

HONORABLE NOTICE OF AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

Nearly ten years ago Mr. JOHN KYLE, an eminent horticulturist in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, Scotland, after a long course of experiments, propounded as a preventive and cure for the grape disease, which about that time commenced its ravages in France and Spain, the application of sulphur to the plant. Mr. KYLE's mode of cure was the subject of considerable discussion at the time, and by not a few it was treated as preposterous and ridiculous. Year after year, however, facts accumulated in its favor, and at length all objections were silenced by the most satisfactory demonstrations of the efficiency of the cure. After this discovery had acquired some celebrity, it was made the subject of careful experiments in France, and found to be an effectual remedy for the vine-blight, which had been considered a very serious calamity. A report has just been presented to the French Government, mentioning that the remedy for the disease first propounded by Mr. KYLE, in 1848, is the only which has proved successful, not only in destroying, but also in preventing the blight; whereupon the government, in conjunction with the Societe Industrielle, has awarded 10,000 francs (about \$2,000) to Mr. Kyle, as the first propounder of the cure.

This wholly unsolicited and unexpected reward is highly honorable to all the parties connected with it.

It seems somewhat probable that sulphur may yet be found to be effectual as a remedy for other forms of blight, mildew, &c., such as are known to attack the potatoe plant, the hop, the gooseberry, the peach, and our most important cereals, as wheat, barley and oats. The diseases affecting these several plants, commonly known as blight, mildew, rust, &c., are thought by many to be of a similar origin, and to be the results of minute fungi, of which different species attack different plants. The great success which has resulted from the application of sulphur to one species of this multiform disease, seems sufficient to encourage to the undertaking experiments with it in other forms. We trust that some of our more enterprising readers will bear this in mind next year.—*Country Gentleman.*

A MODERATE ESTIMATE OF THE VALUE OF SORGHUM.

A gentleman in Michigan, who avers that he has kept himself entirely free from all excitement or fever, in regard to this agricultural novelty, and at the same time has never given utterance to a sneer or a grumble against it as a humbug, thinking it wiser to wait patiently for the results of the experience before forming any judgment or opinion about the matter, writes as follows:—

"I think I can very plainly perceive in certain of the reports which have been given to the public in regard to the yield of syrup from the Chinese Sugar Cane, a disposition to exaggerate, or some manifestations of that tendency to delirious raving which is so frequent in fevers of the same kind as that which has lately made its appearance, and goes by the name of Sorghomania. Several published accounts of the yield of molasses from the Sorghum, give estimates of the amount which may be calculated upon per acre, which far exceed any reality which has as yet come under my personal observation. Still I have no doubt that in southern portions of Ohio, Illinois, &c., and in states still further south, the yield will be always considerably greater than in Southern Michigan, to which last my observation has been confined. Some even here, talk very confidently of obtaining from small experimental patches, at the rate of from 250 to 300 gallons of syrup per acre. Of the accuracy of the measurements employed in these cases, I am ignorant; but am able to speak positively as to one piece of half an acre, which received exactly such manuring and cultivation as are usually bestowed on crops of Indian corn. The cane grew on this piece to the height of from eight to over ten feet, and matured only a part of its seed before frost. After being crushed pretty effectually in a cider mill the juice was boiled down to the consistence of ordinary New Orleans molasses, and the amount was found by accurate measurement to be 60 gallons, or at the rate of 120 gallons of syrup per acre.

"In the latitude of 41° to 42° we believe this was an average crop, and we can, therefore, be not a little incredulous when we hear of estimates reaching greatly beyond this accurately ascertained result. In lower latitudes, in warmer seasons, or with higher cultivation, larger yields might readily be credited or calculated upon. But even at this rate our farmers can procure syrup from the Sorghum cheaper than they can raise other produce to exchange for sugar and molasses."