



Fine Prospect for Fruit.

The prospect for a good crop of fruit was never more flattering than it is now, in nearly all parts of the State, where its culture has been adopted, and the trees, such as have been planted, are old enough to bear. The apple, peach, apricot and plum trees in this city and vicinity are loaded with fruit; and younger trees and of smaller size are in bearing than we ever saw before in any State or country, fully demonstrating the fact that this is an excellent country for fruit and that it can be grown to any desirable extent, at as little expense as in any of the fruit growing States in the East, that is of the hardy kinds, particularly the apple, apricot, and plum, which grow well in every location where they have been planted and properly cultivated.

The growing of fruit has, within the last two or three years, received more attention in this part of the State than before, and many who had previously planted not so much as a currant bush on their premises have commenced to plant orchards, and the prospects now are, that all who have planted trees will soon be enabled to partake of their fruit, and learn from actual experience and observation, if they knew not before, for what fruit-bearing trees were created or made.

The abundance of apples, peaches, apricots, plums, pears, cherries, grapes, and of divers other kinds of fruit that have been introduced and are being cultivated by those who know the value of such things, which will be grown this season, and that too in many instances in locations heretofore considered unsuitable, will probably induce some, if not many, who have not planted the first tree, in their gardens or on their premises, for cause best known to themselves, to do so before another year shall pass away. All persons engaged in agriculture who know how to enjoy life, and have any regard for the happiness and comfort of their families and of those dependent upon them for the necessities of life, and particularly of their children, will of course take measures to grow fruit in a country like this, where it can be produced with so little care and attention, and at but a trifling expense.

Sheep and Wool-Growing in New Hampshire.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* who had been looking about among the wool-growers in Merrimac county, N. H., gives the following as the result of his observations:

Wool-growing in this section of the Granite State has become a prominent branch of farming. Many of our farmers have been long engaged in sheep-rearing. Those who have persevered in the business, have been very successful in a pecuniary point of view, realizing much greater profits from sheep husbandry, than they could have done from any other branch of farming. Notwithstanding the occasional fluctuations in the market value of sheep and wool, the number of sheep has been greatly upon the increase here for some years past, and there has probably been a corresponding decrease of cattle.

Experience has fully demonstrated the fact, that sheep will do much better on our old, long grassed pastures, and better keep down bushes, briars, etc., than cattle. Besides, they will winter better on a poorer quality of hay, if they are regularly fed with a moderate allowance of grain or roots.

Almost the entire of sheep kept here, are of the Spanish Merino breed and their grades. Many of the flocks possess all the requisites that constitute No. 1, fine woolled sheep.

Among the more prominent of our flock masters, are several by the name of Couch; they all reside in the same neighborhood. Some of their farms are in this town, some in Salisbury and others in Boscawen, yet they all reside within a sweep of less than a third of a mile. The number of sheep kept in this small circle numbers 1,150—with the usual proportion of cattle, horses, swine, etc.

John Couch, jr. and son (Warren), have 400—having the past year purchased a considerable number of wethers and selling about the same number of ewes. They sheared last June 300—the fleeces averaged 5½ lbs., which they have just sold at 49 cents per pound. By purchasing in Vermont prime bucks of the Atwood stock, and careful selection of breeding ewes, they have double the weight of fleeces, and greatly improve the quality of the wool, and the size and value of the animals. From the 300 sheep sheared last June, they have received for wool and sheep sold \$1,040—

selling sixty of the poorest of their ewes at \$3.75 per head—raised 106 lambs, a large portion of which are of the pure Atwood breed.

Several years since they commenced the improvement of their flocks by purchasing pure bred bucks in Vermont, having in the time purchased five, for three of which they paid \$100 each, one at \$50 one at \$25. They now have a superb buck, ten months old, which they purchased of — Sanford, Orwell, Vt., a few months since, for which they paid \$100. The Messrs. C.'s are fully satisfied that it is more profitable to make use of these high bred and high priced bucks, than to make use of ordinary or \$5 bucks.

They estimate the cost of wintering a sheep, per head, from \$1.10 to \$1.35. Pasturing, shearing, etc., etc., at 58 cents per head.

