

Horace Greeley.

It is announced that after a litigious investigation by the legal fraternity, the daughters of the lamented Horace Greeley have, at a great pecuniary sacrifice, put a stop to the law suit contesting his last will, thereby putting a stop to the inquisitorial dragging before the eyes of the public matters held sacred by the family. There is much in the latter days of Greeley to make the heart sad. No fiction of the most gifted author can excel in romantic interest the history of his strange, eventful life. Beginning life with only his own talents and indomitable perseverance, he rose steadily in social standing till the highest position in the United States seemed fairly within his grasp. Nominated for the Presidency by a powerful party, he entered into the contest with all the intensity of his sanguine temperament. When defeated, a sad depression, the reaction consequent on the overthrow of his dearly cherished expectation, took possession of him. Even reason seemed for a time to have abdicated her seat. Gentle treatment and the kindness of friends, it is believed, would have made him again what he had been; but instead of the soothing balm of kindness from friends whom he loved, he was hurried away, in spite of his earnest protest, to an asylum for the insane. Alas! what weakness is there in our strength! How unaccountably do the mind and body strengthen, or it may be, overthrow each other. Under these sad circumstances the mind of the orator, the gifted author, the statesman, sank, and the naturally strong body gave way. And there, in the insane asylum, attended by strangers, he died. The removal of his corpse from the Asylum was in no ways distinguishable from that of the many who die in such a place. On the open platform it lay, unattended, while the falling snow rested upon it, and the passers-by paused in reverence as they saw that there, in that rude box, lay all that remained on earth of him who had so lately been candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

To him whose perseverance, industry and rare talents had placed him at the head of the journalists, we in sadness pay this slight tribute in memory of what he has been and accomplished.—Ass't Ed.

Obituary.

We regret to have to record the death of an esteemed co-laborer in editing a most valuable periodical devoted to the best interests of the country. Luther Tucker, the veteran Editor of the *Country Gentleman*, died at Albany, at the age of nearly seventy-one years. He was born in Vermont, May 7, 1802. Having learned the trade of a printer, he first went into business at Jamaica, Long Island, with H. C. Sleight. At the early age of twenty-five he commenced the publishing and editing of a newspaper. In this, the business of his life, he was engaged till the time of his death. His first paper was the *Advertiser*, published at Rochester, N. Y. In January, 1831, he commenced publishing, at the same place, the *Genesee Farmer*. This paper soon obtained a high position in agricultural literature. It was afterwards merged in the *Cultivator*. Finally he published the *Cultivator and Country Gentleman*, a paper received by its many readers with great pleasure. He was greatly attached to agriculture, and was no mere theorist, having, in the midst of the pressing engagements of his editorial life, owned and cultivated for some years a farm near Rochester. He was the oldest agricultural editor in the United States.

Prize.

We again offer a chromo for the best essay on the cultivation of the white bean, including its use as food for sheep. The question is to be answered by a farmer who has raised the bean and fed it to sheep. The essays for competition to be in before the 20th day of March.

Purdy's Small Fruit Instructor.

This work has been advertised in our columns heretofore, the value of which may be judged from the following subjects which it contains:—Small Fruits for the Family; the Homes of the Farmer; Advice to New Beginners; What we Would do with 10 Acres; Profits of Small Fruits; Secrets in Making Small Fruits Profitable; Marketing Fruit; Gathering Fruit; Wagons for Drawing Fruit; Shipping Fruit that Perishes Quickly; Size of Shipping Crates; Plan for Laying-out and Planting a 20 acre lot with Fruit and Vegetables; Plan for a Kitchen Garden for Fruit and Vegetables; Stands for Gathering the Fruit; Protection from Winds; Rising New Soils; Manures; Liquid Manures; Strawberries—their profit, time to set, preparation of the soil, to grow large fruit, to produce fruit late in the season, mulching material, winter protection, taking up plants for setting, large and small plants, growing plants for re-setting, directions for setting, care after setting, crooked vs. straight rows, different mode of culture and varieties. The same of raspberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries and grapes. Fig Culture; Plan for a Drying House; Propagating Plants from Root Cuttings, &c. The work is finely illustrated with plans, easily understood drawings, and is of such a practical character that it should be in the hands of every man who owns even a rod of ground. Mr. Purdy's address is Palmyra, N. Y. The price of the pamphlet is 25 cents. It is not large, nor are the illustrations numerous, but the matter is useful. We shall give the pamphlet to any old subscriber that will send us one new name during this month. Mr. Purdy publishes a very useful little paper, the *Small Fruit Recorder*, at \$1 per annum.

The Canadian Victor Tomato.

