

"If snowe doo continue, sheepe hardly that fare
Crave mistle and ivie for them for to spare."

"And even now, faith in the virtues of the plant (which is, in fact, a gentle tonic) may here and there be found. 'What is the mistletoe good for?' asked Dr. Bull of a Herefordshire rustic. 'That do depend on what tree it comes from,' was the reply. 'It be a very fine thing for fits. My father had the 'leptic fits for many years, but nothing never did him no good like mistletoe from the haw, mixed with wood-laurel, and he took nothing else. They do tell me that mistleto from the maiden ash be a fine thing for convulsives. I know when you get it from the mawpell it's good for animals. It's capital 'or sheep as don't go on well at lambing-time, and for cows too. That as comes from the apple tree and poplins is the best to hang up in the house on New-Year's Day for good luck through the year; but a many people use any that comes first. A piece of mistletoe from the haw—*f om the haw, sir*—chopped in pieces and given to a cow after calving, will do her more good nor any drench you can give her.' But in hall and cottage alike the mistletoe reigns supreme at this season," and in London and other great towns the artisan spends a small portion of his Christmas wages in the purchase of a few sprigs wherewith to decorate his house, and bring good luck to its inmates. From Herefordshire and Worcestershire, between two hundred and three hundred tons of mistletoe are annually exported, and during Christmas week nearly ev ry train from the West Midland district, bears with it a truck load of branches, fraught with we know not what romance, and bright with berries wherein is contained the destiny of the coming year."

We almost regret that no Druid or poet has immortalized our American Mistletoe. It possesses the same characteristics as the European species, growing upon similiar trees, and its pearly white berries are eaten by birds in autumn. If some American poet had been the first to sing, "The mistletoe hung upon the castle-wall," our girls and boys might also have enjoyed the penalty of walking under the mistletoe-bough. Perhaps it is best that we should be more practical in our natures than other people, but whenever we happen to pass those huge branches of mistletoe, so abundant along the banks of the lower Ohio and Mississippi rivers, we instinctively feel a reverence for this near relative of a plant long held in sacred remembrance by the holy men of the East.—*Hearth and Home.*

GARDEN GLEANINGS.

A correspondent of the 'New York Farmers' Club having asked how to clean cucumber and tomato seed, was told to spread on a piece of paper in the sun to dry. They will be clean enough for home use; for commercial purposes, it is necessary to wash out the pulp and dry them.

Skim milk applied with a syringe to infected vines, is recommended to destroy currant worms. Worms, they say, breathe through their skins; stop the breathing holes and they die. Milk does that; perhaps molasses and water, *sa*, equal parts, would accomplish the same result—so would, then, glue or gum water.

A variety of cabbage, new to us, called the Early Wyman Cabbage, is figured and described in some of our American exchanges, which is the popular early variety in the Boston market, and is said to be of large size, solid for an early variety, very crisp and tender, and brings a higher price in market than any other species. If all these things are true of it, the sooner we have it in our gardens and markets the better.

One of Mark Twain's farmer's bought some Bartlett pear trees, and the next season he took some of the fruit to the tree dealer. "What kind of pears do you call these?" "Well, I don't know; Button pears, perhaps." "But they grew on one of the trees you sold me for a Bartlett!" "Are you such a fool," was the dealer's convincing rejoinder, "as to suppose that a tree is going to bear Bartlett pears the first year?"

KEEPING SQUASHES.—A correspondent of the *American Agriculturist* writes that he, by accident, discovered that squashes picked and stored in September will keep much better than those harvested later. He keeps Hubbards and Turbans until June, by gathering early and placing them on the shelves of his store, leaving them there until spring. He sums up his account by saying: "Gather the squashes for late keeping between September 1st and 10th, taking only those that grow near the root, put them on the shelves where they are to be kept and keep them dry and cool. Let the remainder of the crop be the first to be used or marketed."

The *Journal of Chemistry* gives the following instructions for the parlor treatment of hyacinthe bulbs:—In choosing bulbs, look for weight as well as size, and be sure that the base of the bulb is sound. Use single kinds only; they are earlier and hardier. Set the bulb in the glass, so that the lower end is almost, but not quite, in contact with the water. Use rain or pond water. Do not change the water, but keep a small lump of charcoal at the bottom of the glass. Fill the glass up from time to time. When the bulb is placed, put the glass in a cool, dark cupboard, or other place where the light is excluded. When the roots are fully developed, and the flower-spike is pushing into life (which will be in about six weeks,) remove by degrees to full light and air. The more light given from the time the flowers show color, the shorter will be the leaves and spike, and the brighter the color.

SEED WHEAT.—An anecdote is told of a farmer Emperor of China, to the effect that, walking by the side of a wheat-field, he saw a stock of wheat much larger and riper than the rest of the field, and that he plucked it and saved the seed to be sowed, and from it derived a variety of wheat much earlier and more prolific than the wheat in common use, and thus conferred a great benefit upon his people. When wheat is sown in drills, we can pass through the field and cut into a basket the heads that are the plumpest and first ripe, and beat out the grains for seed. In a day's time a careful man might thus collect several pecks of seed wheat, that would be as much better than the average of the field as the ears of corn that we select for seed are better than the average corn of the corn crop. When we come to sow with the drill only about a peck to the acre, this would not be so great a job as it would now seem when we sow two bushels to the acre.