

AGRICULTURAL.



What to Do in Winter.

Although no work can be performed out of doors at this season, in the garden, yet there are many things which can be more properly attended to than in those portions of the year when the active operations of the garden call for the entire time and energies of the cultivator. Chief among these, is the formation of plans for alterations and improvements to be made in the coming spring. For the consideration of such plans and the manner in which to carry them out, the abundant leisure of inclement winter affords ample opportunity. Books may be read and friends consulted, as to their practicability and desirableness; materials may be collected and every preparation may be made for a vigorous prosecution of the labor at the earliest possible moment. In all cases where any extensive alterations of the plan or planting of the flower garden are contemplated, a ground plan of the garden should be made, as nearly correct as possible, not for the purpose of serving as the only guide in such alterations, but to be used as an assistant in making them; for it will be found that many a plan which looks admirably on paper, will fail entirely when carried into effect on the grounds. Persons inexperienced in such matters must always expect some disappointments in their efforts to improve their grounds; alterations will frequently be found to be no improvement, and patience and perseverance are greatly needed in the prosecution of any plans which may be formed. Where grounds are extensive, a man of experience and taste should always be employed to lay them out in the first place or to superintend any desired alterations on a large scale; but in the case of a small garden where the owner is unable or unwilling to employ an architect, his own taste and judgment must be called into requisition to effect the desired changes.

At this season selections of shrubbery and flowering plants may be made from the catalogues of the various florists and nurserymen. The places in which they are to be planted may also be marked, so that when they arrive from the nursery no thought or consideration is necessary except as to the mode of planting. Flower seeds may also be selected from the list furnished by the seedsmen, and if ordered a month or two before they are needed, it will be all the better; they will be on hand ready for use. Generally, all such things are left until the very moment they are wanted; then they are ordered to be sent without any delay, and the seedsmen is fretted at and blamed because he cannot fill the orders of a hundred dilatory and impatient customers at once.

We would urge the importance of using the leisure winter months for such purposes as these, and are sure that the importance of these suggestions must be obvious to every one who will take the trouble to reflect upon the subject at all.

The Camphor Tree.—It seems something more than a wonder that a tree in itself is so valuable; in its production, a necessity so absolute, and so entirely susceptible of successful cultivation in the United States, should so long have remained totally neglected by our agriculturists. As the camphor tree is quite as hardy in its habits as any of our apple trees, there is perhaps no good reason why it should not succeed well wherever the apple tree will grow. It is indigenous to all parts of China, Japan, Formosa, Birmah, Chinese Tartary, and flourishes even as far north as the Amoor country; but is found in the greatest abundance along the eastern coast of China, between Amoy and Shanghai. In the district of Kwang-tung and Fuh-bien, it grows in dense forests, the trunks attaining a size equalling that of any of our North American forest trees. The principal market for the camphor lumber is Amoy, where I have measured boards thirty inches in width. The Camphor gum of commerce, does not in any case exude from the tree, as has been so generally supposed, but is obtained from the leaves, twigs, and smaller roots, by distillation.

Like all other highly aromatic seeds, those of the Lauras Camphora very soon lose their vitality, and it is doubtful if they would germinate after the lapse of time requisite to bring them to this country; but as the tree itself is so tenacious of life, that to kill it is a semi-impossibility, and as fine healthy plants are always readily obtained at Hong Kong or Amoy, there would be no difficulty in introducing it into this country.—[R. C. KENDALL, in Working Farmer.]

Value of Ben Manure.—The Rural American says:—No one should buy "far fetched and dear bought" guano, who has the droppings of hen roosts and yet fails to use them. There is no possible humbug about this home made guano, and it is just about as efficacious as the best Peruvian article. The way to secure and preserve it is, to cover the ground under the roost with sand, loam or old muck, and to gather up the whole, from time to time, and deposit the same in barrels where it can be kept dry. Only a single handful should be applied to a hill of corn. Forty bushels will manure an acre.—[Boston Journal.]

Two Heaps of Manure.

