

FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

THE FARMER.

The Farmer's life's the life for me,
We love its quiet scenery,
We love its shades, its hills and dales,
We love its cheerful fireside tales,
We love to tend the flocks and herds,
We love to hear the singing birds,
We love the sweet salubrious air,
We love the prospect wide and fair,
We love to plough, we love to sow,
We love to gather, we love to mow,
We love the new mown grass to smell,
We love to hear the tinkling bell,
We love to tread the grassy lawn,
Along the brook—among the corn,
We love—the whole, we can't rehearse
His pleasures all, in prose or verse.

[From the Evening Post.]

THE BOUGH-APPLE.

The bough apple! the bough apple!
With what a mellow sound,
Dropping from out its leafy nest,
It plumps upon the ground!
The thick, green turf is spread in vain,
The golden apple breaks in twain!
I haste to pick the treasure up,
To bind with ribbon blue,
And scribbling thus a hasty line,
Despatch my prize to you.
Its blush, dear coz, is warm as thine;
Its cheek as fresh and fair;
Its broken heart a type of mine;
Oh, bid me not despair!

ROTATION OF CROPS.

The *Country Gentleman* publishes the following table, which will be found useful to the farmer:

Years.	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.
1st	Corn	Oats	Wheat	Grass	Grass
2d	Oats	Wheat	Grass	Grass	Grass
3d	Wheat	Grass	Grass	Grass	Corn
4th	Grass	Grass	Grass	Corn	Oats
5th	Grass	Grass	Corn	Oats	Wheat
6th	Grass	Corn	Oats	Wheat	Grass

A farm of 50 acres, by the above system of rotation, if subdivided into fields of 10 acres each, would admit of a yearly cropping of, say 20 acres wheat, 10 acres corn, 10 acres oats and 10 acres Hungarian grass. The 20 acres of wheat, if sown, as it should be, early in the fall, will then leave only thirty acres of spring plowing. Until we are better supplied with clover, timothy and other grass seed, the Hungarian grass might be sown and plowed under as a summer fallow.

By adopting the above or some other system of routine cropping, and at the same time using unremitting care in securing and selecting the best and purest seed, our lands will continue to yield in their strength and our crops will be good and remunerative, from year to year, while by the practice now common with eastern farmers, the land must become impoverished and the crops yearly diminished.

We have already and at some length, expressed our views, based upon our own actual knowledge of the system of grain-culture into which the farmers of the Northern and Eastern States have been step by step falling, till at length it has become prevalent, while the people are reaping the partial fruits of their neglect. We have also printed expositions and dissertations on the subject of grain culture, by able and scientific correspondents; all which, we trust, have duly awakened our readers to the vital importance of the subject.

We now wish to give the views of a single leading agricultural journal—the *Ohio Farmer*—in the same connection, which we find under the heading, "American Agriculture:"

"It is a melancholy truth and one that reflects much on the want of skill and foresight of American farmers, that while the wheat crop of England has increased at least fifty per cent. in the last century, that of the United States has fallen off in nearly the same proportion. A century ago, New England, Delaware and Virginia raised wheat as an ordinary crop; now a wheat field is a rarity in these States, and they may be considered no longer wheat producing regions. Portions of New York, that formerly produced thirty bushels an acre, now seldom average over eight bushels; and Ohio, new as she is, with her virgin soil, does not average over thirteen bushels to the acre.

If we go on as we have for the past century, from bad to worse in our tillage, the lands in Ohio, in half a century from this time, will not produce wheat enough to supply our own wants. It is less than that time since Vermont was a large wheat-exporting State; now she does not export a bushel, but imports at least two-thirds of all the flour consumed in that State. Instead of increasing the productiveness of our wheat land, as is done in England, our wheat region is diminished more than one half, and the productive quality of what is still used has diminished in equal proportion.

This is a practical matter-of-fact view of the case, and one that addresses itself seriously to the common sense of the farmer and na-

tional economist. Instead of the vain boast that we can feed all Europe from our surplus wheat, we have got to improve our farming, or swallow the unpalatable truth that we import our bread stuffs from England.

