

ting the requisite precautions both in cultivating and applying the products, much disappointment may ensue, and a corresponding delay in the general introduction of these most useful plants.

The success of the Chinese Sugar Cane in the neighbouring States, both as respects its capability of cultivation and of yielding crystalized Sugar, is no longer a matter of doubt ; and my object in the present Essay is to prove that the climate and soil of Western Canada are equally well adapted for the growth of such plants—to explain the most approved modes of culture, and the treatment after harvesting—to point out the various uses to which they may be applied—and finally to illustrate the economy and advantage which will result from their general introduction on a large scale into this country. For the practical instructions embodied in the Essay, I am mainly indebted to the work of Mr. Olcott, already referred to.

THE SORGHO, OR CHINESE SUGAR CANE.

Of the two varieties of Sugar-bearing Plants now under review, and called respectively the Sorgho and Imphee, or Chinese and African Sugar Canes, I give the precedence, on this occasion, to the former ; not that its superiority in circumstances such as ours, has been clearly established, but because, having been for a longer period more extensively tested in the neighbouring States, we can speak more positively as to its merits. Under this head, therefore, it should be distinctly understood that my remarks are applicable only to the Chinese variety, reserving the consideration of the African plants till the sequel.

HISTORY.

The name *Sorgho*, or *Sorgho Sucre*, as it is called in France and Algeria, where it has been pretty extensively cultivated, is believed by some authorities to be incorrect ; but I consider it safest to adhere to the generic name SORGHUM, which is recognized as the legitimate one by Dr. Gray, in his “Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States.”

It was introduced into America from France in 1854, by Mr. D. Jay Browne, of the United States Patent Office ; from which in accordance with the admirable system pursued in that Institution, packages of the seed were distributed to some of the more enterprising farmers and men of science in various parts of the Union. In spite of the feeling of suspicion with which all new projects are apt to be met, the success which attended these trials was so marked and so encouraging as at once to give rise to the demand for seed upon an extensive scale ; but although the juice has been turned to profitable account in the manufacture of syrup for several years past, it was not until the beginning of last year that its complete success, as a source of crystalized sugar, was demonstrated in the