

## BONNETS.

Of all the charms dear woman wears,  
Of all her many traps and snares,  
For real effect there's naught compares  
With a truly pretty bonnet;  
For when wherever you chance to meet  
One that is perfectly modest and neat,  
You may depend 'tis proof complete  
That the head has more in than on it.

No matter whether she's pretty or not,  
How much or how little money she's got,  
Whether she live in a mansion or cot,  
'Tis a fact, depend upon it;  
The woman to make a man happy thro' life,  
To make a model mother and wife,  
Is one who, scorn the milliner's strife,  
Wears a plain and tasteful bonnet.

Now a bonnet of genuine beauty and grace,  
Worn on the head in its proper place,  
Shadowing faintly the wearer's face,  
"It's a thing for a song or a sonnet;"  
But one of those gay and gaudy things,  
Made up of rainbows and butterfly wings,  
A mixture of flowers, ribbons and strings,  
Is dreadful, depend upon it.

A vulgar mass of "fuss and feather,"  
A little of everything thrown together,  
As if by a touch of windy weather,  
A wretched conglomeration—  
A sort of cup to catch the hair,  
Leaving the head to "go it bare,"  
A striking example of "Nothing to Wear,"  
Is this bonnet abomination.

It makes a woman look brazen and bold,  
Assists her in catching nothing but cold,  
Is bad on the young, absurd on the old,  
And deforms what it ought to deck;  
For look at her face, no bonnet is there,  
See at the side, it hangs by a hair;  
View it behind, and you will declare  
That the creature has broken her neck.

No matter where you may chance to be,  
No matter how many women you see,  
A promiscuous crowd or a certain she,  
You may fully depend upon it,  
That a gem of the very rarest kind,  
A thing most difficult to find,  
A pet for which we long have pined,  
Is a perfect "love of a bonnet."

## FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

**Chinese Sugar Cane.**—A new treatise on the culture of this species of sugar cane has recently been issued in Paris, by Monsieur Hippolyte Leplay. Wm. B. Hodgson, E.-q., in the Savannah (Ga.) *Constitutionalist* says:

The operations of Mr. Leplay have been conducted in Languedoc and Provence, whose climate approximates to our own, if it be not its isotherm. He established sugar mills at different points, to which the cane was brought and sold. The price which he paid was twenty francs (about three dollars and eighty cents) for the weight of one thousand kilogrammes, or about two thousand two hundred pounds. From one hundred and eighty proprietors he purchased two million eight hundred thousand pounds of cane, which were reduced to sugar and alcohol. He estimates that the farmers cleared sixty dollars to the acre, by the sale of cane. A better cultivation, he thinks would bring up the yield to one hundred dollars per acre.

In the manufacture of sugar, he made numerous experiments, on the relative saccharine value of the cane, at different stages of maturity. He traced this up, from a point of imperfect vegetation, where the saccharometer, or sugar gauge, indicated zero, as the sugar property of the cane juice. Then he measured its saccharine properties at half and full maturity. At this last point of full ripeness, the result was, a yield in sugar of fifteen per cent. of its weight. During the formation and maturity of the grain, the saccharometer indicated that the juice had all the properties required for crystallization.

He attaches great importance to the drying or desiccation of the cane, which is successfully practiced, in preserving beet root, for the fabrication of sugar. The cane loses by this process seventy per cent. of its weight, but nothing of its sugar properties. It may thus be more readily transported, and manipulated at times of convenience.

A comparison instituted by Mr. Leplay, of vine culture and of the Sorghum, for the distillation of spirits, gives a result, in favor of the latter, three times greater than that of the vine. He values the production of Sorghum on one hectare of land at two hundred and seventy dollars; and that of the vine at ninety dollars. A hectare is about two and a half acres.

This brief summary will show you what importance is attached to the Sorghum in France."

The experiments of Mr. Leplay have resulted in conclusions different in some respects from those previously made.

