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May 17. 8-17

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MISCELLANY.

The Fly Weevil.—The inquiry of almost every farmer is, "How shall we preserve our wheat from the weevil?"

We answer—thresh it immediately, clean it from the chaff, spread it in a barn or open room, and if it acquires the least warmth, stir it daily.

The wheat which we received about the first of this month, which had some weevils in the grain, we found heated in a few days. We spread and constantly stirred it for about two weeks; those then it ate their way out—none have since bred in it—it now lies in bulk without heating, and we consider it greatly preferable to that which we were daily receiving from the threshing floor.

We have now several thousand bushels of wheat on hand, which was threshed from the stock and from stack before the weevils commenced their ravages. It has been lying in barns near sixty days, and has been kept cool by frequent stirring; the weevils have not touched it—and we have no hesitation in saying, let their ravages be what they may in the stack, wheat thus cleaned and kept cool, will, in all cases, be free from the flying weevil.

We are now receiving one lot of a thousand bushels, which was threshed in July and early in August, run through the fan & spread in a large barn. It is perfectly cool and has not received the least damage. All small lots, threshed and cleaned at about that time, and kept cool, we find in the same good order. It is also said that some who threshed and penned their wheat in the chaff, before the weevils were visible, have preserved it; but of this we speak with some doubt.

We now hear many speaking of threshing and stowing away in the chaff. But those we would advise to be cautious; there is scarcely a stack of wheat in the country entirely free from weevils, and that which contains but a small portion will heat if packed away in the chaff. We have heard some recommend this mode to heat the wheat, they say, "will kill the weevils and destroy the egg from which they hatch," but we know that wheat thus heated will never grow, nor will the flour made from it reward the miller for his labour of grinding.

We believe that the weevils are produced from an egg, which, after being laid in the grain, requires a certain degree of heat to produce animation. That portion which is produced by the straw in the stack,

during the summer and fall, appears to be nature's choice. It is against that portion of heat we would have the farmers to guard, when we advise them to thresh and keep their grain cool. Whether the egg is deposited in the field or in the stack, we pretend not to say, but we have rather concluded in the latter; but we can with safety say, that the wheat now on hand, which has never attained that heat to which nearly all wheat in the stack is subject, whether it contains the egg or not, has produced no weevils; and that which we have recently received from the stack, ceases to hatch or in any wise produce them, so soon as we can get it perfectly cool. On these and other observations, too numerous for insertion, we advise those who would preserve their present crops, to thresh and clean them immediately; and those who would hereafter effectually guard against the flying weevil, we advise to thresh from the stack, or before the wheat takes the sweat.

N. & N. HICKSON.

The Ohio Steam Mill, Maysville, Sept. 20.

Description of Washington Irving, Author of the Sketch Book, &c.—He is a very well dressed, good-humoured looking man; if not handsome, at least very prepossessing in appearance, though his countenance has not that intellectual expression which his writing would lead one to expect. The most remarkable feature is his eye; it is large and full, with a very soft, dreamy expression—a look of indolent repose in it, which strikes one, at first sight very forcibly. I scanned it, and fancied that Mr. Irving could never be accused of early rising; and I have suspected that he admired Gray's description of Paradise, "to lie on a sofa and read new novels." But with all this, he possesses a keen perception of the ludicrous, and if any object or phrase presents itself which excites his feeling, his eye lights up with astonishing brilliancy; the dreamy, dozing look gives way to an expression of wit and humor, of talent and irresistible mirth—it is not ill natured enough for satire—which makes one ready to laugh with him.—London Paper.

