



THE CROPS.

Within the last few days we have been in the receipt of communications from nearly every county in the State, and with but few exceptions, the crops, although much later than usual, are represented as being good, more promising in some of the valleys than in former years. The excessive high waters, and the long continuance of the floods, have worked considerable damage in nearly every county and settlement to both hay and grain crops; but, upon an average, it is believed that the amount of wheat, corn, oats and barley that will be harvested this season, will be equal to the crop of 1861. So far as represented the crops in Utah, Great Salt Lake and Davis counties are less promising than in any other counties or valleys in Deseret.

From the reports that have been made, the prospect for a larger crop of cotton in Washington county is not so cheering as might be; for, in consequence of the unfavorableness of the weather, it was impossible to plant the seed as early as desired, and the great destruction visited upon the canals, sects and ditches constructed for irrigating the land, by the rushing floods, operated very injuriously to the cotton fields, as well as to other cultivated lands in that region, as the crops suffered severely in many places for the want of water, before the canals and ditches could be repaired, after the floods subsided. Should the latter part of the season be favorable, it is believed, however, that there will be a fair crop of that most valuable article produced, notwithstanding all the inhibiting circumstances that have been combined and presented to render the cotton-producing enterprise unprofitable and uninviting.

In the northern settlements in Washington county the grain crops are reported to be good, never better, and the like favorable report has been made of the wheat crop in Iron county. The crops of wheat and oats in Sanpete Valley are said to be promising, unusually so, and, if the anticipations of the agriculturists in that county are realized to any considerable extent, there will be a large surplus of grain produced there, more than enough to supply any deficiency that may be expected to arise in this and adjoining counties as compared with the crops of last season.

The reports concerning the growing grain in the northern counties continue to be most flattering, and the farmers in Cache Valley expect to place the grain-producing valley of Sanpete completely in the shade this year in the amount of wheat raised there, and most of them verily believe that Cache county will become the granary of Deseret, if not this year, at no distant day.

In this valley the wheat is almost universally represented as being light, and in some locations not more than half an average crop will be realized. Corn has improved greatly of late, and should the fall season be favorable the prospects are that there will be a good yield. Of hay in Great Salt Lake county, there will be but a small amount cut, comparatively speaking, as thousands of acres of the meadow land along the Jordan is yet under water. The prospects are that hay will be in demand in this city before the crop of 1863 will find its way into market.

ADVANTAGES OF PULVERIZING.

The effects of pulverization or stirring the soil are numerous: 1. It gives free scope to the roots of vegetables; and they become more fibrous in a loose than in a hard soil by which mouths or pores become more numerous, and such food as is in the soil has a better chance of being sought after and taken up by them. 2. It admits the atmospheric air to the spongioles of the roots—without which no plant can make a healthy growth. 3. It increases the capillary attraction or spongelike property of soils, by which their humidity in rendering more uniform; and in a hot season it increases the deposit of dew, and admits it to the roots. 4. It increases the temperature of the soil in the spring, by admitting the warm air and tepid rain. 5. It increases the supply of organic food. The atmosphere contains carbonic acid, ammonia, and nitric acid—almost powerful fertilizers and solvents. A loose soil attracts and condenses them. Rain and dew also contain them. And when these fertilizing gasses are carried into the soil by rain water, they are absorbed and

retained by the soil, for the use of plants. On the other hand, if the soil is hard, the water runs off the surface, and instead of leaving these gasses in the soil, carries off some of the best portions of the soil with it. Thus, what might be a benefit becomes an injury. 6. By means of pulverization, a portion of the atmospheric air is buried in the soil and it is supposed ammonia and nitric acid are formed by the mutual decomposition of this air and the moisture of the soil—heat being also evolved by the changes. 7. Pulverization of the surface of soils serves to retain the moisture of the subsoil, and to prevent it from being penetrated by heat from a warmer, as well as from radiating its heat to a colder atmosphere than itself. These effects are produced by the porosity of the pulverized stratum, which acts as a mulch, especially on heavy soils. 8. Pulverization, also, has the combined effect of several of the preceding causes, accelerates the decomposition of the organic matter in the soil, and the disintegration of the mineral matter; and thus prepares the inert matter of the soil for assimilation by the plants.

