

All About Alfalfa, or Lucern.

Several articles have appeared in the *Prairie Farmer* and various other papers of late, speaking of the "Alfalfa" of California and Mexico as a highly productive and valuable forage plant; and some writers have asserted that it is a native product of the Pacific Coast, thus conveying the idea that it is something new and unknown to our agriculturists; and hence we find inquiries beginning to be made for the seed, and enterprising seedsmen are importing it from California, in the belief that it is a new product, which promises to be valuable to our farmers. Being an advocate of progress and improvement, I am not disposed to discourage experiments with any new or old productions that give any promise of benefit, which I certainly think the Alfalfa does in certain locations; but I think it proper to give the following statements to disabuse the farming public of several popular mistakes concerning it.

In the first place, instead of being new, the Alfalfa is one of the oldest of cultivated forage plants; being nothing else than the well known Lucern of England and France, (*Medicago sativa*) called Alfalfa in Spain, of which country it is said to be a native, and was doubtless carried from there to Mexico and California, for which regions it is admirably adapted, owing to its ability to withstand drought, in consequence of its great depth of root.

There can be no doubt about the identity of the Alfalfa and Lucern, for the experiment has been made of growing the plants from the seeds of the one from Mexico, and the other from England, side by side; and I have myself seen both the plant and seed from California, and many acres of the same in Europe, where it has been grown for centuries.

Forty years or more ago, Lucern was grown and highly recommended by Chancellor Livingston and some others in the State of New York, and experiments with it were made in several other States about that time, or a few years later; as I remember, when a boy, reading accounts of it in the "New England Farmer," Buell's "Cultivator" and the "Genesee Farmer." In 1839, when spending the summer in England and Scotland, I was struck with the productiveness and value of this plant as I saw it grown in certain localities, and being engaged in the seed trade at the time, in Manchester, I imported and sold, or gave away for trial, seed of Lucern, and also of Alsike clover, the latter then being very little known in England. Both these have since been distributed to some extent from the department at Washington, as well as by seedsmen.

In 1851, I again spent a summer in Europe, and saw nice fields and patches of Lucern in France and Germany, as well as in England, but only for the special purpose of "soiling" or feeding while green, to cows and horses—seldom being used for hay, and rarely more than from one to three acres of it on a farm.

The objections to its general and extended culture are, that it takes so long time—three years—for the crop to arrive at maturity; affording no return the first or second year, and but little the third; while in the meantime it must be cultivated (in rows) so as to keep it clear of grass and weeds, which would otherwise get possession, then if on rich and deep soil, the crop will last and do well for eight or ten years; but this prevents the land from being brought into any system of rotation, which is now the rule with nearly all British farmers. Besides the amount of time and labor required for its growth, Lucern will thrive only on very deep and rich soil, with a porous subsoil quite free from water. The root of the plant is like that of red clover, but much longer, penetrating to the depth of four or five feet when fully grown, and this is what enables it to thrive in the rich and dry soils of California, where the absence of rain during summer is fatal to most kinds of vegetation. For such climates, where the soil is suitable, the Alfalfa will no doubt be found immensely valuable, and for people elsewhere who have but little land and wish to grow some green crop for soiling cows or horses, the cheapest of all modes of feeding where pasture is not at hand—a patch of Lucern, if the soil is suitable, may be found quite valuable; and I am disposed to try it.

Apprehension has been expressed that the Alfalfa (Lucern) may not endure the winters of our northern climate, and this may possibly be true of such winters as that of 1872-73, or when the mercury sinks to 20 or 30 degrees below zero, with very little snow; but in all ordinary seasons I should have no fears on this point, as I have read of its being grown successfully in New England. Mr. Colman, in his "European Agriculture," after speaking of the value and use of Lucern in England, refers to the successful culture of it by the late John Lowell, Esq., near Boston. Mr. C. also gives the experience of an English farmer named Rodwell, who sowed eight acres of Lucern in drills, with barley, in 1838, and in 1841, the fourth season's growth, commencing cutting the 24th of May, it furnished the entire support for thirty horses for six weeks; then the second mowing, commencing the third of July, fed twenty horses for six weeks; and the third cutting, beginning the 15th of September, kept thirteen horses fourteen days, after which the autumnal feeding of sheep was equivalent to the cost of cleaning the crop the previous spring—which was done with a peculiar kind of harrow—and this needs to be repeated every second year, if the soil is inclined to grass. In this case, the soil was sandy, with a dry subsoil of sandy loam, and the crop was manured each year with a dressing of thirty bushels of soot per acre. The quantity of seed used was twenty pounds per acre. The price of the seed in England is about ten or twelve cents per pound. In this country it can be obtained of most large seed establishments, I think for about twenty-five cents per pound.

M. B. BATEHAM.
Painesville, O.

—*Prairie Farmer*.

Mr. Greathead's Cure for Diptheria.