Messrs. Hedges, Free & Co., Cincinnati, in their "Experiments with the Sorghum Sugar Cane," stated that "Sugar cane should be thoroughly ripened;" that, "when the design is only to produce syrup, this is an important desideratum; but for sugar-making, it may be considered as absolutely essential."

The later experiments of Mr. Leplay have convinced him that all the properties required for crystallization are contained in the cane during the formation and maturing of the seed; but there is doubtless more saccharine matter in the stalk when it is fully matured than at any other time.

Plow deep while sluggards sleep.

The rates of wages in New York city are given as follows in the June number of the *American Agriculturist*:

Artificial flower makers, \$3 to \$6 per week; good hands in request.  
Bakers, \$6 to \$14 per week; no demand.  
Bakers' boys, \$3 to \$5 per week; no demand.  
Barbers, \$6 to \$8 per week; no demand.  
Bedstead-makers, \$8 per week; no demand.  
Blacksmiths, \$8 per week; no demand.  
Boat-builders, \$10 per week; no demand.  
Book-keepers, \$100 to \$2,000 per year; supply over demand.

Book-binders, \$6 to \$12 per week; demand for good hands.  
Book-binders' boys, \$2 to \$5 per week; no demand.  
Book-folders, \$3 to \$6 per week; no demand.  
Brass-founders, \$12 to \$18 per week; supply equal to demand.

Erwers, \$8 per week; no demand.  
Brush makers, \$3 to \$15 per week; moderate demand.  
Builders, \$9 per week; no demand.  
Butchers, \$3 to \$10 per week; no demand.  
Cabinet-makers, \$7 to \$10 per week; no demand.  
Cap-makers, \$3 to \$4 per week; no demand.  
Carpenters, \$7 to \$10 per week; demand moderate.  
Carpenters' boys, \$3 to \$5 per week; no demand.  
Confectioners, \$10 to \$12 per week; no demand.  
Coopers, \$12 per week; no demand.  
Coppersmiths, \$9 to \$12 per week; no demand.  
Designers, \$15 to \$25 per week; no demand.  
Dress-makers, \$5 to \$8 per week; supply over demand.

Engineers, \$10 to \$30 per week; no demand.  
Engavers, \$10 to \$20 per week; no demand.  
Faucet-makers, \$8 to \$12 per week; no demand.  
Farm servants, \$6 to \$10 per month; market opening.  
Female domestics, \$5 to \$8 per month; supply over demand, but good ones in request.  
Female domestics (hotel cooks), \$12 to \$18 per month; demand good.

Founders, iron, \$10 to \$12 per week; no demand.  
Frame-makers, \$9 to \$10 per week; no demand.  
Furriers, \$6 to \$12; moderate demand.  
Gardeners, \$7 to \$8 per week; moderate demand.  
Gas-fitters, \$9 to \$12 per week; no demand.  
Gilders, \$10 to \$12 per week; demand moderate for good hands.

Gunsmiths, \$9 to \$12 per week; no demand.  
Glass cutters, \$9 to \$12 per week; demand moderate.  
Hatters, piece work, \$4.50 per dozen; plenty of work.  
Laborers, \$6 to \$8 per month; market glutted.  
Last-makers, \$12 per week; no demand.  
Last-makers' boys, \$4 per week; no demand.  
Lithographers, \$12 to \$30 per week; supply equal to demand.

Lock makers, \$9 to \$15 per week; demand for good hands.  
Machinists, \$6 to \$10 per week; no demand.  
Marble-workers (artisans), \$12 to \$15 per week; demand moderate.  
Marble-workers (laborers), \$4 to \$7 per week; no demand.

Masons, \$9 to \$12 per week; supply equal to demand.  
Milliners, \$3 to \$6 per week; no demand.  
Musicians, \$5 to \$8 per week; no demand.  
Nail-makers, \$8 to \$9 per week; no demand.  
Nurserymen, \$6 to \$12 per week; demand moderate.  
Operators on sewing machines, \$5 to \$6 per week; demand moderate.

