

FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

THE MARCH OF EMPIRE:

WRITTEN UNDER A TREE IN THE FAR WEST.

BY REV. J. HARBAUGH.

In the deep and awful forest
Of the wide primeval West—
On the rich and lonely prairies
That upon its bosom rest—
Along the mighty rivers,
I wandered, seeing visions,
Like one who strangely dreams;
And along the smaller streams,
The herds upon the prairies,
The wild beasts in the wood,
When moving, moved but westward,
Looked westward when they stood:
A sense of awe possessed them,
A deep and dreamy dread,
As timidly they lingered,
Or fearfully they fled.

Around me were the Red men,
But restless in their stay;
A deep mysterious instinct
Was urging them away;
And as the birds of passage
In the silent autumn time,
Their hearts were deeply longing
For a more congenial clime.

In the distance, far, far eastward,
And at first but faintly heard,
There seemed mysterious roarings,
As of thousand forests stirred—
A noise like mighty armies
In warfare or in glee,
And then a deep dread sounding
Like the rolling of the sea.

Still nearer, and still louder,
I heard the mystic tread;
Still faster, and more fearful,
The solemn Red man fled.

Around me fell the forests
As mowers fell the grass;
The mountains bowed, the valleys rose
To let the armies pass.

Encampments grew to cities,
And tents spread far and wide;
And proud upon the rivers
Their ships of thunder ride;
Their shouts of joy and triumph,
O'er prairie and o'er plain,
Sound in the primal forests,
And echo back again.

It is the march of empire—
The tramp and tread of States—
The moving of the millions
With fiat that creates,
Where lone inness for ages reigned,
Now myriad homes repose,
The wilderness is glad for them,
And blossoms as the rose.

Large Crops vs. Large Farms.

It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the minds of our farmers that small farms well tilled are, in all countries, more profitable than large farms skimmed over. Nor is there any section of this country where the adage is more fully applicable than within that portion of the North American continent included within the Great Basin and designated upon the map as "Utah."

The immense labor of irrigating alone, to say nothing of the scarcity of water that exists in nearly every settlement during mid-summer, at the very time when water is most needed—should be an incentive to the farmer to exert himself, by more thorough culture and a liberal application of every species of fertilization, to raise his sustenance from a smaller quantity of land, the extra soil-cultivation of which would probably not exceed the additional labor that would have to be expended in irrigating a larger tract, cultivated in the common let-alone practice.

There is, however, another and still more potent reason why the Utah farmer, of all others, should especially husband his soil, as well as everything else pertaining to his vocation. The quantity of available land is very limited.

Those who are acquainted with this arid, mountainous region, need not that we should inform them that not one acre in ten thousand, composing the area of our Territory, can ever, in its present condition, be made available to the farmer or subservient to the sustenance of man or beast.

To drop the continuance of the argument for the present, and to come to the point at once: we doubt not that, if the lands now under cultivation were brought into a proper state of fertility and thoroughly tilled, the number of inhabitants in the several settlements might be doubled and the quantity of produce, from the same land, increased at least two hundred per cent. The following excellent and practical article, in this connection, we copy from the *Albany Cultivator*:

"It has been tersely remarked, 'If our farmers, instead of laboring to double their acres,

would endeavor to double their crops, they would find it a vast saving of time and toil, and an increase of profits.'

Is this true? Is the secret of successful farming what it has been declared to be, 'Much labor on little land?' Up to a certain point we believe it to be so. A few farmers are successful because they possess a soil naturally rich in every element of fertility, and suited in character and situation to the growth of large and profitable crops, but these farms form but a small portion of the whole surface of the country under cultivation. Most soils need some improvement and amendment—deepening, draining, and manuring—in order to their highest productiveness; and all need careful cultivation, at least to keep out noxious weeds, the "thorns and thistles" with which the earth was 'cursed for our sake.'

