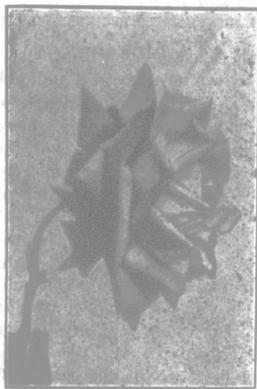


GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Luther Burbank and His Work.

Our readers will be much interested in seeing to-day the portrait of Luther Burbank, whose apparent miracles in plant life have drawn upon him the attention of the world. Of his work it is scarcely necessary to speak. Everyone knows something of what he has accomplished, of how he has banished the thorns from the cactus, turned the yellow California poppy crimson, produced an everlasting that will not lose its perfume, and created new fruits—the plumcot, for example, which is a cross between the plum and apricot—while marvellously improving others; but not everyone, perhaps, realizes the economic value which his productions possess. To quote from the New York Independent: "Varieties of fruit have been produced that are more prolific and hardier, growing in regions where the old varieties failed; the fruit season has been prolonged several months by early and late bearing varieties; keeping qualities have been developed so as to stand long distance shipment; fruits have been made larger, stones removed, thorns eliminated, shells made thinner, flavor, color and odor improved, and entirely new fruits produced. Grains and fodder plants have been made larger, more prolific, more nutritive, and to have less waste; cotton, rice and sugar cane have been improved. To flowers have been added beauty, grace, perfume, size and color. . . . The practical value of this can scarcely be estimated."



Burbank Rose, which took the Gold Medal at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, 1904.

Mr. Burbank lives very quietly at his home at Santa Rosa, Cal., where he is carrying on his experiments on a gigantic scale, which requires all of the vast profits which he has reaped as a reward of his labors. On his farm at Sebastopol, Cal., "there are now growing 300,000 varieties of plums, each tree grafted so as to contain 500 different kinds; at one time there were nearly or quite 500,000 lilacs growing on the place, and 26,000 roses; the thornless blackberry was selected from 65,000 seedling plants, and from nearly a million seedling pears no tree worthy of propagation was produced." But, quietly as he lives, his name has travelled far to lands across the sea, and everywhere it meets with recognition. When it was spoken in the French Chamber of Deputies at Paris recently, "every member arose to his feet as a tribute of honor."

The following letter, from his sister, to the Independent, tells something of his life:

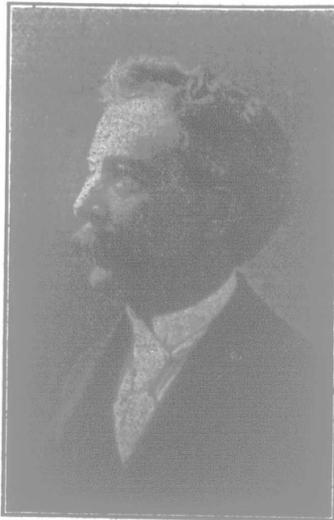
My brother was born March 7th, 1849, in the beautiful and historic town of Lancaster, Mass.; reared on a New England farm, loving nature in her varied forms, he made the best use of all his opportunities.

My father was a man of scholarly tastes and strong convictions, a good business man, who gave each child the best example and education in his power; while my mother, possessing a remarkable fondness for flowers, no doubt transmitted the inventive and horticultural tendencies to her son. Luther's first toys were the plants in the window and in mother's flower garden; he never ruthlessly destroyed a blossom, but loved them as things of life, and a bright flower placed in the baby hand would always stay the falling tears.

A quiet, retiring child, shrinking from notice, Luther spent much of his time with nature; he knew more than anyone else about the apples in the orchard, the wild berries on the hillside and in the meadow grasses, the chestnuts and hickory nuts in the woods. He knew where to find the first blossoms of spring and the brightest flowers of summer. The birds and animals allured him, and no rock, tree or cloud escaped his notice. The habit of observation and classification, with the power of individualizing which he possesses in such a remarkable degree, was early developed. Both in the district school and the Lancaster Academy he excelled in scholarship, and was a favorite with teachers and classmates. Our home was always supplied with good literature, and the town had one of the best public libraries in the State; he availed himself of these advantages, delighting in books of science, yet his reading was not limited to one subject. At one time his thoughts were directed toward the practice of medicine

as a life work, and the science of health has always been of great interest to him; with naturally a frail body, of such practical use has been the knowledge acquired that few men have been able to accomplish as much real work in life as he. Utilizing all his powers, physical and mental, at the age of fifty-five years, he each morning takes a cold sponge bath and a few physical-culture exercises, and is as active as a boy; harmony with nature has kept mind and body young and vigorous.

Another subject of interest to him is mechanics, always keeping in touch with the latest discoveries and inventions; his early experiments along this line were

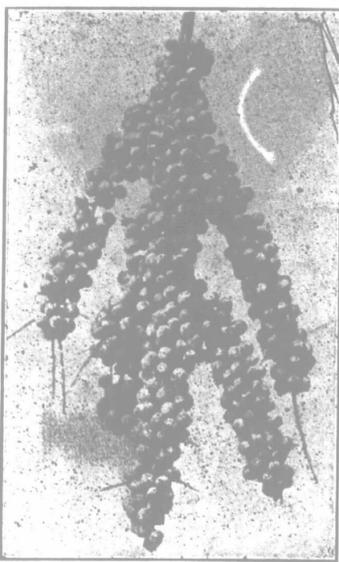


Luther Burbank.

with an o'd teakettle in the backyard. While studying at the Academy winters, he spent the summer months at Worcester learning the patternmakers' trade; his letters written to the home folks while there reveal his intense love of nature, and to her call he responded, beginning his real life work in the production of the Burbank potato in 1873.

