

FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

HOME OF OUR BIRTH.

There never was a happier home
Than that which gave us birth;
The fields in which we used to roam
The brightest seemed on earth.
The brook that ruffled by our door
Served out our limbs to lave;
And sweeter flowers grew on its shore
Than ever kissed the wave.

The school-house and the ground for play,
The neat white church and spire,
The reapers and the new-made hay,
The pure and fragrant air;
The path that lay across the lawn,
Where we our playmates met,
The vine, the hedge, the waving corn,
Are present with us yet.

The old elm tree and butternut,
The hills and shady glens,
The birds that sang around our cot
Like old familiar friends,
The autumn fruit which strewed the ground
And winter with its snow,
Are memories that cluster round
Our thoughts where'er we go.

Though years may creep upon us now,
And cares with age arise,
Time's traces gather on the brow,
And dim our youthful eyes;
Yet still the dream of childhood's days
Is ours, where'er we roam,
And thoughts will rise, though far away,
Of our old cottage home.

Sheep and Wool in California.

The following tables which we copy from a late San Francisco *Herald*, show the number of sheep, and the pounds of the wool-clip in the various counties in the State, the figures for those counties, marked with an asterisk, being taken from last year's reports:

Counties.	Sheep.	Counties.	Sheep.
Monterey	94,394	Tulare	6,570
Solano*	51,665	El Dorado	5,568
Sacramento	35,680	Santa Barbara*	5,503
San Luis Obispo	30,021	Mariposa	5,000
Napa	23,087	Santa Cruz	5,000
Alameda	23,000	Calaveras*	4,580
Colusa	22,000	Merced*	4,000
Los Angeles*	20,910	Amador	3,998
Sonoma	20,063	Mendocino	3,960
Butte	20,290	Fresno	3,400
San Joaquin	19,735	San Francisco	2,008
Contra Costa	19,515	San Mateo	1,997
Yolo	18,566	Tuolumne	1,600
Sutter*	13,231	Susana	1,500
Marin	9,459	Humboldt*	1,505
Placer	8,295	Del Norte	960
Tehama*	6,943	Siskiyou	500
Total			491,798
Counties.	Wool.	Counties.	Wool.
Monterey	370,000	Sacramento	37,412
Yolo	74,330	Yuba	30,000
Santa Clara	67,000	Stanislaus	25,000
Colusa	65,000	Mendocino	12,820
San Joaquin	60,380	San Cruz	12,000
Alameda	56,410	El Dorado	10,000
Placer	50,000	San Bernardino	10,000
Sonoma	40,407	Butte	9,000
Napa	40,000	San Mateo	8,000
San Luis Obispo	40,000	Contra Costa	4,000
		Del Norte	3,000
Total			1,026,725

From these tables it appears that two pounds of wool are clipped for each sheep. But the wool clip and the number of sheep bear a very uneven proportion to each other, as we compare the leading counties one with another. Monterey shows an extremely large wool clip, because a great flock from Mexico were sheared in that county, and then sold and scattered. Yolo is the second among the wool counties, but the thirteenth among the sheep counties. Solano, the second sheep county, does not appear in the wool list, and Santa Clara, the third in the wool list, does not appear among the sheep. The wool yield of California is 1500 pounds per day; enough to keep several mills in activity.

We have several times shown through our columns not only that sheep rearing was one of the most profitable branches of stock raising, but that our Territory is especially well adapted to that business. The following instance of profits, even on a small scale, in Iowa, is but a sample of what may be done with a larger stock.

W. C. Alexander, of Julien, purchased in March last, ten sheep for twenty-five dollars. He sheared them and sold the wool for twenty four dollars. Mr. Alexander, therefore, has the value of his sheep already free from cost, though it is probable that their real value there may have been above that which he paid for them. The increase of the flock this season will probably be equal in value to the cost of the original flock and the expense of keeping them until another shearing.

With many such instances that could be named by those who raise sheep, it is surprising that more attention is not given to sheep husbandry.