THE DELAWARE GRAPE.

BY JOHN E. MOTTIER, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

MR. EDITOR:—If these few remarks about the Delaware are worthy of a place in your valuable journal, you may insert them. The first notice I took of the Delaware grape was in 1857, on a visit to Mr. Schniecke, at Mount Adam, on Mr. Langworth's place. I found his entire crop of Catawba and other varieties destroyed by the mildew and rot, while the Delaware stood perfectly sound, without the least appearance of disease, although surrounded by the Catawba, which was almost entirely destroyed. Since that time I have grafted and planted the Delaware as fast as I could possibly get the plants. I shall plant largely this spring, because I think it is the best hardy grape we have, either for wine or table use, growing strong, ripening two or three weeks earlier than the Catawba, the berries hanging longer on the vine after they are ripe, and the leaves remaining on the vine longer than is the case with others. The last season was unfavorable for the grape crop, as there was too much rain. My Delaware did well, being the only kind not affected by mildew and rot. I lost nearly one-half of my Catawba crop, while the Cape, (that never suffers as much,) Herbennt, Isabella, Union Village, and other varieties, all suffered badly. I think the Delaware, though the berry is smaller than the Catawba, will turn out as much wine to the acre, and of a superior quality. I am fully of the opinion that the Delaware is the best of all our hardy grapes, either for wine or table. As for myself, I have never tasted any grape that I like as well as I do the Delaware; neither have I seen any one who has ever tasted it who did not agree that it was the best grape they had ever eaten. I place it at the head of all the grapes, as the best table grape as well as the best wine grape; as an early ripener, as hardening and ripening the wood to the end of the growth, and possessing a vigorous habit, and keeping its leaves on longer than any other variety. [Horticulturist]

CLEAN MILK VESSELS.—A writer in the Cincinnati Gazette truly says, there is no product on the farm that presents so much difference as butter. This arises chiefly from using vessels for holding the milk, and utensils in making the butter, which are soured. In my notice of the effects of having soured troughs in sugar making, I stated that acidity was fatal to good sugar making. It is not less so in butter making. Milk has a peculiar acid, very easily formed, which entirely takes away that rich, sweet, fine flavor, belonging to good butter. A very little soured milk or cream on vessels rapidly generates enough acid to take it away. To avoid this, great care is requisite. Cleanliness only is not sufficient, in having the milk vessels well washed, but they must be carefully washed in boiling hot water, and should be boiled in it also. But as the cream is very apt to stick, even in good washing, when the vessels are boiled in water, some pearl ash or soda should be put in it, which destroys any acidity that may be about the vessels. They should then be well sunned. I have known some good butter makers who dispensed with the sunning when soda was used; but both are to be commended.

SOILING MILCH COWS.—A correspondent of the Irish Farmer's Gazette says:—"I keep a large number of milch cows, say from 90 to 100 which I house feed the year round; in winter on roots, etc., and in summer Iiling them with ray-grass, clover, etc. I and my father before me, have followed this practice for the last forty years or more. It has always been our custom to give the soil cut fresh and fresh; that is to say, each feed is only cut a few hours before being given, except the early morning feed, which is cut the evening before, there not being time enough to cut it in the morning. Sunday's feeding has always been cut on that day, as the young grass, if cut the day previous, no matter what care is taken of it, would lose much of its succulent qualities, and be sure to become heated to a certain degree, and so throw the cows off their milk; as I need not tell you how small a change in their feeding will have effect on the milking qualities of cows. We once tried the experiment of cutting Sunday's feeding on Saturday, and the result was a considerable decrease in milk."

UNRULY MILCH COWS.

It is no wonder that some cows are fractious, they are treated so roughly. Why kick, pound, and bawl at them? It only makes matters worse. It makes the timid ones shyer, and the spirited ones ill-natured. We urge kindness not only as a matter of humanity but of profit and patriotism—aye, profit to your heart, profit to your pocket, profit to your country. It is vain to try and whip or frighten a cow into quietness and docility. So treated, she dreads and hates to see the milk pail and stool coming, and will prepare herself for a battle. How can she stand patiently and give down her milk, while expecting to receive hard thumps?

