

INTRODUCTION OF CAMELS INTO AMERICA.

In the last annual report of the United States Secretary of War, it is recommended that the experiment of employing camels and dromedaries in the transportation of military supplies among the regions of the West, be tried. The use of these animals for the object named, would, it is thought, be attended with less expense, and afford a more expeditious mode of conveyance than the means now employed. It seems from an article in the New York *Evening Post*, that an attempt is soon to be made to introduce these animals as beasts of burden into this country. That paper says:

"A company has been formed for this purpose, which has obtained from the New York Legislature a charter of incorporation, and is about to import from different parts of the old world such varieties of camel as are most serviceable, and most likely to bear the change of climate without degeneration.—They are to be employed to carry travellers and merchandise across the arid and barren deserts of which we have recently come in possession. This is the general object, besides which, the company, in a pamphlet which they have recently published, give us to understand that they have a specific object, the nature of which they do not communicate.

"Whether the employment of the camel for the conveyance of heavy burdens would stand any competition with the railways which are, at no distant time, to be made across the deserts separating our Atlantic possessions from the territories on the shores of the Pacific, is a point on which we will not enter. It seems to us, however, pretty certain that the camel may be naturalized in some parts of our country. We possess certain regions which seem as perfectly well adapted by climate and other circumstances to the constitution and habits of this animal, as certain other regions are to those of the horse.

"In the warmer districts of the United States, where rain rarely falls, and where the surface is rocky or sandy, the camel finds a soil, a temperature and state of the atmosphere like that of the countries which it inhabits in the old world. On a clayey or loamy soil, moistened by rain, the camel is wholly unserviceable. Its feet slip with every step, it falls frequently, and if loaded, suffers much from the fall. If urged to move at such times, it becomes frightened and unmanageable.

"At Alexandria, in Egypt, in a wet day, camels are never used. In sand, however deep, the camel walks with a firm and steady step, and climbs, without difficulty, the steepest practicable paths among the rocks. To this purpose its broad, elastic and yielding hoof is well suited.

"In the neighborhood of Pisa, in Tuscany, the camel has long been domesticated. It is employed on a large estate of the Grand Duke, lying west of the city, along the sea-shore. Here it finds mild winters, hot and dry summers, a sandy plain, and in the places where it browses, the same shrubs and plants which spring up in the soil of the Arabian deserts. We have seen files of these animals led by a Tuscan peasant, bringing into the city of Pisa the products of the Grand Duke's farm.

"The almost rainless deserts of Texas and New Mexico are even better suited to the habits of the camel than the seashore of Tuscany. If introduced into that country they would probably soon come to supply the place of horses in the wilderness of Mexico south of the Rio Grande."

WOMAN ON THE BONE QUESTION.

The question "What is the best way to dissolve bones?" has been greatly agitated amongst our agricultural exchanges. The *Country Gentleman* published an elaborate editorial on the subject. Mrs. Swisshelm—the universal precedent in her case, is our justification for quoting her by name—pitches into the *Country Gentleman's* article as follows:

"It is a fact, Mrs. Smith! You need not rub your eyes and look again, for there is no mistake about it. The *Country Gentleman* is right, and the agricultural papers are positively discussing the question, 'Will ashes dissolve bones?' Ay, and discussing it as gravely as if it was a profound mystery. One agricultural paper says ashes will dissolve bones, and another says they will not, which only proves that every agricultural paper should have one housekeeper in its editorial corps, to keep them from being ridiculous occasionally.

"Any Western farmer's wife or daughter could answer this mooted question on the instant, and would at once say, 'that depends upon the ashes.'

"Any ashes that will make soap will dissolve bones, if you put enough on; but when so dissolved they are rather an expensive manure. We should as much think of sending to the chandler's for a dozen boxes of soap, and putting a quarter of a pound on each hill of corn, as putting all the bones of the kitchen into a hog-head, dissolving them with ashes, and using the mixture, as did the writer in the *Country Gentleman*.

"His was rather an expensive economy. His manure was simply very strong, unrefined soap, which, with a very little difference in the manner of preparing, would have done all the washing and cleaning in the family, when, in the form of refuse suds, it should have been poured on a bed of loam or clay, to make manure for the cornfield, or around the roots of the grape-vines and fruit-trees, as a liquid manure.

The only difference between the plans of making clean soap and the dirty mixture he did make, would be to empty the ashes into a hopper, put the water on them there, let it run off in the form of ley, pour this upon the bones, and either boil them in it, or let them stand in the sun. The bones would dissolve, the liny part settle to the bottom, and the animal fatty and glutinous matter unite with the ley to make the soap.

"One hog-head full of bones and good ashes would make a full hog-head of soap, leaving the bleached ashes and phosphate of lime from the bones, into the bargain.

"But quick lime used in this same manner will dissolve bones until they are good fuel for plants, and this is cheaper than soap ashes."