

FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

Small Fruits.

In addition to the excellent article which we printed last week, on the "Deseret Currant," we publish the following, copied from *Life Illustrated*, which will be found valuable, as descriptive of the most choice varieties of the smaller fruits, and containing information relative to their present improved condition and the profits attending their culture:

The cultivation of the smaller varieties of fruits has received much attention in this country in the past few years, and where good varieties were planted and good cultivation given, the results have been highly remunerative.

Although large quantities have been produced, the market has not been fully supplied, and we doubt if it will be for many years to come.

The more we have of a really good thing the more we want, and it is this growing taste which has called into use the hermetically-sealed can for the preservation of fruits. Not only small but the larger fruits are thus preserved, and instead of having a certain variety for a few days only, we are enabled to prolong the season to suit our own convenience.

A few years since, only what was wanted for immediate use could be disposed of; and if by chance a few extra bushels were sent to market, the dealer would hardly look at them; much more think of buying; but now, the public are learning the importance of having fresh, ripe fruit in winter as a promoter of health as well as a luxury. They are not satisfied with having fruit in its season, but they must have it out of season and in all seasons; the consequences are, that all kinds of fruit bring a good price, we may say an exorbitant one.

What has caused this great change in the price? Is it because there is less produced now than formerly? Certainly not, for now we have currants, blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, and grapes cultivated, not by half acres, but by the hundred acres, and we can safely say that there are ten acres of the small fruits grown now where there was one ten years ago.

The immense quantities preserved for home use and for exportation, and the increasing demand for our grape and currant wines, has had much to do in advancing the price of those fruits; but we think there is one cause which has done more to create a demand than any of those named, and that is, the great improvement in size, beauty and quality of all our small fruits. For people will buy twice the quantity of a handsome delicious fruit that they will of one of a medium quality.

The beautiful appearance has attracted the attention of the public, and when the eye has once been delighted, and the palate tickled by a dish of fine fruit, the temptation is too great for an ordinary mortal to withstand, unless he be a miser with more gold than brains. Some old fogies will pretend to believe that our so-called improvements are just no improvements at all, but merely the fancies of our sickly imaginations; let us indulge a little in retrospect and see what we shall see.

THE GRAPE.

The Isabella and Catawba Grape were brought to notice some forty years ago, but our fruit growers at that time so firmly believed that there were no hardy native grapes worth cultivating, that they would not take plants of these fine varieties as a gift. And for the next fifteen years or so very few thought of planting native varieties; and as foreign varieties would not ripen their fruit in the open air, they contented themselves with the old fox grape, or none at all.

The few who planted the Isabella and Catawba were so well pleased, that they induced others to plant also, and those that had one vine soon wanted ten more; and from that time to the present we have been planting, until now we have thousands of acres in cultivation of these varieties.

Although we have thought much of these two varieties, others have come forward that will eventually supersede them. There are so many competitors in the field, it will be hard to decide which will win the race, Diana, Concord, Rebecca, Delaware, Anna, and a host of others, all possessing great merit.

With such grapes as the Delaware and Diana, it is no wonder that our pomologists have become excited and are running half crazy through every old hedge and garden in the country to see if there is any more like them. One of our pomologists has cried "Eureka" over his last new grape, and thus named it.

STRAWBERRIES.

At the time Mr. Hovey brought out his wonderful Seedling Strawberry, we had but very few good native varieties; most of them were too small to attract attention. We had European varieties by the dozens, but they were the same as they are at the present time, comparatively worthless when brought side by side with our best native sorts. The growing of Hovey's Seedling gave the public such a surprise that it set everybody to raising Seedlings, and now that once famous berry is soon destined to be far in the background.

New and superior Seedlings have come forward in such abundance, that the man who would attempt to decide which was the best strawberry in cultivation, would be thought a fit subject for the lunatic asylum.

CURRANTS.

Where is the old Red and White Currant of

twenty years ago in comparison with our Cherry, La Versailles, and White Province of to-day? We can see to gather these by starlight, the old ones we could hardly see by daylight.

RASPBERRIES.