Suppose her to be treated kindly—a little salt or some other relish given to her a few times, kind and soothing words spoken, and a little caressing made with the hand. If somewhat restless at first, keep your temper, and follow her up with daily kindness. The result will surely come. She will soon know what to expect from her milker, and will show her likings by unmistakable signs. No person who cannot control his passions, and speak low, and be always gentle, should be allowed to milk a cow. It is of importance, too, to milk at regular hours. There should seldom be a change of milkers.

A successful dairyman once observed to an agricultural editor, that one of the secrets of his success lay in the kind treatment he gave his cows. They were driven to and from the watering place, leisurely. No dogs were allowed to distress them. No hired man was suffered to beat or to scold at them; whoever did so, was discharged at once. The cows were well fed, and allowed to take their own time in all their movements, especially in warm weather. Being so treated, and milked regularly and clean, he believed that from fifty to a hundred more pounds of cheese could be made per season from each cow, than if they had been kicked and frightened, and otherwise roughly handled. [American Agriculturist]

THE WATER RAM.—Concerning the utility of the hydraulic ram upon farms, the German town Telegraph has the following remarks:

This most valuable means of supplying water, we have always thought, was adopted only in about one case out of fifty. In passing through the country and over farms, we have noticed many locations where the water, which was carried sometimes as much as fifty rods, could be brought not merely to the door, but into the house, if desired, and into the barnyards, or wherever needed. The loss of time, to say nothing of the hard labor, which would be saved, seems not to be considered by many; but if both were carefully estimated it would be found that they amount every year to the entire cost of a ram and appliances. We are glad, however, to see the subject broached in the agricultural journals. Every farmer who has a spring or little brook within a quarter or half a mile of his buildings should have the water brought to or into them. A fall of five feet will, with a good ram, raise the water sixty feet. The expense is, of course, in proportion to the distance and the extent and style of the arrangements—running from twenty-five to two hundred dollars—mostly at about one hundred.

JAPANESE GRAPE.—A late number of the London Gardener's Chronicle mentions a variety of grape that grows about Yeddo, that is worthy of introduction into this country as well as in England. It says: The vine of this district, which you may as well name at once the "Yeddo vine," produces a fruit of great excellence. The bunches are medium sized, the berries are of a brownish color, thin skinned, and the flavor is all that can be desired. These grapes may be valued in England, where we have so many fine kinds, and most certainly will be highly prized in the United States of America.

LARGE WHEAT.—Mr. John Loughnower brought to our office a bunch of wheat, the product of one grain, which contained one hundred and five heads of wheat, and the combined weight of the grain from the one seed is eleven ounces. It is of the variety known as club wheat. Mr. L. has a field of fifty acres, which is estimated will yield seventy bushels to the acre. [Knight's Landing News, Cal.]

MARRIAGE A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—The following extract from the Gentlemen's Magazine for 1750, may not be uninteresting to our readers:

"Married, in June, 1750, Mr. William Donkin, a considerable farmer of Great Tossion (near Rothbury), in the county of Northumberland, to Miss Eleanor Shotton, an agreeable young gentlewoman of the same place. The entertainment on this occasion was very grand, there being provided no less than one hundred and twenty quarters of lamb, thirty-four quarters of veal, twenty quarters of mutton, a great quantity of beef, twelve hams, with a suitable number of chickens, etc., which was concluded with eighty half ankers of brandy made into punch, twelve dozen of cider, a great many gallons of wine, and ninety bushels of malt made into beer. The company consisted of five hundred and fifty-eight ladies and gentlemen, who concluded with the music of thirty-five fiddlers and pipers, and the whole was conducted with the utmost order and unanimity."

HOW UNCLE JAMES GOT ALONG WITH HIS NEIGHBORS.

