

Miscellaneous

THE HOME OF AN IRON KING. The magnificent estate occupied by the Coleman family.

A PALATIAL MANSION AND 24,000 ACRES OF LAND—EVEN THE HORSES KEPT IN BROWN STONE HOUSES—STABLES CONTAINING 121 STABLES.

LEBANON, Pa., Dec. 24.—Here, in this lovely stretch of country are the vast estates of one of our iron kings.

The station of Lebanon is about 150 miles west from New York, on the Allegheny line to Harrisburg and to the west.

A short drive over a magnificent road leads to the iron hills of Pennsylvania. In a previous letter to the 'Sun' I described the immense Coleman family millions upon millions of dollars.

In this letter it is proposed to tell something of the magnificent estate, independent of the iron hills and the 24,000 acres that lie adjacent to the gigantic iron operations of Cornwall.

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no rent, is furnished firewood free, and feed and hay is furnished for one cow without charge. Besides all this, the hands are paid the best of wages, and every body seems to be perfectly contented.

Early in the morning the foreman of the farm hands, Wm. Burgess, assigns each man to perform a certain piece of work. He is stationed during the day, and personally supervises all the labor.

The foreman of the stables, H. H. Bechtel, forming the driver of the trotter Hannah K, has sole charge of the care of the trotters and the men employed in grooming them.

George F. Schultz, with a number of hands, attends to all the brooding. Every department of the farm is under direct management, all of whom report daily to the general manager. Accounts are faithfully kept of expenses and receipts in all departments, so that at the end of the month an exact statement can be handed in.

The entire estate is carried on with the regularity of clock work, and is a standing example of thrift and economy.

Visiting 'Speedwell' from a southerly point, you strike Hammer Creek some three miles north of Little Falls. Following up the creek a few miles you reach a large mansion, with its surrounding buildings and rows of tenement houses, is seen beautifully located in a little vale.

The house is situated on one side of the creek and the tenement houses are on the other. The surface of the farm is undulating, and is watered by the Hammer Creek and its tributaries. This creek flows directly through the centre of the farm, and is bordered by a number of pastures. The farm is proportionately divided by neat pastures, and nearly all fields have flowing water. In the great mansion is a large heated by a huge furnace in the cellar.

The above improvements have cost a 'mint of money' supplied by the sale of the iron works of the estate; but the whole thing is now on a paying basis. Robert Coleman, one of the young men and heirs, is creating a national reputation by his success in several new furnaces are being built since the recent improvement in the iron trade.

The liquidators of the City of Glasgow Bank have wrought wonders. In a single year they have paid out to creditors \$45,800,000, in round numbers, or about 10s. 4d. per pound. The balance due is about \$19,200,000, which is soon to be reduced by the payment of another dividend of 1s. 8d. per pound, after which the process of liquidation will be slow. No doubt is entertained that every creditor will be paid in full. The outstanding assets of the bank are about \$20,000,000, and the value of the assets of the bank is upward of \$4,300,000 or nearly half a million in excess of the liabilities. The liquidators are already engaged in raising the value of the assets of the bank by means of litigation which will employ the law courts for many years, and the remaining dividends will be paid slowly and in small amounts. But of the most serious issue there is no doubt. Every creditor, as in the case of the Western Bank, will be paid 20 shillings in the pound, and they will probably be paid in full.

George Youtz is the manager of the immense farm, and has special charge of 'Speedwell' and his regular service. Since 1862, Cornwall has produced iron and stock in about equal proportions. The first horse of note brought here was the Speedwell Hambletonian, sired by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, and reared in Cornwall. Robert Coleman, deceased was a lover of horseflesh, and it is not related that with a span of fine Black Hawk mares, he frequently drove to Lancaster, a distance of twelve miles, in forty five minutes. It was in 1862, and since then the vast farm has been devoted to stock raising. Youtz took charge in 1866, and has been here ever since, successfully managing this stock estate. In the spring of 1869, a half mile circular track was laid out on the place, a short distance from the main stables. An idea of the farm buildings may be obtained from the fact that one barn alone, built of stone, is 115 feet long, 65 feet wide, and 50 feet high, the largest barn in all the region. In 1875, Jefferson Post, of Orange County, N. Y., sold his famous stallion Middletown, for \$15,000, to the Cornwall estate. He is a blooded stallion, standing 15 1/2 hands high. Middletown occupies a brown-stone cottage, surrounded by a copula. The building is well lighted, and an awning extends around it. The inside is a marvel of neatness and good taste. There are mirrors and pictures, and it may well be called a horse palace.