The improvement in raspberries has been equally as great, and now we have something better than the small woody things formerly sold in our markets. We can now luxuriate on Brinkle's Orange Franconia and Fastolf; and if we wish to prolong the season we can call in the Catawissa or Fontenay, and have a fine dish of raspberries in the very face of the advance guard of old Winter.

BLACKBERRIES.

The cultivation of the Lawton Blackberry was certainly the opening of a new era in fruit culture. Who thought of cultivating the blackberry for profit before? surely no one; but now there are acres planted of this superb fruit; and not only the people of this country acknowledge its merits, but the fruit-growers of Europe extol it highly. The Dorchester and several other varieties also deserve the attention of all the lovers of this fine fruit.

THE GOOSEBERRY.

In cultivating this fruit we have had many difficulties to overcome, the fine varieties of England being in most cases unsuited to our dry, hot climate, producing rust upon the plants, and mildew upon the fruit before it ripened.

But with our new native Seedlings we can defy the mildew; and if we can not boast of as great size, we can show fruit which for flavor and productiveness can not be surpassed by any foreign variety.

With every improvement there comes an increase in the demand; and as this fact has been verified in past years, we may confidently expect to see it continued in years to come. Thousands of acres of uncultivated land in the vicinity of our large cities, which now yields no income to the owners, could, by a very small outlay of capital, be made to yield millions of bushels of the smaller fruits.

Every farmer living in the vicinity of a city or village where a market could be found for the surplus, should have an acre or more of the small fruits which, after furnishing his family, would bring him two or three hundred dollars per year, without his perceiving the time spent in their cultivation.

We have no hesitancy in predicting that all the above fine varieties would do well here. The Deseret Currant, perhaps, improved as it has already been, by some of our enterprising gardeners—to say nothing of what may yet be done—is eminently worthy of general cultivation and should at once supersede the small, bitter, sour and tasteless varieties heretofore grown in our gardens; and, when once obtained, should be thereafter carefully trimmed and attended to and improved, rather than become neglected and return to a wild, meagre state again.

Peaches every Year.—The *Ohio Cultivator* recommends, as a plan for securing a crop of peaches every year, to procure trees grafted upon the wild plum stock. The tree partaking of the nature of the plum, being hardy, will never winter-kill, and putting out late in the spring, will never be injured by the frost, and is a certain preventive against the workings of the peach grub, while the natural lifetime of the wild tree is beyond that of the peach. Thus may we have peaches every year, and for a long period of time, without the destructive and discouraging influences attending the growth of the common peach.

To Prevent Sore Shoulders in Working Horses.—The *Boston Journal* says: "The plan we have tried, and never found to fail, is to get a piece of leather and cut it into such a shape as to lie snugly between the shoulders of the horse and the collar. This fends off all the friction, as the collar slips and moves on the leather and not on the shoulders of the horse. Chafing is caused by friction; hence this remedy is quite a plausible one, and is much better than tying slips of leather or pads of sheepskin under the collar."

An Agricultural Bureau is about to be established in connection with the Interior Department, and consequently detached from the control of the Patent Office, with which it should never have been connected. The great interests of Agriculture have long been entitled to a separate bureau; and we are very sure that the millions engaged in this noblest of all pursuits will learn with gratification of the prospect of this improvement.

Horticultural Clubs.—Having been informed that the Gardener's Club organized in this city last fall has attained its full number of members, and that there are quite a number who are desirous of enjoying the benefits of such a Club, we suggest the organization of another Club, without delay.

[From the Germantown Telegraph.]

THE IDEAL AND THE REAL.

I.

A dewdrop sparkling on a rose,
Disturbed its consort's soft repose,
With, "Sister let us join our hands,
And seek yon brooklet's silvery sands,
This purling spring so bright and gay,
Will help us on our gladsome way,
And when 'tis gained, our noble aim
Will be to mount the steps of fame.
There vernal songsters pipe their say,
And summer flowers their sweets display;
There autumn clouds of amber hue,
Shall tinge with gold our waters blue;
And winter with his icy pall,
From blasts and storms protects us all.
Fair pleasure dwells on that pure stream,
And fascinates as in a dream;
Impetuous Hope with smiling face,
Implores us to increase our pace:
From brook to creek, from creek to river,
T'wards crested billows flowing ever,
Where the green ocean, white with foam,
Shall be our everlasting home;
Unless some rainbow in the skies,
Should tempt us to enrich its dyes."

