

FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

MAN'S FIRST EMPLOYMENT

BY MRS. L. H. SIGOURNEY.

"And the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden, to dress it and to keep it."—[GEN. II, 15.]

When Man was in his pristine strength,
Unstain'd, unfallen, undismay'd,
His Maker gave the genial task,
To dress and keep the garden glade.

Then Angels delg'd his guests to be,
By sinless Eden's crystal springs,
And oft at hush of day he heard
The hovering of celestial wings.

Even now tho' thorns and thistles claim
Dominion o'er the uncultured soil,
From nature and from God he finds
A blessing on his rural toil.

Earth is his friend, and freely gives
The treasures of her fruitful breast,—
While Industry, of health the friend,
Sheds sweetness o'er his nightly rest.

No flaming sword, no guarded gate
Repel him from his home of love,—
But Peace and Hope like angels wait,
And point to Paradise above.

Hartford, Conn't.

All about Weeds.—For the gratification of the curious and to explain the cause of a phenomenon that was apparently a considerable stumbling-block to Mr. Horace Greeley, when here—namely, that there were more weeds in the gardens than he expected to find—we print the result of some careful investigations made by Professor Buckman, of England, to ascertain the amount of weed seeds contained in seeds sold as clean:

"In a pint of clover seed, 7,600 weed seeds; in a pint of cow grass, 12,600; in broad clover; 39,440; and two pints of Dutch clover severally, 25,560 and 70,400 seeds. Supposing these samples to be sown, here were weeds enough to stock the land with seeds for many years. The farmer often goes to the cheapest market and gets weeds for corn, and so pays exceedingly dear for what he considers a cheap bargain."

In connection with the above our exchange justly adds:

"If this be true, in relation to English farming, how much more so must it be to America, where it is well known much less pains is taken in preparing grain for market, as well as in the selection of seed and the general cultivation of the soil! In purchasing seed grain, turnip seed, grasses, etc., farmers often display a want of judgment and ordinary prudence, by selecting such articles as are cheap, or rather low-priced, for that is not really cheap which is not genuine; and we can conceive no greater pest in an agricultural neighborhood, than 'a cheap seed store,' in the but too common acceptance of the term."

Weeds propagate their species with astonishing prolificacy. Professor Buckman counted 8000 seeds in a single plant of black mustard and 4000 seeds in a specimen of charlock; in the common stinking camomile, 46,000; in the burdock, 26,000. The seeds of a single plant of common dock produced 1700 little docks.

That the present season has been uncommonly successful in producing weeds, we believe has been generally acknowledged; but for this there is good cause to be found in the great exodus of last year, during which period, most if not all of the gardens in this region were necessarily neglected and left to bring forth, if nothing else, the indigenous products of the soil—weeds—many of which had already matured their seed ere the people returned to their homes.

It was at the season when this innumerable host of wild and noxious germinators had appeared in full uniform, wherever they had not been destroyed in the early spring, that Mr. Greeley made his advent to our mountain valleys, and, under these circumstances, his first and about his only reply to the solicitous inquiry of the friendly citizen, "How do you like our mountain home?" was:

"I did not expect to see so many weeds!"—a most "genteel" and appropriate rejoinder.

In truth, so far as we have been informed, this was the universal answer given by the *Tribune's* representative to every person who, during his sojourn here, had even the impudence to ask him,—"How do you do?" while the facts in the case are, that, during the absence of the people from their homes, the wild sunflowers—which are natives of the soil—obtaining a new foothold along the roadsides of the most unfrequented streets, so utterly obscured the luxuriant and highly cultivated gardens inclosed beyond them, that Mr. G. could see nothing in the world (or this part of it, rather) but sunflowers, from which he came to the conclusion—that the people of Utah cultivated nothing but weeds; in which—if not so badly sold as he was at Pike's Peak—he was most egregiously mistaken.