The stables for the horses are all built of stone, and cost a great deal of money. The main building will contain forty horse fifty head, and is occupied by the three and four year olds. There is a large stable for the ponies, the colts and yearlings especially for weaned colts. There is also a hospital containing box stalls for sick animals, a stable for two year olds, mammoth cow stables for valuable breeds, the cart and stables where work horses are kept, a pig pen nearly 100 feet long and two stories high, and many other buildings. A large barn above described is built of red sandstone, and contains stabling for 100 horses. Pure spring water is distributed to all the buildings through iron pipes. All the barns have the very best farming machinery.

The Sun correspondent visited 'Speedwell' on Friday. This is known as speed day on the farm. Youtz and his dozen horsemen were busy. Middletown was led out of his place and given a jog and an airing. Then came Shamrock, five years old, and Middletown Chief, three years old, the former from Orange County, N. Y., and the latter bred here. Then from the main building came Lady Orange, Middletown Maid, Meadow Girl, and Willie Gardner-trotters that get well below the 30s. At one time there were counted thirty two sulkies on the track, drawn by very fine young horses. The brood mares number about fifty, and represent the blood of American Star, Mammy Chief, Hambletonian, Henry Clay, Bashaw, and other thoroughbreds. These were twenty-four two year olds, eighteen yearlings, and twenty fillies running with their dams. The total number of thoroughbreds horses, not including work horses, on the farm is 121. Music trotted here in 2:18, and Robert Bonner bought the animal. Eight trainers are regularly employed, with hostlers, horsehoes, stablemen, and farm hands. Seventeen farm hands are constantly employed the year round, and during having and harvesting about one hundred are on the payroll, notwithstanding the fact that the improved machinery is used. The houses occupied by the hands are substantial structures, two story, built of stone, with a garden and stable attached. With each house are two acres of ground. The occupant pays

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Correspondence.

MY Mother.—A very surprising gentlemen in this country, and last season, although rather cold and backward in the early part of it, a River there are several peach trees that have borne well for years. Mr. Whitman in Lawrencetown, Mr. Gidney in Bridgetown, Mr. Bates in Clarence, and one or two others, raised this luscious fruit last year. Mr. Bates' tree was grown from a peach stone planted in the fall of 1872, six years ago, and although it is a late variety the fruit ripened well. Now I believe that with a little care at the start in planting and protecting the trees in winter during the first two years, peaches may be very successfully grown here for many years to come.

The conditions necessary to success in peach cultivation are a good warm gravelly soil, a warm situation, and early varieties of the trees twice a year and the removal of all borers.

There are several kinds of early Peaches that would do well in this valley, among which are 'Amidon's,' 'Coddies Favorite,' 'Crawford's Early,' and 'Hull's Early.' These are choice varieties and among the earliest peaches grown. It is fully to be regretted that the trees are not more numerous in this valley. Some persons prefer to grow the tree as an espalier, others as a standard. If grown as an espalier the soil should be very stiff and heavy, but well enriched with manure, and kept well packed or tramped down near the tree. As to situation, of course the south side of a wall or building is the best place, as peaches require all the sun they can get in order to ripen early and well.

I should prefer standard varieties, and I think they would do better than espaliers provided they are in a situation well sheltered from the cold north winds, but not too much protected, for they require plenty of air.

For the first two or three years after planting the trees, good crops such as the beans or potatoes may be raised, but when the trees are in a bearing state no crop should be grown on the land.

From the few experiments that have been made, we have sufficient proof that under certain conditions there would be no difficulty in raising splendid peaches and plenty of them. In this County, and I hope that, before another season passes, many of our fruit growers will have planted the right kind of trees. So that, in a few years, the St. John and Halifax markets at least may be supplied with Annapolis peaches, and that the reputation which this County has obtained for apples may be made to apply to peaches also.

