Growth of Mostly Tubers.

But a small portion of the territory of the United States is adapted to the profitable production of common potatoes. It is true that they can be raised in every State and Territory, but in several of them the yield is ordinarily small and the quality poor. The largest crops are raised in the northwestern portion of Maine and the smallest in the southwestern portion of Texas. Good potatoes are produced in all the States and most of the Territories that border on Canada. In all of them, when the facilities for transportation are good, potatoes constitute a paying crop to raise for the market. In Aroostook County, Maine, five hundred bushels of potatoes are not unfrequently raised on an acre of ground. Their quality is so excellent that they bring a high price in the market. Beaver Island, situated near the north end of Lake Michigan, furnishes the finest late potatoes that come to this market. In high northern latitudes it is practicable to plant potatoes in the fall and to dig them in a year from the following spring. On the islands in the great lakes snow generally falls to a considerable depth before the soil is frozen, and it protects from injury the potatoes that are in the ground.

Excellent early potatoes are raised in nearly all the Southern States. It is very difficult, however, to keep them any considerable length of time. If planted in early spring, they mature in midsummer. If they are dug at that time, they soon wither. If they are allowed to remain in the ground, they sprout, or "take a second growth," which ruins them for eating purposes. In some cases a late crop of potatoes can be raised in the South, but its success will depend on the season. Localities liable to severe and long-continued droughts are very unfavorable to raising good crops of potatoes. A moist climate and a temperature nearly even throughout the growing season are favorable to potatoes. A continuous growth from the time the tubers sprout till the new ones are of full size is what is wanted. This is insured by moisture and an even temperature. An arrest of growth caused by lack of moisture or an excess of heat injures the quality and lessens the yield of potatoes. The quicker a crop of potatoes is raised the better will the quality be likely to be and the larger the yield. The largest crops of potatoes are raised when the growing season is quite short or when the climate is cool and moist from the time of planting to that of harvesting.

For producing a crop for the market late varieties of potatoes are generally more profitable than early ones. Not many years ago, early potatoes raised in the North brought good prices. But such is not now the case. Every city market is supplied with potatoes raised in the South long before those raised here are in a condition to dig. Early potatoes have ceased to rank as luxuries several weeks before any raised in the North are at a size to harvest, and their price has fallen. Early potatoes can not be depended on to keep in good condition during the winter, and they are not wanted in the spring except for planting. Potatoes that ripen in October, if properly taken care of during the winter, will be in excellent condition in the spring. They can then be sent to market, and will ordinarily bring good prices. Every farmer should raise some early potatoes for his own use, and he may find it profitable to raise some to sell in towns not supplied with those produced in the South. The main crop, however, should be of the late varieties, which are as a rule much the most productive. The varieties that give the largest yield are those that continue to produce tubers till quite late in the summer.

Observations in most parts of the country show that what is called "new land"—that which has not been cropped many years—is best for producing potatoes. They require considerable potash, in which old soils are likely to be deficient. A stiff clay soil is not suitable for producing potatoes, though it may contain much potash. It is likely to be too compact to allow the tubers to freely expand in it. It becomes very hard in a dry time and sticky in the fall when the potatoes are dug. Sandy soils, if well fertilized, are good for producing early potatoes, but large crops of late potatoes can not generally be raised on them if the season is dry. The quality of potatoes is likely to be influenced by the character of the soil in which they grow. Dry, mealy potatoes of sweet, nutty flavor are not produced on moist land or on that on which rank manure has been applied. They are only raised on soil quite rich in potash and lime and which owes its fertility chiefly to well-rotted vegetable matter, like leaf mold. The best fertilizers for land that is to be devoted to potatoes are well-rotted stable manure, forest leaves, bone meal and ashes. Rank manure is likely to produce "scab" and to impart a bad flavor to potatoes.