We talk much of the worn-out lands of Maryland, Virginia and Carolina; but New York, that has destroyed the productive quality of her soil, so that she can get but eight bushels where she formerly got thirty, and Ohio, so she gets but thirteen bushels where she formerly got thirty five, have the same prospect before them. The great question regards the future; the past cannot be recalled, nor remedied.

One great source of deterioration in exhausting our soils, has been the manufacture of potash, and the export of it to foreign countries, or to our manufactories. In this way our soil has been robbed of an ingredient, without which no plant can mature, and no cereal grain form. As our forests have disappeared, this source of deterioration must be cut off, but a serious injury has been inflicted, which nothing can cure but the re-furnishing potash to the soil. How can it be done, is the great inquiry for our farmers.

The export of our flour has been another source of exhaustion to the soil, in taking away from it the phosphate of lime that is necessary to give plumpness to the kernel.

This exhaustion can be more easily remedied by the application of bone dust. For many years the English farmers have carried on a large traffic in old bones, paying five dollars a ton for them. This has stimulated many to gather them up, and even to rob the battle-fields of Europe of the bones of their brave defenders, to enrich the wheat fields of England. By this course, the fields of England have been made more productive, while the countries from which the bones are taken have been permanently injured by their loss.

The English, too, have sent to every island of South America to procure nitre, in the form of guano, to fertilize their fields, while the Americans not only import little or none, but negligently waste that which nature forces on them."

The above plain and forcible statement of facts carries with it its own weight. It is undeniable that, during the past twenty years a steady falling off in the yield per acre has marked the history of most if not all of the older wheat-growing States, and the cause of this may be directly traced to the conduct of farmers who, regardless of inevitable and destructive consequences, have year after year wrested from the soil those crops that have taxed it to its utmost capacity; while the manures of the barn-yard, the muck heap, the bones, the accumulating rubbish—all containing ingredients adapted to the renewing of the soil and essential to the sustenance of vegetation—have lain exposed from season to season, till their virtue has been mostly exhausted by evaporation.

Meanwhile, the earth, true to her appointment, has annually exerted herself to bring forth her choice fruits for the comfort and sustenance of man, till her strength is nearly exhausted and, weakly and famishing, she is at length compelled, from sheer exhaustion, to take what her inexorable tax-master has refused to award her—a rest.

We notice that there are yet some fertile spots, like oases in the desert, far out in the west, in some rich and newly discovered section, where "mother earth" still retains a portion of her pristine vigor. To record a tolerably large yield of wheat, in this day of degeneracy and sub-mediocrity is truly gratifying.

In Wisconsin, near Fox Lake, says the *Chicago Journal*, N. E. Allen had a field of oats which was estimated to yield 90 bushels to the acre. The field had been cultivated for ten years and was this year plowed with a sub-soil plow.

From California, however, we have more mention of extraordinary crops of wheat than any other section. Notice the following:

"P. B. Reading informs the *Shasta Courier* that a few days since he thrashed and cleaned up a little over 900 bushels of Sonora wheat—being the product of 16 1-2 acres of land upon his "Buenaventura Ranch"—the yield averaging a little over 53 bushels to the acre. Of this amount some 30 bushels are gleanings—and 873 bushels are first quality of wheat—being wholly free from smut."

The *Weekly* (San Francisco) *National* says:

"The largest yield of wheat of which we have any account this season, in this county or elsewhere—is from the farm of R. F. Peckham, Esq., in the Pajaro valley; he has just completed harvesting 2006 bushels from 30 acres—average yield, 66 1-3 bushels per acre. We are assured by Mr. P. that the same was not a full crop, many portions of it being badly blighted and yielding not over thirty bushels to the acre, while other portions yielded as high as ninety bushels. It is of the Sonorian variety—the seed was bluestoned—and the crop is entirely clear of smut or rust."

The *Genoa* (Carson Valley) correspondent of the *San Francisco Herald* chronicles a yield of wheat in that section averaging about 120 bushels to the acre.

If these statements may be credited, there are good grounds for the assertion that "California is the greatest wheat-growing field in the world."

