



How to Raise Tomatoes.

A gentleman, who has watched the culture of the Tomato both in Europe and in America, gives the following directions for raising early and perfect tomatoes:

Germinate in a hot-house, hot-bed, or kitchen; for very early fruit, transplant when small into pots. The tomato improves by every transplanting, and each time should be set deeper. From the time four or six leaves appear, pinch or cut off the larger leaves and the terminal buds, and continue this process of pruning till the fruit is far advanced; so that, when ripe, the bed will seem to be covered by one mass of large, smooth, even-sized tomatoes, of the richest pomegranate color, and the leaves hidden by the fruit.

Set plants three or four feet apart, in the warmest spot you have, and let them fall over to the northern frames twelve or fifteen inches high, or on pea brush, anything to sustain them, and keep the fruit from touching the ground, which delays ripening, creates mold, invites cut-worms, and always gives the tomatoes an earthy taste. Try one cluster (the first that blossoms) and cut everything else gradually away. This will give you tomatoes in perfection, in the latitude of Buffalo, four or six weeks earlier than they are usually ripened in our climate. If you wish late tomatoes, pull up each plant by the root (just before the frost comes), and hang them up on the south side of the building, top down, with a blanket to roll up days and let fall nights. When ice makes, hang them up in any room that does not freeze, or in a dry cellar, and you will have fresh tomatoes all winter—somewhat shriveled, but of fine flavor.

Of the new variety, "The Perfected Tomato" he says:

I succeeded in getting one variety which I found superior to any I had ever seen, in the following qualities: (1) delicacy of flavor, thinness of skin, fewness of seeds, solidity of meat, earliness of ripening, richness of color, evenness of size, and ease of culture. The next year I cast all other varieties away, and it has been universally pronounced by agricultural fairs, farmers' clubs, and scientific horticulturists, to be superior to any other.

Corn Crop.

The following, on the subject of corn raising, is extracted from a communication of a Pennsylvania farmer, to the *Germantown Telegraph*:

One of the most important crops of American farmers is the well-known staple, Indian corn. This crop is not only essential as food for man, but is one great desideratum of successful and profitable stock-raising; therefore it is good economy for the farmer to have his cribs well-filled with a good variety and plenty of it.

Corn is cultivated through so great an extent of territory that the proper culture depends much on latitude, soil, variety, etc. An eminent agricultural writer, has by close research, discovered that there are about 150 varieties of Indian corn found in different latitudes. Farmers differ much on the plan of raising this crop. Some farmers prefer plowing in the fall or winter, so that the frost will destroy the larvae of insects, such as the cut worm, etc. A common practice is to apply fresh slacked lime before the land is harrowed, then harrow in, cross cut and plant. It is best to change seed from one part of the country to another. Some use stimulants in the hill, such as hog and barnyard manure; though I think this in case of protracted drought, has a tendency to injure the crop. Hen manure and ashes well mixed, is an excellent application; some use guano, poudrette, phosphates, etc. The great difficulty is to get the crops started. One of the great pests is the cut-worm or grub; these are very bad in cloudy or damp weather, but the hot sun will destroy them. Salt is said to be an effectual remedy. Some mix gas tar with the seed as an effectual remedy against grubs, moles, birds, etc. Some repeat the first planting, when destroyed, with the flint variety; and the second replanting of missing hills with eight-rowed yellow or Canada corn; this will mature and fill the crop if planted as late as the 10th of July.

