



THE SMILE OF SPRING.

I know the notes that the song-birds sing,
I know by the streamlet's voice,
That the rose-wreathed forms of the velvet Spring,
O'er the uplands now rejoice,
I know by the scent of the primrose pale,
By the violet's azure eye,
That the sprite of the Spring has been in the vale,
While the winter said "good-bye."

And I know by the blackbird's early song,
As it echoes clear and wild—
By the winds, they sport in glee along,
That the Queen of Spring has smiled.
I know by the Pear tree's gorgeous bloom,
By the crab-tree's gorgeous dress,
By the hawthorn's delightful rich perfume,
That they've felt the spring's caress.

I know by the song that the field lark sings,
As he mounts up from his nest.
And flutters aloft on his airy wings,
With dew on his golden breast,
That Spring has come with her thousand dyes
On the wild landscape to dwell,
And scatter warm sunbeams down from the skies
Over field, and wood and dell.

I know by the breeze that comes from the South,
At hush of the pleasant day;
I know by the notes that are trembling forth
From the pee-wit on the spray.
That the Goddess of Spring has come again
In her dress of blue and gold;
For towers and birds, on meadow and plain
The orgies of thankfulness hold.

The Prospects of Fruit.

During the past winter we have not experienced so large a share of stormy weather as usual. The cold, however, has been intense and, from the time when the ground was first thoroughly covered with snow, until the gradual thaw in February, the sleighing was good, more particularly within the corporate limits of Great Salt Lake City.

Though not marked with their ordinary number of rough, severe and stormy days, the winter has had one feature that will permanently distinguish it from all others in this mountainous region, at least since it has been inhabited by whites—namely, the frequent prevalence of thick, heavy fog for several successive days, causing a damp, chilling, most disagreeable and unhealthy atmosphere and enveloping the branches of trees and everything else exposed to its operations, with a heavy coating of frostwork, in many instances to such an extent as to break down the branches, in some cases entirely destroying the trees.

Whether, from these causes, trees are rendered more susceptible to injury from subsequent hard frost, we cannot say; but, but if there is any reliance to be placed upon external appearances and the judgment of some of our most experienced horticulturists, the injuries done to the fruit trees in this vicinity is not inconsiderable. Some have gone so far as to assert that many of the largest and finest apple trees in this city are killed, but we do not believe it.

The peach has unquestionably suffered much—not by the killing of the tops and extremities of the limbs, as formerly, but by an apparent paralyzation at the trunk itself—the wood changing to a brown color, as if in the first stages of decomposition, and the bark shrinking and loosening from the tree. The last named affection, namely, the loosening of the bark from the trunk, is mostly discernible on apple trees.

Imported plums and apricots budded or grafted on peach stocks are generally considered a failure—the peach stocks, it is said, with comparatively few exceptions, being killed. Seedling apricot trees, we believe are not injured.

The native or what is commonly called the "Pottawotomie Plum," seems to have survived the winter unhurt.

The seedling cherry trees, so far as we have learned are also uninjured. In all our observation, thus far, we have not found even a bud of the seedling cherry harmed.

The almond varieties, hard and soft, seem to have been too tender for the very early winter blasts and, ere mid-winter, had exhibited unmistakable symptoms of mortality. It is probably a settled question, now, that a fortune cannot be made, at least, for sometime to come, by growing almonds for the Deseretians. What favorable changes may yet be effected to encourage those who are eager to supply us, from our own soil, with tropical nuts to crack during the long winter evenings, remains to be seen.

As an ornamental tree, where it is hardy, the above species of almond trees, together with the flowering almond, are worthy of cultivation, until superseded by other and more desirable kinds.

Of the few pear trees introduced here, we regret to learn that most of them, to every appearance, have been injured. We are not, however, wholly disheartened relative to raising pears here, as, from information furnished us, we infer that there is a fair prospect of having a reasonable supply of pear trees grown in this Territory, from the pips, which, doubtless, when improved on their own stocks and judiciously trained, will not be so liable to be destroyed by the rigorous winters of the mountains.

It will be needless to state that, wherever the peach or other stocks are killed, the plum, apricot and other varieties worked into those stocks, tho' as yet apparently alive and tho' some of the fruit buds may look sound and healthy, cannot survive. Our only hope, therefore, for apricots the ensuing season rests with the seedling varieties, whose buds, so far as we have had opportunity of examining, are not all winter-killed.

Wherever it has been worked upon the wild plum, tho' not considered the best stock for this purpose, the apricot is most probably safe. It may be advisable, hereafter, seeing that peach stocks are liable to be winter-killed and until seedling trees can be raised in sufficient numbers, to propagate the apricot on the wild plum by root-grafting, which will overcome the principal objection to using the plum stock; namely, that in its growth it does not keep pace with the apricot; in consequence, the point where the bud or graft is inserted frequently assumes the appearance of a protruding knot, does not perfectly unite with the stock and is liable to be torn off by high winds.

