

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

When and Where to Apply Wood Ashes.

The agricultural editor of the New York World says: Wood ashes, among the best of saline manures and also among the most economical, are coming to be more and more appreciated every year.

Farmers now, as a rule, husband every pound made on the farm and buy them whenever they can be procured at a reasonable rate. The time has gone by for exchanging ashes from good hard wood for a few pounds of soap.

Leached ashes, while less valuable, contain all the elements of the unleached, having been deprived only of a part of their potash and soda. Ashes benefit all soils not already rich in the principles they contain, and may be drilled in with roots and grain, sown broadcast on meadows or pastures, or mixed with the muck heap.

The quantity of ashes to be applied to the acre depends, as does that of all fertilizers, on the character of the soil and crop cultivated. Crops which exhaust the salts, as potatoes, turnips and all roots, clover, lucern, peas, beans and the grasses, are benefited by ashes. The crops named thrive well under an application of ashes with bone-dust, and their effects are also strengthened when mixed with gypsum.

Light soils call for light dressings, say from ten to fourteen bushels of unleached and twice that quantity of leached ashes per acre. Rich lands or clays bear heavier dressings. Repeated dressings of ashes like repeated dressings of lime or gypsum, without a corresponding addition of vegetable or barnyard manures are not admissible, for they will eventually exhaust lands when applied alone.

Where the entire surface of the soil is covered with vegetable growth either of the three materials mentioned acts with great effect. For this reason ashes may be applied unmixed with other fertilizers to meadow lands for a longer time than to any other crop.

In reply to questions asked at the Elmira (N. Y.) Farmers' club in regard to the value of leached ashes and the best manner of applying them to general crops, as corn, wheat and oats, the following information was gained: Leached ashes vary so much in their character that no precise estimate of their value can be made. Heavy clay is liable to be injuriously compacted by liberal dressings of ashes, leached or unleached, unless the land is sod, in which case ashes spread on the surface tend to increase the crop of grass. The safest and best use of leached ashes on most kinds of soil is spreading them on old meadow or old pasture.

Working them into land on which potatoes are to be planted in the same season is also a good way to use them. Good ashes make a valuable dressing for wheat land and for corn, but the leached ashes are too uncertain in their character to recommend for such use.

Coal ashes are inferior in quality to those from wood and vegetables, but are nevertheless of value and are to be applied to the soil in a similar manner, as they tend with their abundance of cinders to the mechanical division of soils. Coal ashes are beneficial to heavy rather than light soils.

Farmers, in consideration of the above facts, cannot be too strongly encouraged to follow the practice of collecting and reducing to ashes all the rubbish of the farm not otherwise available, such as brush, old wood, sods, rags—in fact everything which cumber the place as useless matter. Burnt earth is not only a manure in itself, but is most useful to mix with artificial fertilizers which cannot be easily distributed alone or too strong to sow among seed unmixed with other material.

Remarkable Array of New Fruits.

The year 1878, it appears, has been rendered memorable to American pomologists by reason of the large number of new native fruits which were originated or introduced during that time. The list of peaches especially has been greatly increased. In a paper read before the Western New York Horticultural Society by William C. Barry descriptions of thirty peach seedlings never before described were enumerated as having come to the notice of this well-known nurseryman, while many more were fruited which are not yet made known to the public.

According to Mr. Barry the State of New York offers several candidates for popular favor. From the great metropolis even come two new varieties which apparently possess many valuable qualities. In Western New York there are several seedlings which will undoubtedly prove desirable. One of them is believed to be the largest and earliest of all the very early peaches. Several excellent early and late varieties have originated in Ohio. Passing over a vast extent of country are found a number of new kinds in Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. From Kansas comes the information that the whole list of early peaches known to the public, so far as fruited in Kansas in 1878, is surpassed both in earliness and size by at least fifty new seedlings of Kansas origin, many of which bore their first fruit that year. At the South, too, many promising new sorts are mentioned. Thus, as if by magic, during the same year and in various sections of country new peaches have sprung up in such numbers as to astonish and almost perplex the fruit culturist.

Touching upon the few new apples brought to notice the past year, Mr. Barry had a word to say about the Russian apples which have caused more or less discussion. Of the varieties under trial for some time several have given evidence of value, and while they can hardly be compared in quality to our best apples, still they are fair and will doubtless prove desirable in those localities where only hardy varieties succeed.

What portion of the large number of new strawberries introduced are worthy of cultivation Mr. Barry thought it difficult as yet to say. Another season's experience will be required before definite and reliable information can be given concerning many of them. Of a number which have been well tested the Sharpless is given a prominent place, as are the Cumberland, Triumph and Crescent seedling. Among new raspberries the Gregg was pronounced a decided improvement on the older varieties of black caps.—New York World.

Early Corn.

