



Italian Cattle.

The *Ohio Farmer*, in a report of a cattle show held the past Autumn at Florence, Italy, gives the following account of the neat cattle of that country:

"Of cattle, Italy possesses only three breeds, viz: the Gentil, large, white and highly esteemed for the quality of its flesh; the Savage, black, ill-tempered, but very strong and hardy and employed almost constantly in farm work, and the Mucchee (a race originally obtained from Swiss stock by crossing), black and white, or gray, and sometimes dappled with red when crossed with English breeds, the milk-givers of the Peninsula, large, handsome and good-tempered, though not attaining the colossal proportions of the Gentil breed. The Mucchee begins to give milk in her third year, yielding 7 lbs. or 8 lbs. (of 12 oz.) during a period of twelve or fourteen years, after which she is fattened, though her flesh is considered as very inferior to that of the Gentil. A good Mucchee, well fed, gives on an average 2 lbs. of butter per diem. A magnificent specimen of this breed, bought by the King, is almost white, but with black spots; another, a cross with the Savage, is quite black, and has legs almost like those of an elephant; a third, with a beautiful 'robe' of reddish shading upon white, imitating sycamore leaves with almost ludicrous fidelity, and deepening to black along the backbone, would be esteemed 'a beauty' in any other cattle show.

"The Savage breed furnishes most picturesque-looking animals, of a dull blue-black hue, with a sprinkling of white along the head and backbone, just as though the wild creatures had been slightly snowed up among the hills. Their black, shining muzzles, black eyes, black horns slightly curving downward, long, black tail, and peculiarly morose and unamiable expression, as they look at you with mingled curiosity and dislike, would make them a striking subject for Landseer or Rosa Bonheur.

"But the distinguishing feature of the show was the goodly company of the beautiful, enormous, easy-tempered Gentil cattle, very fully represented on this occasion. Crossed with the Durham, the Gentil becomes red, dappled or occasionally black; but its normal hue is soft, pinkish white, most charming to the eye; these magnificent animals attaining to such height, length and size as to look almost like mountains. One beautiful prize cow, white as the *Jungfrau*, with a soft evening glow on her shoulders, two years old, short, black horns and long, tufted tail, weighs 1,000 lbs.; a splendid three year old bull, bought by the King, weighs little short of 3,000 lbs.; another splendid fellow, of about the same dimensions, is a cross between the Gentil and Savage breeds, with a black and silver coat, inherited from both parents. But it is the enormous white oxen, of the Gentil breed, from the renowned Val di Chiana, that are the glory of this splendid breed. With their magnificent muscular sides, soft, black eyes, white horns tipped with black, black muzzles and tufted tail, these superb animals appear to your correspondent to justify to its fullest extent the proud conviction, so general here, of the vast superiority of this breed of oxen over anything of the kind to be seen elsewhere. One of these gentle, white, patient monsters so docile and kindly that a little child might lead him, and make him work from sunrise to sunset, without a repining gesture, measures 9 feet from the base of the horns to the root of the tail, the said tail being five feet in length, and the head about 18 inches; he stands 7 feet high, and is 5 years old. Several others are very nearly as large, and quite as beautiful. These oxen, after working in the field for ten or a dozen years, are fattened and pitilessly turned over to the butcher."

Seed Growing.

The growing of seeds in this Territory is of great importance; and to keep the many varieties of culinary, vegetable, and domestic plants true to their variety, and from becoming degenerated, requires a practical knowledge of the different varieties and their habits to insure success. Any family of plants that will mix in their varieties one with the other in the blossom, and the variety produced can be perpetuated by its seed, are the descendants of a single species. The effect of climate, soil and culture tend to promote or degenerate, as the case may be, whether it is, or is not adapted to the variety grown; if well adapted, there may be, with care, new varieties produced worthy of cultivation. There is a great difference in plants as to their liability to mix. The varieties of peas, beans, wheat, rye, and other plants, the blossoms are so organized that they are not liable to mix, and each variety can be, with a little care, kept true to its kind; while the varieties of cabbage, beet, carrot, parsnip, radish, turnip, melon, squash, the varieties of Chinese and African sugar cane, broom corn, Durrah corn (andropogon sorghum), and many other varieties of plants, when grown near each other, mix by cross-fecundation, and the properties of a variety are lost, and are of little or no value to perpetuate. These classes of plants produce blossoms, and the fertilizing powder is exposed to

