

FRUIT AND ITS CULTURE.

This subject, which has been so often and so ably discussed in the various journals of the country, will never cease to have new points in it for ventilation. Almost every day something new is discovered, and in this age of progress, when it is important for every man to know, the shortest and best way to do everything, if he is not informed and does not keep up with the times, on the fruit subject, if he is a farmer or a gardener, he will certainly be laid upon the shelf for want of means to pursue his business. There are many old farmers, who know the value of fruit, who have during their lives promised, year after year, to give this subject more time and attention, but when the time comes, each year is but the repetition of the other. The land is not properly prepared, it is too wet, or it is too dry; the weather is too cold; the trees are not at hand; and so on, the reasons are heaped up one on the other, which results in no orchards and no fruits.

There are several points in setting out an apple orchard which must be duly considered if good fruit in abundance is expected. The first thing is the kinds of fruit. Due regard should be paid to the eating, the cooking, the drying, the cider and the keeping qualities of the apple. Then the adaptation of the sorts which may be preferred, to the latitude and soil. Then a proper preparation of the soil, and the way the trees should be set out, is very important. Next in turn, is the importance of preserving the tap-roots. Some persons say this root is of no use; and some go so far as to say that it does more harm than good. These philosophers are in error, and before the subject is considered, our readers will see they are. The next important point to be considered is the way the trees should be trimmed in the nursery, before they are lifted for sale.

There is a difficulty in the way here to contend with. We expect to show that fruit trees of all kinds, but particularly apples, should have their lower limbs as near the ground as possible. The difficulty referred to, is prejudice. People have so long seen trees trimmed up from the ground, higher than a man's head, that an orchard with its lower limbs almost touching the ground would present a very uninviting appearance; but for all that, it is the true form for the fruit tree. This will be shown also before the subject is concluded. The land for an orchard should be thoroughly plowed, sub-soiled and harrowed; it should be made rich, with a view to growing grass, in addition to the fruit trees. Mixed manure, that is, the manure from farm animals of all kinds, which muck should be mixed; but a specific manure for the tree directly, is that taken from the hog-pen. About a bushel annually of this, when the tree is two years old, to each tree spread around, though not touching it.

Planting the trees right is the most important part of the work in setting out an orchard, that is, if one part could be more important than another. They should be forty feet apart, if the grass crop is a matter of consideration; but if the fruit only is desired, twenty-five or even twenty feet is an abundance. The holes should be dug for a tree two or three years old—none should be older when set out—about eighteen or twenty inches in diameter, assuming that the ground has been sub-soiled, the earth in the bottom of the hole should be enriched with any well rotted vegetable manure mixed with a small quantity of bone dust. The tree should be set about as deep as it was in the nursery.

The earth, or rather the rich soil, should be piled up and packed tightly around the tree, about two inches above the level. This dirt, after the tree has grown a year, and the roots have taken firm hold, must be scraped off down to the top of the first horizontal roots. These horizontal roots, if allowed to be deep, will prevent the tree from bearing well, and, what is more, the tree, as natural, will throw out roots near the surface, which causes the destruction of the tap-root; and the short life of the tree is the consequence. Planting posts around each tree, and tying the tree to them, is not the best way to prevent the injury which trees receive from high winds loosening them in the ground.

It is better, in addition, to packing the earth as just stated, to cut out of a piece of plank, two feet long and half as wide, a yoke or collar large enough to pass three-fourths round the body of the tree, at the surface, then lay another piece of plank by its side, when stones, billets of wood, or weight of any kind should be placed upon them. Nature, upon this principle, holds the tree firmly in the ground, and we surely are pursuing the right course when we obey her dictates. Of course, these planks and weights are to be removed, when the earth, referred to above, is scraped off. Just here it would be well to mention two little things, which if not attended to in time, may result in very large things:

First, in selecting the trees, be careful they are not bi-forked, for trees formed thus, will sooner or later split and one-half of the tree comes down, or if this does not take place, the tree is so damaged by the wind when heavily laden with fruit and leaves, its sprouts are death to fruit trees of all kinds; but particularly to the apple. They should be removed, which can be done with the thumb and fore-finger in their incipency; they are generally found on the body of the tree, most frequently near the ground. They are not often seen on the limb of a very young tree, but if not attended to, the tree will certainly be destroyed by them.

