



## WORK THAT MAY BE DONE.

If the ground is not frozen, continue to dig manure into the waste quarters of your garden, laying them in high ridges to be mellowed by frost. Spread manure when the ground is frozen. Repair fences, get your seeds and tools ready, provide stakes, pea-sticks, trellises, &c. Prepare frames for early cucumbers and melons. Have a supply of hot manure ready for forcing beds. See to your framing and sash lights in time. Seeds for melons and cucumbers should be three years old to bear well, and not run to vine. Prepare hot beds, collect pots for forcing vegetables. Sow lettuce, cresses, mustard, radishes, cauliflower and cabbage, in hot-beds, for early use.

In the fruit garden, pruning may be attended to, though it is a somewhat mooted question as to whether the winter season is best for such operations. Your own experience, from well-defined experiment, will enable you to decide this matter for yourselves.

To protect the young fruit trees and to keep the roots from freezing, especially all stoned fruits, it is recommended to throw a quantity of straw and other litter around the roots.

On fine days examine your standard apple, pear, plum, cherry, peach and quince trees, so far as you have them; and remove all improper branches, scrape off moss, scales of loose bark, eggs of caterpillars; cut out dead wood, and fill with pure clay or grafting wax. Manure the surface of the ground around the trees to the distance of the branches.

We have often suggested and again reiterate that, not only the denizens of the city, but also every farmer should establish a little nursery of his own, and learn to manage it skilfully. Let him now study the subject these long winter evenings, in some good treatise or agricultural paper. Barry's "Fruit Garden" is a good authority. Excellent rules are given in it for all practical purposes. It costs but one dollar. No rural resident should be without it. Prune nursery apples and pears, and other trees. Cart none but old, well-decayed manure or loam into your nursery. Make label sticks indoors, and painted stakes for the rows, in bad weather. Sort and prepare seeds. Look to your grafts, that they are not too warm or too cold, or dried up. Shelter young and tender seedlings from frost with straw, litter, or dry leaves, if in the ground. Those in boxes or pots must be watched against the reverses of climate. Prepare some ground, if convenient, for the reception of stones, seeds, kernels, &c., hereafter.

## PROPAGATION OF THE PLUM.

(Prunus Domestica.)

The following practical suggestions, from the pen of Mr. L. S. Hemenway, were read and approved at a late meeting of the Domestic Gardeners' Club:

The plum is perfectly at home here under proper culture and will thrive as well as any other tree cultivated in these valleys. Indeed, with a little care, it is entirely successful and is propagated with as little expense as any other fruit tree.

The mode of propagating young trees is very simple. For budding the plum into the peach stock is as good as can be desired for the dry or upland soil.

Those who have neglected till now to prepare the seed for planting, may adopt the following plan:

Put the pips or stones with an equal amount of sand, in boxes, with the bottoms prepared to drain off any excess of water that may be applied and set them in a cellar or any convenient, damp place where they may be securely kept. The surface of the sand may be kept damp by occasionally sprinkling water on it. Care should be taken not to apply too much, as it would find access to the kernel of many of the stones, the shell frequently being imperfectly closed, and would kill the seed. It might be well to expose the boxes to frost on the coldest night; but it is doubted whether this is really necessary.

A better way is to lay the pips, when taken from the peach, on the ground in a moist cellar, or bury them in the ground on the north side of a building.

In the spring, as soon as the ground is dry enough to work well, the stones should be cracked and the seed planted in rows three and a half or four feet wide, dropped from six to ten inches apart in the row, and covered

one or one and a half inches deep. The peach comes up very strong and will bear more covering than many other tree seeds.

The ground should receive good clean culture through the season. If the young trees be properly cared for, they will be fit for budding the 10th of August. It is now an important desideratum to have the very best varieties of plum scions to bud with, that have been introduced here.