We should be gratified to learn, from those who have been successfully engaged in sheep raising for years past in this Territory,

something relative to the profits resulting from this, compared with other branches of farming enterprise.

Proper Form of Ox-Yokes.

A Wisconsin correspondent sends the N. Y. *Tribune* a description of what he considers the right form for an ox yoke. The true way, says the *Tribune*, is to have the yoke so crooked, or the center part of it so deep, that the line of draft, that is the point where the ring draws upon the staple, shall be exactly even with the center of the bow, meaning from the inside of the bottom of the bow—which should be shaped like the small end of a hen's egg—to the underside of the yoke where it rests on the top of the neck. The bow should swell out at the sides and enter the yoke so that the sides and curve, which should be very deep, should form a continuous line in the circle, which, in its shape as formed by yoke and bow, looks like a flat sided letter O. A yoke that is too straight on the neck, with bows with straight sides, and a rather flat circle at bottom, will always tend to compress the wind pipe and make the ox pant for want of breath. It is idle and wicked to say that "oxen can work in anything, crooked or straight, it don't make much difference." It is true they can work in anything, but it is not true that it makes no difference. A pair of oxen in a well fitting yoke will do twice the work that they would in a bad one. It is far better to work oxen with a pole lashed to the horns than with a pole fastened to the neck with ill-fitting bows. Oxen for yokes should be selected with reference to similarity, form in neck and shoulders, and then have a yoke fitted to them with as much care as a man gets his boots fitted to his feet.

The correspondent gives the following directions about making an ox-yoke:

"A yoke that will work well on any ox, from a four-year old steer to the largest size, must be made from a stick 9 by 11, 4 feet 6 inches long—where it rests on the neck 9 inches wide, and in no other place as wide; in the centre about 5 inches wide, and about 8 1-2 deep where the staple goes through, though this depends upon the quality of the timber, as some kinds will bear more cutting down on the top than others. The first thing to do after the yoke is marked out is to bore for the bows, with a seven-quarters auger, nine inches apart from centers, where it rests on the neck, at the proper angle to just fit the bows. The length of yoke between the center of the neck circles will be 32 inches. Work the crook for the neck so that the bows will be well supported. This will make them firm for the ox to push against. It also makes the yoke stronger, by taking a part of the pressure low down. The end should be made so that when it is set down on hard or frozen ground it will not be liable to split. This is done by cutting an end off on an angle, so that the longest part will be opposite the circle that rests on the top of the neck."

Harmless and Sure Cure for Warts.

The editors of the *Scientific American* have recommended the following cure for common warts, knowing that alkaline solutions soften them and, as it were, gradually eat them away:

Take two or three cents' worth of sal ammoniac, dissolve it in a gill of soft water, and wet the warts frequently with this solution, when they will disappear in the course of a week or two. I have frequently tried this cure for warts, and it has never failed.

To Cure Lice on Cattle.—Mr. Roe has great faith in the efficacy of a peck of onions for ridding cows or oxen of lice. He claims to have found them an infallible remedy in his practice. They also give a tone to the stomach, and are especially valuable in hot weather, when working cattle will lie in the shade at noon-time, and refuse to eat. Mr. Roe uses the "scullions," or small, unsaleable onions, and those which become soft or sprouted towards spring. He gives a feed of half a peck once a day—at noon—and says that two feeds are sufficient to extirpate any number of vermin.

For Heaves in Horses.—Take smart weed, steep it in boiling water till the strength is all out; give one quart every day for eight or ten days. Or, mix it with bran or shorts. Give him green or cut up feed, wet up with water, during the operation—and it will cure. It has been found, after great experience, that the most economical and best feed for all horses is a mixture composed of equal parts, by measure, of corn meal and mill feed—bran or shorts, weighing about 20 pounds to the bushel—mixed up with cut hay.

Cabbage and Onions are "terribly" scarce in some parts of California.

THE DOMESTIC GARDENER'S CLUB TRANSACTIONS.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLES.