It is a known fact and can be philosophically explained, that the limbs nearest the ground bear the best fruit, and more abundantly than those at the top of the tree. Sometimes, a tree apparently has more fruit at the top, than at the lower limbs, but this is owing to causes which must suggest themselves to every observing person; of course, the lower limbs are subject to deprivations of every sort, both from man and beast. In addition to this, an apple falling from the top will, in its passage to the ground, knock off a half dozen others; and the higher the tree, the greater the loss; so, the more a tree is trimmed down the better it is. Limbs, with a view to this sort of destruction, should be arranged by the trimmer so as to prevent it. The fact that the lower limbs always bear more than the upper harmonizes with our own experience. We can remember trees and have one in our eye at present, which bears more apples on one limb very near the ground than the remainder of the tree does. The French Official Journal publishes a decree approving of the formation of regiments of infantry at Bordeaux, and dissolving the headquarters of the staffs of the armies recently operating in the north, under more elevated limbs. Cultivating orchards in crops of various kinds is practiced by some farmers of great experience, while others differ from them on this subject. We have never been able to see the advantage of cultivating an apple orchard in anything but grass. It is impossible to use a plow in an orchard without detriment to the trees. Even if the plow is pressed out of the ground before it comes near the tree and no damage is done the roots, still the traces and swingle-trees are apt to bark the tree, besides other things which may occur prejudicial to them. Old apple trees are sometimes neglected and given up as useless, which by proper preparation and judicious attention would bear profitably.

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The roots of an old tree become hard, and do not absorb and appropriate nutriment as rapidly as younger ones. When the body ceases to grow, the roots do also; and when this is the case, if the ground about the tree is cultivated, the winds acting on the top of the tree are apt to loosen the roots in the earth, and when this is the case with an old tree, the roots do not reach themselves to the earth as they do when younger; and here the question concerning the value of the tap-root arises, for settlement as we promised. The tap-roots, unquestionably, does more towards keeping the tree firm in the ground and erect than all the other combined. One strong proof of this, is that trees which are remarkable for the length of their tap-roots are never uplified by storms. The black walnut, for instance, has often been broken off above the ground, but the roots are never moved. The tap-root fills another office, quite as valuable as this. It is an equalizer to a great extent, by capillary attraction of the temperature of the tree.

Sudden freezing on the surface is lessened to a great extent by this agent. Moisture during a drought is distributed in the same way, and excessive rains are carried off by the same agency. Now, if there is no tap-root, the winds and storms will cause the other roots to be moved in the earth, and when this is the case, it does not require much credulity to believe this tree will decline. Then, if an equilibrium of temperature is induced, and at the same time moisture and the excess of it are both regulated by this root, its value must be immeasurably great.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Line. The Western States are waking up on the subject of their connections with the Virginia tide through the Chesapeake and Ohio route. We see by the Louisville Daily Ledger that the people of that city are becoming deeply interested in the line via Lexington, to the mouth of the Big Sandy, where a junction is to be made with the Chesapeake and Ohio road. The Ledger states that the counties along the line in Kentucky are subscribing liberally to its construction, and it thinks Louisville will subscribe near a million to the important work.

The route from Louisville by Lexington to the Big Sandy deviates but slightly from a right line. The route is made up of high runs, only seventy miles remaining untouched; and the Ledger expresses its firm conviction that the whole line will be finished in time to join the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad as soon as it is completed from the Virginia tide to the Big Sandy.

Louisville will then be upon a principal route to the great Southern Pacific railroad, as well as in the line from the Virginia tide to St. Louis and the far West. The people of Louisville cannot over-estimate the importance of this enterprise; and if they do not take hold of it at once, and push it through, they will show a strange neglect of their most important interests.

On the north side of the Ohio there is a lively interest exhibited on the subject of our great middle line of railway, and we look forward to the early construction of a direct line from the terminus of the Chesapeake and Ohio road to Cincinnati.

In two years we may look to see the most favorable extension of the Chesapeake and Ohio road through the Western and North-western States. The sagacious president of the Chesapeake and Ohio (Mr. Huntington) has given his particular attention to these extensions, and has taken measures to expedite their completion as much as possible. In two years, then, Richmond will have as favorable communications with the West as Baltimore, and all that she will then need to ensure her rapid growth and prosperity will be that her citizens shall have the enterprise and sagacity to make the best use of these advantages.—Dispatch.

