



OUR CHILDREN.

Our children!—oh, those magic words,
They vibrate through my frame
As if the chords of life were touched,
And sacred music came,
Our children!—though but simple words,
Yet peace and joy impart;
They serve as links of love to bind
Hope's rainbow round the heart;
And all the busy cares of life
Are vanished or forgot,
When, filled with love and tenderness,
We cling around their cot.
The little crib in which they lie,
So peaceful—side by side—
The little chair to which they cling
With all their baby pride,
Has each its own peculiar claim,
For tenderness and love,
And calls for earnest heartfelt praise
To Him who rules above;
And when their little voices are
Hushed in the realms of sleep,
Despite myself the tears will rise,
And fears around me creep.
Our angel-boy, with winning smiles,
With sweet seraphic tone;
With crystal laugh, and dark black eyes,
Is all—is all our own;
And when he smiles, it is indeed
Like sunshine on a brook;
And every heart pays homage to
His little serious look.
He is indeed a joy—a pride—
And oft I think he's given
To show us here how pure and bright
The angels are in heaven.
And then our gentle, fairy girl,
With golden waving hair;
With eyes that put to blush the stars,
With face so sweet and fair,
She was the next that claimed our love,
And e'er will claim her part,
And each now finds a safe retreat
Within a parent's heart.
Yet oft I fear too much of love—
Too much of love have they—
And God may ask me for the love
I'm giving thus away.

Plant Fruit Trees.

The importance everywhere attaching to fruit-growing will be our voucher for again alluding to the subject.

It is a fact now capable of demonstration—that Utah can produce as fine fruit as any other section of this country, and in as great variety. We have already tested some varieties in all respects equal and in some instances even superior to the same varieties in the Eastern States, from whence the cuttings were imported.

As to seedlings, our varieties are exceedingly numerous—embracing some sorts that have been pronounced, by competent judges, highly worthy of propagation. Those kinds that are of indifferent character will, ere long, be supplanted by more established and approved varieties.

Those whose former avocation or surroundings have instinctively led them, upon their arrival here, to at once put forth efforts to raise fruit, do not now require from us any exhortation more especially directing their attention to this matter. Such are now, to some extent, and with a well-earned satisfaction, reaping the fruits of their labors. A glance through the gardens of some of the most active and enterprising of the early settlers of these valleys—especially within the corporate limits of Great Salt Lake City—will, we think, be a sufficiently forcible illustration of what faith and good works can bring to pass, even under the most unpropitious circumstances, to induce others to forthwith set themselves at work with a view of laudably emulating the examples of those eminently worthy of imitation.

From actual observation, we are convinced that the real amount of labor and means hitherto expended, in this vicinity at least, in the purchase of fruit trees, for the purpose of ornament as well as for raising fruits, does not appear. And why so? From the simple fact that many, after they have procured the trees from the nurseryman—perhaps on a "promise to pay"—and appropriated the labor required in setting them out, have thereafter partially or totally neglected them—neither digging round, nor dunging, nor pruning, nor irrigating them—and the consequence has been that many of the trees yearly transplanted have perished the self-same season; while others more vigorous have lingered on

in a thriftless state until the second season; and, if perchance a few should finally survive the neglect thus lavished upon them, they seldom fully recover the paralyzing effects of the first season's treatment; though with extra future care some of them may do reasonably well.

There is no period in the life of a tree when it requires more nursing care, more judicious attention, than at the time of transplanting; for, as already intimated, and as might be satisfactorily shown by reference to the lamentable condition of sundry young orchards in this vicinity, though the trees be the choicest and most thrifty to be found in the best nursery in the Territory, if indifferently treated at that critical period, they become withered, stunted and of little worth. The means expended in trees, under such circumstances, will not prove the most profitable investment.

We should not, however, deduce from this a plea against planting fruit trees. There is no excuse—no palliation for such criminal neglect. When exhibited in this respect, there are some grounds to suspect that other matters, also, are not all looked after as they should be.

Our advice to all who have young orchards growing around them or on grounds in their possession, is to take proper care of them. To those who have not availed themselves of the favorable opportunities afforded the citizens of Utah for obtaining almost all kinds of fruit trees, of as good quality as can be purchased elsewhere within the United States, or any other part of the world, we say, let not another year pass without doing something towards raising fruit for yourselves. It is much cheaper than to purchase, besides the far greater gratification of suiting the appetite and taste from trees of one's own raising. Greater range of flavor and kind is also thus more accessible. The little ones, to whom ripe fruits are the rarest of delicacies and the one best adapted to the promotion of health, long life and cheerfulness in them, are not then prescribed to the paltry dozen of apples, or peaches, or plums, or apricots, or pears, purchased from the apple-cart at the corner of the street, which only serve to whet their appetites for more; which, perhaps, are so high-priced that, in the good man's present circumstances, he cannot afford to buy.

