

Why is a soldier like a vine? Because first he's 'listed,' then 'trained,' then has 'tendrills,' and then 'shoots.'

Mr. Hammond, of West Liberty, Ia. says that by planting a few seeds of hemp in each hill of squash or cucumber vines, the striped bug will be effectually kept away. Let the hemp plant grow until the vines are out of the way of the bugs, then pull them up like other weeds.

**THE FRUIT CROP IN MISSOURI.**—Up to this time (April 1), the prospect of the fruit crop is very flattering. Some few of the fruit buds of the peach have been killed—but if many more had been destroyed, it would have been better for the fruit. People will not take time to thin it properly, and if Jack Frost will do it, he deserves great credit. He generally, however, makes a wholesale business of it, which of course we object to—but if he will always act as prudently as he has thus far this season, we shall bestow nothing but praise upon his labours. Apple, pear, and cherry trees are all loaded with live fruit buds, and we have every prospect of an abundant crop of all kinds of fruit. The season is backward, which is also favourable.—*Rural World.*

**DEUTIA CRENATA FLORE PLENO.**—This beautiful, flowering, deciduous shrub from Japan promises to be as hardy as a Lilac, and seems likely to become more robust in habit than either *D. scabra* or *D. gracilis*, while the flowers are produced in great abundance on small plants. The habit of the plant, however, is more straggling than that of *D. gracilis*, and it is, therefore, not so well adapted for producing a nice compact object for pot culture, but this possibly may be overcome. As a plant to cover a wall it has, I should think, few equals, as the shoots ripen to the points, and mostly flower there. As a new plant it is one of the prettiest in its way we have had for some years, and I trust that it is the forerunner of others equally useful.—*Cor. Cottage Gardener.*

**REMEDY FOR ONION MAGGOTS.**—A correspondent of the *Boston Cultivator* gives the following as his practice:

As soon as signs of the maggots are discovered, apply boiling water with the addition of a quart of salt to 6 gallons of water, poured through a cullender on to the onions as they stand in rows; hold the cullender in one hand and a bucket of hot water in the other, and walk over the piece, putting on enough to wet the onion and the top of the ground, but not enough to stand in pools on the ground around the onions. If properly applied it will destroy the maggot and not injure the growing plants. It is necessary to apply the remedy as soon as the enemy begins his work; if delayed two or three days the crop is ruined."

**PRUNING APPLE TREES.**—Mr. L. G. Brown, in the *Boston Cultivator*, says:—"Spring, when the buds are swelling and the sap in full flow, is a very bad time. Yet there are many who prune more or less every Spring." He is right. More apple trees are destroyed by such injudicious pruning than by all the canker worms and caterpillars combined. Prune in June, when the sap is comparatively at rest; or in October, soon after the fall of the leaf, and so for a month or two. This will depend much upon the state of the weather. A few bright warm days in succession, even in the first part of February, would be quite likely to cause considerable activity in the sap, and make it unsafe to prune. The rule should be to prune when there is the least flow of sap. This occurs between the first and second growth of the tree, and after the fall of the leaf in October. We are speaking of limbs that have attained a diameter of half an inch. Smaller "suckers" may be cut at any time, though not without some danger of bleeding.—*N. Y. World.*

**PROPAGATING HYACINTUS.**—Hyacinth bulbs are imported from Holland, where large farms are devoted to their propagation. Our correspondent, F. Scholer, of Long Island, states that he can raise bulbs as good as the foreign ones, and nearly as cheaply as onions. Having some bulbs in which the heart, or central bud, had decayed, he planted them in autumn, and found in spring, that numerous small bulbs were formed around each old one, in one case to the number of 34. These when taken up in July were found to be about the size of one's thumb; they were planted again in autumn, and the following summer when they were lifted, were found to be equal in size and quality to the imported ones. Acting on this hint, he afterward removed the central bud from the bulbs by means of a knife, and succeeded in getting a crop of small bulbs. The experiment is easily tried, and we see no reason why, if sufficient pains be taken, good bulbs may not be as easily grown in our own gardens as abroad.—*American Agriculturist.*

## Poetry.

### The Gardener's Soliloquy.

To sow? or not to sow?—that is the question,  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The greatest torment of a gardener's life  
In poring yearly through "fat catalogues,"  
Or to take means by popping them, when sent,  
In the waste basket,—to be looked to  
No more; and, by doing so, to say we end  
The thirst for new and special novelties  
That flesh is heir to. 'Tis a consummation  
Devoutly to be wished. To grow?—to sow?  
To grow?—perchance to cram our beds and borders  
With useless rubbish—Aye! there's the rub!  
For to pick out the best of the trade-lists,  
Full of "enobled roots," and "improved seeds"  
Must give us pause. There's the respect  
That raiser—have for their own progeny;  
For who would bear to look o'er all the lists  
Now daily sent to gardeners or employers,  
"Descriptive guides," "Vado mecum," "Little books,"  
For teaching when to sow, transplant, and reap,  
When he himself might the commotion end  
By never reading them? Who would yearly bear  
To sow the good old seeds of former lists?  
But that the thoughts of something after so long time—  
That the "ring-leaders," "gems," and "first crop" peas,  
New broccolis, kauls, French beans, and cauliflowers,  
Might not turn out so profitable or early  
As the well tried old sorts, puzzles the will,  
And makes us rather grow the seeds we have  
Than order others that we know not of.

