

Toll, toll, toll!  
 There's a row in the very next street!  
 Somebody's going to murder his wife,  
 And I must be off "tout-suit";  
 Yesterday, just at this time,  
 Two policemen got choked in a riot;  
 And so it goes on from morning till night,  
 And an editor never knows quiet.

[Gets up, knocks his hat over his eyes, and rushes out in a state of distraction, to "pick up an item."

AGRICULTURAL NEWS.—A correspondent writing under late date from Shasta county, furnishes the *California Farmer* with the subjoined intelligence:

Agriculture, generally, is in an extremely prosperous condition, but has been subject to some of the drawbacks, incident to the late wet season and the *peste* of grasshoppers, which have brought injury to the crops, fruits and gardens.

In relation to the grain, very much of it has been injured by smut, particularly that grown from Australia seed. Some farmers have not made more than half crops. From the Italian seed, Major P. B. Reading (three miles from this) has a very fine crop, without the least smut, whilst acres of the Australian is very much injured. The grasshoppers have destroyed three hundred acres of wheat upon the ranch of Capt. Swift, on the Sacramento, near Stony Creek; and one hundred acres of barley, raised by Mr. Houtoun, in the same vicinity. In this county some of the farmers have been obliged to cut their barley and oats to save them from the *peste*, which has covered the fields in swarms in the course of a few hours. The grain is nearly cut, and the harvest-home is just beginning.

To the fruit, gardens and young trees, the grasshoppers have been and are a great calamity; for they not only devour the fruit, vegetables, young leaves and twigs, but they eat the bark from the young trees, the growth of one or two years, and kill them. Major Reading has a very handsome and extensive garden plat upon the bank of the river, which is in a high state of

cultivation. Upon this he has forty-five peach trees, three years old, that were so heavy with fruit, he was obliged to prop the lower limbs early in May. It was supposed they would yield over sixty bushels of peaches of the finest kind; but the grasshoppers have eaten a great deal of the fruit, and it is very doubtful if there will be a peach permitted to ripen. There are, also, upon the same plat, one hundred and seventy peach trees of two years growth, thirty of which are from pits selected by and given to Major Reading by his friends, on his late visit to the Eastern States. Five of these trees, standing four and a half feet in height, bore fruit this season; and one tree, from a pit presented to Major R. by Senator Weller at Washington City, planted in the spring of 1853, stands sixteen feet high, is very broad, and in luxuriant leaf. There are, also, many apple, pear, cherry, English walnut and olive trees, pomegranates, grapes and osage orange—all were growing very finely, until the grasshoppers arrived. The cherry trees were imported from Boston last January, by Major S. J. Hensley, and were planted here in February; two of them standing four feet in height, had very fine, large, ripe fruit upon them in the middle of May. One of the olive trees is in very fine condition and luxuriant, and will bear next year. Cuttings of olive, set out last spring, are growing very well, and may be saved from the scourge.

There are many thousands of grape vines; those of several years growth are loaded with fruit. Some of the cuttings of last year had grapes upon them, but they fell a prey to the ravages. Several hundreds of locust, pride of China and Catalpas, mostly of two years' growth, which had increased very much this season, have been very much injured, leaves entirely stripped off; others, of small size, have been cut down to the parent stem, whilst a few have the bark eaten entirely round the body.

The grasshoppers made their appearance about the 1st of June, and at once ate up all the cabbages, salads, melon vines, the tender leaves of root plants, and then attacked the trees.

Major Reading has tried every mode to get rid

of them; but though less in number, "their strength is legion still." He at first tried driving. A party of some thirty-five Indians—men, women and children—drove the grasshoppers before them with brush brooms, very successfully, into circles and small pits, and collected bushels of them. This was before they had wings; when disturbed now, they fill the air and merely change their location. All the small fruit trees have been wrapped with coarse bagging, which may save them from being killed, but probably will destroy the growth of this year. The grasshoppers being an article of choice food of the Indians, they are very happy to have the privilege to gather them; consequently, Major R. has a few women employed in picking them from the trees, in the hope of saving a few peaches. It is quite impossible to shake them off, and they resist quite a strong wind.

Upon none of the farms in this section will there be any corn or potatoes of any consequence—the crops are destroyed. The blades of corn are eaten to the stalk, and the vines to the very ground.

Upon the farm of Messrs. Wilson & Sheridan, eight miles above this, the grasshoppers have eaten up 15,000 very large cabbage plants of fine promise, and injured their late grain to a considerable extent. There is no place that has not suffered, and the loss of all young fruit and ornamental trees and plants is the general expectation. Improvements have been very general this season. Major Reading has now over six thousand acres enclosed with board fencing, and other farms are being enclosed in the same manner.

**AN EDITOR'S OWN DRINK.**—According to the *Princeton Kentuckian*, the following is a recipe for the exclusive drink of M'Goodwin, the magnificently funny editor of the *Paducah American*:

"Take one pint of good whisky, stir in well one spoonful of whisky; then add another pint of whisky; beat carefully with a spoon, and keep pouring in whisky. Fill a large bowl with water