Packing-box makers, \$7 to \$10 per week; no demand.  
Painters, \$5 to \$10 per week; moderate demand.  
Paper-box makers, \$7 to \$10 per week; no demand.  
Paper hangers, \$8 to \$10 per week; demand moderate.  
Paper-makers, \$7 to \$10 per week; demand good for experienced hands.

Paper makers' boys, \$2 to \$4 per week; no demand.  
Paper-makers' women, \$3 to \$5 per week; demand moderate.  
Paper-makers' girls, \$1.50 to \$2.50 per week; demand moderate.

Paper-rulers, \$10 to \$11 per week; no demand.  
Piano-makers, \$9 to \$12 per week; no demand.  
Plasterers, \$8 to \$12 per week; supply equal to demand.  
Plumbers, \$9 to \$12 per week; supply equal to demand.  
Pocket-book makers, \$10 per week; no demand.  
Porters, \$5 to \$8 per week; supply equal to demand.  
Printers, \$11 to \$12 per week; demand good for first-class hands.

Pump-makers, \$6 per week; no demand.  
Refiners, \$6 to \$10 per week; no demand.  
Sofa-makers, \$12 per week; no demand.  
Saddlers, \$8 to \$10 per week; no demand.  
Seal Engravers, \$10 to \$12 per week; no demand.  
Sgar-box makers, \$8 to \$10 per week; no demand.

The editor of that journal remarks that he is constantly receiving inquiries as to the chances of employment in New York city, "from those who seem to have formed the opinion that to once obtain a situation in the city, is to get upon the high road to wealth." To such he says that, "in proportion to the number of inhabitants, fewer people get rich here than in the country—which we have every reason to believe. None have a wider field for wealth and independence if that be their object in life, than the thrifty, active, enterprising farmer.

Cut Feed for stock, says the *Agriculturist*, is profitable when a person has cornstalks, poor hay or straw, which, if fed out unprepared, would be much wasted; but, when there is none but fine, "merchantable hay," there will be little need of cutting it.

Do not Kill the Toads—for, although it may be frolic to the boys, it is murder to one of the most useful little animals found in our pathway. They are of great service in using up worms and insects that sustain themselves at the expense of our vegetation. Boys, don't kill the toads!

**Seed Grain.**—That farmers take all due care in selecting the seed for their next year's crop of wheat, oats, etc., we have always had some doubts. The following confirmative of this, we extract from the *Agriculturist*:

Although care is frequently exercised in selecting good specimens of corn for seed; yet for oats, rye and wheat, the grain for the next year's sowing is usually taken from the bin, without regard to the part of the field on which it may have grown, or to its having matured early or late. Too much dependence is also placed on the fanning mill and grain screen to separate cockle, chaff, and other foul seeds; hence year after year they show their unwelcome heads in the fields. I would advise first to note well at this season the spots in the growing field where the finest grain is ripening, and then let these be cared for particularly, with reference to saving the product for seed the coming year. From these places every weed should be carefully pulled, and at harvest time the ripened sheaves stored by themselves apart from the general crop. Indeed I think it would pay well to cultivate expressly for seed, the best part of the field, where from more favorable exposure or better quality of soil, the grain will mature earlier and heavier. If this were generally done, the standard of excellence in the cereals would in a few years be greatly improved.

**Haying goes on vigorously.** The quantity seems as large and the quality as good as in any previous year. We have noticed one or two loads, however, that were rather too brown. Now, this may have been a very peculiar kind of grass—but generally, we believe, the grass in this region, like a verdant youth, is somewhat green; and, as green is a favorite color with all those who have weak or inflamed eyes (and they are not a few, just now), as also being a variety of tea much preferred by our grandmother—we decidedly like to feed that kind of hay to our animals. We don't like to have a good article spoiled in the making—neither do we like to see the green grass lie in the sun after it is cut till it is bleached or browned and much diminished in value and excellence.