W. T., in *Gardener's Weekly Magazine.*

### How an Acorn came to be Planted.

The following lines were written by a Scotch horticulturist, to illustrate how curiously seeds are sometimes scattered over the face of the earth. The story in this case is literally true, and what makes the circumstance the more interesting to Scotch botanists, is the fact, that the oak thus strangely introduced into that country, is of a kind different from any hitherto growing there.

In the far off wilds of Catalian woods  
Where the red man lives and dies,  
Where the wild turkey hatches and rears her broods  
Unseen to the white man's eyes.  
There fell to the shot of a gun one day  
To the sportsman a glorious prize,  
A Turkey, whose flight lay over his way,  
A bird of a royal size.  
This turkey was sent to old Scotia's shore,  
As a Christmas treat to a brother;  
And never on Christmas been before,  
Had the Scotchman seen such another.  
And deep in the "crop" of the bird he found,  
(Now here is the path of the story),  
A seed of a tree whose name is a sound  
Of renown in old England's glory.  
The acorn was planted in Mother Earth,  
And soon to new life awoke,  
And fresh from the ground did there issue forth  
A sapling of royal oak.  
Now wise men all, I pray you please  
To mark the curious ways,  
By which the seeds of plants and trees,  
Are scattered in our days.

R. M.

## Miscellaneous.

### First Principles.

BY W. S., OF WORCEN.

The worst of all ignorance is ignorance of the reasons for our own conduct; and whoever aids in preparing the way for mankind to acquire this knowledge, the most readily and the most thoroughly, will not have lived in vain. The mighty impetus in the acquisition of knowledge, obtained by means of the inductive philosophy of Bacon, is only now beginning to be generally appreciated. Perhaps no greater mind than Bacon's ever lived, and few have deserved better of posterity. He was the first to popularize knowledge, the first who employed a clear, vigorous

intellect, and a logical understanding in penetrating the mists of empiricism, and the clouds of mental darkness,—the first to demonstrate that "knowledge," which "is power," was the birthright of every human being,—the first who taught aloud that man can discover truth in no way but by observation, and by imitating the operations of nature,—that truth is born of fact, not of speculation,—that systems of knowledge are to be founded, not upon ancient authority, not upon metaphysical theories, but upon experiments and observations in the real—not the ideal—world around us.

These are axioms of universal application, but to no art or science do they apply more immediately and directly, or more usefully, than to the multifarious operations of the culture of the soil, and to the study of the living wonders of vegetable physiology. The primary object of all study and all observation, should be the knowledge of principles. With proper discipline, the humblest capax may acquire knowledge to an extent seldom realized, or even attempted by the greatest and most favoured. The Baconian principle is simply, that investigation, enquiry, method, understanding, should each and all be made available in aid of the mind, as tools and implements of all sorts are in aid of the hands and the physical powers. In the acquisition of knowledge, and discovery of principles, nothing should be taken for granted; the most rigid circumspection should ever be exercised, and things requiring proof should never be quietly assumed. With all the aids at command, the enquirers should next examine how far new ideas and projects, which continually present themselves, are consistent with nature, and nature's laws,—impartially weigh the reasons for and against approval, and then decide inflexibly, not from prepossession, prejudice, or feeling, but in accordance with the dictates of reason, and common sense. It is not enough to say that such a one's volition is "according to his conscience," or that such and such are a man's "honest opinions," for

"Tis with our judgments as with our watches; none  
Go just alike, yet each believes his own."

An "honest opinion," therefore, is valuable just so far as it is a right one, and no farther. In the language of Holy writ, "How forcible are right words!" Moreover, the searcher after truth, before he attempts new discoveries, should know what is already known in the same direction. Should he neglect this, much labour will often be expended in vain. Bacon, in his day, was reported to have made a bonfire of almost his entire library. "These books," he said, "contain no principles, and are, therefore, useless." A journal, as well as a book, should have a principle; a principle rightly understood, is worth a thousand theories—the why and the wherefore of a thing is of more importance than a thousand speculations. The enquirer after knowledge, in whatever part of that boundless domain, should leave nothing to chance; he should observe, examine, try experiment after experiment, and endeavour on a solid foundation, to build up a superstructure for himself. All this consists with perfect fairness to, and charity for other men's opinions, while it is quite within the reach of any ordinary mind.

The empire of knowledge, yet unexplored, is infinite, illimitable. Imagination toils in vain, in the mere conception of the heights and depths that future ages may reveal. There are, for example, botany, natural history, electricity, mineralogy, geology, chemistry, and at least a score of other sciences, on any one of which the mightiest intellect may labor for a long life, and yet have proceeded little beyond the confines! We know and can know but in part; but whatever we attempt let us first try and comprehend the principles. Details will afterwards be all the easier, and our acquisitions the more perfect and enduring.

The mind is like the body in its habits—exercise can strengthen, as neglect and indolence can weaken it—they are both improved by discipline, both ruined by neglect.