



[From the Evening Post.]

## THE SILENT SNOW POSSESSED THE EARTH.

BY ALFRED TENNYSON.

The shivering earth is shrinking  
From winter's withering wind,  
As from the cold breath of the world  
A sorrow-laden mind;  
Of every song deserted,  
Of every flower bereft,  
Nor rippling music of the stream,  
No softening shadow left.

The grand old mountain lieth  
Like a giant in his shroud,  
And the angry sun is scowling  
Behind the drifting cloud:  
The vale hath drawn about its breast  
A robe of glim'ring white,  
And wistfully the wond'ring stars  
Are gazing down to-night.

The smile of God in summer  
Is beaming everywhere,  
Each voice of joy that floateth  
Upon the lulling air,  
The myriad leaves that whisper  
Within the woodland's dim,  
And flowers, breathing sweetest prayer,  
All woo us unto Him.

## Plain Talk upon Plain Subjects.

No time is now to be lost in getting seed into the ground. The late snows having saturated the earth, which previously had become very dry, when it is again in suitable condition, a most excellent opportunity will be afforded for planting such seeds as were not planted before it.

We presume that most of our farmers and gardeners have already planted their beet and carrot seed. These seeds should always be put into the ground as early as the season will admit. However, if there are any still having them to plant, who have a rich, moist plat of ground prepared, by good culture they may yet do very well.

In this connection we will say that, inasmuch as there was not, this spring, sufficient carrot and beet seed to supply the demand, we trust that our seedsmen have made provision for an abundant supply of pure seed for next spring's planting. As a rule, however, farmers should grow their own seed. In general they have better facilities for propagating pure seed than those living in cities; and, as it may not be practicable, in all cases, for residents of the city to do so, such will have to depend upon the seedsmen.

There is, in our judgment, no more cause for fear that too much carrot or beet seed may be grown than there is that too much carrot or beet seed should be planted, or that the carrot or beet crop should become, like the abundance of grain in California, a curse.

There are so many purposes for which these most valuable roots can be used, that, so long as we have a disposition to appropriate them, they will be in good demand. They are emphatically the home product of the farmer, because so admirably and substantially adapted to his own wants, rather than to be used as commodities of exchange for the flimsy fabrics of the foreign jobber.

We trust that every farmer and every other person who has any portion of his grounds allotted to the culture of these roots, will spare no labor to render the crop as large as may be. Keep them as clear of weeds as possible and let them be regularly and judiciously irrigated—not saturated, or flooded, if it can be avoided, but so watered that the soil shall be moderately moistened, without afterwards baking on the surface around the plants.

The first irrigation should not be applied until the water is required by the plants, which may always be readily observed by the slight drooping of the leaves; but, while there is sufficient moisture in the soil to keep the plants looking thrifty, the application of water is frequently injurious—plants so treated sometimes, during subsequent cool nights, becoming chilled, turn to a yellowish color and seldom thereafter fully recover, however well cared for.

Frequent hoeings during the season will not only assist to keep down the weeds, but loosen the soil so that in irrigating the moisture will penetrate deeper and give the roots a better chance to develop themselves.

Having thus briefly alluded to a matter which we deem as one of the most important that can now engage the attention of our far-

ming community—namely, the culture of roots—we will leave the subject for the present and pass to a momentary consideration of a few things indirectly connected therewith and more directly pertinent to the labors and duties of the season.

The potatoe—another of the root tribe, belonging, however, more properly to the tuberous species, is universally prized for table use. It is also valuable for feeding, both raw and cooked, to animals.

For a main crop they should not be planted too early, as the late planted do best in this Territory. For early use, of course they have been planted several weeks since; but, if any shoots had made their appearance previous to the late frost, unless protected by a covering, they probably shared the fate of the early planted beans. The potatoes, however, will put forth again, while the beans, it is needless to say, are past redemption.

The same misfortune occurred, last season, to many, who had planted their beans too early. As a general rule we may here state that beans (we mean the common kinds) should not be planted till about the 15th of May.

But to return to the potatoe. During the past two or three years the crop of potatoes grown has not supplied the wants of the people. In the spring of 1859 there was a great scarcity of seed potatoes and, in this vicinity at least, are now very scarce.

Why is this? Is there a lack of lands well adapted to this crop, or have those lands been appropriated to raising grain because, forsooth, the latter seemed to yield a greater return, which, in truth, is not the case—the relative difference between the two crops, in the exhaustion of the soil, and other things of equal moment, being considered.

