

Agriculture.

TOTAL DEPRAVITY IN A GARDEN.

I believe that I have found, if not original sin, at least vegetable total depravity in my garden; and it was there before I went into it. It is the bunch, or joint, or snake-grass,—whatever it is called. This grass has a slender, beautiful stalk; and when you cut it down, or pull up a long root of it, you fancy it is got rid of; but, in a day or two, it will come up in the same spot in a half a dozen vigorous blades. Cutting down and pulling up is what it thrives on. Extermination rather helps it. If you follow a slender white root, it will be found to run under the ground until it meets another slender white root; and you will soon unearth a network of them, with a knot somewhere, sending out dozens of sharp-pointed, healthy shoots, every joint prepared to be an independent life and plant. The only way to deal with it is to take one part hoe and two parts fingers, and carefully dig it out, not leaving a joint anywhere. It will take a little time, say all summer, to dig out thoroughly a small patch; but if you once dig it out, and keep it out, you will have no further trouble.

I have said it was total depravity. Here it is. If you attempt to pull up and root out any sin in you, which shows on the surface,—if it does not show, you do not care for it,—you may have noticed how it runs into an interior network of sins, and an ever-sprouting branch of them roots somewhere, and that you cannot pull out one without making a general internal disturbance, and rooting up your whole being. I suppose it is less trouble to quietly cut them off at the top,—so that no one will see them, and not try to eradicate the network within.—My Summer in a Garden.

BEE SUPERSTITIONS IN FRANCE.—In Brittany, if a person who keeps bees has his hives robbed, he gives them up immediately, because they never can succeed afterwards. This idea arises from an old Breton proverb, which, says, being translated, "No luck after the robber." But why the whole weight of the proverb is made to fall on the bee-hives, it might be difficult to determine.

In other parts of France, they tie a small piece of black stuff to the bee-hives, in case of a death in the family; and a piece of red on the occasion of a marriage—without which, it is believed the bees would never thrive.

CLEAN UP THE MEADOWS.—A person with a short hoe can destroy an immense number of weeds in the meadow in the course of a day. Striking at their roots in the summer time greatly retards their growth. When the grass is cut they are checked again, but if the season is favorable they will start up and attempt to blossom in the latter part of August, when the cutting will need to be repeated. By some judicious labor thus bestowed a grass crop may be greatly improved, and thus repay in a fourfold degree for all the pains above recommended.

A perfect milking-machine is one of the things desirable which the world has yet to see.

One plant of purslane yielded, by actual count of pods and estimate of kernels, 415,170 good seeds.

The best bank is a bank of earth. It never refuses to discount to honest labor. The best shares are plough shares, on which dividends are always liberal.

Always have a job planned for a rainy day. Better mend a basket or repair a broken rake than spend the time at the store whittling and grumbling about hard times.

About this time expect heavy dews (dews.) Be prepared to meet them.

Why may we expect an early spring in 1872? Ain't it leap year in January?

Smoking may cure bacon and things, but it is not infallible as a cure for lying.

The work of a bill collector is seldom finished, yet it is always done.

Oh, breath of public praise, short-lived and vain! Oft gained without desert, as often lost unmerited!

HOW TO BOIL EGGS.

Of course everybody knows how to boil eggs, but there are some practical hints coming under this head that everybody don't know, or at least didn't two or three years ago. It is understood that eggs are more easily digested if "rare" than when "well" done;—but which portion of the egg resists digestion, the "white," which is nearly pure albumen, or the yolk? We have lately made experiments in this direction, with ample opportunity of demonstrating that healthy gastric juice, which the stomach secretes for purpose of digestion, will not act readily on firmly coagulated white of an egg even if cut in pieces not larger than ordinary peas (and that is as fine as people chew their food!) while it acts with facility upon the more brittle yolk. The reason is that the coagulated albumen is very compact and tenacious, and would need to be "ground to powder" to accept the chemical affinities of the gastric juice. To make eggs less objectionable, then, both to taste and physiological requirement, they should be so cooked (not boiled) as to render the yolk pleasantly hard and brittle, while the "white" is, by the same process, kept soft.

Pour into a basin boiling water sufficient to cover the eggs, put the eggs into the water, and let them remain ten or fifteen minutes, according to circumstances—and your own taste; keep the water nearly up to boiling temperature, but don't boil the eggs. Fresh eggs will cook more quickly than old ones, and of course small ones quicker than large ones. By this process you will find the yolks well cooked, while the white is left in condition to digest readily.—Present Age.

I observe that nearly all writings upon the subject say, never disturb a hen while hatching, unless it is with great care to remove the egg-shells. Now, I believe this to be a false notion; for I have had a number of cases where chickens would never have been able to get out of the shell without assistance, even after the shell had been broken by their bills. If a shell remains in statu quo six hours after the first puncture, I deem it advisable to carefully remove the large end of the shell and the outer skin. I also advocate the plan of removing the chicks as fast as they are hatched to the house, where they can be rolled up in warm flannel and kept under the stove until the whole number are out. This saves one occasionally from being tramped to death by an uneasy mother, as well as prevents a hen from leaving the nest before she is through hatching all the eggs, to say nothing of the pleasure it gives the family to have the little ones to rejoice over for a day or two.—Prairie Farmer.

RED CURRANT JELLY.—The following recipe for making this jelly I have used for several years, and I think it much better than any other I have tried or seen recommended:—Put your currants in a bell-metal kettle and scald them well; when cool press them through a sieve, getting out all the juice,—be careful not to allow any skin or seeds to pass through the sieve,—measure the juice, put it back again in the kettle, and let it boil hard for five or six minutes, skimming it well; add, while on the fire boiling, one pound of sifted loaf sugar to every pint of juice; stir it till dissolved, and then it is done and ready to put up in the tumblers. It tastes much more of the fruit, is of a beautiful light color, and will keep for years if necessary.

TO PRESERVE DAMSONS.—To every pound of damsons, allow three-quarters of a pound of powdered sugar; put into jars or well-glazed earthen pots, and set them into the oven after the bread is drawn, and let them stand till the oven is cold. The next day strain off the syrup, and boil it till thick; when it is cold, put the damsons into small jars or glasses, pour over the syrup, which should cover them, and tie a wet bladder or strong cloth over them.

To destroy moths in carpets, wring a coarse towel out of clean water; spread it smoothly on the carpet; iron it dry with a good hot iron; repeat the operation on all parts of the carpet suspected of being infested with moths. No need to press hard, and neither the pile nor the color of the carpet will be injured, and the moths will be destroyed by the heat and steam.

MESSENGER ALMANACK.

OCTOBER, 1871.

Last Quarter, Oct. 6th, 1h. 17m. afternoon. New Moon, " 14th, 2h. 5m. morning. First Quarter, " 20th, 7h. 40m. afternoon. Full Moon, " 28th, 4h. 0m. afternoon.

Table with columns for Day, SUN, MOON, High Tide, and Low Tide. Rows list days from Sunday to Saturday with corresponding times.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southings give the time of high water at Parisboro', Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport, and Truro. High water at Picton and Cape Tormentine, 2 hours and 11 minutes later than at Halifax.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE DAY.—Add 12 hours to the time of the sun's setting, and from the sum subtract the time of rising. FOR THE LENGTH OF THE NIGHT.—Subtract the time of the sun's setting from 12 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

A. V. P. B.

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