

FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

THE FARMER BOY'S SONG.

Air—"YANKEE DOODLE."

Let others boast of wealth and fame;
Pursue them those that love them;
Be mine such wild desires to tame
And raise myself above them.
Content may find a resting place
Within a lowly cottage,
And Love will think it no disgrace
To dine with me on pottage.

If happiness is what we need,
In palace or in hovel,
Pray, is it found with greatest speed
With sceptre or with shovel?
I tell you that the Farmer Boy
Stands in the greatest peril
Of reaping in those fields of joy
That to the prince are sterile.

Oh yes! oh yes! I love my lot,
Though it be rough and narrow;
All Kansas gold can tempt me not
To leave my plough and harrow.
We delve, and chop, and clip the fleece,
With hopefulness and vigor;
We are the nation's pride in peace—
In war can pull the trigger!

Poor Farms, Poor People.

That the general aspect of a farming district is a sure criterion whereby to judge of the intelligence of the people inhabiting it is a well-proved maxim. One of the editors of the *Kentucky Turf Register and Chronicle of the Times*, having recently returned from a tour through some portions of that State, to gather information and to acquaint himself with the farmers and their surroundings, makes the following spirited and truthful comments:

"On entering a strange country the best way in the world to judge of its people, as a whole, is to look at its agriculture. The greater the perfection of this branch of business, the greater degree of civilization and refinement may be claimed for the inhabitants. Poorly cultivated farms are just as sure an indication of poorly cultivated minds as they are of poor crops. There are several reasons for this. A sprightly, intelligent farmer, aside from the desire he has to get along in the world, possesses too much pride to suffer his farm to become a laughing stock for civilization, when a little exertion on his part would make it just as it should be; besides, the man who raises merely enough to live on, and nothing to sell, cannot be expected to have means with which to educate his children.

The size of the farm is no criterion by which to judge, for a man may be just setting out for himself without a world of wealth at command; but the way in which it is cultivated is the thing to look at. A man cannot work without showing his mind in everything he does.

In our recent rambles through the country, we have seen so many examples of this. In not a single instance have we failed to predict the exact character of the farmer before approaching his residence.

For instance, at a well-cultivated farm, and neat cottage, we have always found a warm reception at the hands of a real jovial, intelligent fellow, who could talk with us upon all subjects, and know exactly what he was talking about at the same time. We have found in his lady the very model of housewives—neat, not out of fashion, and graceful in all her movements; and not unfrequently, at a place like this, we have met with some of the loveliest girls that ever breathed the morning air or haunted a dreamy poet's fancy. Nor was their beauty their only accomplishment: they possessed minds of their own, cultivated to a degree of perfection that would have put to shame the all-assuming belles of our large cities.

On the other hand, we have had occasion to call on persons who style themselves large farmers, but whose many acres of weedy lands, and whose uncouth-looking buildings tell too plainly that they are not good ones. As we approached, a woman, dressed in a style that made her look for all the world like a ten-pin, accompanied by some half dozen ragged urchins, all about the same size—some with one finger in their mouths, and some with two, and some with a whole hand, popped into the door, and gazed upon us as if we had been the beast with seven heads and ten horns. Nor was their gaze a momentary one, but like good soldiers they generally maintained their ground until we had said our say and disappeared in the distance; or until the 'man of the house,' if he happened to be at home, had driven them off to the kitchen. Then such interesting conversationalists as these men always proved to be. Broach the subject of Abolitionism, Know-Nothingism, or Democracy, and they were in with a vim; offering at once to back their judgments with the best yoke of oxen or horse in the lot; but beyond that all was Greek to them. They had no more idea that Humboldt was dead and buried, or that Wise had attempted a balloon ride from St. Louis to the Atlantic, or that Blodin had crossed Niagara on a rope, than they had of the color of the eyes of him who is said to be piling brush in the moon. In fact they had never heard of any body save General Jackson, Scott, Pierce, Geo. D. Prentice, Horace Greeley, and the men who had been candidates for their own county offices.