A correspondent of Vick's Magazine gives the following directions for bringing corn to maturity early in the season, adding that he picked corn last year inside of sixty days from the time of planting: "Let the conditions of the soil and manure be the best you can command, and aside from the frequent weeding and hoeing, stirring the ground thoroughly, thin the stalks to three or four—three is best if you would have the largest ears and most of them. Pluck out most unmercifully every sucker and non-bearing stalk—that process alone will hasten your corn a week or ten days, as I have come to believe from experiment. I have added this year a top-dressing at the hill, when the corn was well up—a compost of one part plaster, two parts ashes, and two parts fine manure, which, I think, has been a great advantage."

Those who wish early corn should not only have for seed what is called "an early kind," but they should obtain it from as far north as possible. Sled corn raised in Canada and taken south will come to perfection one, two or three weeks earlier than that ripened on the spot. The reason is that the seed raised in the north has adapted itself to a short season. This is true, in a measure, of all seeds.

The Desert Pirates.

On the 14th of March, 1878, Mr. Grattan Geary left Bombay for the Persian gulf, with the intention of traversing the sultan's dominions, and learning for himself the actual condition of affairs resulting from the Turkish system of government, complicated by the withdrawal of Turkish garrisons from Asia Minor and the defeat of the Turkish armies in Europe. Traveling by himself, and over routes seldom traversed except by large parties well protected, he saw and conversed with people of various races and ranks. The chief dangers to which he was exposed were the plundering Arabs and Kurds, whom the absence of the regular troops emboldened to rob and terrorize all the country outside the principal towns.

At Muscat, the capital of Oman, in Arabia, he found a city with streets so narrow that no four-footed animal larger than cats or dogs could pass through them, notwithstanding that the place has 40,000 inhabitants and a considerable trade. The bazaars are covered over, and are thronged with Bedouins fresh from the desert. All were armed to the teeth. A favorite weapon is a straight, two-handed sword, the sweep of which would take off a man's thigh. The swordsmen carried over their shoulders small, round shields of rhinoceros hide. Half a century ago a small number of the "Beni Bou Ali" were attacked by an English officer and 350 troops, when the Bedouins rushed upon their assailants, and cut down 200 of them in the twinkling of an eye. This led to a large expedition being sent from Bombay, which succeeded in defeating the swordsmen. The British resident at Muscat has a finger very often in local insurrections, and summons a warship now and then to the aid of the imam, or governor. Not many years ago the gunboat Teaser fired over the town at a crowd of Bedouins who had taken a position on the hills near the city, with the intention of sacking it. The Arabs said the shells had eyes, and could see where to fall, since they were out of view of the ship behind the hills. A shell fell in a field and did not explode, whereupon it was surrounded by the Bedouins, one of whom struck its percussion cap with a spear, being determined to put out its "eye," the eye by which it had seen its way to their position. Eleven of their tribe paid the penalty for this singular piece of vindictiveness. Two forts, called Jalali or the Glorious, and Mirani, the name of a Bluchee governor, protect the roadstead. At times these forts are on bad terms, and blaze away at each other across the harbor and in front of the town, to the great detriment of business. Fort Jalali not long ago fired on the town promiscuously until brought to reason by an English gunboat. Oman means security or settled peace.

Mr. Geary's adventures and observations have been issued in book-form under the title "Through Asiatic Turkey."

Article VII.

Ephias Jones was a little old man, his face as wrinkled as a walnut and his voice as pipy as a tin whistle. He was brought in for disturbing the peace on the street. He was so cranky that he elbowed and kicked pedestrians and refused to "move on" for street car or carriage. Bijah had hard work to get him a cell, and twice as hard to get him out. He had to bring him in his arms, and the old man kicked, and scratched like a boy of ten.

"They can't nobody shove me around!" squeaked the little old man as he was dropped before the desk.

"Has anybody abused you?" mildly inquired the court.

"No, because they didn't do it. I'm little and old, but I won't take a word of sass from any man in the State of Michigan."

"Do you want to go home?"

"If I want to go I shall go. If I don't I won't."

"Have you a family?"

"I won't tell you."

His honor saw that he had an original character to deal with, and he said to Bijah:

"Take this nice old man into the corridor and read him Article VII, and let him out by the private door."

Uncle Ephias was carried away, kicking and clawing. No man outside of two has any idea what occurred in the corridor. It is known that Bijah brought down four of his best spankers the other day, and he has often been heard to express his opinion that certain old men deserve a certain line of treatment when they get to carrying on as this one did. The newsboys who were packed in next to the wall affirm that they heard old familiar sounds, well laid on, but it is a mystery that may never be unravelled. When the old man was let out he jumped clear into the gutter with a yell, and a close observer could have detected splinters from a pine shingle hanging to his coat tails.—Detroit Free Press.

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

The Dresses at the Royal Wedding.