Travelers who have visited this region, the past season as well as heretofore, have generally conceded that, notwithstanding the vast

amount of hard and incessant labor required to bring forth vegetation from these parched benches and bottoms, the fields and gardens, in point of thorough and systematic culture, would bear a favorable comparison with those of the older and more fertile districts of our country; while at the same time, there is so little that is inviting to the agriculturist here, that, like Mr. Greeley's pertinent answer to the Usonian, it has become a stereotyped expression that "none but 'Mormons' would inhabit such a God-forsaken country"—the truth of which would be attested to the especial satisfaction of the unbelieving portion of the world, should the "Mormons" at any time conclude to evacuate their present localities and migrate to some region more inviting. In such an event, though now the merchant and the speculator are numbered with the farmers and mechanics, who constitute the bone and sinew of Utah's population, those gentlemen would find it to their interest to seek quarters elsewhere as soon as practicable. Nor would the few thousands of sundry professions and who have no visible means of support—who would starve to death within a month, if obliged to work for a living, or, if induced or compelled by any necessity, to go to farming—long survive the permanent removal of the old inhabitants from Utah.

But they are not gone yet and so far from it, the farmer is preparing his ground for his fall wheat, which he confidently expects, with the blessing of a kind Providence, to reap in the harvest of 1860; he has stacked his hay and provender to sustain his animals during another winter and is making every necessary preparation for a vigorous prosecution of the next spring's labors, cheered and encouraged with the reward for his toil which he has just reaped, despite the road-side thistles (not the Canada species, though) and flowers, so offensive to the refined and cultivated taste of Mr. Greeley—but, in our opinion, decidedly stately and picturesque, relieving the dull monotony of the dusty road; bearing convincing evidence that even from Utah's desert and parching soil, uncultivated, the weeds are indestructible; and also bidding the way-worn traveler look beyond, to behold, in contrast, the well tilled field and the cultivated garden, profusely bedecked with the choicest plants and fruits and flowers.

Weeds? They serve many good purposes of the Creator. Like many men, they are not the most useful things in creation; or, it might indeed be a puzzle to determine why they exist; but without them, how should we estimate the divine edict, "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field?" Without them, either the authenticity of the Bible must be imperilled or we should be forced to the conclusion that we have taken up our abode upon the wrong sphere! How desolate the highways, the landscape and the plains would seem were there no wild flowers in bloom—no thistles nor thorns—no weeds to impart some signs of vegetable life!

Weeds? We would not, in our present condition, be without them. Springing forth early in the season, when their juices are most grateful and nutritious to man, the greens afforded by the most common weeds are unsurpassed by any other species of vegetable—the famed spinach of England not excepted. What is spinach, if it is not a cultivated weed? But who ever thought of cultivating weeds for greens? Nobody; because Nature, in her wise provision for our wants, furnishes us greens without our special care. If cultivated, they might be had earlier in the season, as is the case with spinach.

Weeds? Why, without them—the soil, unless mellowed by great quantities of decomposing matter—which is not as yet so largely applied—would become hard and impenetrable to the sun's heat and the refreshing waters of irrigation. What a spongy receptacle for moisture is the ground from which the weeds are pulled, after having furnished you with many a delicious dish of greens, and all this without plowing a furrow or sowing a seed in their behalf! Who will henceforth say aught against the weeds—only to keep their gardens as clean of them as possible?

This is our plea for the weeds.

FARMERS' BOYS.—At a recent term of the circuit court in Chautauque county, N. Y., several young men, sons of respectable farmers in that district, were sentenced to State prison, for crimes committed by them. The judge, Hon. R. P. Marvin, on the occasion, gave the

following counsel to the farmers who were present:

"Before sentencing these boys, I have a few words to say to the men of Chautauque county, the agriculturists in particular, some of whom are here to-day, looking on at the saddest scene it has been my lot to see in this county; so many boys, farmers' sons, too, all of them, to be sent to the penitentiary for stealing and burglary.

Farmers of Chautauque county, when your boys get large enough to work, find work for them at home. On no account let them go into the village to work; nor let them go to teaming. I care not if they can get \$50 per month; it will be a dead loss. They will just as surely follow the example of these boys now before you, as they leave the sacred and restraining influences of home. GIVE THEM PLENTY OF GOOD BOOKS AND PAPERS, MAKE HOME PLEASANT, AND KEEP THEM THERE UNTIL THEY ARE OF AGE AND HAVE THE WISDOM TO RESIST THE TEMPTATION OF HIGH WAGES ON A ROAD OR IN A TAVERN, BUT OBTAINED AT THE EXPENSE OF GOOD CHARACTER."