Go to, then, every one who possesses a little land and adorn it with fruit trees. Dig out the wild, barren forest trees, if you have any within your inclosure, where the spot would be available for fruit trees; if practicable, set them out for shade trees and street ornaments; and plant the apple, the apricot, the peach, the pear, the plum, or a grape vine in their stead; that, ere long, your heart and the hearts of your family may be made glad with the delicious fruits of your labors.

Save the Pure Seeds.

Doubtless the above will be altogether a superfluous admonition to many; yet, from the fact that, year after year, there are so large a number of people asking, "Have you got any seeds to spare?"—we opine that there are some to whom it may not be without direct advantage, if observed.

Too great care cannot be taken by our seedsmen, as well as others, to preserve seeds in their purity, as by a successive mingling of varieties a worthless kind is generally produced.

We have, for example, a great many varieties of the cabbage grown here, some of which do not even form a head and are only fit to be fed to cows. It is quite as easy and involves no more expense, to grow a cabbage that will produce a good solid head, as to grow a mass of cabbage-leaves. These worthless plants have been grown from mongrel seed—being an admixture of several varieties; consequently partake of neither the one nor the other and should never be germinated.

We have two or three good varieties of the cabbage—the Winnestadt, Early York and Drumhead, for instance; which, in their pure state, in proper soil and with suitable culture, will mature good heads. The Winnestadt—which, in our judgment, is altogether the best cabbage ever produced here—when pure, with the winding firmness known only to that variety, will form a substantial head on every stock. The most trifling mixture with other varieties may be at once detected.

Locust Seed—for forest, shade or other ornamental purposes should be planted in the fall. They need not occupy space that might be otherwise better appropriated.

Spring Salads and Summer Sours.

Hall's *Journal of Health* says that physiological research establishes the fact that acids promote the separation of the bile from the blood, which is then passed from the system, thus preventing fevers, the prevailing diseases of summer.

All fevers are "bilious," that is, the bile is in the blood. Whatever is antagonistic of fever is cooling. It is a common saying that fruits are "cooling," and also berries of every description; it is because the acidity which they contain aids in separating the bile from the blood. Hence the great yearning for greens, and lettuce, and salad in the early spring; these being eaten with vinegar; hence, also, the taste for something sour, for lemonades, on an attack of fever.

This being the case, it is easy to see that we nullify the good effects of fruit and berries in proportion as we eat them with sugar, or even with sweet milk or cream. If we eat them in their natural state, fresh, ripe, perfect, it is almost impossible to eat too many, or eat enough to hurt us, especially if we eat them alone, not taking any liquid with them whatever.

Hence also is buttermilk or even common sour milk promotive of health in summer time. Sweet milk tends to biliousness in sedentary people; sour milk is antagonistic.

The Greeks and Turks are passionately fond of milk. The shepherds use rennet, and the milk dealers alum, to make it sour the sooner. Buttermilk acts like water melons on the system.

By a little exertion, every family may be supplied, from their own grounds, with many or all of the healthful fruits, salads and vegetables so highly recommended. Those who, the past spring and summer, have not had an abundance of salads and greens for home use, should not fail to procure the seeds, in order that they may plant them for early use the coming spring. If procured now and carefully kept in a dry place, they will be on hand for planting, as soon as the soil is in condition for working in the spring.

Some of these varieties may be successfully sown or planted in the fall. Lettuce, for example, if sown in the fall, will generally be obtained two or three weeks earlier than if sown in the spring. Onion seed, also, when sown in the fall, will afford early onions for table use and yield much better than when spring-sown. Onions sown in the fall and matured the next season, in rich, mellow soil, possess more agreeable properties, being sweeter and less strong, and are said to be more conducive to health than those grown from the top or "button" onions.

The planting of peas in the fall has not generally been attended with much success in this locality, and may, as a practice, be discarded.

