

developed by cultivation. It has not been found growing wild in either hemisphere. A grass, which was perhaps one of the rudiments of it, has been found in South America; each kernal of whose seed is covered by a glume. A series of experiments would probably establish the fact, that it might be developed from species common to both hemispheres. No man can conjecture what triumphs and rewards, in harmony with recognized laws of production, are yet in store for scientific agriculture. Who knows but some grain more nutritive than wheat and more prolific than maize, may be yet waiting its revelation, to replenish the earth with food for the teeming millions of its later day?

As has been before remarked, there is no doubt of the cultivation of wheat, of substantially our modern varieties from a very early period. In the absence of definite knowledge on the subject, we may fairly presume it to have originated soon after the flood; perhaps before. It is clear that it was commonly cultivated in Egypt, in the time of the Patriarch Jacob, and distinct reference is made in Exodus to the effect of the plague of the hail upon this crop, in the time of Moses. One writer upon this subject remarks, "It is to be presumed that upwards of 1,000 years before the Christian era some improvement in its culture, and some knowledge of a superior variety had been attained, since we find it recorded in Ezekiel, 'Judah traded in wheat of Minneth.'"

Heroditus speaks of its production for exportation by the peasants of the Ukraine long before his time. According to statistical returns, quoted by Demosthenes, we learn that in his time the average importation of wheat into Athens from the countries north of the Black Sea (principally from the Crimea) was 600,000 bushels per annum; and Strabo states that upwards of 3,000,000 bushels were supplied from this quarter to Athens in a single year of scarcity.—Pliny and Columella speak of the different varieties of wheat cultivated in their time with great particularity; they both use such language as leaves no room for doubt, that then, as now, it was regarded as the most important of all agricultural productions, and the best food for man. From about this time till the fourteenth or fifteenth century, we have no reason to suppose, that taking the world at large, there was any great increase in the production of wheat. Perhaps the total crop was even less when Columbus discovered America, than in the time of our Lord. During all that period, when the chief concern of learning, law, and society, was the preservation of the unity and supremacy of the One apostolic Church, men seemed to have been content, for the food of their bodies as well as their souls, to live upon husks. It would be interesting to note the coincidence between the revival of sound learning and pure Christianity, and the increased consumption of the best cereal. Facts like these have been often elaborated for the sake of the argument they contain, which does not need repetition here.

From the Christian Times.

ENGLISH MEDALS TO FRENCH TROOPS.

DRAWING FOR THE ARMY—PEACE PROPOSALS—THE SULTAN AND THE LEGION OF HONOUR—HATRED OF ROMANISM, AND RELIGIOUS INDIFFERENCE.

PARIS, Jan. 10, 1856.

Yesterday a new and unique page was added to the annals of our army. French soldiers were rewarded by the Queen of England, and Napoleon III. stood by approvingly. A day of triumph had been appointed for those troops kept out of port by the inclement

weather, while their comrades were receiving the congratulations of the Parisians, and on the 8th inst. the 39th and 50th Regiments of infantry marched into Paris, cheered by the population, and welcomed with banners and laurel crowns. They passed under the triumphal arch of the carrousel, and were reviewed by Napoleon, the Empress with her Court appearing on the balcony of the Tuileries. But another festival was prepared for our Crimean heroes. Your gracious Queen commissioned the Duke of Cambridge to place upon the breast of these brave men the same testimony of her admiration of their persevering courage that she has given to her own undaunted troops. It was an unfavourable day, but the crowd braved the contending frost and thaw, mist and rain, slippery streets and lowering sky, to see the Crimean regiments march into the Place de Tuileries. At one o'clock the Emperor appeared, between the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Napoleon, and accompanied by a brilliant staff. The Empress, with her ladies, surrounded by Prince Jerome, the Princess Mathilde, and other members of the Imperial family, viewed the spectacle from her crimson and gold-hung balcony. The Tuileries windows were crowded with illustrious personages. The officers and wounded men came forward, and, after a few cordial and congratulatory words, the Duke distributed Queen Victoria's medal to each. A ball at the British Embassy closed the day; the Emperor and Empress were present.

The annual drawing for the army is now commencing, and is expected to deprive Paris of about 6,000 men. It is remarkable that during the cholera of 1832, births were remarkably numerous, and this tells upon the army lists now, when the demand for men is so great. But it is without enthusiasm that the young men go to draw, and the number drawn is more than ever called a bad one when it falls within the required quota, and the poor fellow is obliged to march. This year very few will be exempted; for hopes of peace are vanishing. All eyes are now turned towards Austria. Is she really summoning up determination enough to recall her ambassador from St. Petersburg, if Russia refuses to accept unconditionally her propositions? If so, the Germanic Diet will soon have to pronounce upon the momentous point, whether the confederation will throw itself into the Western scale or not. Sweden is calling a council of war, and there is a report of her finding active employment for her army. While the spirit of war is agitating all the States of Europe, in Turkey it assumes the form of the spirit of improvement, bringing her into contact with, and within the influence of, Western civilization, and less exclusive ideas. Never had the Sultan deigned to accept a foreign order; how should he, when Ambassadors of Kings or Emperors could appear before him in no other garb than that of a subject of the Porte? He had peremptorily refused the magnificent decoration of the Tower-and-the-Sword, sent to him by Donna Maria of Portugal, and, in 1850 he declined the Garter and the Cross of the Legion of Honour. But now things are changed; and while the Sultan is preparing medals for his Allies in commemoration of the taking of Sebastopol, his ally the Emperor Napoleon has sent him the insignia of the Legion of Honour, which has been accepted and now shines upon his breast. In the gracious speech he made on this occasion to the French Ambassador, the Sultan declares his hope "that his Empire, henceforth one of the members of the great European family, will prove to the entire world that it is worthy to occupy an important place in the concert of civilised nations."

We live in wondrous times—wondrous in general events, and no less wondrous in the details connected