



AMERICAN GRAPES—THEIR VARIETIES.

BY C. W. GRANT.

It is generally understood and admitted, that the grapes of America, as represented by the produce of the borders of waters and woods, cannot be regarded as fruit of very high excellence.

Some persons find enjoyment in the trilling pungency of the skins, and a few also in their peculiar odor and flavor, and almost all of us who are forty years of age, had access to none better in our childhood.

These are now offensive to most persons who know something of better kinds, and the grape, as represented by these, never becomes an estimable fruit.

Some of these are very large in size, ripening very early, and, under cultivation, become very productive, but cultivation does not improve their character or render them less offensive.

The Isabella and Catawba are of this class, but vastly better than any that are indigenous to the latitude of New York City, or two degrees south of it.

These are of Southern origin, and, except under very favorable circumstances, require a warmer climate than that of New York to bring them to perfection in all seasons.

Cincinnati, which is two degrees further South, may be regarded as the northern limit of the region in which they will constantly arrive at their best condition of ripeness, without choosing for them the most advantageous exposures for vineyards, or sheltered positions in the garden.

Under such circumstances, they have been grown more than a degree north of New York, so as to afford pretty constant valuable crops for market, and so good in quality that they have been found very conducive to health as well as affording a large amount of healthful enjoyment.

Although constantly associated in their names, the Isabella and Catawba are widely different in character, the Isabella being feeble-flavored and deficient in vinous character, while the Catawba is distinctively refreshing, vinous, and high-flavored.

They both vary greatly in quality, according to circumstances of management and season, but always maintaining the same relative character, and always and in every latitude far below the richest kinds of Europe, such as the Frontignans and the Rieslings, in the richness of their vinous refreshment, and of the Chasselas in its pure sugary juice.

And, being of Southern origin, they have not shown themselves perfectly hardy even under the parallel of forty degrees, although with care, for which they richly compensate, they could endure the climate of forty-two degrees.

Something more hardy and of much earlier maturity, as well as far better in quality, was required to meet the wants of those who knew how much delight could be furnished by a perfect grape.

The Concord, which was originated by Mr. E. W. Hull, of Concord, Mass., was suited to a more northern latitude by its much greater degree of hardiness, and by its earlier period of ripening; but in quality it fell below the Isabella, and far below the Catawba in excellence. It is able to give the sensation of sweetness, but nothing of vinous refreshment which gives animation to the delight afforded by good grapes. Instead of the latter, it gives a thrilling sensation by the acrid pungency of its skin, and, instead of the tartaric acid which abounds in all good grapes, overcome by a large amount of sugar equally diffused throughout their substance, which are the bases of wine, it gives a moderate amount of sugar, diffused in mucilage near the skin, and a large amount of citric and mallic acids (the acid of unripe fruit) in its tough, fibrous center. Its aroma is also offensive. Like all of its class, its berries having but slight attachment to the peduncle, fall from the bunch soon after picking if they are nearly ripe. It can never make wine, lacking its essential elements.

Taking the Hartford Prolific and the Northern Muscadine as the type of the wild grapes of the same latitude, the Concord is a great improvement upon these, and it is a seedling from that class, but it does not approach very near the character of a good grape.

The Diana, which originated from the Catawba also, in Massachusetts, is a greater improvement upon the Catawba than the Concord is upon the wild grape, more than maintaining the Catawba pre-eminence in their progress toward perfection. This retains all of the refreshing vinous character of its parent, and is even more sugary and rich, and ripens as early as the Concord. After it has considerably progressed in ripening, it retains some of the offensive foxiness and astringency of its parent in its flavor, but at complete maturity all of this disappears, and it becomes pure, rich, sugary, and vinous to its center, and the most cultivated taste will find full enjoyment in it, and a greater degree of animating refreshment than is found in any of the large European kinds. In this respect it surpasses the Frontignans, but not in exquisite refinement.

