WAITING FOR THE SPRING.

As the breezes stir the morning,
A silence reigns in air;
Steel blue the heavens above me,
Moveless the trees and bare;
Yet unto me the stillness
This burden seems to bring—
"Patience! the earth is waiting,
Waiting for the Spring."

Strong ash and sturdy chestnut,
Rough oak and poplar high,
Stretch out their sapless branches
Against the wintry sky.
Even a guilty aspen
Hath ceased her quivering,
As though she too were waiting,
Waiting for the Spring.

I strain mine ears to listen,
If haply where I stand,
But one stray note of music
May sound in all the land.
Why are thou mute, O blackbird?
O thrush, why dost not sing?
Ah! surely they are waiting,
Waiting for the Spring.

O heart, thy days are darksome;
O heart, thy nights are drear;
But soon shall streams of sunshine
Proclaim the turning year.
Soon shall the trees be leafy,
Soon every bird shall sing;
Let them be silent, waiting,
Waiting for the Spring.

Message of the President.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN BEHALF OF AMERICAN COMMERCE—REVIVAL OF THE MERCHANT MARINE BY GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

The following is the message of the President sent to Congress on Monday in relation to the decline of American commerce:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In the executive message of December 6th, 1869, to Congress, the importance of taking steps to revive our drooping merchant marine was urged and a special message promised at a future day during the present session recommending more specifically plans to accomplish this result. Now that the committee of the House of Representatives intrusted the labor of ascertaining "the cause of the decline of American commerce" has completed its work and submitted a report to the legislative branch of the government, I deem this a fitting time to excute that promise.

The very able, calm and exhaustive report of the committee points out the grave wrongs which have produced the decline in our commerce. It is a national humiliation that we are now compelled to pay from twenty to thirty millions of dollars annually (exclusive of passage money, which we should share with vessels of other nations) to foreigners for doing the work which should be done by American vessels—American built, American-owned and American-manned. This is a direct drain upon the resources of the country of just so much money, equal to casting it into the sea, so far as this nation is concerned.

A nation of the vast and ever-increasing interior resources of the United States, extending, as it does, from one to the other of the great oceans of the world, with an industrious, intelligent and energetic population, must one day possess its full share of the commerce of these oceans, no matter what the cost.

Delay will only increase this cost and enhance the difficulty of attaining the result. I therefore put in an earnest plea for early action in this matter in a way to secure the increase of American commerce. The advanced period of the year, and the fact that no contract for ship building will probably be entered into until this question is settled by Congress, and the further fact that if there should be much delay all large vessels contracted for this year will fail of completion before winter sets in, and will therefore be carried over for another year, induces me to request your earnest consideration of this subject.

I regard it of such grave importance, affecting every interest of the country to so great an extent, that any method which will gain the end will secure a rich national blessing. Building ships and navigating them, utilizing vast capital at home, it employs thousands of workmen in their construction and manning; it creates a home market for the products of the farm and the shop; it diminishes the balance of trade against us precisely to the extent of freights and passage money paid to American vessels, and gives us a supremacy upon the seas of inestimable value in case of foreian war.

Our navy at the commencement of the late war consisted of less than one hundred vessels, of about 150,000 tons, and a force of about 8,000 men. We drew from the merchant marine, which had cost the government nothing, but which had been a source of national wealth, six hundred vessels, exceeding 1,000,000 tons, and about 70,000 men, to aid in the suppression of the rebellion.

This statement demonstrates the value of the merchant marine as a means of national defense in time of war.

The committee on the causes of the reduction of American tonnage, after tracing the cause of its decline, submit two bills, which, if adopted, they believe will restore to the nation its maritime power. Their report shows with great minuteness the actual and comparative American tonnage at the time of its greatest prosperity, the actual and comparative decline since, together with the causes, and exhibits other statistics of material interest in reference to the subject. As the report is before Congress I will not recapitulate any of its statistics, but refer only to the methods recommended by the committee to give back to us our lost commerce.

As a general rule it can be adopted. I believe a direct money subsidy is less liable to abuse than an indirect aid given to the same enterprise. In this case, however, my opinion is that subsidies, while they may be given to specified lines of steamers or other vessels, should not be exclusively adopted, but in addition to susidizing very desirable lines of ocean traffic, a general assistance should be given in an effective way. I therefore commend to your favorable consideration the two bills proposed by the committee and referred to in this message.

U. S. GRANT.

Executive Mansion, Washington, D. C., March 23d, 1870.