the wind, and insects that are in search for honey cause the mixture of varieties. To keep choice plants true to their kind, some system of growing seed should be adopted by the community for its accomplishment, or in a short time we shall have a mixed, degenerated, nearly worthless varieties to cultivate, or will have continually to import seed, which can be produced here as pure as can be in any other country. There is no certainty of keeping the varieties of the last named classes of plants from mixing, if seed are grown nearer than one mile of each other, and perhaps it would require a greater distance on account of the range of insects that may carry, attached to their body, the fertilizing powder, and cause the damage to seed that are grown a considerable distance apart. It would be an improvement to weed out or reject many varieties that are now cultivated; the best are as easily grown as the poorer, and the fewer the varieties the easier it will be to keep them pure. The vitality of most of our garden seeds would remain good from four to six years, if properly kept. The community might adopt the system of growing seed enough for two or three years, of but one variety in a class. The next year grow the seed of another variety in each class, and by observing the rule and properly selecting the plants for seed, a great benefit would be realized. There is little or no dependence on the seed of many plants, as they have been grown here; and unless the above system is adopted, or seed gardens made a suitable distance from the cities and settlements, we may expect that many of our valuable plants will soon run out, as there are not now much prospect of renewing them by the importation of seed from abroad. There should be a choice in soils to grow seed on. Indeed, much will depend on it, in keeping plants from degeneration. Every variety should be grown on soil the best adapted to its full development, and especially in growing the sugar cane seed, which, if not properly managed, will lose its saccharine properties. In selecting plants for seed, it should be observed to choose those that are the truest types of the kind. The biennials should be kept through the winter as sound and healthy as possible, and receive good culture the following season till the seed is ripe.

DOMESTIC GARDENERS' CLUB.

Wild Currants.

The wild currant, as it is called here, are occasionally found from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast. There appears to be almost an endless number of varieties in their wild state. Probably they were once in a high state of cultivation in the days of the prosperity of the former inhabitants of the country; and the many degenerated varieties which are now to be found do not represent their former goodness any more than the savage Indians do their fore-fathers in the days of their greatest refinement. The many varieties, although so different in growth, appearance and fruit, are proveable from a single species. There may not be another fruit bearing shrub in its wild state, that have multiplied into as many varieties, or that are as widely different in their fruit, or that possess greater properties of improvement by cultivation. The class that appear the most worthy of cultivation grow to about three feet high; the bark of the wood of one and two years' growth is rough, and present two shades of color, leaves three lobed, and on the young wood are large, very thin, and of a handsome, changeable green.

The fruit is commonly round, often oblong, and are in clusters of from four to six, and appear to partake nearly as much of the character of the gooseberry as they do of the cultivated currant. The fruit on early varieties ripen the first of July, and on others the fruit may be picked in good condition as late as the middle of October. There are no small fruits that yield more abundantly, or quicker repay the expense of planting and culture, or are more healthy in their season, and would probably prevent much sickness and death among children, if they had a suitable supply of the fruit through the summer. The different varieties of this currant mix freely in the blossom; and in growing new plants, the seed should be grown a good distance from any inferior kind. The young plants will vary much in character, and they should be fruitful before a selection is made for cultivation; they may afterwards be propagated by suckers, layers and cuttings. As this species of currant has been brought into practical use first by this people, it should be called the Deseret Currant. They have been advertised at Flushing, Long Island, N. Y., at one dollar a plant as Mormon currant, grown from seed sent from this city. H.

Cotton in Illinois.—The *Chicago Tribune* says those conversant with the matter, assert that in all parts of this State south of forty deg. of latitude the cotton plant will flourish, and is as certain of a good crop as corn or wheat. A field of ten acres, in Christian county, planted a month too late, yielded three hundred pounds per acre, and the owner will plant this year two thousand acres. For twenty-seven years it has not failed in that county, though corn and wheat have during that time.

Sulphur for Potatoes.—A correspondent of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* dusted his potato sets with sulphur, and found that it not only drove away slugs, worms and insects, but that the crop was entirely free from disease, while others in the adjoining row, planted without sulphur, were seriously damaged by disease.

