

A Family Newspaper—Devoted to Politics, Literature, Morality, Foreign and Domestic News, Science and the Arts, Agriculture, Markets, Amusements, &c. SUNBURY, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA. SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1850. OLD SERIES VOL. 10, NO. 38.

TERMS OF THE AMERICAN. THE AMERICAN is published every Saturday at TWO DOLLARS per annum in advance...

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BANK NOTE TABLE. CORRECTED WEEKLY. PENNSYLVANIA, MASSACHUSETTS, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, U. S. Bank notes, All solvent banks, 10c...

A CALL TO HOUSEKEEPERS At the Cabinet Ware Room of SEB'N HOYT & CO. Market Square, Sunbury, Pa.

CABINET WARE AND CHAIRS, MANUFACTURED BY SEBASTIAN HOYT & CO. Mahogany, Walnut & Cane-Seat Chairs, Large Spring Seat Rocking Chairs, Dressing Bureaus, Chest Tables, Marble Top Wash Stands, and a variety of other new style and

Fashionable Furniture. Having secured a Horse and made the necessary arrangements for the purpose, they are now prepared for Undertaking in all its branches, in this vicinity or at any convenient distance.

REFORM YOUR HABITS. Come ye, with garments low and sooty, Ye bachelors, widowers and husbands too, If, in the outward sun you're proud, We soon can make you as good as new.

EDWIN HALL, (LATE OF THE FIRM OF WATERSON & HALL) No. 24 South Second Street, Philadelphia.

JACOB O. BECK, Sunbury, March 30, 1850.—Sun. The subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he will commence in this place, on the 8th of April next, the

SELECT POETRY. We give place to the following touching stanzas, suggested by the recent decease of Mrs. Osgood, with much pleasure, and should be happy to hear from our fair correspondent again.—Edw. N. Y. EXP.

ON THE DEATH OF A POETESS. BY MRS. L. G. ABELL. I have heard the echo of fairy songs, As they floated sweetly by; And my heart was filled with responsive tones

A Select Tale. QUEEN SIMIRAMIS. BY MASSENIUS, A GERMAN JESUIT, 1657. "Of all my loves, I love King Ninus to Semiramis, 'tis I who I love best. None have charms and graces like you, and for you I would willingly resign them all."

REIMS OF AN ANCIENT CALIFORNIA CITY.—Antiquarians will be deeply interested in the discovery of vast regions of ancient ruins near San Diego, and within a day's march of the Pacific Ocean at the head of the Gulf of California.

DIDN'T WANT TO QUARREL.—There is a noted mail contractor in Ramsey, N. H., who can tell as big a story as most of them, and who possesses one of the most accommodating dispositions in the world.

MINNESOTA TERRITORY. (From the Pennsylvania Telegraph.) ORIGINAL SKETCH OF THE HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF MINNESOTA TERRITORY. BY DR. THOMAS POSTER. Number 3.

THE SOIL AND ITS FARMING CAPACITY. It is well known that the organic or vegetable matter of the soil is the portion which chiefly communicates its fertilizing qualities to crops; and that the salts which also enter into its composition, are considered by chemists, as its stimulating ingredients—or, in other words, that the different salts in any soil, exert upon the organic matter a chemical action, and contribute to regulate and facilitate the process of nutrition.

MINNESOTA TERRITORY. (Continued) Besides this, it has been shown, that almost in proportion to the specific lightness of the soil is its richness, and its capacity for the culture of every species of culinary vegetable and small grains; and it has been observed likewise, that the power of absorption is generally in proportion to the amount of organic matter and the lightness of the soil.

"Let us see," said Ninus, "how will you continue your part. By what orders will you begin?" "Let the secretary of the king approach my throne," said Semiramis, in a loud voice.

"Write," said Semiramis; "Under penalty of death, the governor of the citadel of Babylon is ordered to yield up the command of the citadel to him who shall bear to him this order." "Fold this with the king's seal, and deliver to me this decree. Write now, 'Under penalty of death, the governor of the slaves of the palace is ordered to resign the command of the slaves into the hands of the person who shall present to him this order.' Fold it, seal it with the king's seal, and deliver to me this decree. Write again, 'Under penalty of death, the general of the army encamped under the walls of Babylon is ordered to resign the command of the army to him who shall be the bearer of this order.' Fold, seal and deliver this decree to me."