The Farmer's Column.

[*Written for The American Union.*]

Is a Farmer's Club an Advantage?

I believe that a majority of our farmers desire that their sons shall follow their avocation, as they are less liable to temptation, because they are not thrown so constantly in contact with men who live by their wits alone; and besides, it is the healthiest, most independent, and useful business in which a man can engage. Now, if we would have our sons to take hold and follow in our footsteps, the beauties and *profits* of good farming must be presented to their view in their most enticing forms. It is not enough that the *modus operandi* of managing a farm goes on under their own observation, and with their assistance, but they must be made to feel that they have a real interest at stake by being called on to assist in planning and discussing, as well as executing the operations of the farm. If such a course is pursued it will soon create a very lively interest in them and work that they have helped to do year after year, perfectly satisfied if they accomplished a reasonable amount per day, without the least thought or care what the result may be, further than a general wish that "we may get a good crop," is suddenly transformed to a study as to which is the best way to do it, and when is the time, and they soon find ample employment for their minds as well as for their hands. Now, how is this result to be attained? Simply by organizing a "Farmer's Club" and discussing the merits of different crops, the various modes of culture, the relative advantages of different breeds of stock, the profits of butter making and poultry raising, and the thousand and one things that would naturally suggest themselves, Give the boys an opportunity to attend the meetings of the club, and encourage them to make use of it, and you will soon find that there is a new feature added to farming in their eyes; they will see that to wrest a meagre subsistence from the soil is not the only object in view, but that a man with an average amount of brains and energy, may attain affluence and ease as well on the farm as cooped up in the counting room, with the advantage of good health thrown in. That would be one of the advantages of a Farmers Club. Another advantage would be the great increase in the material wealth of the county, besides the improvement in the modes of cultivating our land, the more judicious use of fertilizers, greater economy in making and using barnyard manure, and in a hundred ways the exchange of ideas would accrue to the individual benefit of each member. It would create competition among our farmers; every farmer likes to have it said of him, Mr. A. has grown more wheat, corn, oats, hay, or potatoes to the acre than any other man in the county; and if a man attempts to take the lead in growing crops he has got to use manure—and use it plentifully—so that if he does not succeed in growing *the* crop, he will be sure to get a much better one than if there had been no competition. The rivalry will not exist among the men alone; their wives will catch "the inspiration," and Mrs. A. will see no good reason why she cannot make as good butter, and as much of it, from the same number of cows, as Mrs. B. does, nor will Mrs. C. see any excuse for keeping chickens that she can get no more than from $3.00 to $5.00 per dozen for, when grown, while Mrs. D., who keeps a better breed, gets $10.00 to $12.00 for hers.

Now, gentlemen, I have pointed out some of the advantages of such an organization, and, although some of you will say it is too late in the season, "it is never too late to mend," and it surely is time that we were mending our ways of farming in some respects, and there is no better way of doing so than by taking counsel of each other, and reading the experience of men who have made the different departments of agriculture their lifelong study and practice. I think if you will meet immediately and organize a club, and attend it zealously—which you can do without loosing any more time than you now spend in town—you will soon agree with me that a Farmer's Club is a very decided advantage toany agricultural community.

Yours respectfully,

OCCASIONAL.

The Dyspeptic Farmer.

It is a curious fact that our dyspeptic farmers, hard working, early rising, big dinner-eaters, though they be, take better care of their horses than they do of themselves. As the horses come in, steaming from work, you will always hear: "John let them cool off before you feed them." But the farmer who insists on this treatment of his horses will sit down to the dinner table hot and fatigued and commence at once to satisfy his cravings of an unnatural appetite. And after dinner he bolts off to the field, fretful and uneasy, under the impression that the employees are taking undue advantage of him of a fifteen minutes' rest he allowed.

This man cannot understand why his neighbor, who cares for his stomach as much as he does for his horses, and who eats at the proper time and in a proper manner, and insists on every man having a rest of half an hour after eating, is so free from sickness, is always in such humor, and accomplishes so much more than himself. We have some farmers of the dyspeptic type in every neighborhood. When at work they move like whirlwinds; take scarcely time to breathe, drink in haste, eat like a hungry man at a railroad house, and when off duty are stiff-jointed, limping about like spavined horses, morose, and uncomfortable as our most confirmed city dyspeptic.—*Ex.*

MERCANTILE.

DID YOU EVER!!!