The above advice cannot be too well appreciated nor too practically carried out. If farmers have sons, the most profitable place for them is their father's farm, at least till they have arrived at sufficient maturity to enter as apprentices to some useful trade or art, when, if they have been wisely schooled at home, they will not be very likely to go far astray while treading the "slippery paths of youth" and, in ripper years, will be prepared to honor the names and memories of their fathers.

Carrots for Pigs.—We had become well satisfied that, for feed to milk cows, there is no better; but, till informed by Mr. L. S. Hemenway, we were not aware that carrots could be profitably fed to hogs. Mr. H. has some fine looking hogs, which, he says, have been fed almost exclusively on carrots. No cooking is required and, though at first they may not be very greedily devoured, in a few days such a relish will be acquired for the carrots, that the swine will eat them in preference to any other food and become very fat. It will not be amiss to wash the carrots clean before feeding them.

If carrots prove to be as good for pork-feeding as here represented, they will unquestionably be largely cultivated for this purpose, as it will at once be seen that they provide a cheaper article of feed than grain. Whether the pork would be as solid and marketable as if grain fed, we are not advised. If it should not be, corn fed during the last two or three weeks will probably impart all the firmness desired.

A Sheep, to be in the best condition for the palate, says a late English writer, should not be killed till five years old, at which age, he says, the mutton will be succulent, of a dark color, and full of the richest gravy; whereas if only two years old, it is flabby, pale and flavorless.

Old Beans that have become moldy or rancid, it is stated, may be made sweet by pouring boiling water over them.

To make a Cow give down—put a bag of meal or any other weight on her back. This is almost infallible.

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A TREATISE ON HORTICULTURE.

BY E. SAYERS, HORTICULTURIST.

No. 11.

VITALITY OR LIFE OF SEED.

Many persons have given to the world tables to point out the time during which different varieties of vegetable seeds retain life in a dormant state. The first of these was Cobbett, the celebrated political writer of England, who has since been followed by several vegetable phytologists and amateurs, most of whom agree within a year or two on the various data given for seed to retain life in its dormant state; as, for instance, the radish, the cabbage, turnip, etc., from three to four years; onion seed, from four to six; averaging most seeds from three to six years; grain the same; for instance, wheat is set down at three to six years.

Upon a little inquiry, such statements will appear to be but of little use and that they have been made without any correct investigation.

We are daily informed of wheat called "Mummy wheat," being produced from seed taken out of an Egyptian mummy, supposed to have been preserved two thousand years. If this is true, which I have no doubt it is, the theory must fall to the ground, or more properly speaking, be grounded on an incorrect supposition.

Upon a little attention to the subject it will be seen that providence has endowed seed with certain properties by which the vital part or life can be retained perfect, in a dormant state, for a great number of years.

THE PRESERVING PROPERTIES OF THE VITALITY OR LIFE OF VEGETABLE SEED.

I hold it as a rule with seeds which contain oil, as cabbage, turnip, rape, etc., that the oil is the preserving property and, so long as it is retained, so long the vitality or life of the seed will be retained.

Many other seeds, as wheat, contain lack, or milk; others contain sugar, starch, etc., in a concrete state. These, with many other substances,

are all preserving properties of the life of seed and, when too much heat, moisture, water or the like, come in contact with seed, so as to make the oil rancid or cause it to pass through the covering of the seed, it must become lifeless and decay, as it were, within itself.

Indeed the very elements of heat, air and water, which cause a seed to germinate when embedded in its parent earth, are the cause of destroying the life when in contact of seed in a dormant state, out of the earth.

SEMEN OR SEED.

The essence of every vegetable is defined by Linnaeus to be the deciduous part of a plant, containing the rudiments of a new vegetable, which is fertilized by the sprinkling of the male dust.