"When all the rest had gone out, 'You see,' said Semiramis, 'that I know how to play the queen.' Ninus laughed. 'My beautiful queen,' said he, 'you play your part to astonishment. But if your servant may dare to question you, what would you do with the orders you have dictated?'"

"I should be no longer queen, were I obliged to give account of my actions.—Nevertheless, this was my motive. I have a vengeance to execute against the three officers whom these orders menace." "Vengeance, and wherefore?" "The first, the governor of the citadel, is one-eyed, and frightens me every time I meet him; the second, the chief of the slaves, I hate because he threatens me with rivals; the third, the general of the army, deprives me too often of your company; you are constantly in the camp."

"This reply, in which caprice and flattery were mingled, enchanted Ninus. 'Good,' said he, laughing. 'Here are the three first officers of the empire dismissed for very sufficient reasons.' The gentlemen of the court now came to present their gifts to the queen. Some gave precious stones, others of a lower rank, flowers and fruits, and the slaves, having nothing to give, gave nothing.

"And you," said she to the three brothers, "have you no present to make your queen?" "No other," replied the first, Zopire, "than my life to defend her." "None other," replied the second, Artaban, "than my sabre against her enemies." "None other," replied the third, Assar, "than the respect and admiration which her presence inspires."

"Slaves," said Semiramis, "it is you who have made the most valuable presents of the whole court, and I will not be ungrateful. You who have offered me your sword against my enemies, take this order, carry it to the general of the army encamped under the walls of Babylon, give it to him, and see what he will do for you. You who have offered me your life for my defence, take this order to the governor of the citadel, and see what he will do for you.—And you, who offered me the respect and admiration which my presence inspires, take this order to the commandant of the palace, and see what will be the result."

Never had Semiramis displayed so much gaiety, so much folly and so much grace, and never was Ninus so captivated. Nor were her charms lessened in his eyes, when a slave, not having executed properly an insignificant order, she commanded his head to be struck off, which was immediately done.

"Are my orders executed?" she demanded of them. "Yes," they replied. "The fete was very gay. A slave having, by the force of habit, served the king first, Semiramis had him beaten with rods. His cries mingled with the laughter of the guests. Every one was inclined to merriment. It was a comedy, in which each played his part. Toward the end of the repast, when wine had added to the general gaiety, Semiramis rose from her elevated seat, and said—'My lords, the treasurer of the empire has read me a list of those who this morning have brought me their gifts of congratulation on my joyful accession to the throne. One grandee alone of the court has failed to bring his gift.'"

"Who is it?" cried Ninus. "He must be punished severely." "It is you yourself, my lord—you who speak. What have you given to the queen this morning?" "Ninus rose, and came with a smiling countenance to whisper something in the ear of the queen. 'The queen is insulted by her servant,' exclaimed Semiramis. 'I embrace your knees to obtain my pardon. Pardon me, beautiful queen,' said he, 'pardon me.' And he added, in a lower tone, 'I would that this fete were finished.'"

"You will not then be angry," said she, in a whisper, "at something I am going to order at this moment?" "No," said he. "Slaves," said she aloud, "seize this man—that Ninus." Ninus, smiling, put himself into the hands of the slaves.

"Take him out of the saloon, lead him into the court of the seraglio, prepare everything for his death, and wait my orders." The slaves obeyed, and Ninus followed them, laughing, into the court of the seraglio. They passed by the head of the disbelieving eunuch. Then Semiramis placed herself on a balcony. Ninus had suffered his hands to be tied.

"Hasten to the fortress, Zopire; you to the camp, Artaban; Assar, do you secure all the gates in the palace." These orders were given in a whisper, and executed immediately. "Beautiful queen," said Ninus, laughing, "this comedy only wants its denouement; pray let it be a prompt one!" "I will," said Semiramis. "Slaves, recollect the eunuch—strike!"

They struck. Ninus had hardly time to utter a cry when his head fell upon the pavement; the smile was still upon his lips. "Now I am queen of Assyria," exclaimed Semiramis, "and perish every one, like the eunuch and like Ninus, who dares disobey my orders."

But climate, the lay of the land, and the manner in which it is watered and drained, are scarcely less important in securing practical results in cultivation, than the mere abstract chemical elements of the soil. But equally by the character of the first, as by the nature of the last named requisites, the farmer in Minnesota is guaranteed success in his labors.

