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BY R. H. TYSON.

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THE GREAT SLEET OF 1871.—ITS EFFECT ON THE FRUIT CROP.

[From the Western Ruralist.]

Sleet is a natural phenomenon of fre-
quent occurrence. It makes its ap-
pearance more or less frequently every
year, and may appear at any time when
the rain-cloud is warmer than 32°
Fahrenheit, and the crust of the earth
and objects near it are below the freez-
ing point.

The sleet about which we propose to
say a few things, fell on Wednesday
the 25th of January. It began in the
morning at 6 o'clock, with the ther-
mometer at 27°, and rained without
intermission until the morning of
Thursday. The falling rain elevated
the temperature to 30° by nightfall
of the same day; yet most of the rain was
converted into ice and did not enter the
ground. The measure of the rain was
1.17 inches, and we noticed a horizontal
line No 10 galvanized wire enveloped
with an icicle fully one inch in diameter,
with short icicles from below at dis-
tances apart as regular, and proportioned
as uniform as the teeth of a horse comb.
In the magnitude of its proportion, this
sleet very far exceeds anything of the
sort we ever witnessed before, and the
dismantled forest trees bear evidence of
this, those of brittle texture, with many
small branches suffering most.

We were curious to take some notes
of the proportions of this sleet, and cut
off a branch of the Weymouth Pine,
about six inches long. The delicate and
slender leaves of the White Pine, which
add so much to its beauty, put out in
fascicles of five upon the small branches,
and radiating around the points; these
leaves assume the appearance of a
brush four or six inches in diameter.
In the branch cut off, each of these
fascicles had presented its points to the
shower, and had become the base of an
icicle, so that a branch, in itself almost
as light as a feather, had taken on
three quarters of a pound of ice; and
the parent, a very fine venerable
tree of fifty summers, with foliage too
dense to let through a drop of rain
before freezing, actually had in attach-
ments to points of its interior branches
the respectable weight of three and a
half tons of ice, being the weight of a
shower of rain 117 inches upon the
space covered by such a tree.

It is not surprising, then, that
branches called on to suspend three or
four hundred pounds of ice at arm's
length should fail of strength, and
being too brittle to bend down to the
perpendicular, should break off and
dismantle the tree—a fate that has
overtaken this beautiful evergreen
above all others. We are not disposed
to question the fitness of those laws by
which the elements are ruled; and if
we were called upon to assess damages for
the crashing among the trees which
accompanied this sleet storm, we should
feel disposed to dwell considerably in
mitigation of damages upon the advan-
tage the farmer has derived from the
presence of this sleet. The drought of
last summer exhausted the moisture
upon the earth's surface to a depth ex-
ceeding two feet; but up to the 25th
of January, when the sleet commenced,

as we had opportunity to know by the
digging of holes in the orchard, only
about one foot of this arid mass had
been moistened by the rains of autumn
and winter, and the lower stratum could
not easily be saturated unless some
sponge-like material held the moisture
at the surface while it slowly filtered
through. A snow fall is perhaps the
most efficient method of watering the
dry sub-soil, as, beside holding the
water while the snow melts, the parti-
cles of snow in falling drop so lightly
as not to close the interstices made by
frost for percolation of water, which the
pattering of the heavy drops in a rain-
fall would do. But the only difference
between snow and sleet is, that one is
water frozen in the clouds, the other
the same material congealed on objects
near the earth's surface, and in this
case containing 1.17 inches, together
with the snow and rain that fell upon
it, furnished as much moisture towards
saturating the ground as a snowfall to
the depth of twenty eight inches would
have done.

As to the effect of sleet upon the
fruit crop, we are of opinion that the
masses entertain an undue apprehen-
sion of danger. In April 1868, many
of our readers will remember that after
the peaches were in full bloom, a light
snow fell during the forenoon of the
10th of April, and during the evening
changed into rain and sleet, so that on
the morning of the 11th, the petals of
the peach blossom were embedded in
frozen snow and ice, transparent as the
clearest crystal, but the thermom-
eter stood at 31°, and peaches in full
bloom were not hurt; so in the late
sleet storm the thermometer was at no
time below 24°, while the backward-
ness or slightly developed condition of
the fruit bud would secure it from
harm in the presence of any degree of
cold above zero, even though surrounded
by sleet.

As respects the prospects for a fruit
crop in 1871, the dry weather of last
summer, we think, has secured a full
supply of fruit buds, which being alive
and but slightly swollen, will not prob-
ably be damaged, and are therefore
most likely subject to the single future
hazard of passing the ordeal of spring
frosts. The damage to the orchards by
the great weight of this sleet is confined
principally to peach trees with large
hanging or horizontal branches, and we
think the best thing the orchardist can
do with such will be, where the dis-
mantling is not too great, to head back
the remaining branches, sparing vigor-
ous sprouts, and thereby make an
effort to secure a growth of young
wood branches. A vigorous tree thus
treated may have considerable bearing
wood for the crop of 1871.