The fruit buds of the apple and peach are in a condition similar to that of the apricot—mostly pronounced beyond recovery, but some may produce fruit.

Relative to the cause of all these disasters to our fruit interests, as yet only infantile, many conjectures are offered. Some attribute it to the excessively cold weather, which may, indeed, have had some agency in the matter, since it is reliably asserted that the coldest weather known in Great Salt Lake valley since its first settlement by the people called "Mormons," occurred in the early part of the winter—Dec. 6—when the thermometer was 22 degrees below zero. That there must have been other influences also operating, to destroy the trees may be plainly inferred from the fact that, in Vermont and other Eastern and Middle States, the apple tree has been known to survive a temperature of 40 degrees below zero.

Without wishing to at once settle the mooted question or establish a cause for the present unpropitious condition of our fruit trees, we may revert to a few things that would probably have a deleterious effect upon vegetation in this high altitude.

It will be remembered that, late in the fall, after the fruit had been gathered and irrigation ceased, there came a few days of warm, growing weather, followed by genial rains, which, doubtless, caused the sap that should have returned to the roots, to ascend again into the trunk and to the thicker parts of some of the lower branches. While in this state, the "coldest weather known" came upon the trees like a blighting blast, withering and destroying every bud that was susceptible of injury and striking its venom into the very centre of the trunk and probably to the roots. From the fact that the topmost shoots do not generally appear to be so much injured as they have been in previous years, while the trunks of large, flourishing, healthy-looking, fruit-bearing trees are, in some gardens, said to be three-fourths killed, the above hypothesis is considerably strengthened.

Should the fears of many prove greater than the real extent of the injuries done to the trees, we shall not be disappointed; but, certainly the damage inflicted by this strange combination of causes, the effect of which, in the absence of a more proper term, we shall entitle *mortification in fruit trees*, cannot be trifling. Now, what shall be done? Shall we cease our efforts to produce fruit? Shall we become distracted and cut down the trees that seem to be struck with this blight, as some have thought of doing, or, shall we let them remain and see whether or not they may be reclaimed and resuscitated?

So far as we are concerned in this matter, we shall pursue the even tenor of our way, leaving to a kind Providence and good treatment the fate of our trees, as well as every other earthly interest pertaining to us. If our trees should perish every one, from the severe *mortification* they have experienced the past winter, we shall be as eager as ever to set out another orchard, from which, peradventure, we may reap fruits ere another winter like the past shall come, which, in all probability may not be very soon.

The past winter has summarily settled the question, What fruit trees are most hardy in this latitude. The tree most hardy is the seedling cherry. The seedling apricot may be commonly relied upon. The peach is uncertain. The apple, grown here from seed, in our opinion, will be found generally hardy and probably some imported varieties also. The plum on its own stock may be considered worthy of cultivation.

The young seedling apple trees of br. L. S. Hemenway's nursery, in the 4th Ward, which we visited a few days since, have, we believe, wholly escaped injury. The young peach trees have not fared so well; those budded with the apricot, plum, etc., he will not dispose of, because they cannot be warranted alive. His pears have proved a total failure.

Notwithstanding the misgivings of many relative to the failure of fruit and the wholesale destruction of the trees, we are very sanguine in the hope of partaking of apples, peaches, apricots, plums, cherries, etc., the present year; though the crop will unquestionably be greatly reduced.

The irresistible conclusion attained by the experience of the past winter is that attention should be more earnestly directed to the propagation and improvement of our seedling varieties of fruit trees, as well as that of our native breeds of stock, of which we may have more to say hereafter.

Spring Operations.

The weather, for several days, has been warm and pleasant, favoring the commencement of work in the garden. The frost is now out of the ground in all exposed localities and the uplands have been for some time sufficiently dry for spading and planting. We are glad to see so much energy manifest this spring, in the various labors and operations required to secure an abundance of early, delicious vegetables.

Spring wheat, if not already sown, should be sown as soon as the condition of the ground will permit.

Oats should always be put in the ground as soon as possible. We shall probably have something further on the oats crop, next week.

Peas, onions, carrots, beets, parsneps, early turnips, radishes, lettuce, cress, mustard, spinach, &c., may be planted at once.

Plant hop roots, divide and replant horse-radish, prepare strawberry beds, &c.

The *American Agriculturist* for March was received by the last Eastern mail, which arrived on the 21st inst. The January number has not yet come to hand; neither has the September No. of the last volume, together with a package of specimen numbers forwarded some months since.

Vaccination of Cattle.—The *Medical Times* says that in Holland there are assurance offices for cattle's lives. One company has all its cattle vaccinated as a preservation against contagious pneumonia. Another company inoculates only when the disease has invaded the animals' stalls. The third company does not vaccinate at all. It has been calculated that the first company has lost 6 per cent. of cattle, the second 11 per cent. and the third 40 per cent.

