

AGRICULTURAL.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ON SMALL FARMS.

The Georgia state agricultural society last year offered a premium of fifty dollars for the greatest production on a one horse farm. There were three competitors, but the premium was awarded to J. L. Boynton of Calhoun county, who cultivated a farm of 26½ acres, and who claimed to have realized from his farm the sum of \$2,518.13 as the net proceeds of one year's farming. As these figures are very astonishing it may interest our readers to know what was cultivated and the production per acre. The acres cultivated and the gross proceeds were as follows:

Fourteen acres in cotton.....	\$1,099 23
Nine acres in corn.....	589 50
Half an acre sugar cane.....	87 60
Half an acre rice.....	18 00
Half an acre potatoes.....	100 00
One-eighth of an acre onions.....	18 00
One acre vegetables.....	120 00
One acre fruit.....	136 00
Pork, lard, beef, honey, etc., sold.....	482 00

Total gross proceeds.....\$2,942 33
Total expenses of production..... 424 20
Net proceeds.....\$2,518 13

The fertilizers used were about two thousand bushels of cotton seed, about one ton of dissolved bone, and a considerable amount of stable manure. In the estimate of expenses the fertilizers are put in at less than half the cost here, but placing the expenses of this small farm at \$1,000 instead of \$424.20 and the profit is almost incredible. The land though not naturally rich had been for some years in a high state of cultivation, and the results show that the nearer we can approach garden culture on the farm the more profitable it will become.

The net profits per acre of the farm productions were as follows:

Cotton with seed.....	\$ 55 70
Corn, fodder, peas, etc.....	57 95
Rice.....	30 00
Sugar cane.....	143 00
Sweet potatoes.....	188 00

It will be seen that rice made the smallest return and sweet potatoes the largest.

CORN AND COTTON.

In response to an inquirer in the Mobile Register who requested information as to the best manner of planting corn and cotton together, another correspondent gives his opinion as follows: I plant corn in every cotton row. My cotton rows were three and a half feet apart. My corn twenty inches apart, two stalks in the hill. This planting was too close to stand six weeks of dry weather. I should have made my cotton rows four feet apart and dropped the corn thirty inches apart, leaving two stalks in the hill. Plant about the time you would plant your earliest snap beans in the garden. You can safely plant five thousand stalks to the acre. If the ground is rich and deeply plowed, it will carry this and make a full crop of cotton. Corn planted on the top of cotton-beds is very liable to blow down. I think it much better to cross off the land, opening the corn furrow down to the bottom of the cotton-bed; plant; cover lightly. By the time your corn is matured, it will be so hilled up that it will scarcely blow down at all, and therefore will not be in your way in working your cotton. What you do not want for immediate use, leave standing in the field until about October; if gathered after that time it will not be attacked by the weevil. The above directions are for rich lands.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF HOING.

It may be overdone or underdone. There is reason in everything, "even in roasting eggs," as the saying is. So in hoeing crops. If we hoe up the soil in large lumps, as we are apt to do with the very serviceable modern prong-hoes, we let the keen, dry air into contact with the starting but enfeebled roots, and by their parching, an irreparable injury is done. Such lumps should be crushed down so as to be permeable to air throughout and yet serve to protect the roots from its free sweep. But as in avoiding Scylla we may run to wreck on Charybdis, so in crushing the soil we may make it too fine, in which case the first heavy rain will run the surface together in a crust impervious to the air, and for want of enough of air, essential to active root action, growth will be checked until the hoe or its equivalent is used.

The empress-queen has directed the following productions by herself and the members of her family to be forwarded to the exposition: Twenty-six etchings by her imperial majesty, two table napkins spun by her imperial majesty, a banner screen, embroidered by the Princess Beatrice, a table-cloth embroidered by the Princess Louise, of Hesse, and Princess Christina, of Schleswig-Holstein, two drawings of flowers by the Princess Louise, the Marchioness of

Lorne. These articles will reach Philadelphia early next month.