A captain of a trading ship being not long since in the city of Constantinople, lodged in the house of a seafaring Turk. One day he observed to the Musselman, that in all his walks through the immense city of Constantinople and its suburbs, he had not seen any thing like a jail for imprisonment of debtors. Christian dog! (said the disciple of Mahomet) do you suppose we are so debased as to copy the Nazarine policy? We take care to strip a debtor of all his property, as far as it will go, to pay just debts—but there we leave him—we instantly turn him loose to begin the world again. The believers in our prophet are above shutting up their fellow men in cages in order to starve, persecute and torment them. We make a distinction between a man and a rat—I have been in several of the Nazarine (Christian) cities, and never looked at a debtor's prison with horror, as a place where a man is degenerated to the condition of a rat!

From the New York Daily Advertiser.

CUBA IN 1827. LETTER III.

Cuba was discovered in 1492, by Columbus who appointed Diego Velasques, governor. To him there were 15 successors, acting in the same capacity, until the year 1601, at which time Gaspar Ruiz de Pereda was appointed at the Havana, with the title of Captain General of the island. Down to this day, there have been in all 71 chiefs, including General Vives, the present governor. The island was occupied in one place on the south side, as early as 1505; but Havana was not settled till 1511. Its locality rendered it a favorable situation for vessels from the various parts of the Gulf of Mexico, to stop at, and this at first caused its growth. This place has always been the depot of great wealth, and particularly since the revolution of South America. These events have driven the old Spaniards from the new republics; and many of them who have brought wealth with them, have settled in Havana, in preference to returning to Spain.

The population of the Havana may be estimated at the present time at about 140,000; not more than half of which is probably within the walls. This number is given after having examined the subject as far as is possible, in a place where taking a public census is viewed with so much jealousy, that even one of the commissioners appointed to this duty, ridiculed the report which he and others had made. The usual estimate of the residents is higher; and this may be looked upon as the medium of different opinions. Mr. Poinsett, in his remarks, has given a statement purporting to be official, in which the same number is given as far back as 1817. But this probably included Guanabacoa, distant one league from the city, and containing about 20,000 inhabitants. As the place has, however, increased rapidly since that period, the above will, I think, be found not far from the truth.

The population is composed of Creoles, Spaniards, slaves and free negroes. Many of the latter were imported from Africa, before the Spanish and the English governments entered into their present treaty on this subject, and some since. For the execution of this treaty, there is established at Havana a Commission, called 'Comission mista,' and a judge from each of these governments has been appointed.

Henry T. Kilbee, esquire, is there at the present time on the part of the English. In addition to these, there are usually one or more men-of-war stationed at Havana, which have the privilege of examining any vessels entering under any flag, in cases of suspicion. In January last, a French vessel appeared off the Moor, and made the signal of a man-of-war.

As it was evening, she could not enter in consequence of the land breeze. Apparently she was waiting till morning for that purpose; but during the night, she took advantage of the current, landed 450 slaves a little to the windward; and having in this way quieted the suspicions of the British commandant at that station, she next day entered as 'in ballast.' So provoked was this officer, that on boarding her he even ordered her sails unfurled, to see if he could not find one slave at least, that he might condemn the vessel. He missed the prize however and had to confess himself out-generalled.

The slave trade is carried on, however, from the coast of Africa to the Brazil and Cuba, more even at the present time than most persons in our own country believe. There are 250 vessels called traders, employed in this business; and what is sufficient to make a man blush for the United States, many of her citizens are engaged in it. The crews, commanders and sometimes owners of those vessels, are from our northern cities; and while they sustain fair characters, are secretly plundering Africa to gratify their avarice. The temptation, to be sure, is great. A slave can be bought in Africa at about 10 dollars, and when he touches the shores of Cuba is worth from 400 to 500. Great caution is of course necessary in this proceeding; and hence all flags are hoisted, and all artifices resorted to, which the occasion may require. The writer of this is not speaking without information; nor are these assertions founded on any thing less than evidence.

COMMUNICATION.

For the Delaware Journal.

ESSAY ON HEDGING.—CHAP. II.

A description of the various kinds of American Thorns.