The *Herald* says that "people at the East are quite content with their twenty bushels to the acre, and they can scarcely be convinced of the vast agricultural riches yielded by the teeming soil of our State."

We hazard nothing in stating that there are very many farmers at the East who would be content to raise ten bushels per acre and who would now consider "twenty bushels to the acre" an extraordinary yield.

FRUIT TREES.—Now is a propitious time for selecting and purchasing trees from the nursery, to be set out next spring. If postponed till the season when you want to transplant them, they may not be so readily obtained and of so good quality. Those who select their trees in the fall will have the choice of the nursery; those who wait till spring must content themselves with what they can get or perhaps be obliged to go without—as was the case with many last spring—because they were not to be had. See the advertisement of L. S. Hemenway, in this number, who has a choice collection and will sell at reasonable rates—cheaper than ever.

The Worth of Straw is clearly shown in a recent and valuable paper from Mr. J. J. Mechi, a celebrated English farmer, in answer to the questions, "Why do we waste our straw, so valuable for feeding purposes? How much should it be worth per acre?"

We extract a single paragraph to illustrate the subject, that it may not be passed without due consideration:

"The quantity of wheat straw removed from an acre of well-farmed clay, where the average is 5 qrs. per acre would be 2 tons per acre. Science has shown us that, plowed in and considered as manure, it is worth but 9s. 4d. per ton; while, used as food, it will, if properly prepared, realize a value of 40s. per ton. Now what farmer would knowingly throw away £2 to £3 per acre, in so economic a business as farming? and yet this is literally being done over millions of acres."

In the feeding of his own cows he uses, daily, 20 lbs. fine cut straw, 8 lbs. of hay, 5 lbs. rape cake, 2 lbs. bean meal, 3-4 lb. bran, 3-4 lb. malt-combs,—all of these being properly moistened in hot water, the straw requiring more than the rest,—35 lbs. mangel or Swedish turnips. The essential points are warmth and moisture, the cattle being well-sheltered, and duly cared for.

The straw is a most nutritious food; 100 pounds of it containing 72 lbs. of muscle, fat and heat-producing substances. The soluble fattening substances are equal to 18 1-2 lbs. of oil to every 100 lbs.

Butter Churning.—We find in the *N. Y. Tribune* the following rules for making good butter:

I. The milk or cream, when churned, should be as nearly sweet as possible.

II. The churn should be kept perfectly sweet by carefully cleansing and scalding after use.

III. The temperature of the milk or cream, while being churned, should never be higher than 62 deg., nor lower than 58 deg.

IV. The agitation should not be too violent."

When the milk is too warm, says the same writer, say from 65 to 80 degrees, the butter separates much more readily, but in a soft, oily state and, if the weather be warm, will remain in that condition. Such butter is of inferior quality and worthless for preservation. Too violent agitation, even at a lower temperature, will have the same effect.

The humbug of "patent churns" is almost exploded.

Home-made Figs, said to be superior to imported figs, may be made in this manner:

"Pare and core pears, peaches, or quinces, (or tomatoes;) make a syrup, flavored with lemon-peel. Boil the fruit till done, then drain it through a colander, and spread on dishes; place in the sunshine, or in a moderately heated stove, till nearly dry; sprinkle with loaf sugar; dry a little more; then pack them in boxes, and put in a cool place."

When tomatoes are used, they should be the yellow colored or fig tomatoes.

Tomato Catsup.—The *N. Y. Eve. Post* prints the following excellent receipt:

"Take one half-bushel of tomatoes, scald them, and press them through a common sieve. Boil them down one-half; then add two tablespoonfuls of salt, one of black pepper, one teaspoonful of cayenne pepper, one-half of cloves, one-half of cinnamon, and one-half of mace. Mix well, and add one teacupful of vinegar. Bottle and seal, and set in a cool place. Preserved in this way, they retain their natural flavor."

A Day on a Rice Plantation.

