



From the Home Journal.

RIPE APPLES AND RIPE HEARTS.

On the trees in yonder orchard,
Peeping out amid the leaves,
Hang a wealth of ruddy apples,
Golden as the harvest sheaves;
Hanging like a vivid picture
In the framework Nature weaves.

They are round, and full, and glossy,
With their cheeks of crimson gold;
They are juicy, ripe, and mellow,
Half their sweetness is not told
Where we read of golden apples,
In the Bible days of old.

They have hung since their first forming,
Buffeted the wind and rain,
Shivered in the chilly weather,
Till the sunlight came again;
They have born the heat of summer,
Seen its brightness wax, and wane.

They are waiting to be garnered,
Growing riper day by day;
When the frost of Autumn cometh,
One by one they'll drop away,
And new trees shall sprout and flourish,
From the place of their decay.

Hew our hearts are like those apples,
Growing larger every hour,
All thro' life's hot restless hour,
Gaining knowledge, truth and power,
If we keep them in the sunlight,
As we would a treasured flower.

Buffeting the chilling tempests,
Met at every turn of life,
Braving countless cares and trials,
With which every day is rife;
Growing riper, sweeter, rarer,
Growing better in the strife.

Showing forth new beauties daily,
Till the chilly autumn-time
Cometh with its frosty fingers,
And its sad and mournful chime,
Touching chords upon our life strings
That with God and heaven rhyme.

When the frost of age is gathering,
One by one we'll fall away;
And our ripe hearts shall fall with us
To our lowly house of clay;
But a purer form shall spring up
From the place of their decay.

J. H. R.

CULTIVATION OF SORGHUM.

The cultivation of Chinese sugar cane is attracting much attention in California as well as in the Eastern States, and large yields of syrup are reported. Many of those who have been raising small crops the past season, are said to be making calculations to enter largely into the business next summer, believing it to be the most profitable crop that can be produced in locations where the summer season is of sufficient duration for its maturity.

The *Sacramento Union*, in speaking of the culture of sorghum in the valley of the Sacramento, refers to a person who from two acres, produced sufficient cane to make four hundred gallons of good syrup, and says that several farmers are disposed to try their hand at the business next year. A suggestion is also made by the editor, that if the Southern States go out of the Union, the people of that State should begin at once to make their own sugar and molasses, which if they can do, he says, and truly, will be a good thing.

There seems to be some difficulty in getting a clear article; but experience aided by science, will unquestionably soon overcome that difficulty. When that is accomplished, there will be no obstacle in the way of manufacturing sugar and molasses from the sorghum, more than there is in making those articles from the sugar beet, and in all probability, the process of making sugar from the cane, will not be as complicated, as that of making it from the beet. It certainly will not, nor cannot require more machinery.

Mr. W. H. Githens, of Hancock county, Illinois, thinks that he has discovered a process by which beautiful straw-colored syrup from cane can be produced without removing one particle of scum. In a communication on the subject, which is going the rounds of the papers he says:

"Within the last few days, after witnessing the filthy looking juice and scum as it came from the mills now in use, I thought I would test the steaming process further. Having procured a small quantity of cane, I steamed them about an hour, when they were sufficiently softened to be pressed dry by a small screw-press, and the product, as of the first, was nearly entirely free from color, and on boiling to about three-fourths, gave a beautiful straw-colored syrup, and that, too, without removing

one particle of scum, or using any defalcating substance whatever.

To sum up, I think the whole thing lies in steaming the canes before pressing, to fix the starch, albumen, etc., leaving the free acid to be neutralized during evaporation, which may be done by almost any alkali, or anti-acid—probably bi-sulphate of lime will be the best.

Putting Up Ice.

A correspondent of the *American Agriculturist*, gives the following account of his experience in putting up ice:

It may be interesting to some of your readers to hear my experience in packing ice to keep through the Summer. Before building, I made inquiries of architects and others, as to how an ice house should be built. Some said "have it underground," others "have it above ground," so I concluded I would try both. I built my ice house six feet under ground, and six feet above, eleven feet long and seven feet wide, with a window and blind at each end, about 18x24 inches, giving good ventilation. I used four-inch studs; and filled in to the peak, with saw dust. An experienced hand filled the house, which will hold about twenty tons. He put joists across the bottom, and packed the ice on straw, using it freely at the sides, and top.

