



Agriculture.

SONG OF LABOUR.

I love the ploughman's whistle,
The reapers cheerful song,
The drover's oft repeated shout,
As he spurs his flock along.
The bustle of the market man,
As he hies him through the town;
The halloo from the tree top
As the ripened fruit comes down.
The busy sound of the thrashers,
As they clean the ripened grain.
And the huskers' jokes and mirth and glee,
'Neath the moonlight on the plain.
The kind voice of the yeoman,
The shepherd's gentle call,—
Those sounds of active industry,
I love, I love them all.
O, there is good in labour,
If we labour but aright,
That gives vigor to the daytime,
And sweeter sleep at night.
A good that bringseth pleasures,
Even to the toiling hours,
For duty cheers the spirit
As the dew revives the flowers.

EXPERIMENT WITH ASPARAGUS.

The London Gardeners' Chronicle gives the following method of growing asparagus, at Nice. Take a quart glass bottle, invert it over an asparagus root, just rising from the ground, and secure it to its place by three wires. The asparagus will grow up into the interior of the bottle, and being stimulated by the unusual heat and moisture, will speedily fill it. As soon as this has taken place the bottle must be broken, when the asparagus will be found to have formed a thick head of tender, white shoots, all eatable, and as compact as a cauliflower.

INSTRUCTION IN AGRICULTURE.

In the kingdom of Prussia there are five agricultural schools, and a sixth is about to be opened; in these schools, by both theory and practice, the highest class of science connected with the culture and treatment of soil. (Agricultural schools of a more elementary order there are ten; there are also seven schools devoted to the culture of flax; two especially devoted to instruction in the management of meadows; one for instruction in the management of sheep; there are also forty-five model farms intended to be introduced better modes of agriculture, in all the principal establishments for agricultural education, to mention others of a kindred nature at those schools where the art and science of good farming is taught. Prussia is a monarchy, with fifteen millions of people. Prussia is a republic with three millions, and a territory which, though not quite half as large, is richer and better situated, with means of transportation incomparably superior. Prussia has seventy-one public establishments to instruct her people in farming, the science of bees, and the art of arts. New York has not one; Prussia to establish a single agricultural college again and again been voted down in our legislature, yet so shameful a contrast to exist between thatucky and this republic!—*New York Tribune.*

BETTER ROOT was first brought from the shores of Tagus, and was cultivated in gardens, on account of its elegant leaves and the rich red color of its roots, a hundred years before it found a place on our tables in cocorac luxury.

THE TWO GARDENERS.—Two Gardeners who were neighbours, had their crops of early peas killed by frost; one of them came to condole with the other on his misfortune. "Ah!" cried he, "how unfortunate we are neighbour! do you know I have done nothing but lost ever since. But you seem to have a fine healthy crop coming up already; what are these?" "These!" cried the other gardener, "why these are what I sowed immediately after my loss." "What coming up already?" cried the first. "Yes; while you were fretting, I was working." "What; don't you fret when you have a loss?" "Yes; but I always put it off until I have repaired the mischief." "Why then you have no need at all." "True," replied the industrious gardener, "and that's the very reason."

A VALUABLE TREE.—There is a tree in Mexico called the *Chitol*, a very fine wood, which according to a writer of the National Intelligencer, (W. D. Porter), becomes petrified after being cut, in a few years, whether left in the open air or buried. From this timber, houses could be built that would, in a few years, become fireproof, and last as long as those built of stone; the wood, in a green state, is easily worked, it is used in building wharves, forts, &c., and would be very good as railroad sleepers or plank road stringers.—*American Agriculturist.*

THE HOG CROP OF THE NORTH WEST.

From the Peru Democrat, Nov. 25.

The Louisville Courier compiles a table of the aggregate weight of the hog crops of the States of Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Missouri, for the years 1849, '50 and '51, from which we make extracts below. The Courier gives the amount in these States for '49 at 321,624,000 lbs., and for '50 at 227,629,440. The figures given for the three years named are, the Courier says, an accurate estimate of the crops of the two past seasons, and the probable result of this season's operations throughout the West. It is calculated that in point of numbers the result this season will be equal to the last, but the hogs will be 10 or 12 per cent heavier this year.