It would be useless for any person to attempt to give the correct time or period that any vegetable seed would retain life under the most favorable situation. To ascertain this it would require many years of actual experiment, as the seeds of the various species of plants are of different size, different construction and composed of entirely different properties. At the same time, however different any species of vegetable seed may be, every variety is so complete as to serve the end for which it was at first intended.

OTHER PROPERTIES OF SEEDS.

Besides the essential preserving properties spoken off as contained in the seed, there are others which seem to be designed for a short period—from the time the seed comes into a matured state until its proper time of planting.

By closely examining the temporary covering over each species of seed we can generally arrive at the proper time of planting.

WHEN SEEDS SHOULD BE PLANTED.

Seeds that naturally require to be planted in the fall, or as soon as they are matured, generally have but little covering and fall to the ground soon after being ripe. The lettuce and onion are examples in the garden of the seed falling to the ground soon after being ripe, and if the ground is moist, the seed immediately germinates.

The radish and many other garden seeds are contained in pods and preserved until the spring, which is the natural time for such seed to germinate.

The seed of apples, pears, melons, squash and the like pomiferous fruit, is preserved for a season by the pulp until the proper time of planting.

The peach, plum, cherry and all kinds of stone fruit are preserved by the hard shell or covering until the spring, when frost, moisture, etc., acts upon the outer covering so as to expose the kernel or seed that it may germinate when the season is sufficiently advanced.

All kinds of hard shell or crustaceous seed, as nuts of the hazel, hickory, walnut, etc., have hard shells for covering to protect the kernel or seed for a season until its due time of germinating or growth. Much more might be said on this subject, which I defer until a future time.

[From the American Agriculturist.]

How Cotton is Grown and Prepared for Market. . . . II.

VARIETIES.

Cotton has so little had the care of scientific cultivators, that it is somewhat difficult to determine the varieties now in use. Formerly there were three leading species, pretty well defined, viz., The Green Seed (*Gossypium herbaceum*), known in the market as Upland Cotton. The Black Seed, producing a long, soft cotton of good staple, mostly cultivated on the sea islands, by which name it is also known—and more recently introduced, the Petit Gulf and Mexican which are regarded as sub-varieties of the Hirsute, or hairy cotton. The Petit Gulf is exceedingly productive, and matures early, which is a great recommendation, with all those planters, who live on the northern edge of the cotton region.

As very little attention is paid to the selection of seeds, on many of the plantations, and the varieties being often cultivated near together, they become mixed and degenerate. The planters of the upland districts procure the best Petit Gulf Seed, from the neighborhood of Rodney, on the Mississippi; but after the fourth year, it has lost its characteristics as to be hardly distinguishable from the common Green Seed variety. In most, if not all of the kinds cultivated, in this country, there is a tendency to increase the fur, which immediately envelops the seed. This renders the separation of the wool somewhat more difficult, but has no other disadvantage.

TILLAGE.

There is a gradual change coming over the whole cotton region, in the use of new tools, but it has not yet resulted in any uniform system of cultivation. While in some places the hoe is still in the ascendant, on the great majority, the plow is the favorite implement for breaking up the soil, and for its tillage, while the crops are upon the land. When the cultivation begins, usually in the month of April, the young plants appear in a continuous drill on top of the ridges. The object of the first cultivation is merely to keep down the weeds, and stir the soil. However advantageous the thinning of the plants might be at first, they have so many enemies, in the early part of their growth, that they are left, as long as they can be with safety to the crop, before they are brought to a stand. More or less plants are drawn at each weeding, until the last of May, or first part of June, when they receive their last thinning. The stand is generally from one to two feet apart, according to the quality of the land. On a rich soil the plants want the most room. In very rich bottom lands, where the plants frequently grow eight or ten feet high, they should stand still farther apart.

At each cultivation, the ridges are preserved, and rather increased in weight, until the crop is laid by, the latter part of July. A favorite implement of cultivation is the cotton sweep, a sort of light double mold board plow, designed to sweep over the surface of the ground, and turn the soil toward the plants. The cultivators, and horse lines of the north, so admirably adapted to this work, are only seen upon a few plantations as novelties.

It is claimed for the ridge system of tillage, that it is indispensable in the peculiar climate of the south. The rains are very abundant in Spring, and it would often be