

The Farmers' Department.

Chickory for Coffee.

This plant grows wild almost everywhere, and has for many years been an article of commerce, being largely used, especially in Europe, in the making of coffee.

When the roots become of a fair size, any time during the season, they may be taken out as needed for use; but the bulk of the crop should be allowed to attain to full maturity, when the roots should be lifted during fair weather, dried upon the ground until the dirt will fall off.

When this first process of curing is accomplished, and the root is wanted for final use, it is carefully roasted, the same as coffee, till it will break up in a mortar or grind in a mill, after which powdering or grinding, it is steeped or drawn in the usual way, and poured out for a table beverage.

A correspondent in the Germantown Telegraph, suggests the following hints: POKE MUD.—This is a valuable fertilizer. When you have leisure, cart out a quantity of it and mix it with your compost, or put it in your cattle yards and hog pens to be mixed with the solid excrement, and absorb the urine.

SPROUTS AROUND TREES.—Allow no suckers or sprouts to issue from the roots of your fruit trees; cut them all even with the surface, and arrest every new development as soon as it appears.

OLD TREES.—Old apple trees that have ceased to bear, should have the soil removed from the roots, the limbs taken off, and the tops thinned out. The soil about the roots should then be replaced by an equal bulk of compost formed of the following materials: One cord good muck, one-fourth cord finely pulverized clay, two casks muck, one ditto lime, two ditto gypsum, two ditto unbleached wood ashes, and one ditto salt.

BLACK WARTS IN CHERRY AND PLUM TREES.—Cut out the excrescences with a sharp knife and burn them. Wash the trunks thoroughly, and apply salt about the roots. If the bark is rough, scour it thoroughly with a mixture of ashes and soft soap, and apply the mixture recommended above.

TO HOUSEWIVES.—One of the best bleaching and emollient agents that can be employed in washing either the person or clothing, is common refined borax. It should be dissolved in hot water at the rate of half a pound to ten gallons; a great saving in soap is effected by its use.

Among Hone's works there is this capital rhymed advice to the agriculturists of the date 1722:

LEAD AND WATER.—By taking a strip of clean lead, and placing it in a tumbler of pure water (say rain or soft water), in less than an hour, by dropping in the tumbler a little sulphide of ammonium, a black precipitate will be thrown down, consisting of the sulphide of lead.

One of our peculiar, slab-sided, gaunt Yankees lately emigrated and settled down in the West. He was the very picture of a mean man, but as he put himself to work in good earnest to get his house to rights, the neighbors willingly lent him a hand.

THE INCOME TAX.—The question of the income tax comes up in a new phase. Commissioner Lewis decides that section ninety-two of the tax law provides that no means for the collection of the tax in cases where income is derived "from professional services, from speculations, or in any other manner than from fixed investments."

A MOVING COLORED RIVER.—The Tenby (Wales) Observer mentions a curious phenomenon which was observed in Carmarthen Bay on the 6th inst., the day on which the earthquake was felt in that country.—From a base extending some three or four miles in the direction of Amroth Castle, an immense piece of water, of a dark brown color, as if holding earth in solution, seemed to be pushed forward in the form of a cone, of course surrounded by water of a natural color.

THE "SEWING GIRLS" OF NEW YORK.—About four hundred sewing girls in New York are on a strike for higher wages. Referring to a meeting of these female "strikers," the Post says:—Statement of the amounts received for their labor in various trades were made, by which it appeared that the prices ranged from one to three dollars per week.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE ON A TROOP SHIP.—The Empress Eugenie has been signaling herself by interfering in behalf of a body of soldiers who were on board transport destined for Mexico. There were eleven hundred on board, and their accommodations were so inadequate that they had a hard time of it.

THE DREAM OF A QUAKER.—There is a beautiful story of a pious old Quaker lady who was addicted to the use of tobacco. She indulged in this habit until it increased so much upon her that she not only smoked a large portion of the day, but frequently sat up in bed for this purpose in the night.

LA BATAILLE DES DAMES.—Two Parisian actresses had a quarrel the other day. They fought, and one was wounded. The guardians of the Bois de Vincennes found these dames satisfying their honor in the approved style with cold steel, and did not secure the weapons before blood was actually drawn.

With rusty sides the fruits are seen, The grapes in purple clusters swing; They faint along the ripening side, No more the speckled thrushes sing. Red berries in the hedgegrow hang Like rubies from some flattening leaves; The lanes are bare where blackbirds sang, When earth was flushed with golden eves.