To many of our readers, we doubt not, the mode of planting and cultivating this great article of food, is as much unknown as if it were grown in the East Indies. All, however, are more or less acquainted with its excellent qualities as a nourishing diet. The following, from a correspondent of the *Salisbury* (North Carolina) *Watchman*, will be perused with interest:

"The plantation which I visited was that of Col. T. D. Meares of Brunswick. The broad flat piece of ground of many acres, extends along the river and out upon adjacent creeks; the land is divided into "tasks" by ditches running through in every direction, though mostly crossing each other at right angles. No plows are used, the whole work being done with a short hoe and a long narrow one. When a set of hands are put into one of these tasks they must smooth it off, make the little trench rows, sow the seed and cover it, all in the same day. The tasks are really given to only one; as, for instance, it is the work of one to smooth so much ground; of another to trench after him; of another to sow the seed and another to cover it. The numbers of these tasks make a field; this field is not fenced in, but surrounded by a large ditch and embankment. These are designated as Nos. 1, 2, 3, &c., and contain 10, 15 or 20 acres. There is no fencing, the great body of land, containing a number of fields, being surrounded by a large canal.

Having given you a faint idea of how the land lies, we will see how it is cultivated. In the fall, after the rice is cut, as soon as perfectly dry, the stubble is burned off. Sometimes the weather will not allow this, then it remains and is chopped under in the winter. In December the whole land intended for cultivation is gone over with the hoe, breaking clods, etc. In March the planting season begins, and from that time onward is the rush. As soon as a field is planted it is covered with water, and so remains until the rice is pretty well grown. The water is then let off, and soon after the field is gone over with the hoe to chop out grass and work the rice. This is done twice before the crop ripens. The irrigation is managed so that when one field is under water, another may be dry. Several hands are constantly employed in clearing out ditches, stopping leaks in embankments, etc.

Every kind of bird is a lover of rice, and an enemy to the interests of the rice-planters, but the one most dreaded is the rice-bird. It is a small bird, of darkish brown color, with a sharp stout bill, with which it grasps the stalk of rice and squeezes the milk from it as effectually as if done with a pair of nippers. The only means of getting rid of them is by powder and shot; and though thousands upon thousands are killed, they still appear as thick as at first. During the season of killing, hogs and dogs upon the plantation all get fat. The negroes are provided with guns, and stand upon the banks and shoot from morning until night. When a flock of these birds come down near a rice-field, they swoop down with a noise like thunder, and the beautiful green rice-stalks fall down before them as does the rice before the reaper's hook. Left to themselves, but a few hours would suffice to clear the field, but a half a-dozen muskets scare them off for a time. But few who do not live in that section have an idea of the immense damage which they do to the rice-planters, and I suppose there is no means of correct calculation, as they never fail to appear, though more numerous some years than others. Mr. Meares informed me that last year he consumed 35 kegs of powder in shooting them, and that one year he had used as much as 50 kegs. The shot was in proportion.

Of late years an extensive trade had grown up in the rice straw. The scarcity of hay and the inferiority of the article brought from the North, induced Mr. Meares some years ago to try cured rice straw, to put up with clover with salt and water. It succeeded well, and for that which he sent to market he found a ready sale. Other planters adopted it, and the rice straw is now very generally used as a food for horses, etc. Though by no means equal to the hay which you have and is everywhere in the West, yet it is far superior to the Northern apology for hay, which has for so long been an article of food in the Cape Fear region.

The plantation of Col. Meares is one of the oldest upon the river; there are fields in it which have been planted regularly for over 40 years, and still produce luxuriantly. The machinery for clearing the rice is of the best pattern. The rice as it is sold by the planter in the husk, passes through the rice mill, and is exposed for sale in tierces as we use it upon the table."

Preserving Fruits without Sugar.—The *Cottage Gardener* furnishes the following receipt for preserving fruits fresh for winter use, without sugar:—"Put the fruit in bottles, fill them up with cold spring water, tie down with a bladder tightly; put them in a kettle or copper of cold water up to the neck of the bottles, with hay to steady them; let them simmer for a quarter of an hour, but not boil; let them cool in the water; wipe the bottles, and put away in a dry place. On no account open them till their contents are wanted for eating."

Colic in Horses may be cured by drenching the animal with salt and water, made as strong as possible.