

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD

Farm Crops of the United States. The price of corn in this country is governed entirely by the quantity produced and the consumption, the quantity exported being too small in proportion to the enormous amount raised to exercise an influence on the price; therefore the crop of 1878, which exceeded the immense one of 1877—the largest ever raised in the United States—brought the figures much lower than those of last year. The lowest State averages, according to the special report issued by the agricultural department at Washington, are in Iowa and Nebraska, both of which States increased their products largely—too great for home consumption and too remote from leading markets—bringing the price down to about one-half that of 1876. The States showing the highest increase are the Great Plains, from Georgia to Texas, where the consumption fully equals the crop, and where the prices are little less than those of last season.

In the case of wheat, the price is greatly influenced by the European demand. The average price of foreign wheat in 1878, as compared with the average price of 1877, was \$1.08; but for the year 1878, with an addition of upward of 50,000,000 bushels, the price had fallen to seventy-eight cents per bushel on December 1st, 1878.

The great value of the cotton crop is also founded on the demand for export. Statistics show that in 1878 we had regained the position held prior to 1861, and that four-fifths of the cotton used and manufactured in Great Britain come from the United States. The proportion of the total cotton exported in foreign parts was 3,340,000 bales, out of a crop of 4,750,000 bales during the year ending September 1, 1878. Basing the calculation on the prices returned by the producer, the value of the crop for 1878 is given at \$19,700,000, while the number of bales is 5,200,000, the average for the whole country being about 81 cents per pound.

The price of tobacco is low this year, the average crop being 5.6 cents per pound on December 1. This price is mainly due to the results of a crop of poor tobacco last year. The quality now on hand is generally better and heavier, making a yield per acre more than that of the former season, excepting in Kentucky, where it fell off slightly. The total crop of 1878 is estimated in 393,000,000 pounds worth \$22,000,000 against 490,000,000 pounds the year before.

The price of potatoes has not advanced yet to the relative proportion that price bears to production. With a crop almost identical with that of the year before, the much lower per bushel; while the crop is some 46,000,000 bushels less than last year the total value does not equal that of the excessive yield of 1877; the product for 1878 being 124,027,000 bushels, at 58.8 cents per bushel—the total value being \$72,000,000.—New York World.

Treating Unproductive Land. On many farms there are patches of land that are so unproductive that it does not pay to plant them with any kind of cultivated crop. They may produce some grain, but scarcely enough to compensate the cost of cutting it. In many cases the land does not earn enough to keep the fences around it in repair. Sometimes these spots are unproductive on account of being covered with stones, but in a larger number of cases the soil is so shallow, or so washed away, leaving little or nothing but a pan, or clay or gravel. Land that is situated on side hills is liable to be badly washed as soon as the turf over it is broken. If it has been planted with tobacco or corn for a number of years it is the more likely to have the surface soil washed away.

Lead of this description can only be made productive by "heroic treatment." It requires the formation of a new soil. To this end it must be broken up to as great a depth as can be reached by a subsoil plow, or a moldboard, or some of the Eastern states, dynamite has been resorted to as a means of breaking up the clay or pan that is too hard to be easily pulverized with a plow. Blasting enables the frost to carry on its work of disintegration. It also enables water and air to penetrate to the broken masses of earth. Brush fire and other services in making this sort of land fertile. The addition of lime is recommended, as it acts to produce decomposition. Hard clay that has been broken is mechanically benefited by the addition of sand, shell, or manure, or even saw dust and shavings. Of course the ordinary fertilizers will be required to insure a crop.

The first crops should be turned under. Rye, millet and buckwheat are all suitable for this purpose. It is practiced to raise and turn under two crops a year. The first crop to raise with a view to gain should be red clover, the roots of which penetrate to a long distance. Land too rocky to be plowed should ordinarily be set out with fruit or timber trees. The labor of preparing a spot of land of sufficient size for trees is not great, only a small number of trees are required for an acre. Trees may also be planted to good advantage on unproductive land that is not stony by breaking up and subduing the soil in the places where they are to stand. A little manure goes a long way in raising trees, two or three loads of twenty or thirty feet apart. Many of the best orchards in New England were planted on land too rocky to be plowed and too unproductive to produce a crop of grain.—Chicago Times.

WASH FOR THE REMOVAL OF FROCKLES.—Barley water, two fluid ounces; distilled water of best flowers, two fluid ounces; spirits of wine, two fluid ounces. The skin is to be washed frequently with this preparation.