We are in hopes that this year's crop of potatoes will be heavier than the last and, if there should be an apparent deficiency, that there will be at least a full supply of seed preserved for the following year's crop, that we may once again have them in abundance for feeding to milk cows (which, when cut up raw, highly promotes the flow of milk) and for table use.

The Sorghum Sucre, of which so much has been said and written during the few years past, both here and elsewhere, was last year quite generally cultivated and a considerable quantity of good syrup was manufactured from its juice. However, a large quantity of the cane was injured by frost, which so changed the saccharine matter as to render it bitter, more particularly at the joints; thus, in the manufacturing process, causing a most disagreeable effluvia or stench to arise from it, and the syrup, notwithstanding the aid of acids and other neutralizing substances, was wholly unfit for immediate use. What effect time would have upon it remains to be seen.

A prominent farmer in this county had a field of several acres planted with the Sorghum Sucre, which was cut before the fatal frost and lay on the ground a few days previous to being worked up; and, as we learned from the superintendent of the factory, nearly or quite the whole quantity of syrup, when drawn off, was very far from being as good as could have been desired. Other lots of cane, when worked up, turned out worse, and some a little better; but, so far as we have been able to judge from facts and the observation of practical gentlemen, all the cane that was cut before the severe frost, when not quite ripe, and permitted to remain but a few days on the ground previous to being worked up, was seriously damaged, so that even an ordinary quality of molasses could not be made from it; while that left standing until long after the first frost, though not fully ripe, was wholly or comparatively uninjured.

These facts will prove valuable, if remembered, in our future operations with the Sorghum and, doubtless, ere long we shall be able to so manage the cane as in a great degree to avoid the disagreeable infection and the serious losses which have been experienced the past year.

That the Sorghum cane can always be profitably grown for making a delicious syrup, we are thoroughly convinced; but, that it possesses all the excellencies claimed for it by many, we have learned is fallacious. The cane, after it has grown to a medium height, becomes possessed of a hard, flinty casing, indigestible and said by some to be dangerous to feed to animals. When fed to milk cows, it has a tendency to diminish the flow of milk.

Being a gross feeding plant, its demand upon certain elements in the soil is very great—nearly as much, probably, as any other crop usually cultivated in this Territory.

In consideration of these facts, though not by any means wishing to discourage any in this city, or elsewhere, who have rich and suitable grounds designed for this crop, we conclude that beets and other crops, for the feeding of stock, may be as easily cultivated by the farmer and from which he can, if he desires, obtain the much-needed sweetening for home use, with less outlay of labor, less exhaustion of soil and more benefit to himself.

It will be considered superfluous here to state that a good article of molasses can be produced from the white sugar beet. We have tasted some, this spring, made from this root, which was very palatable, almost devoid of the tang, that which is most objectionable in the juice of the beet. That this tang could be expelled, to some extent, by additional care in the culture, suitable apparatus and chemical agents, we have but little doubt.

With the proper cultivation, at least one thousand bushels of beets could be raised per acre, and even more, in rich, deep soils, with increased attention. Estimating the yield of molasses at half a gallon per bushel, we should have about five hundred gallons, which, at the rate of one dollar per gallon (a very moderate estimate) would give the handsome sum of five hundred dollars. From this amount deduct one half for manufacturing, and we have two hundred and fifty dollars remaining—the product of a single acre.

Should this seem to be an exaggeration, this amount may be reduced twenty five or even fifty per cent., and then, with the comparatively trifling exhaustion of soil and the large amount of palatable feed remaining in the shape of beet-cake, after the juice is expressed, if we are not mistaken, the profits, in every respect, from an acre of sugar beets will equal and perhaps exceed those resulting from an acre of the Sorghum, if not of any other crop that can be raised here, when manufactured into molasses; but, in our opinion, the greatest profit will be realized when fed to stock.

The syrup from the Sorghum, in all probability, for some time to come, will be superior in flavor to that made from the beet and better adapted for preserving and other similar uses, and will consequently command a higher market price; but, will it not be better to more generally cultivate the sugar beet to feed to stock and from which to manufacture a considerable portion of our molasses?

In addition to the above facts deduced as arguments for the more extensive culture of beets, as also other roots, to in part substitute the inordinate growing of grain, we will also state that from the juice of the beet can be manufactured a quality of beer, possessing properties highly promotive of health as a "mild drink"—though it could be made as strong as desired, and, in the opinion of good judges, in all respects equal, if not superior to the malt beer.

