

Strawberry Culture in a Poor Soil.

Of all garden fruits the strawberry is most highly esteemed, and it is certainly worthy of its high position as the general favorite. Perfectly hardy, very prolific, the choicest and most highly flavored kinds, however delicately constituted, being equally amenable to the simple method of culture that suffices for the sturdy or robust, it might reasonably be expected that an abundance of fine fruit would be the general rule or result, and not so frequently the exception as it is. A variety of reasons might be adduced for such frequent failures, or rather partial successes; but it will be enough for my purpose if I take that which I think is more generally applicable than any other—namely, ignorance of the real requirements of this plant, leading to an untimely and, I fear in some instances, slovenly system of culture, if it can be fairly called a system at all. It is not at all uncommon, when looking at fine crops of strawberries, to hear such exclamations as, "Ah! my soil will not produce such fruit as this." To this I have only to reply, that strawberries of old kinds may be cultivated perfectly well, and with little, if any, difficulty, in the poorest soil; and to impress this as clearly and forcibly as I can upon many who evidently would like to succeed, I cannot do better than state something of my own experience.

The garden of which I now have the care is a new one, and a very short time ago its site formed part of an extensive wood, a remnant, probably, of that huge forest which for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years overspread so much of the counties of Sussex and Hampshire. After clearing away the trees the soil proved to be very shallow, and of the poorest description it has ever been my lot to cultivate. Starved and exhausted by successive generations of trees, it was about as ungenial a staple for strawberry culture as could be found. The portion selected for the first strawberry bed was trenched about eighteen inches deep, taking care not to bury the surface soil, but only turning it over, and chopping it to pieces; then six or eight inches of rich farmyard manure was spread over it, and well worked in with forks. The strawberries were next planted, and well watered until they became established in their new quarters. This was done late in autumn, yet, notwithstanding, the whole of the plants survived the winter, and made a respectable growth next spring, most of them throwing up some flower-trusses, which were promptly removed. An occasional dose of liquid manure was given during the summer, more manure forked into the soil between the rows early in August, and in the following summer of 1872, a full crop of fine fruit was taken. Meanwhile other beds were made in a similar manner, and in the present season the entire crop of fruit has been equal in size and abundance to any I have had or seen in those rich loamy soils which so many of us vainly sigh for.

Thus it will be seen that no very scientific appliances or uncommon skill were necessary to produce such desirable results, but only the ordinary care and painstaking that most other crops require. The only difference that has since been made is to plant as early in June or July as is practicable, so as to have the plants sufficiently established to produce an early crop of fruit in the following season. Plants that have been forced in pots are in every respect to be preferred, because they yield a full crop next season. Failing such, excellent beds may be made by securing the earliest offsets from established plants, and even when plenty of forced plants can be secured, an annual bed of the young runners or offsets is very useful, as the fruit, being less shaded by the foliage than that on the older plants, ripens earlier, and thus lengthens the season. Another important point is always to destroy exhausted beds. No Strawberry plant will continue in full bearing longer than two seasons. It is true that fruit may be taken for several years from the same plants, but such fruit is invariably of a paltry description, quite unfit for the dessert.

To reduce these notes to the form of a few simple rules, it may be stated that—

1. The soil must be drained, stirred deeply, and thoroughly manured.

2. The plants, if forced pot-plants, should be planted in June, or if not, as early in July as they can be served from the old plants, taking care that they do not suffer from want of water, either then or at any subsequent period.

3. Immediately after the fruit is gathered give a liberal dressing of rich manure, forked slightly into the surface between the rows.

4. Destroy the old beds after the second, or at most the third, year of planting.

5. Let your beds be large enough to enable you always to supply the finest-picked fruit for the table, the aim being that every dish of fruit shall be fit to compete for a prize. The small fruit is always as useful for culinary purposes as the large. —E.

HUSBAND AND WIFE IN ILLINOIS.—The following are some of the prominent features in the bill revising the law in relation to husband and wife, which has passed both branches of the Illinois legislature: "A married woman may in all cases sue and be sued without joining her husband with her, to the same extent as if she were unmarried; if sued with her husband, she may defend for her own right; if he neglects to defend she may defend for him also, and vice versa; neither party shall be responsible for the debts of the other; contracts and liabilities incurred by the wife may be enforced against her the same as if she were unmarried, but she cannot enter into partnership business with another person without the husband's consent, unless he be idiotic or insane, or is in the penitentiary, or has abandoned her; one cannot sue or recover compensation for services performed for the other; one shall not convey property to the other without a conveyance in writing, to be recorded in the same manner as chattel mortgages; the expenses of the family and the education of the children shall be chargeable upon the property of both or of either, and in relation thereto they may be sued jointly or separately."

Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association.