In the spring, the streams of the Territory may be ice-bound later, and vegetation slower to begin than elsewhere. Yet, finally, when the bonds of winter are unloosed, they are snapped suddenly, and are not again united. In other words, in the spring of Minnesota, there is little of the transition state—winter ends and summer begins almost at once—vegetation rushes forward with a rapidity that soon makes up for lost time—and farmers there suffer scarcely any of those drawbacks incident to farming in the older States, occasioned by "winter-fingering in the lap of spring"—by the weather at one period encouraging vegetation by genial smiles, to put forth its summer liveliness; when at another, a treacherous frost comes, nipping and destroying its first budlings.

always be made so as to secure a sufficiency of timber for fencing and fuel. For building (or even fencing) purposes, the great Pinerias around the heads of the Upper Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, furnish an inexhaustible supply of heavy pine logs, which are floated down to saw-mills convenient to the farming country, and there manufactured in lumber for home or markets. In this feature alone, a farmer settling in Minnesota would have no slight advantage over the inhabitants of the States, lying farther south.

In regard to water for farming purposes, few lands are more liberally supplied with this element in all its purity. The rivers of the Territory are for the most part navigable canals, affording abundant facilities of inland navigation and inter-communication.

But to her system of Lanes, large and small from those hundreds of miles in circumference to ponds 100 feet in diameter—and to the springs flowing from them, must the farmer in Minnesota principally look for his homestead supply.

These lakes dot the whole country over, and hardly a farm could be opened on a quarter of section of land anywhere, that would not border upon one of these beautiful sheets of water, or possess within its precincts one or more of the little ponds referred to.

The small as well as the large, are filled with the purest, sweetest and most wholesome of living water. Indeed, there is no stagnant water in the country. A puddle in the middle of a traveled road, in a rich black soil, we have seen clear itself immediately and become pure and limpid. Even the marshes and tamarak swamps, which are invariably supplied from either some near or distant lake, by its waters percolating through the sandy drift substratum,—all contain pure water, that may be drunk, not only with entire impunity, in the heats of summer, but with refreshment, as the writer of this has in person experienced. A similar experiment with the swamp water of the lower country on the Mississippi and Ohio, would be like drinking in poison and ready made fever.

The practical results of farming in Minnesota, so far as a trial, confirm the theoretical anticipations: First, as to Indian Corn: The following extracts from newspapers published at St. Paul, the capital, will afford an idea of its adaptation to the soil and climate of Minnesota:

"GREEN CORN.—Mr. Bass, of the St. Paul Pioneer, regaled his boarders with an excellent mess of green corn, yesterday. We believe some of the article has been on private tables in our town heretofore this season, but this is the first we have seen at any of our hotels. Our neighbors three hundred miles south of this are scarcely ahead of us in this respect."

The above extract is from the Minnesota Register, of July 31, 1849. In the same number of the paper, the "Prospects of the Crops" in the Territory, are thus noticed: "The corn crop all over the Territory, so far as we have learned, looks remarkably fine and promises an abundant yield. Any persons residing in a more southern region, who are skeptical in regard to the capacity of Minnesota to produce corn, had better come up and take a look at some of our luxuriant fields. It is now in tassel, and will have abundant time to ripen before frost. Potatoes also look remarkably well. The season has been very favorable for their growth. This crop will yield upon our soil 250 and 300 bushels to the acre. Good potatoes have been selling in St. Paul this season, at one dollar per bushel."

The extraordinary specimens of vegetation above mentioned, were examined by the writer. The corn was very fine. The ears were long, cob small, and grains large, firm and even set in the rows. The seed planted was of the St. Lawrence Yellow flint variety. The wheat was plump and full, and product extraordinarily heavy. The cabbage was without any loose leaves,—a compact, solid and round mass of vegetation, one foot and six inches in diameter! The onions were of a size that nearly made one's eyes water to look at them.

The newspaper last quoted from, of the previous date of September 15, 1849, says: "We have before us a turnip, of the common flat species, said to have been raised on the farm of Councillor Sturges, fifty miles north of here, measuring thirty inches in circumference. It is true, we have seen larger turnips than this, but it should be recollected, the growing season of this vegetable is now in its midst, and will not be over for four or five weeks. Had it been suffered to remain in the ground until cold weather, it would probably have grown twice its present size."

We would merely remark that, subsequently to the above date, we saw turnips as large as this specimen, bought by the bushel, in the streets of St. Paul—some ten or a dozen completing the measure!

