

three dollars a bushel. In 1861, I gathered and marketed seventy-two bushels, for which I received five dollars and twenty cents a bushel, after paying expenses. The total receipts for the three years amount to four hundred and forty-eight dollars and seventy-five cents, after paying all expenses, and amounts to about three times the original outlay, including cost of trees, labour of setting, and transplanting. I know of no business which pays a better profit upon the investment. Only about one-half of my trees have yet borne fruit. Many of them produced from six to twenty Plums the past season. Of course, the production may be expected to increase for many years.

The variety cultivated by me is the free-stone frost Plum, which is the most prolific. The cling-stone is much the finest variety, holds good on the tree two or three weeks later, and brings a higher price in market.

The secret of my success may be summed up as follows:

1. By selecting varieties that are but little troubled by curculio, and that are marked without damage to the fruit; these, being used for preserves, are gathered before they become soft and mellow enough to eat; consequently, they are not injured by transportation to market, and are sure to bring a good price.

2. By careful planting in ground previously prepared and mellowed, and kept so by yearly working.

3. By use of salt as manure.

4. By an unsparing use of the knife upon the black knot in the month of June of each year, instead of waiting until fall or the next spring, or perhaps neglecting it altogether.

In former years the Plum crop of this country was a source of profit to almost every farmer, but the curculio has attacked and destroyed the finer varieties of fruit, and the black knot made such havoc among the blue Plum trees as to discourage its culture. May we not hope to see this fruit again generally cultivated for market purposes.

Fruits, Flowers and Seeds of the West.

Nebraska is not entirely void of those little comforts that render it a home to us. Many wild fruits are to be found in abundance.—The plum, grape, gooseberry, strawberry and raspberry grow spontaneously all along our little streams and on the borders of woodlands. Gooseberries of an enormous size and fine flavor, that do not mildew and are hardy, give us their yearly crop of wholesome fruits. There are plums growing in some portions of the Territory that are *curculio* proof, and are large, fine and delicious.

But the "Flora" of the Western prairies

and plains is the admiration of all that behold them. There are a great many flowers growing wild of greater beauty and attraction than hundreds now in the flower gardens of the East, that have cost them vast amounts to get them there, while these prairie beauties are left for us to enjoy. They are left because they are not known to eastern botanists and gardeners.

We have a friend who, we understand, has been engaged the past season in collecting many kinds of shrub, flower and creeper seeds of Nebraska, Kansas, Utah, Minnesota, for a nurseryman of Utica, New York, who will be the first to introduce them to the cultivator and amateurs of the East. When once introduced, the catalogues of eastern seed dealers will have more than one new novelty that it did not possess heretofore.—*Nebraska Farmer*.

The Dairy.

Dairy Management.

[It is well known that the breed, and particularly the feeding of cows, have a great influence on the amount and character of dairy products, to which we may more fully advert hereafter. In the meanwhile we give our readers some excellent information on the Dairy Management, from the *Irish Agricultural Gazette* of January 4th.—EDS.]

BUTTER.

The first essential, in either case, is a proper dairy or milk-house; and when we consider the abominable manner in which milk is frequently kept in dwelling houses, even in sleeping apartments, in barns, where there is no protection against dust from the thatched roof and cobwebbed walls, we cannot feel surprised that there is so much good milk annually wasted in making atrociously bad butter. The milk-house should be sufficiently roomy, and fitted up so that it can be easily kept clean, and perfectly dry. For this purpose, polished stone is the best material; and the immense quantities of marble which are found in many parts of Ireland could be turned to great advantage in this way, whilst, at the same time, shelving of that nature would not be too expensive. Caithness pavement, being hard, dry, and susceptible of a high degree of polish, which is given to it before the stones are shipped, forms also very superior pavement and shelving, and is obtainable at moderate cost. Ventilation is likewise a necessary point in a dairy, and it must be so arranged that the milk room shall be cool in summer, and yet kept at a sufficiently high temperature during winter, which should never be below 50 degrees F. The