The now famous Mr. Greathead has been interviewed by a reporter of the *Melbourne Telegraph*, on the subject of his cure for diptheria, and the following is the statement made by him:

"The acid is to be used in its full strength, not diluted. [That is, it should be pure when put into the water.] I am sure that the stoppage in the throat which constitutes diptheria is not a fungus but a mass of insects. These insects emit a matter which creates a kind of film, and as they grow the film is swelled out until there is no breathing room in the throat. If it were a fungus the acid would not remove it. In the case of one patient, obtained a portion of the matter out of the throat, and putting it under a powerful glass I discovered it to be a moving mass. I dropped some of the acid upon it, and immediately it changed color, and presented altogether a different aspect. I commenced my experiments about eighteen months ago, if experiments they may be termed, for my discovery was purely accidental. I discovered the cure thus:—I was living at Seymour, or rather a few miles from Seymour, and one of my sons was taken bad with diptheria. There was no doctor at hand. I was at the time taking sulphuric acid as a medicine for purifying the blood. I had found the acid efficacious in clearing the phlegm from my throat, and when my child was choking from diptheria I used it as a chance resource. I only gave him one dose, and in a few seconds he said, 'Ma, I can breathe as well as ever I did!' Several children have since been cured with one drink. Two of my boys were very bad, were in a state of strangulation, were nearly dying in fact, and one dose, as I have mentioned, cured them. I have never had to give more than one drink. I have cured about a dozen cases that were really bad, and am so sure of my cure that I would risk my life on it. Whatever the doctors may say, I am convinced that diptheria is an accumulation of insects, and not a vegetable growth, and I stake my life upon it, that 'four drops of the strongest sulphuric acid in a glass of water' is a safe cure."—*New Zealand Mail*.

Montana Exploring Expedition.

The following is Secretary Delano's letter referring to the Exploring Expedition into Eastern Montana, as it appears in the *Helena Herald*:

"WASHINGTON,
March 13th, 1874.

"Gov. B. F. Potts,
Virginia City, M. T.

"Sir—Referring to the so-called exploring expedition, which was the subject of the department's telegrams of the 10th and 13th inst., I have to say that its departure from Bozeman is much to be regretted, and stringent measures would have been adopted to prevent it had the facts been sooner known here. Although the promise made to the military authorities that the expedition would not go upon Indian reservations may not be violated, there is, nevertheless, grave apprehension that the movement of such a formidable organization through the region of country more or less traversed by bands of Indians will provoke a collision that may culminate in a general Indian war. You are earnestly requested to use every precaution to avert a disaster which would render abortive the efforts now being made with every prospect of success, not only for a continuance of the friendly relations now existing with the reservation Indians, but for the purpose of invoking their assistance and influence in promoting a better feeling among the more intractable Sioux. The department has never entertained a doubt of the loyalty of the Crows, and I will thank you to inform them that their friendship to the whites is duly appreciated, and that it is hoped no events will occur to render their proffered services necessary. If, however, circumstances should arise to require them, they may be made available.

"Very respectfully
Your obedient,
C. DELANO."

Much Ado About a Wedding.

Here is a good story which has not yet found its way into print, but for the truth of which I can vouch. Lord George Gordon, a young man of four-and-twenty, wishing to marry a certain young lady, went quite recently to ask the permission of his father, the Duke of Argyll. The Duke, a pompous little man, replied in effect: "My son, since our house has been honored by being united with the royal family, I have thought it right to delegate a decision on all such matters to your elder brother, the Marquis of Lorne. Go, therefore, and consult him." The Marquis of Lorne, on being applied to, said: "My dear brother, in a case of importance like this I should think it right to ask the decision of the Queen, the head of the royal family, into which I have married." The Queen, on the matter being laid before her, declared that since her terrible bereavement she had been in the habit of taking no steps without consulting the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the brother of her deceased husband. To the Duke, then, the case was referred, and from him a letter was received telling his dear sister-in-law that recent political events had induced him to do nothing, even as to the giving of advice, without the express concurrence of the Emperor William, before whom he had laid the matter. The Emperor William wrote a long letter, declaring that though he was surrounded by counselors there was only one who had on all occasions proved himself correct, loyal and faithful, and without whose advice he (the Emperor) would give no decision. Therefore, he had referred the matter to his faithful minister, Prince Bismarck.

And it is narrated that when Prince Bismarck was made acquainted with the subject, he roared out, "Gott in Himmel, what a fuss about nothing! Let the boy marry whom he pleases, so long as she is young and pretty."—*London Correspondence New York Herald*.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

The Alabama Mixed Claims Commission.—Henry Howard, Esq., late agent of her Majesty's government under the American and British Mixed Commission, will disburse the money awarded by it to British claimants—a little less than \$2,000,000—which sum is to be paid by the United States to the British government by the 20th of next September. The money will be paid by Mr. Howard to the claimants or their legal representatives. The amount thus to be disbursed is included in the estimates of the Department of State.

