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Verona, March 4, 1873

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Verona Standard

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VERONA, March 4, 1873.

[Special Cor. of Standard.]

LETTER FROM VERONA.

The Weather.—Gardens.—Farms.
How to Write for News-papers.

Editor of Standard:

Hans hastens to acknowledge the invitation to dine with the *Standard* on the 27th at the HA-GOOD HOUSE. If the Almanacs can be induced so to change the calendar as to make the 27th of March come upon Saturday, instead of Thursday, Hans will gladly accept the invitation. In consequence of close attention to his profession, Hans can not leave Verona, save on Saturdays.

Verona continues to experience severe weather. It rains and sleets and snows; it snows and sleets and rains. Boreas howls from the North and succeeds sometimes in dispersing the gathered clouds. The sun then for a day or two darts his cheering rays upon the earth and the hope of spring revives. Vegetation begins to wake from its long sleep and to think of donning its array of green. But it proves to be a delusion, winter anon reasserts his sway, 'Sullen and sad, with all his rising train, Vapors, and clouds, and storms.'

Gardening has necessarily made but little progress. The more enterprising have prepared a few squares and sown peas lettuce, potatoes, and onions. Generally, however, the spade and hoe have been idle, and the gardens present a dreary and desolate appearance.

The farms in the neighborhood of Verona likewise present little or no indications of the industry or energy of the tenants. So little opportunity of ploughing have the farmers had, that they will not be prepared to welcome the return of the planting season. It is but a few days, until corn should be in the ground; and yet thus far but a small area of land has been prepared for its reception.

As Verona has no one to get drunk and create a disturbance there is a perpetual dearth of police intelligence; and Hans will therefore be permitted to discuss other topics.

How to write for a newspaper is a difficult question to determine. Many readers imagine they could do better than those who usually fill the columns. The simplest style appears the most easy of imitation, and yet is the most difficult to acquire. Let any one attempt to imitate the sweet simplicity of Dr Francis Wayland; he will readily

see that he has either over-estimated his own abilities or underrated the difficulty of the undertaking. Long and intricate periods, inappropriate everywhere, should be most carefully avoided by all newspaper writers. Sentences should rather be short and pregnant with meaning. A long sentence is occasionally admissible, if its meaning is clear, its construction easy, and its flow harmonious. The style should be so perspicuous, that the reader's mind fully absorbed in the subject would not be diverted by having the attention directed to the language in which the thoughts are portrayed. Language should be used simply as a translucent medium through which to view the thoughts of another. But, it is too often employed as a cloak to veil the purposes of the heart. As pebbles are visible at the bottom of a pellucid stream, and by no means indicate its depth; so the thoughts in a printed article should be clearly seen, and yet leave with the reader no impression of profundity.

Many preach better than they act. Many can tell how to write for the press, who cannot carry out their own instructions. Such is the theory of Hans; but how he is to put it in execution remains to be seen.

Yours &c,
HANS.