



[From Sat. Eve. Post.]

## THE HUSBANDMAN.

BY FRANCIS P. SWEET.

Within the spongy fallow ground

I sow the yellow corn,  
And many a hill the seed hath found  
E'er sounds the dinner horn.

Out in the meadow's dewy calm  
I swing the ringing scythe;  
The corn-crake knows full well the steel  
That spares her brood alive.

The passive steers against the yokes,  
Bend their stout necks in twain;  
And clumsy wheels, with muddy spokes,  
Bear up the laden wain.

Swung by my hands, the heavy flail  
Falls on the unshocked grain;  
And through the barn the gentle gale  
Bears off the chaff like rain.

Askant they gaze, the brindled cows,  
And chew their cud in peace;  
The hands that guide the stubborn plows  
The fragrant streams release.

The setting sun the hill top lights,  
But shadows fill the plain;  
And homeward come the birds in flights,  
And fowls, their roosts to gain.

She spreads the evening board with white,  
My quiet wife for me;  
And sets the children all in sight,  
Their father's face to see.

The night comes on, and darkness hides  
The children's faces small;  
To me they are my earthly guides;  
To them I'm all in all.

The house is still—the crickets chirp,  
And frogs sing in the reeds;  
But underneath the trees, so dark,  
I've sown immortal seeds.

## Treatment of Fruit Trees.

Relative to the injuries sustained, especially by the peach trees, during the past winter, a diversity of opinions exist as to which would be the most judicious method of treating those trees.

Some have thought it best to cut their trees down, even to the ground, with the hope that new and vigorous shoots would start from the roots and thus, in a short period, form more healthy trees whose products should be more valuable, within a given term of years, than if now permitted to linger out a feeble existence and perhaps never fully recover their pristine health and vigor.

Others, desirous of giving their trees a chance to become resuscitated and, to aid nature in that commendable operation, have carefully cut off the dead limbs and pruned out all withering branches, also cutting off the dried ends of those shoots that have, at the base, put forth leaves.

We have also seen, in some gardens, the peach trees cut off just above trunk, leaving the stumps of the main branches, from which to form new tops.

In other places, the trees are left to themselves, without pruning or much apparent care as to whether they survive or not.

Now, all of these practices, for large bearing trees, cannot be correct; though in the different ages and conditions of trees, they might all, except the latter mode, be attended with favorable results.

A reasonable amount of pruning is requisite for the health and well-doing of all trees; yet this is frequently carried to excess. As a general rule, large, healthy limbs should not be severed from the tree, unless they are cross-limbs or wholly destroy the proportion of the tree.

The shortening-in process, now ardently advocated by many eastern horticulturists, is one that, in our judgment, is most admirably adapted to this locality. This consists, not so much in shortening the side-limbs as those towering, fast-growing ones that shoot upwards, which, when permitted to grow at pleasure, give the tree a lofty bearing, by which, also, it becomes more exposed to injury from the strong winds that frequently prevail here.

Whether old, bearing trees will, in many instances, put forth again from the roots and make new trees is generally esteemed doubtful. Such trees, if the owners are determined to cut them off, would probably have a better opportunity of retrieving themselves by cutting off at the height of about six feet, thus

leaving some of the main branches as sap mediums, from which there is little doubt that a new top could be formed and possibly at the same time restore health to the trunk—to secure which has been the chief object of those who have cut down their trees close to the ground.

In the case of young trees, however, when cut off near the ground, there is but little doubt that they will sprout from the roots and make thrifty trees.

The practice that we consider most judicious in the premises, with old, bearing as well as young trees, is the shortening-in and careful pruning process. We would, now and during the present month, cut off, say three or four feet of the withered tops, also all dead limbs and dried wood on the tree, leaving to nature and future good treatment its future healthy development.

Should the proper treatment be given our trees, especially those which have failed to bear this season, there are good grounds to believe that the rest from bearing will have a genial effect upon them—rendering them more healthy and prolific in future seasons.

## Present Fruit Prospects.

In looking through the gardens in various sections of this city, one day last week, we found that, in the lower portions, the apple crop will be almost an entire failure, while in the upper wards there is a promise of a very small yield. We have seen a few trees, which, should they mature all the young apples formed on them, will produce a very fair yield.

There will probably be no peaches or apricots in our market this season. Of plums there may be a few. The strawberry crop will be limited—some patches being almost wholly barren of fruit.

