

**Horticultural Notes.**

By H. Nehrling.

Grape-Fruit.—Dr. Geo. Bonavia, the celebrated authority on citrus species writes to the "Gardener's Chronicle" as follows: The grapefruit is no other than a variety of Citrus Decumana. It got its absurd name, I believe, in the United States, owing to a number of fruits being set close to each other and forming a sort of bunch. It is a variety of the Shaddock; the latter having got its name, it is said, from a Captain Shaddock, who first introduced it into the West Indies. The forbidden fruit, so-called of Palestine, is another of the same species with an absurd name. In India they have numerous varieties. The Bengal one is called Batabi lembo, from Batavia. In upper India they have a variety called Mahtabi (moon-like), but obviously a completion of Batabi. Another is called Chakatra, after the ancient name of Botavia, viz., Gakatra; The Dutch appear to have been great disseminators of this Citrus Decumana, which they found in several varieties in the Malayan Archipelago in the time of Rumphius. I have never heard that citrus trees sport, and not improbably all the varieties of the different sections or races originated from seed varieties.

"The Arab and Persian seamen were coast navigators, and must have taken these fruits from place to place, after them the Portuguese and Dutch helped also to disseminate them through the fruit and their contained seed."

We in Florida believe that the absurd name grapefruit, which should be abolished in favor of the old and correct name Pomelo, originated in Jamaica.

Cyclea Burmanni—the Jelly Plant, the machated leaves of this plant when steeped in water form a jelly which is said to be equal in flavor and as a food to calf's-foot jelly. Dr. Morris, some time ago stated in a lecture on plants which yield extraordinary substances, that a few of the leaves when crushed and placed in water, would in a short time, form a thick mass of transparent jelly, and that a friend of his during sickness was nourished for some time by jelly thus obtained. The plant is grown in some of the Botanical gardens in Europe but there it does not seem to possess this quality. It is a native of Ceylon and Concan. It is a quick-growing climber with peltate-oblong leaves four inches long, hairy and dull green. The flowers are small, greenish and borne on long drooping, branching panicles. It is not a plant of any ornamental value, but its jelly-producing proclivities when in tropical sunshine, are interesting and might be turned to account. The genus belongs to the menosperma and is related to Cissampelos. This would be a splendid addition to the list of our economical plants and it undoubtedly will flourish at Miami and south of the Caloachatee. Reasoner Bros., who issue one of the very best—in regard to reliability the very best—catalogues of our time, do not mention it.

**A Momentous Question.**

Some one asked the Tribune Farmer a question as to what he had better do. The answer is a wise one. We copy it, not because it will be of special value to Florida farmers, who are, as a rule, farming on a small scale, but because it may interest some of our Northern readers who have only a small amount of capital on which to begin in a new country. The advice about giving the boy something to fix his interest in the farm is worth a great deal to any one who will carry it out.

C. Z. Beaver, Penn.: What would you advise a farm renter to do that has

saved between \$1,200 and \$1,500 and has no help of his own except a six-year-old boy, and whose wife is not very strong, but tries to make a couple of hundred dollars a year out of her chickens? Help is so hard to get in harvesting and when one needs help. I don't want to go to town to live. In this part of the country farms are so high a poor man cannot buy. I like to attend to cattle and hogs and have fairly good luck with them.

The propounder of this question is in a similar position to that of thousands of others who are puzzled to know what to do. A few hundred dollars have been by dint of hard work accumulated, and they don't know what to do with it. Right here is the crisis which has either made their future life one of success or one of failure. Here is a man who has been trained along lines of practical farming. His faithful wife has by her wifely economy and skill been a true helpmate to him, or she would not be annually with her poultry adding to the family income \$200. I feel like putting a little extra stress on that poultry business, as I am not sure that after the expenses are taken out and a division made of the productions of the farm the wife has not about as much to show to her credit as the husband. There is \$1,500 in the family bank. What is to be done with it? I have known of several men who, when they had accumulated that sum, began to get "swelled heads." Perhaps the husband began turning his attention toward, or, worse yet, cityward.

