# THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1867.

## Rural Economy.

### CULTIVATION OF THE STRAWBERRY.

The discoveries of scientific and practical men in the past few years have excited a large amount of attention from that class of our farmers whose labor is given principal-ly to the cultivation of smaller fruits. Among the most saleable of these, paying, probably the largest percentage to the grower, is the Strawberry. Five hundred dollars from an acre in grain or grass would be deemed an impossibility, but that amount from an acre of Strawberry plants is frequently realized. The fear that an overstocked market would place their price below remuneration, has proved groundless, for it has been found an impossibility to overstock the market. Many of our farmers contemplate this use of their ground for coming years, and to them we would say always set out the best plants, even if their cost is considerably above the average, for this will be found the truest economy in the end. Light, loamy soils with clay subsoils are best for this purpose, and a fair amount of exposure to the sun is also of value. Perhaps there is no plant more sensitive to the touch of proper fertilizers than this one, and too much attention cannot easily be given to this fact. The land should be placed in the most cultivated order before setting out the plants, which should be kept out of the sun and in a moist condition until they are transplanted. If the season is dry and hot, it will be necessary for a short time to water and shade them through the day, always taking care to uncover them at night so they may receive the invigorating effect of the dew.

Strawberries are best grown in beds four feet wide. This secures convenience in gathering and allows opportunity for cultivation. Three rows should be put in a bed and the plants in each row placed twelve inches apart. If the rules to which we have alluded are observed the transplanting may be done in any month from March to November, although the summer months are preferable. The fewest runners are made by those set in June and as more or less of these are desired farmers will either use or avoid this month in their work. An acre of these plants can be set by an experienced man in a day and will number about 10,000.

It is of great importance to keep them free from weeds in the summer. A neglect of a few weeks in this matter will often make it impossible to make it worth while to preserve the beds, and yet'a small amount of attention and labor will prevent their ascendency. Mulching in winter is never neglected by the successful grower. Corn stalks will answer a tolerable purpose, but rye straw is preferred above all other articles. The covering should be done in November, and removed as soon as the freezing weather is over and before the plants have made any growth. The covering that is taken off need only be placed between the rows where it will serve to keep the ground moist and thus facilitate an early growth, besides keeping the weeds down and the fruit clean. No good fruit however can be fruit clean. No good fruit however can be raised in large quantities without the use of suitable fertilizers. Common barn yard menure is good but its constituents are too. manure is good but its constituents are too sert basin is another most important topic cumbrous to be of great value. One chord of this (3,000 pounds,) contains 2,556 pounds of water and 138 of sand, 332 of carbonaceous matter, which are of no more value the country will constantly be examined. than so much peat straw or chaff. There is In short, to examine and describe the geolobut 74 pounds of active fertilizing material, but 74 pounds of active fertilizing material, such as nitrogen, potash, soda, lime, magne-and natural resources of the country will sia, phosphoric and sulphuric acid, chlorine, be the aim in view.—The Nation. iron and alum. It would startle some of our farmers to learn that the market value of these 74 pounds is only \$3.00 yet such is the fact and proves conclusively that barn-yard manure however valuable for other purposes is but of little use in this. The best and cheapest fertilizer for this fruit, in the judgment of those growers who have tested all kinds most thoroughly is Baugh's Raw Bone Phosphate of Lime. The results produced by this are truly astonishing. The testimony to its value is of the fullest and most satisfactory character. It can be applied to the bed at any time, during the spring, summer, or fall months, but some of the most successful growers have given a preference to the period following the bearing season .- West Jersey Pioneer.

The heads of the party in the field, is Clarence King, a gentleman of about fiveand-twenty years of age, educated in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale College, and connected for a few years past with the State Geological Survey of California under Prof. J. D. Whitney. The experience which he has thus acquired as a mountain explorer admirably fits him for the leadership in this new expedition. He has travelled extensively among the great mountain regions of the West, has ascended and measured some of the loftiest peaks, is inured to the exposure and hardships of frontier life, and appreciates fully all the conditions which are essential to success. Nine assistants are under his direction. His friend and associate in the California survey, Mr. James T. Gardner, who has lately been engaged with Mr. King in surveying and mapping the famous Yo Semite Valley and the adjacent mountain region, is the first assistant in topography, and Prof. James D. Hague, of the Massachusetts In-stitute of Technology, likewise an experienced traveller, is the first assistant in geology. There are also two other topographers, two other geologists, a zoologist, a botanist, and a photographer. On their arrival in California a squad of twenty-three mounted Californians, under non-commissioned officers, will be detailed by the military authorities as their escort, and six drivers and packers will complete the personnel of the party-a company of thirty-nine in all. By turning to any good map of the West-

his experience and good judgment in fitting

out the party much of its success will be

due.