**The Potato Blight.**—It is a general complaint that "We are going to have no potato crop this season." Mr. Orson Hyde furnishes us the following in which it is suggested to cut off the tops of the vines, which may cause the barren vines to put forth fruit:

"I planted a lot of potatoes very early last spring, and by this time, I should have potatoes full grown; yet on Friday morning last I pulled some of them up, and there was no more sign of potatoes than there is on the roots of a pig-weed. I proceeded at once and cut off the tops about two thirds of the way down, and this morning (Wednesday following) the roots are thickly set with young potatoes, and a prospect of a good crop.

Will not many others do well to follow this example?"

**Strawberry beds** may be prepared from this date till the middle or latter part of September, tho' during August is probably the best time.

Old beds may be turned under, spading deeply, manured a little and re-set.

The plants from the first end of the runners are said to have stronger roots than those at the extremity; hence they should be selected in preference to the latter. Obtain the best varieties you can.

**For Soiling,** sweet corn sown at intervals is recommended—also Hungarian grass, clover, sorghum sucre, etc.

**The Best way** to propagate the Osage orange is from the seed. For hedges this is probably unsurpassed.

**Broom Corn Seed** may be cleaned off with the least trouble by standing it with the heads through the palings of the poultry yard.

**How Cotton is grown and Prepared for Market.** . . . . I.

We publish the following, from the *American Agriculturist*, being of the same series from which we extracted an article on the Growing of Sugar Cane and Sugar Making at the South, written by one of the editors of that excellent journal who is now on an extended tour of observation through the Southern States. Many of our readers will doubtless feel an interest in perusing this series:

The familiar proverb, "Cotton is king" shows the importance of this crop in our agriculture, and in our financial exchanges. Though inferior to some other crops in pecuniary value, it is more largely exported, and its influence is more immediately felt upon the finances of the country. Meats, breadstuffs, and forage crops are largely consumed in the immediate vicinity where they are produced, while cotton is almost exclusively sent abroad for a market. So few are the cotton manufactories in the southern States, that the amount consumed by them would hardly be missed from the aggregate. About three fourths of the crop are exported to Europe, of which England is much the largest purchaser, and the balance is mainly manufactured in the northern States. This feature of the cotton crop has a marked influence upon the whole region producing it. As it is all sent abroad, there are no home markets fostered by this kind of husbandry, and the region is more exclusively agricultural than any other part of the country.

The cotton region, though much larger than the sugar district, is still a narrow belt of country not over three hundred miles across, and lying on both sides of the thirty second degree of latitude. In passing down the Mississippi, it is reputed to begin at Columbia, in Arkansas, and to extend about down to the mouth of the Red River. In this region little else is cultivated, except partial supplies of corn, sweet potatoes and bacon, for the forces upon the plantation. To the south of this region, sugar is the main crop, though considerable quantities of cotton and other articles are raised. Cotton is also raised largely north of this belt, but it takes its place with other crops, as corn, tobacco, wheat, bacon and hemp. In this narrow belt the climate seems to be exactly adapted to the wants of the plant, and cottons of the finest quality are raised.

## CAPITAL, BUILDINGS, AND MACHINERY.

Much less capital is needed to work a cotton, than a sugar plantation. The best of forest lands for this plant, in the State of Mississippi, can be bought for from ten to thirty dollars an acre and in the newer States for a much less price. Lands much worn are frequently sold for five to ten dollars an acre. The dwelling upon the cotton plantation is a much less expensive affair than the farm house of the North. It is often made of logs, rudely finished, and almost invariably without any cellar. The chimneys are often made of mud and sticks, and as a rule, upon the outside of the building. In the case of very wealthy proprietors, the mansion is of course more expensively built and furnished. The dwellings of the slaves are still more rude, generally consisting of one small room, and without any other provision for lighting the apartment, than the door and a window in the rear, closed by wooden shutters.

