

piece of information was obtained from him. Near a town on the coast, called Lingai, a well-equipped Persian force of 3,000 men was assembled, with the intention of crossing to the island of Khosr, and attacking our depot station of Bassadore. Dismissing the shenki, with fair words, Sir Henry steamed on, and soon coming abreast of the Persian camp, opened upon it with his heavy guns. His fire was instantly returned, but only from nine-pounder field guns while the 8-inch shot and shell crashed through camp, knocking over men, horses, and camels, and flinging the tent-canvases to the winds. As a matter of course, the enemy had to retire, but they did it coolly and well. They may abandon their views upon Bassadore; but even if they do not, the *Punjab*, sister ship to the *Assaye*, is lying there now, and a considerable force of marines is entrenched on shore.

We learn from good authority that a telegraphic message from Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was received at the Board of Control on the 24th, to the effect that the Shah has accepted the terms of peace offered by England, not on account of the fall of Bushire, but on general grounds.

PROBABLE SUBMISSION OF PERSIA.

THERE appears to be some reason for the belief entertained in official circles that the Court of Teheran has submitted to the demands of the British Government. The Turkish Minister there has sent a despatch to Constantinople to that effect; and the intelligence has been forwarded to England by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. It is, therefore, probable that the Persian difficulty will be arranged without further hostilities. We do not believe that the fall of Bushire has anything to do with the decision at which the Shah has come; for being perfectly well acquainted with the weakness of that place, he could not have reckoned on its ability to withstand the assault of a British force. It is strange that the defence of Bushire should have been altogether neglected; but such is the fact. Its situation at the head of a promontory, almost surrounded with shallow water and intricate channels, would have marked it, in the opinion of an engineer of ordinary discernment, as a place for the construction of a stronghold of the first importance; but as these natural advantages have been altogether overlooked or neglected by the Persian Government, the British expeditionary force has little to do in mastering it. By the erection of batteries on the face of the town, and on the neighbouring island of Shiek Shaad, an attack from sea might have been impossible; whilst the construction of works on the short space across the promontory in the rear of the town would have been an immensity of trouble to the invaders. The wall in the rear of Bushire, however, is described as a pasteboard castle of the Chinese style. The only fortification worthy of mention was a single bastion, erected under the direction of a French officer in the service of the Shah. On the island of Shiek Shaad which might have been made a most formidable obstacle to any hostile ships approaching the town, no work of defence, or battery of any description, had been erected. We cannot believe, therefore, that it is our success at Bushire that has determined the Shah to make peace on our own terms. There is more probability in the rumour that it is Russia has given pacific advice to the Court of Teheran, from a conviction that the British

expedition would have established itself in a position very injurious to the objects of her own ambition. Without attaching too much importance to Russian movements in that part of the world, we do not overlook the significance of the words of the First Napoleon, who said, "Above all Powers, Russia is to be feared, especially by you (the English)." When Paul was so violent against you, he sent to me for a plan to invade India. I sent one, with instructions in detail. From a point on the Caspian Sea he was to march into India." Now we know that the Russian flotilla in the Caspian has long been the basis of aggressive defences; none the less aggressive because they have been made silently.—Whilst Russia was under the impression the proceedings of the Shah would not provoke retaliation, the Shah was encouraged to go on. The British Government has manifested the reality of its anger, and the Shah is recommended to draw back. Russian statesmen have a very proper fear of Palmerston.—*News of the World.*

A soldier of the 14th Regt., from Fermoy garrison, states that the English and Scotch soldiers going on furlough are allowed to bring their great coats with them, which is denied to the Irish. This we cannot credit, and only notice it for the purpose of giving it a flat and public contradiction.—*Laurick Chronicle.*

Sorghum Saccharatum or Sugar Millet.

We find the following account of this much-talked-of plant in the *New York Tribune*. We have ourselves distributed the seed sent us by Mr. Elliot among some sixty or seventy persons, and are daily receiving more applications, which we cannot supply. Our seedsmen should import a quantity forthwith, as the demand seems to be growing throughout this continent:—