There are several seedling varieties which have been propagated to some extent, but the fruit, when compared with the finest imported varieties, is not worth cultivating. Indeed, I do not know of a single good seedling plum in this valley. There is now a very fine collection of imported varieties, well worthy of cultivation—such as Coe's Golden Drop, the Imperial Gage, Jefferson, St. Martin's Quiescent, Guthrie's Tay Bank, Nota Bene, Yellow Magnum Bonum, Victoria, Purple Favorite, McLaughlin, Green Gage, Hudson Gage, and several other excellent varieties, some of which are known here by local names.

The stocks should be budded about two or three inches from the ground. Some would prefer to set them lower; in which case they are apt to be destroyed by ice in winter.

In October the budded stocks should be cut back one-third and in the spring following, when the leaves are about starting, they should be cut off about four inches above the bud and, when the buds have grown some three inches, all which have not taken a perpendicular direction should be bent up and tied to the stock.

Another simple and good way to multiply the plum and one that would make better trees for the low land, is to take suitable pieces of the wild plum roots, say six inches in length, and graft them with scions some four inches long; plant in nursery rows, deep enough for one-half of the graft to be covered with soil. The scion will outgrow the wild plum root and generally make roots from the lower part of the graft the first season.

When the trees are taken up for transplanting, the wild plum root can be cut out, and the stock be left with its own roots. In making trees in this way the soil of the nursery should be naturally moist.

Plum trees appear to be perfectly free from disease and insects, which prove so destructive in the Eastern States. The fruit here is always sound and fair, the trees bear young and the greatest danger of failure is in their over-bearing.

A fruit that is so valuable and easy of cultivation should be enjoyed by all the citizens of Deseret, not as a rarity, but in abundance in a ripe state and also when preserved.

Any one inexperienced in the art of grafting or budding, wishing to understand it, can receive proper instructions free of charge from members of the Domestic Gardeners' Club.

It is advisable to carefully save all the pips from the best varieties of plums grown in our midst, that from them may be raised stocks into which to insert the most approved imported kinds.

In regard to the pips from the Pottawotamie or wild plum common among us, it is almost superfluous to add that they are worthless. This variety, we trust, will soon be wholly superseded by those more choice and valuable.

## KERRY CATTLE.

A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer*, who has been visiting some of the fine places in the vicinity of Boston, gives some account of the Kerry Cattle belonging to Mr. Austin, of Roxbury, purchased for him in Ireland, by Sanford Howard, Esq. The original importation consisted of six heifers and a bull; and he herd now owned by Mr. Austin is believed to be the only one of this breed in the country. The exportation of these cattle to America caused quite an excitement in Kerry. The Kerrys are usually jet black, though an occasional one of some other color is seen. Their prominent characteristics seem to be—a hardy constitution, the economy with which they can be kept, and milking qualities of the cows. In size they are about equal with the Jerseys, in form compact and symmetrical, combining the fore quarters of the Devon with the hind quarters of the Durham. They seem to be well adapted to the small cottages and farms of their native country, and if they were more common in this country and regarded less as fancy stock, they would be well suited to our hilly pastures and severe winters. The writer alluded to above says,—"They are remarkably gentle, and their hair is uniformly very thick, showing their ability to withstand the severest of winters without shelter. Mr. Austin has experimented with them upon different kinds of pastures and expresses the belief they are emphatically the 'poor man's cattle,' yet it is likely that they will be monopolized by the rich for some time to come. Whilst I will say, that they are exactly the breed of cattle for the mountainous pastures of New England, I will also say that if I lived out in the open prairie, had no barn, could keep but one cow, I would prefer a little black Kerry cow to all others."

**THE LARGEST PEAR.**—A monstrous pear is now in the possession of Mr. Thomas Brown, special agent of the government at Sacramento, Cal., from the famous orchard of Messrs. Beard & Hornor, at San Jose Mission. Its circumference at the base measuring longitudinally is twenty-one, and latitudinally, fifteen and a half inches. It is to be forwarded to the East for show.

