

The capabilities of the grape vine are perhaps unequalled. In the hands of the skillful propagator, a single eye, or bud, planted in the soil, will expand into a beautiful vine bearing five or six pounds of perfect grapes within sixteen months. Instances have occurred where a single eye has put forth a vigorous shoot and shown fruit the same season.

Ordinarily, with as good culture as the best garden crops ought to receive, a bunch or two may be obtained from a strong vine the second season after planting, certainly the third, and thence onward for many years an increasing and bountiful crop will delight the eyes, thrill the palate, and gladden the heart, making ample returns for all the expense, trouble, and anxious care bestowed.

Here, then, without an age of waiting, are your plump and inviting bunches of one of the finest and most delicious of fruits for the desert, rich refreshing juice for wine, and spicy and sugary raisins for the Christmas and New Year's pudding, all of your own growing. Better, even, than the inevitable baked squash, or the time-honored pumpkin pie.

In Germany, the grape cure has become an established institution, the patient abstaining from butter, fats, pastry, and spiced meats, and dieting chiefly upon ripe grapes, consuming from three to nine pounds per day. For my own part, I would prefer such curative means to the divers repulsive and nauseous nostrums of any of the medical schools, new or old.

I have brought up the rear with two of the most beautiful and desirable of all fruits—the strawberry and the grape. I can but speak of these admirable, these incomparable productions in glowing terms of praise. The earliest and the latest in ripening, each in its own peculiar sphere the "bright particular star," alone, unrivalled, unapproachable. Both of them prolific bearers, capable of being fruited in a shorter time than any others, easily and rapidly multiplied, immensely satisfactory in their chief characteristics, really no excuse exists for self-deprivation of their paradisiacal excellences.

In the early summer, the successful Horticulturist invites his friends to a delicious dish of Vicomtesse or Bartlett strawberries, or a tempting plate of Black Tartarian or Bigarreau cherries. In the late summer and in the fall, what a profuse Epicurean feast spreads itself out and exhilarates the senses—currants, gooseberries, mulberries, raspberries, blackberries, apricots, plums, peaches, nectarines, nuts, figs, grapes, apples, pears—almost the whole wide range of pomological delights, in all their superlative excellence and endless variety.

And when the biting frosts have wound up the vintage and the general harvest of fruits, and the snowy mantle covers the earth, the social gatherings are still regaled, not only by the choice preserves which the good wife has so certainly made and carefully laid away, but by the yet unconserved bunches of grapes and the ample store of the now ripening winter apples and pears.

When a man treats his friends thus, what is the natural result? Why, those friends will surely go home and begin to do likewise, for example is contagious. It is better to be such a man, and to be blessed with a circle of such sensible friends, than to stand in the shoes of Jeff. Davis, the President of the Southern Confederacy.

Before concluding, allow me to hint that it would be well to instill into the minds of our children a proper respect for trees and plants, especially fruitbearing ones, and again more especially those belonging to our neighbors. Furthermore, perhaps it is not the most economical thing in the world to turn a five dollar calf into the lot, for the express purpose of devouring a fifty dollar strawberry patch, or destroying a hundred dollars worth of fruit trees. I conceive it possible to build up Zion without practising or encouraging Vandalism. Remember that cattle and horses and mules do not constitute the whole of the pleasures of life.

I have merely entered upon the threshold of the subject, here and there lightly touching a few salient points. Much more might be said. Much has been said by others, far more competent than myself. I commend to your careful consideration, the suggestions of their enlightened and enlarged experience, so far as applicable to your circumstances and this climate. I have not presumed to attempt an elaborate and exhaustive discourse on the fruits of the earth, but rather to invite your attention to this fascinating department of useful knowledge, to present it to your view in an aspect in which you may not have observed it so intensely before, in a light in which previously you may not have looked at it with so single an eye, and to show the advantage and feasibility of a more liberal and more widely extended participation in the best fruits with which a beneficent Providence has furnished this temperate zone. Surely it is much wiser and vastly more agreeable to intelligently increase and enjoy the inestimable blessings which surround our path, than to drag out our existence in a cheerless, ascetic, stolid, oblivious indifference. If I have said sufficient to excite your desires and to encourage you to renewed exertions in the direction of the culture of fruit, our interview this evening will not prove unprofitable, my anticipations will be realized, and I shall be abundantly satisfied in having contributed another mite of effort towards making the wilderness of Utah to rejoice, and the deserts of the Great Basin to blossom as the rose.

Eastward from the Rocky Mountains the whole country is rapidly being converted con-

jointly into a vast armory and a vast battlefield. Located as we are, beyond the immediate reach of the boiling vortex of strife, yet within the influence of the consequent financial and commercial perplexities, it behoves us, more and more, to cherish the arts of peace, to devote our energies towards sustaining ourselves and producing for our own convenience and enjoyment the comforts and luxuries of life during the dreadful struggle, so that when the utter exhaustion of one or both of the antagonists compels a total cessation of active hostilities, and there is no further use for the immense quantities of implements and munitions of war, we may live to repeople this continent, and may be prepared to have the swords beat into ploughshares and the spears into pruning-hooks, in anticipation of that "good time coming" when the nations will wish to learn war no more.

DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

In the Senate on Monday the 12th of Jan., numerous petitions were presented for the enactment of a general bankrupt law. Mr. Clark offered a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the committee on the conduct of the war to inquire and report what were the objections and the causes of delay in the execution of the act to confiscate the property of seceders in the district of Columbia, and whether any legislation was necessary to secure the more prompt execution of the act.

The bill providing for the further issue of bonds and United States notes was taken up and passed. The bill providing for the reorganization of the court of claims was taken up and considered. Mr. Hale opposed legislation upon that or any other measure not having in view the salvation of the country. The court was a lame-duck politician arrangement, of no practical benefit to the country and time should not be consumed in its discussion.

A bill providing for the raising of troops for the defense of Kentucky was taken up and passed. The balance of the day was spent in speechifying on various subjects.

In the House, on the 12th, Mr. Colfax offered a resolution, which was tabled, to discharge the committee of ways and means from the further consideration of the bill reducing the duty on imported paper, from thirty-five to ten per cent. and that the bill be considered in the House at once, and Mr. Kellogg offered a resolution, which passed, instructing the committee to inquire into the expediency of reducing the duty on imported rags of which paper is made.

On motion of Mr. Dawes a resolution was passed requesting the President to communicate to the House what instruction had been given to Gen. Dix, Gen. Shipley, Gov. Stanley or either of them in relation to the election of members of Congress from Virginia and North Carolina.

On motion of Mr. Sedgewick the naval committee was instructed to make inquiries in reference to laying a telegraph cable between Fortress Monroe and New Orleans. A resolution was also adopted, providing that the debts due the soldiers be paid in preference to all other debts owed by the government.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the bill to provide ways and means for the support of the government, considered to be one of the most important matters for the consideration of Congress.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, Jan., 13th, Mr. Grimes offered a resolution requesting the President to communicate to the Senate all communications between the State department and the representatives of her Britannic majesty's government in relation to the capture of British vessels sailing from one port to another, having on board articles contraband of war intended for the use of the so-called Confederate States; and Mr. McDougall, a resolution requesting him to communicate to the Senate any correspondence in his possession, or in the State department, between the government and the Mexican minister at Washington relating to exportation from parts of the United States articles contraband of war for the use of the French army in Mexico.

Mr. Kennedy, of Ind., announced the death of his late colleague, the Hon. James Alfred Pearce, who died on the 21st of December, aged 58 years. Eulogies were delivered by Messrs. Kennedy, Boyard and Fessenden, and the customary resolutions were adopted.

In the House, on the 13th, the Speaker announced Messrs. Fenton, of New York; Kellogg, of Illinois; Wadsworth, of Kentucky; and English, of Connecticut, as a special committee to inquire into the expediency and neces-

sity of establishing a military and post road from the city of New York to the city of Washington, in order to facilitate the transportation of the mails, arms, troops and munitions of war. The House then went into committee of the whole on the bill to provide ways and means for the support of the government, and Mr. Morrill made a speech in which he said that the extraordinary figures in the bill were transcended only by the object intended to be accomplished. Nine hundred millions of dollars in paper were called for by this measure. If the war should be prolonged until July, 1864, the entire amount would be needed; but great as were the figures, the price was not too much "for liberty and Union now and forever, one and inseparable." He was constrained to vote for the bill because he knew of no other mode to relieve the immediate necessities of the Treasury. He, however, did not abate one jot from his former declared opposition to making gilt-edged paper a measure or solvent for gold and silver. But the patient had been so long accustomed to "opiates" that the dose could not be withheld without peril.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, Jan. 14, the Vice-President presented a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, asking for an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars, twenty thousand of which to be applied to the support of the Utah Indians.

Mr. Kennedy presented the credentials of of Hon. Thomas H. Hicks, appointed United States Senator from the State of Maryland to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Hon. James A. Pearce, who appeared and took his seat.

In the House, on the 14th, a joint resolution was passed providing for the payment of the soldiers by issuing one hundred millions of United States legal tender notes, the amount to be deducted from the amount of any bill subsequently passed by Congress for the support of the war. Mr. Wright's resolution in relation to the rebellion and the war was taken up, upon which Mr. Vallandigham made a lengthy speech, and Mr. Bingham replied.

In the Senate, on Thursday, Jan. 15th, the joint resolution providing for the payment of the army and navy was passed by nearly a unanimous vote. Powell and Salisbury were the only Senators who voted, Nay. The bill making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending June 30, 1864, was passed after considerable discussion in regard to the utility of the institution, by a vote of 29 to 10.

In the House, on the 15th, Mr. Clements presented the credentials of Mr. Jennings Piggett, claiming a seat as representative under the certificate of Gov. Stanley. Mr. Dawson presented the protest of Charles Henry Foster against his admission.