II.

Thus down the blooming vale it sped,
As fragrant zephyrs fanned its head;
Now gamboling in sylvan shades,
Now gliding through the sunlight glades;
Poor silly stream, it little thought,
Of sorrows with which life is fraught;
For as it flow'd, puffed up with pride,
Before it loomed Fame's pyramid,
And round the base all black and gory,
Her votaries told their mournful story.
That, urged to mount the dazzling path,
They fell, to meet a lingering death.
False Pleasure's face that charmed before,
Was covered with a loathsome sore;
And even hope, (deceitful maid)
Once promised help but now betrayed!
Repentant, humbled, sore distressed,
New sorrows racked this streamlet's breast,
For thorns entwined those roses fair,
And pois'nous vapors filled the air;
Dark golden clouds which seemed to charm,
Foretold the howling autumn storm;
The blasts of winter lashed its face,
And grasped it in its cold embrace;
While trees and falls, dams, rocks and hills,
Portrayed life's e'er perplexing ills.

B.

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

The following critical article, from the *American Agriculturist*, being No. 1 of the series on the Tobacco, will probably be found especially interesting to every lover of the weed. In consideration of the high prices of the imported article, we wish to afford every reasonable facility and trust that there will be a general determination of those who indulge, to grow at least what they require for home consumption and thus aid the cause of domestic manufactures:

Tobacco stands next to cotton, among the exports from the Southern States. It very early attracted the attention of planters, and in colonial days, before the development of cotton manufactures, it was a main reliance for export, and indeed, to some extent, served the purpose of currency. The price of a month's work, a bushel of corn, a cow, or a horse, was so many pounds of tobacco. As it is reckoned among the luxuries of mankind, there has been no such rapid increase in its production as in the case of cotton.

There has, however, been a steady gain in its use, and notwithstanding its well known injurious effects, and the war made upon it by the medical faculty, it is chewed, smoked and snuff in ever increasing quantities. The exports which in 1855 were put down at fourteen millions of dollars, have reached this year twenty one millions, and this is but a part of the product of the country. The principal tobacco growing States are Maryland and Virginia, and the States lying immediately west. But it is grown in considerable quantities in all the other States, and forms an important crop in the valley of Connecticut river. It has been cultivated to a considerable extent in that region from the earliest days, and the variety known as Connecticut seed leaf, used chiefly for wrappers, commands a high price in the market. Indeed, we suspect that a large part of the Havana cigars consumed in our city, are grown on the soil of the nutmeg State.

SEED AND SEED BEDS.

The practice of transplanting is universal in the cultivation of this crop. Much therefore depends upon an abundant supply of good, strong, healthy plants. To make sure of success, every planter should grow his own seed, saving the strongest early plants for this purpose. The seed, if not "the least among herbs," is exceedingly minute. It is said that twenty five hundred, furnishing plants enough for a half acre, will lie upon a half-dime. It is of the utmost importance to have good seed, as the loss of a few days at the critical time of sowing, will make the plants too late for a well matured crop. The vitality of the seed may be tested by putting a few from the lot into a lock of moist cotton, to see if they will germinate. It is said that seed kept five or six years, will sprout sooner than fresh seed; but this we regard as one of the old wives' fables

with which our agriculture is still encumbered. Well dried seed of the last year's growth is quite certain to germinate. It is the practice of some of our best cultivators to sprout the seed designed for sowing, before putting them into the bed. This is done by taking two or three quarts of wood mold, or any other very fine soft soil, and mixing the seed very thoroughly with the whole mass. It should then be moderately moistened, and kept in a warm room four or five days previous to the time of sowing. This course enables the sower to distribute the seed more evenly over the bed, and as they are already sprouted, they come up before the weeds, and keep the start of them.

