



## THIS LIFE IS VERY BEAUTIFUL.

BY E. A. KINGSBURY.

This life is very beautiful,  
Though shadows intervene,  
Among the bright and sunny days,  
Their use is often seen.

We would not have a constant calm,  
A clear, unruffled sea—  
But ride upon the towering wave,  
And brave the billows free.

We would be strong to stem the tide  
Of ignorance and sin,  
To say: "No further shalt thou go;  
Now call thy proud waves in."

This life is very beautiful,  
And as we pass along,  
We grow by its experience,  
More happy and more strong.

We feel that we are standing now,  
On a foundation, sure;  
We know the Heaven within our hearts  
Will evermore endure.

With love and labor we will fill  
The fleeting hours to come,  
And win for others, and ourselves,  
A bright, eternal Home.

Philadelphia, 1860.

## The Age of Humbug—The true System of Improvement.

We have learned to be very reluctant in recommending new-fangled inventions or theories, as also newly-created varieties in the vegetable kingdom, until they have been at least partially tested. The age abounds in humbug and imposture, extending their pseudo claims even to the sphere of the agriculturist.

An old variety of strawberry, by a little attention and the application of some forcing compost, attains an unusual and perhaps mammoth size. This is, by certain speculators, dubbed with a famous name and the plants are at once offered for sale at the low price of from one to five dollars per root. The newspapers are freighted with advertisements extolling its surpassing excellencies. A furor is awakened to obtain the new and wonderful species. The dollars are expended and the plants procured; but, instead of meeting the anticipations of the purchaser, in nine cases out of ten, he finds himself most egregiously sold—the plants bearing no better fruit, and probably not as good, as that already growing in his garden.

Deception to the same extent and probably on a larger scale is practiced in the sale of new varieties of the grape vine.

It is also found quite a lucrative business, even with some well-known eastern nurserymen, to throw out large baits for the purchase by those at a distance, of some "fancy" varieties of the apple, pear, cherry, and other fruits and, having received the cash remittances in advance, have filled the orders with refuse and worthless kinds.

We have been informed that a certain "horticulturist, seedsman and florist," holding forth "down east," somewhere in the vicinity of Long Island, having after frequent solicitation, received from gentlemen in this Territory seeds and plants of our best native fruits, flowers and shrubs—promising, in return therefor, to hold himself in readiness to fill any reasonable order that might be forwarded to him, by way of furnishing choice seeds, plants and cuttings—who, when but a very limited order was sent him, instead of honorably filling it, gratefully posted a letter acknowledging the receipt of the valuable packages, together with a number of his flaming catalogues, enumerating his extensive collections of trees, plants, shrubbery, etc., both native and exotic, with the price of each—a very satisfactory return for a favor ardently solicited and thus, at no inconsiderable outlay of time and labor, confidently accorded.

The *American Agriculturist*, ever vigilant in guarding the interests of the cultivator of the soil, in nearly every number, devotes a column or two to the exposition of these vile cheats, so unblushingly practiced upon the people by persons too worthless to direct their energies to the procuring a living by some honest occupation. The readers of that excellent agricultural journal will at once understand that we refer to the articles headed, "Advertising Information. . . . Gratis."

The June number, just received, contains

another rich batch of expositions—one of which, as a sample and to gratify the curiosity of those who desire to know how humbugging goes on, we here lay before our readers, that they may learn therefrom, not to waste their money on any newly-discovered system, variety, process, article, scheme, or what not, till they are pretty well assured that there is no humbug in it.

The following advertisement, which attracted our attention several weeks since, as we were glancing through the columns of the *Country Gentleman*, tho' not directly pertaining to any branch of agriculture, was deemed sufficiently interesting to farmers to ensure for it an insertion in that paper, which we consider one of our best agricultural publications:

## MEND YOUR OWN TINWARE.

A NEW and novel process, so simple that any person can mend all their old, leaky tin-ware, kettles, etc. Implements and materials, with full printed directions, sent to any address, on receipt of 25 cents, by ———.

The editor of the *Agriculturist*, thinking that "a penny saved is a penny gained;" that "stopping leaks is one of the first principles of economy," and knowing that a soldering tool alone would cost a dollar or more; and, inasmuch as "this man offers everything necessary for a quarter," concluded to invest. "A letter," says the editor, "soon returned, enclosing the necessary implements, materials and directions," to wit: a small piece of brass wire, flattened at one end, a small strip of sheet lead, and about 1-4 oz. of saltpeter, we judge, by the appearance. They cost probably one cent, all told, and are worth for soldering purposes exactly nothing. Accompanying the above was another letter from the same party, offering to sell us for thirty seven cents a recipe for making hard and soft soap. Thank you for nothing at all, Mr. ———, you sold us once for 25 cents, and we feel too cheap, to have the price raised so soon."