Clean culture is necessary to the production of large crops of potatoes, as weeds and grass take nutriment from the soil that should go to the potato plants. Clean culture will also render the harvesting of the crop an easy matter. There is no more disagreeable work on a farm than digging and picking up potatoes on land nearly covered with rank grass and weeds. Many good tubers will be cut, bruised or lost if the land where the potatoes grow is covered with vegetation at the time of harvest. The land, too, will be in bad condition for a crop the following year. If it is kept clean, however, it will be in excellent condition for most any kind of a crop. It may not be advisable to use the plow or cultivator between the rows of potatoes after the period of blossoming, which is about the time the tubers are formed, as they should not be disturbed. It is better to use a sharp hoe for scraping the sides of the rows, and not to allow it to enter the soil to a greater distance than is required to kill the weeds. This is the plan usually pursued in cultivating sweet potatoes, and it works well with common potatoes.—*Chicago Times.*

Double Work for Drummers.

Brass Band Director—Well, are you all ready for the parade?"

Performer—The second cornet isn't here; he's sick.

"Eh?"

"And the first cornet told me to tell you maybe he couldn't get here; he's got rheumatism in his fingers."

"Well?"

"That's all, except the tenor horn says he hasn't had time to practice and can't play a note."

"Too bad. Say, you fellows with the brass drums, you'll have to work double to-day."—*Omaha World.*

How the Hard Times Began in the United States and in Germany.

The period of economic disturbances which commenced in 1873, appears to have first manifested itself almost simultaneously in Germany and the United States in the latter half of that year. In the former country, the great and successful results of the war with France had stimulated every department of thought and action among its people into intense activity. The war indemnity, which had been exacted of France, had been used in part to pay off the debt obligations of the Government, and ready capital became so abundant, that banking institutions of note almost begged for the opportunity to place loans, at rates as low as 1 per cent., with manufacturers, for the purpose of enlarging their establishments. As a legitimate result, the whole country projected and engaged in all manner of new industrial and financial undertakings. In Prussia alone 687 new joint stock companies were founded during the year 1872 and the first six months of 1873, with an aggregate capital of $481,045,000. Such a state of things, as is now obvious, was most unnatural, and could not continue; and the reaction and disaster came with great suddenness, as has been already stated, in the fall of 1873, but without anticipation on the part of the multitude. Great fortunes rapidly melted away, industry became paralyzed, and the whole of Germany passed at once from a condition of apparently great prosperity to a depth of financial, industrial and commercial depression that had never been equaled.

In the United States the phenomena antecedent to the crises were enumerated at the time to be, "a rise of prices, great prosperity, large profits, high wages and strikes for higher; large importations, a railway mania, expanded credit, over-trading, over-building, and high living." The crisis began on the 17th of September, 1873, by the failure of a comparatively unimportant railway company—the New York and Oswego Midland. On the 18th, the banking-house of Jay Cook & Co. failed. On the 19th, nineteen other banking-houses failed. Then followed a succession of bankruptcies, until in four years the mercantile failures had aggregated $775,865,000; and on January 1, 1875, the amount of American railway bonds in default amounted to $789,367,655.—*David A. Wells, in Popular Science Monthly.*

INDIA'S GOVERNMENT.

The Way in Which England Rules Her Asiatic Subjects.

England rules India in a different way than she does the other colonies. Here the cannon-ball and the bullet take the place of the ballot-box and self-government. The executive authority is vested in a Governor General, who gets $100,000 a year as a salary and $48,000 in perquisits. The Earl of Duferin, who was Governor General of Canada about eight years ago, is now at the head of the Indian Government. He has a council of six members under him, and there is a Secretary of State for India at London who attends to the business of the Indian Government in England and has control of all matters relating to it. The Governor General is supreme in India, but the different provinces have subordinate Governors, and a number of these are governed by native Princes. England limits, however, the military force which they can hold, and does not allow them to send embassadors from one country to the other. The English army in India is more than twice as large as that of the United States, and it consists of about 53,000 men. It has, in addition to this, a native army of 124,000 men, but in case of war it would not be surprising if these went over to the natives or by their treachery did the Government more harm than good. It costs $100,000,000 a year to maintain this English army in Iddia, and this, of course, comes out of the natives. It is not much wonder that they decidedly object, and that they would, if possible, throw off the yoke of the British Government. Their own armies, which are independent of the native army above spoken of, outnumbered the English forces by many hundreds of thousands. The Hindoo States alone have 275,000 men, and the Mohammedan States 74,000 men. These immense armies are composed of infantry, cavalry and artillery, and they are well supplied with guns.—*Cleveland Leader.*

VALUE OF CIVILITY.