It is pretty generally conceded, says the Courier, that the coming crop in the same States is not larger in numbers, but better in quality than last year's. We will, however, for the sake of the calculation, put it in round numbers at 1,300,000, at an average of 200 lbs., equal to the crop of '49 and '50, which was undoubtedly a good one, and by the same rule of calculation find the result as follows:—

Crop of Hogs in 1851, '52, 1,300,000, averaging 200 pounds, equal to 260,000,000 pounds.	
2,600,000 hams, at 15 lbs each.....	39,000,000
2,600,000 shoulders, 16 lbs each.....	41,600,000
25 lbs leaf lard to a hog, at 220 lbs to the hd, 147,727 lbs, or.....	32,500,000
8 lbs mamp to a hog, at 200 lbs to the hd, 52,000 lbs, or.....	10,400,000
70 lbs side meat to a hog, at 200 lbs to the hd, 455,000 lbs, or.....	91,000,000
25 lbs head and feet.....	32,500,000
10 lbs waste.....	13,000,000
Total.....	200,000,000

We have been unable to ascertain for exact stock of old pork on hand in the United States on the 1st instant. But during the month of July last, there was a very large deficiency, as compared with the same period the year before, say about 140,000 hds., equivalent to the side meat of 440,000 hogs, and it is but fair to suppose that this deficiency has been restored. It would seem, then, that high rates have not checked consumption, and our traders can draw their own inferences as to the probability of prices this coming season being sustained or receding, as compared with last year. It is true there is a continued stringency in our money market, and dealers in hogs, as well as in all other kinds of produce, must feel the effects of it.

Prices of hogs are considered by many as far too high for purchasers to buy at with safety. The asking rate is \$4.50 per cent, and buyers are offering but \$3. Last season a speculator in this city invested about \$10,000 in hogs, at \$4.25 per cent, which were slaughtered and packed here, and the entire product sold in this Louisville market, at a profit of a little upwards of \$1,000. This may not have been the result if he had either tak-

en his pork to a bad market, or had sold at an unfavorable season, as the present is considered to be in regard to money matters, demand, &c.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES OF THE APPLE.—Baked apples and milk is a luxury, excellent food and medicine. We knew a gentleman who, ten years ago, was in a hopeless state of consumption, and long and exclusive use of this dish, and a little bread for nutriment, he was cured. As the evidence of the severity of this case, and waste of lungs, one side of his breast sunk in. This diet would cure thousands suffering from diseases caused by high, rich, constipating food. It is also good for dyspepsia.—*Cole's American Fruit Book.*

THE POULTRY OF THE UNITED STATES is valued in the statistics at twenty millions of dollars—the State of New York having over two millions invested in it. In the egg trade the city of New-York expends nearly a half a million of dollars annually. The farmers of the country are bestowing a greater amount of attention on the raising of poultry, and it is probably one of the best sources of revenue which they can have.

GROWTH OF POULTRY.—Great attention is now being paid in this vicinity to the cultivation of poultry. Several of our citizens, men of enterprise and property, are making extensive preparations for the growth and traffic in the various kinds. Experiments are being made in importation, and crossing breeds. We learn that one gentleman has recently made a purchase of a cock and hen, for which he has paid the nice little sum of \$40. And of another we learn that from one pair during the past twelve months, he has realized six hundred and fifty dollars. Not a hard story to believe, when it is known that the pairs were sold at five dollars. It is beginning to be well understood that poultry can be raised and sold fully as cheap, if not cheaper, than beef or pork. This result is attained, of course by including the eggs, which can be had at all seasons of the year by a proper selection and cultivation of the improved breeds.

Wool Growing.—By the census it appears that a capital of \$25,000,000 is invested in woolen manufactures in the United States, that this employs 30,120 hands that nearly 71,000,000 of pounds of wool are annually consumed, that the value of the entire product is \$43,200,000. The capital invested is about one-third of the amount employed in the manufacture of cotton, and the value of the product over two-thirds of the value of the cotton product. It is estimated by Mr. Randall, of New-York, that the profits of raising sheep for wool are about 18 per cent on the capital. But the profits on mutton, lamb, pelts and sort are from 20 to 40 per cent, in the Northern States. The supply of wool in the United States has been so much smaller than the demand for the last seven or eight years, that the importation of the article, which in 1844 was 3,500,000 pounds, valued at \$230,000, reached, 1850, 18,600,000 pounds, valued at \$1,684,000.

THE CHINESE OPIUM TRADE.—Rev. Mr. Bridgman, writing from China, says the number of chests of opium, each containing 133 lbs., taken to China the present year, will exceed 70,000,000, and that in exchange for these 70,000,000 chests the Chinese will pay to foreigners more than \$36,000,000—and most of this in silver.

WHERE THE CORN COMES FROM.

The State Register says.—Our experimental readers, especially, will have noticed the unusually large amount of corn which has reached the tide water this season. A very large portion of it comes from the lake ports, as follows:—

Chicago,	2,418,004
Saginaw,	2,017,540
Toledo,	1,940,355
Total,	5,600,000

As soon as the interior and southwestern parts of Illinois are put in communication with Chicago, by railroad, the shipments at that point will be vastly augmented, and the present shipments will be regarded as comparatively small.—[Overgo Palladium.

Cereals and grains, when sent to a long distance, should be conveyed in barrels of oil cloth. This preserves them from the action of the air.