A drunken man was recently drowned in a gutter in Syracuse. The water was six inches deep, and he was frozen fast. An Oregon medicine-woman, failing to bring rain when desired, the noble men killed her, which was conclusive, if not satisfactory.

An Indiana girl, when asleep, recites Greek, but when awake is utterly ignorant of that language. This is an Indiana enthusiasm for saying she scores.

WOMAN AND HER CHARMS.—Does your wife or daughter ever call on you for money to buy a new dress or bonnet? You supply their wants with pleasure, of course. But how they are sickly-looking and enervated, and are always grunting and coughing when you go home. Now gladden their hearts by sending to the druggist and procuring a bottle of English Female Bitters, which will cure them to health.

BY TELEGRAPH.

General American Intelligence.

ILLNESS OF EMPEROR WILLIAM.—A HEAVY TAX ON FABRICS BY FRANCE.—GENERAL M'ARON, ETC.

Amiens, March 11.—The Emperor is seriously indisposed, and is unable to review the troops. The Crown Prince will review.

London, March 13.—It is reported from Paris that the government intends to levy a tax on imported raw cotton, especially textile fabrics. The tax on cotton alone is expected to produce annually from sixty to eighty millions of francs. Foreign manufactured fabrics will also be taxed proportionately.

A Daily News despatch from Brussels says all the French prisoners in Belgium have been released, and have gone to their homes. The French Official Journal publishes a decree approving of the formation of regiments of infantry at Bordeaux, and dissolving the headquarters of the staffs of the armies recently operating in the north, under more elevated limbs. Cultivating orchards in crops of various kinds is practiced by some farmers of great experience, while others differ from them on this subject. We have never been able to see the advantage of cultivating an apple orchard in anything but grass. It is impossible to use a plow in an orchard without detriment to the trees. Even if the plow is pressed out of the ground before it comes near the tree and no damage is done the roots, still the traces and swingle-trees are apt to bark the tree, besides other things which may occur prejudicial to them. Old apple trees are sometimes neglected and given up as useless, which by proper preparation and judicious attention would bear profitably.

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THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION.

A CURIOUS BIT OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

The most memorable thing in connection with the history of Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, is the "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence," which was adopted May 20, 1776, in an old, round log, and clapboard-covered school-house, used as a court-room, amid most enthusiastic shouts. Attached to this document, writes a recent correspondent, are the names of seven Alexanders, many of whose grand-children and great-grand-children still reside there. This was the first public act taken which looked to a complete separation of the colonies from Great Britain, and the establishment of American Independence.

The paper was taken to Philadelphia by Captain Jack and placed in the hands of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, to be presented to the Colonial Congress; but these gentlemen replied that it was too soon for such a movement. This was more than one year before Mr. Jefferson wrote the "Declaration" adopted on the 4th of July, 1776. The agreement in sentiment, and the similarity of a number of passages, prove that Mr. Jefferson had read and studied the "Mecklenburg Declaration" in vain.

HILLIARD TEMPLE. RICHMOND, VA. CORNER OF MAIN AND ELEVENTH STREETS. FINEST WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS.

BANKRUPT NOTICES. IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, for the Eastern District of Virginia.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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S O'CLOCK. mh 14-47 AGENTS, MALE AND FEMALE. For fast selling popular subscription Books. EXTRA INDUCEMENTS TO AGENTS. Information. Address A. H. BROWN, 82 William street, New York. mh 14-47

\$10 MADE FROM 50 CENTS! Something urgently needed by everybody. Call and see; or 12 copies sent (postage paid) for 50 cents, that retail easily for \$10. R. L. WOLCOTT, 181 Chatham street, N. Y. mh 14-47

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DEAFNESS, CATARRH, SCROFULA.—A lady who had suffered for years from Deafness, Otitis, Scrofula, was cured by a simple remedy. Her sympathy and gratitude prompts her to send the receipts free of charge to any one similarly afflicted. Address: N. C. LESTER, Jersey City, N. J. mh 14-47