The Momentous Importance of the Small Courtesies of Life.

There would be fewer broken friendships, fewer unhappy unions and family quarrels, were it not so much the custom among intimate friends and relations to neglect the small courtesies of life, to show less and less mutual deference as they grow more and more familiar. It is the foundation of misery in marriage, and many a serious and life-long estrangement has begun, not from want of affection so much as from lack of that delicate and instinctive appreciation of the feelings of others which makes a person shrink from saying unpleasant things or finding fault, unless absolutely obliged, and in any case to avoid wounding the offender's sense of dignity or stirring up within him feelings of opposition and animosity; for although many persons profess to be above taking offense at honest censure, and even seem to court criticism, yet it must be very carefully administered not to be unpalatable. Even kind and generous actions are often so uncouthly performed as to cause the recipient more pain than pleasure, while a reproof or denial may be so sweetened by courtesy as almost to do away with any sense of mortification or disappointment. Good breeding is always inclined to form a favorable judgment, and to give others the credit of being actuated by worthy motives. It does not wish or seem to know more about people than they themselves desire should be known, but it is always prepared, when necessary, to take an interest in the affairs of others, while self is not suffered to obtrude unduly.—*Christian at Work.*

—The Duke of Biera, infant Prince of Portugal, has seven cradles, which he occupies in daily rotation by instruction of the court physician.

—New York has a grocer named Coffey, a curled hair dealer named Willcomb, milk dealers named Well and Water and a clothing firm named Taylor & Cutter.

—The Sultan of Turkey has presented to Mrs. Heap, wife of the late Consul-General at Constantinople, the Order of the "Chevkat," a distinction rarely bestowed on any but crowned heads.

Pifle and Facts Binding the Chief Elements of Literary Success.

"Copyright has a great deal more to do with it than any thing else," said a Broadway bookseller when he was asked what kind of books he sold the most of. "It is a matter of price, with the average public, I mean. Pirated English works outsell the books of American writers, because there is no copyright on the English books, and they are accordingly low priced. A new American book will occasionally sell well for a few weeks, but I am talking about average sales. Next to the Bible, Shakespeare and Dickens, the best selling book is Tennyson's poems. There is no copyright and they can be gotten out very cheaply. You can get a first-rate edition of Tennyson for one dollar. After Tennyson in popularity come Thackeray, Walter Scott, Milton, Byron and miscellaneous English poets. The American poets are slow selling, because they are copyrighted and dear. Longfellow is still the best selling American poet, and after him comes Whittier, Bryant, Aldrich and Bret Harte.

"Next to cheapness, gaudy binding seems to be the principal attraction. When the two are joined nearly any sort of a book can be made to go. I remember the experience of a publisher, a friend of mine, that proves the truth of my view. He bought at an auction sale for a song plates of Southey's "Thalaba" which once formed a part of a complete set of plates of Southey's works. My friend issued an edition of "Thalaba," which, you know, is a lurid nightmare which no one understands and no one but the proof-reader has ever read through, bound it in an elaborate and attractive style, and threw it on the market as a holiday gift book at $1.50. It sold like hot cakes. Of course no one that bought it ever tried to unravel the delicious puzzle the book contained, but it was poetry, it bore the name of a well known author, it was bound in a style that made it a good centertable ornament, it was cheap—and that was enough.

Cooper is the best selling American novelist. The copyright on his books expired long ago. The best selling single work ever written by an American is "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which is still protected by a copyright, and which still sells, summer and winter, thirty years after its appearance, as though it was just out. My! my! but there has been money made out of that book. Mrs. Stowe has made more from it than from all her other works together, and three or four publishers have got rich from it.