Strawberry Culture.—J. J. Knox, of Pittsburgh, recently gave the Ohioans his mode of managing a strawberry plantation. He has about fifty acres in strawberries. The soil is a light clayey loam. The ground is prepared by deep plowing and subsoiling. It is then harrowed smooth, and the plants are set in rows 2-2 feet apart in the rows—the larger growing sorts wider apart than others. With a small cultivator and hoes the ground is kept entirely free from weeds. No runners are permitted to grow. They are pinched off by women and boys. Each row is covered lightly in the Fall with long straw, which is removed in the Spring, and laid under the sides of the plants to keep the fruit clean. The yield of fruit is incredible—the average being estimated at 300 bushels per acre; some varieties gave, the past season, as high as 600 bushels per acre. He does not name the

varieties, however. The annual cost of cultivating and picking his fruit he estimates at \$200 per acre. His beds at five or six years of age are as good and productive as ever, and he believes they will continue good eight or ten years. This culture pays Knox not only in the immense quantity of fruit obtained, but in its quality, size, beauty, flavor.—[*Prairie Farmer*.]

Combined Reaping and Threshing Machine.—We have been shown the model of a machine which purports to reap the standing grain and thresh it as it travels to do the reaping. In many respects it is unlike any other threshing and reaping machine now in use. It will require to work it the power of six or eight horses. The grain is cut by revolving knives, three in number, working immediately under the teeth which project from the edge of the apron. There is attached above the apron a revolving rake, which, as fast as the grain is cut, conveys it to the threshers, and thence it passes to the fan and straw-carrier, as in the ordinary process. The advantages claimed for this machine are: 1st, that it cuts the grain more rapidly than other reapers; 2d, that it only cuts as much of the straw as is necessary to secure the heads; 3d, that it threshes and cleans the grain all at the same time. It is the invention of a San Franciscan, who has secured a caveat from the Patent Office, with the assurance that there will be no difficulty whatever in securing a patent right when the model has been received there.—[*Sacramento Union*.]

Further Items by Pony.

The Government had received a message from the Governor of Tennessee in reply to the demand for the quota of troops. He said he would not comply, but would rather furnish fifty thousand men against the north.

The Governor of Louisiana had received information that fifteen thousand Tennesseans were on their way to join the Confederate army. The steamer *Marquis de Habana* had been purchased by the Confederacy and would soon be fitted out as a war steamer.

New Orleans' advisers state that the free colored population, at a meeting held on the 22d, resolved to tender their services to the government for the defense of the State. Another meeting was called to adopt measures to clear the city of abolitionists who had already been arrested.

The steamer *Catawba* had arrived with Havana dates to the 18th inst. The reduction of Fort Sumter caused great sensation at Havana; business was almost suspended.

The Indiana Legislature convened on the 25th. Governor Morton delivered his message in the afternoon. He recommended the appropriation of \$100,000 for military purposes, and recommended the passage of a law defining and punishing treason.

Several of the Massachusetts' soldiers, wounded at Baltimore, arrived at Boston on the 22d. Among them was Stevens, of Lowell, who had been reported dead. He had three ribs broken by paving stones. Mr. Stevens states that fifteen wounded Baltimoreans were taken to the station house with him. He intended to rejoin his regiment as soon as he was able to do so.

A piratical vessel had been seen in the Bay, alleged to be manned by fifty men. It was also stated that she had stopped a tug off Chester, and compelled the Captain to haul down the American flag.

Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, had enlisted as a private in the battalion of Massachusetts' Rifles.

Senator Baker, of Oregon, had been chosen Colonel of a regiment of Californians; they had raised \$20,000 for the equipment.

Prominent men of the border States are reported to have asked for a cessation of hostilities, with a view to compromise.

Col. Stevens, a millionaire, of New Jersey had signified his intention to equip a regiment for service.

Wilson's regiment of Zouaves had taken a solemn oath to support the flag and march through Baltimore.

Six hundred dollars of the loan at Mobile had been taken by colored persons.

It was supposed to be the intention of the Southern Confederacy to march north with fifty or sixty thousand men, expecting fifty thousand more from Virginia.

The Union feeling in Delaware continued unabated.

The National Typographical Congress had decided to postpone the meeting in May, on account of the national troubles.

Reports from the North show no abatement of enthusiasm in raising men and money for the war, and more volunteers had been mustered than were called for, and money enough

had been pledged to carry on a war several years.

