

introduction of some very valuable new seeds and plants, and for getting up the agricultural reports in somewhat more of a readable form than the mass of trash that has been issued some years from that office. In his report upon seeds and cuttings in the forthcoming volume, we find the following useful information :

" Among the seeds, cuttings, and tubers that have been introduced, or otherwise obtained, within the last three years, the culture of which has been attended with marked advantage and success, I would instance the following :

" *The Turkish Flint Wheat*, from near Mount Olympus, in Asia, a hardy Fall variety, with a dark-coloured chaff, a very heavy beard, and a long, flinty, light-coloured berry, will prove profitable to the farmer and miller, from its superior weight and the excellence of the flour it will produce. It appears to be well-adapted to the soil and climate of the Middle States, and has even improved in the quality of its grain, both in regard to its color and size. It withstood the severity of the past winter, without much injury from the cold; and, from its very long and thick beard, it doubtless will be protected, in a measure, from the depredations of insects in the field, as well as from heating or moulding in the stack. The hardness of the grain, too, when dry, is a sufficient guaranty against ordinary moisture in transportation and the perforation of the weevil in the bin."

Mr. Browne speaks highly, but no more so than it deserves, of the *King Railin* or *Brown corn*, the seed of which was obtained from an island in Lake Winnepissogee, in New-Hampshire, and has been extensively disseminated through the Northern States. It may be planted in June, and matures in 90 days, growing on a low stalk, and yielding, with good cultivation, 80 to 100 bushels per acre of hard, yellow, flinty grain, full of oil, and the stalks afford abundance of fodder.

*Sorghum Saccharatum—Chinese Sugar-Cane.*—Mr. Browne speaks of this plant as principally valuable as a forage crop. He wrote before the growth of last season had developed its undoubted value as a sugar crop. He says :

" Since its introduction into this country, it has proved itself well adapted to our geographical range of Indian corn. It is of easy cultivation—being similar to that of maize or broom-corn—and if the seeds are planted in May in the Middle States or still earlier at the South, two crops of fodder can be grown in a season from the same roots, irrespective of drouth—the first one in June or July, to be cut before the panicles appear, which would be green and succulent like young Indian corn, and the other a month or two later, when or before the seed is fully matured. The amount of fodder which it will produce to the acre, with ordinary cultivation, may be safely estimated at seven tons, when green, or at least two tons per acre, when thoroughly cured. The

stalks, when nearly mature, are filled with a rich saccharine juice, which may be converted into sugar, sirup, alcohol or beer, or may be used for dyeing wool or silk a permanent red or pink; and the entire plant is devoured with avidity, either in a green or a dry state, by horses, cattle, sheep and swine.

" Considered in an utilitarian point of view, this plant, perhaps, has stronger claims on the American agriculturist than any other product that has been brought to this country since the introduction of cotton or wheat. Aside from other economical uses, its value for feeding to animals, alone, in every section of the Union where it will thrive, cannot be surpassed by any other crop, as a greater amount of nutritious fodder cannot be obtained so cheap, on a given space, within so short a period of time."

This plant, according to Mr. Browne, is not, as some have asserted, the "Dourah Corn," or "African," or "Egyptian," or "Chocolate" or "Mummy Corn," and should not be cultivated near that variety, nor near broom-corn, a well-known variety of *Sorghum*, because the seeds will mix and destroy the value of the sugar plant. We are free to say that experiments already made with this plant indicate its value to the American farmer only second in importance to Indian Corn. The crop grown this year is so large that all who desire seed will be able to obtain a supply at moderate cost. Remember not to use any that has been grown near broom-corn, or Dourah corn, and not to plant it near either of these, if you wish to obtain pure seed for future planting.

Of another plant much talked of, much bragged about, much speculated upon, Mr. Browne has the following :

" *The Chinese Yam* (*Dioscorea batatas*), originally from China, but more recently from France, has been introduced, which has succeeded well in various parts of the Union, and promises to serve as an excellent substitute both for the common and sweet potato. It possesses the remarkable property of remaining sound in the earth for several years, without either deteriorating in its edible qualities or sustaining injury from frost, which adds much to its value, in being always in readiness for the kitchen, and this, too, often at times when the potato is shriveled or otherwise impaired."

The seed was distributed in small tubers, the size of peas, made by covering the vines with earth till the joint sent out roots, when, sowing the vines the roots form tubers.

Many who planted these "small potatoes" were disappointed and gave them up in disgust. Mr. Browne thinks perseverance will produce favorable results. He says :

" When cultivated in a deep, rich, loose soil, the small tubers, after the first year, will penetrate the earth perpendicularly to a depth of two or more feet, and will continue to increase in size from year to year, without becoming woody, like those of the parsnip and many other plants after the first

season's growth. They may be planted in the Spring, in the open air, as soon as the season is sufficiently advanced to be free from danger by frost, and may be cultivated somewhat after the manner of the sweet potato, or yam, of the South, except that they should remain undisturbed in the ground from one year to another, until they are ready for market or use. In the colder portions of the Middle and Northern sections of the Union, it would be well to protect them from frost during the Winter, by covering the ground with a bed of spruce boughs, leaves or straw, which should be removed as early in the Spring as circumstances may require.

" When fully matured and cooked, the Chinese yam is dry and farinaceous, much resembling in taste and appearance the common potato, and is more agreeable to the palate than the ordinary yam. Considering its property of persisting in the ground for several years without deterioration, being in readiness for the kitchen at all times, and all seasons, after the first year's growth, it cannot fail to prove an excellent substitute both for the sweet and the common potato in all localities where it will thrive."

Mr. D. Bolt, of this city, says the last Winter did not affect his roots—they were in fine condition, and beginning to vegetate in April.

" I had one cooked plainly, in water, with a little salt. The flavor was like that of a fine Kidney potato, and the yam was very white and delicious. I think it will prove a useful and profitable vegetable."

Another of the new earth-growing esculents lately introduced is, "the Earth Almond, or Chufa, (*Cyperus esculentus*) a small tuberous esculent, from the South of Spain, which has naturalized itself to our climate and soil, and has proved very prolific in its yield, when cultivated in the light sandy soils of the Middle and Southern States, as well as those which are rich, and bids fair to become a valuable crop for cattle and swine. It belongs to the same genus as the notorious nut-grass, (*Cyperus repeas*.) but does not possess the power of spreading itself like that pest of Southern fields."

If this root is half as prolific and as easily grown as the nut grass, known as "Coco," there will be no difficulty in its propagation—the difficulty will be in its extermination. The Coco is the nearest indestructible of any vegetable we have ever seen. One kind, called sweet coco, is much sought after by the hogs, and is nutritious. The bitter coco is a great pest in Louisiana.

Among the nuts largely imported into this country is the Persian Walnut, or Madeira Nut, (*Juglans regia*), originally a native of Persia, or the north of China.

" This has been somewhat extensively distributed, and appears to be well adapted to the climate of the middle and southern latitudes of the United States. A tree of the 'Titmouse' or 'Thin-shelled' variety