TO CURE A FELON.—Take out a portion of the inside of a lemon, and thrust the finger into it. Or take the skin of the inside of a fresh egg, bind it on with the moisture, and the white of the egg next to the finger, and it will draw the small globe that causes the sore to the surface. As it dries make new applications.

TO HEAL SCRATCHES, ETC.—Borax water will instantly remove all sores and aches from the hands and heal all scratches and abrasions. To make it, put some coarse borax into a large bottle, and fill it with water. When the borax is dissolved add more to the water, until at last the water can absorb no more, and a residuum remains at the bottom of the bottle. To the water in which the hands are to be washed after gardening pour from this bottle enough to make it very soft. It is very cleansing and very healthy. By its use the hands will be kept in excellent condition, smooth, soft and white.

IMPORTANCE OF A CLEAN SKIN.—Most of our invalids are such, and millions of more healthy people will become invalids, for the want of paying the most ordinary attention to the requirements of the skin. The membrane is too often regarded as a covering only instead of a complicated piece of machinery, scarcely second in its texture and sensitiveness

to the ear and eye. Many treat it with as little reference to its proper functions as if it were nothing better than a bag for their bones. It is this inconsideration for the skin that is the cause of a very large proportion of the diseases of the world. It is claimed by some scientists, four-fifths, in the bulk, of all we eat and drink, must either pass off through the skin or be turned back upon the system as a poison, and that life depends as much upon these exhalations through the skin as upon inhaling pure air through the lungs, it must be of the most vital importance to keep the channel free.

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FOR THE FAIR SEX.

The first importations of French bonnets show the large Clarissa Harlowe shapes, with brims that flare above the forehead, and are tied down closely at the sides, but also small bonnets with close brims like those popularly worn during the winter. The soft crowns now worn in caps and turbans of velvet or satin are so much liked that they have been produced in chip and straw bonnets. These have close fronts and are apt to be trimmed in Alsatian style with a large bow on top. There are striped, or of damask satin, in Persian patterns, used with chip brims. Fanchons, or three-cornered handkerchiefs of white satin embroidered in colors, and edged with Breton lace, are also used on the crowns of chip bonnets.

A peculiar novelty from the best French milliners is the wine-colored chip for the entire bonnet, or else braids of wine-colored alternating with white chip in rows on the entire bonnet. A great deal of wine-colored satin ribbon is used for trimming the corn chips that will be worn early in the spring, and this is often combined with cream-color. The bonnets with flaring brims have no face trimming, but are lined with shirred satin of a becoming color. A wreath of foliage or of grasses in the new rose or red-green shades passes around the crown, and satin ribbon of the same green shade is passed plainly over the crown, tying down the sides, and is knotted under the chin for strings. Sometimes this red-green satin ribbon is pale pink on the opposite side, or else flannee-blue, or it may be the new cream and blue. Pink with blue in Pompadour combinations is also seen in the new ribbons, and there is much garnet with eun. The satins for millinery are the soft qualities spoken of in Madame Raymond's letters as the foundling finished satins. Pink with blue in Breton lace trims some of the finest French chips. The brim has a wide shirred binding of the India muslin that shows at least an inch in breadth both inside and out, while beyond this, inside the brim, is a band of velvet either black or bottle-green. The top of the crown has a soft crimped white ostrich plume held by some veined leaves of dark green velvet. The strings of double India muslin, edged with plaited Breton lace, cross the crown, drop on the back, and are fastened to the chin.

In direct contrast to this is the dress bonnet of black Spanish lace made of a broad barbe more than a fourth of a yard wide, which is tied in a large Alsatian bow on top, passes down the sides, and is tied under the chin; some green foliage is fastened over the crown, and a shaded arabesque ring of gold holds the Alsatian bow in place. On plain chip bonnets are many very small pipings of satin placed inside the brims, while others have silk with cord stitching on the outside. The round hats for dress wear at summer resorts are very picturesque. Some of these are made of white China crepe, with the broad brim turned up directly above the forehead, and filled in with crushed roses or artemisias in pale colors, and fastened over the crown with white ostrich plumes over the crown. Broad-brimmed Leghorn hats have each side caught down with square bows of cream-colored satin ribbon, and a bouquet of field flowers. Gray chip round hats have high brigand crowns, and the brim is turned up on one side. Persian damask silk is tied like a handkerchief around the crown. The black chip round hats for city use are of English shapes, and in the style known last year as equestrienne. Some of these are trimmed with pink shades, in pale colors, and others with black satin-striped gauze. Ornaments are shown in imitation of silver set with brilliants that glitter like diamonds; these form anchors, daggers, crowns, buckles, tridents, arrows, darts, with many dragons, beetles, and other grotesque designs. Flowers are used in very great profusion, as wreaths for crowns, hall wreaths for the forehead, and above all in bouquets of long-stemmed roses of field flowers.—Harper's Bazar.