**THE HORSE-TAMER.**—Rarey says, "Nature never lies." He also affirms that the horse is honest—that the mind of a horse governs a horse as the mind of a man governs a man. If you wish, therefore, says he, to get control of the horse's body, first learn to direct his mind. The gentle touch is more powerful than blows. Women are better drivers than men, because they have a gentler touch. Firmness and kindness are the magic there is in my method. Fear or anger in the mind of the driver, is instantly known to the horse.

**THE COTTON TREE.**—It is said that this newly-introduced species is neither more nor less than the common cotton plant, grown where the absence of frost permits its continued luxuriance from year to year, till it attains the dignity of a tree. A writer in the *Sacramento (Cal.) Bee*, says he has seen them twelve inches through and loaded with thousands of bolls; but that the result can never be attained where there is sufficient frost to kill a common cotton plant.

**APPLES FOR CHINA.**—Two hundred and fifty boxes of the finest California apples have been recently packed by Judge Blackburn, of Santa Cruz, for shipment to China. They were carefully packed in lined boxes, and it is thought they will keep till May next.

## GOOD BUTTER IN WINTER.

A farmer's wife writes to the *American Agriculturist*, as follows:

For the benefit of my lady friends, I will give my experience of twenty-five years, in making nearly as good butter in winter as in summer. In the first place, we suppose the cows to have been fed on good feed. After the milk has been strained, put it on the stove to heat, either in the pans or in any other way thought proper. Do not make it too hot or the cream will not rise. It may then be placed in a clean cellar, free from vegetables or anything that will give the cream an unnatural taste, or in a cupboard with a canvas door, in a moderately warm room; if in the latter place, it should not be put in until the steam has passed off, otherwise the shelves will be liable to mould. The milk should not stand longer in winter than in summer, or the butter will be bitter. In 36 or 48 hours the milk should be skimmed, if in a cool place, sooner if in a warm one. If the milk is thought to be too rich to give to the pigs, let it stand longer, and use the cream that rises on it for shortening or in some other way than for butter.

If the milk has been kept in a warm place, take the cream to a warm room a day or two before churning. If you wish the butter to look and taste like grass butter, grate orange carrots, put some hot water or milk to the pulp, strain and add it to the cream, which should be a little above 60 deg. when you commence churning. A common sized teacupful will color six pounds of butter. After churning, draw off the butter-milk, put cold water in the churn, and churn a few minutes, and if managed right, you will never fail of having good butter. I rejoice that the prejudice against washing butter with warm water is slowly passing away. Heating the milk, I believe, is an English method, and ought to be more generally practiced, then there would not be so much bad butter in the market.

**TO PRESERVE EGGS FRESH FOR SIX MONTHS.**—The *Irish Farmer's Gazette* says, Have a vessel of boiling water on the fire, put the eggs into a net, or better, into one of those wire baskets for boiling vegetables; hold it in the boiling water for half-a-minute, take out the eggs and rub them all over with a little fresh lard; pack them with the narrow end downwards in a glazed crock and cover them with coarse salt. They will keep perfectly fresh for six months, but will not do well for culinary purposes, as the whites will not beat up well from being in the boiling water.

**WIRE FOR GARDEN PURPOSES.**—The *Agriculturist* says that lead is much used in England for tying up fruit trees and vines to stakes and trellises, also for attaching labels to stakes. It is soft, flexible, durable and less hurtful to plants than copper wire. It is made of lead and alloy mixed with it. For the coarser uses of gardening, especially where much strength is required, this is undoubtedly a good thing. Yet for common, every day work, such as tying plants to stakes, &c., we much prefer the old bass matting. This is cheaper, more easily handled; and sufficiently durable.

**A LARGE CHEESE.**—It is reported that a dairy firm, Messrs. Steele & Bro., owning seven hundred cows, near San Francisco, Cal., made a cheese weighing 1779 pounds, which sold for 25 cents per pound in San Francisco, amounting to the round sum of \$444 75!

—Thomas J. Walker is raising a company to fight the guerillas in the lower part of the State. Premice says, "The guerillas might as well encounter the Devil as Tom Walker."