CHOICE RECIPES.

SOFT SOAP.

Run off the lye in the usual way and put into the tub with the usual quantity of grease. Let it stand from two to four weeks, stirring it occasionally, and you will have as good soap as was ever made by boiling.

TO BAKE BEEF.

Lay the meat on some sticks in a dripping pan or other vessel, so that it will not touch the water which it is necessary to have in the bottom. Season with salt and pepper, and put in the oven three or four hours before it is wanted for the table. Baste it often with the water in the bottom of the pan, renewing it as often as it gets low. This makes sweet, juicy baked beef. The great secret of it is, not to have the meat touch the water in the bottom of the pan, and baste it often. Tough, unpromising pieces of beef are best cooked by steaming them an hour and a half or so, and then putting them in the oven and baking as much longer.

REMEDIES FOR BURNS OR SCALDS.

The following is one of the best applications we know of in case of burns or scalds, more especially when a large surface is denuded of the skin: Take one dram of finely powdered alum and mix thoroughly with the whites of two eggs and one teaspoon of fresh lard; spread on a cloth and apply to the parts burned. It gives almost instant relief from pain, and, by excluding the air, prevents inflammatory action. The application should be changed at least once a day.

MOCK NOUGAT.

To one quart of good molasses add one pound of brown sugar and one ounce of butter. Put it on the fire, and stir now and then to prevent scorching. After it has boiled one hour, stir in a teaspoonful of walnut kernels, all particles of shell adhering having been carefully removed. Let it boil a short while longer or until candied, which may be ascertained by dropping a little in cold water; if it does not discolor the water, and has a stringy appearance, it is done; continue to boil until this is the case. Grease a large dish, pour out the candy, and let it stand until cold, when it may be cut into squares or strips; or, if preferred, the candy may be pulled as soon as cool enough to bear handling.

FLOUR MUFFINS.

One-half cup of butter, one-half cup of sugar, two cups of milk, three teaspoons of yeast powder rubbed thoroughly into a scant quart of flour, and a little salt; bake in muffin rings.

RICE AND INDIAN DROP CAKE.

One pint of Indian meal, one-half pint of rye meal, two spoonfuls of molasses, a little salt; work with cold milk so as to drop from a spoon into hot fat; be sure to have a smooth batter.

WASHINGTON PIE.

One cup of sugar, one tablespoonful of butter, four tablespoonfuls of sweet milk, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful cream of tartar, one cup flour. Bake in two layers, with jelly, fruit or cream between.

ALMOND CAKE.

Two cups of sugar, one of butter, two-thirds of a cup of sweet milk, whites of eight eggs, one teaspoonful of soda, two of cream of tartar. Cream to place between: Two-thirds of a cup of milk, one cup of sugar, one egg, one-fourth of a cup of blanched almonds, pounded in a marble mortar.

TO COLOR COTTON YELLOW.

For every three pounds of cotton take six ounces of sugar of lead, dissolved in hot water in a brass or tin vessel. In a wooden vessel dissolve three ounces of bichromate of potassa in cold water. Dip the goods first in one vessel and then in the other until the color suits. If you wish orange dip the goods in strong lime-water.

TO COLOR BLUE.

For every three pounds of rags dissolve one ounce of Prussian blue in brass; add one ounce of oxalic acid, put in the rags and let stand over a slow fire until deep enough. The various shades of green may be obtained by dipping the goods first into blue and then into yellow dye; those of lilac and purple by alternating with red and blue, and those of orange by using first yellow and then red.

SCARLET RED.

Take soft water sufficient to cover the goods, bring it to a boiling heat in a brass or copper kettle, then add one and a half ounces of cream of tartar for every pound of cloth; boil two minutes and then add two ounces of powdered lac and three ounces of madder compound (the lac and compound must be previously mixed in a glass or earthen bowl), boil five minutes; now wet the goods in

warm water, wring it and put it in the dye; boil the whole nearly an hour, then take out and rinse in clear cold water.