Corn Fodder for Sheep.

From the New England Farmer.

With the rise of wool the price of sheep comes up and as the prices come up the farmer begins to have greater respect for his flock, and begins to inquire how he can keep the largest flock in a thrifty condition at the least cost. Corn fodder has been used by some flock-masters—not the corn fodder formed by the husks and stalks of corn, but the fodder that is grown from corn sown in drills or broadcast, and cut and cured at a suitable time.

A few years ago we recommended a mode of keeping a flock of one hundred sheep through the winter from the product of two acres of land thus sown to corn. This recommendation was based on some experiments and observations made with this crop on a small scale. The plan was thought to be a little visionary by some, but afterwards Mr. D. Yant communicated the fact to the *Ohio Farmer* that he had actually succeeded in producing enough to winter one hundred sheep on one and a half acres of land. We published a statement of his success in the *Farmer* at the time. In answer to an inquiry recently sent us by a subscriber in regard to this matter, we will again give the main facts in his communication.

I took for the purpose, says he, nothing more than common wheat soil; if rich, the growth is apt to be too large. Plow it deeply, harrow it well, and about the 10th of June sow in a bushel and a half of corn, plow in with a shovel, plow or cultivator, and if weeds try to grow among it they will get heartily tired of such a sickly life. Leave it standing until the leaves get seared, and the crop loses weight some. Then cradle down when dry, and put up in loose shocks, and leave it standing until wanted for feed. It may be fed cut short. In this way he says he has actually wintered one hundred head of sheep without grain, and in good order on an acre and a half of land. I have not had a better clip of wool nor lost fewer sheep, nor raised better lambs.

In following this plan we must vary a little from the Ohio experiment, in sowing a little earlier, and housing the fodder after being thoroughly cured, and it should be kept in good order for winter use, our winters being more severe than they are in Ohio.

Cure of a Bone Spavin.

Levi J. Reynolds, in the *New England Farmer*, thus states how he effected a cure of a bone spavin:

I have a fine mare, which, three years ago, became very lame from a bone spavin on the inside of the left hind leg. After pretty hard driving for several days, she became so lame that she was unfit for use. The spavin was very tender, and she rested the foot constantly on the toe when she stood. I took her to the blacksmith, and directed him to put on a shoe without any toe corks, thus relieving the contracted cord of the strain to which it had been constantly subjected. In a short time the inflammation and tenderness subsided. The swelling abated; she traveled very well. She wore off the inside cork faster than the outside one, when she began to be lame again. I then had the shoe re-set and the corks made of the same length, and she soon became well. After a few weeks I had the corks shortened a little, and the next time she was shod, a little more, but still have her wear heel corks an inch or more in length. There is a slight enlargement of the bone where the spavin is seated, but she performs hard service and is not at all lame. Several of my neighbors have applied the same remedy, with equal good results, and I think that a little thought and observation will satisfy any one that is the appropriate remedy. The cords attached to the part where the enlargement is seated, become inflamed and contracted, and raise up the heel from the ground. When the horse brings the heel to the ground the cords are strained, and become irritated and inflamed. The long corks keep the heel raised permanently, and thus prevent the cords from being strained and allow the inflammation to get well. Some enlargement and a slight degree of stiffness may remain, but seldom enough to effect the gait.

Lampass in Horses.

Having read an article in your columns about the lampass in horses, and the writer wishing for further information, I thought I would give him all that I could.

The disease consists in swelling of the roof of the mouth, near the front teeth.—It happens generally between the third and fifth year, and is supposed to prevent a colt from gathering his food with ease, so that on that account he falls off in feeding, and consequently in flesh or condition.—The usual remedy is to sear the parts next to the teeth with a piece of iron made for the purpose, or cut the parts until they bleed freely.

The remedies are still generally practiced, nor is it possible, I believe, for veterinary surgeons to prevent it's being done. The lampass, as it is called, however, is not the cause of the colt's ceasing to feed well, and falling off in flesh; it depends upon his cutting the grinding teeth at the proper time; and if, instead of burning and cutting the lampass, as they term it, they would keep it entirely on bran-mashes for a week, he would be able to eat his hay and corn with avidity; for the stomach, which always sympathizes with the mouth in the painful periods of dentition, is quickly

restored, when the power of mastication returns.