Two Massachusetts men, fleeing from Thomasville, N. C., arrived at Harrisburg, on the 25th, via Carlisle. They report that, on the Sunday morning preceding, five thousand South Carolinians passed through Thomasville on their way north. All along their route, troops were getting on the cars; and they heard them freely saying that their destination was a southern camp thirty-five miles south of Washington, on Aquia creek.

The garrisons at Fort Taylor and Key West barracks were engaged in drilling at the guns. The commanding officer of the fort had been appointed Postmaster at Key West.

The government had purchased two more steamers for gunboats.

Several steamers were cruising off Sandy Hook watching vessels southerly directed.

FOREIGN.

Mr. Foster had given notice in the House of Commons that he would move that the House does not express any opinion upon the subject of the new American Confederacy without security for the suppression of the African Slave trade.

Lord John Russell acknowledged the receipt of the new American tariff and promised to lay it on the table. He also states that France, Sweden, Russia and England were agreed on the Holstein question, and hoped for a peaceable solution.

Among other warlike rumors, it was stated that 50,000 troops were suddenly ordered to march from Marseilles, for the occupation of Syria. It was said also that sharp notes had been exchanged almost daily between England and France, in relation to Syria. This also lacks confirmation, but caused great uneasiness.

Paris letters state that war was regarded by many as inevitable.

The American minister at Rome had been insulted by the troops, during the Easter festivities. He threatened to use his revolver, and afterwards demanded from the government better protection for the future or his passports. His demand was complied with.

Stephen A. Douglas on the War.

Politicians are profiting by the excitement in the States to ply their profession of stump oratory, and sail into public notice. The foremost of this class noticed in the dispatches received during the present week, is Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois. "The Little Giant" and others of the same school have been so long proverbially "trimmers" on the political ocean, that we have considered ourselves excusable for devoting our limit of space for Pony news to other matters than their buncombe speeches; but as a matter of record, we as briefly as possible, notice the disappointed Douglas' last claim to patriotism.

From the balcony of the Bates House, at Indianapolis, on the evening of the 23d, Douglas addressed a very large audience. There was a heavy shower of rain at the time, notwithstanding, his unabating thirst for popular attention prevailed, and he made a brisk attack on the South. He said the country was in danger, the Capitol was besieged, piracy was invited to prey upon commerce.—The northwest would never consent to have their access to the ocean in any direction cut off by the seceded States, and it was the duty of democrats as well as republicans to rise up and unsheath the sword in defense of their Constitutional rights, and never to sheath it again till they had secured them. After telling what he had done to prevent present difficulties, his peroration wound up with a call to his countrymen to rise as one man and battle to the death for their constitutional and inalienable rights.

He spoke next day at Columbus, Ohio, and on the 24th, he addressed both Houses of the Illinois Legislature in the same strain, and nearly in the same language. The gist of his efforts being to meet popular favor in the north against the south, yet aware of the uncertainty of conclusions tried at the point of the sword, he leaves room enough to jump into the arms of the south, should victory perch on the banners of President Davis.

In the Illinois speech, Douglas stated that Walker, the Secretary of War, of the Confederate States, had boasted that on the first of May, the Confederate flag would wave from the dome of the National Capitol, and on the 4th of July the army would occupy Independence Hall.

What Craters have done.