The Anna has a Muscatel aroma, like that of European Muscats, and an exceedingly rich, vinous flavor, in which it is not surpassed by any grape, but something of adhesiveness remains at the centre. In color, it is light, translucent green, covered with white bloom and amber where exposed to the sun. It is not easy of propagation, and is not a vigorous grower when young, but with age it becomes as vigorous as the Catawba, and is not surpassed in hardness of leaf by any variety.

Allen's Hybrid in form of bunch is like our natives, not properly shouldered like European kinds, but with a branch like the American. In the structure of its berries, it is altogether like the foreign kinds, ripening quite to the centre, having something of fleshy consistency, which is characteristic of the European kinds, with a sweet, rich, vinous juice that is much more brisk and refreshing than the Chasselas, which it resembles in color. In flavor, it is more like Grizzly Frontignan, and will satisfy the most refined taste.

This is one of the great events of American grape culture. It has been on trial for five years, and has constantly shown itself vigorous and hardy, a very productive and early bearer, ripening at least one week before Isabella.

The past season has afforded the severity of test that was required to establish its character for hardiness. None of our hardy kinds have endured better, and few so well, this, the most trying season that has occurred in twenty years. It has not shown itself difficult of propagation in my hands, although Mr. Allen found it particularly so. It is so new that little word of best character for propagation has yet been given, and good plants are in consequence dearer.

For making wine, this will probably be valuable, though not equal to Diana; but for the table, it will perhaps even surpass that in value, and take rank next to the Delaware. Its berries adhere firmly to the bunch, drying to rich, vinous raisins, and still firmly adhering. It keeps long without disposition to decay or losing flavor.

FERMENTED BONES FOR MANURE.

Among the various methods of pulverizing bones, we do not remember to have mentioned that of reducing them to a convenient form for application as manure by fermentation. It is a method practiced to some extent in England, and recommended to the farmers of this country by Prof. S. W. Johnson, in his third report to the Connecticut State Agricultural Society, which appears in their Transactions for 1859.

One-third of the weight of bones consists of cartilage or animal matter. This, under the united influences of warmth and moisture, is found to readily decompose or decay, and fall to dust. A single bone or a heap of them never decays alone, but on being exposed becomes dry and hard, when, if they are brought into contact with an easily fermentable moist substance, a rapid decomposition of the bones will take place. In order, however, to hasten this dissolution of the bones, they should first be broken up, as far as convenient, by a sledge, and then placed in alternate layers with loam, leached ashes, saw dust or swamp muck, using a sufficient quantity of this material to fill the crevices among the broken particles of bones, but hardly more. Begin the heap with a thick layer of muck or loam, mixing in the bones, and as the whole pile is raised, pour over it stale urine or liquid made by diluting cattle manure with water. Enough of this liquor should be poured on to moisten the entire mass, and when the pile is completed, cover a foot thick with earth or muck. If the weather is warm decomposition begins at once, and in from three to six weeks all traces of the bones will have disappeared. If fermentation should spend itself before reducing the bones, the heap must be overhauled and set up anew, as before; and if, by examining the mass, it is found to evolve ammonia, let it be covered deeper with loam. "This bone compost," says Prof. J., "contains the phosphates of lime in a finely divided state, and the nitrogen of the cartilage, which has mostly passed into ammonia or nitrates is retained perfectly by the absorbent earth or muck."—[Maine Farmer.]

PRUNING EVERGREENS.—A gardener in an English journal, referring to pruning evergreens, whether hedges or otherwise, gives the following advice:—There is a natural law about cutting in the boughs of all kinds of evergreens which can never be departed from, in a single instance, without doing more or less harm in the long run. It is this: That the lowest boughs all round the bottom of a tree or bush, be left longer than those above them, if only the fraction of an inch, and the rule holds good from bottom boughs to the topmost ones, even of a Wellingtonia. The reason for the rule is this: If the boughs or branches in any part of the tree or bush are allowed to get longer than those below them, the longest will throw off the drops when it rains, and shade them from the sun; and when the sun and rain are kept from an evergreen bough, it soon languishes and dies by inches. That this is the only reason why laurels and fir trees, and all the rest of them, get naked below. People allow the top branches to spread over the bottom ones. Now any one who understands that law, and acts on it, can never go wrong in managing a hedge or tree.