"The introduction of the cheap paper editions have revolutionized our business, and that of the juvenile book writer as well. A dozen years ago we used to sell thousands of sets every year of books by Oliver Optic, Horatio Alger, Jr., Elijah Kellogg and others. Now we very rarely have a call for any thing of the kind. The cheap paper libraries of detective and hunting adventures have driven the other and better books out of the market—the worse for the growing generation's morals, I should say."—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.*

GIRLS ON A LARK.

The Cozy Private Spreads Enjoyed by the Bright Daughters of Vassar.

Dearer to the heart of college students than all public occasions of social life are the cozy private spreads. Only a college girl knows the meaning of a college spread. It is a proof of the depravity of human nature that no spread is perfect unless held after ten o'clock, when in the midst of hilarity each feels the influence of a prospective summons from her corridor teacher to receive a sermon on the value of law and order. Try to imagine yourself an unseen spectator at a mysterious midnight spread. You see a large room all ablaze with light, but with blinds shut and curtains drawn, and a gossamer waterproof draped carefull over the transom, lest the rays should annoy some outsider. Within is a medley. Books are out of the way for once, and the table is covered with a miscellaneous collection of plates, saucers, glasses, a cup or two, a few spoons, rarely a knife and fork. Among these are scattered a loaf of bread, a bag of crackers, pots of deviled ham and jelly, a bottle of olives, a pitcher of milk and another of oysters. Half a dozen girls are in the room, one of them anxiously inspecting the water in a tin basin that she is carefully holding over the flame of a drop-light. The rest are scattered about the room in attitudes more or less graceful. The bed, the chairs and the rugs on the floor are equally patronized. All the girls are making frantic endeavors to evolve a theory as to the making of oyster soup, and as the theories gradually take definite shape they are hurled at the martyr of the tin basin.

"You must heat the water first, then the milk, and put in the oysters just before it is done," remarks one sage cook from the depths of an easy chair.

"No, you don't. You don't want any water—just milk and oysters boiled together," says number two, coiled like a kitten on a rug.

"You must heat the oysters separately," calls a grave, oratorical voice from the pillows.

"Girls," says the martyr, looking around with an heroic air, "you don't one of you know the first thing about it. I'm making this soup, and if you don't like it when it's done you can come and make some yourselves. Just at the present I have the floor."

She confirms her statement by a vigorous gesture that threatens the equilibrium of the tin basin, and the others own themselves obliterated and apply their genius to other topics. The soup done, it is served in cups, or glasses, or saucers, and is pronounced perfect. The suffering martyr has become a smiling saint, and sits triumphantly on the edge of the table while some one spreads the cracker with jam for her benefit. The tide of fun rises. Again and again a laugh rings out, to be smothered in the midst by the tragic gasp: "Girls, somebody is coming." But no one comes, and after oysters have been eaten, college news discussed, and harrowing ghost stories told in the darkened room, the girls steal away with a reckless declaration that they have had fun enough to pay for a whole week's flunks.—*Lippincott's Magazine.*

—A new process for making steel pipes or tubes is thus described as in use in Germany: Steel is cast into a round mold, a core is thrust into it, so that a short tube is formed between it and the wall of the mold. The short tube or cup thus obtained is then rolled or drawn in an ordinary train.

ALL IN A NOTE.

I have her still—yes, were then ever,
Though three whole weeks since last we met
Have come and gone. O, never, never
My memory can let her yet!
Sixteenth and last—this dame's immortal,
Since reckless fortune introduced
Her to my sight, and so cut short all
My summer's calm at "Buzzard's Roost."

O, she was fair! so tall and graceful,
Such lovely eyes, so rich a smile!
Her dress was comme il faut most tasteful,
Her bangs arranged in sweetest style.
The way she sang my favorite ditty
This heart to bondage rivetted fast,
And yet she lives—ah, dreadful pity!—
This maiden lives at "Buzzard's Roost."

O, hideous name—romance disspelling!
To breathe it here I've not the face;
For how should I'd feel a-toiling
My sweetheart lives in such a place!
Mamma would curl her lip disdainful,
The girls would giggle quite amused,
Papa would grin—it's really painful
That she should dwell at "Buzzard's Roost."