The native thorns, to be found in the Atlantic States, are as follow, taken from our American Botanists, Bartram and Marshall's catalogue of Forest trees and shrubs—

1. *Mespilus Coccinea* or *Cockspur Thorn*.

This rises, generally, to the height of ten or twelve feet, with a pretty strong stem dividing into several branches, which are armed with strong thorns bent downwards, like a cockspur; the leaves somewhat oval, spreading in angles, sawed on their edges, and smooth on the surface. The flowers come out at the extremities and sides of the branches in umbels. They are pretty large and succeeded by fruit nearly as large as a small cherry and of a fine red colour when ripe.

2. *Mespilus C. uggali* or *Pear leafed Thorn*.

This rises with a strong stem to the height of fifteen or twenty feet, sending off many (and often horizontal) branches, armed with strong sharp thorns. The leaves are of an oblong oval shape, and mostly narrowed towards the base, sawed on their edges and of a deep shining green color, and of a thick consistence. The flowers come out late and are produced in small clusters at the ends of the branches. The fruit is of a middling size and of a dark dirty redish colour. The flowers frequently have but one stile.

3. *Mespilus Canifolium* or *Wedge leaved Thorn*.

This often grows to the height of twenty feet and more, with a strong stem five or six inches in diameter, covered with a dark rough bark, divided into many branches, and armed with long sharp thorns. The leaves are smooth, inverse, egg shaped and pointed, slightly and somewhat doubly serrated towards the extremities, of a shining green colour on the upper surface and veined with oblique parallel veins. The flowers are produced in small clusters at the end of the branches, and are succeeded by middle sized redish fruit.

4. *Mespilus Azarolus Major*, or *great Azarole Hawthorn*.

This kind frequently rises to twelve or fifteen feet, with a strong stem covered with lightish red bark, dividing into many branches and armed with long thorns. The leaves are larger than those of the other kinds, somewhat egg shaped, but toothed or angled, sawed on the edges and much veined. The flowers are produced in umbels at the extremity of the branches, and are succeeded by large fruit of a dark red colour.

5. *Mespilus Azarolus Minor*, or *smaller Azarole Hawthorn*.

This kind has much the appearance of the last but smaller in growth, leaves, and fruit.

6. *Mespilus Oxacantha aurea*, or *yellow berried Hawthorn*.

This rises to the height of six or eight feet, dividing into several branches, and armed with sharp thorns. The leaves are somewhat egg shaped, but acutely toothed and sawed on the edges. The flowers are produced as in the other kinds, and are succeeded by middling sized fruit and of a greyish yellow, when ripe.

7. *Mespilus Apifolia*, or *Virginia parsley leaved Hawthorn*.

This is generally of low growth, rising perhaps to the height of five or six feet, and armed with a few sharp thorns. The leaves are small, shining, and much cut, or divided on their edges. The fruit are small and of a red colour.

Observations.

The foregoing accounts of the American thorn are middling well described in the six first numbers. But the seventh has not had justice done to it by the Botanist in his description, perhaps from a slight view of it in some unfriendly soil. Otherwise, we should have had a different account of its growth. The writer of this treatise has, from many years pursuit of the subject of hedging, made it a part of his business to examine minutely all the different kinds that come under his notice, and amongst them the "Virginia parsley leaved thorn" in its native

soil on the south of the Potomac River, and from its appearance there, was induced to procure a barrel of the haws for the propagation of them in our more northerly soil and climate, which has been found to agree well with them for near thirty years. Therefore, there is no room to doubt the congeniality of our climate for their success in forming good hedges. Instead of five or six feet in height, as the Botanist limits them, in a native state, they rise to twelve or fourteen, generally, in a good soil; and instead of a few, they are armed with many sharp thorns, not as long as those of the cockspur kinds, but uncommonly sharp and sufficiently defensive for all the purposes of hedging. This kind seems to take the lead in the approbation of most people, as they are easily propagated, and are more uniform in their growth, and more manageable in the process of training, and generally allowed to be of speedier growth. They vegetate the first year, after the seed ripens, which is not the case with other kinds. More will be said on this point in its proper place.

