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Table of Contents. -

Wheat	113
Our Engravings.....	119
De Omnibus Rebus.....	119
Cultivating Smilax.....	121
The Dove Orchid.....	121
Chinese Rose Winter Radish.....	121
Begonia Rubra.....	121
Cemetery Plants.....	121
Strawberries.....	122
Centranthus.....	122
Rose Bugs.....	122
The Drinking Water of Villages.....	122
The Heliotrope.....	122
Handsome Native Plants.....	123
Horticultural Department.....	123
Garden vegetables.....	123
House plants.....	123
The Sheep Business.....	124
Geraniums and Pelargoniums.....	124
White Plume Celery.....	124
Agricultural Industries.....	125
Feeding Chickens for Market.....	125
Drover and Collie Shepherd Dogs.....	126
Canada's Cattle Trade.....	127
Ensilage.....	127

WHEAT.

Having a very lively recollection of selling wheat at ten shillings and sixpence sterling a bushel, I must confess to a certain penchant for this cereal. I know very well that in this province it is generally regarded as an unprofitable crop. In fact, very few habitans sow more wheat than is necessary to supply their families with flour, and, according to their lights, they are, perhaps, not wrong. You may play tricks with oats, but wheat must be treated carefully; and, in order to succeed with it, the nature and composition of the grain; its habit of growth; and the demands it makes upon the soil, must be thoroughly understood.

Although it may be difficult in some cases to account for the origin of those cereal grasses which afford us our different sorts of grain, there can be no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that the grain-crops we cultivate are derivatives from different species of wild grasses, produced and maintained by judicious cultivation and selection.

Now, as the grain-crops, which are generally grown here are wheat, rye barley, and oats, I purpose to begin this essay with a few notes on their origin, and, then, I shall proceed to treat more fully of the more immediate subject of the article.

LIST OF GRAIN-CROPS

(a) SPIKES TWO-ROWED.

1. *Triticum vulgare* (common wheat).
2. *Hordeum distichum* (two-rowed barley).
3. *Secale cereale* (rye).

(b) SPIKES PANICULATE OR DIFFUSE.

4. *Avena sativa* (common oat).

Now these four forms of grain are here classified under the names given to the cultivated varieties, but, I shall try to give an idea of their origin, as far as it has been ascertained. I append the following list of the *Genera* whence our grain species have been derived:

WILD NAME.	CULTIVATED OR CEREAL NAME.
1. <i>Aegilops ovata</i> .	<i>Triticum vulgare</i> .—Wheat common to the South of Europe.
2. <i>Hordeum hexastichum</i> .	<i>Hordeum distichum</i> .—Two or six-rowed barley. Native country doubtful.
3. <i>Secale cereale</i>	<i>Secale cereale</i> .—Wild rye. Found wild on the Crimean hills.
4. <i>Avena sativa</i> .	<i>Avena sativa</i> .—Wild oat. Common to Southern Europe.