

Correspondence.

A NEW "DIXIE" VINEYARD.

Editor News.—The following passage, from the report referred to by Bro. Homenway is worthy of being quoted and being meditated upon by my southern opponents: "As regards French wines, full reliance cannot be placed on what is furnished to the American traveler at hotels or cafes, or even what is sold to him at the shops, no matter what price he pays. It would, however, be doing French wines a great injustice to judge them by the quality sold in this way, or exported to America. The great body of American consumers have hitherto as yet so unskilled, and the merchants of Bordeaux and fabricators and imitators are so adroit, that it seems impossible for the honest wine grower here to come into much relation with the wine drinkers there as shall secure to the latter the benefits, sanitary and moral, which the French people themselves derive from the pure juices of the grape so abundantly produced in this country. It is not an unusual practice for dealers to buy of producers in the back country a coarse, deep red wine for thirty cents per gallon, and a strong white wine for forty-five cents per gallon, mix and bottle them and send them abroad labelled with the high sounding name of 'Medoc,' to sell at enormous profits to unsuspecting foreigners."

The true mission of our "Dixie" vineyard, if it is to be of any use, is to produce, to cultivate, exclusively, the foreign and domestic varieties which are best calculated to produce excellent dry and sweet wines, in order to supply the home and foreign markets with the pure juice of the grape.

Brother Bonelli having ridiculed my humble experiments in grape seedling, I was much pleased to find in this important report the following confession: "As America is destined to become a great wine producing country, people ought to be better acquainted than they are with the higher grades of foreign wines; but they have yet drunk so little of these that their standard of excellence remains comparatively low. Now, except in California, none of the European vines will grow in America, and we are compelled to search in our forests, and develop in nurseries and vineyards the varieties which are in the future to be our reliance for our wine supply, foreign producers, and finally, it is to be hoped, emancipating ourselves from them altogether." By systematically seeding our native wild types, experimentalists will succeed in originating magnificent varieties of grape.

I will now call your attention to the following stupendous statement of your St. George correspondent:

"In the first place, it is not true that all our wine would be heavy and alcoholic for any well balanced brand. There is a great difference in the quantity of saccharine matter contained in different varieties of grapes; some would make very strong wine, while some other varieties would only make a very light wine. We have the double advantage in a climate in which we can manufacture every grade of wines that are pure. In some colder locations, and more unfavorable soils, the most sugary grapes that could be grown under such conditions, would only make light wines at best."

In France the generic denomination of light wine is given to every grade of more or less delicate wines produced in the Northern or Southern vineyards. The wines constitute the general drink of the nation, tea and coffee being excluded. For instance, Chamberlain was the favorite beverage of Napoleon the first; Louis Napoleon was very partial to Nuits, the rival of "Clos Vougeot," while Prince Napoleon preferred Saint Julien, a second class Medoc brand. In a state dinner or in a social banquet, a second class wine, such as Saint Emilion, or Bordeaux, or any light Burgundy, are usually adopted for the first course; then another superior light wine is served at the second course; and finally Champagne, best Medoc, Sherry, Madeira, in short, several kinds of choice domestic and foreign brands, appear on the table as dessert wines. Every grade of dry or sweet wines is considered, and only used in France, as dessert wines. In England and in America wines are only drunk when the dinner is over and the cloth removed.

As to Brother Hemenway's above statement, I will merely say that, if true, our little "Dixie" is certainly the most favored spot of the whole world for grape culture. Every vineyard now in existence or that may be established there will become an inexhaustible mine of gold for its owner. I humbly confess that all my antiquated vineyard notions are totally ruined by the above description. Knowing partly by experience and partly by other evidences, that Madeira, Tenerife, Port wine, Sherry, Malaga raisins, Alicante, Frontignan and Lunel Muscat, and many other choice Constantia near Cape Town, and twenty other most excellent kinds of raisins and wines, can only be produced in semi-tropical countries. I did naturally feel that the assertion that the same products could be obtained in our Southern countries, which enjoy nearly the same climate.

As to the superior light wines, that is to say Johannesberg, Tokay, the Fride of Hungary, the best Champagne and Burgundy brands, having remarked that they are exclusively produced in cold countries, I had concluded that our northern countries were best calculated to raise them. But I am now informed that our "Dixie" vineyards are provided with varieties of grapes that will only make a very light wine. So much the better. But as I have never tasted a single drop of American wine, I should be very happy to commence with something good, produced in our Dixie. I will plant, next April, my large collection of seedlings in Salt Lake City, and I will never cease my experiments on that interesting subject. In the mean time, while wishing our southern vineyardists perfect success in every branch of that noble industry, I will return to my writings on sericulture.

A very interesting report was given by Professor Voit, at the last session of the Munich Academy, on the effect produced upon live pigeons by taking away the two hemispheres of the brain. Immediately after the operation the bird falls into a condition similar to sleep, puts its head under its wing and sits with closed eyes. After a few weeks it awakens out of this condition, stretches out its head and flies away of its own accord. It is certain that it sees, hears, and has sensations. It does not take food of its own accord, and would remain hungry in the midst of plenty. After the operation, the space in which the two hemispheres of the brain had lain became filled with an exudation of serous fluid, which gradually attains to a fibrous nature, and there seems to be a tendency to replace the old brain by a new one.

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