## FACTS AND FICTION.

—Gov. Andrew has again postponed the draft in Massachusetts to January 8, 1863. Why did he not to January 1, 1960!—the day for the full consummation of emancipation, according to Mr. Lincoln's message.

—A Northern paper says that Gen. Beauregard is entirely out of favor in the South. He isn't fit to be a General. He might do very well as President of a gas company. But Pope could beat him.

—An old lady in Connecticut is collecting all the daily newspapers she can lay her hands on, to make soap of. She says "they are a desput sight better than ashes—they are as good as clean lie."

—The quantity of water pumped up daily for the city of London is 150,000,000 of gallons.

—It is said that a new draft of troops was under consideration when the rupture in the Cabinet occurred.

—It is proposed, in New York, to indict Secretary of War Stanton for kidnapping citizens, carrying them out of the State, and incarcerating them without due process of law, in Government fortifications. The law permits it.

—*Vanity Fair* dubs Henry Ward Beecher as the Comedy Divine.

—Falconer's new play, the "Peep o' Day," has been played to London audiences for one year, without intermission, except on Sundays, and without any apparently diminished interest. This, we believe, is unprecedented in the history of the drama.

—It is reported that Gen. Fremont will either take the place of Gen. Halleck or succeed Mr. Stanton as Secretary of War.

—The cry among the Eastern journalists now is—"Take off the tax on foreign rags, so we can get paper enough to print the news on, oh ye Congressmen, who assume to legislate for the good of the country and don't do it."

—The torpedoes placed in the Yazoo River, one of which sunk the gunboat Cairo, are demijohns of large size, filled with powder and projectiles of various kinds, and stopped so as to be impervious to water. These, placed in a box and deposited in the channel, are connected by a wire with the bank and to a place of safe observation and working. Whether a friction fuse is used or electricity to produce the explosion, has not been discovered.

—There is a man in California who takes especial pride in being considered a graduate of the Oberlin (Ohio) Amalgamation Institute, "where whites, mulattoes, Indians, negroes, cannibals, Fejees or Hottentots, can be instructed in the arts sciences, morality and religion, on equal terms."

—Goldsmith is said to have considered four lines of poetry a good day's work.

—The New Orleans *Delta* says that on plantations near that city, cane, sufficient for seventy thousand hogheads of sugar, will rot on the ground, for want of laborers. Not very profitable in that section, just now, to "raise Cain!"

—A line of British steamers is now plying between San Francisco and Japan—making monthly trips.

—Fontenelle lived to be nearly a hundred years old. A lady of nearly the same age said to him, one day, in a large company: "Mon-sieur, you and I stay here so long that I have a notion Death has forgotten us." "Speak as low as you can," said Fontenelle, "lest you should remind him of us."

—The poor timber for cabinet material in the present crisis, says the Boston *Statesman*, may be imagined by the rumor that Horace Greeley is to have a "portfolio"—as the phrase now is. A straight jacket would be more appropriate for him.

—The Government to-day cannot state within a hundred thousand the number of rebel troops in Virginia! Neither Washington nor Napoleon were long without tolerably accurate information respecting the strength of the enemy.

—To prevent from being thrown from a horse—ride a mule.

—The annual pay of a private soldier in France averages £10.

—Blondin, when last heard from, was making ineffectual attempts to break his neck at St. James' Hall, London, but expected to reach that desirable result eventually.

—It is stated that the project of dividing Texas into four States, with eight Senators to represent them in Congress, is under consideration by the Confederate Congress, with a good prospect that the measure will be finally resolved upon.

—A few of Gen. McClellan's friends clubbed together, bought a fine house on the Fifth Avenue, in New York, and made him a present of it.

—The Great Eastern is in debt \$25,000 in this country, besides having swallowed up all the funds of the company at home.

—Sidney Smith defined English benevolence to be "a strong impulse on the part of A, when he sees B in distress, to compel C to help him." This is quite clearly exemplified in the case of the Lancashire operatives.