CLASS 2d—VEGETABLE ROOTS WITH LIST. SECOND DIVISION.—CARROTS AND PARSNIPS.

CULTURE OF THE CARROT.

The carrot thrives well on a light sandy soil and yields abundant crops on low, rich, sandy bottoms. The culture is similar to the beet. Early in the spring, so soon as the ground is dry and will work freely; prepare for sowing the seed by digging the ground deep and making it fine and mellow. It may then be dressed down fine and level with the rake or harrow. The ground may then be prepared for sowing by drawing drills eighteen inches apart and from one inch to one and a half inches deep.

SOWING THE SEED.

Carrots, like beets, are often eaten off by insects while young; it will therefore be necessary to sow a good portion of seed, in order to have a sufficient quantity of plants to make a good crop. For the garden we recommend one ounce of seed to two square rods and for the field from three to four pounds to the acre.

When the seed is sown, it is to be covered with fine earth and, if the ground is loose and dry, it will require to be trodden down solid on the top, in order that the seed may germinate freely.

THE GENERAL CULTURE.

Of the carrot is to keep the ground clean and mellow between the rows and to thin out the young plants from three to four inches apart in the row before watering, which should be commenced when the dry season advances. After thinning the plants, draw drills between the rows for the water to pass freely and apply water very moderately at first, when the roots are about half grown; then apply water more freely until the fall commences, when it may be entirely suspended.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF CARROTS.

No. 1—Early Horn.

This is, as the name implies, an early, short rooted carrot, particularly adapted for table use. The root is of a dark orange color, inside and out, and has the appearance of being broken off like a cow's horn. The root is juicy and tender and is the best carrot we have for early cultivation.

No. 2—Long Orange.

The best carrot we have for general cultivation. The root is long and tapering, with a clear skin; the color of a dark, rich orange, inside and out. The root is well adapted for the table or for field culture for cattle, and makes good molasses.

There are several intermediate varieties of the orange, some of which are a clear yellow and may be called the lemon; others of a dark scarlet, which are properly called scarlet, and there is another very superior variety, of a blood red color.

No. 3—White Field or Belgium.

This is a fine field carrot and bears excellent crops. It is extremely well adapted to this climate, as it does not require so much water as the foregoing varieties.

The roots are long and tapering, often growing several inches above ground; color clear white inside and a greenish white outside, above ground—is good for cattle, but not equal to the orange for table.

CULTURE OF THE PARSNIP.

The culture of the parsnip is nearly the same as the carrot, with the difference that it requires a deep, heavy, rich, loamy soil to grow to good perfection.

The mode of planting the seed is the same as that of the carrot, with the difference that it should be sown in the fall or very early in the spring to come to perfection. The roots may remain in the ground until spring, when they are excellent for the table and for feeding cattle.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PARSNIPS.

No. 1—Hollow Crown.

This is the only variety worth cultivating. The root is long, spindle-shaped, a clear skin, white flesh, which is rich and tender, and hence it is often called "the marrow parsnip." We adopt the name, "Hollow Crown or Cup," as the true variety forms a hollow crown or cup on the top of the root.

No. 2—Turnip Rooted.

This is a new variety, grows round and partly above ground, like the turnip. It is well worth cultivating for a variety.

There is no vegetable requires more attention in keeping the variety true than the parsnip. For the want of precaution we often see seed grown and sown from roots that are almost returning to their wild state, possessing no quality only long, straggling roots from the main root, which is hard, tough and worthless. In truth it is no more than the wild parsnip.

REMARKS.

We strongly urge the more general cultivation of the beet and carrot as a field crop, for feeding cattle and for making molasses.

THE BEET

Thrives well in almost any kind of soil and, with good culture, yields abundant crops. From 500 to 800 bushels to the acre may be considered as an average yield and, on rich land, 1000 bushels may be produced. Setting aside its use for molasses, it is one of the best

roots for feeding milch cows and for feeding hogs, either cooked or in a raw state.