You may consider this overdrawn, but we don't; and you would not were you to spend a few weeks among the farmers in search of agricultural information. It is a lamentable truth, and we publish it forth in order that persons not posted in such matters may always tell by a glance at the farms, what kind of a country they are passing through. If the larger number present that spirit of neatness which we have described, the country will do to stop in; but if not, and you are not a politician, you had better keep on—our word for it, you had."

If there is a pride which possesses potency enough to stimulate the farmer to improve his grounds in such a manner as to render them attractive to the eye of the traveler, it is in our opinion, commendable and not to be deprecated. There is, however, a greater incentive to thorough, systematic, skillful culture and tasteful arrangement, than the gratification arising from the admiration and approval of the passing friend or stranger—it is in the fact that, in all his improvements, the farmer himself is the one who materially reaps the benefits.

Farmers' Clubs.

The benefits to be derived by individuals and communities from these clubs have been experienced in all of those districts where sufficient interest has been awakened to lead to their formation or organization and a subsequent promptitude and energy in carrying out their objects.

Cannot our farmers and others interested in agricultural and horticultural pursuits, (and who is not) in the various settlements throughout this Territory, accomplish some good by gathering at stated times, in small numbers, for the purpose of discussing, or rather entering into a free, untrammelled interchange of opinions relative to all matters pertaining to the culture of the soil? The long winter evenings are at hand and we have no doubt that a single night in each week might be most profitably spent in this manner.

We would not recommend large, cumbersome organizations, but simply the association of a few—say ten or fifteen in a club—for we believe that in a small club there will, at least for a time, be more freedom of expression in eliciting experimental facts. If, in a single settlement, there should be more than the number limited to a club, desirous of engaging in such a laudable pastime, let another club be formed, and another, and so on, till all shall have opportunity of enjoying the benefits that may be reaped from a judiciously conducted farmer's club.

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A TREATISE ON HORTICULTURE.

BY E. SAYERS, HORTICULTURIST.

No. 15.

TRANSPLANTING FRUIT TREES.

The planting of fruit trees has been so often written and commented upon, that it would seem almost unnecessary to say anything more on the subject; but, in order, to make my treatise complete, it will be proper to give it a place under the proper head.

IMPORTANT SUGGESTIONS.

The first consideration and perhaps the most important is the selecting trees and carefully taking them from the ground. This, by many persons, is too little attended to. When we mean to plant, it is well to select young, healthy, thrifty trees. The size is of no very great consideration, it being better to plant a small, thrifty tree than one that is old and stunted, as the former will soon make growth and be as large as the latter.

THE SELECTING TREES FOR PLANTING

Is a simple business; for, at the first sight, any person can see if the tree is a clean, healthy young plant and, if grafted or inoculated, whether the graft is well united to the stock and of a proportion so as the stock and the part engrafted or budded are of nearly an equal size.

GRAFTING ON OLD STOCKS.

It is often the case that old, stunted stocks have to be grafted with a cleft graft. In this case the graft does not unite freely to the stock; it is like putting young heads on old shoulders, they do not match well, and such trees seldom make a thrifty, healthy growth.

THE TAKING UP TREES

From the ground should be well done; that is, all the roots, particularly the smaller fibrous ones, should be preserved and not bruised or damaged in taking the tree from the ground.

ROOTS AND THEIR OFFICES.

Most trees have three kinds of roots; first, four or five large roots, leading from the main trunk or bole of the tree. These may be termed the feet of the tree, as they are naturally intended to hold and keep it in its upright and proper position. From these main roots proceed small or branching roots which are intended to fasten the tree to the ground and as leaders to carry the food or nutriment to every part of the tree, which is taken in by the small fibrous roots or spongioles, which

are intended as mouths or feeders, to extract water, food and the aliments from the earth.

INJURIOUS TO DESTROY THE FIBROUS ROOTS.

In taking a tree from the ground it is necessary that all the above roots be carefully preserved. If the small, fibrous roots are cut off, which is often the case, the tree will make but little or no growth the first year of planting, for the reason that fresh, fibrous roots must be produced before the proper food can be conveyed to the tree.

