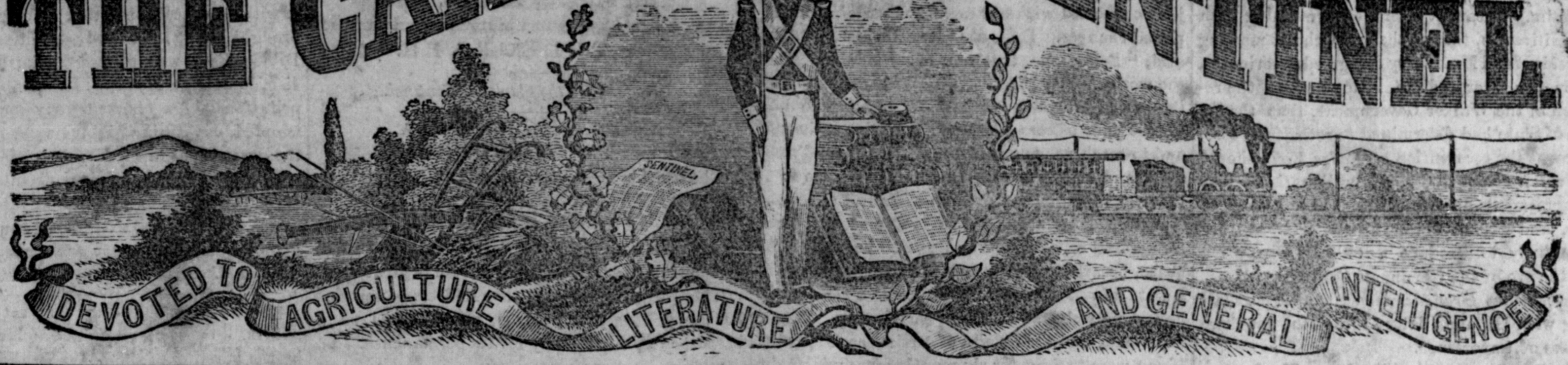


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[By JAMES McLAUCHLAN.

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Agricultural.

BUTTER.—It has been to us a cause of surprise, that so much butter of inferior quality obtains sale in our market, and we can account for it only on the principle of "Hobson's choice." Good butter is healthful, while poor, rancid, "soldified" cream is positively injurious to the system. We had quite as soon feed on pork diseased with measles as to use much of this stuff for butter. A sweet thoroughly made article always commands the highest price in our market, while the inferior qualities sell at comparatively low rates. It takes but little more time to make butter that will sell for twenty-five and thirty cents per pound, than it does the quality that will not bring more than sixteen or eighteen. Let dairy women remember this, and save to themselves the difference, while they supply us dependents with something that is not proscorbatic.—For the benefit of those who are willing to blend humanity and pecuniary gain we copy the following receipt for making good butter from the New England Farmer:

1. Milk should never be set for butter in a dark damp cellar—as is the case with butter-makers in this section—as the cream is thereby moulded before it has had time to rise, which gives the butter a mouldy taste.

2. The milk is allowed to set too long before being skimmed, which gives it a cheesy taste.

3. The cream is kept too long, before it is churned, after it is skimmed, which gives it the taste of the other two; and also a sour taste.

4. The butter should never be washed in water, because it takes away that beautiful aroma so essential to good butter.

5. It should never be taken in a person's warm hands, as the heat melts certain portion of the globules, which gives it an oily taste, and makes it become rancid very soon.

6. The milk should be set in good clean tin or earthen pans, in a dry open, airy and shady place above ground, if possible, although a cellar may be so built, and ventilated, as to answer this purpose. It should never set over twenty-four hours, in warm weather; and for a dairy of three cows or over the cream should be churned every morning, and never be kept over forty-eight hours in warm weather; in cold weather it may be kept longer. It should always be about the same heat that the milk is when drawn from the cow, and churned steadily, and I have never known it to fail of coming readily; (we use a cylinder churn) it is then taken from the churn with a wooden butter ladle, into a wooden tray, which has been well sealed and cooled in pure cold water; the salt is then worked in, to suit the taste, with the ladle, which is easily done, with a little practice, and the butter-milk well worked out; it is then set away into a cool place for about twenty-four hours, when it is well worked over as long as milk or pickle can be worked out. Butter made in this way, and put down in stone pots and kept from the air, will keep good for a long time.

As a proof of the very valuable services rendered by a swallow, it is estimated that one of these birds will destroy, at a low calculation, 900 insects per day; and when it is considered that some insects produce as many as nine generations in a summer, the state of things but for these birds, may be readily conceived.