The following, from the pen of Hon. F. H. Holbrook, is taken from the New England Farmer:

"How true is the remark of Mr. Coke, late Earl of Leicester, that the value of farmyard manure is in proportion to what it is made of. If cattle eat straw alone, the dung is straw alone; the cattle are straw, the farm is straw, and the farmer is straw—they are all straw together. Not long ago, I had four cows come to the stable in the fall, which I thought might yield a good supply of milk through the winter if well fed. I also had four other animals, cows and heifers, which were not expected to give much milk till the following grass season. The first four were tied in the stable side by side, and received each, in addition to hay and stalks, four quarts of small potatoes each morning, and two quarts of corn and oatmeal each evening, through the winter. As we expected, they gave a good mess of milk, and came out well in the spring. The manure of those four cows was thrown out of a stable window under the cattle shed by itself. The other four animals were tied in the same stable, next to the first four, and received only hay and cornfodder. Their manure was thrown out by itself at the next stable window, and under the same shed, so that the two heaps lay side by side. The heap that was made by the four cows that were daily milled with potatoes and meal, kept hot and smoking all winter, and was wholly free from frost. The heap made by the other animals that had only hay and stalks, showed no signs of fermentation and was somewhat frozen. Observing this difference from time to time, curiosity prompted me in the spring to apply those two heaps separately, but in equal quantities, side by side, on a piece of corn ground. The superiority of the corn crop where the manure from the milled cattle was applied, over that where the other heap was spread, was quite apparent and striking, and called my attention more particularly than it was ever before directed, to the importance of feeding out our best, or richest products, if we would have the best kind of manure for our lands, and large crops from them."

Keeping Potatoes.—We see it stated that if potatoes be buried five feet under ground, they will not sprout, but keep fresh for an indefinite period. This may be true, but we do not think that it will require burying to the depth of five feet to make potatoes keep well until new potatoes shall become abundant the following season. All that is needed is to put them below the reach of frost and entirely exclude the air. Vegetables generally, and we believe also apples and pears may be preserved in the best condition by the same process. A friend informs us that a neighbor of his, some years ago, buried a hoghead full of apples, and when taken out late in the spring they were in perfect condition. He saw and ate of them.—[Germantown Telegraph.]

Opinions of the Foreign Press.

As every American citizen has more or less interest in what is transpiring on the eastern as well as on the western continent at the present time, and especially what England, France and other European powers are saying and doing in relation to the American civil war. The following extracts from foreign journals, are published. They breathe the feelings and sentiments entertained by the people on the other side of the Atlantic relative to the war, its conduct, and probable results.

The London Post says:

"It is certain that we have never been in a better condition than at this time to go to war; and if those are right who think they deserv in the New York press a change of public opinion in America on the question at issue, much of that change is probably due to our recent exertions both in our army and navy. In the American and West Indian waters we have already a fleet mounting nine hundred guns, and we are taking measures for its immediate increase. The enthusiasm exhibited along the sea coast of the United Kingdom for the redress of our national honor will enable us to commission new ships at a very short notice; and the success of the £10 bounty scheme, when adopted in 1859, evinces how we may at all times obtain sailors in emergency.

At sea, therefore, there could be no contest whatever between Great Britain and the United States. A rupture between the two countries would simply invert the relations of the Northern and Southern States—the ports of Charleston and New Orleans would be opened by the retreat of the Stars and Stripes, and the ports of Boston and New York would be blockaded in turn. Such a result would in itself be nearly equivalent to the termination of the civil war, for it is obviously by the command of the sea alone that the North can now continue its hostilities.

If, then, naval warfare between England and the United States would be turned into a system of maritime blockade, what would probably be the kind of warfare which either party would conduct by land? This much may be assumed, that on our side it would in all probability be defensive, and that we