In the State of Maine, which has a cold climate than Annapolis County, a Mr. Gordon has established the fact that peaches may be successfully grown there, and the following extract from the 'St. John Telegraph' of 19th November last will give you a clear idea of Mr. Gordon's method of cultivation. It, however, seems to me that he took a deal of useless trouble, and lost two or three years of time by raising peaches from seed, when he could have got them half grown at any nursery in New York State.

PEACH GROWING IN MAINE. We have long known that for some time past Maine has acted persistently to the detriment of peach raising, but we did not know until so informed by Mr. Gordon that any of the farmers of the Pine Tree State aspired to grow peaches. Such, however, is the fact. The pioneer peach grower in Maine is Mr. Lyman, of the town of York, the north western of the State. Lyman is situated nearly a degree south of Augusta. Much of the country is a pine plain, and pine and oak are the principal indigenous trees, though there is a sprinkling of others. The soil is described as light and in many places sandy, but produces well when thoroughly cultivated. The spot on which the peaches were grown is thus described:—

The Gordon farm is a ridge sloping toward the east and northeast, and the wind from these points sweep across it unimpeded. From the northerly winds, it is sheltered by higher lands covered by a growth of oak and pine wood. The soil is deep, gravelly loam with plenty of color. On the premises is a large barn somewhat dilapidated and a more modern house in the rear. A quantity of peaches are raised from an old orchard which has been sadly neglected and produces scarcely any fruit. Below and easterly from the house are peach orchards, one containing about a hundred trees, their foliage still green and the broken branches of some peaches hanging from the trees. The trees are set out about three or four feet apart, and each tree has a stake to support it, and the branches of different trees are often interlocked. This orchard is sheltered by the house and by pine and other trees which grow along the sides of the road leading to it. North of the house in the lot of the woods is peach orchard number two, containing nearly two hundred thirty trees many of which are only two or three years old and have never borne fruit.

After digging in front of his house in order to make a little four bed, which his wife desired, Mr. Gordon noticed that some old decaying peach trees showed signs of life. The fact was suggestive. His limited means led him to procure peach stones, and he had them planted in boxes filled with earth and placed them in the cellar. Occasionally during the winter he had a little water poured into the boxes to secure moisture. He had the ground which was to receive them in the spring made as rich as possible. In the spring he took the seeds from the boxes and cracked by a slight blow of a hammer on the one side. They were generally found sprouted and readily divided were planted in the nursery which was prepared to receive them. They came up a sure crop and attached a growth of from two to three feet, the first year. They were planted about a foot apart and cultivated with the utmost care, the soil having been richly manured and deeply and thoroughly cultivated. For the first three years after setting out the trees, he plants the ground around the trees as carefully as he would in the case of corn. After leaving off planting potatoes, he ploughed the ground between the rows and drew the rest with a hoe. When a year old they are taken up and transplanted in rows fifteen feet apart. When setting out, Mr. Gordon sows the seeds about a foot in length, but is very careful not to disturb any of the little branches which may have come out below by cutting back the middle and allowing the lower branches to grow. The trees spread out but does not grow tall. They are cut back the middle and allowed to grow over two feet in height and most of them are not over one foot. It is time to