The House went into committee of the whole on the bill to provide ways and means to support the government, and did not rise till the hour of adjournment.

In the Senate, on Friday Jan. 16th, the Vice President presented a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, asking for an appropriation of five thousand dollars for the new dome. Mr. Harding presented a memorial from the widow of the late Col. E. D. Baker asking for a pension. The bill to suspend the sale of lands on the coast of Georgia, in and about Port Royal was reported back with an amendment as a substitute. A resolution was adopted directing the Committee on Finance to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the purpose of encouraging emigration from Europe to the United States.

In the House, on the 16th, the bill providing for the enlargement of the Mississippi and Michigan canal, and the Oswego and Erie canals was taken up and discussed at considerable length, but no vote was taken. Both Houses adjourned till Monday.

In the Senate, on Monday, the 19th, Mr. McDougall offered a series of resolutions denouncing the attempt of the French government to subjugate the republic of Mexico to her authority by armed force as a violation of the established rules of international law, and that it is, moreover, a violation of the faith of France, pledged by the treaty made at London on the 31st of October, 1861, between the governments of Spain, France and England, and an act unfriendly to free institutions everywhere, and was regarded as not only unfriendly but hostile; that it should be the duty of the government to require of the government of

France the withdrawal of her armed forces from Mexico. The resolutions were laid over till the following Thursday.

The bill for the discharge of State prisoners was taken up and discussed, after which the Senate went into executive session.

In the House, on the 19th, Mr. Cox offered a resolution, which was referred to the committee on contracts, requesting the Secretary of War to inform the House what amount of revenue is derived from the hides, hoofs and tallow of the cattle slain for the army since the commencement of the rebellion, the number of cattle slaughtered, to whom sold, whether by contract, and whether an arrangement cannot be made to increase the revenue from that source.

The House went into committee of the whole on the bill providing ways and means for the support of the government, and Mr. Hooper made a speech on the subject of paper currency.

OLDEN FASHIONS BEING REVIVED.

For some time past there has been a disposition among the ladies of Gotham and other eastern American cities, to revive the styles of female dress in vogue during the days of chivalry, knight-errantry and other eras in the world's history—when fashions prevailed which, during the first half of this most brilliant nineteenth century, have been regarded as absurd, if not ridiculous.

The "sky-scraper" bonnets, says the New York Evening Post, "have assumed proportions of singular extent and inconvenient shape. The dressing of bonnets is becoming a study of no ordinary complications. White ostrich feathers are the prevailing ornament for the bonnet, and have a very pretty effect. Immense bows of white muslin are also coming in vogue. They are worn at the throat, and are ingeniously constructed so as to cover the breast, being furnished with wide tabs which depend from the bows at lengths to suit the wearer. These bows are eminently suggestive of mourning garbs, and thus our young ladies are assuming the appearance of those dangerous creatures, "vidders," for which see the warnings of Mr. "Samivel Weller, Senior."

But far beyond crinolines, beyond "pages," beyond "sky-scraper," and beyond widows' bows, looms up a new horror. It may be literally said that "horrors on horrors head accumulate." A number of the leading fashionable ladies of New York have decided to revive the obsolete custom of powdering the head, and have appeared at several parties and social gatherings with their hair done up in the old style, and then thickly bestrewn with powder. Of course, by this process of applications all the heads approximate a similar hue. Red hair becomes like snow—"though thy hair be as scarlet, it shall be as wool." Black hair becomes a dirty whitish gray. And after the evening is over often a whole hour is occupied in washing the hair, and freeing it from its powdery guise. The days of sackcloth and ashes seem to have been revived.

We understand that the innovation has elicited no little opposition, but that the ladies who have the matter in hand—or rather, on head—are determined to carry it out. It is probable that if successful they will follow it up with those disgusting "beauty patches" once in vogue. After that the ladies will, perhaps, demand that the gentlemen wear ruffles, red coats, swords and curled wigs. We sound the note of alarm."

PARISIAN DISSIPATION.—A Paris letter says: "For the present every one here belonging to the upper classes seems to be bent upon pursuing a round of dissipation too fatiguing to be social. The Countess Persigny has brought in, by giving her last ball at midnight, a fashion in a fair way of being widely adopted, as well as one that will make the sociability of the brilliant world more life-consuming than it ever has been. Soirees now commence long after ten, private concerts at about eleven, and balls at twelve. The wearing effects of such unnatural hours on the constitution are warded off by the ladies, and, indeed, often by gentlemen, in a manner so ingenious that it deserves to be recorded. Dinners are ordered half an hour earlier than they are usually served, and, instead of being finished at half-past seven or eight, are over at seven and half-past seven, so that persons of quality can go to bed and have a long sleep before they dress to go out at midnight."

—The citizens of Chicago determined to refuse all shipplaster or pasteboard currency after the 1st of January.