My first hedges were began by digging up native stocks, after having their tops cut away by a hand-saw, paying no regard to kinds, as I knew no difference if they had thorns on them; and I suppose that would be the case with many others not acquainted with the subject. As they were not plenty, I took all that came in my way of different sizes; and by having their tops taken off, there was no difficulty in planting, having a hatchet and a block of wood to chop off the spreading roots to a moderate size. I planted, perhaps, one hundred rods that spring, and did not lose a single stock but what grew and put out a number of shoots from each stock, but when they became matured I found I had a variety in my hedge of different kinds, as their foliage and blossoms discovered. Some put forth earlier than others and gave my hedge a variegated appearance; nevertheless I had a hedge which was my main object. When planting, I selected one particular kind from the rest that had fewer thorns and a different leaf, which I had previously known by the name of the white thorn, and planted a piece intending to make one hedge of them alone as the uniformity would be thus preserved. I then had an eye to the appearance that they were to make at a future day. I found that those alone would make a good hedge in process of time with attention. They blossom early and are the *Azarole* of the Botanists, and so will any of the various kinds by good management. When I speak of good management, it is that kind of attention to the subject so as to prevent neglect from intervening at any period of the progress; as unremitting attention is the life and soul of any business. It may be thought that when a hedge is planted, nature will attend to the growth; so it will, but it is the assistance of art that perfects the hedge. Nature is incessantly tending to produce a hedge row, a thing not to be desired.

It is not the quantum of labor required, but the timely administration of it that brings about the desired effect and lessens the labor that neglect increases. The *Apifolia*, or Virginia Parsley leaved thorn, has now taken the lead. It has many combining advantages. In the first place, it is easy of propagation, uniform in its manner of growth, and singular in the important part of producing shoots out of the plash after being laid, to which the other kinds dont seem to incline. They either shoot from the stump after cutting, or from the top of the plash where it is cut off after laying, not filling the vacancies so effectually as the former, which affords shoots from all parts of the plashing, if rightly performed. Consequently it forms a more uniform hedge.

In the further detail of procedure in this work, in the practical part, the Virginia thorn is the kind of which we shall principally treat. The process will be kept in view in forming and completing hedges, yet the same treatment, with some little variations, will answer for the other kinds.

The Botanical writers have generally classed the thorn under the order *Crategus*, others under *Mespilus*; neither is it easy to determine to which genus they belong most properly. But I have given their names agreeable to the Botanists of our own country, believing they were the most conversant with them, and as my own acquaintance with the various kinds has enabled me to judge of the correctness of the description which are not far from correct, except in the Virginia kind as before noted.

Our botanists say that the characters of the *Crategus* and *Mespilus* differ so immaterially as to suppose they might be reduced to one genus with much more propriety than the Beech and Chesnut. They are genera in which much confusion prevails amongst botanical writers; some classing them or most of the species, under the *Crategus*; others the same species under the *Mespilus*. Neither is it easy to determine to which they, with the most propriety, belong. Marshall says, I have observed in some species from one to three styles; in others from three to five; but not having observed any to be constant with two, agreeably to the character of the *Crategus*, have ranged none under that genus. We have, natives of these states, several species of *Mespilus* and a great number of varieties, which, until better discriminated and ascertained, can never be described with any degree of accuracy.

The great variety of thorn shews the means the American farmer has at hand to form living fences, when the Europeans, at least some of them, have been famous for hedging, and have but one solitary kind (the *Crategus Oxacantha*) to make all their hedges from; and from those imported here for that purpose, in early times, for hedging by our ancestors not a single instance had come to my knowledge of a hedge fit to do without a wooden fence to protect it. There are solitary old stocks by the road side, in many places, where no doubt hedges had been de-