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SPRING DRESS GOODS! SPRING DRESS GOODS!

Lancaster Intelligencer. FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 23, 1880. WONDERFUL SEED

IN THE ECONOMY OF NATURE.

Facts for the Contemplation of the Student and the General Reader-Something About the Possibilities of a Seed-Its Technology, Vitality, Produc-tiveness, etc-What Science Eath Wrought in this Great Field of Investigation.

Lecture before the Plant Club of the Young Men's Christian Association April 19, by J. P. McCaskey.

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself upon the earth ; and it was so.

"And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after its kind, and the tree vielding fruit whose seed was in itself after its kind; and God saw that it was

Chestnut, good. "And the evening and the morning were

the third day." The "third day "-before the light of sun, or moon, or stars, had penetrated the dense atmosphere of our earth, the earliest The position of the foramen which marks vegetable growth was created upon it, the conditions of heat and moisture being very different from what they are now. The fourth act of the grand drama having made clear the atmosphere, through vast stretches of time, the curtain rose upon the voung shoot makes its way. fifth, an era of indefinite extent, during whose millions of years, earth and air and sea were made to swarm with the animal creation. And last of all, came man upon the scene, who, by intelligent observation, study, use of everything he found here, was gradually to acquire "dominion" over all. The record proceeds, closing the first chapter of Genesis.

So much for the order of creation as it bears upon our subject, and for the origin of the little seed which in its immense possibilities, as we reflect upon them becomes a very miracle of wonder.

The Seed and the Fruit.

The seed is a product so precious that all the energies of the plant are directed proper conditions of heat and moisture membranous.

duced

good his vain-glorious boast, had all the is displayed in few directions more strik- men must plant that they may gather conditions he asked been supplied. God never fails.

Without attempting an exhaustive treat-ment of our subject for which ability no less than time is wanting we shall touch briefly a few general heads of more or less interest, including the technology of the seed, its general structure, the manner of its disperson, its vitality, its abundant product, and its economic uses.

Technology of the Seed.

The placenta is a copious development of cellular tissue where the edges of the carpellary leaf meet and unite. The otule is borne by the placenta, and is the rudi-ment of the future seed. It consists of a nucleus and two external coats, the outer of which is the testa and the inner the teg-

men. The base of the nucleus is always united with the base of the internal membrane, and their common base is attached to the testa. The junction of the three forms the chalaza. The scar which marks the attachment of the sced with the placenta is called the hilum. Through this point alone nourishment is imparted for the perfection of the internal parts of the

seed. The chaliza and hilum are identical when the ovule stands upright, but when in any other position they are at different points and the ridge which connects them

is called the raphe. The foramen, or orifice of the ovule, through which the influence of the pollen is introduced to the nucleus, is a small aperture usually formed by the contraction of the testa and tegmen, the outer and inner coverings of the seed.

the apex of the ovule, indicates the future position of the radicle of the embryo, the radicle being always next the foramen.

young shoot makes its way. The seed is the ovule arrived at maturity. It consists of integuments, albumen, and embryo ; a naked seed is only found in those rare cases in which the ovule is naked. The seed proceeds from a placenta to which it is attached by what is known as the funiculus, which sometimes as in the case the dogwood, becomes extended about the seed into a fleshy body called the aril

or arillus. The mace of the nutmeg is the arillus of that seed. The integuments of the seed are called the testa and include both the tegmen and testa of the ovule.

is of great importance. The albumen of towards its elaboration and perfection. It grains and grasses is mealy, in some plants

innumerable must fall about the parent never been "the seed of knowledge." stem and perish. says : "Seeds embark upon rivers which descend the highest mountains, arrive in the midst of plains and upon the coasts of seas. The ocean has thrown even upon the coasts of Norway, borne thither by the Gulf Stream, the nuts of the mahogany and the fruits of the cocoa palm, and the wonderful voyage has been performed without

injury to their vital energy. Animals have their part also to perform. agencies, however, in the general distributhrough the avenues of commerce.

Size of Seed, their Vitality, etc.

As to the size of seeds, this varies from the cocoanut, the pride of the palm, to such as are so small that they resemble fine dust.