THE MAGIC COMB will change any colored hair or beard to a natural black or brown. It contains no poison. One comb sent by mail for \$1. Dealers supplied at reduced rates. Address: WM. PATTON, Treas., 147 Broadway, New York. mh 14-47

THIS IS NO HUMBUG! By sending 30 CENTS with age, height, color of eyes and hair, you will receive, by return mail, a correct picture of your future height, by return mail, with name and date of marriage. Address: W. F. FOX, P. O. Drawer No. 24, Fultonville, New York. mh 14-47

SHARPS SPORTING RIFLES.—We now prepared to fill orders for our New Metallic Cartridge Sporting Rifles, of various lengths and calibres. For accuracy and safety, we recommend our Perry's Loading Rifles, as superior in every respect to any others now made. For Circulars giving full description and prices, apply to SHARPS' RIFLE WORKS, 147 Broadway, Conn. mh 14-47

WANTED.—AGENTS, (\$500 per day) to sell the celebrated HOME SHUTTLE SEWING MACHINE. Has the under-feed, makes the "lock" stitch (like on both sides), and is fully licensed. The best and cheapest family Sewing Machine in the market. Address: JOHNSON, CLARK & CO., Boston, Mass., Pittsburgh, Pa., Chicago, Ill., or St. Louis, Mo. mh 14-47

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GEN. LEE. His life and times is now ready for Agents, in a small volume of 850 pages and 30 Steel Portraits. By a Distinguished Southern Author. Contains facts and figures never published. Sent on receipt of interest free of postage. Address: THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO., Philadelphia, Pa., Atlanta, Ga., Cincinnati, Ohio, or St. Louis, Mo. mh 14-47

REDUCTION OF PRICES. To conform to REDUCTION OF DUTIES. GREAT SAVING TO CONSUMERS. BY GETTING UP CLUBS. Will send for our New Price List and a Club form containing full directions—making a large saving to consumers and remunerative to club organizers. THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO., No. 31 and 33 Vesey street, New York, Postoffice Box 664. mh 14-47

AGENTS WANTED FOR "WONDERS OF THE WORLD." Over One Thousand Illustrations. The largest, best selling, and most profitable subscription book ever published in 4 days. One agent in Milwaukee sold 30 copies in 4 days. The same number from 20 to 30 copies in 4 days. Send for Circulars, with terms, at once. Address: N. PUBLISHING CO., New York, Cincinnati, Ohio, and St. Louis, Mo. mh 14-47

THE GREAT FIRE IN RICHMOND. HERRING'S SAFES. IN THE SPOTSWOOD. \$25,000 IN CURRENCY, and the Books, Papers, Silver and Valuables of the Spotswood Hotel and the Adams and Southern Express Companies were saved in HERRING'S SAFES. OFFICE OF ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY, No. 50 BROADWAY, New York, Dec. 21, 1870.

Messrs. HERRING, PARRELL & SHERMAN. Our Agent at Richmond writes: "We got through our night drying and fixing up the money from the late fire. The contents of my safe were entirely safe, and I am a happy man." HERRING, PARRELL & SHERMAN, No. 111 Nassau Street, New York.

Messrs. HERRING, PARRELL & SHERMAN, NEW YORK.—The Two Safes of your manufacture, which were destroyed in the fire at the Spotswood Hotel and adjoining block of buildings, were the only ones that were not destroyed. The destruction of some \$20,000 in currency, besides the valuable papers and books enclosed therein, is due to the fact that you had the foresight to purchase the safe until nearly 80 hours after the fire.

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RAILROADS AND STEAMBOATS.

NORTHERN CENTRAL RAILROAD.

On and after SUNDAY, December 4, 1870, Trains will leave as follows: Passengers Train for the West 12:30 p. m.—Daily (except Sundays) for the West and North to Buffalo and Niagara Falls. 12:30 p. m.—Fast Line (daily except Sundays) for the West and North to Buffalo and Niagara Falls. 12:30 p. m.—Daily (except Sundays) for the West, Rochester, Niagara Falls and Buffalo. 12:30 p. m.—Daily (except Sundays) for the West, Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Rochester. 12:30 p. m.—Daily (except Sundays) for the West, Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Rochester. 12:30 p. m.—Daily (except Sundays) for the West, Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Rochester.

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