Coming to California in 1875, the letters to the New England home tell how the beauties of the Santa Rosa Valley, afterward to become his home and the scene of his plant transformations, appealed to his enthusiastic temperament:

"I firmly believe this is the chosen spot of all the earth, the climate is perfect, the air so sweet that it is a pleasure to drink it in, the sunshine pure and soft. The mountains which gird the valley are lovely, and the valley is covered with majestic oaks placed as no human hand could arrange them for beauty. The gar-



Improved Peach Plum. Branch 3½ feet long. (Reduced from life size.)

dens are filled with tropical plants, palms, figs, oranges, vines, etc. Rose trees climb over the houses, loaded with every color of bud and blossom. English ivy fills large trees, and flowers are everywhere, even now (November). The birds are singing, and everything like a beautiful spring day. I took a long walk to-day, and found enough curious plants in a wild spot of about an acre to set a botanist wild."

Since coming to California he has collected plants from all parts of the globe. In recent years he has

had collectors in foreign lands, and has been greatly assisted by botanists and explorers.

Penetrating into the secrets of nature, finding unknown truth in familiar facts, he has acquired a knowledge of the habits, characteristics, adaptability and latent possibilities of plant life possessed by no other. This has required patient toil, privations and self-denial; often misunderstood, sometimes misrepresented, thwarted and disappointed, but never discouraged or impatient, he has gone steadily on with his experiments.

Life is very simple in the vine-covered cottage at Santa Rosa, with his plants as his only family; the mother, now past ninety years of age, shares his home and rejoices to see her son honored of the world, revered by associates, respected by employees and loved by all.

Strong in his principles and convictions, he uses neither tobacco nor alcoholic drinks, and employs no men addicted to their use; he recently declined to have a new brand of cigars bear his name and portrait. He subscribes to no creed, believing that each to-morrow should

"Find us farther than to-day."

Tender in his nature, he may be seen some early morning in summer as he carefully examines certain plants, to gently open the petals of a poppy where some belated bee, in his task of carrying pollen from flower to flower, had become imprisoned by the closing of the flower for the day; the bee's smothered cry had reached his sensitive ear, and very tenderly he sets the little captive free, watching its glad flight in the bright sunlight. The only secret of success that he claims is honesty with nature. When upon introduction one said: "I believe you are the man who improves upon nature," he rather indignantly replied: "No, sir; I only direct some of her forces."

My brother has opened broad fields for development and made earth richer. May his life be a continued inspiration to the young.

He says: "I shall be content if because of me there shall be better fruits and fairer flowers."

Berry and Fruit Baskets.

It is desired to hereby draw attention to Section 5 of the Act entitled "An Act Respecting the Packing and Sale of Certain Staple Commodities," (1, Edward VII., Chap. 26), which reads as follows:

5. Every box of berries or currants offered for sale, and every berry box manufactured and offered for sale, in Canada, shall be plainly marked on the side of the box, in black letters at least half an inch square, with the word "Short," unless it contains when level-full, as nearly exactly as practicable:

- (a) At least four-fifths of a quart, or
- (b) Two-fifths of a quart.

2. Every basket of fruit offered for sale in Canada, unless stamped on the side plainly in black letters at least three-quarters of an inch deep and wide, with the word "Quart" in full, preceded with the minimum number of quarts, omitting fractions, which the basket will hold when level-full, shall contain, when level-full, one or other of the following quantities:

- (a) Fifteen quarts, or more;
- (b) Eleven quarts, and be five and three-quarter inches deep perpendicularly, inside measurement, as nearly exactly as practicable;
- (c) Six and two-thirds quarts, and be four and five-eighths inches deep, perpendicularly, inside measurement, as nearly exactly as practicable; or
- (d) Two and two-fifths quarts, as nearly exactly as practicable.

3. Every person who neglects to comply with any provision of this section, and any person who sells or offers for sale any fruit or berry boxes in contravention of this section, shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of not less than twenty-five cents for each basket or box so sold or offered for sale.

4. This section shall come into effect on the first day of February, one thousand nine hundred and two.

By an Order-in-Council of June 9th, 1905, the foregoing section, and also section 4 of the Act, were assigned to the Minister of Agriculture for administration. In order to protect the public, and those box and basket manufacturers who are now complying with the law, the Honorable Minister directs that steps shall be taken to have the law enforced. Box or basket manufacturers will please accept this warning, and be guided accordingly. The Dominion Fruit Inspectors will be instructed to watch for violations of Section 5, but any person may lay an information against those who fail to carry out the provisions of the Act.

A. McNEILL,
Chief of Fruit Division.

Can Be Safely Commended.

I thank you for the beautiful knife you sent me as a premium—it far exceeds anything I had hoped for. I always speak a good word for the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," for I think every farmer ought to take it. We save every copy, and then we have it for reference when required.

Que.
HERBERT FERRIS.