Cotopaxi, in 1738, threw its fiery rockets 3,000 feet above its crater, while in 1744 the blazing mass, struggling for an outlet, roared so that its awful voice was heard a distance of more than 600 miles. In 1797 the crater of Tunguragua, one of the great peaks of the Andes, flung out torrents of mud which dammed up rivers, opened new lakes, and in valleys of a thousand feet wide, made deposits of six hundred feet deep. The stream from Vesuvius, which in 1737 passed through Torro del Greco, contained 35,000,000 cubic feet of solid matter; and in 1694, when Torro del Greco was destroyed a second time, the mass of lava amounted to 45,000,000 cubic feet. In 1669, Etna poured forth a flood which covered 84 square miles of surface, and measured 100,000,000 cubic feet. On this occasion the scoriae formed the Monte Rossi, near Nicolosi, a cone two miles in circumference, and 4,000 feet high. The stream thrown out by Etna in 1810 was in motion at the rate of a yard per day for nine months after the eruption; and it is on record that the lava of the same mountain, after a terrible eruption, was not thoroughly cooled and consolidated ten years after the event. In the eruption of Vesuvius, A. D., 79, the scoriae and ashes vomited forth far exceed the entire bulk of the mountain; while in 1600 Etna disgorged more than twenty times its own mass. Vesuvius has thrown its ashes as far as Constantinople, Syria, and Egypt; it hurled stones, eight pounds in weight, to Pompeii, a distance of six miles, while similar masses were tossed 2,000 feet above its summit. Cotopaxi has projected a block of 100 cubic yards in volume, a distance of nine miles, and Sambawa, in 1815, during the most terrible eruption on record, sent its ashes as far as Java, a distance of 300 miles, and out of a population of 12,000 souls, only twenty escaped.

A VALUABLE SHEPHERD DOG.—We have ever pleaded for the dog, says the *San Andreas (Cal.) Independent*, as the most faithful and grateful, if not the most useful of animals. Some time ago, we noticed one of the shepherd breed that may challenge the world for a superior in usefulness. He was herding a flock of sheep among the hills, a mile from any human habitation and all alone. Trotting around his woolly charge, he kept a keen eye to the compact herd whenever any one exhibited a desire to wander off. He controlled their motions like a general of cavalry, and the sheep seemed to respect him like the true soldier his officer. He seemed perfectly to understand the true principle of sheep grazing, and kept the flock constantly moving over new clean pasture. It would require a man at \$30 per month and board, furnished with a horse worth \$10 per month, to do the daily work of this single faithful animal, and then it would not be so well done as the dog does it.

STRENGTH OF WIRE ROPES.—Experiments recently made to test various wire rope manufactures, show that half the strength of the rope was lost by heating the wire; that the ordinary joint is much weaker than any other portion of the rope; that, if a flat rope was well spliced, it was not weakened thereby, but, if the workmanship was bad, it lost from 25 to 33 per cent of its strength. In either event, a round wire rope spliced became 13 per cent. weaker than before. Round steel wire rope will bear more than double the weight required to break iron wire rope of similar diameter.

A BIG SHIP.—Ptolemy Philopater, who lived some few hundred years before Christ, had a ship with 40 banks of rowers, being 560 feet in length—100 feet longer than the Persia and 120 feet shorter than the Great Eastern; 76 feet from one side to the other; in height, to gunwales, it was 96 feet, and from the highest part of the stern to the water line it was 100 feet; it had four rudders, each 60 feet long. When it put to sea, it held 5,000 rowers and 400 supernumeraries, and on the deck were 3,000 mariners. And besides all these, there was a large body of men under decks, and a vast quantity of provisions.

CURTAILING AN EVIL.—One of the "old salts" at Cape Ann, in a public prayer meeting, implored the Supreme Being to "curtail the influence of the devil." He was followed by a brother of less learning, who prayed that the evil one might not only have his influence curtailed, but that his "tail might be taken clean off." Two sedate members of the Suffolk Bar, who were present, lost their gravity at this last petition.

THE STAPLE POWER OF THE SECTIONS.—The *Cleveland Plaindealer* thus puts the Northern and Southern staple productions under the finest point of logic: "Cotton is a convenience, but corn is a necessity; a man can live without a shirt but what can he do without whisky?"

—Avissean, a celebrated French potter, is dead. He was an artist in clay, rivalling De Palissy himself.

—Captain Masselin and two soldiers of the 3d Regiment of French Engineers have been employed in repairing the tomb of Napoleon at St. Helena by direction of the French authorities, and with the permission of the English Government. The tomb has been completely restored to the condition in which it was at the period of the deposed Emperor's interment; and Longwood, the house in which he died, has been put into a state of substantial repair.