They prefer to have the dropping of the lambs commence about the 20th of March. This winter they are feeding corn and oats, the two preceding winters they have fed on corn and beans—the latter obtained in Boston and costing one dollar per bushel at our railroad depot. For breeding ewes they prefer beans to any other provender they have ever fed. But in consequence of the high price of beans last autumn, they purchased none.

Samuel Couch and sons (Henry and Charles) keep about the same number as John and Warren; their sheep and management about the same. This winter they fed corn and oats one day, and turnips the next. Their fleeces average two ounces higher than John's—from 290 sheared last June, they have received \$1,160, and they estimate their flock to be worth \$200 more than it was a year ago, and the same in regard to John and Warren's flock. They estimate the value of their ewes at ten dollars per head, or in other words would not sell an average lot at a less price. They are satisfied that sheep improve their pastures, and that they can improve their farms by keeping sheep, quite as well as by keeping cattle. They also consider the manure of sheep from a given quantity of hay consumed worth more than that from cattle—that is, as cattle manure is usually managed by farmers. They use no litter in their sheep hovels till the sheep commence dropping their lambs, then they are kept well littered with straw, etc.

The manure in the spring in the fovels, is worked over and pulverized, applied to the land and immediately plowed and harrowed in; by this process heating and fermentation, if any, takes place in the soil.

Woodbury and Albert Couch, and others in the same neighborhood, have similar flocks with those described; management very similar, attended with similar results, in a pecuniary point of view, which by the way, are very favorable, as their neatly, well finished and furnished houses, large barns, and convenient out-buildings and generous hospitality fully prove.

In another section of Salisbury, I visited the farm of George Quimby. His flock contains 200 very fair fine-wooled sheep, which he manages with skill, not having lost more than one sheep in a hundred, annually, for the past four years. Every sheep of his flock is numbered, (and so are the Messrs. Couch's) and each fleece is weighed as soon as it comes from the sheep, the weight of the fleece entered upon a book opposite the number of the sheep. By pursuing this course for a number of years past, and selecting the heaviest fleeced ewes for breeding, he has been able to greatly increase the size of his sheep and weight of fleeces, obtaining more wool from 200 sheep now, than his father did from 350 a few years ago.

In 1840 the fleeces averaged 2 lb. 6 oz. In 1849 averaged 3 lb.; in 1856, 4 lb.; 1861 averaged 4 lb. 11 oz. This increase of wool has been effected by careful selection of breeding ewes, and making use of good bucks, though he has not used any of the \$100 ones. He raises from 60 to 100 lambs annually, selling an equal number of ewes and wethers.

There are some facts connected with Mr. Q.'s management worthy of note. His hay being mostly upland of good quality, he neither feeds grain or roots to his sheep. His pastures are good, and the lambs are not dropped till into May, or after the sheep are turned to pasture.

From 1845 to 1858, he purchased from ten to twelve hundred dollars worth of hay, costing from 8 to 10 dollars per ton. Most people suppose, if the purchased hay had been fed to cattle, he would have lost money by the speculation. But the very reverse has happened in his case. Within ten years he has doubled the hay crop on his farm, and largely increased the amount of his grain crops. His house, barns, out-buildings, &c., are large and well finished. His well managed flocks have been the basis of his success in farming, although he has kept a fair stock of cattle during the time. I am happy to say there are thousands of other farmers among the hills of New Hampshire equally successful and prosperous in the wool growing business, as those I have noticed here.

By the Co. Genl. of 6th of March, page 157, I find under the caption "Dogs vs. Sheep," that there were in 1861, sheep killed and wounded in Ohio by dogs, to the value of over ninety-six thousand dollars.

By inquiring among our sheep raisers, I find that it is a very rare thing that sheep are "killed or wounded" by dogs, and no one is deterred from going into the business from fear of suffering loss in his flock by them. We have no dog-tax, and I presume we have as large a percentage of dogs, according to our population as they have in other States.

Sorghum Molasses.

