

APPENDIX.

Since writing the foregoing Essay, I have seen the Report for 1858 of the United States Agricultural Society upon the subject of which it treats; and I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of diffusing the valuable information it contains.

REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Conformably to the resolutions adopted by the United States Agricultural Society, held at the city of Washington in January, 1857, the committee appointed to investigate and experiment upon the *Sorgho sucre*, or Chinese Sugar-cane, with the view of determining its value for the purposes of syrup and sugar-making, soiling cattle, use of the seed for feeding stock, for bread-making, and for the manufacture of paper, and alcoholic liquors, beg leave to report as follows:—

Agreeably to the requirements, there was imported from France sufficient sorgho seed to plant 100 acres of land. This seed was placed in the hands of a number of individuals in different sections of the country, who cultivated it under various conditions of soil, climate, &c. From the results of their experiments, in ninety localities, between New Brunswick, in the British dominions, and Mexico on the one hand, and between Florida and Washington Territory on the other; though contradictory or conflicting with each other in some instances, the committee arrived at the following conclusions:

1. The soil and geographical range of the Chinese Sugar-cane correspond nearly with those of Indian corn, and it thrives with great luxuriance in rich bottom lands, or in moist loamy soils, well manured. It will also produce a fair crop on dry, sandy, or gravelly soils too poor to give a remunerative crop of other plants. On the latter class of soils, however, it proved more profitable to the cultivator where there had been applied a moderate quantity of bone-dust, wood-ashes, poudrette, phosphated guano, gypsum, or super-phosphate of lime.

2. This plant endures cold much better than corn, and resists without injury the ordinary autumnal frosts. It will also withstand excessive drought. In favorable seasons, when planted early in May, it will ripen its seeds in September, if the soil be dry and warm, in many parts of the extreme Northern and New England States, and in October in the Middle and Southern States, when planted as late as the 20th of June. At the extreme South, it may be planted successively from January into July.

3. The cost and culture of this plant does not differ essentially from that of Indian corn. The seeds require to be planted at different distances apart, according to the strength of the soil. On light, moderately rich land, it succeeded best when sown in rows or drills, three feet apart, with the plants a foot asunder along the drills, or in hills with a corresponding number of stalks to each; but on richer land, it has been found