should restrict our active operations to the closing of American ports. But if our military tactics were to be on the defensive, would those of the United States be offensive? The answer to the question rests in the relations of the Cabinet of Washington with the Southern Confederation. It seems quite impossible that the federal armies could at once continue their campaign with their present antagonists, who are already a match for them in the field, and invade our Canadian dominions at the same time. In order to do this, they would have either to double or divide their present army. It is hard to conceive that the finances of the United States would admit of the former course, especially at the moment from which they cease to draw their material of war from this country. And if they adopt the latter course, it is likely that they would be defeated on either side. We assume, therefore, that unless the Northern States were prepared to nerve themselves to gigantic exertions, probably beyond their power as well as beyond their will, they would be compelled to accept a peace with the Southern Confederation before they ventured upon offensive tactics against our Canadian dominions. Did they go to war with us, and continue to prosecute their campaign against the South, they would find themselves cooped up within three hostile lines. There would be, in addition to the Confederate States on their Southern frontier, our Canadian forces on their Northern, and our fleet upon their seaboard. To disengage themselves from one enemy before they deliberately encounter another seems to be the dictate not so much of prudence as of necessity. We will imagine, then, the government of Washington recognizing the secession of the Southern States under pressure of a European war. Then, no doubt, they would have a great military force at their command; for it would be hard for us, who have stood neutral between North and South, to expect the South to do otherwise than to stand neutral between us and the North. The Northern army is probably more apparently formidable in numbers than it is actually so in organization, but at the same time we must remember that it is altogether a new creation, and it is not that the North can be said to have manifested a proved incapacity for scientific warfare. A year hence their armies might be in a much better state of discipline than they are now."

The London Herald says:

"Of every battle fought we have generally received three successive accounts in an almost uniform diminuendo scale. First, a great battle has taken place, the Confederates outnumbered the Federalists as three to one; the North has gained a great victory; thousands of rebels killed, wounded and prisoners; loss of the Federalists three men killed, ten wounded and a dozen missing. By next mail the importance of the action and the numbers of the enemy are a good deal reduced; and we hear doubts hinted as to the completeness of the victory; it appears, too, that the conquerors have retreated. A week or two later the truth oozes out. The armies have been tolerably equal in force; the Northern generally superior in artillery; the Confederates have put there adversaries to ignominious rout, and if the Federal loss has not been heavy it has been because the federal soldiers have made excellent use, not so much of the arms provided by government, as of the legs given them by beneficent nature. And then comes out the one bit of truth which the New York papers ever willingly publish on these occasions—'It was the fault of the officers.'"

The London Times, in speaking of the blockade of the Southern ports, says:

The blockade has been so notoriously a failure that nothing but the extraordinary scrupulousness of the European Powers has allowed it to continue. Ships have passed in and out at all times just as they pleased, and so far as the harbors are concerned, there has never been any difficulty in getting into them or in getting out of them. The federal government has itself emphatically admitted the failure of their naval blockade by an act of barbarity which is unparalleled in the history of national wars. They have actually endeavored to undo what Columbus had done—to shut up from all mankind forever the ports which the great discoverer opened to the human race, and to destroy by artificial impediments the gates by which men of all nations enter and pass out of some millions of square miles of fertile and productive lands. This is a crime against all human kind. If it does not call down universal opposition, it is only because the enterprise is believed to be as impossible as its design is execrable.

The Manchester Guardian says:

The conviction forces itself upon many that the day is not far distant when the Southern confederation must be recognized; and that recognition may be expected to bring about a fresh difficulty, in which we must be prepared to maintain our policy. It is with this view, and as a demonstration of our intention to hold our own way, that the government are sending out 10,000 men to Canada without any reference to the reply of the American Cabinet. If Messrs. Mason and Slidell landed at Liverpool to-morrow, not a soldier the less would be sent out. If we are to have a war with the North, in connection with this United States schism, there could be no more favorable time than the present. It would be a short and decisive war, and would have a vital influence on the preservation of peace and the uninterrupted freedom of commerce for many years to come, without our having to pass through the ordeal of social and mercan-

tile confusion which wars, as a general rule, entail.

The London Observer of the 22d of December (ministerial organ) says that England wishes for peace, but that she will gain by war, as it will enable her to rectify her American frontiers, open the ports of the South and give a lesson to the United States.

Charleston Harbor Destroyed.