Here, again, is another incentive to the more extensive culture of roots. Could we present to our readers an exhibit of the full amount of grain annually consumed here in the manufacture of malt beer alone, leaving out of the estimate altogether, that used at our distilleries, it would doubtless show an aggregate far beyond that which many have imagined; and, if beer must be had from some quarter (and we have no serious objections to using a little of it occasionally as a "mild drink," when in a pure, unadulterated, unpoisoned state) we submit to our manufacturers and others whether a more healthful, more palatable, cheaper and better article cannot be made from beet juice, by which means our grain—which will keep from year to year, while roots will not—might be stored for the day when it shall be imperatively needed.

Indian corn, melon and other vine seeds, if planted now, will succeed, should there be no more frost.

To plant cucumber and melon seeds about the first day of June is the practice with many old farmers and men of experience; but, if planted now, lest there should be a failure, it will be well not to plant all your seed, so that, if required, you may have enough for re-planting. Beans, also, may be placed in the same category.

Generally in this altitude, those seeds planted earliest, in accordance with their appropriate season, flourish the best. In this case,

it is admissible that more regard should be had to the theory of "planting in the sun" than to that of planting in the moon.

## Culture and Use of Herbs.

Our readers have already perused one article on this subject, from the pen of Mr. E. Sayers. Probably, however, all have not given it the attention it deserved. In a family, especially where there are children, the use of herbs, with those skilled in using them, is found to be a panacea far more effectual and much less liable to do injury, than the nostrums usually administered and procured from the druggist's store, which, sometimes being found immoderately drugged, have proved injurious, if not fatal.

Herbs, wisely and judiciously applied, so far as their properties are commonly known, possess qualities highly medicinal; and doubtless, when they shall have been more generally known and introduced, will chiefly supersede the use of mineral medicines, as well as those poisonous mixtures prepared abroad and wholly unfit to be taken into the stomach, either by man, woman or child.

Whether correct or not in our judgment in this, we do confidently anticipate the time when all poisonous minerals and drugs, in the treatment of the sick, shall be discarded, even in the world, and when the "leaves of the trees" shall be used for the "healing of the nations."

There are many native plants, some of which are met with in our daily walks and commonly esteemed as useless weeds, which are known to possess healing properties, in certain forms of disease, or, in correcting or removing obstructions, etc. These, if cultivated, cured and carefully put up at home in packages for future use, would save many steps in going to and from the apothecary's shop, besides the cost of the prescription (not an inconsiderable item in this country) and, in the hands of the skillful nurse, afford a cheap, agreeable, safe and speedy remedy for many of the ills to which flesh is heir, when, peradventure, all the doctor's opiates would fail.

We are not fully aware to what extent herbs are cultivated in this city, or in the various settlements throughout the Territory; but that there are persons who hold herbs in high estimation for their medicinal properties, we are well aware. We would that the number of this class were greatly increased and that, with the increase of the number of those who advocate the use of herbs, in all cases where their use can be of any possible benefit, there may also be a corresponding increase in knowledge relative to the nature and intrinsic healing virtues to be found in the almost numberless varieties of herbs, both native and exotic, now growing in the Territory.

Nor would we stop there. If there are in the old world, plants of known excellence for medical uses, so far as they can be procured, let us have them brought hither; but pending this, we suggest that those who are acquainted with the various species of our native herbs, go to, collect and cultivate them and, when classified, furnish us with a descriptive list, together with the names, so far as understood, and the peculiar medicinal properties possessed by each, that they may become known and generally cultivated.

## Gophers and Fruit Trees.

There has been and continues to be considerable injury done to fruit trees, especially in the lower parts of this city, by the little animal called the gopher; and, as there seems to be some difficulty in capturing them, we publish the following, from Mr. L. S. Hemenway, being the result of his own experience:

"This animal is very destructive upon fruit trees and, as many complain of damages done, is it not best to bring these little pests to an account for their depredations?"

The horticulturist has but a poor chance with enemies at both ends of his trees—gophers at the roots and two legged, featherless animals at the fruit—both of which should be called to a strict account for their misdeeds.

Gophers are very fond of the roots of the apple tree and will often cut off roots one and two inches in diameter, frequently destroying them, especially young trees. I have no doubt that a great portion of the fruit trees that have failed or become stunted in growth, in many places here, have been injured by them; and, when their works or heaps are seen in the orchard or garden, they should be at once ferreted out and destroyed.