THE REBEL CONGRESS IN FAVOR OF THE FREE NAVIGATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

The following is the majority report of the Rebel House Committee on Foreign Affairs, upon the resolutions lately introduced into their Congress, touching the conduct of the war and the tender of conciliatory measures to the inhabitants of the Northwestern states:—

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred certain resolutions relating to the true policy of the war, and recommending to the President the issuance of a proclamation touching the free navigation of the Mississippi and its tributaries, and the opening of the market of the South to the inhabitants of the Northwestern states, upon certain terms and conditions, have had the same under consideration, and now report back said resolutions, with one or two slight amendments, and recommend that they be adopted.

The expediency of conducting the war in which we are engaged with all possible activity, and of carrying that war into the enemy's country, so soon as the same shall be found practicable, is believed to be now universally admitted by all enlightened men who have given their attention to the subject. It is evident that we must rely alone upon our own energies for success in the struggle of arms which is now in progress. In the present condition of affairs it is quite manifest that in order to bring the sanguinary struggle in which we are engaged to an early termination, it will be necessary that every portion of our army should be kept in a state of constant readiness for active exertion, and that no opportunity should be neglected of striking the forces of the enemy, wherever to be found upon Southern soil, with that boldness and heroic energy which are so certain to secure to our arms the most signal success.

It is equally manifest that the enemy will never be willing to desist from the unjust and ferocious war which they are now waging, until the evils and inconveniences thereof shall have been brought home fully to themselves. When our valiant and disciplined armies (enhanced in numbers and in strength, as it is hoped they will shortly be,) shall have once found their way to the heart of the enemy's country, and have inflicted a just retaliation upon those who have so ruthlessly ravaged our territories, pillaged our towns, and desolated our homes, it is to be reasonably expected that even they will at last be able to discover the rank injustice and brutal cruelty which they have compelled us to experience, and for the preparation of which they have not been heretofore subjected to anything like adequate punishment.

Your Committee are well satisfied that the issuing of some such proclamation by the President, as that described in the resolutions referred to them, at such time as he shall deem expedient, could not but be attended with the most salutary effects. It is an undoubted fact that the Government at Washington, aided by unscrupulous local demagogues in the Northwestern States, has succeeded to a considerable extent in deluding the people of that region into a general belief that, should we succeed in our struggle for independence, it is the intention of the Government and people of the Confederate States to shut them out from the free navigation of the Mississippi river and its great tributaries, and though the Provisional Congress of these States long ago emphatically negated this idea by well known acts of formal legislation, yet your Committee is assured that the delusion on this subject still continues to exist among the people of the Northwest, and that the gross misapprehensions in regard to the intentions and policy of the Confederate States of America, thus engendered and kept in existence by wicked and designing men, has operated most effectively in prompting the people of the Northwestern States, so closely connected with the South heretofore, both by geographical and political ties, to contribute freely both of men and money to the prosecution of a war, which, if successful with those with whom it has originated, would be eventually as disastrous in its effects to the people of the Northwestern States themselves as to those of the Confederate States of America. It is gratifying to discover that high spirited and intelligent public men in several of the Northwestern States have, of late, become exceedingly active in their endeavors to discourage and suppress the ferocious war spirit heretofore raging among their fellow citizens, and that their honest and patriotic efforts have been already attended with the most marked success.

Such a proclamation as that recommended in the resolution referred to this Committee, it is confidently believed, would have a tendency to strengthen the efforts of the advocates of peace in the Northwestern States be calculated to bring those States quickly into amicable relations with the States of the South, withdraw them ultimately altogether from their present injurious political connection with the States of the North and East, with which they have really so little in common, and thus enable us to dictate the terms of a just and honorable peace from the great commercial emporium of that region through whose influence mainly this wicked and unnatural war has thus far been kept in progress.

—A CLUB of henpecked husbands met once a week—that being their only day of enjoyment and rest. When they adjourned they called it the rising of the tied.

