

Miscellaneous.

RECONSTRUCTION; NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

The remarkable speech of Judge Kelley, of Philadelphia, says the Constitution, on the duty of giving suffrage to the negro, has introduced a new element into the discussion of the question of reconstruction in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is safe to assert that in every State, save South Carolina, and possibly Virginia and Delaware—in which two States the question of suffrage was regulated by statute and not by constitutional provision—negroes participated in constituting the Convention which framed the Constitution of the United States, and voted for members of the State Conventions to which the question of its ratification was submitted; and as that Constitution contains no clause which expressly or by implication deprives them of the protecting power and influence of the instrument they participated in creating.

As a step to this, my amendment proposes, not that the entire mass of people of African descent, whom our laws and customs have degraded and brutalized, shall be immediately clothed with all the rights of citizenship, it proposes only to grant the right of suffrage, inestimable to all men, to those who may be so far fitted by education for its judicious exercise as to be able to read the Constitution and laws of the country, in addition to the brave men, who, in the name of law and liberty, and in the hope of leaving their children heirs to both, have welcomed the baptism of battle in the naval and military service of the United States, and who are embraced by the amendment reported by the committee.

I am, Mr. Speaker, under but one specific pledge to my constituents: other than that which promised to vote away the last dollar from each man's pocket and the last able-bodied son from his hearthside, if they should be needed for the effectual suppression of the rebellion; and that is, that I will in their behalf consent to no proposed system of reconstruction which shall place the loyal men of the insurrectionary districts under the unbridled control of the wicked and heartless traitors who have involved us in this war, and illustrated their barbarity by the fiendish cruelties they have practised on their loyal neighbors, negro soldiers and unhappy prisoners of war; and to that pledge, God helping me, I mean to prove faithful.

Let us meet the question fairly. Do our institutions rest on complexional differences? Can we cement and perpetuate them by surrendering the patriots of the insurgent district, shorn of all political power, into the hands of the traitors whom we propose to propitiate by such a sacrifice of faith and honor? Did God ordain our country for a single race of men? If there reason why the intelligent, wealthy, loyal man of color shall stand apart, abased, on election-day, while his ignorant, intemperate, vicious, and disloyal white neighbor participates in making laws for his government? What is the logic that denies to a son the right to vote with or against his father, because it has pleased heaven that he should partake more largely of his mother's than of that father's complexion? And is it not known to all of us that well nigh forty per cent. of the colored people of the South are children of white fathers, who, after we subjugate them, will, with professions of loyalty only lip-deep, enjoy the right of suffrage in the reconstructed States?

And take again the following, as a happy reminder to modern Democrats, of the teachings of a Democrat of an earlier day:

Let us frankly accept Jefferson's test as to the right of suffrage, and give it practical effect. In a letter dated July 12, 1816, in discussing a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Virginia, Mr. Jefferson said:—

The true foundation of republican government is the equal right of every citizen in his person and property, and in their management. Try by this as a tally every provision of our Constitution, and see if it hangs directly on the will of the people. Reduce your Legislature to a convenient number for full but orderly discussion. Let every man who fights or pays exercise his just and equal right in their election.—Jefferson's Works, vol. 7, page 11.

country no line of right can be drawn.—Works, vol. 7, page 345.

And again, as if to show how well considered his opinion was, in the notes on Virginia, speaking of the then constitution of that State, he said:—

This constitution was formed when we were new and inexperienced in the science of government. It was the first, too, that was formed in the whole United States. No wonder, then, that time and trial have discovered very capital defects in it:—

1. The majority of the men in the State who pay and fight for its support are not represented in the Legislature, the majority of freeholders entitled to vote not including generally half of the militia or of the taxpayers.—Works, vol. 8, page 559.

Agricultural.

WPI ORCHARDS DIE EARLY.

A Wisconsin correspondent writes to the Rural New Yorker:—Having seen considerable discussion in the Rural lately about fruit trees, and believing from my own observation that they are not as long-lived or hardy as formerly, I wish to give my reason as to the cause. I have seen various theories advanced by as many different persons, each advocating being certain that his particular reason is the true one, excepting, however, as far from the truth as the others, and all wide of the mark. Nurserymen, also, as I believe, carefully evade the truth, and not always from ignorance, but for the reason that it would subject them to more trouble and expense to remove the cause than to propagate as they do; and then it is an object to keep the trade good.

It is well known that the first orchards in the earlier settled portions of the country were mostly raised from the seed, and when the tree began to bear, if the fruit was not satisfactory, the owner went to some neighboring tree whose fruit was known to be right, out of some scions, and the obnoxious tree was grafted to good fruit, grafted with scions taken from old bearing and well-matured trees; and failure in raising an orchard was a thing almost unknown.

What is the practice now? Mr. A. starts a nursery, goes to Mr. B., gets his scions and grafts his trees. More seeds are sown, a new lot of trees started. Meantime the first trees grow up, need trimming, and the limbs out are used to graft the new trees. Scions are taken from trees No. 2, to graft future trees, and thus the process continues, propagating from young, immature, and unripened trees.