His mind dwelt upon some fellow he might have known who had invested in a town lot and doubled his money in one year, or who had gone in some business and succeeded. But he failed to think of the man who laid out the \$1,500 in a small house in the suburbs, where he had no chance for garden or chickens; where he had to labor daily in the shop, rain or shine, and after corporation taxes, water taxes, school taxes and the other taxes were paid the food for his family provided and clothing furnished he found nothing accumulating for the old age that was creeping on, nothing for the days to follow when he would no longer be needed in the shop.

I might go further on this line, but will stop here by saying: If you have any thoughts of town or city life, ask the good wife to put a cold water compress on your head and lie down and take a nap. Then get up and begin to think of some location where you can buy a small farm, and not have to run largely in debt for it—a small debt you can carry on a good productive piece of land. Don't purchase expensive buildings. They are a source of expense. Keep in mind the adage, "A little farm well tilled." A smaller house, with a cheerful wife in it, is what makes a home of happiness. Now listen to the wife a little: ask her what she needs to care for the chickens better, and you can as a rule furnish it at little expense. A man of gumption, with a saw and a hammer and a pile of cheap lumber, and his wife to boss the job, can make a comfortable chicken house at very little expense.

Don't neglect the small fruit business; strawberries and raspberries, also blackberries, can be grown right between the cherry, plum and pear trees when they are small; yes, and some lima beans and early potatoes. But I will leave you to decide what is best. It is not for me to dictate to you.

Now, I have practically told you to buy a small farm. In selecting it, get as much available land as possible. A fifty-acre farm with every acre tillable or available is far better than a hundred-acre farm at the same price with one-half of it unproductive—keep that in mind. Even a ten or fifteen acre farm run for all that there is in it will bring in more clear dollars than some hundred-acre farms. I have said nothing about livestock. A good team need not be an expensive team. But when it comes to cows and pigs or sheep, please keep in mind

that a cow that may cost \$50 or \$60, by reason of her ability to produce, is a far better investment than two that can be bought for the same money. A good brood sow is a source of profit, while a poor one barely pays the cost of keeping. The same is true of sheep. One good breeding ewe will yield more profit than several poor ones. Keep in mind that it pays to feed good feed to good animals, whether they be chickens or cows, but it doesn't pay to feed good feed to poor producers. Always keep this in mind—you can't afford to do otherwise.

You say "boy six years old;" well, if he is the boy he should be, it will not be long before he can save many a step for both father and mother. Encourage him, give him some chickens, or take him in as partner in some of your other farming operations. Teach him business. What comes to him as his share allow him to use himself. Teach him to buy his own clothing wisely; and don't care if he gets beat sometimes. You and I have been beaten. It was the school of experience to us, and it will have to come some day to him. Counsel with him and advise with him all you wish in his purchases; then don't dictate to him at all. Allow him to make his own purchases. It is the profiting by experience that makes men and women; without experience no one ever achieves success. The boy or girl whom papa or mamma buys clothes for until he is of age is not well trained. I have lived long enough to see many a property that the father and mother had labored years to secure go to the winds, simply because the boy had not been given a business training right at home. It is a training that can not be got in school. Now I have said enough. Look around, confer with your wife; lay that \$1,500 out in a farm, and may God bless you in your future life.

**Lemon Culture.**

Just why folks have gone daft betimes on oranges, tangerines, grapefruit, pineapples, etc., and have paid so little attention to lemon culture is rather queer. To be sure one would scarcely advise the planting of a lemon grove in this section of the state, so susceptible are the trees to the least cold, but there are many localities in the southern section, with water or forest protection from severe cold, where lemons could be successfully and profitably grown. And, indeed, risks could be taken even here in Orange County. When the winter first came to Orlando in the fall of '83 there were plenty of old lemon trees as large as most orange trees then growing and they were literally groaning with the abundance of their

fruitage. In the winter of that year \$6 to \$7 per barrel was netted by the writer for ordinary Sicily fruit, packed without curing or wrapping. There is seldom a season passes that lemons do not bring fancy prices. A carload from California brought \$2,800 on September 2nd of this year, an average of \$6.30 per box, the highest price paid being \$6.62. With such prices prevailing in New York, risks of a freeze now and then could be taken with the absolute certainty of top notch prices during the several off years between freezes.—Orange County Reporter.

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