HOW TO KILL LICE ON CATTLE.—MR. EDITOR:—When I asked the question what the medicine was to be put into the quill for killing lice on cattle, I did not think that I should hit any of you, but as I did, I will say as the man said when he talked to the Governor not knowing with whom he was

talking. When he found who he was, well, said he, if I had known that you were the Governor I would not have talked so. However, I don't now see how I can take it back.

For the benefit of your readers I will give my way of killing lice on cattle. I have practiced it for several years, and never have known it to fail when the operation is thoroughly performed; take common soft soap and sour buttermilk, mix half and half, stir them thoroughly together, wash the cattle on all parts where the lice are likely to be.—Do the work thoroughly, and you will get rid of them. In three or four days the nits will hatch out, then wash your cattle again, and you will get rid of the whole of them. I hope some of your readers will try this mode, and let me know the result through the Maine Farmer.

C. C. DANIELS.

North Wilton, N. H., April 28.—Maine Farmer.

BLACK WARTS ON PLUM TREES.—MR. FREAS.—Last spring I found a plum tree nearly covered with black warts. I dug from the roots about a peck of earth supplying its place with bone and horn shavings. The tree revived, and bore a crop of tolerable plums, and nearly all the warts have disappeared. Is not this apparent remedy worth a trial?

JOHN.

Germaetown Telegraph

EXPERIMENT IN CORN GROWING.—Last spring happening to run out of seed for the ground I had prepared for potatoes, I concluded to finish it with corn planted in the same way, say 2 1/2 feet across and 8 inches in the row. The corn was worked nearly the same as the potatoes, and yielded well, and by a greater number of stalks than by the usual way of planting, I had at least one third more corn and double the fodder. On a large scale I suppose corn planted so close would not ear for want of sun and air; I should like to hear from those having experience in this mode of culture.—*Id.*

CURRENT BUSHES.—Any one can raise a currant bush, but the thing is to produce a fine bush. Take young sprouts—last year's growth—and remove the eyes from the lower portion of the shoot for about eight inches, which will prevent suckers being thrown up from the roots. Plant in spring or autumn in rich ground. As the roots of the currant do not extend themselves far in search of food, they should be well supplied yearly with rotten manure, dug in with a hoe. The bush should not be allowed to form a thick head, but be kept open. The last year's wood should be cut back four or five inches every spring according to extent of growth.

The culture of this excellent fruit is usually much neglected, even in the best gardens. It seems to be the general belief that a currant bush can thrive and produce fruit in any situation and without culture. It will live and bear an apology for fruit, but it is nearly all skin and seeds and citric acid. Those who have once seen and tasted the produce of bushes, properly cultivated, will be surprised at the richness and the perfection of flavor which this fruit may be made to attain. Plant eight feet apart, treat well, and for twenty years your table may be supplied with this cheap and healthful luxury, costing you really nothing at all.—*Prairie Farmer.*

It is estimated that 80,000,000 feet of lumber have been cut during the past winter on Wolf river, Wisconsin, and its tributaries. Nearly all this lumber is taken to a place called Oshkosh, where its value is about \$8 per 1,000 feet.

During the year 1854, one hundred and sixty five persons were executed for murder in the United States. Of this number only seven could read and write. What a lesson this fact teaches!

General News.

NICARAGUA MATTERS.—MR. CRAMPTON.—The N. York Herald's correspondent, in a letter dated Wednesday last, says:—

"Nicaragua has fairly crowded out all other matters appertaining to Central America. The conduct of the British war authorities of San Juan on the arrival of the steamer Orizaba, about the middle of last month, in surrounding that vessel and exercising power over her passengers, is deemed by our government as a flagrant breach of duty. The State Department has sent to New York and procured affidavits of all the facts, preparatory to calling Mr. Crampton to account, as it was under his orders that the Orizaba was interfered with.

The result of this proceeding at San Juan has finally waked up Marcy and Pierce to the designs of the British Government, and has led to the determination to recognize the Rivas administration through its representative, El Padre Vigil. Not only is this true, but assurances have been given that no objection will be made to the shipment of arms, ammunition and persons from our ports to the aid of Gen. Walker.

The crisis in Central American affairs is thus about to be precipitated upon us; and it comes in a practical shape and by a direct collision with British authorities in the ports of Nicaragua.

