

THE CHINESE SUGAR CANE.

This new plant—new to this continent—bids fair to prove a valuable addition to the list of cultivated vegetables in the South and West. We hear of some cases in the western part of Canada where it is ripening its seed, but in this neighbourhood, we doubt if any perfect seed will be obtained this year. The season has not been favourable to plants of this family, and it will not be fair to condemn the *Sorghum* for a single failure. We planted a few hills, rather late, which have grown finely, but show no appearance of seed at this date (Sept. 25th). The following is from a Maine newspaper, a part of the Union not so favourable as Western Canada:—

The cultivation of the Chinese sugar cane is yet an experiment, and a most interesting experiment to all classes of the people. If it succeeds, we have a new and inexhaustible source of molasses and sugar, which are now so difficult to be obtained. It has this year—when the season has not been very favourable to it—been cultivated with various success in many parts of the country. Some of our northern farmers have thought that it might be profitable for fodder, but nothing else; others that it would make molasses but not granulate, and therefore be unfit for sugar; while others have been most hopeful that it would answer all the ends promised. Hereabouts it did not grow well in the early part of the season, but has since done better, and we now find it ten and twelve feet high, and standing the cold better than corn.

In other sections of the country it promises better than here. The *Chicago Journal* says:—

“In the Chinese sugar cane we are now confident we have the source of an almost unbounded supply. It will flourish everywhere in the Union, and can be raised at the West as easily and cheaply as corn. Where then, shall we fix the limit of its culture save in the demand for sugar and molasses? The prairies of Illinois, besides growing all the breadstuffs they do now, might almost supply the markets of the world with those articles. We shall be content, however, for the next two or three years, with enough of each to meet the home demand. The business can be indefinitely extended thereafter.

In Michigan and Ohio, experimenters are quite as sanguine as the Chicago men; and at the south all accounts are in its favour. If it proves valuable at all, it no doubt will open the new lands of the southwest, and we see that G. W. Kendall, formerly editor of the New Orleans *Picayune*, who is now farming in Texas, hopes great things from it. He writes:

“I have an immense crop of Chinese sugar cane considering the amount of land planted. I hardly dare say how much seed I think I can raise to the acre, while the amount of fodder is prodigious. As I look at it, and am devising plans to save it, I cannot help thinking of the poor fellow who won the elephant in a raffle—he found he had got too much of a good thing, and did not know what to do with it.

That the *Sorgho Sucre* stands a drought better than any thing else, is past all question, I proved it last year and this year I have double confirmation. Rows of it are standing in my corn field even here, with well matured, ripe heads, where the other grain has come to nothing. All that it wants is moisture enough in the ground to bring it up, and then a single, shower to give it a start, and it will go on and mature when everything else fails.

Many of my friends in this section are sanguine that this new grain or plant will drive all others out of the ground, or that it will at least effect a perfect revolution in the way of farming in Western Texas. They are saving the seed to plant and for bread, they are making syrup and sugar of the juice of the stalk, they are feeding it out as green fodder, and saving it up for dry. No part of it is wasted; cattle, horses, sheep and hogs eat it clean, from the ground upwards, when the stalk is ripe, and gain strength and grow fat upon it. An immense quantity of it will be planted next year.”

BED BUGS.—The weed known as “smart weed,” which may be found in abundance along ditches, roads, lanes or barn yards, is an effectual and certain destroyer of the bed-bug. A strong decoction is made of the herb, and the places infested with the insects well washed with it.