But all root crops succeed astonishingly in the loose and warm soil of the Territory. It produces potatoes superior to any in the world—large, dry, very mealy, and finely flavored. With this stable and necessary luxury, it cannot be doubted that Minnesota will in time supply the whole of the lower Mississippi valley, down to New Orleans. No where else can they be raised so good and in such heavy crops to the acre,—not even in Maine.

Winter Wheat is yet to be tried. On the rolling uplands and oak openings, its success, with proper cultivation, is more than probable. It must be sowed early to allow the roots time to grow strong before winter; and it must be plowed in as deep as three and four inches, to prevent its being heaved out by the frost. Spring wheat has succeeded admirably, as before stated.

For the raising of stock, Minnesota is well calculated. The numerous natural meadows besides the prairies, produce a succulent, nutritious, fine leaved grass, on which alone cattle will fatten in summer, and keep well on its hay in winter. We saw no better kind in the territory. The milk and butter from the cattle thus fed on this natural grass, is exceedingly rich and fine tasted, and the yield of both these articles, is comparatively great for each cow. In winter, cattle stand the cold well, the atmosphere being so dry; and being little wind, they are seldom put under shelter. They frequently also, find green food in the winter among the nutritious rushes that abound on the margins of some of the lakes.

It has been well remarked, however, that the raising of fine, hardy, healthy horses, for the southern and eastern markets; and especially the growing of fine woolled sheep; are the branches of stock farming, from which the territory and future state of Minnesota, is best calculated by its distant position, climate and natural productions, and which would be most profitable.

But at present there is, and will be for years, a home market for every thing the farmer can raise; and cattle, horses, sheep and swine are among the importations that are now profitable made from the lower States to supply the demand in the territory. The cultivation of fruit in Minnesota, has not received a great deal of attention as yet. A few young apple trees have been planted, but are not in bearing. So well convinced, however, are those who have had experience in this branch of culture elsewhere, that the Territory is particularly adapted to fruit growing, and that the winters will not be an obstacle to success, that already two nurseries are being laid out and will be planted in the suburbs of St. Paul in the present spring of 1850.

Wild plums are native to the country and likewise a species of apple. The strawberry, raspberry, dewberry and blackberry, are indigenous, and their vine almost carpet the prairies and oak openings. Cranberries are found in great quantities in nearly every wet meadow. In some localities they are very plentiful. No less than 2500 barrels of this fruit were gathered last fall, by Indians and whites and shipped down the river to St. Louis, where they brought on the average \$6 per barrel.

In regard to tree fruits, it may be safely asserted, that those kinds which succeed in Wisconsin, where the cold is often down to 20 deg. below zero, and even lower, will likewise answer for growing in Minnesota. In a late number of the Albany Cultivator, the experience of F. K. Phoenix, in the cultivation of fruits in Wisconsin, is thus given:—'Plums, Duane's Purple, Smith's Orleans, Emerald Drop, Imperial Gaze, and Long Scarlet, prove tolerably hardy. Hardest Peas—Urbaniste, Flemish beauty, White Do-yenne, and Easter Bourne. The Barlett is unusually tender. Of Cherries, May-Duke, Arch-Duke, and Downer, are hardiest. The Clinton Grape is perfectly hardy—the Isabella needs covering. Of Apples—Early Harvest, Keswick Codin, Dutchess of Oldenberg, Drap d'Or, Farnese, Autumn Strawberry, and Pomme Gris are hardy, and maintain their eastern reputation.'

Peaches it is thought will succeed, to limited extent, in favorable and sheltered locations, and with careful nursing the first two or three years of their growth.

There is no richer soil in the world, nor a country better adapted to all kinds of farming, than the 'Prairies' between here and Point Douglas. The facts given above in regard to what it is capable of producing, will fully attest the truth of this remark.

In describing the "lay of the land," it may be most properly divided into prairie, oak openings, and lake and swamp meadows. The two former are high and undulating, and the latter low and level. The prairies are much smaller generally, than those farther south in Illinois and Iowa; and the proportion of oak and hard wood timber, scattered over the surface of the land, is greater: while water is everywhere plenty. Locations can nearly

everywhere be made so as to secure a sufficiency of timber for fencing and fuel. For building (or even fencing) purposes, the great Pinerias around the heads of the Upper Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, furnish an inexhaustible supply of heavy pine logs, which are floated down to saw-mills convenient to the farming country, and there manufactured in lumber for home or markets. In this feature alone, a farmer settling in Minnesota would have no slight advantage over the inhabitants of the States, lying farther south.

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