THE MARRIAGE ALTAR. Judge Carlton, in an excellent address before the Young Men's Library Association, at Augusta, Mo., thus sketches the marriage scene:

I have drawn you many pictures of death; let me sketch for you a brief but bright scene of beautiful life. It is the marriage altar. A lovely female, clothed in all the freshness of youth and surpassing beauty, leans upon the arm of him to whom she has just given herself up forever.

And will you give me back that which I brought to you?" asked the despairing wife. "Yes," he replied, "all your wealth shall go with you; I covet it not."

EXTRAVAGANCE OF FRENCH LADIES.—A Paris letter gives the following news of French extravagance:—The fine ladies here spend endless sums of money on their wardrobes during the Carnival; but at the seaside they are still more extravagant. Some disdain to wear a gown twice in public.

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A North Devonshire Legend. A work entitled "The North-Devon Scenery Book," recently published in England, furnishes a number of North Devonshire legends, one of which deserves a place in Howitt's History of the Supernatural. We quote:

Not many years ago an old man was living in the village who possessed a fiddle and was able to discourse merry music upon it. There was a large upstairs-room in his house which was called the dancing chamber, and here the boys and maidens of Combarmin used to assemble once a month, and dance, and talk, and flirt in their honest country fashion, and otherwise enjoy themselves after their day's work.

When the fiddler was dead, his daughter married, and her husband continued to live in the old man's house. But as the husband could not play the fiddle the dancing-chamber was of no use, and it was consequently converted to ordinary domestic purposes.

At last the husband betook himself to the parson of the parish, and asked for advice and assistance in so disagreeable a state of affairs. The parson suggested that such kinds of alarming noises were frequently caused by rats, and counseled him to procure the services of an expert in the killing of such unpleasant vermin.

Partly swayed by the absolute necessity of doing something to penetrate the mystery, partly persuaded by the sensible exhortations of the rector, he and his wife had instituted another thorough search in the haunted rooms, and, after much ripping up of roof and floor and waistcoat belonging to the deceased fiddler, snugly concealed in the thatch immediately above the dancing chamber. In one of the pockets of this garment were two half crowns.

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How a Bachelor Lived and Died. From an inquiry which recently took place in London, respecting the death of Mr. George Beamite, who died under very extraordinary circumstances, we glean the following interesting facts:

This gentleman was seventy-five years of age, possessed considerable property, and was formerly a barrister-at-law, and was a man of considerable ability, and although eccentric, of perfectly sound mind and capable of managing his property.—For the past twenty years he has lived in almost total seclusion, no person, under any pretence whatever, being allowed to enter the three rooms in his occupation. His meals were prepared by his housekeeper, and were left on a tray at the door of the anti-room and then taken in by the deceased; and although many times in a state of ill-health he refused to have medical aid, but used to have sent in from a chemist a quantity of different medicines.

On Wednesday, before the examination the housekeeper went up as usual, with his dinner, but received no reply at the door, although she frequently called him she did not again see him alive. On Saturday morning, becoming alarmed, she made a communication to the police, and the door broken open, when a scene was presented which almost baffles description. On entering the anti-room, the floor was found to be strewn with hundreds of newspapers, writing &c., chairs, tables, and other articles of furniture. In another room, the furniture, of very handsome description, was covered with dust nearly an inch thick, and the floor was strewn with trunks, papers, and books of science and law of much value.

When the shutters were opened in the room a dreadful sight was presented. The deceased was found lying back in an arm-chair, quite dead, and in a rapid state of decomposition, having no doubt been dead for several days. He was dressed, but in a very bad state, and by his side lay the remains of some food. There was not the slightest vestige of bed or bedding, and the deceased must, for twenty years, have slept in the same chair. In other parts of the room were scraps of bread, bottles of wine and medicine; this, as well as the other rooms, being almost impassable, while the light of day had evidently been shut out for years.

CIVILIZATION OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.—Talk about the Salem witchcraft! It is not a month since a poor old man in Essex, England, upwards of eighty years of age—a Frenchman, deaf and dumb, and who lived by himself in a small wretched hut, was killed by his neighbors in the village, because they believed he was possessed of some supernatural power, and could make them ill or restore them to health by his incantations! The poor creature was beaten with a stick, thrown into a pond, and when he got out covered with slime and dirt, and thoroughly saturated with water, was seized again, and again thrown into the pond, so that after he escaped from his tormentors he was taken with a fever and died. One of his chief persecutors was a female, one Emma Smith, a married woman, aged thirty-six, who believed that she had been bewitched by the aged necromancer.