This is the name given to a tomato raised by Mr. S. H. Mitchell, of St. Marys. We called attention to it last year. Mr. Mitchell offered a few seeds to reliable parties to test previous to purchasing the right. Mr. J. Vick, of Rochester, Mr. J. J. H. Gregory and a Canadian gentleman procured a few seeds to try it. On trial it proved itself to be as Mr. Mitchell represented. The result has been that the enterprising seedsman, Mr. J. J. H. Gregory, of Marblehead, Mass., purchased it. He paid Mr. Mitchell the snug little sum of \$800 per pound for all the seed he could spare, taking with it the whole right of disposing of the seed in the United States. Mr. Mitchell retains the right to sell it in Canada, and Mr. Mitchell has kindly offered us the sole agency. Mr. Mitchell has long been known as a most enterprising gardener in St. Marys; tomatoes have been a hobby of his—in fact he has long been known as a producer of earliest kinds. St. Marys, although only a small town, has reason to be proud of the honor gained for it by Mr. Mitchell, as that is the birth-place of the Canadian Victor, a seed that is being more talked of and more sought after than any seed that ever before originated in Canada. It will soon be spread over the whole world. Mr. Mitchell sent us a branch of this tomato last year, with the fruit very evenly and well set on it, and having ripe on it before we had seen any half formed on our own vines. Gentlemen saw and admired them, seedsman and market-men were also admirers of them and were anxious to procure a tomato. We quote below Mr. Gregory's statement regarding it:—

"Last season a gentleman residing in Canada sent me a glowing description of a new tomato. I wrote asking for a pinch of seed that I might test it in my experimental garden—a tract of land of about three-quarters of an acre, which is pretty well filled every season with varieties of new vegetables my numerous correspondents kindly send me for trial. I planted these on my ground, anticipating the usual result, a tomato with some very good characteristics, but on the whole not superior to some kinds already before the public. About the time the plants were put

out, left for Europe; when I returned my foreman called my special attention to this new tomato, which had ripened its fruit several days earlier than any other kind of the twenty-five varieties I was growing scattered over my different farms. On examining the new sort I saw at a glance that here was a decided acquisition. The fruit was not only the earliest of all, but of large size and exceedingly symmetrical and handsome, while in ripening it had no green left around the stem, a great fault with many kinds otherwise good. The fruit was heavy, full meated and rich, and between round and oval in shape, and red in color; it was distributed very evenly on the vines. A correspondence developed the fact that the gentleman who sent it had for the past three seasons been testing it side by side with other standard varieties, and found that it ripened six to ten days earlier. This fact may be in part accounted for by its having been grown for years in a northern latitude, while the utmost care had always been used in the selecting of seed stock. As fair a test as I can present of its merits is this: a market gardener came over forty miles specially to examine my varieties of tomatoes on the ground as they grew, that he might select the very best for his own planting. After carefully examining every sort, he emphatically declared his preference for this new kind, though he knew nothing of its history."

Agricultural.

LAND DRAINAGE.

We extract the following, on the benefits of draining land, from an address delivered by Dr. G. Emerson, of Phila. —

"Water, so indispensable an element in the life of animals and plants, often proves inimical to both. Grass grown on wet land contains comparatively little nutriment for live stock. The refined cereals generally refuse to grow or to develop themselves fairly on such land, yielding it up to rushes and other aquatic plants. Manures show little efficacy wherever the ground contains too much water, a condition which offers nothing but discouragement to the efforts of the farmer. Water, when stagnant, generates malaria in warm weather, rendering the atmosphere unhealthy for man and beast. Thus, all warm-blooded animals and the more refined plants suffer from the noxious effects of redundant water. To get rid of this recourse must be had to drainage, which, when no rocks or other serious impediments are in the way, can generally be effected at small cost, compared with the advantages gained. In England and Germany, land drainage, where needed, is now regarded as so certain to produce profitable results, that it is considered quite as necessary as the ordinary preparation of land for cultivation. Wet land, worth little or nothing for farming purposes, when properly drained generally becomes more than double the value of the surrounding and more elevated land. Sands, gravels, light loams and moulds, allow water to pass freely through them, and are generally sufficiently drained by nature provided they are open at the bottom. Much land however is found which thorough draining alone can render profitable for cultivation or healthful for residence. Some described as "ordinarily dry land" would be greatly improved, both in productive value and salubrity, by drainage. Underdraining also contributes greatly to improve the roads in a country. Open ditches do good service, but they are liable to be often obstructed and rendered useless. Even a cow path or clod of earth may accomplish this effectually. They require watching, and are attended with considerable expense. But when hollow tiles are once laid down, all this trouble and expense is ended, the ground previously occupied and disfigured by these open ditches is gained, and the plough passes through it, whilst the surplus water flows beneath at a safe distance. Indeed, so many advantages are derived from substituting subterranean drains for open ditches, that it cannot be long before the latter will disappear in all neighbourhoods where good farming is the order of the day.