Whatever may be the various opinions generally entertained, we are strongly inclined to give credence to the hypothesis that the dearth of the present year, in allowing the trees a respite from bearing, will tend to the promotion of a largely increased yield of fruit next year.

Had the fruit trees, injured as they were during the past winter, been taxed with maturing heavy crops of fruit, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the energies of many of them, now showing evident signs of recovery to health, would have been taxed beyond their capacity, which probably would have proved fatal.

## THE DOMESTIC GARDENER'S CLUB TRANSACTIONS.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLES.

## CLASS III.—CULTURE OF THE CABBAGE, BROCOLI AND CAULIFLOWER.

## Division First—Culture of the Cabbage.

The cabbage requires a deep, rich, moist soil to grow to perfection, which should be well manured the year previous to planting.

## CULTURE.

Early in the spring, so soon as the ground will work freely, prepare a piece of ground in a warm, sheltered situation for a seed bed in which to sow the seed of early varieties for transplanting.

When the plants in the seed bed are grown to a good size for transplanting, for general culture, a piece of rich, mellow ground may be prepared for a final bed.

The ground should be prepared by digging it deep and breaking the earth until it is fine and mellow and making the surface level.

## LAYING OFF THE GROUND.

Having the ground prepared, lay it off in rows from two to three feet apart, according to the size the cabbage will grow when in a state of perfection. For the Early York, Battersea and Winnestadt, or cone, two feet will be sufficient; but for the Drumhead, late Flat Dutch, the Drumhead Savoy and late fall varieties, three feet from row to row will be a good distance.

## SETTING OUT THE PLANTS.

In the planting in the row the distance apart will also differ. For the early varieties, from eighteen inches to two feet will be sufficient; but for the late varieties, two feet apart will be a good distance.

## TAKING UP THE PLANTS FROM THE SEED BED.

In taking up the plants from the seed bed, care should be taken that each plant has its due share of roots entire. In many cases cabbage plants are deprived entirely of their roots, in taking them from the seed bed, by

pulling up the plant from the dry earth and leaving the roots in the ground. In order to avoid this, the ground should be well watered a sufficient time to be well moistened before taking the plants from the bed. By taking this precaution, the plants may be taken from the seed bed with their roots entire.

## AS A GENERAL RULE.

In taking plants from the seed bed, the roots should be kept moist until they are transplanted, in order to preserve them.

## A GOOD METHOD

Is to dip them into a thin mortar made by forming a hole in the ground and pouring in water and mixing the earth to a proper consistency. Slip the plant into this so soon as they are taken from the ground, tie them in a bunch, and cover them with a piece of rag, and they will keep fresh for several days, until they are transplanted.

## SPECIAL DIRECTIONS FOR TRANSPLANTING.

When the ground is prepared for planting, draw drills at the given distance apart, from two to three inches deep, by a garden line; then proceed to set the plants at the required distance by making a hole with a dibble, two or three inches deep, put in the plant in its natural position, so that the roots are not cramped, but are extended in the hole to the full length.

In planting, the workman should be careful to close the earth well about the bottom of the root by pressing the dibble close to them in the act of closing the earth to the roots.

## AFTER PLANTING.

Give each plant a sufficient quantity of water to settle the earth around the roots. After this is done, when the earth is dry, put a little dry earth around the plant to retain the moisture.

## AFTER CULTURE.

The cabbage, like all other vegetables, requires good cultivation, namely, that the ground be kept loose and mellow by repeatedly hoeing to keep down the weeds and irrigated often in order to keep the plants in a moist, kindly state to promote their vigorous growth.

## VARIETIES.

No. 1.—*Early York*.—A well known early variety and the best in cultivation. The plant is of a low dwarf growth, with dark green, smooth, glossy leaves; makes a small snug heart early in the season; the cabbage is tender and of excellent flavor.

No. 2.—*Early Battersea*.—A good early variety, similar to the York; a larger cabbage and is a good variety to succeed the early York.

No. 3.—*Winnestadt*.—A new and early variety, of a conical shape, of excellent quality and bids fair to be the best early cabbage in cultivation. The Winnestadt has the good property of always making a good head on almost any soil and rarely fails to come to maturity in this climate.

No. 4.—*Fall Cabbage*.—The true Drumhead is one of the best varieties of fall or winter cabbage. As its name implies, it is of a large flat, close, drumhead shape, with a short stalk and is an excellent variety for general culture for fall use, for feeding cattle and preserving for winter use for the table.