As soon as warm weather commenced, the ice began to melt, and by the first of July, all that was above ground, had been used up, or had disappeared by melting. The underground ice kept better, but all was gone by the middle of August.

Some people said it was because it was a new house, and that it would keep better the next year; I believed it, and tried again; but the result was the same—the ice was gone by the middle of August, and the straw rotted.

Some one then suggested that the thickness of sawdust was not sufficient, and that the heat from the bottom caused it to melt. So I put in another set of studs, and filled in again with sawdust, put down a double floor, and lined that also. I then felt sure it would keep; although by reducing the size, I could only put in 18 tons. That year it kept till the first of September. I was induced to fill it in the same way again, because they said the ice was not solid the year before, and did not keep in any of the houses. The result was the same, the ice was gone by the first of September.

By that time I had become convinced that straw was not the right thing to be put round it, and that unless I could do better hereafter, I would buy ice during Summer.

I concluded to try once more, and use sawdust. Last Winter I put about six inches of sawdust on the floor, and then packed in the ice, leaving a space of four inches between the ice and the sides, which was filled in with sawdust, and the top covered with about six inches also. On the first of September of this year, we had not used it down to the level of the ground even, and could perceive but very little moisture on that which was taken out daily. At this time we are using it freely, and it comes out in solid cakes. I am not certain but it might keep well, if packed in an empty stall with plenty of sawdust round it, or even in a pen out of doors, if well covered with sawdust and protected from rain.

A New Breed of Sheep.—A report has lately been made to the Society of Acclimation of Animals in London, of a new breed of sheep, or at least animals resembling sheep, except in size, found in countries adjacent to the Punjab. These animals are called Purik Sheep, and are the most diminutive of the ovine family, the full grown ones being not larger than lambs of a few weeks old. The Purik Sheep has small bones, a fleshy carcase, and the mutton is excellent, and yields three pounds a year of very fine wool. The ewes generally give two lambs a year. The great advantage of this over other breeds is its domestic habits—living around the cottage as quite as a house dog, and feeding upon all sorts of waste garbage, scraps of fruit, vegetables, crumbs of bread, shreds that are frequently wasted; eating them from the hands of any one who offers. It is thought that the Purik Sheep would be suited to the climate of England and exactly adapted to the wants of many cottagers. If so, it would also suit many in this country. It would be a great object to get an animal to consume the kitchen garbage, less objectionable than the hog, and the flesh of which would afford a more wholesome food to the common people, too many of whom live, so far as meat is concerned, almost exclusively upon pork.

It is supposed that this kind of sheep would make rather interesting pets, of which children would be particularly fond; and we approve of anything that would be likely to displace worthless dogs in their affections, and at the same time add to their happiness.—[N. Y. Tribune.]

Keeping Horses Legs and Feet In Order.—If I were asked to account for my horses feet being in better order than those of my neighbor, I should attribute it to the four following circumstances: First, that they are all shod with few nails, so placed in the shoe as to permit the feet to expand every time they move; second, that they all live in boxes instead of stalls, and can move whenever they please; third, that they have two hours daily walking exercise when they are not at work; and fourth, that I have not a head-stall or track-chain in my stall. These four circumstances comprehend the whole mystery of keeping horses legs fine, and their feet in sound working condition up to a good old age.—[Miles.]

The Sorgho, Chinese Sugar Cane, in California.

