Agricultural.

THE HARVEST SONG.

[illegible] the Farmer's merry heart!
[illegible] the golden ear!
Now [illegible] has autumn [illegible]
From out her lavish [illegible]!

Let other lands exulting glean
The apple from the pine,
The orange from the glossy green,
The cluster from the vine

We better love the hardy gift
Our rugged vales bestow,
To cheer us when the storm shall drift
Our harvest fields with snow.

When spring time came with flower and bud
And grasses green and young,
And merry Boblinks, in the wood,
Like mad musicians sang.

We dropped the seed o'er hill and plain,
Beneath the sun of May,
And frightened from our sprouting grain
The robber crows away.

All through the long, bright day of June,
Its leaves grew green and fair,
And waved in hot midsummer's noon
Its soft and yellow hair.

And now with autumn's moonlit eyes,
Its harvest time has come,
We pass [illegible] the frosted leaves,
And bear to [illegible] home.

There, [illegible] in the fable gift
Of golden showers of old,
Fair hands the broken grain shall sift,
And [illegible] its meal of gold.

[illegible] Telegraph

IMPROVEMENT.

A WORD TO MY BROTHER FARMERS.—Many farmers, while they manifest an eager and laudable zeal for improvement, neglect the [illegible] by which it may be the most [illegible]. They will pay an enormous price for an imported animal or a [illegible] vegetable or tree, and think that [illegible] they are certain to secure [illegible] result desired. But suppose you pay $100 for an imported animal, and suppose [illegible] even more than [illegible] him and instead of selecting his best progeny to build up your stock, you dispose of them at a high price, and reserve [illegible]. This will, in the end, prove a poor policy, and in a very few years, your [illegible] of animals will be as poor or, perhaps, [illegible] than it was before your attempt.

But again, suppose you are in possession of a herd of native animals and instead of disposing of the best to the drover or butcher, select the handsomest and most desirable to propagate from, and dispose of such as are defective, or malformed. By mark, and pleasing improvement, and at slight expense; for the extra value of the offspring of good stock will be an item of some consequence, and even the less desirable individuals will be more valuable than your best was before you made the attempt.—Farmers do not appear to consider that the expense of keeping poor or inferior stock is greater than is required to keep first-rate animals. A good animal possessing extra points, and exhibiting all the desirable qualities engendered by judicious selections and crossings, is rarely a great eater, and requires less food as a general thing, if not invariably, than one which carries in its veins the blood of degenerate parents, and the genius of many hereditary diseases.

It is well known that the descendants of many of the royal families of Europe became imbecile from a long course of intermarriages producing an intellectual degeneration; and the same result, in a physical sense, is producing an intellectual degeneration; and the same result; in a physical [illegible] produced by animals, by the causes [illegible]

[illegible]

I have heard often quoted the [illegible] "[illegible] from the [illegible] is said to be [illegible] in the United States, is [illegible], though the [illegible] very numerous, there is perhaps [illegible] individual to be found who does not exhibit the singular physical phenomenon of a hand with five fingers and a thumb, or a foot with six toes. With the history of this family I am unacquainted, but the fact of this singular hereditary anomaly has been too frequently alluded to, to admit a doubt of its correctness, however singular it may appear. That certain habitudes of [illegible], pertaining to, and strongly characterizing individuals, of the animal race, have been so perpetrated, is a point admitting of the most irrefragible proof.

A farmer who had long kept the kind of hens known by the rustic name of "*rumps*" becoming convinced after long trial, that they were less desirable on many accounts than other kinds, ordered the whole race to be extirpated from his premises. As none of his neighbors had kept any of the "*rumps*," he concluded that by decapitating the whole family, he had entirely got rid of them; nor were any of the unfortunate but proscribed race seen about the premises for an interval of some years, when lo! on being in his henery one day, noseling among a number of chickling, he beheld a "*rump!*" This he destroyed before the period of adolescence, yet the next year the same thing occurred again, and so on, at intervals, for a period of thirteen seasons; the whole number produced during that time being ten. These individuals had all the peculiar habitudes and characteristics of their race—were destitute of tails, and as perfectly true to their kind, as though they had sprung directly from the genuine fowls from which they were derived, though remotely, their traits of distinction and descent.

Another farmer had given orders to have the black and spotted-faced sheep in his flock selected for sale; not a single animal of the proscribed kind was left. Three years after, a lamb was yearned by a yearling ewe, with a face, one side of which was jet black, the other white; and this circumstance, as in the case of the rump hens, continued to occur for a period of several years, although, the animals so distinguished were removed from the flock as soon as weaned, and either sold or slaughtered before having or begetting offspring.