We often find, when the lampass is present, that the membranes of the mouth just within the corners of the lips, is so swollen as to get between the grinders, thus preventing the animal from feeding.—When this is the case, it is commonly called bags or washes, and may be removed by swabbing the mouth with a weak solution of the sulphate of iron. This disease is often occasioned by the bearing rein being too tight.—[B., in Germantown Telegraph.

THE DOOMED CITIES.

HISTORICAL PARALLELS OF THE CHARLESTON DISASTER.

In connection with the burning of Charleston, an article on "Fire doomed cities," copied into Bidwell's *Eclectic*, from *The Leisure Hour*, is just now particularly timely. It appears that of all cities, ancient and modern, Moscow has suffered the most fearfully from fire. In 1836 it was nearly consumed, and two thousand persons perished. But this calamity was trifling to the dismal catastrophe of 1571, when beleaguered by the Tartars.

They fired the suburbs, and a furious wind carried the flames into the heart of the city, which the inhabitants could not quit except to die by the sword. A Dutch merchant who was present at the scene, and whose account is preserved in the *Harleian MSS.*, speaks of the event as like a storm of fire, owing not only to the wind, but to the streets being "paved with great fir trees set close together, oily and resinous," while the houses were of the same material—Thousands of the country people had taken refuge in the city from the public enemy.—The poor creatures ran into the market place and were "all roasted there, in such sort that the tallest man seemed but a child, so much had the fire contracted their limbs—a thing more hideous and frightful than any can imagine." "The persons," he adds, "that were burnt in this fire were above two hundred thousand."

A still more stupendous conflagration was the burning of Moscow in 1812 owing to its increased extent. If attended with fewer horrors, they were sufficiently rife for all who could not fly—the sick, infirm and wounded—inevitably perished. Upon the approach of the French invaders, and the loss of the great battle of Borodino, it was determined to abandon the old capital of the Czars; and on Sunday, September 15th, its three hundred thousand inhabitants were suddenly aroused from a sense of security by a peremptory order to quit their houses, while the Russian army of defence fled through the midst of them in full retreat. On the morrow the officers of the government and the police withdrew; the prisons were thrown open, and none were left but the incapable and those who remained to execute the secret orders of the authorities. In the evening the enemy entered. Not a Muscovite was to be seen. The city was deserted.

Scarcely were the French established in their new quarters, when smoke and flames were observed issuing from houses closely shut up in different districts. By Tuesday evening the 17th, the fires had assumed a menacing aspect, distracting by their number the efforts made to quench them while a high wind rapidly connected them with each other, and wrapped Moscow in a vast sheet of flame. Midnight was rendered as bright as day, for Dumas could read the dispatches forwarded to him by the light of the burning metropolis.

Thirty thousand houses, seven thousand principal edifices, and fourteen thousand inferior structures were reduced to ashes.—The private loss is supposed to have exceeded thirty millions sterling. "Palaces and temples," writes Karamain, the Russian historian, "monuments of art and miracles of luxury; the remains of past ages, and those which have been the creation of yesterday; the tombs of ancestors and the nursery cradles of the present generation were indiscriminately destroyed."

NEW YORK.—Has many fearful conflagrations inscribed on its annals. The greatest was that of 1835, which many of our citizens yet vividly remember. It broke out on a bitter December night, and raged three days before it could be stayed, completely laying waste the business part of the city, consuming six hundred and forty-eight houses and stores worth \$18,000,000 worth of property; nor was it stopped until buildings were, by order of the mayor, blown up with gun powder. In 1845 occurred another great fire, which, though happily inferior to that of 1835, yet did immense damage, laying waste the entire district between the eastern side of Broadway and Broadway.

LONDON.—As the largest city in the world, had afforded material for some tremendous conflagrations. Of all the London fires, that of 1666—the great fire as it is termed in history—is the most celebrated.

It broke out early in the morning of Sunday September 2d, 1666, close to the present monument, and raged for four days and four nights with unabated fury. Everything favored the progress of the devouring elements. The dwellings were generally of wood pitched on the outside; the roofs were thatched; the streets were narrow; the upper stories projected so as nearly to touch each other; the wood-work was dry and combustible, owing to the heat and drought of the preceding month; and at the same time the wind blew