

## Agricultural.

## SNOW.

BY MRS. L. L. DEMING.

Whirling, curling down to the ground,  
The snow-flakes come with noiseless tread;  
Dressing in white the withered flowers,  
Forming a curtain in summer bowers,  
And a covering for the dead.  
Dancing along in frolicsome glee,  
Kissing the boughs of the leafless tree,  
Pressing its lips to the window pane,  
In at the door and out again;  
Bedecking the earth in a winding sheet,  
As it skips along with its downy feet,  
Skimming the air in eddies wild,  
Crowning the head of the fair-haired child  
With a crystal wreath of snowy spray,  
That sparkles awhile, then melts away.  
Hither and thither, a fairy fleet,  
Sailing down on the frozen street,  
Dashing along o'er the dreary moor,  
Chilling the hearts of the wretched poor,  
Borne on the breath of the winter blast,  
A feathery throng, it hurries past;  
Carressing the brow of the lovely hill,  
Hushing the song of the laughing rill—  
It comes to earth a fairy thing,  
Turning to TEARS at the voice of Spring.

## Origin of the Turnip.

The following interesting sketch of the origin of the turnip, by Mr. E. Sayers, will be found interesting to all classes of readers:

"The turnip, like other classes of vegetables, has many original species that have been the types of a numberless group of varieties, produced from the originals.

## THE GENERA

Of the turnip extends over a very wide range of country and for many years distinct species have claimed the attention of the cultivator under the proper name of its adopted country; it is among the industrious Dutch that we find this esculent root first cultivated as a garden vegetable; and hence we find the old "Flat Dutch turnip," the type of all the different varieties of the class on the records of horticulture for more than two hundred years.

In tracing the culture of the turnip, Miller and John Abercrombie, two of the oldest and best writers on horticulture, give a list of the English turnips cultivated in the garden, in which they describe the white and purple stone turnip as a type of the class of the "English turnip." From this original species the white Norfolk undoubtedly originated, which was held in great repute and universally cultivated for a field turnip, for the feeding sheep in "the fould," for half a century, and from this variety undoubtedly the different varieties of long English "tankard turnip" originated.

We find, also, that the original of the old stone turnip has now the improved name of the white and purple strap leaved.

The Swedish turnip (which the great grammar corrector, William Cobbett, has dubbed with the name of "Ruta Baga," for what reason he has never explained) is a native of Sweden and was introduced into Great Britain about the beginning of the last century. The original type is the yellow Swede, which, for its being very productive and hardy, besides containing more nutriment than a given quantity of the English varieties is now universally cultivated on a large scale for the feeding of cattle in winter; and it has indeed almost supplanted the culture of any other variety for the feeding of sheep, hogs and horned cattle.

The Swede, like most other species of the turnip, has many varieties from its original type of the "Old Yellow Swede." The best variety is unquestionably the "Improved Purple Top," which certainly is a much better root than the original and embraces all the good qualities that ever can be expected to be produced in the class.

The Scotch Aberdeen turnip is another class of turnips which have their different varieties, called the "Scotch turnip," which are generally well adapted for culinary use in the winter and worth cultivating by those who are desirous of having garden varieties. To this class may be added the French turnip, which is nothing more than a local name given to some of the above varieties and is also a favorite in a certain degree with some cultivators and worth cultivating by those who are fond of varieties."

**How Corn Shrinks.**—A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer* weighed out 75 lbs. of corn on the ear, dried it, shelled it; and on submitting it to the test of the scales again, found that the corn and cobs together only weighed 60 lbs., having lost 15 lbs. He thinks it did not shrink more than most corn will by keeping over winter.

## Sheep Husbandry.

G. S. L. COUNTY, March 5, 1860.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

I notice that sheep husbandry is attracting the attention of the citizens of this Territory, which I am glad to see, as it will be a great benefit to those who may engage in the business and also to the country generally. In noticed in a late number of the *Mountaineer* an article from a "Grazier," treating upon the quality of the range and the improvement of sheep, and advising the citizens to send to the States for the best bucks of different kinds. He speaks of sheep that will weigh from one hundred and twenty to two hundred pounds, and shearing from eight to fifteen pounds of wool, referring to the South-down, Leicester and Cotswold breeds. There are full blooded bucks of each of those breeds wintering in this county, on their way to California, but there is not one that will shear more than eight or nine pounds of wool, either in this county or in Leicester-shire, where the Leicesters came from. There is a breed of sheep in the east part of Lincolnshire, England, that will shear from twelve to fifteen pounds of wool, but their pasturage is equal to their size and the amount of wool they shear.

To those that are sending to the States for bucks I will say that you want to make a selection of the size and the quantity of wool in proportion to the feed and the attention you give them. A large sheep with fifteen pounds of wool will take more and stronger food in proportion to their size and the amount of wool, because both wool and mutton are of a very coarse grain and it requires better feed to support it.

I am willing to admit that this is a good country for sheep, but when you come to talk about sheep weighing from one hundred and twenty pounds to two hundred, you talk about fat sheep, and if you had the sheep here it would require green clover, cabbage, carrots, turnips and grain to bring them to that perfection.

