

PROGNOSTICS OF THE WEATHER.

THE ORCHARD.

PROGNOSTICS FURNISHED BY THE HEAVENLY BODIES.

1. Observations of the Sun.—*Signs of the Wind.*—The sun rises pale and remains red; his disc is very large; he appears with a red sky at the north; he maintains the colour of blood; he remains pale, with one or more obscure circles or red rays; he appears concave or hollow. When the sun seems divided or is accompanied by a parheliion, it indicates a great storm.

Signs of Rain.—The sun is obscure and as it were bathed in water; he rises red, or with black stripes mingled with his rays, or becomes blackish; he is placed above a thick cloud; he rises surrounded with a red sky in the east. Sudden rains are never of long; but when the sky is changed gradually, and the sun, moon and stars are obscured by little and little, it rains generally for six hours.

Signs of Fair Weather.—The sun rises clear, and the sky has been so during the night; the clouds which surround him at his rising take their course to the west, or indeed he is environed by a circle, provided that the circle is at equal distances on all sides; then we may expect weather constantly fair; he sets amidst red clouds, whence this popular saying, that "a red evening and a gray morning are sure signs of a fair day."

2. Observations of the Moon.—*Signs of the Wind.*—The moon appears very large; she puts on a reddish colour; her horns are pointed and blackish; she is surrounded by a distinct and reddish circle. If the circle is double or broken it is the sign of a tempest. At the new moon there is often a change of wind.

Signs of Rain.—Her disc is pale; the extremities of her crescent is blunted.—The circle around the moon attended by a south wind, portends rain the next day.—When the wind is south and the moon is visible only the fourth night, it portends much rain for the month.

Signs of the Weather.—The spots on the moon are very visible; a brilliant circle surrounds her when full. If her horns are sharp the fourth day, it will be fair till the full moon. Her discovery brilliant three days before the change or the full moon, always denotes fair weather. After each new and full moon, there is often rain followed by fair weather.

3. Observations of the Stars.—*Signs of Rain.*—They appear large and pale; their twinkling is imperceptible, or they are encircled. In summer when the wind blows from the east and the stars appear larger than usual, then look out for sudden rain.

Signs of Fair Weather and Cold.—The stars appear in great numbers, are brilliant and sparkle with the brightest lustre.—From the Farm House of the XIXth Century.

CAUTION TO MILLERS.—Under this head we find an appalling story, which may interest some of our millers to peruse.—*New-York paper.*

"Recently a Miller near Mobile, for some purpose or other, poured several pounds of melted lead in the eye of the runner stone. The lead becoming loose and working between the stones, was ground up with the corn. The meal was consumed on the plantation of Mr. James G. Lyon, and a number of his negroes were poisoned by it, some of whom died, while others were pained and altogether hopeless. It is said to be a common thing for millers to use lead in this way, and the misfortune just related ought to be a sufficient warning against it. A similar accident occurred recently in Europe."

In this department there is but little to be done during the winter. The fences should be kept in repair, to prevent cattle or sheep running into them. Should the snow fall deep, and remain long on the ground, it is well to go through young orchards, and tread the snow hard about the trees, which will prevent the mice from making their nests at the root, and gnawing the bark therefrom. Should it happen, that any tree becomes so injured, by biting in a few pieces, in the spring, they may be saved. Directions for this will be given previous to the season for doing it.

It is the practice with many, to prune their orchards during the winter; this should never be allowed, unless for the purpose of removing diseased wood, eggs of insects, &c. When large limbs are cut from trees, the young growth protrudes from between the bark, and wood much sooner when the limbs are taken off after the trees have leaved out, than when taken off in the winter.

With regard to pruning, I would say, be careful: as there are nine orchards and nurseries injured by over-pruning, to one that suffers for the want of it.

The cause for injudicious pruning, is the mistaken idea that many have, that trees derive all their nourishment from the ground, and that by taken off a large proportion of the top, the remainder will receive all the nourishment, that the whole top did before pruning. This is not correct; as by far the greatest proportion of the woody, or carbonaceous matter, is taken from the atmosphere, by the leaves, and although the roots may continue to furnish the same quantity of water, in the form of sap, as they did before the top was diminished; yet for the want of leaves to elaborate and furnish carbon, in due proportion for the process, there is not that quantity of wood formed, as when more of the leaves are allowed to remain; hence, nurseries over-trimmed, we see that the young trees have not sufficient wood, in the form of body, for their height, which often renders them worthless.—But more of this anon.

As winter is a convenient season for collecting cions for those who are wishing to improve the quality of their fruit, either in their gardens or orchards and premising that there at least a few of our readers that are not familiar with every part of the operation, we will give such directions as will enable them to attend to this part of the business themselves.