KEEPING THE ROOTS FRESH AFTER TAKING UP.

When a tree is carefully taken from the ground, the next thing to be done is to keep the roots fresh and not exposed to frost, the sun or any thing that will dry up and destroy the young fibres. When taken from the ground, the roots of trees should always be covered over with old cloth or anything that will keep them fresh and in good order for planting.

MAKING THE HOLES FOR PLANTING.

This should always be done before taking the tree from the ground, so that when taken up, it may be put in its new home as soon as possible.

DIGGING OUT THE HOLES

Is a very simple business, but, like every other practice in horticulture, it should be well done. The first thing is to put down a stick precisely where you intend the tree to stand; then mark out the hole from the centre, allowing at least 3 feet diameter. This done, take out the earth one foot deep; place it in two lumps—one each side of the hole. When the hole is neatly taken out, crack up the bottom six or eight inches deep, in order to make the bottom mellow for the young roots to strike freely into. This is a very important thing in planting trees, often neglected, and the consequence is that the bottom being hard and solid the roots cannot make the proper growth; hence so many trees make but a poor meagre growth the first year after planting.

PRUNING THE ROOTS.

Having the hole dug and the tree taken up for planting, the roots are to be neatly trimmed with a good sharp pruning knife. To do this, the workman takes the tree in his left hand and his knife in the right and cuts off the ends of the roots where they have been severed from the ground in a neat, clean manner, always placing the knife at the under side of the root and cutting it in a slanting direction upwards. In doing this, any bruised parts are also to be cut off and the roots are all to be put in good order for planting.

PLANTING THE TREE.

It requires two persons to plant a tree well. The first person takes the tree and places it in the centre of the hole, spreads out all the roots in their natural position. The second person is ready with a spade to throw in fine earth in a regular manner over the roots—care being taken that some fine earth be put under the bole, or main root of the tree. In many instances, this is not strictly attended to, and the consequence is that a cavity is left under the centre of the tree. When the roots of the tree are all covered, the planter, who holds the tree, gives it a gentle shake, so that the fine earth may settle down among the roots in a close manner.

It will often be the case that a tree has two tiers of roots—one above the other, if this is the case, the planter should adjust the upper tier in their proper place before filling up the hole.

When the hole is filled, the earth should be moderately trodden down in order that the fine earth may come in contact with the fibrous roots, that they may cling to it and draw the nutriment from the ground.

FALLACY OF DEPOSITING BONES AND OLD RUBBISH AT THE ROOTS OF TREES.

In planting trees there are several things sometimes recommended to be put into the holes and mixed with the soil—as, old rags, strips of leather, bones, etc. I must beg leave to disagree with this practice. In the first place, all such kinds of nutriment have a tendency to keep the earth about the roots too dry and hot in the summer season, particularly where water is not constantly at hand to keep the earth around the roots tolerably moist. In the second place, such nutriment in a dry, crude state cannot be of any service to the roots of the tree until the second or third year after planting.

HOW TO ENRICH POOR SOIL.

If the ground where trees are to be planted is naturally poor, it will be a good system to mix some well decomposed or rotten manure with the earth to enrich it, as food for the roots, to absorb the first year, but the fore-hand planter can take the advantage of a much better method, which is to give poor ground a good coat of manure one year previous to planting and work it well into the soil. Such is perhaps the very best preparation the planter can make for planting an orchard or fruit garden.

THE SOIL UNDULY DRIED BY APPLYING FRESH MANURES TO THE ROOTS OF TREES.

In conversation with Mr. Hemenway, nurseryman of this city, he gave me some very useful practical hints on the above subjects. Mr. H. says he has often tried manure in planting of trees and is satisfied that it is in this place a bad system unless it is well decomposed, for the reason that it dries up the earth that comes in contact with the roots of the trees, which ought to be kept tolerably moist.

THE HOT SOILS OF THE VALLEYS.

Mr. Hemenway also says that he is satisfied that the earth in this place in the summer

is several degrees hotter than is usual in any other parts of the States. This has also a tendency to dry up the moisture around the roots of the trees.