News and Notes for Women. The princess of Wales sets the fashions for Paris and London. The prettiest lining that we know of in a bonnet, is a smiling face. New York women present each guest at the kitchen table with a miniature Dutch not filled with sugar-plums. Miss Mary Jane Weddell, of Sutton, Mass., has one hundred pet cats, and when one of them dies she has it buried and its grave marked by a neat monument. A Jewess and an Irish girl are managing a shoe shop in Cincinnati, and managing it well. Both are daughters of widowed mothers, and each aids in the support of her family. "When I with a little boy" lipped a very stupid society man to a young lady, "all my ideoth in life were thether on being a clown." "Well, there is at least one case of grand ambition," was the reply.

An English lady named Wigglesworth makes paper artificial flowers so wonderfully true to nature as to deceive even gardeners at first sight. These flowers are used for decorating churches and dinner-tables. San Francisco has an Infants' Shelter, which was founded by some little girls about eight years ago, and now gives a home to fifteen children, besides daily protection to as many more. No charge is made, and every taking care of a child, and three meals a day are furnished for ten cents. The princess of Tanjore, who has not only made her appearance in public, but permitted the governor of Madras to invest her with the insignia of the Star of India, is the most highly-educated princess in the Orient. She owes her intellectual culture to the aid of an accomplished young German lady, and has made considerable progress in English.

Reporting by Machinery. A reporting machine at the Paris exposition, known as "a machine stenographic," is the latest invention of the name of its inventor, attracted much attention. The claims made respecting it are that after a fortnight's practice, any person can take down in shorthand characters a speech however rapidly delivered. It is a small instrument, piano-like in form, with twenty-two keys, white and black, and the stenographic characters are small and imprinted on slips of paper. Signor Michela claims to have classified all the sounds which the human organs of speech are capable of producing, and to have so constructed his machine that it shall report with more fidelity what is said in German, French, Italian, Spanish and English. The machine is highly ingenious, and seems to have stood several practical tests satisfactorily.

The Dying Buffalo Bull.

General Lew Wallace has an article in Scribner's on a "Buffalo Hunt in Northern Mexico," from which we take this extract: I remember yet the excitement of the ride, the eagerness and expectancy with which we neared the knot of trees, our dash through, pistol in hand. In quiet hours I hear the shout with which the colonel brought us together. In an opening scarce twenty yards square lay a dying bull. He was of prodigious girth, and covered head and shoulders with a coat of sunburnt hair to shame a lion. Long, tangled locks, matted with mud and burrs, swathed his forelegs down to the hoofs. The ponderous head of the brute rested loosely upon the cotton tunic of a palm tree; the tongue hung from his bloody lips; his eyes were dim, and his breath came and went in mighty gasps. The death-wound was in his flank, a horrible sickness rent. The earth all about bore witness to the fury of the duel. Long time he confronted his foe, and held him with locked horns; at last he slipped his guard—that broad forehead with its crown of Jove-like curls—and was lost. Who could doubt that the victor was worth pursuit?

He helped the unfortunate to a speck of shade, and lingered to observe him. His travels had been far, beginning doubtless up "In the land of the Dakotah," whence winter drove him with all his herd down the murky Missouri. On the Platte somewhere he passed the second summer; then, from the hunting of the Sioux and their fierce kinsmen, he escaped into Colorado; after a year of rest, in search of better pastures, he pushed across into Chihuahua, the Grand and the fields about the head-waters of the Arkanas; there the bold riders of the Comanche found him; breaking from the herd he disappeared for a time in the bleak wilderness called the Staked Plains, whence the Arkanas and the across into Chihuahua, the Grand and the fields about the head-waters of the Arkanas; there the bold riders of the Comanche found him; breaking from the herd he disappeared for a time in the bleak wilderness called the Staked Plains, whence the Arkanas and the across into Chihuahua, the Grand and the fields about the head-waters of the Arkanas; there the bold riders of the Comanche found him; breaking from the herd he disappeared for a time in the bleak wilderness called the Staked Plains, whence the Arkanas and the across into Chihuahua, the Grand and the fields about the head-waters of the Arkanas; 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