Many surface indications of the necessity for draining have been noted. Those of actual swamps need no description. Where a ploughed field shows a constant appearance of dampness, indicating that as water is dried from the surface more is forced up from below so that after rains it is much longer than other lands in assuming the light color of dry earth, it unmistakably needs draining.

A pit three or four feet deep that collects and retains water shortly after a rain is a sure sign of the need of draining. If the water of heavy rains stands for some time (more than twenty-four hours) on the surface, or if it collects in the furrow while ploughing, draining is necessary to bring the land to its full productiveness.

Among other indications of want of drainage are cracks in the soil, caused by the dryness of clay which previous soaking has pacted together, and the curling of corn, showing that its growth has been checked by a wet subsoil from sending down its roots deep enough to escape the effects of drouth. A certain wiriness of the grass, with a mossy or mouldy appearance of the ground, also indicate excessive moisture. Thorough drainage is the great protector of the farmer against the frequent losses to which all are subjected who attempt to cultivate wet and cold land. Whilst in this condition, ploughing, instead of pulverizing the soil and rendering it porous and favorable for vegetable growth, leaves it hard, dry, and incapable of affording proper subsistence to plants. On the contrary, a well drained soil has its temperature raised so as to bring earlier harvests, with increased crops in quantity and quality, thus leading to the improvement of all domestic animals and man himself.

Mr. Johnston, an extensive and successful farmer in the wheat region of Western New York, who has laid fifty miles of pipes within the last thirty years, says that he never saw one hundred acres on any farm but a portion of it would pay for draining, and that tile draining will frequently pay for itself in two years. In 1847 he bought a lot of ten acres to get an outlet for his drains. It was a perfect quagmire, covered with coarse aquatic grasses, and so unfruitful that it would not give back the seed thrown upon it. It was thoroughly drained, and the next year a crop of corn was taken from it which measured 80 bushels per acre.

Another wet piece of twenty acres which had never produced more than ten bushels of corn per acre, was drained at an expense of \$30. The first crop after this was 83 bushels and some odd pounds per acre. M. Johnston also gives satisfactory reasons for asserting that on drained land half the usual quantity of manure suffices to give maximum crops.

DRYING PUMPKINS.

Take the ripe pumpkins, pare, cut into small pieces, stew soft, mash and strain through a cullender, as if for making pies. Spread this pulp on plates in layers not quite an inch thick; dry it down in the stove oven, keep at so low a temperature as not to scorch it. In about a day it will become dry and crisp. The sheets thus made can be stored away in a dry place, and they are always ready for use for pies or sauce. Soak the pieces over night in a little milk, and they will return to a nice pulp, as delicious as the fresh pumpkin—we think much more so. The quick drying after cooking prevents any portion from slightly souring, as is always the case when the uncooked pieces are dried; the flavor is much better preserved, and after cooking is saved. This plan is quite as little trouble as the old mode, to say nothing of the superiority in the quality of the material obtained. Try it and you will not return to the old method, we are sure, and you will also become a great lover of pumpkin pie all the year round.—Ex.

MANUFACTURE OF LINSEED OIL AND CAKE.

The importance of linseed cake as an article of food for cattle is not so well recognised in Canada as in Britain, notwithstanding the great quantities of flax that are raised in the two Provinces. Probably this is owing to the fact, that until lately no completely successful attempt has been made to economise the refuse flax seed of Canada, by way of reducing it to a marketable commodity, either in the shape of painter's oil, or portable feeding cake.

Linseed and rape cake enter so largely into the "bill of fare" of the successful high class farmer, both in England and Scotland, that it is now no exaggeration to say, that but for artificial manure (guano, bone dust, &c.) and artificial food (linseed and rape cake) the present high value of farms could neither have been attained or maintained; and as a consequence, the agricultural prosperity of the old country advanced in a ratio that throws all antecedents into the shade, and keeps the farmer proudly ahead, or at least alongside, of the mechanical progress of the nineteenth century.

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able. February, 1873. of the Committee... nty of Middlesex... :— g leave to report... end this Council... Weld to the Legis-... s valuable services... the agricultural... e establishment of... um and FARMERS'... the introduction... ing of seeds and... e has invested a... l in the same, this... end that he receive... ration, and would... onage of the pub-... and unfinch-... worthy enterprise." L. E. SHIPLEY, Chairman. the above is a true... M. S. KEEFER, nty of Middlesex.