

The Carleton Sentinel.

Devoted to Agriculture, Literature, and General Intelligence.

Published and Edited]

"Our Queen and Constitution."

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Number 47.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1852.

Volume 4.

AGRICULTURE.

[From the "Maine Farmer."]

Raising Potatoes From Slips.

We find in Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture, for April, remarks quoted from the Gardener's Journal, (English,) respecting a new method of preventing the potato rot, by raising, or rather renewing the potato from slips. The theory adopted by the writer is, as far as we can learn, this: The potato by long culture from the tuber has become debilitated and deficient in starch. He therefore conceived that it might be re-invigorated by a different mode of culture. He took the slips, or sprouts from the accor... setting them out, he potato, and by carefully... in has derived potatoes which are much better quality than those raised in the ordinary way. We will abridge his remarks for the benefit of our readers.

Last year, says he, we gave the result of an analysis, showing the difference in potatoes grown by the usual method, and our own from prepared cuttings:—11 3-4 per cent. was the result of the former, and 15 1-2 the latter. We have now again gone through the same process, those of our own being the variety called York Regents, now two years removed by prepared cuttings from the old stock. The result is beyond our expectation, (17 per cent.) and that from the same class, the best we could procure, only 10 1-2 per cent., giving a preponderance of more than one third in favor of those produced by cuttings, which justifies us in the opinion we hold that until the proper quantity of saccharine matter is restored to that valuable root we cannot expect they will produce a healthy offspring.

We lost more than one half of those planted out in April last and early in May, by frost: those planted after the 20th of May and up to the first week in June, were full crops, and ripened well by the middle of October. In every thing novel improvements are found out. None ought to be planted (without cuttings) before the middle of May, leaving the top of the cutting or plant one or two inches above the ground and water them once, should the land be dry. We planted, last year, five acres with potatoes, the produce of 1850; they continued in a growing state until the middle of October, the haulm of all other potatoes being withered.

Early in the season, in one year more, we trust to get that useful root up to its original standard, when the expensive mode of planting with cuttings will not be required.

There is no part of the potato taken with the cuttings. The potato must be in a warm place, or a good heat, (in the hot bed to start the sprouts,) as it is important that the cutting should be as short a time as possible on the mother plant, as all potatoes, more or less, that do not contain the proper quantity of starch, are diseased so far that they cannot produce a healthy offspring.

It is now six years since we first commenced planting cuttings. Our attention was first drawn to it by the well known advice a medical man would give as to rearing the child of a mother in a deep decline, which would be brought up (as it is termed) by hand, or by getting a healthy nurse.

The first three years our experiments were on a small scale, and we did not try their qualities. We have now little doubt that we shall this year get 18 per cent., which is about the highest standard this root ever contained.

The potatoes in Maine suffered less, last year by the rot, than they have for several years previous, and they are of better quality this spring.

It is hoped that the disease will pass away.—The ideas of the writer above quoted are nevertheless worthy, the consideration of farmers, and although the mode recommended may be a slow and expensive process, if carried out on a large scale, yet it may be practised in a limited way, and should it be instrumental in re-invigorating the crop, it will be time and labor well expended.

HENS.—The business of keeping hens is now almost universally regarded as one of the most profitable in which the farmer can engage. He produces his own food, markets his own eggs and poultry, and is necessarily required to devote but a very limited portion even of his leisure hours to the feeding and management of his fowls. The enormous quantity of eggs now exported by the farmers of Maine, demonstrates conclusively, that there is actual profit in keeping hens, and that the business is destined ultimately to increase, and become a source of almost inestimable wealth to the State.

According to Buffon, a hen properly fed and attended, will produce upwards of 150 eggs, besides rearing two broods of chickens. Mr. Mount, of England, says that a well fed hen will produce from 170 to 175 eggs in a year.—According to the latter estimate, 100 hens yield in one year, 1500 eggs and from 1000 to 1200 chickens. We find it asserted in an agricultural work that an importation was made, a few years since, of hens from Holland. They were called "everlasting hens." They are small, lay every day, and their eggs are less in size and not so nutritive as those of the ordinary hen; still they are considered more profitable than the latter, as they lay twice as many eggs in a given period, and two of their eggs being more than an equivalent in value for one of the other kind of hens eggs. The profit of hens depends very much upon the food supplied them. Of all grains, buckwheat is unquestionably the best. It contains a large per cent. of lime, besides a great deal of nutritive matter, and is regarded as a powerful promoter of fecundity in the *galinacea* generally.

On the subject of preserving eggs, the Boston Cultivator has the following from a correspondent:—"Take a tight box and cover the bottom with a course of fine salt about an inch deep, into which put as many eggs as you can pack, standing each egg on the small end, and not touching each other or the sides of the box, then cover them with salt, and so continue to pack them in layers, until you have packed enough for one year, if you wish; then cover the whole with salt, put on the box cover to exclude the air, and set them in a cool dry place, keeping the box right side up with care. Keeping the eggs on the small end prevents the yolks from adhering to the shell. Another method, which is about as good, is, instead of salt use two parts of wood ashes and one of air-slacked lime, and pack in the same way; either method, exclude the air as much as possible. To determine with the greatest certainty whether an egg is good or not, hold it to a strong light, and you can easily discover the slightest appearance of evil.

TIME TO PLANT.—There is no greater error extant, than that of planting gardens too early. If we have a few warm days in April, people run to their gardens, as if summer had actually come and the beds are made, and the seeds are sown, and the next day, perhaps, a snow storm buries all in a sheet, that reminds of the dead of winter. Peas, onions and lettuce may be put into the ground quite early, as well as some other articles; beans, melons, cucumbers and all seeds to be sown in beds, should never be put into the ground before May.

