THE EVENING NEWS.

Monday, . . Dec. 14, 1874.

A Dangerous Weed in California.

Improved agriculture is of so recent date in California, that but few of the pests in the way of insects and weeds that trouble the cultivator in the older States, have come to plague his California brother. Alfalfa or lucerne is one of the staples of California agriculture, and a weed that threatens the destruction of this crop is a matter of the first importance. Notices of a particularly troublesome dodder have appeared in the California papers, and we are indebted to the kind attention of our friends of the *Pacific Rural Press*, of San Francisco, and Sonoma *Democrat*, for specimens, which have enabled us to examine the plant, and to make an engraving of it. Almost every one knows our common dodders, which hang their yellow or copper-colored, wiry stems over the bushes in the swamps of the Atlantic States. There are ten native species east of the Mississippi, several more west of that river, and about seventy species thus far known throughout the world, all of which, with their varieties, are admirably described in Dr. G. Engelmann's elaborate account of the genus. The dodders are all parasites; the seed germinates in the ground, and the stem attaches itself to some other plant; by means of disks or suckers it draws upon the other plant for nutriment, and soon cuts itself loose from the root, and feeds wholly upon its unfortunate host. Some dodders live upon exogenous plants indiscriminately, while others prefer particular plants, or those of certain families; one confines itself to flax, which, besides the one in question, is the most generally injurious. One of our native species has been known to be troublesome upon young trees in nurseries. The dodder upon alfalfa, so far as we can determine from description, having no authentic specimens for comparison, is *Cuscuta racemosa*, variety *Chiliana*. The species is a very variable one, and between it and related species there is some confusion. The seeds of this were no doubt introduced into California with alfalfa seeds from Chili, the same as it was into Europe many years ago, where it was very destrustive to lucerne, often destroying whole fields. The engraving shows the habit of the weed. When once fixed it spreads and entangles the several branches of a plant, or those of neighboring plants; under this heavy draught made upon its life-blood, as we may regard the sap, the lucerne ceases to grow, and at length turns yellow, and dies from exhaustion. The Sonoma *Democrat* publishes an opinion that the dodder now so troublesome upon the alfalfa is a native species, but an examination of the specimens makes us quite sure that it is not. One not acquainted with the minute characters, by which the species are distinguished, might, from their outward resemblance, regard them as the same. * * * The alfalfa seed is like a minute, rather flattened, kidney bean; that of the dodder is irregularly orbicular, and only about one third as long the other. An ordinary magnifier will readily detect the presence of this or other foul seeds in the alfalfa seed. With this, as with other weeds, one important point is to avoid introducing it, and care in selecting the seed will do this. Where it makes its appearance the most prompt measures should be taken to prevent its spread. Cut the infested plants, and burn them, and do this before the parasite has matured its seeds. If the dodder has too full possession to allow this to be done, then the plan followed in France, (where a dodder, and probably the same species, is destructive,) may be adopted. Straw is laid in abundance among the plants in a dry time, and is then set on fire, the sudden flame destroys the parasite, but does not materially injure the alfalfa, which starts from the roots, and the stems, that escape injury by the fire.—*American Agriculturist.*

IN THE PROBATE COURT

In and for Salt Lake County, Territory of Utah.

EMMA KLAPPER, *Plaintiff*, AGAINST EDWARD KLAPPER, *Defendant*.

THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF UTAH, *To Edward Klapper, Defendant*, GREETING:

YOU are hereby summoned to appear in an action brought against you by the above named Emma Klapper, Plaintiff, in the Probate Court in and for the County of Salt Lake and Territory of Utah, and answer the complaint filed thereto, within ten days (exclusive of the day of service) after the service on you of this summons—if served within this county, and if not within this county, but within the Third Judicial District of the Territory of Utah, within twenty days; otherwise if without the Territory within forty days, or judgment will be taken against you by default, according to the prayer of said complaint.

This action is brought to obtain a decree dissolving the bonds of matrimony existing between Plaintiff and Defendant, and cost of suit.

(L.S.) In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and Seal of said Court, in Salt Lake City, this 12th day of October, A.D. 1874.

D. BOCKHOLT, Clerk of the Probate Court, Salt Lake County.

By ELIAS A. SMITH, Dep.

Territory of Utah, } ss.
County of Salt Lake. }

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the original summons on file, in my office, in the above entitled action.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the above named Court, this 25th day of November, A.D. 1874. D. BOCKHOLT, Clerk.

(SEAL.) By ELIAS A. SMITH, Dep. d5

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