I wish to give my views as to the kind of sheep that can be kept to advantage in these valleys. Where sheep are herded in large flocks and depend upon the range, the South-downs will do best as they are the hardiest sheep, but a good blooded Leicester, that will shear from seven to nine pounds of wool and will weigh from one hundred to one hundred and twenty pounds with good care, can be kept to good advantage in these valleys. Try them first and if they do well try them again.

The citizens of this Territory should bring their best stock to the next State Fair and let us have something worthy of imitation, showing their mode of treatment, as we expect a great improvement upon the last year's exhibition.

## SHEPHERD.

**Ground Itch or Hoof Ail.**—From the *German-town Telegraph* we extract the following, which may be efficacious in case of the above disease:

This disease frequently affects the flow of milk very much. It can be prevented by putting quicklime where the cows will step into it often. To cure it, I use blue vitriol pounded fine, moistened a little with water to make it stick. I then clean out between the hoofs thoroughly, and put in a little of the vitriol, say a teaspoonfull to a hoof. It will soon effect a cure. If it is the fore foot, it is easily done without tying. If the hind foot be lame, I take a couple of straps and tie around just above the knee, tight enough to draw the muscle to a great extent. I have tried other cures, such as drawing a tarred rope through, back and forward, and putting salt in, etc., but I think the vitriol the most certain.

In cases of diseased stock, when a cure has been effected by any specific remedy or by any definite mode of treatment, we solicit for the general information of our readers, a statement of the disease and the remedy or means that may have proved effectual.

**Horses**—should always have plenty of litter in their stables; it answers a double purpose; first by absorbing and retaining the salts of the urine that fall upon it in a considerable degree, and thus rendering the manure more valuable; and secondly, by preventing in part that liability to swell, to which the feet and legs of a horse are subjected when standing on a hard or plank floor.

**Sheep and Dogs in Ohio.**—The statistics for 1859 for the State of Ohio, return 60,536 sheep as having been killed by dogs during the year, at a loss of \$109,551, and 36,441 more as having been injured to the amount of \$37,097—aggregate loss to the sheep owners from canine rapacity \$146,748. Dogs must be valuable to be tolerated at such a price.

## Propagation of Plants by Cuttings.

A proper understanding of this subject, so important to horticulturists, is essential to our success in the introduction and multiplying of those choice varieties of fruit, both of imported and seedling stocks, which are most desirable to all. To give our readers a fair conception of the modes most approved in the East, we copy the following valuable article from the *N. Y. Horticulturist*:

This is one of the most common and universally practised modes of extending plants. A cutting is simply a part of a plant taken off and placed in a position to form roots, and become in all respects a living representation of the original from whence it was taken.

The peculiar constitutional conditions which will render a plant favorable or otherwise for this method of propagation, has not been ascertained, and the subject is well worthy of attention by physiologists. While many plants, such as the willow, will throw out roots from cuttings taken off almost at any state of maturity, there are also many that are difficult to increase by this mode, even under the most favorable circumstances known to cultivators.

## CHOOSING CUTTINGS.

So far as the simple production of a plant is concerned, it matters but little from what parts the shoots for cuttings are chosen. Those, however, that are taken from the extreme points of plants are more likely to flower early, and with some plants a more bushy and dwarf habit of growth will prevail for a time, but no permanence of this habit will be obtained by this means. Cuttings taken from side branches frequently form plants having a tendency to horizontal growth, and in some cases it is necessary to bend such shoots close to the soil, in order to encourage a fresh growth from the base, before healthy, upright growing plants can be secured. These peculiarities are not constant, and are not considered important by propagators, although florists occasionally find them useful for particular purposes.

When a seed germinates, the first effort of the young plant is to send a root into the earth; but unless this is immediately followed by the formation of a stem and leaves, the root will speedily perish. The seed possesses within itself the necessary ingredients for the first stage of germination; but as soon as the rudimentary root strikes downward, and the young stem arises and unfolds its cotyledons, the plant thus newly brought into existence changes its mode of growth, and its future increase depends upon the presence and action of leaves. The root, therefore, although it apparently precedes the leaves in germination, is dependent upon leaves for its previous existence in the seed, as its farther extension is wholly dependent upon the co-operation of the foliage in the growing plant.

Recognising these well-known facts in the selection of branches and shoots for cuttings, it follows that roots will be most readily produced when there is a due portion of stored-up matter in the wood, and the root formation will be facilitated when the sap is in motion, and all the processes of growth in full operation.

It is thus evident that there is a certain state of maturity in all plants most favorable to propagation, and if we either anticipate, or go beyond this period in the selection of shoots, additional care will be required in their management, and, with some plants, rigidity of maturity may render the root-forming process altogether impracticable.

As already observed, some plants seem so strongly imbued with the principle of life, that shoots of any age will root with great certainty, even if they are taken from the plant during its season of rest; with the majority of plants, however, greater care is necessary; among these nearly all evergreen trees and shrubs may be included.