Mears & Gimble, of Galesburg, Illinois, made last Fall from the Chinese cane about 3,200 gallons of molasses. In sending a sample of it to the Agricultural Bureau of the Patent Office they wrote as follows:

"The manufacture of molasses from the Chinese and African cane is no longer an experiment in the West, but an established fact (a majority of farmers making a sufficient quantity for home consumption), and will before many years enter largely into our agricultural products, and when science, with experiment, develop the proper process, we shall make as good sugar as can be made from the Southern cane. We have not as yet succeeded in making sugar except at too great an expense for profit, but our experiments have satisfied us it can and will be done. The sample sent is made in the following manner: The raw juice is heated to a boiling point in order to coagulate it; we then use about one peck of pure native clay, which we mix well with the hot juice (about one hundred gallons), agitating it well; let it remain about half an hour and all the pulp will settle to the bottom of the vessel, leaving the juice almost as clear as water; it is then drawn off and evaporated until it is the proper thickness for good molasses. The use of the clay is a discovery of R. Root, of this place, and is certainly one of the best ways of clarifying the juice we have ever tried; we have tried it for the two past seasons, and are satisfied of it. Clay has been used in the manufacture of sugar for a great many years, but not in the manner in which he does. The process of manufacture is cheap, needing no expensive apparatus, and any farmer can make as good an article as the sample we send you."

A Strawberry Challenge.—The following is taken from the *California Farmer*:

When last at Oakland, we spent some time in examining the strawberry grounds of several of the prominent growers. Among those we visited was the grounds of G. W. Fountain, the grower of the famous "Longworth's Prolific," that made so much excitement last year, his fruit bringing fabulous prices. The plants look remarkably healthy, and promise great results this year, and Fountain says that he is confident that he will exhibit Longworth's Prolific, this year, that will measure eight inches in circumference, and challenges any one to beat him.

How to save Fruit Trees that have been Girdled.—A correspondent of the *Springfield (Mass.) Republican* furnishes the following:

"Take large scions, long enough to reach over the girdler, scurf off each end about an inch on the side to go next to the tree, then turn your scion over, on the upper end cut a short bevel; after having done this, take a smooth instrument, raise the bark on the tree, say an inch, or sufficient to receive each end, and carefully crowd the scion under; if the bark adhere firmly to the tree, cut a short slit. If the operation be carefully performed, I have no doubt of its success. Seven years ago I had several apple trees entirely girdled by the mice; I tried the above method, and they are now thrifty and the barkless spot nearly closed over."

Planting Potatoes.—Now is the time for planting potatoes, and those planted within the next ten days, may, in the event that the weather in the fore part of the summer shall be as hot as it has generally been at that season of the year, be expected to produce better crops than those previously put in, whether on high or low grounds.

A Big Grub.—A large grub-worm, six and a fourth inches long, and about one inch in diameter, divided into ten sections, with ten pairs of legs, light snuff color, came down in the City Creek freshet, and lodged in the 16th Ward, near Mr. Cottam's. If this is not one of the grubs of the last days, it is certainly a great grub.

How to Save Your Eyes.—By sitting in such a position as will allow the light to fall obliquely over the shoulder while reading or sewing.

By not using the eyes for such purposes by an artificial light, especially gas light.

By avoiding the special use of the eyes in the morning before breakfast.

By resting them for a half minute or so, while reading or sewing, or looking at things at a distance or up to the sky, relief is immediately felt by so doing.

Never pick any collected matter from the eyelashes or corners of the eyes with the finger nails; rather moisten it and rub it away carefully with the ball of the finger.

Keep the feet warm, and never cool the head suddenly under penalty of inflammation of the eyes.

It is better to bathe the eyes on the outside at night than morning, but it will not do harm to bathe them both morning and evening.

The moment the eye feels tired, the moment you are conscious of an effort to read or sew, lay aside the book or needle and take a walk for an hour, or employ yourself in some active exercise not requiring the close use of your eyes.

Severe Retort.