The Navy Department will promptly despatch vessels of war to San Juan, and individuals will be encouraged to give "material aid" to Gen. Walker. It is boldly avowed here that Walker is the true *avant courier* of our institutions, the fair representative of our people, and should be aided, encouraged and sustained at any cost.

Provided with all the necessary documents, within a day or two Mr. Marcy will have a free talk with Mr. Crampton, and demand of that functionary that he shall withdraw or countermand his instructions to British naval officers in Central America. It is even impossible to maintain peace unless Mr. Crampton shall recede. He has instructed British officers in Central America to regard all communication with Gen. Walker as illegal, and those officers assume to exercise over passengers and baggage not only a surveillance but positive control.

One happy effect has resulted from this; it has compelled the administration to recognize the Rivas-Walker government, and thus to denounce her Majesty's officers and to legalize the proceedings of our vessels. You may look out for a squall from Central America. The atmosphere is filled with electric clouds, and they will unite one of these days and create a terrible commotion.

So soon as Judge Evans of Texas can obtain the floor, he will deliver a speech in favor of our neutrality laws, and take strong grounds for the confidence of the immediate recognition of Nicaragua. Those in the confidence of the administration say that the new Minister will be received so soon as the next steamer arrives, should Gen. Walker still be in power. Mr. Marceleta predicts that Walker and his men have all been hung before this."

AFFAIRS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—It is believed that the next steamer will bring a polite despatch from Lord Clarendon to Mr. Dallas, refusing to recall Mr. Crampton or the Consuls complained of six months ago. Then will begin the responsibility of our Government for conclusive action, in this remarkable case.

The intelligence from Central America is certainly unfavorable to Walker, although in his last battle, as in every other he has commanded, he was victorious. Private advices explain why it was

that he was compelled to abandon the city of Rivas on the night after the fight with Mora although he had beaten the Costa Rican army, with the loss of only about one-third of his own in killed and wounded, and had driven the enemy from the place. It appears that Gen. Mora was expelled from the body of the town, but that his force retained its organization, and remained in the outskirts; and was expected to attack Walker in the morning. Walker had only one day's supply of food for his men, and his ammunition was exhausted. With these deficiencies he could not have resisted the anticipated assault of the next day. It was therefore the part of a wise and competent leader to retreat as he did. Whether he has reliable stores of supplies anywhere is the question on which his safety depends.

The state of affairs on the Isthmus is most deplorable, and is indirectly chargeable to the action and the non action of this government. Mr. Wheeler, our Minister in Nicaragua, has been an undeviating supporter of the Walker invasion from the beginning. Two of his *attaches* were in the skirmish last July, and one of them was wounded. Mr. Wheeler ought to have been recalled. His continuance in the mission has, of course, impressed the natives of Central America with the conviction that all citizens of the United States were identified with the filibusters. That a filibuster should be held and treated as an outlaw and a pirate when taken in arms, is natural and inevitable. Among our own people they would receive no quarter whatever.

The Government omitted to defend and vindicate the Transit Company when its property was seized and the route virtually closed against peaceful passengers, and neglected to inform such persons that they could not safely cross the Isthmus, a fact that must have been within its knowledge. In consequence of this impolitic inaction, hundreds of our citizens have gone to Nicaragua, in full faith that the power and influence of our Government would secure them a safe passage. They have been either impressed into Walker's army, or been massacred by the opposing faction, or have fallen victims to the diseases of the climate.

Whether similar errors will be committed in reference to Panama, remains to be seen. The Government ought to intervene promptly and with a strong hand, or that route will also be closed and broken up.

Major Heiss arrived last night with despatches from Walker, the first which have been received from that gentleman for two months. Mr. Heiss himself believes that Walker is on the eve of a signal triumph, and doubtless Mr. Wheeler's accounts will confirm this view of affairs.

The proceedings of Congress have been remarkably tame for the past week. The debate on Kansas and slavery has been flowing in a placid course under the cover of the Indian Appropriation bill. The afflictions of the aggrieved naval officers have formed the burthen of lament in the Senate.—*Correspondence of the New York Courier and Enquirer.*

THE SCOTCH MARRIAGE QUESTION.—The subject of the runaway matches at Greta Green was brought up in the House of Lords on the 24th ult.

The Earl of Aberdeen said that he had opposed in 1835 a bill introduced by his noble and learned friend opposite, and he should in future oppose any similar legislation on this subject, because he believed that the present Scotch law of marriage was sanctioned by the habits and opinions of the people of that country, who were attached to it in consequence of the good effects it had produced there, and that any alteration in it would be unacceptable to them.

The subject was then dropped.