of rubbish than was published in the English sheep books; for none published in the English sheep books; for none of the large flock masters ever dream of keeping or buying physic for sheep. The diseases are most of them imaginary, and the only three worth thinking of, are foot rot, scab and liver rot. The first two are easily cured and will never come again afterward unless diseased animals are put with them again. The third disease has no cure and is not known in this

Drop-y occurs when tegs are thriving very fast, after having been checked in their well doing by some bad feeding; but when sheep are kept as they should be, in a uniform, regular, healthy condition, never receiving any checks to their growth, they will not be liable to dropsy or other ailments; and when a flock is properly managed and kept in good order, always kill every sheep which does not do so well as the rest, for that is the way to secure real hardy, healthy and profitable sheep.—Rural New Yorker.

A Coon's Blunder,—A lady on the east shore of Maryland happened to make sausage meat and mines pies on the same day. Being called to the parlor to receive company, she reurned to find to her sorrow that the cook had put the wine, spice, sugar and plums into the sausages, while the mince meat received its complement of zweet herbs, salt and pepper. The lady magnanimously bestowed the whole stock on the poor, since which she has never been troubled by the stock and demoralized paupers who were her victims.