It has been pretty well proven that California is capable of producing almost every thing that can be raised or manufactured elsewhere, and this being the case we are not a little surprised that no more attention has been paid to planting and raising the sorgho, or Chinese sugar cane. The French have made great progress in the cultivation of this plant, which is one of the most valuable in the whole vegetable kingdom. The climate of France is not so favorable to the grape as that of California, and we do not believe that it is better adapted to the successful raising of sorgho. There is no portion of the sorgho that is not turned to profitable account. The juice of the plant makes excellent sugar, as we all know; the scum of the boiling sugar makes a very good quality of rum; a farina is obtained from the seed, which is easily converted into good bread and chocolate, a tonic wine is extracted from the stem and leaves of the plant, and the dry leaves that fall from the stem while growing can be converted into fuel for the boiling process; certain dyes, of tints hitherto deemed peculiar to China, are also to be obtained from the green leaves, which likewise afford the very best of food for horses and cattle, and to crown all, whatever residue there may be left, can be converted into a good sort of paper. We believe that there is no other plant known that possesses so many valuable properties. Our soil is undoubtedly well adapted to the cultivating of sorgho, and the plantation once set out very little subsequent labor is required until the canes are fit to cut. But there is another advantage which we believe some parts of California to possess over France, and that is, the entire absence of frost in certain districts. It is the property of all varieties of the sugar cane to "ratoon," which means to reproduce itself for several successive years from the original plant, which is left in the ground, the canes being cut about three or four inches above the surface of the earth, and the old roots carefully covered with the dried leaves that remain, and hoed over with additional mould. In some of the West India islands canes have ratooned as many as twenty-five or thirty years, producing and reproducing without being replanted. Ratoon canes of from one to four years, generally yield the best sugar, rum and molasses. Plant canes, or those planted during the year, almost always flower, or "arrow," as it is termed, and these arrows affect the quality of the cane. The proper method of planting the sorgho, or any other species of cane, after it is fairly introduced, is as follows: About a foot or fifteen inches of the top or tender point of the cane is cut from the stem at the period of harvesting, partially stripped of its leaves, and conveyed to the ground prepared for its reception. Holes about two feet and a half square are dug in the earth, at least fifteen inches deep, and three or four of these tops laid in the hole, each top occupying one side of the square, and so placed that the eyes or sprouts at each joint shall lie parallel with the surface of the earth. The tops are then covered and the surrounding earth so fixed as to distribute nearly all the moisture it may receive from rain upon the planted canes. The month of November, or when the early rains begin, is probably the best time for planting. We have no doubt whatever that the sorgho can be rendered highly successful in California, and we trust that some of our farmers who are favorably located, will make the effort. The crop comes to maturity in eight months from the time of planting, and yields a larger return than any other known plant.—[S. F. Herald.]

Comfort for Cows.

Now that the cold season is setting in, let the cows, especially the milk-givers, have all needful attention. They should be well housed and well fed. The stables should be moderately warm, well ventilated, clean, and provided with suitable bedding. Aside from the mere matter of food and drink, the animals should be comfortable. This matter can hardly be over-estimated.

Then, as to fodder; part of this, of course, should be straw and hay and corn stalks; but to expect cows to give much milk on such lean fare, is folly. Favor them with messes of chopped grass, or cut straw, or stalks mixed with meal of some kind. A favorite "mess" for cattle, with a neighbor of ours, is this: Cut up hay, or straw, or stalks, in pieces not more than an inch, or inch and half long, put the provender in a tub or tight box, and pour boiling water upon it; then sprinkle on a little salt, and cover the whole with a little bran, or meal to keep the steam in. When cold, feed it in messes of a bushel at a time. Good as this is, it should be varied from time to time, for cows like variety, as well as men. Cows should be salted two or three times a week. In mild weather they should range by day in a commodious yard, protected on two sides, at least, by covered sheds. And this yard should have a pen-stock of running water, or a trough kept full from a good pump; the first is the best.—[Gazette.]

A New Cotton Plant.—Mr. Charles A. Peabody, of Columbia, Ga., is cultivating successfully a new variety of Cotton; the yield is about a bale to the acre, on common pine land, and the plant requires no more cultivation than the ordinary species; the color and staple are very fine. Last year the small quantity raised brought readily 25 cents per lb.

Sheep In California.