The cultivation of the *Sorghum*, or Chinese sugar plant, has thus far proved so decidedly successful in this country, not only in the South, where it seems to have been demonstrated that two crops or cuttings of sugar-bearing stalks can be obtained in one season from the same roots of that year's planting, but even so far north as Minnesota, where it is testified that good syrup was made in 1856 from stalks hardly a hundred days from the seed, that we are impelled to urge upon our farmers and gardeners the importance of early attention to the procuring of seed and planting for the season just before us. Let us all grow the seed this year, so that it can never more be so scarce that speculators may run it up to an exorbitant price. A great deal remains to be settled with regard to this plant, especially the best mode of converting its saccharine properties into crystallized sugar; and it is highly probable that better varieties of it will ultimately be discovered, at least for certain localities, than that now current in this country. For the present, however, it is advisable to continue and extend the cultivation of that which is accessible, and thus test the effect of acclimation on the character of the plant and the sweetness of its juices. We suspect that for Louisiana, Florida, and Texas, the *Sorghum* of Southern Africa will ultimately be found preferable to that obtained from France by our Patent Office, and from China by France. If it prove true that this plant, or certain varieties of it, can be grown from year to year in semi-tropical latitudes from the same root, as the cane is grown in the West Indies, and that two or more crops of sugar-yielding stalks may be cut from that root each season, then there can be little doubt that our Southern States are destined still to lead the Northern in the production of sugar. But for the present, however, it suffices that the *Sorghum* may be grown wherever Indian Corn will usually ripen—that its abundant juice makes a very pleasant syrup or molasses, to which it is

easily reduced by boiling away four-fifths of it in the ordinary mode of sugar-making from the sap of the maple—and that the leaves or stalks, whether green or dry, of *Sorghum*, make an admirable fodder for cattle, horses, or hogs, while the seeds are eaten with avidity by fowls also, to justify the general interest evinced in its cultivation. We propose, therefore, to condense into the smallest space some practical directions to the prospective cultivator—as follows:—

1. *Seed*.—If there be a good seed-store within your reach, your easiest way is send and buy what you want. In planting to raise seed [the best year's object,] a pound will suffice for an acre; and this ought not to cost more than a dollar. But beware of impostors and swindlers, for bushels of broom corn and kindred seeds will be palmed off as that of the *Sorghum*. Where you cannot readily obtain seed in this way, write to your Member of Congress asking him to send you a paper, and he will generally be able to do so. If not, the Secretary of your State Agricultural Society may be able to supply you.

2. *Planting*.—Choose a warm, mellow, soil, such as you would confidently expect to grow at least fifty bushels of Indian Corn to the acre. Plough early, plough deeply and thoroughly. Plant as early as you could venture to plant corn. If you have a hot-bed, start a little seed in one corner of it. If you plant considerably, put in your seed at different times—say, in this latitude, one quarter each on the 1st, 10th, and 20th of May and 1st of June respectively. Plant (for seed) in hills, six seeds to the hill, at a distance of four feet each way. Try some five feet east and west (so as to let the sun between the rows,) and some in drills—say four or five apart east and west, with the seeds six inches apart in the drills, and thin the plants to one foot apart. If you have seed in abundance, sow a little in drills two feet apart, the seeds in the drill but two or three inches apart. Cover lightly, as the seed rot if covered deeply. Keep the hoes at a distance, or it will come up too soon.

3. *Tillage*.—The *Sorghum* comes up looking very puny—much like broom-corn or bran-grass. If you set a block head to weed it, he will probably pull it up and report that it never germinated. Cultivate like Indian Corn—only faithfully. If suckers start, a majority say pinch them or pull them off—that is, in growing for seed. This need not be done in growing for sugar.

4. *Harvesting*.—Whenever the seed shall be hard and black, cut off the upper part of the stalks, say three feet long, and hang them up like broom-corn, in a dry chamber, suspended from the ceiling, so as to be out of the way of rats, &c. Now cut up your stalks, pull off the leaves, and satisfy yourself that all manner of stock will eat them; cut up a few of the stalks as you would corn-stalks, and try a like experiment with them; and put the rest of the stalks through any kind of a crushing-mill that may be handy—a cider-mill would be better than nothing—catch the juice and instantly warm it over a slow fire in a large kettle, skimming off the skum as long as any shall rise. Then boil the juice about four-fifths away, as if it were maple sap. Use a little lime or lime-water to neutralize the phosphoric acid, which otherwise will give a slightly acid but not unpleasant taste to the syrup. Save some syrup without thus neutralizing the acid, as you make like it better that way. Don't waste the scum, but throw it to the pigs, where it will make at least excellent manure. Feed the pumice or crushed stalks to your cattle; and, having thus cleared the ground, be ready to plant or sow extensively next spring.

5. *Fold r.*—We estimate that, whenever seed shall be sufficiently abundant, any rich, warm land will produce a third more fodder per acre if sown with *Sorghum* than if sown with Indian Corn, and that the *Sorghum* is at least twenty-five per cent more nutritious than the corn. But all that can be effected this year is to grow a good supply of seed, and prove that this plant is valuable both for Syrup and Fodder. Next year will be soon enough for most cultivators to think of growing for fodder or grinding for sugar.