With too many farmers, the acres in possession do not come nearly up to the productiveness which might be attained. 'Doubling the crop' would be thought a very simple undertaking by the progressive farmer—he would merely add sufficient labor in the preparation of the soil to give the product to which he would devote it, a fair chance,—depth of soil, appropriate food, freedom from weeds, etc.—and the yield would be doubled at once. That farmer will be most successful who, by a wise expenditure of labor and capital, gives to the lands he cultivates a like character with those most productive, not forgetting, also, by clean culture, to concentrate the whole energy of the soil on the crop. Artificial means must be employed to give depth and fineness to hard and shallow soils, and a course of manuring and culture adapted to add the elements of fertility to sterile and impoverished ones. Stagnant water, that enemy to all vegetation of a profitable character must be drained off, and retentive soils thus ameliorated. Light sands ask for an addition of a calcareous or aluminous character, to give them better consistency for cultivation. The hill-sides and knolls have long contributed from their soluble and floating elements of vegetable matter, to fill the adjacent marshes; let these return their rich deposits of muck, and a partial exchange of soils would be no injury.

The passion for more land is one which works incalculable evil to American agriculture. It crowds out of farming many who would otherwise engage in it—many who, were small farms more readily attainable, would do good service in the culture of the soil, and in the elevation of the character of our farming population. If the great mass of farmers would engage in the laudable enterprise of 'doubling their crops,' they would soon find use at home for all their outside investments—and excuse for selling off that portion of their land which they had not ample means to cultivate—would soon find, too, that they were making more money, and doing a more pleasant and satisfactory business than under their former system. We are glad to see the idea gaining ground that farming cannot be carried on without capital, enterprise, intelligence—and that it opens a fair field for the exercise of the noblest endowments of the human mind.

Let us then be less covetous of surface—of large farms and broad plantations—and more anxious for productiveness—asking for better crops, finer animals, more serviceable implements, rather than 'one field more.' Why, when our title deeds cover all beneath us, should we not be anxious to own and use the subsoil, instead of seeking ever to enlarge our outside boundaries. Why cry, 'more land,' when our sterile acres are a shame to our skill in farming what we already possess, they give such meagre crops. Let us farm thoroughly a few acres, and we shall thus best prepare ourselves to farm profitably upon a larger scale."

Improved Mode of Racing.—In compliance with a proposal made by the *American Agriculturist* last year, as an improvement upon modern agricultural races at "Fairs," several prizes were offered the past season to the *last in*—each competitor riding another man's beast—and the beasts being moles. "Of course," says that journal, "each man would push ahead as fast as possible, so as to have his own beast, ridden by another, come in *last*."

Among the best affairs of this kind occurred at Wheeling, Va., where one little brown mule wouldn't go at all for either coaxing, whip or kicks and, of course received the prize—twenty-five dollars!

Curious Calf.—From the *Sacramento (Cal.) Union* of Dec. 31. We learn that a very extraordinary calf was lately born in San Joaquin county—the property of James Garwood. When first seen its appearance created the impression that it was a lion, but now it resembles a beaver. It is fifteen inches perpendicularly through the body; its legs are three feet in length; its weight is eighty pounds, and across the breast it measures as much as its mother. It is only one week old. The singular creature is sprightly and seems prepared to grow healthfully.

Founder.—A writer in the *Cotton Planter* says: Clean out the frog of the foot; let all the dirt be well scraped off. Raise the foot so as to be level; pour spirits of turpentine on the sole, just enough to fill the hoof without running over; then set the turpentine on fire, and let it be entirely consumed.

What Varieties of Fruit to Grow.

As the season for transplanting approaches, we wish to awaken our readers to the matter and give such information relative to the subject as shall be deemed requisite to the instruction of those who need instruction and to call the attention of all classes thereto.

There are comparatively but few who, when about to select and purchase trees, know what varieties are the best. This is especially true of the apple, whose varieties are so numerous.

The judgment of the honest, experienced nurseryman is truly excellent, in most cases, in aiding the uninformed to select trees for an orchard—in designating what varieties might be preferred, whether sweet or sour, etc.; how many of each, whether summer, fall or winter, and other particulars incidental to and of some importance in the choice of fruit trees.