In a volume lately published in Great Britain on the Life and Times of Dr. Lawren, glimpses of Scotch character and humor are given, which are both instructive and amusing. The following extract shows a quickness at repartee, in which many Scotchmen have excelled, which was certainly well used on the occasion referred to:

Mr. — was a well-known wag, though an excellent man and diligent pastor. There was a sort of infidel and scoffing character in the town where he lived, commonly called "Jock Hammon." Jock had a nickname for Mr. —, which, though profane, had reference to the well-known evangelical character of his ministry. "Th' re's 'the grace o' God,'" he would say, as he saw the good man passing by; and he usually talked of him under that designation.

It so happened that Mr. — had, on one occasion, consented to take the chair at some public meeting. The hour of meeting was past, the place of meeting filled, but no Mr. — appeared. Symptoms of impatience were manifested, when a voice was heard from one corner of the hall:

"My friends, there will be no 'grace o' God' here this night."

Just at this moment, the door opened, and Mr. — appeared, casting, as he entered, a rather knowing look upon Jock Hammon, as he ejaculated these words.

On taking the chair, Mr. — apologized for his being so late. "I had," he said, "to go into the country to preside in the examination of Mr. —'s school, and really the young folks conducted themselves so well that I could scarce get away from them. If you please, I will just give you a specimen of the examination. I called up an intelligent-looking girl, and asked her if she had ever heard of any one who had erected a gallows for another, and who had been hanged on it himself."

"Yes," replied the girl; "it was Haman."

"With that," he started another little girl, and she said, "Eh! minister, that's no true; Hammon's no hanged yet; for I saw him at the public house door this forenoon, and he was swearing like a trooper." Upon this, there was considerable tittering among the audience, and eyes were directed to the corner where "Jock" was sitting.

"You are both quite right," I replied, with a sort of 'glaiik!' look towards the first girl. "Your Haman was really hanged, as he deserved to be; and (turning toward the other) your 'Hammon,' my lambie, is not hanged yet, by 'the grace o' God.'"

The effect of this upon the hearers was electric, and, amid roars of laughter, Jock rushed out of the meeting, and, for a time, at least, he ceased to make the secession minister the object of his scurrilous jokes.

Postal Incident.

A young man from the rural district went to the post-office the other day, with a bank note for a dollar's worth of stamps. He was told that paper money was not received. He went for Spanish quarters.

"We don't receive them now," said the attendant, "for more than twenty cents apiece."

The countryman thought Uncle Sam might be particular, so he went and obtained a dollar's worth of coppers.

"Now," said he on returning to the office and laying down his pile on the window of the delivery, "I guess I can suit you."

The man inside looked at the display of coppers, and coolly replied:

"We never take more than three cents in copper at one time—it is not a legal tender above that sum."

The countryman looked at the composed official for the space of a minute without stirring, and then belched out:

"Look here, you—ain't you almighty kind of particular, for fellows backed up in such a jail as this here? You don't take only three cents of copper at a time, hey? Well, then, s'pose you give me three cents worth of stamps anyhow."

The official very politely cut him off a single stamp, and passed it out, for which the countryman laid down three cents. He was about to pass away, when the latter cried out:

"Look here, you! That ere's one time. Now s'pose you give me three cents worth more on 'em."

Uncle Sam's clerk was not slow in discovering that he had caught a Tartar. He turned back to the window, and asked:

"How many coppers have you got?"

"Well, only about ninety-seven of 'em. I had a hundred when I begun."

"Pass them in," was the gruff reply.

"Pass out your stamps fast, and then I will; but I reckon you won't catch me again."

The stamps were passed out and the coppers handed over, when the countryman went off, saying:

"S'pose because a fellow holds office under Uncle Sam, he thinks he's smarter'n all creation; but I guess they larn't something that time."

ARMY CHAPLAINS.—The number of Chaplains in the army, as officially reported from the War Department, is 422. New York has 97; Pennsylvania, 64; Massachusetts, 19; Maine, 11; New Hampshire, 5; Vermont, 7; Rhode Island, 4; Connecticut, 7; New Jersey, 11; Delaware, 2; Maryland, 3; Virginia, 4; Kentucky, 16; Ohio, 44; Indiana, 30; Illinois, 46; Missouri, 9; Kansas, 4; Iowa, 12; Wisconsin, 11; Michigan, 13; Minnesota, 2.