

The First Robin.
Mark it in spring!
waked, and heard it robin sing!
Only a shower of silver notes, that dropped
In tremulous outpouring and then stopped.
While from a shadowy sign
I saw the little singer fitting by.
As soaring to retreat.
Although the golden wings, that moaned and
Had from the trees of April, as they fell to
rest.

With steadfast faith.
The most precious of gladness comes.
To behold in with, by the early spring
And, from the winter's cold, to bring
One measure of delight.
Fortelling miracles of sound and sight.
Of souls which breathe new vigor.
When the white spots blossom forth along
And for the winter's cold, to bring
One measure of delight.

Oh! Robin, you
In your beauty, are wrong and true;
By storm undented, with your notes
of cheer.
You sing, you grow blither as you hear;
With larger faith, we lift our heads to you,
And by your song we know
What may be hoped for in the coming year.
Only praise the soul for summer flowers
to grow.

WARD AND HOME.
Feed Ashes as a Fertilizer.
Ashes, says the Rural New Yorker,
contain essential components of all
crops. They should not be mixed with
compost (there is no gain in so mixing
them), but applied broadcast directly
to the soil. Whether it is grass or other
land, we never know a farmer who
could get more ashes than it is profitable
to apply to his land; 100 bushels
per acre is not too much to apply to old
cultivated lands. Especially are ashes
excellent for orchards, in as much as
they are not heaped right about the
bodies of the trees, but spread over
the roots, which extend as far as the
bodies of the trees as the branches
ashes are especially valuable as top
dressing on old grass lands, or on
lands cropped with grain. For root
crops they are equally important; in
fact, as we say above, there is no crop
grows and no land uncultivated that is
not benefited in a greater or less degree
by the application of leached or unleached
ashes, the latter being the more valuable.

Preventing the Decay of Stalks.
Take a large tub or tub that will
hold about a bushel, and fill it half
with wood ashes or potash lye; add to
the liquid about three pounds of alum and
as much salt as will dissolve in the
mixture. Make the liquor quite warm,
and pour it into a smaller tub, and
conveniently wadded at once. Stir them
up thoroughly, and when well soaked
take them out and put in more, re-
newing the liquor as necessary. Then lay
the stalks, when dry, in the small
manner. After they are laid, take the
liquor that is left, put lime enough into
it to make whitish, and add other Spanish
rocks, lampblack, etc., and apply to
the stalks with a brush or old broom.
This wash may be removed from time to
time. Salt and lye are excellent preserva-
tives of wood. It is well known that
leach tubs, troughs, and other articles
used in the manufacture of potash never
rot. They become saturated with alkali,
turn yellowish inside, and remain in-
terious to the weather.

Practical Suggestions.
These are said to be upward of a
hundred private manure near New
York city which employ wind-mill power
for pumping water, saving wood,
grinding, and other grain, etc. The
American manufacturer states that in
many instances they are surpassing
steam engines, water wheels, horse-
power, and other engines, except
for lubricating oil. These mills are
not only noiseless, as now constructed,
but they are self-lubricating.

How to Grow Potatoes.
The best place for the potato is
under a glass, and the soil should be
fresh raw manure in winter. Never give
the fish more than they can eat at any
one time, for whatever is left will
injure the water.

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MOLASSES COOKIES.—One cup of molasses; one-half cup of sugar; one cup of lard; one cup of water; one tea-spoonful of ginger; one tea-spoonful of nutmeg; one tea-spoonful of cinnamon; one tea-spoonful of cloves; one tea-spoonful of allspice; one tea-spoonful of mace; one tea-spoonful of cardamom; one tea-spoonful of aniseed; one tea-spoonful of fennel; one tea-spoonful of dill; one tea-spoonful of caraway; one tea-spoonful of coriander; one tea-spoonful of cumin; one tea-spoonful of mustard; one tea-spoonful of pepper; one tea-spoonful of salt; one tea-spoonful of yeast; one tea-spoonful of baking powder; one tea-spoonful of soda; one tea-spoonful of bicarbonate of soda. Bake two hours.

Insects and Flowers.
From the British Scientific Review in Herpes,
collected in various parts of the world,
found in small streams. Select small
fish; from four to eight for a tank hold-
ing from eight to twelve gallons. Such
a tank will support four small ones but
not more than two. Introduce also ten
or twelve water snails. The *Lymnaea*
are the best; yet the *Planorbis* and the
Physa are interesting. Better, however,
get a few of every kind you can, and
keep the water clean and stagnant pools
near the vicinity. They feed on the softest
parts of aquatic plants, and do not ex-
haust the oxygen mixed with the water,
for they are air-breathing, and have to
come to the surface to take in a supply
of air. It is best to use no alcohol
cleaning the tanks and glass of the
tank with their curiously constructed
siphons.

The best food for the fish is
seagreen and duckweed, and fine bits
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A FRENCH STORY.
The price of two potatoes in 1808.
The following anecdote of the first
Napoleon was related by an Englishman,
who was a considerable time in the
French military service, and who
vouches for its authenticity.
The evening before the battle of Ulm,
when Napoleon the First, in company
with Marshal Berthier, was walking to
Prosperio through the camp, and listening
to the talk of his soldiers, he fell in
with a group not far off a grenadier of
the guard, who was roasting some potatoes
in the ashes.
"I should like to roast potato over
these things," said the Emperor to the
soldier, "and the owner of them if he
will sell one."
In obedience to the order, Berthier
advanced to the group and asked to
whom the potatoes belonged. A grenadier
stepped forward and said, "They are
mine, and I have no other to sell."
"Will you sell me one?" inquired Ber-
thier.
"I have only five," said the grenadier,
"and that's hardly enough for my
wife and children. I have no other to
sell."
"I will give you two napoleons if you
will sell me one," continued Berthier.
"I don't want your gold," said the
grenadier; "I shall be killed, perhaps,
before I can get to my wife and children."
Berthier reported the soldier's answer
to the Emperor, who was standing
a little in the background.
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THE QUEEN OF ALL BREWERS.
In speaking of the merits of the
Wheaton sewing machine, it is not
uncommon to find the inventor of this
machine, marks one of the most important
in the history of the country, and when we
consider the immense number of articles
of a nature of more importance. It has
been a source of immense benefit to the
people, the increasing demand, and the
many flattering testimonials from those
who have used it, are sufficient proof of
its merit. The inventor of this machine
is a man of great genius, and his
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