It would be preferable, however, notwithstanding the courtesy and willingness on the part of our nurserymen to assist their patrons in the labor of making judicious selections of trees, for all, so far as practicable, to be well posted as to the peculiar character of at least the most common varieties; which of those varieties are most thrifty and best adapted to our altitude and which would best suit our own taste and be most useful and profitable for the multifarious family uses.

These are points that are quite essential to every cultivator of fruit. No man, if he could avoid it, would plant a poor, thriftless, scrubby apple tree in his garden, whose fruit, of course, more or less partaking of the character of the tree, would probably be tough, knotty, juiceless and without any agreeable flavor or other quality that would render it suitable for cooking or eating.

With the writer of the following, we are of opinion that two or three choice varieties of each kind—summer, fall and winter—are sufficient. These, if wisely selected, will afford a wide range in the flesh and flavor of our apples and make them accessible to us, through careful keeping during the winter months. But read the article, from the *Am. Agriculturist*:

In our last (October) number, we gave an article entitled "Plant Fruit Trees." We now talk of what varieties to plant. And first, we will name the APPLES, as this, after all, is the great and universal staple of the farmer's fruit crop. Other tree fruits are so local in their extent of cultivation for market, beyond what are wanted for mere family use, that we postpone their discussion for a future number.

For market purposes the farmer wants a variety of apple which is hardy in the tree, a constant bearer, if possible, vigorous in growth, and a popular, as well as decidedly good fruit in its season. As to the season of ripeness, he must adapt that to the demands of his market. Early apples are perishable; therefore he must only have such a number of early trees as will give a supply for two, three, or four weeks in succession. So with the Autumn apples; but their season being longer by a few weeks, the number of trees can be greater than that of early or summer apples. Next follow the winter varieties, and if a market be easily and cheaply accessible, one can scarce have too many trees, or pay too much attention to their cultivation.

Now as to the sorts. Find out which the public most want, or which are most saleable in market, and if you can grow these varieties, put three fourths, or even nine tenths of your trees into them alone. Let the others be of any "fancy" variety you like, but let your "crop" be alike—sure, only, that it is good. Two varieties are enough for early fruit—one acid, the other sweet. Wherever they will grow, the Early Harvest and Sweet Bough are the best, and most popular. If you can not grow these, get the next best varieties corresponding to their season, and so on, caring for no others, only by way of experiment, or for variety. Your apples become known, and the demand is always sure. You will find your account in it.

For Autumn fruit, commencing early in September, and ending early in December, three, or at most four varieties, are sufficient—one or two sweet, the other one, two, or three, sub-acid, or tart, each following the other in the season of ripening. The varieties of apple best suited to the soil, position, and climate, are so various, that we shall hardly venture to recommend any particular ones as best for all localities, and therefore will only advise you to select popular fruits where you live, or where your market is, and stick to them almost without exception. Cooking into pies, tarts, sauces, baking, as well as drying, are the chief uses of the Autumn apples, and for these purposes they should be of good size, fair in shape and appearance, of agreeable color—red or yellow, usually—with crisp, and juicy flesh, and well flavored. Such are also good for cider, if you make the article.

As Winter varieties, and carrying them further into the Spring, or even early Summer eating, two, three, or four sorts are enough; as, the Rhode Island Greening for early and mid-winter, the Spitzenberg and Baldwin, for late winter and early spring, and the Roxbury and Golden Russets for late spring and early summer. We do not recommend these varie-

ties solely, but as samples of succession in ripening, and which are widely cultivated in the Northern States. Further South and West are many local varieties better suited to the soils and climates than these, which we would have in their places; but the succession should be the same. A sweet, as well as a tart apple should be in each season—the former for baking, being usually preferred, while the latter is most popular for cooking in pies, sauces, or dumplings.