The people of these valleys are enterprising—they do not wish to be outdone by any other people in anything that is good. They have already availed themselves—notwithstanding the numerous obstacles to surmount in doing so—of many of the improvements of the day. Large sums of money are annually appropriated for such objects, to which, when judiciously expended, we have not the slightest objection. We are of opinion that no people on the earth are more worthy than this, of the best of everything that exists, that is pleasant to see or hear, smell or taste; of everything that "enters the mouth, or covers the back, or is placed under the foot."

Of the sums forwarded from this point, however, we have been informed that no small amount is never again heard from. Doubtless the "hum-bug" has some agency in the matter. It is high time that farmers and others ordering anything from abroad should do their business through some safe, reliable channel.

Relative to "fancy" varieties of fruit, we have not the least doubt in our own mind that, with the requisite amount of attention and ingenuity, the vegetable kingdom—could here, in Utah, be made to exhibit as many freaks and produce as many and as wonderful varieties as elsewhere, and probably more, from the fact that we have the watery element more at our command than our eastern cotemporaries, who depend wholly upon the heavens for rain to moisten their lands.

The best imported stock, when carelessly turned out to shift for themselves, all the systematic treatment and watchful training by which they were brought to their advanced stage of development being discarded, in a series of years, will lose their superiority and dwindle to the standard of the common breeds. So, also, with these newspaper-famed species and varieties of fruits and vegetables.

As "God hath made of one flesh all men that dwell upon the face of the earth," so also, doubtless each different plant or species of the vegetable kingdom, now embracing almost numberless varieties, originated from one type. Difference of locality and cultivation have developed, in the same plant, various peculiarities—such as larger or smaller growth, richer flavor, etc.

Wherever a plant grows in the greatest perfection, that locality may be said to be best adapted to it; or, what is the same in effect, the plant is most suitable to that locality. The same is true, also, of fruit trees.

It cannot be denied, however, that imported varieties, both of vegetable and fruit-growing species, have succeeded well in other than their native localities. Similarity of climate, congenial soil and superior culture have frequently produced finer qualities in exotic or

imported plants than they possessed, when growing in their native countries. Fruits and vegetables have been taken from where they have been found growing in a wild, indigenous state and, by the experienced propagator, essentially improved and rendered valuable acquisitions to the collections of a foreign country.

During the past ten or fifteen years, large accessions of choice varieties have been introduced into the United States—many of which, although hitherto unknown here, have proved to be well adapted to our soil and climate.

Enterprises such as these, we are confident, cannot be too highly appreciated and are eminently worthy of the patronage of a great and prosperous government. The United States propagating gardens, near Washington, D. C., afford us undubitable proof of what science, skill and capital can do towards acclimating and improving rare exotic plants. To all such enterprises we bid good speed.

Nor would we, by any act or word of ours, for one moment, dampen the ardor of the amateur who is putting forth his energies to secure for himself a collection of the choicest fruits and vegetables that can be found—whether he obtains them in the United States, Great Britain, China, or on the sea islands, if, when he has done his uttermost, he will not, like Alexander the Great, sit down and weep because he cannot procure plants from the moon, or some other neighboring planet.

The charm of novelty that, among us, is thrown about almost anything that is of an imported character, we would fain, in some degree dispel. We want it understood that improvement, or the promotion of a high order in the vegetable kingdom—is only attainable by a corresponding degree of skill and culture. Skill is the legitimate offspring of experience. Experience can only be gained by personal observation and application.

The native or seedling plant, substantially improved by home-skill, would, in our judgment, be more valuable than the forced "fancy" varieties of a distant locality, whose climate and soil was different from ours; for, it must be evident that, unless the same or a somewhat similar mode of culture, stimulating and general treatment be awarded it in its new home, to that by which it was endowed with its present notable qualities, the imported "fancy" will gradually lose its distinguishing properties and become like other plants of the same species.

There are many rare and valuable kinds of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs, plants and vegetables that have not as yet been introduced here and which so far as practicable, we feel desirous to see growing in the gardens, lawns and fields of our mountain vales. As to those that we have now among us, so far as they have proved to be good, we believe that labor and skill are the only requisites to the production of as fine fruit, in their varied species, as can be found elsewhere.

For example, we may refer to Staines' seedling strawberry, than which, probably a finer variety has not been, as yet, and will not soon, be introduced here.