House of Representatives.—In the morning hour (April 7), Mr. Monroe, (Ohio) from the committee on education and labor, reported a bill to authorize the territorial legislatures to sell the lands set apart for educational purposes and apply the interest on the proceeds to the establishment of schools, with the recommendation that it lie upon the table. After some discussion, the bill was referred to the committee of the whole, on a point of order.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—The Territorial Delegates have united in a letter asking the Senate to pass the bill providing that Legislatures assign Territorial Judges, instead of the bill proposing to leave the matter to the Judges themselves.—*S.F. Chronicle*.

Since the appointment of Chief Justice Waite, the circuits have been assigned as follows: For the first circuit, Mr. Justice Clifford; second circuit, Mr. Justice Hunt; third circuit, Mr. Justice Strong; fourth circuit, Chief Justice Waite; fifth circuit, Mr. Justice Bradley; sixth circuit, Mr. Justice Swayne; seventh circuit, Mr. Justice Davis; eighth circuit, Mr. Justice Miller; ninth circuit, Mr. Justice Field.—*Ex.*

DIED.

This morning, April 11th, in the 20th Ward of this city, of bronchitis, WILLIAM GEORGE, son of Benjamin and Alice Gunn, aged 9 months and 14 days.

Funeral services at residence of parents, at 4 o'clock, to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon. Friends invited.

At Annabella Springs, Sevier Co., March 28, of whooping cough, OLE, son of Hugh Dobbin and Elma Lisbonbee, aged 2 months and 3 days.

At his father's residence in Northrop, Kane Co., March 26, JOHN JAMES, son of James A. and Maria Louisa Lemmon, aged 31 years and 2 months. Deceased was born January 27, 1843. He leaves a wife and two children.—*Com.*

In the 19th Ward of this city, April 11, of inflammation of the lungs, Samuel A., son of James and Mary A. May, aged 6 months and 19 days.

At Pleasant Grove, April 9th, ISAAC A., son of Shadrach F. and Eliza Driggs.

Deceased was born at Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois, Jan. 23rd, 1842; was a dutiful and affectionate son, a worthy member in society; intellectually nature seemed to have been to him no ordinary benefactor, and the hope of a long and brilliant career was fair and promising until within a few years past, when he was seized with paroxysms, from which he never recovered his faith and confidence in the cause of truth was strong and unwavering.—*Com.*

In the 14th Ward of this city, April 14th, CLAYBOURNE J., son of J. B. and M. E. Elder, aged 1 year and 8 months.

Funeral services at two o'clock to-morrow, Thursday, at residence of parents. Friends invited.

At Pleasant Green, Salt Lake County, April 4th, 1874, of liver complaint, DAVID MARTIN PERKINS, aged 50 years, 7 months and 12 days.

Deceased was born in White County, Tennessee, August 23, 1823; emigrated with his parents to Nauvoo in 1839, and was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1840. He joined the Mormon Battalion in 1846, and went to Pueblo; stayed there all winter on account of sickness, and came to Salt Lake Valley the next Spring, and went back with the Pioneers to the Bluffs; stayed there till 1850, when he emigrated to Salt Lake; remained in Salt Lake City a year and a half; moved to Kaysward in the early settlement of that place; went thence to East Weber and presided over the same for a number of years, after which he moved to Ogden, from there to Three Mile Creek, Box Elder County, and finally to Pleasant Green, where he remained until his death. He died full in the faith of the gospel, and was loved and respected by all who knew him.—*Com.*

At E. T. City, March 5th, of St. Vitus' dance, JOHN WILLARD, son of James James and Mary Richards, aged 13 years, 5 months and 9 days.

At West Porterville, Morgan County, April 11th, of teething and canker, MARY ELLEN, infant daughter of Henry and Sarah Jane Florence, aged 1 month, 1 year and 1 day.

At Belfast, Ireland, Feb. 12th, WILLIAM McCALLIE, aged 45 years.

Deceased joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1866, and had since proven himself a faithful servant in defending the principles thereof.—*Com.*—*Millennial Star*.

At Old Forge, Calderbank, Scotland, March 1, of dropsy, ANGELINA, wife of

Elder Nicol Hood, aged 41 years, 1 month and 9 days.

Deceased was an affectionate wife, a kind and loving mother and a faithful Latter-day Saint; she never faltered in her integrity to the Cause, and frequently bore a strong testimony to the doctrines of her faith; she leaves behind her a husband and a large family of children; she died in the hope of a glorious resurrection.—*Com.*—*Millennial Star*.

At Paddington, London, Feb. 14th, ELIZABETH STEBINS, aged 78 years, 11 months and 12 days.

Deceased opened her house for the preaching of the Gospel, in October, 1819, and was baptised a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Nov. 12, 1840; she died, as she had lived, in the full faith of the Gospel, and with the assurance of a glorious resurrection.—*Com.*—*Millennial Star*.

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