No. 5.—*Green Curled Savoy*.—This is an old established variety of cabbage, held in high estimation as a winter cabbage for the table. This cabbage, as its name implies, has a dark green curled head, which is tender and excellent of flavor in winter after the frost has appeared.

No. 6.—*Drumhead Savoy*.—This is an intermediate variety of the Drumhead and Green Curled Savoy; it makes a large green curled head in the fall and is an excellent variety for winter use for the table.

No. 7.—*Red Dutch Cabbage*.—This variety is a large, solid head of a blood red color, and is the best variety for pickling, for which it is universally used.

## OTHER VARIETIES.

In addition to the above varieties of cabbage, there are many cultivated as greens for spring use. Of these the *Scotch Kale* may be cultivated to a good advantage. The seed may be sown in the spring and cultivated the same as any other variety of cabbage. The stalks may be preserved by covering in the winter and transplanting them in spring for producing greens.

The *Brussels Sprouts* is another variety of the cabbage family, cultivated and used in the same way as the *Scotch Kale*. This variety produces small sprouts or rosettes of greens

in the spring, much resembling the *Savoy* cabbage and is an excellent vegetable for spring use.

The *Kohl Rabi*, or turnip-rooted cabbage, is a vegetable now fast coming into use. It forms into a large root above ground like the turnip, but the taste and quality of the vegetable is similar to the cabbage. The root is used as a boiled vegetable, the same as the turnip. The culture is the same as the cabbage, with the difference that the plants require less space in the row—from 15 to 18 inches apart being a good distance.

## Division Second—Cauliflower and Brocoli.

The cauliflower and brocoli are a species of the cabbage; indeed, they are, as the name implies, a *flower of the stalk*. There is no richer vegetable that goes to the table of its season than the cauliflower; but, like many other good things in the garden, its culture is too expensive to bring it into general use. The plant requires a very rich, highly manured ground to grow to perfection and, in addition to this, requires repeatedly to be watered during the season to make good heads.

## CULTURE.

The culture of the cauliflower is similar to that of the cabbage, with the difference that the seed should be sown in the fall, about the first of September, in a seed bed and the plants transplanted in a frame two inches apart, to remain during the winter, where they should be protected in severe weather by covering the frames, so that the ground cannot freeze inside the frame.

## THE SPRING SOWING

Of the cauliflower may be done by sowing the seed as early as the first of March and transplanting the plants about the first of May in a rich piece of ground, from two to three feet apart.

The *Brocoli* is a variety of the cauliflower. We have several varieties of brocoli, named after the different colors of the head; as, the *purple head brocoli*, *purple sprouting brocoli*, *brimstone grains white cauliflower brocoli*, &c. None of these are worth cultivating or giving a trial in this country, for the reason that they require as much trouble to cultivate as the cauliflower and are not equally good when brought into perfection.

The *Cape brocoli*, of which there are two varieties—the white and the purple—may be cultivated in this climate to advantage, as it is a much hardier variety, requires little attention in culture and generally makes a good head late in the fall.

## REMARKS.

All of the cabbage tribe require rich ground and a high state of cultivation. It is rarely the large varieties make good heads on poor, dry, gravelly soil, with even the best of cultivation.

The Winnestadt and small varieties are much the best for general culture for table use, and when planted late, make excellent winter cabbage.

## PRESERVING CABBAGE IN THE WINTER.

There are several methods of laying away cabbage for winter use. The most simple and perhaps the best is to make a trench on a high, dry location and lay in the cabbage in a single row, so that the heads are a little above the surface of the ground. When one row is laid in, then dig the ground about two feet from the first row and lay in another, and thus continue until all are planted.

When the winter sets in, cover the heads with straw or any kind of litter a few inches thick, which can easily be removed at any time in the winter, and the heads may be cut off for use, leaving the stalks in the ground until the spring for greens.

Cauliflowers and brocoli may be laid in the same manner, although it will be of an advantage to select a sheltered situation in a southern exposure, as they are not so hardy as the cabbage.

## SAVING SEED.

The same rule may be observed in the saving of cabbage as most kinds of vegetable seeds, viz., select out the best and truest heads, which plant out in the spring the same as recommended for vegetable roots; and be sure to plant out with the heads on the stalks, unless it is desirable to produce stalks and leaves only, in which case the heads may be taken off.

E. SAYERS,  
W. WAGSTAFF.

A *Big Yorker*.—Mr. H. G. O. Merriam, of Tewksbury, Mass., has a hog of the Mackay breed, two years old, that weighs 1000 lbs., girls seven feet, and measures seven feet from