GERMAN WIVES.

The culinary art forms a part of the education of the women in Germany. The well-to-do tradesman, like the mechanic, takes pride in seeing his daughters good housekeepers. To effect this object the girl, on leaving school, which she does when about fourteen-years of age, goes through the ceremony of confirmation, and then is placed by her parents with a country gentleman, or in a large family, where she remains one or two years, filling what may also be termed the post of servant, or doing the work of one. This is looked upon as an apprenticeship to domestic economy. She differs from a servant, however, in this—she receives no wages; on the contrary, her parents often pay for the care taken of her, as well as her clothing. This is the first step in her education as housekeeper. She next passes, on the same conditions, into the kitchen of a rich private family, or into that of a hotel of good repute. Here she has control of the expenditures of the servants employed in it, and assists personally in the cooking, but is always addressed as miss, and is treated by the family with deference and consideration. Many daughters of rich families receive similar training, with this difference, however, that they receive it in a princely mansion or a royal residence. There is a reigning queen in Germany at the present time who was trained in this way. Consequently the women in Germany are perfect models of economy.

THE SECRET SERVICE SCANDAL.

A Washington special to the New York Sun, says: The use of the secret service fund to carry elections was not confined to New York. Thousands upon thousands were spent in the south by order of the president; in Alabama and Georgia the funds of the government were used to buy up bar-rooms, corner groceries, etc. Evidence will be produced to show that men were set up in business of various kinds wholly on government money, and on the pretext of discovering alleged election frauds, etc. It has leaked out that the president is at last terribly worried over the continued downfall of his friends and the accumulation of evidence criminating himself. He is not disposed to be as indifferent to the charges against him as some of his supporters. He was thoroughly aroused and excited to-day, and in general terms denounced the statement made by ex-Army-General Williams as untrue. He says he has no recollection of Williams calling on him to disburse the money for Davenport's use, and that if he did it was represented to him to be a different matter, and that he has been deceived. The president has further resolved on a full investigation of the charges.

Another astounding revelation in proof of the use of the corruption fund was ascertained to-day. Although the money was paid by the disbursing officer of the department of justice, not a single voucher for a single cent can be found to account for it. If the money had been used according to law, sections 2,026 and 2,031 of the revised statutes, which require detailed accounts from supervisors of elections, would have been complied with. There is nothing to show for the plunder but Whitely's single receipts.

MIND IN PLANTS.

"Tis my faith that every flower Enjoys the air it breathes." So wrote Wordsworth long ago, and very often the poet's prophetic spirit anticipates results which slowly demonstrating science arrives at only after many years of patient observation and logical deduction. Is it possible that Wordsworth's faith in the capacity of vegetation to enjoy was really such an anticipation, that the consciousness which enjoyment presupposes is in any degree a function of plants?

There is certainly a growing disposition on the part of scientific men to accept such a position, and the evidence in support of it has already become too abundant to be overlooked or despised.

As Dr. Forbes Winslow has remarked, vegetable life is so universally assumed to be, as a matter of course, unconscious, that it appears to many a mere folly to express a doubt of the correctness of the assumption. But, he continues, let a close observer and admirer of flowers watch carefully their proceedings on the assumption that they not only feel but enjoy life, and he will be struck with the immense array of facts which may be adduced in support of it. Endow them hypothetically with consciousness, and they appear in a new and altogether different aspect. His conclusion is that they are undoubtedly in the same category in this respect with the lower forms of animal life, respecting which it is impossible to determine whether they have consciousness or not.

Dr. Lander Lindsay goes further, and regards mind and all its essential or concomitant phenomena as common in various senses to plants, the lower animals and man; and he backs his belief with a cogent array of evidence, which, while it fails to demonstrate absolutely his position, shows very clearly the drift of scientific opinion.