It is also known that the risk of raising trees is continually on the increase; that everybody is on the lookout for some new variety, which, when got, proves tolerably successful for a time; but as orchards continue to be propagated from it, it soon proves as worthless as the rest, and is cast out of the synagogue to make room for some other new variety; and it matters not how hardy a tree may be at first, by the time the nurserymen have had it for a time it is as worthless as heart could wish.

What would be thought of the stock raiser, were he to propagate from animals that were weakly, deformed, or were it possible, before they had got one-tenth of their growth? Answer is unnecessary. Constitutional debility, or physical deformity, are transmitted from parent to offspring, to a greater or less extent, and stock raisers are careful to use for breeding only the soundest and most perfect animals, and those that have arrived at a proper degree of maturity, well knowing that a contrary course would be fatal to their success. The same law holds good in the vegetable as in the animal kingdom; and why nurserymen should disregard the laws of nature more than any other class of propagators, is to me a mystery. I also believe the practice of grafting very young, and low down, or below the surface of the ground, is bad; that the tree has not strength nor vitality to withstand the shock sufficiently for its future good; but it should attain a diameter of about one inch and then be grafted at that height from the ground necessary to form the top where wanted, the whole top being severed, or what I think is better, allowing the tree to get a good top, and then graft the several branches in two or three successive years. I have seen, both practices carried out with perfect success, and have seen trees raised by the above plan which had attained a diameter of a foot or more and in perfect health; and bearing abundantly.

But, says one, the larger the tree the larger the body to be severed; and your shocking shock will be in the same proportion in the large tree as in the small one. True, but as in the animal kingdom, the permanent injury sustained is not always in proportion to the actual injury given; but depends in a great measure upon the ability or vitality of the subject to sustain and recover from the effects of the operation. Many persons sink under an operation, or receive a shock to their constitution that leaves them invalid for life that another would bear with impunity; and the tree of larger growth I believe to be better able to sustain itself under the operation of grafting than a very small one. Why is it that fruit trees of every variety are now so soon destroyed by insects and various diseases—a destruction that is now far more common than formerly? My answer is, why are sickly and enfeebled children quickly carried off when attacked by disease?—because they have not the constitution or vitality to resist the disease until it has run its course.

My plan is this:—Set out seedlings; allow them to get a good vigorous growth; go to some old bearing tree, get your scion, and, if you have not the requisite skill, get some one who has to graft your orchard, and you will soon cease to be troubled with sickly trees. A due regard should also be paid to the seed sown at first; sow only seed from strong, hardy varieties. I know this would not be so convenient as the common plan, and would compel a man to either do his own grafting or employ those traveling tree murderers, so common in the Eastern States a few years ago; who, under pretense of grafting a man's trees for him,

have been known, when allowed to have their own way, to ruin man's fine orchard; but the certainty of raising an orchard outweighs all other considerations. I do not pretend to be infallible, but the above conclusions seem plain and common sense, that I believe them to be sound. If any one will give a better reason, or show the fallacy of mine, I will "give up the belt." See writing the above, I have noticed a communication in the Rural of January 14th, from Mr. Houghton, in which mention is made of propagation from a certain golden pippin that proves the correctness of my theory. The reader can judge for himself.

FEEDING ROOTS.

I think it pays full well to feed roots to cattle as any stock I can have. Horses do well to have a part of their food supplied with carrots. I always clean all of my roots for horses or cattle. Some say dirt is good; but much of it is not. It is a good deal of work to clean them, but it pays. I fed a number of hundreds of bushels one winter, and wiped every bushel of them. One of my neighbors fed, the same winter, carrots to his horses and a cow; he came over to my place one day and said that his cow did not do well. He wanted to make her extra fat, and gave her all of meal and carrots she would eat, but she did not gain much. I told him he fed too much dirt; he thought not. He wanted I should go and see the cow. His horses, he thought, were sick. I went and found no disease about the cow. He wanted to know how I fed my roots. I told him to clean his carrots and give in small feeds until the stomach had gained its natural strength again. He did so, and his cow fattened well from that time, and was a very fat animal when killed.

I think that roots fed with corn meal pay best, for the reason that the juice of the vegetable moistens the meal and aids digestion. The action on the stomach is different from water; in masticating the root it warms the juice while mixing with the saliva, and it assimilates more readily with the gastric juice and prepares the food for a good digestion. The lacted diets take up the nutritive part of the food, while the blood carries it to the tissues, and the animal lays on fat.

We have weighed and fed, and weighed again, but no record has been kept of the gain, time, and amount of food. I should have to write from memory. I am feeding four head this winter with carrots and poor corn, and shall feed meal, as soon as corn will grind. I sowed two acres of turnips; the grasshoppers ate them off the first time; I sowed again, but being late, they were small, the heavy rains flooded them. I shall try again next season.—Cor. of Rural New Yorker.

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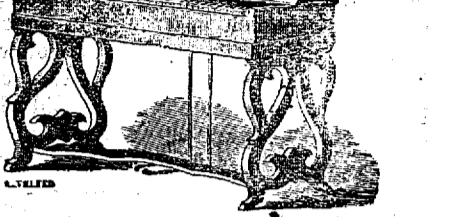
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