One of the last petitions ever presented in the Senate by Charles Sumner was the following, which he offered on the 19th of February. Mr. Sumner had promised to assist the friends of Woman Suffrage in preventing the disfranchisement of the Women of Utah:

To the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled:

Senator Frelinghuysen, on the 3rd of December, 1873, presented to the Senate of the United States a bill to aid in the execution of the laws of the Territory of Utah, and for other purposes, which was read twice and ordered to be printed; and

Whereas, there are certain sections in that bill which, if it becomes a law, will do a great injury to a large number of the citizens of that Territory:

First, In that it will disfranchise the women who are now voters.

Second, It will prevent women from serving on either petit or grand juries.

Third, It will subject them to fine and imprisonment if they attempt to vote.

Fourth, It will prohibit the Legislature of the Territory from ever passing a law to restore these rights. (See sections 5, 6, 7, 19, 22 and 24 of said bill); and

Whereas Senator Logan, on the 4th day of December, 1873, also presented to the Senate of the United States a bill with the above named provisions, and containing another section, which read as follows: "Sec. 23. That the common law of England, as it existed in the colony at the date of the Declaration of Independence, is hereby extended over and declared to be in force in the Territory of Utah, so far as the same is practicable;" and

Whereas these sections seem unjust and oppressive, your petitioner, in behalf of Woman, and by authority of the Woman Suffrage Association of the State of Pennsylvania, would respectfully pray your honorable bodies not to pass a law containing the above-named sections, nor any law whatever by which the women of Utah may be disfranchised, or in any way be deprived of their civil or political rights.

We pray your honorable bodies

to grant our petition for the following reasons:

First, because the disfranchising of these women will render them wholly subject to the power of the men who are voters in that Territory, as they will be compelled to obey laws which they had no voice in making, and will have no power of repealing, however unjust, cruel, or oppressive they may be, and thus will many of these women become more hopelessly subject to the corrupt influences existing in that Territory.

Second, A law that disfranchises any class of citizens, except for high crimes and misdemeanors, is cruel and tyrannical in its nature, and no such law can ever be enacted by a truly democratic government.

Third, Such a law would force one-half of the people of Utah to be governed without their consent, would compel them to pay taxes without representation, and deprive them of a trial by a jury of their peers; all of which are direct violations of the fundamental principles of our government.

Fourth, As the United States Government has never disfranchised any of its citizens, except great criminals, this law would place these women, who are not charged with any crime, in the category of felons and traitors.

Fifth, If the common law of England is extended over and declared to be in force in the Territory of Utah, married women will be entirely subject to the will of their husbands, and the legitimate mother will be rendered powerless, for the common law declares, that the very being and existence of the wife is suspended during marriage; that the mother, as such, has no power." It gives the husband complete control over the wife; gives him the right to the custody of her person, and to her strict obedience; a right to her time, property, services, earnings and children. This law would subject the women of Utah to the most cruel proscriptions. It desecrates the sacredness of the marriage relation by "making it a contract between master and servant, giving the husband complete supremacy, and reducing the wife to abject submission."

MATILDA HINDMAN,
Agent of the W. S. Asso. of the State of Penn.
—Woman's Journal.

The Emperor of Russia.

A MAN OF WONDERFUL PUNCTUALITY—AN INTERESTING SKETCH OF HIS FAMILY.

The Emperor has the reputation of being the hardest worked man in Russia. Every morning, with the regularity of clockwork, he takes a walk in the gardens of the Winter Palace for twenty minutes, accompanied by his dogs, and on his return to the palace he works until luncheon, which is served at 12 o'clock. Immediately afterward his Majesty resumes work, receiving his ministers or giving audiences. With the exception of half an hour's rest the Czar is occupied in this manner until 2 o'clock. He then goes out for a couple of hours' walking or driving. As a rule, the imperial family are very particular in regard to their daily exercise. Dinner is served at 6 p. m., after which the Emperor sets to work again, and, if necessary, does not cease the occupation upon which he may be engaged until after midnight, sometimes not until 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning. Usually his Majesty goes out shooting once a week, and occasionally he visits the theater, where, however, he seldom remains more than half an hour. The Czar is a man of wonderful punctuality in his habits, while his pleasant manner endears him to all. The Empress is as amiable as the Czar, but does not enjoy good health, and is thus unable to appear in public as often as she would under other circumstances.

The Grand Duke Vladimir has great artistic tastes. He is vice-president of the Academy of Arts, and regularly attends the meetings of the Senate, of which he is a member. Like his father, the Grand Duke is a keen sportsman; whenever a bear is seen in the neighborhood of Gatchina the Emperor is informed of it, and preparations are at once made for a battue. There are generally eight or ten gentlemen with the Emperor and Grand Duke; the beaters drive the bears as much toward the Czar as possible, and the black game usually falls to the gun of the Emperor

o. the Grand Duke, both of whom are first rate shots.