The Stone-Fleet Expedition arrived off Charleston on Friday, Dec. 20, and the work of obstructing the channels, by sinking old vessels, was immediately commenced. The Rebels had blown up the lighthouse, in the hope of obstructing the work, but that was rather a help than otherwise, and they had the melancholy satisfaction of watching, from the battlements of Sumter and Moultrie, the deliberate destruction of their port. Now and then a gun was fired by them, but none of our vessels were within their reach. Sixteen hulks, all heavily laden with stores, were sunk in the various channels in such a manner as to effectually prevent the entrance of any vessel, and unless some new channel be made by water—an event almost beyond the pale of possibility—the port of Charleston may be counted amongst the things that were. The sinking of the vessels was intrusted to Capt. Chas. A. Davies, who, as chief of a hydrographic party in the Coast Survey, had made himself thoroughly familiar with that portion of the seaboard.—[Tribune.]

The Cotton Trade with Mexico.

The editorial correspondent of the New Orleans Picayune writes as follows of a late visit to Braunfels, Texas:

"I was astonished to see the life and bustle in New Braunfels; cotton coming in and cotton going out; cotton here, cotton there, everywhere. The enterprising house of F. Moreau is purchasing largely for the Mexican market, making all payments in Mexican dollars, and there is no lack of hard currency in Comal county. Cotton is hauled in American wagons and Mexican carts; the roads are lively with the sharp crack of drivers' whips as they jog along towards the Rio Grande.

A Frenchman in Mexico is also engaged in transportation on huge wagons, drawn by twelve mules, and I was told that he loaded no less than twenty-four bales on one of his immense vehicles, and that he attracted as much attention on the road as a traveling circus or menagerie. He had been heretofore hauling cotton from Metamoros to the interior of Mexico, but is now going regularly into the business from this section. If the war is to go on, and the blockade continues, king cotton must hold court for a while at New Braunfels, and Mr. Moreau will prove a prompt and active first Lord of the Treasury. He will disburse hundreds of thousands of dollars this year all in Mexican castings."

Excuses for Using Tobacco.—In one of our neighbouring towns the lads of a school acquired the habit of smoking, and resorted to the most ingenious methods to conceal the vice from their master. In this they were successful until one evening, when the master caught them at it, and stood before them in awful dignity.

"How now?" shouted the master to the first lad, "how dare you be smoking tobacco?"

"Sir," said the boy, "I am subject to head aches, and a pipe takes off the pain."

"And you?" and you? and you?" inquired the pedagogue, questioning every boy in his turn.

One had a "raging tooth;" another "cholic;" the third a "cough;" in short, they all had something.

"Now, sirrah," belittled the master to the last boy, "what disorder do you smoke for?"

Alas! all the excuses were exhausted; but the interrogated urchin, putting down his pipe, after a farewell whiff, and looking up in his master's face, said, in a whining, hypocritical tone:

"Sir, I smoke for corns!"

General Notices.

BASKETS! BASKETS!!

THE Subscriber has on hand a quantity of Baskets of every kind. Also, Chairs bottomed. All orders promptly executed. Produce will be received in payment. 30th D. CAMMOMILLE, 11th ward.

BASKETS! WICKER-WORK!!

THE Undersigned keep on hand, and are prepared to manufacture all kinds of baskets and wicker-work; and will take all kinds of pay, observing that best and most difficult work sold for best or nearest pay. Sale shop next door to McDonald's Cabinet shop, East Temple street. 30 3 JOB SMITH, E. F. PEARCE.

WINDOW BLINDS.

THE Subscriber has commenced the manufacture of window blinds from rushes, and can furnish those who wish with that article of home manufacture; cotton yarn, wood and produce taken in exchange.

A block cutter wanted for designs to decorate the blinds. I carry on business in the 19th ward, one block north of Union Square. 30th DAVID NEEDHAM.

AMERICAN FORK.

I HAVE a large building with water-power shafts and drums, all in operation, suitable for driving machinery for turning and machine manufacture; which is to let. Any one wishing such a place would do well to apply immediately.

Any person having circular saws for cutting pickets, laths or shingles, or a good turning lathe to dispose of, will find sale for them by applying to the subscriber. All the wool in the machine rooms is carded; so call and take it home, and bring more, as we keep on carding. 30th SAMUEL MULLINEA.