Dr. Asa Gray, after speaking of the transmission of the excitability of sensitive plants from one part of the plant to another, the renewal of excitability by repose, and the power which the organs of plants have to surmount obstacles to positions favorable to the proper exercise of their functions, goes on to say that, when we consider in this connection the still more striking cases of spontaneous motion which the lower algae exhibit, and that all these motions are arrested by narcotic or other poisons—the narcotic and acid poisons producing effects upon vegetables respectively analogous to their effects upon the animal economy—we cannot avoid attributing to plants a vitality and a power of making movements toward a determinate end, not differing in nature, perhaps, from those of the lower animals. Probably, he adds with characteristic cautiousness, life is essentially the same in the two kingdoms; and to vegetable life faculties are superadded in the lower animals, some of which are here and there indistinctly foreshadowed in plants.

Darwin has observed in the *aroseria rotundifolia*, a faculty for selecting its food, which in animals would certainly be attributed to volition. Mrs. Treat has described the same trait in the plant. On being deceived by means of a piece of chalk, the drosera curved its stalk glands toward it, but immediately discovering its mistake, withdrew them. The plant would bend toward a fly held within reach, unfold it, and suck its juices; but would disregard the bait if out of reach, showing not only purposive movement (or a refusal to move, as the case might warrant), but also a certain power of estimating distance.

Again, Darwin has shown that the more perfect tendrils bearers among climbing plants bend toward or from the light, or disregard it, as may be most advantageous. Also, that the tendrils of various climbers frequently attached themselves to objects presented to them experimentally, but soon withdrew on finding the support unsuitable. He says of the *brinonia caprea* that its tendrils "soon recoiled, with what I can only call disgust," from a glass tube or a zinc plate and straightened themselves. Of another bignonia, he says that the terminal part of the tendril exhibits an odd habit, which in an animal would be called an instinct, for it continually searches for any little dark hole in which to insert itself. The same tendril would frequently withdraw from one hole and insert its point in another. In like manner, spirally twining plants seem to search for proper supports, rejecting those not suitable.

Speaking of phenomena of this sort, Dr. Lindsay makes this strong remark: "In carnivorous and climbing plants, there is a choice or alternative between action or inaction, acceptance or refusal, and the choice made is not always judicious. There may be an error, and the error may be corrected; but in order to such correction, there must surely be some kind of consciousness or perception that a mistake has been committed; an exercise of will in making further efforts at success, and a knowledge of means to an end, with their proper adaptation or application."

According to Prof. Laycock, organic memory is common to both animals and plants, and certain lianas seem to exhibit in it a marked degree in their antipathy to certain trees. The botanist Brown has remarked that the trees which the lianas refuse to crawl around are physically incapable of supporting the climbers.

And not only do many plants act, as one might say, reasonably, but some exhibit the opposite quality. In his "Vegetable Physiology," Prof. Lawson speaks of the eccentric movements of the side leaflets of *hedysarum gyrans*, which make it appear as though the whole plant were actuated by a feeling of caprice.

In many cases observers are, no doubt, self-deceived, and mistake a mechanical and wholly unconscious mimicry of intelligent action for an actual exhibition of intelligence; still such men as Dr. Gray and Mr. Darwin are not apt to be deluded by mimicry or figures of speech; and however much it may run counter to popular notions of what is proper to plant life, the hypothesis that intelligence does not end with animal life seems by no means inconsistent with a

multitude of trustworthy observations.—*Scientific American.*

From statistics furnished at a recent meeting of Shakers in Brooklyn, it appears that there are in existence eighteen communities of that sect, having about sixty families each. Elder Evans, explaining the belief of the Shakers, said, at the meeting in Brooklyn, that they did not consider Jesus as the Christ, but as an exponent of the Christ spirit. The line of prophets descended from Melchisedec to John the Baptist. He spoke of the Shaker adherence to the non-combatant principle. War of all kinds, national debts, poverty, and many evils were the result of wrong organic laws in government. Peace was the great calmation of the Christ spirit, with a Pentecostal church, where all things would be held in common.

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