Among our seedling apples, also, may be found varieties by no means inferior to some of the best imported; while, of those imported some prove to be superior to the same variety in the States and others far inferior, altogether unsuited to this region and not worthy of cultivation here. The true course, under these circumstances, plainly, is to direct our energies to the most approved culture of those varieties that we know to be good.

There are many new varieties of peas already introduced into our Territory and other varieties are, from time to time, making their appearance. Some of the new kinds have proved to be comparatively worthless; others have been found to be possessed of superior qualities and well adapted to this locality.

Concerning the relative merits of two new early varieties, in comparison with the well-known early June, we here present our readers with a short sketch from the pen of Mr. E. Sayers—the result of some experiments conducted by him last season. It will be seen that, though he recommends the two new varieties, namely, the Dan O'Rourke and the Washington peas, yet they are not so early as the old June pea:

"In order to test the different merits of these three varieties of peas, I planted the seed on the same kind of ground about the same time, the first week in April. They were cultivated

in the same manner, being planted in single rows about two feet apart.

The result is that the early June proves to be the earliest pea—coming into use a few days before the Dan O'Rourke and eight or ten days before the Washington. The June pea has retained all its good qualities as an early pea for more than ten years, and its adaptation to this climate renders it doubtful whether any new variety will surpass it.

The seed of the Dan O'Rourke pea I imported from the States four years ago, and circumstances prevented me from planting it until the present season; consequently the seed did not germinate freely; but, from the appearance of the crop, it bids fair to be a good early pea, well worth cultivation. It is a dwarf variety—the vine about the same length as the early June, single blossom, small pods well filled with peas and is a variety of the early Charlton and, upon further trial, will probably prove a good acquisition to the list of early peas adapted to the valley.

The Washington pea has been cultivated for several years in the States for an early variety, and was forwarded to me, two years ago, from Washington, through the politeness of the Hon. J. M. Bernhisel. This pea belongs to the same class as the Dan O'Rourke, but is a later pea by about a week or ten days. The vines are more robust and appear to be hardy, bearing excellent crops of pods larger than the June or Dan O'Rourke, well filled with peas. This pea will most likely prove a good acquisition to succeed the other early varieties and serve to fill up the vacancy between them and the late varieties, which is much needed in our pea list."

The objections above stated to the incessant and unnecessary induction of monstrous and fancy varieties, by processes conflicting with the true order of nature, are not the only or greatest ones that might be opposed to the system; for, as will be readily understood, the means of forcing adopted act upon the plant as do rich, highly-seasoned food and viands upon the human system—overcharging it with animal life, requiring too great exercise of the functions of nature, in consequence of which, the organs become inflamed, the body diseased, weakened and finally prostrated.

The plant, upon being treated with those composts calculated to promote a mammoth growth and incite the development of qualities unnatural to it, soon loses its natural force, becomes deteriorated, diseased and worthless.

Loud complaints of devastation by insects are continually reaching our ears from all quarters of the Eastern States. The fact is now generally conceded that insects are the result and not the cause of disease in vegetables. If this theory be true, then we have another strong argument in favor of the position we have taken—a position which is sustained by the opinions of some of the most experienced and practical men in our country—that the false, forcing methods now generally adopted to propagate novel and mammoth varieties is gradually subduing the native energies of plants, contracting disease and, if persisted in, will inevitably destroy their type and the very germ of their existence.

A return to first principles is imperiously demanded, in agricultural science, as well as in other departments of life. "Quick ripe, quick rotten" is as true in the vegetable as in the animal kingdom. The hot-house system is a peculiar trait of the present generation. It is emphatically a "fast age." The ordinary course of nature seems altogether inadequate to meet the wants of the times. The public taste has become vitiated and, to correspond with it, even the forms and properties of vegetables, fruits and flowers, which nature had rendered most useful, perfect, beautiful and symmetrical, only requiring man's presence to "dress and keep" them so, are distorted and corrupted.

We do not wish to encourage such a system of culture, or mal-culture, in Utah. We are satisfied with assisting nature in its legitimate operations and if, under judicious treatment, any new or strange properties are developed among our fruits, flowers or vegetables, we shall not esteem it a pretext for gulling a fortune out of the community.

Enrich the soil, from year to year, with well-saved barn-yard manures. It will be no great loss should there never be a bushel of "Peruvian guano," or other patent fertilizers, applied to the soil. Plow and dig deep; mellow and dress thoroughly. Plant pure seed in the proper season. Carefully keep the weeds down and the soil well stirred during the