O, odious name—past all refining!
Wet blanket on love's ardor cast!
I'm really quite unwell with pining,
My appetite is failing fast.
Pa says my countenance is dejected,
My weight's at least two pounds reduced;
Ma says: "My love, your heart's affected."
That heart—was lost at "Buzzard's Roost."

In dulcet verse I'd fain be singing
Her charms—my love to listening fame,
Fair maid of ——, may one's thoughts upwinging
Well clogged with that absurdest name.
For maids of Athens or Castilia
My tattered muse might rise unloosed;
But gracious me! what could sound sillier
Than odes to "Maid of Buzzard's Roost?"
—*Detroit Free Press.*

ALASKAN CURIOS.

A Fine Collection Picked Up Among the Newokmunes Esquimaux.

The scientific treasures of the Smithsonian Institute have often been enriched by contributions from California, but a more interesting collection of curiosities has not been donated in late years than that sent to the Institute by Captain E. P. Herendeen, of this city. That gentleman was a member of the Polar expedition which left this port in 1881 under the command of Lieutenant P. H. Ray, United States army. Several very valuable scientific observations were made on the expedition, which extended as far north as Ooglaamie, a signal station in 71 deg. 16 min. north. Captain Herendeen spent two years among an Esquimau tribe at that point called the Newokmunes, afterward remaining for some time at Point Barrow, at the extreme northwestern point of the continent. He has recently returned, bringing with him the magnificent collection of curiosities spoken of.

A reporter was permitted to view the articles, and listened with no little interest to the captain's account of his adventures among a people but little known to the civilized world. At Point Barrow the thermometer frequently records as low as 56 degrees below zero. Nine miles southwest, over broad fields of perpetual snow, lies the small signal station of Ooglaamie, and near it the stronghold of the Newokmunes, a tribe numbering about 150 people, whose origin is lost in antiquity. Unlike the Esquimaux, to whom they are allied in many respects, the Newokmunes are an extroardinarily strong, healthy and vigorous people. A rude government exists in the personages of Prince Onalina, and Mamunina, his Princess. Both are comparatively well supplied with this world's goods, and their subjects owe them reverence as deep, and love as true, as do the people of England to Victoria. Their village, called Newok, is situated on a snowy plain and presents at all times a most desolate appearance. The only amusements known to them is the yearly ten-days' dance at the beginning of the summer season, spearing fishes, seals, birds and hunting deer. Sickness among them is almost unknown, many of the tribe having become blind through extreme old age. Free love prevails. While the men are out on the hunting expeditions the women are seated in their houses of snow engaged in dressmaking and kindred pursuits, with the temperature at 20 degrees. The natives are well armed with Winchester rifles, supplied by traders. Their dexterity with that weapon is evidenced by the fact that it often takes twenty shots to bring down a deer.

Among the articles secured by Captain Herendeen are a dozen full dress suits made of deerskins and trimmed with wolverine fur. These completely envelop the body from head to heel, and render the wearer fantastic as well as comfortable. Some of the dresses are gayly decorated with feathers, strips of sealskin and wolf claws. In all cases the skins have been dressed to a softness of touch that seems remarkable. Several photographs of natives, taken in costume, showing the heavy fringe of wolverine fur encompassing the face, accompany the collection.

The tusks of mastadons found in profusion on Alaskan fields are frequently used by the natives, who carve out of them many useful articles of household furniture and articles of personal adornment. These include dippers, cups, birds, bracelets, rings, hair-pins, balls, wolf-heads, seals, etc. A large variety of these articles, exquisitely modeled and executed, are contained in the collection. The carvings are skillfully done, and with a race whose appliances are limited the work would seem an utter impossibility. Several baskets woven of sea-weeds in a highly artistic manner, and unique in design, are also to be seen. An exceedingly rare specimen of the savik, a knife of unique pattern, used by the Newokmunes in warding off evil spirits at night, is also included in the collection. Prehistoric knives and specimens of native drawings complete a collection whose scientific value to the Smithsonian Institute, representing as they do the handiwork of a people scarcely known, will be duly appreciated and admired by future generations.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

Milk in Siberia.