GOING IT WHILE YOUNG.—The marriage of a Hindoo widow was celebrated on the 30th of July in the village of Chandrakona, in the district of Hooghly, India. The bride, whose name is Nilamuni Dasi the daughter of Baboo Gopi Nath Dutt.—Her first marriage took place when she was only seven years of age; at eight she became a widow, and now she is only twelve years old. The fortunate man who has obtained the hand of the young widow, is Parvati Charan Sarkar. The nuptials were witnessed by a large number of Hindoo gentlemen.

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JOHN STUART MILL. Since the death of De Tocqueville there is no author who can combat Mr. Mill's claim to the first place among living writers on political and social philosophy. In the science of political economy with which his two volumes (just issued by the Appletons) are occupied, is without a peer in the whole range of extant authorship, past or present, with the single exception of Adam Smith, the founder of the science; and as an author to be read by the present generation Mr. Mill is, of course, altogether superior even to the great man who made the first systematic survey of this department of human affairs. He expounds the science in its present advanced state, with the aid of all the lights thrown upon it by writers subsequent to Smith, and by the enlarged commercial and monetary experience and powerful industrial development of the last twenty-five years—a period infinitely more fruitful in great events and economic development than any that preceded it. Of the subjects of currency and finance, in particular, the period since the American and French revolutions in instruction. It is a remarkable fact that almost every break-down of the finances of a nation has been immediately followed by a political revolution. In our own country and of the crisis of the Confederation led to the formation of our present Constitution; in France the first revolution was directly brought about by the failure of the finances which caused the convocation of the States General; the explosion of the assignats led to the constitution of the year III, and the establishment of the directory. The suspension of the Bank of England during and for some time after, the great Napoleonic struggle, and the colossal debt then accumulated, led to a state of things which threatened the overthrow of the British government in the year of distress which followed the pacification of Europe. But the British finances never entirely broke down, and the government weathered the storm. Had it not been, however, for the partial revolution involved in reforms of Parliament the government would undoubtedly have gone under.

The great financial discussions in and out of Parliament, during those turbulent and distrustful years, threw important light on currency and kindred topics, and, in conjunction with a most fruitful experience, settled some questions which had never before been so deeply probed.

Our country is suddenly plunged into an experiment having strong points of resemblance to that through which Great Britain passed in the early part of the century. A gigantic debt suddenly accumulated; burdensome taxation whose pressure will be more and more felt; a violent change in the monetary system of the country threatening general convulsion and ruin at some future and not distant period; the great branch of production which has hitherto furnished the main body of our exports brought to a dead stand; the social system of the South falling into ruins, to be either set up anew or replaced by a new organization of industry; when we are confronted by facts and prospects like these, it is obvious that our people and our public men need to proceed on the soundest principles of economical science. The slender instruction and crude notions which have hitherto sufficed will no longer answer the purpose. In a period of general health, when only slight ailments occur in his practice, a physician may rub on after a fashion, without much science. But when the air is full of pestilence, and forms of new disease new to his neighborhood are breaking out, he can no longer excuse himself from mastering the most recent knowledge which bears upon his new duties. A similar obligation now lies on American statesmen and publicists; and assuredly there is no way in which they can so well qualify themselves for the economical part of the problem as by a thorough study of Mill.

WHAT SHE HADN'T DAUGHTER.—The Courier Siciliano, of Palermo relates the following anecdote, which may contain a useful hint for our own provost marshals: "An officer in command of a detachment having received information that a young conscript had concealed himself in a villa, proceeded thither, and stated the object of his visit to the lady of the house, who immediately affirmed that he was mistaken, and produced her two daughters as the only inmates of the house. The officer, after a minute search, falling on one else, told the lady that one of her daughters must be the delinquent. The lady protested against this insinuation, but the officer, recollecting the judgment of Solomon, intimated to the young ladies that they must both go with him to the barracks. At this announcement, one of the young ladies blushed, and the other grew pale, and thereby discovered the trick. The officer at once requested the pale lady to put on clothes of the other sex, and to follow him to his regiment."

A remarkable petrification of an entire tree was lately discovered in the Baltimore mine, at Wilkesbarre, Pa. by the miners while blasting for coal. The piece of the trunk taken out, weighs five thousand pounds, and still there remain the roots and top of the tree embedded in the coal. There are also to be found in the same mine petrifications of the cactus, and other plants peculiar to a tropical climate.

A fifteen hundred dollar silver vase has just been made in New York for the Hong Kong racing club.

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