The beet also merits the attention of those who have city lots—to be cultivated for winter use. In making a fair calculation, if one-sixth part of every city lot was planted with sugar beets, 75 bushels of roots might be produced from one lot. At this rate, 100,000 bushels of this excellent root might be introduced within the walls of the city for winter use, for molasses, feeding a cow or pigs.

THE CARROT

Is also recommended for more general culture in the garden and field, for the purpose of feeding cattle in the winter. The root is excellent for feeding store pigs, and sheep; it is also unquestionably the best root for milch cows and feeding horses, to which it gives a fine, glossy coat, besides improving the condition of the animal.

The Messrs. Landreths, in their excellent little pamphlet, the *Rural Register*, remark on "Root Crops" as follows:

No farmer should be so thrifless as not to provide green food for his stock in winter. Not only does it fatten where to make fat is desirable, but it increases the yield of milk and the quality of butter, and in all cases promotes a healthy condition of stock. If, then, for no other purpose than as an alternative, a certain proportion of the winter food should be succulent. Cattle, sheep and horses thus fed are found to keep in better condition and at less cost than when wholly fed on hay, or hay and grain combined; and with such convincing arguments as increase of health and increase of wealth, it is incredible that an American farmer can be found neglectful of root culture."

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Chinese Agriculture.

A cotemporary, referring to a narrative of travelers in China, published by a Russian officer, says:

"This author, like every other who has visited China, bears testimony of the high development of agriculture in that mysterious country. The harvest in China, he remarks, 'produces fifty, seventy, and even a hundred fold. The cause will be found in the care with which they manure the ground, and the custom of sowing early, of weeding and watering, etc.' The acre of land yields in England, Germany and France, twice or three times as much as with us, but the Chinese agriculturist surpasses even the European by far. 'How infinitely inferior, says Professor Liebig, 'is the agriculture of Europe to that of China! The Chinese are the most admirable gardeners and trainers of plants, for each of which they understand how to prepare and apply the best adapted manure. The agriculture of their country is the most perfect in the world, and there, where the climate in the most fertile districts differ from the European, very little value is attached to the excrements of animals. With us thick books are written, but no experiments instituted, etc.'"

Travelers tell us of one particular attainment of Chinese Agriculture, which, though it is not always of practical value, indicates a wonderful knowledge of the laws of vegetable growth—that is, the power of enlarging or dwarfing, at will, many of the productions of nature. Thus, an oak tree, for instance, will frequently be seen growing in a flower-pot, bearing its thrifty little leaves, and bringing its tiny acorns to maturity, with all the regularity of its forest kindred, the entire tree not being more than two feet high. Such specimens of human ingenuity may be worthless, but they imply a knowledge and skill that are worth a great deal.

Management of Cows before and after Calving.—Feed them with scalded bran twice a day for several days before calving; after calving, give them all the fat pork cut in slices they will eat. You will be astonished at the amount they will eat. I have given them two or three pounds at a time. Thoroughwort tea is also good. Let them eat the placenta. Fat salt pork will cause them to clean in most cases. Great care must be taken at this season of the year not to let cows get poor. A few ears of corn given them each day, in addition to plenty of hay, will keep them strong and in good condition.

The above is recommended where cows do not "get on" well; but when they are in good condition and there is no especial necessity for it, the fat pork may be withheld.

A Useful Table.—Counting plants one foot apart each way, we shall have 43,560 upon the acre, because an acre contains that number of superficial feet. Take the figures in the first column of the following table as the distance apart, and an acre will contain the number of plants in the second column:

1 1-2 feet	19,300	12 feet	302
1 foot	10,800	15 feet	193
1 1-2 feet	6,550	18 feet	134
3 feet	4,330	20 feet	106
3 1-2 feet	3,135	23 feet	98
4 feet	2,722	25 feet	69
5 feet	1,742	30 feet	48
6 feet	1,210	35 feet	35
8 feet	650	40 feet	27
10 feet	435	45 feet	21