As to their vitality, sometimes it is soon lost but in many cases it may be retained for a very long period. It has been frequently observed that when trenches have been dug, or the ground from several feet below the surface has been exposed to the sunlight and the rain, new species of plants, not before known in the locality, have

sprung up, showing marvellous longevity in the vital principle of the seed. Dr. Lindley, the botanist, tells of rasp-berry seeds found in a Celtic tomb, which germinated 1,700 years after the plant had perished which matured them. Raspberry seeds have been taken out of jam, after it Between the integuments and the embryo has been boiled, which grew when sown in of many plants lies a substance called the the earth. All seeds have not this power the earth. All seeds have not this power. albumen or perisperm, the nature of which Those containing albumen would be destroyed by boiling and of course could not sprout afterwards. Seeds of heliotrope

grains of wheat found in a mummy case, will reproduce herb, shrub or tree, identi- The embryo is the organized body that supposed to have been more than 2,000 cal with that from which it was itself pro- lies within the seed. It is the plant in years old. The story goes that they were miniature, and is destined to become a | taken to England and planted, where the

ingly than in the dispersion of seeds. In the structure of the seed-pod and in the appendages of the seed itself we are at thoughtful only of bread for the eater, or times startled at the simplicity of the plan garnered grain, or money store from the and the perfect adaptation of the means to harvest to come. Ignorant as his oxen of the end. Here the elastic pod casts its the marvelous structure of the seed, and seeds to a considerable distance; there no more impressed than they with the the light pappus, as in the case of the dan-delion, and others of the compound flowers, goes floating through the air bearing its achenium afar. Some have hairs, or awns, or teeth, by which they at-tack the method is a set of the solden grain and seen it bearing its achenium afar. Some have hairs, or awns, or teeth, by which they at-tack the method is a set of the solden grain and seen it bearing its achenium afar. Some have hairs, or awns, or teeth, by which they at-tack the method is a set of the solden grain and seen it in the set of the solden grain and seen it in the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is the set of the solden grain and seen it is sold the tach themselves to whatever comes into in the ear, and asked no questions that contact with them ; others are inclosed in science would one day answer, dreamed no little balloon ; still others are winged, as dreams that science would one day prove in the familiar maple, pine and ash. Des-titute of these means of dispersion seeds this department of nature, "wonder" has

But a new leaven has of late been at But these are not the only means of dis-persion that has been provided. Linnæus better. Slowly the heavy cloud of stolid indifference will lift, is lifting. This animal repose of intellect is giving place to mental activity that pushes inquiry into every department of nature, and with results so marvelous as to seem little short of the miraculous. Man is waking more and more to the wants of his higher nature. Slowly the great thought dawns upon the race that the world about us is a museum of wonders which ages of studious life It is said that the Indians believe the cannot exhaust; that it is a paradise of squirrel to have planted all the timber in beauty which angels might for ages enjoy. this country. The most effective of all And as his thought grows more active, his attention more alert, his sensibilities more tion of plants has been man himself acute, he sees and feels yet more and more the purpose and the presence of the Great Designer, who

Scorns not the least of all Mis works, much

Scorns not the least of all mis works, man-less Man, made in His image, destined to exist When e'en you brilliant worlds shall cease to Then how should man, rejoicing in his God, Delight in His perfection, shadowed forth In every little flower and blade of grass! Each opening bud, and care-perfected seed, Is as a page where we may read of God.



-AND-

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But back of the plant and the flower stands our seed, and back of the seed that life-energy of which men speculate but in regard to which, save in its results, the wisest of mortals knows no more than the most ignorant. This secret of life man will doubtless learn, as he continues in another sphere of existence the study of God's infinite plan. Archimedes had un. ive us a trial. CARRIAGES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION 202 WEST KING STREET. EDUCATIONAL. THE ACADEMY CONNECTED WITH Franklin and Marshall College offers su perior advantages to young men and boys who desire either to prepare for college or to obtain a thorough scademic education. Students re-Office and Warerooms, 430 and 432 North Queen Street. Factory, 431 and 433 Market Street, Lancaster, Pa. God's infinite plan. Archimedes had un-PHILADELPHIA. where these trees grow. Thus as food, as medicine, and for manifold other uses, apris-M.W&F stage it shows the rudimentary cotyledons. bounded faith in the power of his lever, a thorough academic education. Students re-ceived at any time during the school year Send for streulars. Address REV. JAMES CRAWFORD, Lancaster, Pa. The albumen of the nutmeg, whose coty-We are now ready for SPRING TRADE, with a Fine Assortment of and vainly asked only a fulcrum on which seeds play an essential part in the economy ledons also are very small is noted for its to place it that he might move the world. of the world. Carriages, Phaetons, Market peculiar appearance and strong aromatic The mysterious agency of life in God's great lever brought to bear upon the ani-mal and the vegetable kingdoms of nature. It asks only the minute embryo of the "A Sower Went Forth to Sow." quality. ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW Dispersion of Seed. We know the story on the surface as in A. Estate and Personal Property.—Orders left at No. 35 Charlotte street, or at the Black Horse Hotel, 44 and 46 North Queen street, will receive prompt attention. Bills made out and attended to withen additional cost. e87-iy HENRY A. RILEY Attorney and Counsellor at-Law 21 Park Row, New York. Collections made in all parts of the United tates, and a general legal business transacted. Refers by permission to Steinman & Hensel.