The gin-house and mill for grinding corn are generally under one roof, and the machinery in both cases is moved by mule or horse power. As the timber is furnished upon the spot, the principal part of the expense is for the machinery, which is generally limited to a few hundred dollars, and rarely exceeds a few thousands. The barns and hovels for the mules and stock, are generally of home manufacture, and do not require a large outlay.

The largest part of the capital is almost invariably in slaves, and as these are usually born on the plantation, inherited, or gained by marriage, the planter is prepared to grow cotton in a new region, without any very large extra investments. As soon as the buildings are put up, the process of girdling and clearing commences.

## SELECTION AND OPENING OF PLANTATIONS.

The favorite sites for building are bluffs, or elevated spots, near bottom lands. The planter who has opportunity for selection, is guided somewhat by the character of the timber upon the land. The post-oak and water-oak indicate a soil rather too cold and heavy for his purpose. The pines indicate a soil too light to yield many crops without manure. The beach, white-oak, white-wood, or poplar, the magnolia, and the white and black gums are the surer signs of good cotton lands. The reed cane and the cypress also grow upon rich lands, but these generally want more or less drainage to fit them for cultivation.

The moving almost always takes place in Winter, and the first work after building is the girdling of the primitive forest trees. The small trees and underbrush are cut down, and either burned upon the spot, or saved for firewood. A few of the large trees, white-oaks and poplars, splitting freely, are also cut and rived for fencing. The trees frequently put out after girdling, but the hot suns of July and August generally finish them. The ground is plowed, and planted either with corn or cotton the first season, and about a half crop only is expected on account of the shade. The second Winter a few more of the dead trees are cut down for rail timber, and others are blown over by the winds. Many of the limbs also rot and fall, and the crop for two or three years is a good deal injured from this source. Decay goes on much more rapidly than in our northern climate, and after the fourth season, few shrubs or trees are left to interfere with the cultivation. It is thought to be much more economical to allow decay and the winds to prostrate the trees, than to do it with the ax, though the falling trees and limbs often do extensive injury to the growing plants. In the rich bottom lands cotton is frequently planted six or eight years in succession, and where rotation is attempted, corn alternates with cotton.

## PREPARATION OF THE SOIL AND PLANTING.

After the plantation has been cleared of its timber, the preparation for a new crop begins very soon after the old is gathered. There is very little frost or cold weather in ordinary seasons to interfere with out-door labor. The cotton is almost invariably planted upon ridges about five feet apart. They begin to prepare these ridges in February and March, by turning two furrows together. If it is an old cotton stubble, the ridge is marked in the middle of the last year's rows, thus giving the crop a little change of soil. In uneven ground care is taken to run the furrows as nearly level as possible, around the sides of hills, to prevent washing. The soil of the best upland plantations is a loose friable clay, easily removed by the action of water. Grass is not at all cultivated, and there is nothing to hold the surface of the soil, when it lies fallow, but brown sedge, nimble will, and weeds. With the best precautions, a good deal of it is washed off, and all the rivers are as turbid as a mud puddle, for the larger part of the year.

After the ridge is prepared by plowing in April, a light harrow is run over the top, to break all lumps, and to level it. Then a drilling tool or marker is drawn by a mule upon the top of the ridge, making a narrow furrow, two or three inches deep. A hand immediately follows, scattering the seed as uniformly as possible in the drill putting in at least ten times the quantity that will be suffered to grow. Another follows the sower, covering the seed. This is sometimes done with a hoe, sometimes with the foot, and again with a sort of scraper drawn by a mule. Cotton seed-planters are beginning to be introduced on the better class of plantations, and they make a great saving of seed, and time. They open the drill, drop the seed, and cover it as rapidly as a mule can walk, thus saving the labor of two hands, and insuring a much more even distribution of the seed. No crop is more benefited by manure than cotton, and yet it is not until quite recently, that cotton seed, one of the best kinds of manure for the plant, has been saved. This is now pretty generally applied in the upland districts.

[To be continued.]