give the result of Mr. Gordon's labors.—Last spring the trees generally blossomed and presented a beautiful sight. The spring frost visited them, and soon the trees were covered with young fruit. The season was over a week later than usual, and an important question was Mr. Gordon was whether it would be long enough for the fruit to ripen. The fruit grew rapidly and many of the trees soon became so heavily loaded that they required propping up, and some broke off even with this support. Then they began to take on the beautiful tints of approaching maturity and on the twenty-ninth day of August the first basket of delicious ripe peaches was picked. The report of the rare sight to be seen on the Gordon farm soon spread to Kennebec, Sax, Biddeford and to other places, and from that time to the end of the harvest, which continued five weeks, the visitors averaged thirty-five for every week day. Most of the crop was sold to visitors, and the proceeds amounted to over six hundred dollars in cash. The price was from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per basket, so that the crop of selected fruit amounted to more than two hundred bushels. Besides these, Mr. Gordon thinks there were from six to eight bushels of inferior fruit which he gave away. There were in the two orchards, 176 bearing trees producing over sixty varieties, and not a poor one among them. They matured their fruit in succession so that there was no lack of fruit for six or seven weeks that the harvest lasted. Some of the varieties were pronounced by good judges who had gathered peaches in the most famous peach-growing sections of the country equal, if not superior, to any they had ever seen. Of course Mr. Gordon is very happy over the result, and leaves him to say that his first crop has paid all the expense of planting and cultivation and has made a profit of over six hundred dollars. The two orchards occupy one and three-fourths acres of land and contain something over five hundred trees. For the first two or three years after planting the trees, good crops such as the beans or potatoes may be raised, but when the trees are in a bearing state no crop should be grown on the land.

The facts stated do not prove that we could do equally well in the same line in the Maritime provinces, but they suggest experiments. The soil in the State of Western Ontario is greatly enhanced, more especially in the neighborhood of St. Catharines, by the splendid fruit-growing capacity of the soil. In the State of Michigan there is little doubt that, by studying the relations of fruit to soil and climate, we might be able to grow peaches in the State of Michigan. We have seen some fine peaches grown at the Grand River, but they have exceptions to the general rule even in the sister province.

The editor of the Telegraph says that the facts stated do not prove that we could do equally well in the same line in the Maritime Provinces, but I think they do prove a demonstration that if peaches can be grown successfully in the State of Maine they may be raised in even greater perfection in this country where the climate is warmer, and better adapted for raising fruit than any part of Maine, or even of Massachusetts. I hope some of the gentlemen who have succeeded in this country in growing peaches will give me and the rest of your readers the benefit of their experience, in the columns of the Monitor.

Wilmot, Jan. 29th, 1880.

The Mormons. A Salt Lake City despatch, dated the 6th inst., says,

The new Mormon tabernacle, which has been three years in course of erection, was opened on Saturday, by the Conference of the Latter-day Saints, who attacked the enemies of polygamy severely, censuring the nation for its opposition. Now he wanted to see whether her heaven or Uncle Sam was going to prevail; for his part he was going to stick to the Lord. He called for an expression from the audience, which embraced 5,000 people, and then he raised their right hands before God if they sympathized in his defiance of Government interference. The enthusiasm was intense; all hands went up; mothers lifted aloft the hands of their children. Apostle Smith followed in the same manner, exhibiting a defiant attitude. There is considerable rivalry among the Mormon chiefs for power in the Church Government and the struggle promises to come to an open rupture.

A great curiosity is reported from Ohio, in the shape of a child of two years of age, who is gradually petrifying—a term which is used by the medical profession apparently because of the lack of a better one. Last July a sudden hardening of the limbs was noticed, and since that time it has gradually spread over the whole body. The head, neck, arms and legs of the child are said to be so hard that not the slightest indentation can be made upon them, and the limbs seem to be bloodless and are as cold as marble. The child has no use of the members that hardened, and medical men are said to be unable to explain the cause of the singular phenomenon.

A PARTY INCIDENT.—A pretty incident occurred at Lebanon Oct. the former Sunday. Into the Methodist church flew a robin during services. Perching on the rail opposite the pulpit, it sang loudly when the people sang, was silent during prayer, but when the minister preached it chirped occasionally as if to encourage him. It remained until the congregation was formally dismissed, and then flew away. Another pretty incident will occur when the auditor of the Colonial City and tries to square himself with St. Peter about

Sir Arthur Guinness was recently incorrectly described as 'the great Dublin porter brewer.' Within the past year Sir Arthur has sold his interest in the brewery business for \$3,000,000, and his celebrated stout is no longer a perennial fountain of gold to him.

'Truth is stranger than fiction,' and it takes some people a long time to feel at home with it. 'Can love die?' asks Mrs. Nealy in a recent poem. It cannot, though it gets dreadfully abjured occasionally.