Sheep Dogs.—A number of these faithful animals were recently imported from Australia by a gentleman of New York city, and the most of them have already been purchased by the agents in that city of the wool-growers in the vicinity of San Juan, Monterey county. They are of the "Colly" breed, and are said to be very large and powerful, being the only kind of dog that can stand the cutting fangs of the coyote.

In Bloom.—Apricots, almond and peach trees were in bloom in Placerville, Cal., before the close of February—the weather during the whole of that month having been delightful.

WHAT MADE FOR.—Sidney Smith says the Anglo-Saxon race was made for two purposes—to manufacture calico and steal land.

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

We publish, according to previous announcement, the continuation of the article on Tobacco, from the *American Agriculturist*, from which, doubtless, every amateur wishing to produce his own weed, may obtain much needed information:

FIELD CULTURE.

After the plants are set, some will be cut off by worms, and some will die from transplanting. New plants should be put in the vacancies as fast as they are made, until about the tenth of July, after which it will be too late for them to mature. To hasten the growth of these late set plants, it is a good plan to give them some extra manure. A mixture of three parts guano to one of plaster will be found to aid their growth. Some apply this in the drills before the plants are set, at the rate of about 500 pounds of guano to the acre. After being strown in the drill, it is covered by throwing up a light furrow on each side, and the plants are then set set upon the ridge. If this is not done in the first preparation of the field for planting, the dressing may be applied at the first weeding, about ten days after the plants are set, covering it with the hoe.

The tillage of this crop is much like that of corn, only that it will not bear neglect as well. In the first and second hoeing, the ground should be deeply worked between the rows, to make a mellow bed for the roots to penetrate. The horse-hoe or cultivator should be kept moving as often as once in ten days, until the leaves are so large as to interfere with the operation. Many cultivators only hoe three times, but no crop pays better for a frequent stirring of the soil. Not a weed should be suffered in the tobacco field, if a prime crop is desired.

ENEMIES.

One would suppose that so disgusting a plant, and especially one so destructive to animal life, would be secure from the attacks of insects; but no crop suffers more from the depredations of these robbers. No sooner is it set, than the cut worm commences his work near the root, and the supplying of new plants forms a large item of labor upon many plantations. One of the best remedies for this enemy is plowing the previous fall or winter. This brings up a multitude of the larvæ from their winter quarters, and the frost makes quick work with them. If this has not been done, there is no remedy but to watch for and destroy them by hand.

The tobacco worm, that preys upon the leaves of the plants, is the larva of the Sphinx Carolina. The butterfly is "ash grey; fore wings have blackish wavy lines; hind wings whitish in the middle with four black bands; on each side of the abdomen are five orange colored spots; the tongue excessively long; wings expand about five inches." The larva is a disgusting looking green worm, transversely wrinkled, with seven oblique white lines on each side, and a rust colored caudal horn; generally known as the tobacco worm. These insects transform so deep in the ground, that the plow does not usually disturb them. There is no remedy but the thumb and finger. They are exceedingly voracious, and ruin the crop in a few days, unless they are destroyed.

The crop is also liable to be injured by high winds and by hail, when it is in its most succulent state. In some localities, it is liable to be frost bitten, which makes an inferior article. It is more liable to damage from the elements than almost any other crop.

PRUNING, TOPPING, AND SUCKERING.

The object aimed at by the tobacco grower is, to throw all the energies of the plant into a few large leaves. For this purpose, its natural habits must be interfered with, in several respects. As the plants approach maturity, they throw out on the top a blossom bud called a button. This must be removed soon after it shows itself, together with such small leaves as can not be fully developed. The place where the seed stem is to be broken off, depends somewhat upon the strength of the plant. About six inches from the top is the rule; more, in the cases of small late plants, and less in the more vigorous. The number of leaves a plant will mature, will be readily learned by experience. They run from six to twelve leaves in common fields.

A shoot is thrown out at the foot of every leaf stalk, which must be very carefully removed. This throws the sap into the leaves, and expands them. These operations strip the plant of all superfluities, upon stems from two to four feet high.

CUTTING UP AND HOUSING.

It takes about three months from setting the plants, to mature a crop. They begin to assume a spotted and yellowish appearance, the velvet pliability of the growing leaf is lost, the veins become swollen, and the leaf breaks easily and with a clean brittle fracture upon the under side. It seems full of sap, and thickens up in texture. This is a critical time with the crop, and demands the closest attention and activity of the cultivator. The value of the tobacco depends upon its undergoing a peculiar fermentation, as it dries slowly in the shade after cutting. Dried in the field, it is worthless, and over ripe plants make an inferior article, however skillfully cured. The fermentation gives a peculiar color to the leaves, which depends somewhat upon the stage of growth at which they were cut, and upon the skill in the curing process. The color preferred, is some shade of cinnamon, though