The Grand Duke Alexis is, like the Duke of Edinburgh, a sailor, having been destined for the navy from his infancy. His studies were directed by Admiral Possiet, a man distinguished for his great scientific attainments. The Grand Duke began at the lowest rung of the naval ladder, and has gone conscientiously through all the grades of a cadet upward. He started in August, 1871, on his longest tour, with the rank of Lieutenant, and was promoted on the voyage to the rank of first lieutenant; he was subsequently made a captain, which rank he held upon the arrival of the frigate *Svetlana*, so called after the heroine of a poem by the great Russian poet Pouchkin.

The Grand Duke has encountered many vicissitudes during his adventurous career. In the month of September, 1868, while coasting in the *Alexander Nevski*, off the coast of Jutland, he was shipwrecked, and it was on that occasion that the Grand Duke exhibited extraordinary pluck, and, what is more, singular abnegation of self and solicitude for others in a position of the gravest peril. Since then the Grand Duke has visited all parts of the world, with the exception of Australia, India, New Guinea, and the islands thereabouts, which he intends seeing either next year or the year after. He will start on another long cruise of adventure in 1875. The Grand Duke is never happier than when on a voyage. The Grand Duke has been accompanied on all his travels by his English preceptor, Mr. Machin, who is still attached to the suite.

It is Russian etiquette for the Grand Duke Heritier to lead a comparatively retired life, and to appear chiefly in connection with works of philanthropy. The Czarevitch does not, accordingly, take a prominent part in public matters, although it is understood that he is being gradually made thoroughly conversant with the affairs of the great empire.

The Grand Duke Serge, who is in his sixteenth year, is a young man of very great promise. As yet his studies are not completed.

The Grand Duke Paul is thirteen years of age. Both he and his brother, the Grand Duke Serge, are earnest students, and everywhere in St. Petersburg nothing but that which redounds to their credit is heard of them. The Grand Duchess Marie, the only daughter of the Emperor, is a universal favorite. She has been the direct means of doing an immense amount of good. The Grand Duchess has taken much interest in some of the charitable institutions of St. Petersburg. She is an accomplished musician and a great reader, and she has endeared herself to all who have been so fortunate as to be brought in contact with her.—*Correspondence of the London Morning Post.*

MARRIED.

In this city, April 20th, 1874, by Elder W. Woodruff, Mr. EDWARD SCRAE and Miss MARIA MORRIS, both of this city.

DIED.

In St. Lake City, April 20, JACOB, son of George and Nancy Pearl.

Deceased was born June 3rd, 1801, at Noontown's farmhouse, Cumberland, England; baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, July, 1837, by Elder Isaac Russell, having previously been a devoted Methodist; emigrated to Nauvoo in 1841; assisted in building the Temple; shared in the persecutions of the Saints; left Nauvoo with the Saints; went to Winter Quarters and tarried there until the Spring of 1848; crossed the Plains in President Brigham Young's company, arriving in Salt Lake Valley, Sept. 26, 1848; settled in the 14th Ward, Salt Lake City; was appointed by Bishop Hoagland to preside as a teacher, in which capacity he labored with honor. Brother Pearl was a very kind hearted man, respected by every one who knew him. He was true to his trust, to God and his brethren. He died with a full assurance of a glorious resurrection.—Com.

At Panguonah, Iron County, Utah Territory, April 11th, after a lingering illness, ELLEN BELL, wife of William Robb.

Deceased was born in Perth, Scotland, June 30th, A. D. 1818; embraced the gospel in Sidney, Australia; emigrated to the Valley in 1857 with her husband and family. She lived the life of a Saint and died in full hope of a glorious resurrection, leaving a large family.—Com.

At Mendon, Cache County, April 16th, LUCY AMELIA, wife of Joseph Baker and daughter of John and Julia Pack.

Deceased was born in Kirtland, Ohio, June 24th, 1837, and lived and died a faithful Saint, beloved by all who knew her.—Com.

At Spring City, Sanpete Co., April 12th, at 7 o'clock a. m. of lung disease and old age, after a severe illness of three weeks, ANNE MARGARET, wife of Lars Johansen, aged 77 years and 11 months.

Deceased was born at Windelov, Wells Amt, Denmark, in the month of May, 1796;

baptized by her son, Elder C. J. Larsen, in August, 1851; emigrated with her husband to Utah in 1854; died, as she had lived, a faithful Latter-day Saint, leaving an aged husband, five sons, two daughters and fifty-five grandchildren, all of whom are in Utah.—Com.

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St. Louis University, June 9th, 1872.

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