EXTRA CARE TO BE OBSERVED IN PRESERVING THE SMALL FIBRES AND IN SETTING OUT TREES

In the removal of a tree from the nursery to its new home, every care should be taken to preserve all the small roots in an uninjured state before planting, and to prepare the earth in the hole around the young fibres in such a manner that it comes in close contact with them. When trees are carelessly planted by throwing into the hole large clods of earth, old rags and rubbish, the young roots cannot absorb their wonted food from the ground, owing to the fact that such loose substances absorb and otherwise withhold the moisture from them.

In regard to the distance trees are to be planted apart, little can be said, as it will entirely depend on circumstances. I will, however, point out one thing to those who have but a small space to plant. The plum, the apricot, and the peach may be considered as domestic fruit; that is, appropriate to plant around the house. The plum always thrives well when planted near a ditch, gutter, or where water is present. The peach always does better away from such places. The apricot is destined to be one of the best fruits in the Valley and should find a place around every dwelling; indeed I will here predict, that Utah will be the land of apricots, and I doubt not that we shall ere long have as many varieties, early and late, as the peach or any other fruit.

TIME OF PLANTING.

There has been much written by different horticulturists on the best time of planting trees; some preferring the fall, others again persisting that the spring is the best time. The theory may, however, be reduced into a very small compass. In the south, where the winters are mild, almost any tree can be planted in the fall with perfect safety when the young wood is well ripened and the leaves fall from the tree. In the north it is not advisable to remove any tender tree in the fall, as the severity of the winter has always more injurious effects on transplanted trees than those unremoved. For this reason I would prefer the planting of peach trees in the spring; but as to apples, plums, pears, etc., there is no potent reason why they should not be planted in the fall, if necessary, on condition that the wood is well ripened and the work is well done.

CAUSE OF TREES DYING AFTER BEING TRANSPLANTED.

In many instances trees are lost in fall planting by bad management. Perhaps they are bruised and torn at the ends of the roots. If planted in this state, such wounds will not heal well in the winter; they often become mouldy and rot, and the consequence is, even if the tree should live, it does not make a free healthy growth.

SPRING THE BEST TIME FOR TRANSPLANTING.

It is of great importance to the planter that the wounds of the roots heal well and form a callous for the young fibres, which they generally do when the cut heals freely; and for this very reason it may perhaps be said the spring is the best time for planting—about the time the ground is beginning to be warm and the sap is beginning to circulate in the tree. It is then that the roots that are severed from the ground heal most freely and the fibres cling to the new soil and more freely draw therefrom their wonted nutriment for the support of the tree.

IN PLANTING LARGE TREES:

When the ground is dry, it is a good plan to dash a pail or two of water into the hole when about half filled with earth—the object of this being to drench the earth under the centre or bole of the tree, which, without this precaution, is left hollow and the consequence is that the roots do not strike into the ground freely, nor does the tree stand so firm in its position.

STAKING AND TRIMMING THE TOPS.

It is also a good plan to put down a good stake to large trees in order that they may remain firm in their places, particularly if they have large tops, which should be reduced to a moderate size, so as to equalize with the roots. When too much top is allowed to remain, it often acts as a lever so that every wind keeps the tree in motion, and the roots being thus continually loosened, have little chance to cling to the ground.

Pomological Curiosity.—The *Montreal Gazette* mentions a tree in a garden near that city upon which may be seen six different stages of vegetation, viz.: a branch budding on one branch; the opening blossom on a second; full bloom blossom on a third; the fruit just set on a fourth; an apple about the size of a partridge's egg on the fifth, the last remaining witness of a late, though prior, blossoming; and high seated above all, on one of the top-most branches, a healthy full-sized apple of the true crop, which appeared and formed at the usual season.

This extraordinary anomaly is thought to arise from the peculiarity of the past season,—from the tree having experienced so many sudden checks, directly influencing the crop in its progress to maturity, from the frequent and extreme variations of temperature to which it has been subjected.