Not many years since, a person from the land of steady habits, strayed into the region of Prince's bay and purchased a fine residence near the water; he was characteristically austere, penurious and unneighborly; his lands were so situated that the oys ermen had to pass across them to reach their boats, for which he exacted toll from each man; he had control over the water of the creek, where it was necessary they should plant them to fat or freshen; for this privilege each man was made to pay so much per bushel or forego the privilege.

This exacting spirit of the man soon excited the hatred of the oystermen—they turned the tables on him, and annoyed him in every way their ingenuity could invent. On returning at night from town, he would often find the draw of the bridge swung aside, or something the matter with the gate so that he could not get in. In a word, Mr. Tite Barnacle was finally obliged to sell out and leave to get rid of his own pettishness and illiberality he had incited to retaliation.

This place was purchased by a kindly old gentleman whom we shall call, as everybody else did, Uncle James; he had been long familiar with a seafaring life; and he knew the character of the men with whom he had to deal. He was not long settled in the place before a delegation of oyster-men waited upon him; he received them as one neighbor should another, in a friendly manner. They had called to say that they wished to lay their oysters in his creek, and wished to know how much he would charge them for the privilege?

"I wish to be neighborly, and to have good neighbors around me," said Uncle James, "and I shall not disagree with you; plant your oysters there, and welcome, and give me what you think it worth."

"But," says they, "we would like to pass across your land, from your house to the shore; it is nearer; what shall we pay you?" "Put the bars up as you go along, and when you see the cattle in, drive 'em out," said Uncle James, "that is all I ask."

They took a drink of apple-jack and parted. From time to time a bushel of the finest oysters would be set down at Uncle James' door, and he would hardly know who committed the depredation. The year passed away, and there was no complaint to make of any unneighborly conduct on either side. They met for a settlement at Uncle James' house; the apple-jack was brought out, and all took a smile; after which the question was again put by the oystermen.

"How much shall we pay you, Uncle James, for the use of the creek?"

"If it has been of any benefit to you," replied the old man, "you can give me what you can afford."

One put down ten dollars, another twenty, some more, some less, until nearly five hundred dollars were voluntarily paid, which was more than double the sum which Tite Barnacle extorted by menace and meanness from the same men.

ATROCITIES IN ARKANSAS.

A correspondent of the St. Louis Democrat, with General Curtis' army, writing from Batesville, Ark., on the 7th of June, says that the rebel authorities at "Bayou Maigre," sixteen miles from Little Rock, hung six men who refused to obey the conscript act. He also learns from the Rev. Jas. Longhridge, a well-known Presbyterian minister that on or about the 22d of last April, Messrs. Sultz and Reed, ministers of the Christian order, were taken from their own premises, on R. H. Ridge, Boston county, Arkansas, conveyed to the woods in the night and killed. They had just returned from Cassville, and were Union men. About the 13th of May, a Mr. Neal was shot in his own house, near Fayetteville, and died in three hours. He was a Union man, and had adhered to the Methodist Episcopal church when it split. A report came to Huntsville, about the 15th of May, that four men, all adherents of the old Methodist Episcopal church, and some of them ministers, were killed near Fayetteville, and other men of the same sentiments were threatened.

In the fall of 1861, in Van Buren county, twenty-seven Union men, and persons unwilling to take up arms, were chained together by the neck; and in Searcy county, eighty-three were served in the same way, and in this manner taken to jail where they were kept nearly six months. These statements are authenticated by the affidavits of the men so punished.

A PROFANE SWEARER REBUKED.—"The greatest rebuke we ever heard given for profane swearing was administered to a New Yorker, by a little candy boy, at the House, yesterday. As several persons were in conversation together, at the above house, a boy about seven years of age came up to vend his candies. His intelligence and remarkable precociousness of manner attracted our attention, when a prominent New Yorker (a well known in San Francisco), came up and said, "Bub, by G—, if you will come home with me, I'll educate you." The child looked up in his face with extreme contempt, and replied, "Sir, I would not go or live with any gentleman who uses profane language." The cutting rebuke drove the swell head from the house with a crimson face, when the little Christian received a profusion of quarters from the astonished spectators, who had heard with satisfaction the moral retort from the lips of an innocent child."