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

Cure For Rheumatism.

A Parisian correspondent of an English paper say:—"I picked up, the other day, from one of the most eminent and intelligent physicians in France, the favorite pupil of Duputren, some curious scraps of medical lore, that perhaps may amuse you; and coming from a man whose liberality of opinion is only equalled by his own skill and intellect, they are certainly worthy of perusal, and might afford valuable hints to science. A lady who had formerly been a patient of his, but whom in consequence of her removal from Paris, he had not seen for some time, came to him lately to say that her daughter was afflicted with violent rheumatic pains. As she still resided in the country, however, Dr. C— could not do more than give her some general council, deferring the actual treatment till she could bring her daughter to Paris. In a few days she returned, informing that her sufferings were completely relieved in a singular manner:—One night, being seized with an attack, of which was intolerable, the mother, in despair, sent to the only medical adviser of which the village boasted—a man who, by the help of a little self-taught lore, and a certain knowledge of simples and woman's remedies, treated the peasants satisfactorily enough.

No sooner did our Galen arrive, than he directed that all the empty bottles that could be collected should be placed on the floor, the mattresses laid over them, and the sufferer extended thereon. The effect was magical; in a few minutes the patient experienced the greatest relief, and finally a complete cessation of suffering; and though the attacks had afterwards returned they never failed to yield to this singular remedy. The solution of the mystery (of which the village doctor was quite ignorant) Dr. C— found at once. Electricity, it appears, is the great aggravator of all such maladies; and of this force glass is a nonconductor. If, then, the electric current is cut off from contact with the patient, immediate relief is the consequence. Profiting by the hint, Dr. C— has since, in all cases, caused thick glass cylinders to be put under the foot of the *malade's* bed, and with a success which is the most complete.

TRACTARIANISM.—A correspondent of the *Daily News* says: Some excitement has been caused in Exter this week in consequence of the vagaries of certain of the tractarian clergymen. On Sunday morning (being Easter Sunday) at five o'clock, the Perpetual Incumbent of St. Siwell's (a parish rendered notorious as the scene of "the surplice war") administered "holy communion" to about fifty persons. The "alter" was decorated with evergreens, and to render the scene as imposing and papistical as possible five clergymen officiated in the ceremony. The incumbent (the Rev. J. L. Galton) has recently preached against the Queen's supremacy, and is exceedingly "high" in his church notions. The rev. gentleman's wife attends the catholic chapel in the city, and it is reported that she has lately become a communicant there. A great deal of observation has been made upon this, inasmuch as the Bishop of Exter some years since interfered with a clergyman in Cornwall for allowing his wife to attend a Wesleyan chapel.

"I hold it to be a fact," says Pascal, "that if all persons knew what they said of each other, there would not be four friends in the world.—This is manifest from the disputes to which indiscreet reports from one to another give rise."

FARMERS.—Adam was a farmer while yet in Paradise, and after his fall was commanded to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. Job, the honest, upright and patient, was a farmer, and his stern endurance has passed into a proverb.

Socrates was a farmer, and so wedded to his calling the glory of his immortal philosophy. St. Luke was a farmer, and divides with Prometheus the honor of subjecting the ox for the use of man.

Cincinnatus was a farmer, and the noblest Roman of them all. Burns was a farmer, and the muse found him at his plow, and filled his soul with poetry.

Washington was a farmer, and retired from the highest earthly station to enjoy the quiet of rural life, and present to the world its spectacle of human greatness.

To these names may be added a host of others who sought peace and repose in the cultivation of their mother earth; the enthusiastic Lafayette, the steadfast Pickering, the scholastic Jefferson, the fiery Randolph, all found an El Dorado of consolation from life's cares and troubles in the green and verdant lawns that surrounded the homesteads.—*Lyom's Address.*

THE DIFFERENCE.—As a gentleman was walking in the street, he saw at some distance ahead, half a dozen men proceeding with slow and measured step, to their day's work. In a minute or too he overtook them and soon looked back upon them far in a distance. "What makes the difference?" said he to himself, "I was the son of a poor labouring man.—Why am I not like these men, now plodding on in the same condition of poverty and toil? Evidently for the same reason that I have left them far behind me. From my earliest childhood, whenever I had anything to do, I have done it with all my might, whether working 'by day or by the job.' These men are working for others—I suppose by the day. They take a "slow and easy" motion. They will plod on so through life, and never rise any higher. If we would win the prize we must run for it."—*N. Y. Observer*

CURE FOR CANCER.—A Mr. Benson of Franklin county, Tenn., has been cured of a cancer by the following means: He procured a peck of cleaned oak bark, by first cutting off the rough outside, and put it into a vessel containing about two gallons of water, which he boiled over a slow fire until the ooze became quite strong, when he strained it through a cloth to remove all the particles of the bark, then he again put it into a clean vessel, and simmered it over a slow fire, till it came to the consistency of molasses, when it is fit for use. It is then spread upon a piece of silk or other soft rag, and applied to the diseased part. He used about two plasters each week, until the cancer was removed and the wound healed. He says it is not painful, but believes it an infallible remedy.

In the Arctic regions, when the thermometer is below zero, persons can converse more than a mile distant. Mr. Jamerson asserted that he heard every word of a sermon at the distance of two miles on a still day, with perfect distinctness. An Elysium this for deaf persons. We hope all the "Louders!" will emigrate there.—*Yankee Blade.*

Magistrate—"What brought you here, sir?" "Two officers, please your honor." Magistrate—"I suppose liquor had something to do with it?" Prisoner—"Yes, sir, they were both drunk."