A WONDERFUL MEMORY.—Daniel
McCartney, a humble laborer in Salem,
Columbiana county, Ohio, 53 years of
age, possesses such a wonderful memory
that he is subject of an article in the
last number of the *Journal of Speculative
Philosophy*, published in St. Louis.
The article was written by W. D.
Henkle, the State Commissioner of
Public Schools in Ohio. Mr. Henkle
visited Mr. McCartney and used all
possible ingenuity in making repeated
tests. McCartney is illiterate and nearly
blind, but he remembers the occurrences
of every day since January 1st, 1827,
when he was nine years old. Mention
any date to him in the last 44 years,
and he tells instantly what day of the
week it was, what sort of weather pre-
vailed, and what he was working at
and conversed about. Mr. Henkle pro-
vided himself with a journal for 45
years, and after several severe cross-
examinations, proved Mr. McCartney
to be correct invariably. Mr. McCart-
ney also displayed a remarkable faculty
for mental arithmetic.

Definitions of Bible Terms.

A day's journey was thirty-three and
one fifth miles.
A Sabbath day's journey was about
an English mile.
Ezekiel's reed was eleven feet nearly.
A cubit is twenty-two inches nearly.
A hand's breadth is equal to three
and five-eighths inches.
A shekel of gold was \$8 09.
A talent of silver was \$538 32.
A talent of gold was \$13 809.
A piece of silver, or a penny, was
thirteen cents.
A farthing was three cents.
A garah was a cent.
A mite was a cent.
An epha, or bath, contains seven gal-
lons and five pints.
A bin was one gallon and two pints.
A firkin was seven pints.
An omer was six pints.
A cab was three pints.

LAW VERSUS LOVE.

[From the Marshalltown (Iowa) Times.]

His Honor, Judge Chase, was called
upon last Monday to enforce a decree
of Court, which, to his honor be it said,
he commanded obedience thereto, while
his heart pleaded for those who were
made subject to it. Stern, unrelenting
duty as a Judge, and the silent, earnest
pleading of the heart in sympathy with
a distressed mother, who was required
by law to give up the custody of her
children, and be separated from them.
The scene was the most affecting one
we ever witnessed in a Court room, and
there were but few dry eyes among the
spectators.

The man, the part that is human and
divine, would crop out in the Judge
while telling the poor heart-broken
woman with her three children clinging
to her, and crying to remain with their
mother, that he could do nothing but
command her to obey the decree, until
the Judge himself, conscious of the
unnatural act, choked, while his eyes
moistened at the pitiable picture before
him. We honor him for that evidence
of humanity, and a kind humane heart,
while executing the stern mandates of
the law.

The case was this: A Mrs. O'Hara,
ten years ago, obtained a divorce from
her husband and the custody of her
children. The Supreme Court affirmed
this decision; but this husband, this
human fiend, spared by Hell to torture
those he had sworn to love and protect,
has followed her up in the Courts until
he found some fool of a judge to modify
or change the decree, so as to give the
monster control of the children; and
this poor woman, with her three chil-
dren, from eleven to fifteen years of
age, was dragged into Court by a writ
of attachment, to be compelled to sur-
render her darlings, to her dearer than
her own life, to a human monster. The
case is without a parallel in Iowa.
It reminded us of the fugitive slave law,
when the poor runaways were brought
into our northern Courts, their chains
clanking as they walked, to be reman-
ded back to the hell-holes of slavery.
This law that stifled the affections and
outraged Deity, itself, was soon disre-
garded, and but few Courts could be
found that would outrage humanity and
defy God, by remanding them back to
torture.

But here came a human fiend, with
the smoke of the bottomless pit curling
around him, and the fumes of the sul-
phurous realms on his garments, and
asked a humane Judge to give him his
children, that he might torture them as
he had done both them and their
mother, when he owed them under the
law.

The bar of Marshall County, to their
honor be it said, rebelled against the
mandate, while admitting that there
was no other way than to obey.

The oldest child, sobbing as if her
heart would break, asked his Honor not
to do so monstrous a thing; her father
cared nothing for her, and when she
was a mere child, he had abused and
kicked her until her life was despaired
of. She could not, and would not, leave
her mother, who had cared for her from
infancy up, and now she was big
enough to help her dear ma, to be torn
from her; her brothers, younger than
she was, said they would not go with
their father; they would stay with
their mother; and their sobs filled the
Court house with sympathizers; and
the low mutterings of an outraged au-
dience became audible, and the flandish
father soon saw, that with law or with-
out law, those children could not be
taken from that mother in Marshall
town—then he agreed that she might
keep them, allowing him the privilege
of visiting them. This timely conces-
sion saved him from the vengeance of
an outraged community.

