

Accepted the Invitation

[illegible]

A Plant Wizard

The Cherokee Indians claim, close rival to Luther Burbank, the achievements of this strange and heretofore unheard of "plant wizard" among the Indians are almost beyond belief. The existence of immense orchards, flower and vegetable gardens proves his superior knowledge of these people for the past 87 years.

David Jagers, an Englishman by birth and education, is the greatly beloved and respected white man among the Cherokees. He is now in his 80th year. His experimental station is situated near Collinsville, where he has worked for the last eight years with wonderful success. He formerly lived in England, where he was considered one of the best gardeners in part of the Cherokee nation. It was only a few days ago that his ten acre garden produced some forty watermelon numerous strange and curious plants and flowers, which entitles this man to a high place in the world of plant growing and breeding.

Among the number of new vegetables produced by "Uncle David," are the "diamond turnip," which is between an ordinary turnip and a cabbage. He has also an entirely new kind of onion. The onion is very much larger than the other onions and is entirely odorless. It is sweet and perfectly free from the usual "hot" or pungent product of onions. It was found by Mr. Jagers to be a perfect onion, as it says has cost him more than twenty years labor to bring about. It was produced by crossing with a wild variety which grows along the streams in the early spring. This onion is said to be small in its wild state, was successfully crossed with the Bermuda onion and was stood ready to assist the Indians in horticulture and agricultural pursuits. During a recent visit of C. A. Hobbins, secretary of the Oklahoma board of agriculture, who is an expert orchardist, he said the orchards of the Cherokee Indians were a revelation to him. He expressed surprise that after five years these people would be in a position to teach their "pale face" neighbors the art of peach, pear and apple growing.

Discussing the Cherokee, and assisting in his work of scientific planting, Mr. M. M. Smith said:

"When I came among the Indians in 1860 they were very friendly and intelligent. They had no money. They became interested in my work from the very start, and I have allowed them ready and willing to provide me with all the material which to carry on my experiments. They at first regarded me with more or less suspicion, but they soon learned to believe that I was a sort of fortune teller, but they soon learned that I was working for their welfare and allowing them to share in the benefits dispensed."

The combination turnip and cabbage was the result of a most careful study and much labor. Had it not been for a few bad boys the vegetable still be in ignorance of the world. One day a party of men over my high board fence and in the darkness took several and sold them to a traveling circus company in London. The traveling men said the combination was a most delicious dish, and they gave me a newspaper clipping about it. This is how I know that boys had entered my garden at night."

A woman makes a great change in a man's life.

"Yes, and she takes a great deal of cash out of you, too." Columbus Datch.