ABSTRACT
Of Meteorological observations for the month of Oct., 1862, at G. S. L. City, Utah, by W. W. Phelps.

MONTHLY MEAN.

Barometer, (out of repair.)
Thermometer attached.

7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
53	64	61

Thermometer in open air.

7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
46	66	49

Dry Bulb.

7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
56	65	63

Wet Bulb.

7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.
42	60	56

Highest and lowest range of Thermometer in the open air during the month:

Max. 76°. Min. 33°

The amount of rain water that fell during the month, was .115, which is a little over one-tenth of an inch of water. The weather was pleasant and warm, with very little frost, during the month: so that peace, pleasure and plenty bless the "Mountain Home" in Deseret.

MONTHLY JOURNAL.

1. Clear. A splendid meteor at 9 p.m.
2. A.M. clear; p.m. cloudy and windy
3. Clear and cool.
4. Clear and windy.
5. Cloudy; sprinkled at 9 p.m.
6. Clear.
7. Cloudy till evening, then clear.
8. Partially clear.
9. Mostly clear. Frost.
10. Clear.
11. do
12. do
13. do
14. do
15. do
16. do
17. do
18. A.M. clear; p.m. hazy.
19. A.M. cloudy; p.m. clear.
20. Clear.
21. do
22. do
23. A.M. hazy; p.m. clear.
24. do do
25. Clear and cool.
26. Mostly clear.
27. Clear.
28. do
29. Hazy and windy.
30. Clear.
31. Cloudy and windy.

There has not been a more steady and pleasant month of October, since our settlement in the "tops of the Mountains;" it seems that God blesses those that bless him.

CABINETMAKER OR HOUSE-JOINER.

WANTING a Dwelling-Room and a commodious Shop, with a Saw and Lathe attached, and run by water-power, can learn particulars by applying to 18-2 S. W. RICHARDS, 14th Ward.

WOOD! WOOD!

WANTED at F. J. P. Pascoe's Lead and Color Works, 17th Ward, several cords of good WOOD, for which a limited quantity of Paints, Putty, etc., may be obtained; also, good Vinegar, a double barreled shot Gun, wagon cover, and a set of new Chicago wagon axle trees. 19-2

WEAVING.

THE undersigned wishes to inform the public that he is prepared to weave all kinds of Cloth on shares, or he will take produce, store pay or cash in payment.

A good Fly Shuttle Loom, and many years' experience, warrant me in promising satisfaction to all who may give me a job.

Workshop at Mr. Donelson's, next door to 13th Ward School House. 19-2 JAMES CHISLETT.

NOTICE.

TO the Person who took a SHOT GUN from the bush below Muesworth's Mill, in Mill Creek Canyon, on Thursday afternoon of the 25th of September last, will please to leave it at this Office as early as possible, to save further trouble. 19-2

NOTICE.

CAME into my enclosure, about the 20th of October, a black OX, about five years old, under bit off the right ear, crop off the left, something like the letter B on the left hip. I would like the owner to pay expenses and take it away. 19-2

CHAS. LAMBERT, 7th Ward.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY, BY A. BERTSEN.

A GOOD CARRIAGE-MAKER or WHEELWRIGHT, and a good Cabinet Maker, at his establishment, where he carries on Carriage-making and Blacksmithing, and also Cabinet Making, on South Temple Street, one block and a half west of Tabernacle. 19-17

NOTICE.

MOLASSES BOILERS and others desiring to encourage and sustain home manufacture, can manifest such desire by forwarding to the subscriber their Molasses Skimmings, and receive in pay for the same

GOOD VINEGAR.

F. J. P. PASCOE,
Lead and Color Works,
17th Ward, G. S. L. City. 19-2

NOTICE.

ASSISTANT ASSESSORS are directed to forward immediately to my Office all Applications for License, without waiting for their Monthly Returns, which, however, must be forwarded as soon as possible. With howsoever of the Assessors there has been unnecessary delay.

J. C. LITTLE,
Assessor for District of Utah. 19-2