Cotton Culture.

Since the commencement of the North American civil war which has prevented the exportation of cotton from the Southern States, the growing of that staple article of commerce in other States than those over which the Confederate flag now floats, and also in other countries, has attracted much attention, and measures have been taken by the English government to produce it in India, in Africa, and other quarters of the globe in sufficient quantities to supply their manufactories without being dependent on the Seceded States.

As soon as it became apparent that cotton could not be obtained from America to supply the manufacturing establishments of England, those most interested began to look about for other lands where it might be grown, if not as abundantly, and of as good quality as in the Southern States, in is large amounts and of as good quality as possible, that their looms and spindles might be kept in motion, and their operatives furnished with employment, without which starvation with all its horrors would be sure to result to thousands and tens of thousands depending upon their daily labour for support. Within the last twelve months every quarter of the globe has been searched for cotton lands, and some very satisfactory experiments have been made, inspiring the belief that at no distant period the European markets will be abundanly supplied with cotton, of a fair staple, whether or not another pound shall be grown for exportation in that portion of North America heretofore known as the Cotton States.

Not only have the manufacturers of England and other nations of Europe, been taking measures for supplying themselves with material with which to keep their mills in motion, but the people of the Eastern and Middle American States, since the commencement of the war have been on the alert, and active measures have been taken, and arrangements have been entered into for growing cotton in some of the States north of the Ohio river the coming season. Congress has made an appropriation for the purchase of a large quantity of upland cotton seed, for planting in southern Illinois and other locations in the Middle and Western States deemed favorable for its culture, and several thousands of acres, will under present arrangements be planted next spring, with a full expectation that the experiments will be successful and the culture remunerative to those engaging in the business. If one variety will not succeed on experiments being made it is intended to try another, as there are many kinds of the cotton plant scattered over the earth. It is said to be more widely disseminated than any other member of the plant family, being more circumscribed in Europe and America than in either of the other great divisions of the globe.

Should the exertions and experiments that are being made to produce a supply of cotton, for manufacturing and mercantile purposes, without being dependent on the Southern States, where it is produced by slave labor only, prove successful, the dominion of "king cotton" will measurely depart from the Gulf States, even should the war terminate before its culture there, under its operations, be abandoned and go into disuse.

Perennial Cotton-Tree.

Mr. R. C. Kendall, of Maryland, formerly of the United States Coast Survey, has recently published a treatise on perennial cotton, representing its commercial value as compared with herbaceous cotton, and showing the feasibility of its culture in northern latitudes and is, by lectures and otherwise, endeavoring to interest the public in the practicability of introducing it for culture in the states north of the Potomac and the Ohio. Many notices of Mr. Kendall's treatise and lectures are published in the eastern journals and if one half that is set forth be true, the matter is not unworthy of consideration. The following from the *Journal of Commerce* contains items of interest in relation to this species of cotton:

Captain R. C. Kendall, formerly of the United States Coast Survey, is making an earnest effort to interest merchants and agriculturists in the Northern States in the practicability of introducing, for general culture in this part of the country, a species of cotton-growing plant from Peru. He is confident that results of great commercial importance may be anticipated. While engaged, several years ago, on the estate of a gentleman in Chili, Mr. Kendall's attention was directed to a fine specimen of *Gossypium Arboreum*, or perennial cotton-tree, presenting to the eye "a perfect cone, or pyramid of pure, brilliant snow, elevated at its base perhaps seven feet from the ground, upon a shaft of whitish bronze." The foliage had been shed, but the pods remained, having fully burst, covering the entre structure with a mass of spotless cotton. In a recent lecture before the New York Farmers' Club, Mr. Kendall remarked as follows:—

"The *Gossypium Arboreum*, or Peruvian cotton-tree, will yet answer the almost universal call for a cotton capable of being cultivated in northern latitudes. It is perennial, can be grown wherever Indian corn can be matured, and promises to yield larger crops than the present herbaceous cotton of the South, while its requisite culture and mode of manipulation are such as can readily be performed here. I have already proved, by personal experiment, that it can be grown in the northern part of Maryland, and shall most earnestly urge the prosecution of more extended experiments, fully assured that its successful introduction will tend to prevent any future recurrence of difficulties, such as now derange the harmony of the country."

The plant is perfected in its sixth or seventh year, obtaining the size of a common peach-tree, and thrives best in a high latitude. Its product can be prepared for market with great facility, as the seed is attached to the stamen (not distributed through the lint, as in the herbaceous cotton), and is readily shaken off, without ginning. Either seed or cuttings may be used in propagating the plant. and we understand that Mr. Kendall proposes to demonstrate that it is practicable to produce, in the free states, an abundant supply of good cotton. He predicts that "the period is not very remote, when hedges, most efficient as fences, shall yield annual dividends of cotton; ornamental trees, blending the useful with the beautiful, shall repay tenfold their cost and culture; when the rugged heights of the Hudson, the plains of New Jersey, the fertile valleys of the Keystone State, and the undulating piraries of the Great West, shall gleam in the sunlight white as the winter drift, with the generous pods of Democratic cotton." This is a glowing prospect; but if only part of it shall be realized, the consequences cannot easily be estimated.