Thus, a dozen varieties, at the extent, are all that even the most extensive orchardist need cultivate, and less would be quite as well. In fact, he who grows but two, or at the extent, three kinds of good winter apples, finds his account in it better, usually, than he who grows half a dozen sorts. We have often gone into a large orchard and found half the fruit worthless, or wasting, near a large winter market, because the apples were of the wrong kinds, being an over-crop of Summer and Autumn varieties, when if every single tree had been a winter apple, a brisk demand would clear every tree of its burden at a round profit. We know it is hard to resist temptation in multiplying varieties. Some esteemed friend will recommend a certain kind he cultivates, or has seen growing elsewhere, as "so good;" or your own eye, and taste, will be so tempted by a new thing that you yearn to "try" them. But pay no attention to these, if you already have satisfactory kinds. We don't believe that we have a really superior apple in our orchard, of a variety less than fifty years old, unless it be one which has sprung up as a seedling in a newly settled district. A friend of ours, planting largely, some years ago, was so taken up with a new apple which had lately been brought into notice, and so widely puffed in the pomological papers, that he grafted it into near half the trees in his orchards, and after cultivating, coaxing, pruning, and trying them for a dozen years, and getting but two or three satisfactory crops in the whole time, while his long established varieties were yielding their annual crops in abundance, he had to go back, head down his new-fangled things, and graft in the old sorts, losing hundreds, if not thousands of dollars by his folly.

Better winter apples need not be desired, when they will grow, than the Newtown Pippin, the Spitzenberg, the Rhode Island Greening, the Swaar, the Roxbury and Golden Russets, among the sub-acids, and the Talman Sweeting among the sweet ones. We know it is hard work to keep our fingers off the whole of these, but if we were to grow apples for a livelihood, we would confine ourselves to two or three of them alone.

How to Make Barn Yards.

Mr. L. F. SCOTT, of Bethlehem, Connecticut, in the *Albany Cultivator* for January, 1860, gives the following directions for the construction of barn-yards. The article must recommend itself to every man who is endeavoring to make the most of his facilities for manufacturing manures and, by a thorough solution of them, to retain and increase in the soil its elements of fertility:

"As your correspondent TYRO, has asked this question, I will answer it, giving my plan. First, make the yard level, (large or small) then commence in the middle and scoop out in the form of an apothecary's scale, deepest in the middle, to the depth of one foot in the deepest place. Then collect straw, leaves, old hay, bog grass, saw-dust, or any thing that can be made into manure; fill it up level, with a row of mangers around the outside; then have living water in the yard, and when you commence foddering shut the bars or gate, and keep every creature in the yard when not in the stable; then fill with litter to give them a good bed, and keep doing so until spring, and the manure is three feet deep or more if possible. Then dispose of it as best you can. Some let it remain until fall and use it for top-dressing; others cart out in spring, and commence filling up again to keep the weeds from growing.

A dry yard is good for nothing to make manure in, while one made from six to twelve inches dish will always be dry around the outside, and the dish will hold water enough for the mass above to suck from. Have good eye-troughs on all the buildings, to keep out all the water possible. Spread the horse manure from the stable over the yard as fast as made. Sprinkle in ashes, plaster, muck, turf, chaff, etc., and waste nothing, and you will soon have a pile of manure that would greatly astonish some that (falsely) bear the name of farmers."

"The *Cultivator*," published at Albany, N.Y., by Messrs. Luther Tucker & Son, editors and proprietors also of the *Country Gentleman*, for January, 1860, came to hand per last eastern mail. We are highly pleased with the mechanical execution of the work; while the general character and tone of its matter are of a most practical and high order of farming. The *Cultivator* contains 32 pages, is published monthly at the rate of 50 cents per annum. To each club subscriber is also presented a copy of the *Illustrated Annual Register of Rural Affairs for 1860*—a book containing some hundred and eighty engravings."

Honey Bees.—Upwards of one hundred and forty hives were sold in San Francisco, Dec. 23, at an average price of \$40 per hive.