We have met with capitalists who have invested largely in sheep, some of them buying their five, ten, or twenty thousand head at the commencement, thinking they could make it pay, in accordance with the extraordinary increase known to attend this valuable animal in California. Most of these persons; thus purchasing largely, have failed to meet their anticipations, and in no long time, have been found selling off their large flocks, in small parcels, as they could best find purchasers. This exactly demonstrates what has long been an admitted principle of business, that if you achieve eminent success, it must have its commencement from small beginning; because, in the small business of an enterprise, one becomes thoroughly acquainted with all those minute details which qualify for the successful management of those of increasing dimensions.

In no department of industrial life does this rule apply with greater force than in the business of sheep raising. Where the capitalist begins with his five thousand or more, as may be, he is not likely to have made suitable arrangements for proper care. The idea is entirely too prevalent, that sheep need no feeding in winter, except what they can glean from the barren fields; then again, there will not be adequate shelter from the storms; or perhaps they are crowded into suffocating pens, so that they smother, or are infected from contact with diseased animals, which should have been removed, had they been in subdivided lots, so as to have been within frequent observation. We are satisfied that, in order to make wool-growing a highly remunerative business to California, it must fall into the hands of a great number of small proprietors; or where it is under extensive ownership, it must be farmed out to persons of sufficient intelligence to learn the habits of this tender animal. Doubtless, if large sheep owners were to subdivide their flocks into not more than one thousand in each, and give them in charge of suitable persons on shares, it would be better for the capitalist, than to have them kept in large droves under stupid and careless hirelings.

As an instance of individual success from a small beginning, we trust we shall be pardoned for making public a statement given us by our old friend B. F. Rynders, formerly a merchant at San Antonio, Alameda county, now a resident of Livermore valley. In December last, Mr. Rynders bought three hundred and forty American ewes, with a slight cross of French merino, and four half-blood merino bucks. The ewes cost six dollars each, and the bucks fifty each, making an outlay, for stock, of two thousand two hundred and forty dollars. He has sold eighteen hundred lbs. of wool at twenty cents—three hundred and sixty dollars—and has four hundred and sixty lambs, worth five dollars each, as they are nearly half-blood merino, which is two thousand two hundred dollars; which, with fleeces sold, makes the sum of two thousand five hundred and sixty dollars, as the product of a six month's investment of two thousand two hundred and forty dollars.—[California Cultivist.]

Whipping Oxen.

The following from the *Massachusetts Plowman* is inserted for the special consideration of those who are in the constant habit of whipping their oxen in a barbarous, unfeeling manner, when no necessity whatever exists for using the lash, to guide or speed them in the performance of any labor for which they are used. The expense that accrues to some men, in consequence of the profuse use of the long whips in fashion in this Territory, by them and their employees, is enormous, not only in the purchase of those instruments of cruelty, but in the loss of and depreciation in the value of cattle, caused by the merciless flagellations of unfeeling, unthinking crazy teamsters:

"Thoughtless men will whip, whip, whip. They do it from habit—a very bad habit; and we find it difficult to correct that habit. We are trying to teach our hired men better manners than to put on the whip before giving an invitation to the brute animals 'to go.' We have oxen that will 'go' as soon as they are invited, without the indorsement of the whip. Yet we find it a difficult matter to control the whip. It is surely a savage practice to apply the lash before inviting the animals to move by the proper words. Yet we see that this is a very common practice of those who are not owners of the cattle. When the common whip-lash is not thought to be hard enough for the back and noses of cattle, the walnut-handle, one inch in diameter is used on the noses of oxen, to make them back a load up hill before the cattle have ever been taught to back an empty cart down hill.

Cattle must be made to obey, and the common lash, or a switch stick, will be sufficient for breaking in. But we ask for mercy on all cattle that are willing to do right as soon as the right is pointed out. Many drivers of oxen put the lash on first, before asking their patient team to move. This is a species of barbarism which all owners of cattle ought to prohibit. It is so natural for people whom we hire from the interior, to use force in the first instance, and gentleness afterward, if at all, that particular care should be exerted in regard to the treatment of their cattle. Proper driving is an important item in husbandry. So many farmers now depend upon their hired help to do the main work, it is important for them to see that the work is properly done. The merciful man is merciful to his beast."