Such things appear singular, yet they are the legitimate result of purely natural causes, and their occurrence may be confidently predicted and expected, wherever there is any infringement of those universal and controlling principles by which the procreative instinct is directed throughout the entire range of animal as well as vegetable life. It no longer excites surprise in the minds of the most *ignorant and uninstructed*, to see a pippin growing on the limb of the gnarled and stunted Siberian crab, or the sweet and luscious pear swinging among the clustering riches of the russet or the pearmain. Yet even here is matter of surprise, and the fact that such results are producible by the aid of science and artistic skill, shows the force with which these instinctive laws sometimes operate; for, notwithstanding we can cause the thorn to produce an apple yet we cannot cause the apple, engrafted on the thorn, to change its nature, even in the most ordinary degree: through all its vegetable existence, the scion proves true to its kind, and though its fruit will continue to perpetuate its name and characteristic excellencies or defects, so long as it exists, or is capable of producing fruit.

So far as improvement is involved, as a desirable end, the power exercised, or which may be exercised, by man, over the vegetable kingdom, is almost unlimited. There is scarcely a grain now cultivated which can be found growing wild—most of the cerealiar, so extensively used as food for man and beast, and so essential, not only to our happiness, but to our very existence, in a social or gregarious condition are factitious,—produced by art. What a vast improvement has been effected in our Indian corn, and in the garden and field esculents, generally, during the last fifty or a hundred years! Yet great and astounding as are these artistic changes and mutations, they constitute merely the opening scene in the great drama that science is yet to enact,—the first dim, yet cheering streaks of that dawn which is so rich in the gladdening and unmistakeable promise of a speedy and unclouded day.

I did not intend, Mr. Editor, when I commenced this article, of pursuing it so far: but the subject appears to me to be one of paramount importance, and this alone must be my apology and sole excuse for trespassing so far upon your own and your readers' patience.

There is, however, one thing more in connection with this subject which I wish more definitely to impress upon the mind of the reader. It is this. If a good or superior animal is found, be careful to accord to it a degree of care and attention commensurate with its value. The best cows may be greatly depreciated in value and serviceableness by poor keeping; for if the food be given at irregular intervals;—if adequate shelter be not afforded during inclement seasons, the best blood and most valuable traits will be of little consequence so far as actual profit is concerned, and the animal, instead of increasing in usefulness, will grow meagre, sickly, and perhaps die.

The Tomato.

This excellent vegetable has been very generally eaten, during the present season, and we have not heard, even in "these cholera times," of any instance of detriment to health, from indulging in a free use of it. Fifteen years ago, the Tomato was scarcely known in this country, or, at least, it was not used or raised to any extent here.

The first scientific article, of any note, upon the subject of "the Tomato, its uses and its character," was written by Dr John C. Bennet, (formerly Professor of Ripley college, Ohio,) and published in the Detroit Spectator in 1836.

This article was very extensively copied into the papers, all over the United States, at the time; and though very many persons tried the vegetable prepared for the table as was recommended by the Dr, among other matters, in his treatise, it was a long time afterward," ere the tomato could be eaten readily. Many scoffed at the idea of its being made an articled food; but, within a dozen years, it has come into very general use, and the kitchen garden of the farmer is now not incomplete, without a plot appropriated to this healthy and desirable luxury.

Tomatoes—those ugly, ripe—may be eaten with ketchup, at all times; and we are led to believe that no vegetable is more healthy or generally nutritive. They are raised very easily, and are palatable in almost any manner—raw or cooked—to those who love them at all. The following recipes may be acceptable, in connection with these remarks:

TOMATO PIES.—Take six pounds of sugar to one peck, or sixteen pounds of the fruit. Scald and remove the skin in the usual way. Cook them over a slow fire, their own juice being sufficient without the addition of water until the sugar penetrates, and they are clarified. They are then to be taken out, spread in dishes, flattened and dried in the sun. A small quantity of syrup should be occasionally sprinkled over them while drying; after which pack them down in boxes, treating each layer with powdered sugar. Boil the remainder of the syrup and bottle it for use. They will keep from year to year, and retain a nice flavor. The pear-shaped, of single smooth tomatoes, answer the best purpose.

TOMATO TART.—Roll out your dough very thin, and place it on a plate in which you intend baking your tart, and slice your tomatoes very thin, spread them over the dough very thinly, take two table spoonsfull of brown sugar, and one of ground cinnamon bark, spread the two over the tomatoes, bake it well, and you have a delightful tart.

TOMATOES WITH BEEF STEAK.—Cut them in two, lay the flesh side upon the gridiron, over pretty hot coals, for a few minutes, turn them well with pepper and salt, and when done dress them with gravy, as suits you. Excellent.

PICKLED TOMATOES.—Place your tomatoes in a pickling jar, with garlic or shred onions, mustard seed, horse radish, red pepper, spices, &c., as wanted, until the jar is filled, pour over the tomatoes cold cider vinegar, till all are covered, then close them up light for use.

TOMATOES INSTEAD OF CUCUMBERS.—Pear and slice them as you would cucumbers; season with plenty of salt, pepper, and vinegar to your taste. A few slices of onions, added, will improve them very materially.

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