Let it be forever understood that
Marshalltown is no place to come to
to enforce an odious degree of some pusil-
lanimous Judge, or tear the heart-
strings—human wretches are not want-
ed in this community. We have no
threats to make, but we do not want to
witness any more cases like this.

TO REMOVE SCORCH MARKS.—If
linen has been scorched, and the mark
not penetrated entirely through, so as
to damage the texture, it may be removed
by the following process: Peel and
slice two onions, and extract juice by
squeezing or pounding. Then cut up
half an ounce of white soap, and two
of fuller's earth, and mix them with the
onion juice, and half a pint of vinegar.
Boil this composition well; then spread
it, when cool, pour over the scorched
part of linen, and let it dry on. After-
ward wash out the linen, and the mark
where there will be found to have been
removed.

FISHERIES AND THE COM- MISSION.

[From the New Jersey Mechanic.]

The press of England and also of
Canada has worked itself into a white
heat in anticipation that the United
States would propose to annex the Can-
adas, whether citizens of those prov-
inces were disposed to be annexed or
not. The difficulty encountered by the
Commissioners has been a much more
practical one—how to reconcile the
high notions of the Canadians as to
their control over fishery and trade, with
the rights and interests of England and
the United States. On the fishery
question for instance, all our treaties
are with England, for even the reciproc-
ity treaty was negotiated with the
mother country in 1854, but now, un-
der the Dominion Act, Canada sets up
a claim to regulate the limit of shore
fisheries, and impose tribute upon our
fishermen, in direct contravention of
the treaties of 1783 and 1817. The
Canadians are very touchy, too, about
any arrangement between England and
the United States which shall dispose
of the fishery question, except upon
their own terms.

When in 1870 Mr. Fish suggested
to Mr. Thornton that an arrangement
might be made by which lumber, coal,
salt and fish should be admitted free
into the United States, or at least at a
low rate of duty, provided Canada gave
us the freedom of the canals, of the St.
Lawrence and the inshore fisheries, the
Canadian Government informed Mr.
Thornton that they looked upon a propo-
sition of that kind as wholly insuffi-
cient, and subsequently Sir Francis
Hincks, the finance Minister, and Mr.
Tupper, the President of the Council,
denounced in the Canadian Parliament,
the American proposition as degrading
and insulting to the Dominion.

Sir John Macdonald is understood to
take the same view, and also to hold a
position which has brought him into
collision with the Whig members of the
English Commission. In discussing
reciprocity, Sir John was willing to
grant us the freedom of the fisheries
and the free navigation of the St. Law-
rence, if we will admit upon reciprocal
terms, free of duty, grain, lumber, cat-
tle, vegetables, dairy produce, salt and
fish, and also throw open our coasting
trade to Canadian vessels. But he
would not consent to have manufactures
thus interchanged; for as the Cana-
dians now obtain their revenues from
duties on imports, they would be com-
pelled to tax English manufactures,
while American manufactures would be
free. On the contrary, Earl de Grey,
representing the view of the British
Board of trade, thought that any
arrangement made between Canada and
the United States by which the Cana-
dian tariff is lowered upon American
manufactures must equally affect the
admission of English productions into
Canada. A discussion has taken place
between the Canadian and English
Governments on this point, the Cana-
dians endeavoring to show that, under
the reciprocity treaty of 1854, England
set up no such pretensions, while the
English Government, on the contrary,
maintained that no such arrangement
can be made with the United States in
which England can not equally well
participate. It is even asserted, with
as much confidence as anything can be
asserted about the debates of the High
Commission, that the warmest discus-
sion thus far, was between Sir John
Macdonald and his English colleagues,
Sir Stafford Northcote rather siding
with Canada, while the other three, and
of course the American Commissioners,
took the opposite view.

An old farmer was one day looking
over his broad acres, with an axe on his
shoulder and a small dog at his heels.
They espied a woodchuck. The dog
gave chase and drove him into a stone
wall, where action immediately com-
menced. The dog would draw the
woodchuck partly out from the wall,
and then the woodchuck would take the
dog back. The old gentleman's sym-
pathy getting high on the side of the
dog, he thought he must help him. So
putting himself in position, with the
axe above the dog, he waited for the ex-
traction of the woodchuck. Just as he
struck, the woodchuck gathered up,
drew the dog in far enough to receive
the blow, and he was killed on the spot.
For years after, the old gentleman, in
relating the story, would always add:
"And that dog don't know to this day
but what the woodchuck killed him."

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