Of this class the most suitable shoots for propagation, are small points of the current year's growth that have assumed a brownish color indicative of approaching maturity; a few leaves should be retained to assist the development of roots.

Plants of a succulent nature, and such as are technically termed "soft wooded," are generally propagated by cuttings taken from the points of growing shoots, the peculiar treatment of which will be farther alluded to.

## PREPARATION OF CUTTINGS.

In preparing a cutting we are guided in a certain measure by the fact that roots form with greatest facility from joints or buds. It is true that a callus will form on the cut surface, although the cutting is deprived of all buds but those intended for upward growth, and roots will frequently protrude from all parts of the inserted stem, but the accumulation of tissues will increase with greater rapidity when the section is made immediately below a bud. In cutting the section, great care is requisite that the part is not bruised, which tends to decay; cutting with scissors should therefore be avoided; a smooth, clean cut with a sharp knife is best.

The necessity of retaining leaves on cuttings depends upon their maturity; if soft and slightly charged with organisable matter, the leaves continue to perform their functions and assist growth. It would be difficult to define the quantity of leaves that ought to be retained, and although there is no doubt that they facilitate the formation of roots, yet they involve a more skillful management of the agents of vegetation during that process.

With plants that root slowly the cutting may undergo a preparation before removal from the parent stem. This is effected by ringing the shoot at the intended point of separation, a callus will form round the upper edge of the ring, from which roots will emit when the cutting is removed and inserted in the soil.

## What Will You Do With Your Sons?

We find in the *American Journal of Education* some thoughts in relation to the agricultural profession, to which we invite the earnest attention of our readers:

"FARM LIFE A SCHOOL OF TRUE MANHOOD. —The men who have left their mark upon the ages in which they have lived, have done a great and noble work for the race, have been with few exceptions, men of noble physical mould. The foundation of their greatness and of their fame was laid in the patient training of their physical powers. Such a man was Washington, and most of the worthies who were associated with him in the struggle for our liberties. Such were Clay and Webster, and many of their contemporaries in our national Senate.

Their early days were spent upon the farm, and the thoughts of their years were given to the improvement, and the cultivation, and the embellishment of their respective homesteads. Ashland and Marshfield will long be scenes of pilgrimage to the husbandman as well as the patriot.

The whole tendency of farm life is to develop the body healthfully and symmetrically. The child is not pent up in the narrow back yard of a city dwelling, nor turned into the thronged and filthy streets to pursue his sports. His eyes open first upon green fields and fragrant meadows, and his first footfall out of doors is upon the matted grass beneath the shadowy trees of his rural home. He drinks in health from every breeze, and all the scenes around him call forth that playfulness which performs so important an office in our early training.

So this leads us to speak of the influence of farm life upon the home virtues. No occupation can be more favorable to the cultivation of those qualities which are the charm of the domestic circle. The farmer is much more at home than is possible with any other men. How many are there in our cities who only see their families at evening, or on Sunday? They live for their business, and this, from its location, takes them from home early and late.

How many, from the same cause, forsake house-keeping and huddle into boarding-houses and hotels, where the charm and beauty of the family as God instituted it, is entirely lost; and children fall under a thousand unfriendly influences that would never touch them at home.

With the arrangements wealth could command in the city, it is well nigh impossible to keep children under the influence of their parents, so that they shall have a distinct family character, and bear the moral, as they do the physical image of their progenitors. Parental influence is dissipated amid the varied social influences to which they are subjected from their earliest days.

Then what perplexities harass the man of business in the city—his capital often invested in profitless enterprises, exposed to the depredations of dishonest men, betrayed, cheated, and ruined by knaves and bankrupts. From the very character of his business he has to trust far more of his available means to the integrity of his fellows than the cultivator. His debts are often scattered over a wide extent of territory, and collections are not only expensive, but exceedingly uncertain. But his commercial credit depends upon this uncertainty, and he is often compelled to fall back upon nothing, a ruined man.

Ninety-five failures in a hundred, among most business men in the city, tell a sad tale of the perplexity and sorrow, the corroding cares and anguish of mercantile life. How can a father, goaded with these anxieties, from the beginning to the end of the year, do justice to his children, even if his business allowed him to be with them a part of the time? He is not in a frame of mind to superintend their education and to perform a father's office.

The farm preserves the family in its integrity. The home has in it that charming word, and that more charming thing, the fireside, around which parents and children gather, and where the bright and cheerful blaze upon the hearth is but a true type of the flame of love that glows in every heart. The parents have been drawn together, not by sordid motives of wealth, or the ambitious desire of social display, but by the personal qualities seen in each other.

The glory of the fireside to the husband is that the wife is there; and to the wife that he is there who is head of the woman, and the band is that home circle. Here they gather at morning and evening, and at noon. Their board is almost always surrounded with the same circle, and here they spend the long winter evenings together."

**Hollow Horn.**—A correspondent of the *German-town Telegraph* says:

I formerly did as I believe everybody else did with a case of this disease, viz:

Bore the horns, cut the tail, and turpentine the back, which will oftentimes give relief. But for the last two years I have practised differently, being a method that I was informed rarely failed in curing a case of this kind. It is this;