To those who have an asparagus bed already in successful cultivation we need not urge its advantages. For the consideration of those who have not added this desirable appointment to their premises, we may remark that no other vegetable found in this region comes earlier into use or is more palatable in its season than this. None need be without it. Its cultivation is simple and requires no great outlay—manure and labor being the chief requisites. To facilitate the operation, this fall, some time before the ground becomes frozen, dig a trench about two feet wide and from eighteen inches to two feet deep. Into this throw some good, strong manure, thoroughly mixed with the soil, nearly filling the trench. Being exposed to the action of the elements during the winter the trench will be in good condition for receiving the asparagus roots in the spring. As early in the spring as convenient obtain the roots, which should be one or two years old. They should be planted from four to six inches deep—each root being put about one foot apart. The rows or trenches should be about two feet apart. In placing them in the trench, spread out the fibres, that they may the more readily extend themselves and gather nutriment from the rich soil in which they are placed. Every fall a thick covering of well-rotted manure should be spread over the bed, which, being carefully forked in as early in the spring as practicable, will make the surface mellow, afford the required nutriment and facilitate the early appearance of shoots. If the plants cannot be readily engaged, the seed may be planted in nursery rows this fall.

Rie plant, or rhubarb, is also a vegetable

that should be found in every garden. It is universally esteemed for its delightful acid and tonic properties. This plant is also a gross feeder, but well repays the labor and means expended. The manure, in this case, should be well rotted and principally applied on the surface. If we mistake not, Mr. E. Sayers has a considerable quantity of superior plants ready for transplanting the present fall.

The most suitable season for transplanting strawberries has passed. They may yet be set out with good prospect of success. With but a little attention, the strawberry will thrive under almost any circumstances. A great diversity of opinion prevails among culturists relative to the quality of soil best adapted to the strawberry—some asserting, from their own experience, that a soil poor and barren is best—others claiming that the plants require a very rich soil.

We do not endorse either of these opinions. Probably in isolated instances both extremes have succeeded tolerably well. It cannot be expected that an improved variety of any species will retain its excellence in a barren or uncultivated waste; nor do we believe that the nature of the plant requires a soil largely impregnated with animal manures. In a tolerably poor soil, deeply spaded, with good cultivation, we are of opinion that the strawberry would thrive and yield better than in a rich, mucky soil, with but little attention.

The fact is, there is scarcely to be found a soil so poor that may not, by trenching or deep working, be rendered available for the culture of the strawberry, as well as other fruits. There is no good reason why it should not be found upon the ground of every resident of this Territory, who owns or occupies a plot of land—the farmer not excepted.

The principal thing to be observed in the culture of the strawberry, after the bed has been rendered deep and mellow, is to mulch or cover the surface with decomposing vegetable matter—such as straw, spent tan-bark or any other refuse of the kind, by which the surface is kept somewhat cool and retains its moisture, from which, with a little soil nutriment and the surrounding atmospheric elements, the plants will be able to elaborate all those delicious properties that render a strawberry truly valuable.

The most approved method of setting out a strawberry bed, or patch, is to plant each root about two feet apart in rows not less than two feet distant from each other. Many beds are rendered less productive by being too thickly planted. The runners soon covering the ground, and being, from year to year, permitted to multiply roots almost without number, the whole bed at length becomes a thick mass—rank, comparatively unfruitful, and yearly deteriorating in flavor and size.

When a space of two or two and a half feet is left between the rows, there is abundance of room for the use of the hoe in the intervening space, for the purpose of keeping all superfluous runners from taking root, and thoroughly eradicating the weeds, which should invariably be done. Nor should the plants be allowed to become too thick in the rows. If preferred, the larger-growing varieties may be cultivated in bunches, in which case the plants need not be more than a foot or eighteen inches apart—the rows from eighteen inches to two feet.

Without further importation at this juncture an abundance of strawberry plants of superior varieties can be procured in this city, at very moderate prices.

The currant should by no means be neglected. The day is not far distant when the "Deseret currant" will stand at the head of the species. Even now, with the slight improvements that have been effected, the currants of these valleys, in many respects, are unsurpassed by any known varieties. We have, the present fall, seen currants, grown in this city, nearly an inch in circumference.

The currant will thrive best in a deep, rich, mellow soil; and, as was recommended in the *News* a few weeks since, should be trained into the form of a tree, leaving a stock from one to two feet high. Set out none but the best to be obtained. With roots the currant may be set this fall. The putting in of cuttings, which may not be expected to bear as soon after transplanting, may be deferred till spring, though there are no very serious objections to setting them out in the fall.

There are projects in contemplation for essentially improving the currant here; which, if effectual—and we have all confidence in a complete success—will render the currant one