ern mountains the reader will see that the proposed line of exploration extends from the 120th to the 105th meridian, or from Pyramid Lake, near Virginia City, on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, to Denver City, on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. The length of the track to be explored is about 1,000 miles, its breadth will not exceed 100. The great desert basin of Nevada and Utah and the various parallel ridges and valleys by which it is traversed, including the lofty ridges known as the Eastern and Western Humboldt River Mountains, and the Wahsatch Mountains to the East of Great Salt Lake, will, of course, be included in their observations. The party hope to go this year, between the first of July and the first of November, as far as

Fort Riley, and then to spend the winter, which is there too severe for field work, in

the neighborhood of Virginia City. Next year they hope to reach Salt Lake City, and their work out of doors is to be completed in the third year. Of course much addition-al time will elapse before the scientific result of the expedition can be fully published; but everything of immediate practical va-lue, especially with reference to the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad, will be, as we understand it, at once made public.

An accurate map of the region is the first desideratum, and the necessary surveys will; therefore, be prosecuted as rapidly as may be consistent with accuracy. It is exceedingly important, also, to ascertain whether coal can be found in that region of

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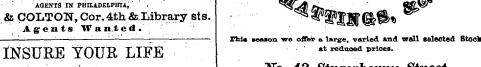
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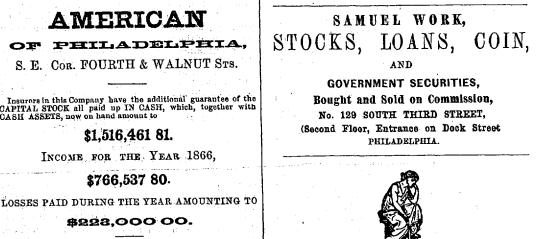
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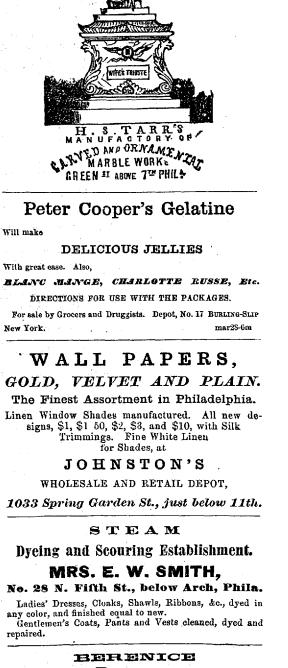
GOVERNMENT SURVEY OF THE CENTRAL BASIN.

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An exploring party of more than usual importance has just left the Atlantic for the Pacific coast to make a survey, under the direction of the United States Government, of a belt of land near to the fortieth parallel of North latitude, stretching from the Sierra Nevada to the Rocky Mountains. Through or near this belt will pass the Central Pacific Railroad, and the object of the expedition is to gather in advance as much information as possible respecting the structure of the country, the mineral resources, the agricultural capacity, and all the other physical characteristics of the region. The expedition is so well organized and there is so little exact knowledge in respect to the district to be examined that high anticipations are entertained of the scientific and practical results which are likely to be reached.

The survey is ordered by Congress; it is to be conducted under the direction of the Secretary of War; and, more particularly still, under direction of the chief of the U. S. Éngineers, Major-General A. A. Humpreys, to whom the party will report and from whom they have received their general instructions. This distinguised officer, whose name has long been indentified with the explorations and surveys directed by the War Department of the U.S. Government, has shown the greatest interest in promoting Buccessors to Dr. JOHN MOFFAT; and Dr. WHEB. MOFFAT, the objects of this new expedition, and to In Liberty Street, New York.





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