Cions should be cut, in all cases where it is convenient, from bearing trees; as in that case, there is less danger of mistake as to the quality of fruit. The part selected, should be the last season's growth, where it is of fair size, and well ripened, and cut with about one inch of the preceding year's wood. When cut, they should be carefully tied into bundles, and a label attached to each, marked with a pencil and notches, or with notches alone, to denote the variety.—When collected, they may be placed, in a perpendicular position, with their but inserted into the ground, about an inch; or where large quantities are wanted, they may be buried in a pit, in a dry, sandy soil, dug from one to two feet, as the nature of the case may require; the cions to be laid in horizontally; the pit first covered with a board, and to the depth of from six to eight inches, with earth. Cions, well secured in this way, may be kept until the second season.

The kinds of fruit commonly cultivated by grafting, are Apples, Pears, Quinces, Plums and Cherries. There are others that are grafted, but not so directly interesting to the farmer.

In collecting cions, many run into error, and appear to act upon the principle, that the value of their orchard will be in proportion to the number of varieties introduced. By selecting about twenty varieties of our most valuable apples, a suit may be so arranged that a constant supply, of both sweet and sour, may be had at all seasons, and these again may be proportioned to the wants of the cultivator, and the market for which they are designed.

I will give a list of such apples as I am acquainted with, which I would recommend for cultivation in the Northern States, with a description of the qualities of fruit, growth of tree, and

the various names by which I have known them designated in different localities. This will be continued in subsequent numbers, including Apples, Pears, Plums, Cherries and Quinces; and although it may not in all cases correspond with all publications on this subject, it will enable those desirous of improving their fruit, to find them in most of our apple-growing districts.

Junetting or Juneating.—This is the first apple that ripens with us, that has many qualities. The fruit is below medium size; its color at maturity, pale yellow; its form, globular, somewhat compressed; its flesh, tender, juicy, but rather acid, yet pleasant. It ripens early in August. The trees are of moderate growth and size, forming a flat, compact top; limbs, destitute of spurs as a few of the buds, except at the extremity of the shoot, ever push out; consequently the trees are indifferent bearers, producing fruit only at the extremity of the preceding year's growth; the limbs also starting from the same joint with a straight growth, forming between them acute angles; by this peculiarity, the trees are readily distinguished from any others. I have seen four distinct varieties of this kind of apples; all possessing the same general family characteristics, as to growth, time of ripening, &c., yet all different.

Golden Sweet or Golden Pippin.—This apple, which we do not find described in any publication, is extensively cultivated in Western New-York. It ripens early in August. The fruit is not over medium size, oblong, smooth skin, green until ripe, when it changes to a greenish yellow; flesh, tender, juicy, and pleasantly sweet. The tree is a free grower, limbs inclining to horizontal; young wood covered with down, somewhat resembling the wood of the Rhode Island Greening. The tree is a fine bearer, and should be found in every collection.

Baugh, or German Baugh.—One of our most delicious, early apples. It ripens from the middle of September. The fruit varying much in size, from below medium to very large; shape, conical, and remarkably fair; colour, pale yellow, with a slight blush on the sunny side; flesh, white, tender, juicy, pleasantly sweet. Tree of moderate growth; limbs, covered with a light yellow bark, turning from an horizontal to an upright direction, forming a close, globular shaped top. The tree, a steady but moderate bearer.

Belle et Bonne, Summer Pearmain, or Ricer Apple.—This is an apple somewhat extensively cultivated in Western New-York, and is certainly one of our best early autumn apples. It commences ripening in August, and continues through the month of September. The fruit is above medium size, rather flat in shape, the eye and stem sunken, skin smooth, and streaked with dull red, on a pale yellow ground; flesh, uncommonly tender, juicy, and pleasantly acid. The tree of free growth, limbs inclining to horizontal, with but few spurs; yet the tree is a fair bearer.

Red Bell-flower.—This is one of the very largest apples we have. Its shape is conical, measuring three and three-fourth inches in length, and four in breadth, or diameter. Its colour is a fine scarlet, on a yellow ground. Flesh when ripe, very tender, and pleasantly acid, but not very compact, as an apple of the above dimensions will only weigh about one pound. It ripens late in September and early in October, and on account of its size is considered by many, a great addition to the dessert. The tree grows freely, with an upright top, and is a fair bearer.

Red and Green Sweetling.—This apple is of a large size, often measuring from twelve to thirteen inches in circumference. Its shape is conical, measuring with an uneven surface. Colour, striped with red and green; flesh soft, not compact, but pleasantly sweet; is fine for the dinner and baking; it ripens in September. The tree is a strong, upright grower, but not the most prolific. As this apple ripens at the same time with the Red Bell-flower, to which it bears a strong resemblance, the two, when sent to the table, make a great show. This is a fine apple for baking.

Queen.—This fruit is above the medium size, its colour striped with red and yellow; its flesh, a little inclined to yellow; its taste, juicy, and pleasantly sweet; it ripens