STEAMING FOOD FOR CATTLE.

The following, on the subject of steaming food for stock, written by C. T. Alvord, Esq., of Wilmington, Vermont, is from the *Country Gentleman*:

The subject of steaming food for stock seems to be engrossing the attention of farmers in many parts of the country, especially in those places where hay commands a high price; and the results of those experiments which have been tried in a thorough and sytematic manner, would seem to prove that in point of profit, it was preferable to the ordinary modes of keeping; more especially is this the case in keeping milch cows. During the past fall I had the pleasure of forming the acquaintance of Mr. H. H. Peters of Southboro', Mass. This gentleman is largely engaged in producing milk for the Boston market. his herd of cattle consisting of about 60 thorough-bred Ayrshires, which is said to be the largest and finest herd of this breed of cattle in the United States. For two winters past, Mr. Peters has been experimenting in the different ways of keeping his stock through the winter, such as cutting, mixing and steaming the food for them. His apparatus for steaming food for stock is thus described in the Boston *Cultivator:*

"It consists of an upright boiler, such as is commonly used for working the ordinary elevating engines used on board ships and in stores. It is placed in one corner of the barn cellar, and surrounded by fire-proof walls. The smoke flue connects with a chimney on the outside, which is carried above the roofs of the nearest buildings. The fuel used is hard coal. There are two steam-vats, standing in two barns, which join at one corner, and form a right angle. The vats are on the floors where the cattle stand. Iron pipes carry the steam from the boilers to the vats. Besides these, gutta percha pipes are used to take the steam to the casks or tubs in which vegetables, oats, &c., are cooked. These pipes can also be put into the water, which is constantly running in and out reservoirs in the barns, and can be made to warm it to any degree that may be desired to make it agreeable or beneficial to the stock. The whole cost of the apparatus was $300. About four hundred pounds of fodder is usually steamed in each vat at one time, and the vats are filled once a day, the time of steaming being three hours. The two vats are filled with different substances. One, from which the working oxen and several steers, heifers and dry cows are fed, is filled with cornstalks—the corn having been cut at the ground and shocked soon after it was *glazed*—and wheat chaff, barley chaff or beards, or oat straw, in about equal proportions, the cornstalks and straw having been passed through a horse-power cutter. The fodder is dampened in the vat, and wheat shorts mixed with it at the rate of two quarts to each animal to be fed. The cows in milk are fed from the other vat, which is filled with good hay that has been run through a cutter, and the same quantity of shorts for a cow as mentioned for the other stock. When the vats are thus filled, the steam is let on. The steaming is done in the fore part of the day, and the cooked fodder is taken into larger troughs which are placed on wheels, and are run along the floorway in front of the cows as they are fed. The fodder is left in the troughs several hours, to cool, but it retains sufficient heat, even the coldest weather, to make it warm enough to be eaten by cattle. The cattle which have been fed wholly on corn fodder, straw and chaff, with the quantity of shorts mentioned, are in good order, although the oxen have been worked all the time. All the fodder is eaten; we could not see that the amount of a handful of cornstalks was left among the fifteen head fed in this way. The prepared food appeared to be very palatable; it has an agreeable odor, resembling newly baked Yankee brown bread, and the stock eat it readily. The milch cows are also in good condition as could be expected, considering the length of time they have been in milk and the large quantity they give.

"The average cost of the food for all the cattle—about fifty head, exclusive of the calves of last season—is fifteen cents per head a day."

It is the opinion of Mr. Peters that there is considerable saving in rough fodder, such as corn-stalks, straw, chaff, &c., cooked in this way, at least cattle will eat much more of it, and do better in the meanwhile, than when fed in the ordinary way.

Mr. Peters estimates the cutting of the feed, cooking it, and serving it out to the cattle, to amount to about two cents a head per day, which, added to the cost of feed, would amount to seventeen cents a head per day for the fifty animals. From the consideration of the various experiments made and published on the subject of steaming food for cattle, it will be seen that the cost of keeping will depend in a measure on the cost of the apparatus used, the value of the materials used for feed, and the kind of cattle kept. The profits of this method of steaming over the ordinary way of feeding, must depend mainly on the cash value of the raw material fed.

Facts for Poor Farmers.

Mr. John Johnson in a letter to the Secretary of the New York Agricultursl Society says:

Those farmers who have most difficulty to make ends meet always plow most and keep most stock. Now these men take the true plan to always keep themselves poor, because their crops and stock are always poor and bring little. It is good profit to raise three hundred bushels of wheat from ten acres, but when it takes thirty acres to raise that amount it is raised at a loss. So it is with cattle and sheep. You will see the thinking farmers making four year old steers worth from $60 to $80 each, and his neighbors at the same age not worth over $25 to $40." His advice to the latter is, "if his land is exhausted he should plow no more than he can thoroughly manure. Seed with clover and grass and let it rest, and that field will not only pay well for tillage, but it will furnish manure (if rightly managed) to make another field of the same size rich also. And then keep it rich; do not run it with grain until again exhausted, or the latter end of the land will be worse than the first."