Our lady readers will thank us for giving them the following full, true and particular account of the costumes worn at the late royal wedding at Windsor by some of the most distinguished dames and damsels of the British court:

Her royal highness, the Princess of Wales, wore her exquisite toilette of Oriental pearl-colored brocade, richly embroidered in pearls, with ruffles of point d'Angleterre and narrow bands of sable. The train was composed of the darkest amethyst velvet, lined with richest Oriental pearl satin, bordered in narrow sable; a smaller train of matchless point d'Angleterre entirely covering the center, was fastened on by large medallions of pearls. The corsage was profusely studded with pearls and diamonds. Her royal highness wore a tiara of diamonds, white ostrich feathers and a long tulle veil, and necklace of rows of pearls and diamonds.

Their royal highnesses, the Princesses Louise, Victoria and Maud of Wales, were attired in dresses of Oriental pearl-colored brocade, with stomachers of Malines lace and ceintures of darkest amethyst velvet, over jupes of poult-de-soie of the same tint, with small volants of Malines lace.

The dress worn by her royal highness, the Duchess of Teck, was one of real magnificence. The corsage and jupe were of the palest primrose and olive brocade, with plisses and draperies of olive satin, festooned with volants of the finest Honiton lace; the train of the richest olive velvet, lined and bordered in ermine, was fixed on one shoulder, with diamond clasps, and diamond stomacher on corsage. Her royal highness also wore a tiara of diamonds, lappets, ostrich feathers and diamond necklace.

The Duchess of Sutherland wore a magnificent dress of gold and silver brocade, mixed with a new shade of Scabience velvet, and finest point de Venise. The corsage was trimmed with matchless rubies and diamonds, which blended beautifully with the new shade of velvet. Her grace wore a tiara of diamonds, white ostrich feathers and gold and silver veil.

The Marchioness of Salisbury wore a most picturesque dress of antique Louis XV. brocade, of a very pale reseda hue, with embossed wreaths and bouquets of myosotis and leaves; the jupe was composed of the darkest reseda velvet draped in brocade, with festoons of myosotis satin. The corsage was of velvet, with a Louis XV. waistcoat of brocade and beautiful diamond ornaments; the headdress a tiara of diamonds, white plumes and veil.

The Marchioness of Conyngham wore a lovely toilette of mauve satin and costly antique lace, the skirt strewn with branches of natural mauve and white lilacs. Her ladyship also wore a tiara of diamonds, white feathers with veil, and branches of lilacs.

The Viscountess Cranbrook wore a dress of Russian gray satin duchesse, draped with guipure lace and velvet of the same rich shade. Headdress, diamonds, plumes and lappets.

What Iowa Girls are Taught.

At the Iowa Agricultural College every girl in the junior class has learned how to make good bread, weighing and measuring their ingredients, mixing, kneading and baking, and regulating her fire. Each has also been taught to make yeast and bake biscuit, puddings, pie and cake of various kinds; how to cook a roast, broil a steak and make a fragrant cup of coffee; how to stuff and roast a turkey, make oyster soup, prepare stock for other soups, steam and mash potatoes so that they will melt in the mouth, and, in short, to get up a first-class meal, combining both substantial and fancy dishes, in good style. Theory and manual skill have gone hand in hand. Vast stores of learning have been accumulated in the arts of canning, preserving and pickling fruits, and they have taken practical lessons in all the details of household management, such as house-furnishing, care of beds and bedding, washing and ironing, care of the sick, care of children, etc. The girls, we are informed, are also thoroughly grounded in science, mathematics and English literature; but this is of slight moment compared with the foregoing catalogue of virtues. If there is anything that challenges the unlimited respect and devotion of the masculine mind it is ability in woman to order well her own household. Each one of these charming Iowa girls, it is safe to say, will marry within six weeks after graduation.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The English Language.

Mr. John Albee lectured in New York on the English language. The translation of the Bible by King James' translators and the writings of the Elizabethan dramatists were the most powerful influences. Mr. Albee thought, in moulding and fixing the language. It was fortunate that the Bible had been translated when the best style of language—that of the great dramatists—was in vogue. The translators, too, had been inspired, and inspiration found voice, beauty and vigor in the simplest expressions. The Bible, then, had met the necessities of those who objected to parts of the drama. "Note the difference," said the lecturer, in conclusion, "between the unaffected simplicity and power of the writings of those times with the obscure, affected style of to-day. Now we do not ask but inquire; a woman is a female; a father a paternal relative; we do not give but donate; we never go, begin, eat, get, but proceed, commence, partake, receive; when younger we had rooms, but now apartments; then there were singers, now vocalists; and it is pleasant to believe that no one now gets drunk, but intoxicated. See the contrast. In the Bible, the most thrilling and best written of all books, ninety-six per cent. of the words are Anglo-Saxon; in Shakespeare, eighty-six per cent.; and in Tennyson's 'Arthur,' 3,000 of the 3,500 words are monosyllables. And so the rank of all writers of fame unquestioned is graded by the proper use of more or less of the Saxon language. The union of powerful thought and perfect words is like the clearest water in the clearest glass; the water and the glass seem but one substance.

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