In winter time milk goes to the buyer in a chunk instead of a quart. The people in Siberia buy their milk frozen, and for convenience it is allowed to freeze about a stick which comes as a handle to carry it by. The milkman leaves one chunk or two chunks, as the case may be, at the houses of his customers. The children in Irkutsk, instead of crying for a drink of milk, cry for a bite of milk. The people there in the winter-time do not say "Be careful not to spill the milk," but "Be careful not to break the milk." Broken milk is better than spilled milk, though, because there is an opportunity to save the pieces. A quart of frozen milk on a stick is a formidable weapon in the hand of an angry man or boy, as it is possible to knock a person down with it. Irkutsk people hang their milk on hooks instead of putting it in pans, though, of course, when warm spring weather comes on, they have to use the pans or pails, as the milk begins to melt and drop down the hooks.—*Christian Union.*

—British Bummer—"Rawther lonesome, aw? Will you allow me to introduce myself? Colonel Bullerly Snatchley Guster, of the Ninety-second Foot. Fought in the Soudan." American Traveler—"Glad to meet you, sir! Very glad to meet the only man who did any fighting in that campaign.—*Tid-Bits.*

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RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

—Bishop Hare has confirmed 13,000 Indians during his episcopate.

—Mrs. Emma P. Ewing has accepted a professorship in Perdue University, Lafayette, Ind., where she will teach household science.

—The Karen Theological Seminary at Rangoon has just graduated nine young men, who immediately entered the ministry among their people.

—Always be ready in time for church. If you do not respect yourself sufficiently to be punctual, respect the feelings of other people.—*Our Country Home.*

There are signs of improvement in reference to Sabbath observance in Germany. In Stuttgart, six hundred shopkeepers have engaged to close their shops on that day. In Carlsruhe a second distribution of letters has been stopped. In Alsace-Lorraine, public houses are legally closed till noon.

—A little boy at a village school had written the word "psalm" in his copybook, and accidentally blotted out the initial "p" with his sleeve. His little sister at his side burst into tears over the disaster, but the spelling reformer defiantly exclaimed: "What if I did leave him out! He didn't spell nothing, and what was the good of him?"—*Pioneer Press.*

—A good idea of the Lutheran Church of America as to locality and languages can be gained from the statistics of churches erected in 1886. The total was 276, of which 152 were German, 62 English, 37 Swedish, 22 Norwegian, 2 Danish. Besides these there are Slavokian, Finnish, Icelandic and Bohemian Lutheran houses of worship.—*N. Y. Independent.*

—There are now 16,000 colored teachers in the United States; 1,000,000 pupils in the Southern States alone, 16,000 in the male and female high schools, and 3,000,000 worshipers in the churches. There are 60 normal schools, 50 colleges and universities and 25 theological seminaries. Colored people pay taxes on from $150,000,000 to $200,000,000 worth of property.

—An inquiring man thrust his fingers into a horse's mouth to see how many teeth it had; and the horse closed its mouth to see how many fingers the man had. The curiosity of each was fully satisfied.—*Town and Country.*

—"Papa," said a little five-year-old, pointing to a turkey gobbler strutting around in a neighbor's yard, "ain't that red-nosed chicken got an awful big bustle?"—*Chicago Rambler.*

—Citizen (to tramp)—"What do you do for a living?" Tramp—"Walk." Citizen—"And what do these fellows sunning themselves on the bank do?" Tramp—"O, they are lay brethren."—*Burlington Free Press.*

—What It Lacked.—Husband—"My dear, there's only one thing that this angel cake needs." Wife (who has offered him the result of her first attempt)—"What's that, John?" Husband—"Wings."—*Tid-Bits.*

—Isaac—"I vants to write my name upon your heart, Rebecca, but it vas so hard ash glass." Rebecca—"Vy don't you try, Isaac, to write your name my heart on wid a five hundret tollar diamond ring, eh?"—*Texas Siftings.*

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