JUST LOOK HERE
AT
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At the Cheap Store,
OPPOSITE THE COURT HOUSE,
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MUSLINS, bleached and unbleached, all kinds and prices, at R. W. TODD'S.
ALL kinds of Flannels and Domestics cheap at R. W. TODD'S.
TICKINGS and Striped Shirtings, all prices, at R. W. TODD'S.
KERSEYS, Cloths and plain and fancy Cassimeres at R. W. TODD'S.
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PARIS PLAIDS, Mohairs and other Dress Goods at R. W. TODD'S.
GOOD and pretty Calicoes as you ever saw at R. W. TODD'S.
LADIES' Balmoral and Felt Skirts very cheap at R. W. TODD'S.
EVERYTHING in the Dry Goods line cheap at R. W. TODD'S.
BOOTS & SHOES of all kinds (except shoddy) at R. W. TODD'S.
FULL line of Groceries, including brown and white Sugars, at R. W. TODD'S.
COMMON and medium Molasses and splendid Syrup at R. W. TODD'S.
BUCKWHEAT and Corn Meal and Flour at R. W. TODD'S.
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GOOD assortment of Hardware—Shovels, Spades, Hoes, Axes R. W. TODD'S.
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CLOTH, Berlin, Woolen, Kid and Buckskin Gloves at R. W. TODD'S.
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SUSPENDERS and Shoulderbraces at R. W. TODD'S.
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AND everything else, more or less, at R. W. TODD'S.
THESE and a thousand and one other things may be had, cheap for cash or trade, or on a *short credit only to punctual and responsible customers*, at R. W. TODD'S.

BUT as his pocket is not deep, and his credit can only be kept good by paying up his city bills within reasonable time; therefore, *KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS* that those who defer paying their bills "until the last horn blows" **CAN'T GET CREDIT** at R. W. TODD'S.

HAVING a large amount of money to raise by the 1st day of January, 1870, his customers will please call and settle without delay and they will merit and receive the thanks of decl6-y **R. W. TODD.**

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—OF—
Fall and Winter
GOODS.
H. BLACKISTON

Has just returned from the city with a large and well assorted stock, the largest ever offered by him in this town, consisting in part of

CLOTHS AND CASSIMERES
For Men and Boys' Wear,
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Of Various Prices to Suit Purchaser,
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Tweeds, Jeans,
COTTONADES,
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and nearly everything usually kept in a Dry Goods line in a country store;
Boots and Shoes,
A good stock, especially coarse boots and shoes for the winter,
HATS AND CAPS
Of the Very Latest Styles,
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A stock unsurpassed in the town,
GROCERIES,
A full stock,
Hardware of Different Kinds,
including
COAL-HODS, OVEF LIDS,
SPIDERS, SAUSAGE CUTTERS
AND STUFFERS.

All in want of goods will please call and examine the stock. I think I can suit you in price and quality. Call and be convinced.
Nearly all kinds of country produce taken in exchange for goods.

Teacher Wanted.

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mar17-3w. [J.]

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Great Reduction
OF
THE SEASON.
GOODS AS CHEAP NOW AS LATER.

W. M. KENNARD,

Wishing to close out his entire lines of Winter Goods, will offer his immense stock at such
Reduced Rates
That those in want cannot help buying. As business is done on the ONE PRICE principle in this house, customers are notified that the goods will be marked down to the lowest prices, thus saving time and trouble to buyer and seller. [ja13-y

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je24-1y

RIDGELY.

New Goods! New Goods!!
NEW GOODS.
Fresh Arrival!!

I have lately purchased my Fall and Winter supply of Goods, and have opened them with a determination to run them off my hands within the season, if Low Prices will be any inducement to purchasers. I have revived the motto,
Quick Sales and Small Profits,
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Dry Goods:
CASSIMERES for Gentlemen,
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MUSLINS of different makes,
FLANNELS, LINENS,
and many other articles in this line;
NOTIONS,
such as will please the fancy and be serviceable during the approaching winter;
BOOTS AND SHOES,
purchased with a view to the wants and requirements of this people;
HATS AND CAPS,
both warm and dressy;

GROCERIES,
LARGE STOCK
AND BEST QUALITY.
HARDWARE,
and, in fact, everything usually kept in a well arranged country store.

All are invited to an examination of my stock, which I think is unequaled by any country store.

Country Trade
of all kinds taken in exchange for goods.
JAS. K. SAULSBURY.
RIDGELY, Nov. 22, 1869.

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