CLIPPINGS.

—Sir Henry Fletcher, a celebrated political character in Manchester, recently addressed a letter to the Duke of Newcastle the English Colonial Secretary, proposing that it would be cheaper for the Government to ship the cotton factory hands to the south of Europe or Asia where fuel and wood are abundant than to fight the United States. To this astounding proposition the Duke of Newcastle drily replied that such a wholesale transportation of the manufacturing population of England could not receive his sanction, and that it would be an inadequate remedy of the evils resulting from the threatened war.

—At the recent election at Denver, the editors of a secession paper, the Rocky Mountain *News*, having published a number of burlesque tickets containing the names of some respectable ladies in that place, for some important offices, one of them called at the office with a cowhide, which she applied with terrible effect to the shoulders of editor Byers. Soon after, the same editor and his partner received a like castigation from the husband of another lady, whose name appeared on the ticket.

—Professor Agassiz, like all truly great men, is unaffectedly modest. In his article on the Methods of Study in Natural History, in the *Atlantic Monthly*, he speaks of his own labors as follows:—I have devoted my whole life to the study of nature, and yet a single sentence may express all I have done. I have shown that there is a correspondence between the succession of fishes in geological times and the different stages of their growth in the egg. That is all.

—Cholera is making great ravages in India. At Cawnpore the natives are the principal victims. At Kandahar eight thousand people died in eighteen days.

—The London correspondent of the Manchester *Examiner* says that upon the esurrender of Mason and Slidell, England's war preparations will not cease in the least degree, that nation being convinced that war must ensue on the recognition of the Southern Confederacy, which event, it is thought, cannot be long delayed.

—At Frizington, England, a lad fell head foremost 170 feet down the shaft of an iron mine striking on his head in ten feet of water at the bottom of the pit. His head was jammed in the mud at the bottom of the pit, but he had presence of mind enough to press himself free; he then floated on the water, and was happily recovered, not much the worse of his perilous descent.

—The Secessionists at Paris are in ecstacies of delight at the idea that the position of New York and Charleston are to be reversed by the war with England, and that the blockade is to be transferred from the South to the North. They predict that the Warrior and consorts will march through the Narrows at the first attempt, and burn New York or plant the British flag on the City Hall.

—The Montreal *Commercial Advertiser* stated that agents of the United States government had recently purchased 10,000 tons of hay on the line of the Grand Trunk Railroad; that it was being pressed and baled for transportation to the United States. Calls upon the Canadian authorities to put a stop to the transaction at once.

—A spring of pure gin burst up out of the ground in London, attracting great attention, and the liquid speedily became much in demand. Its origin was for some time deemed purely miraculous, until finally the stream was discovered to flow through a broken underground pipe to a distillery, the proprietors of which were thus stealthily fleeced of their property.

—A wager was lately won in Paris under the following circumstances: A Parisian bet 10,000 francs that he could walk blindfolded from the Arc de Triomphe de l'Etoile to the Place de la Madelaine. He started one night at eleven o'clock, and after much wandering about, arrived at the goal at three in the morning, and won the 10,000 francs.

—Prince Napoleon is the only distinguished man in Europe who has publicly and warmly espoused the cause of the United States. He is next heir to throne of France, after the Prince Imperial; and if ever our people have an opportunity to do him a good turn, they will not be likely to forget it.

—The largest bird show ever known in England has just been held at Southampton. Every British bird, excepting the cuckoo, was exhibited. Upwards of 2,000 living birds were shown. Stuffed specimens of the prairie hen, hybrid fowls, and a hybrid duck and turkey, were also in the exhibition.

—A member of the Academy of Science, of Paris, has discovered a simple and unexpensive process for rendering muslins, laces, and all sorts of light stuffs incombustible. It simply consists of adding to the starch used in stiffening them, one-half its weight of the carbonate of lime, usually known as "Spanish White."

—Lord Shaftersbury, the great apostle of English philanthropy, recently declined joining in a united prayer meeting to supplicate for the continuance of peace between the United States and England, lest he should be deemed hostile to the British Government.

—Redpath, the swindler of the Great Northern Railway Company, in England, who is now a convict in Western Australia, has published a volume of poems which he says "he trusts will be found to express the sentiemnts of a penitent heart."

—A Connecticut soldier writes home that the Commissary at Annapolis has given the boys so much mule meat that the ears of the whole regiment have grown three and one half inches since their arrival at the Maryland capital.

—Diptheria is raging in the towns of Hudson and Bradford, Me. At Hudson, Joel Mason has lost five children in the space of nine days, viz.: three sons, aged respectively 16, 10 and 14, and two daughters, aged 8 and 12 years.

—A man named Beck, who, under the influence of liquor and the news from England, was hurrahing for Jeff. Davis in the streets of Wheeling, Va., a few days since, was compelled to subside by means of a mysterious brick, and has since laid up for repairs.

—*Punch* calls the Cabinet Council which convened on the Mason and Slidell case, "the Council of Trent."