It requires but a small quantity of seed to supply a large plantation. The more sparsely and equally the seeds are distributed, the stronger the young plants will grow. The rule is about a thimble full, or a pipe bowl full, to a square rod, and this quantity of ground ought to furnish plants enough for an acre.

The seed bed should be prepared in a very thorough manner. It may be either with or without glass, according to the circumstances of the cultivator. Where the season is rather short for this crop, as in places north of this city, it is an advantage to start them under glass, in the same way as cabbage plants. If without glass, a spot should be selected upon the south slope of a hill, or in some sheltered spot where it will have the full benefit of the sun. The bed is prepared early in the Spring, by cutting up the brush, grubbing up the roots, and burning a large pile of brush upon the spot. This furnishes a large supply of wood ashes, which is one of the best fertilizers for this plant. If a fresh virgin soil is not at hand, the want may be supplied by working in a heavy dressing of compost, or yard manure; into any piece of land that is convenient. In this case it will be a good plan to burn brush on top, as it kills the seeds of weeds, makes the soil fine, and fertilizes it. If brush is not convenient, wood ashes will be a good substitute. The plot should be laid off into beds about four feet wide, for convenience in weeding and drawing the young plants as they are wanted. The surface should be raked with a fine toothed garden rake, until all the small lumps are broken. The beds should next be rolled or gently pressed smooth with a board or shovel, to prevent the seed from sinking too deep into the soil. After sowing the seed, the bed should be again smoothed over with the back of the rake, and gently patted down with the shovel or board. All this care is necessary, that the seeds may not be buried beyond the reach of the sun's rays. Unless the seeds have been previously sprouted, they come forward very slowly, and it will be six or eight weeks before they become large enough for transplanting. It is a good plan to wet the beds occasionally with a weak solution of guano, about a pound of guano to a barrel of water applied at evening after the liquid has stood all day in the sun.

After the young plants show themselves, the beds should be closely watched for weeds. Where the plants are too thick, they should be thinned out, and the soil should be stirred as often as once a week. The strength of the plants will depend a good deal upon the cultivation they receive while in the seed bed.

SUITABLE SOIL, AND TRANSPLANTING.

It is not all good land that is suitable for this crop. The famous tobacco of Cuba is grown only in a very limited district in the southwest part of the island, and this district is growing smaller from the wretched system of tillage. Formerly the tobacco lands were about eighteen miles from Havana, now they are one hundred and fifty. In Virginia, and the other States, tobacco of the best quality is grown upon a light alluvial loam, rich in vegetable matter. Lands recently cleared and brought under the plow, are considered the best. The best crops are secured in mild, warm seasons, with not too much rain. It never can be an object to grow this crop upon wet soils, or in mountainous regions. In the valley of the Connecticut, rich loams, with an admixture of sand, are preferred. If the land is not dry, it must be made so, in order to secure a good crop.

In all cultivated soils, however well adapted they may be to the crop, there should be the most thorough preparation, both in the plowing, and in the manuring. Tobacco, on poor land, will not pay, and all who attempt it will soon discover it. The land should be plowed ten or twelve inches deep, and manured enough to produce a hundred bushels of corn to the acre. It should be thoroughly harrowed, and made into as fine tilth as possible. The season of transplanting is from the middle of May, to the middle of June, according to the latitude. It should not be done until all danger from frost is over. The best time for the operation is immediately after a shower, or in rainy weather. If the rain does not favor, the plant bed should be thoroughly drenched with water, a few hours before transplanting, and water should be applied after the setting, at morning or evening, as long as the plants droop. The distance between the plants differs somewhat in different localities. As a rule they give more space to each plant in the southern than in the northern States. In Virginia four feet each way is a common distance, and a slight hill is made upon which the plant is set. In Connecticut the rows are about the same as for Indian corn; three to three and a half feet apart, and the plants two and a half to three feet in the row. It is only where the land is made very rich, that it will bear so close planting.

We shall probably make further extracts from future numbers of the same article.