

THE DIFFICULTY in raising tomatoes is that we make the ground too rich. This favors the growth of vines rather than that of fruit. On the other hand, if the soil is made too poor to grow fruit well, there will not be enough of the stalk; the crop will be too small. This can be remedied somewhat by planting closer, not three to four inches apart, but two. But there will be lack, to some extent, of the size and fine quality of the fruit. All this can be avoided and the largest and best crop grown by growing out any waste of vine growth. Thus, by keeping the growth in hand, feeding the plant as is wanted for its different stages of growth until up to the bearing period, it will give sufficient vine for a full crop. The check in the growth of the vine will favor the starting of the fruit, and push it forward, but perhaps not so much as when the vine is not so much as it will rapidly turn pale and its growth come to a standstill. As soon as the fruit begins to push and the plant shows signs of pushing, give it manure—in the liquid form—so as to work promptly as wanted. In a week or ten days, the plant will begin to ripen its color, and the growth of the vine of the vine, the fruit, meantime, pushing with a force that is most gratifying. The current, once directed to the fruit, is not three to four inches apart, but will continue until it has weighed down the vine with its burden, ripening and growing new fruit. But in order to do this there must be a growth of the vine for new clusters of the fruit. Here comes in the new point, so as not to push this too much and withdraw the current from the fruit; the fruit, in fact, is in a state of ripening, and the vine must be kept up, allowing, on the other hand, sufficient force to keep forming the buds for new fruit.

POTATO GROWING.—A French journal *Basile Cour*, describes the result of some experiments in raising potatoes conducted by scientific men in Germany. The principal conclusions to which these sages have come, seem to be two in number. First, that the vigor of the potato plant is always in direct proportion to the weight of the tubers used for seed, a theory which certainly finds support in common sense, and is confirmed by the fact that the young shoots for some time draw their nourishment from the mother potato. The second conclusion is that the soil must be kept in a state of productive power, not only of different tubers, but also of different eyes of the same potatoes. It is found that the eyes at the top of the tuber produce much more vigorous offspring than the lower part, and the consequence is that those agriculturists who plant their potatoes in a regular manner, using them as not well advised in cutting vertically, but should always divide them horizontally, planting the upper half and the lower half in separate rows. The best plan of all is to plant the tuber whole, cutting out, nevertheless, all the eyes except those in the top part.

SMOKING THE GRAPERY.—Burning the ends and ends of tobacco, to be obtained at some stores and at tobaccoists, for two or three cents a pound, is the best way to smoke the grapes in the vineyard; and just now is a delicate time to watch these vines to see that they are free from these enemies. The smoking is never done, but done without regard to their presence. It is a protection. No one who knows anything about raising grapes under glass will water with tobacco. It is blossoming. But then this is fully over the large sycamore should thoroughly sprinkle everything inside, including vines, soil, glass, etc., twice or three a day. This must be accompanied with powdered sulphur, placed in the vicinity of every vine as a protection against mildew; and should mildew unfortunately make its appearance, the vines should be sprinkled with it. But take care that you do not burn the sulphur, as more than one grape-grower has done to his grapes, and the fumes will destroy the leaves, and hence the crop.

CURE FOR BLEED STAGGERS.—We give the following cure for bleed staggers: Take three tablespoonfuls of Jamaica weed seed, put them in a pint of clear water, and boil it for an hour. Strain the tea; strain the tea that you may get all the seed out. Mix with this tea one ounce of the spirits of nitre and one ounce of pulverized iron sulphate, and pepper will answer. This compound forms a liniment, of which take one tablespoonful and pour in each ear. Let the horse rest for three or four days, then take a half-pint of assafoetida tea, one ounce of horsehorn and one tablespoonful of ground mustard. This you may repeat until the fumes which you give to soothe freely, and then you can stop, as the water collected around the brain will run out at the ears and nose.

REMEDY FOR RATS.—A farmer says: "Four years ago my barn was fearfully infested with rats. They were so numerous that I had to burn the whole grain being destroyed by them after it was housed; but having two acres of wild pepper that grew in a field of woods, I took to that. I sowed the wheat, I drove the rats from my premises. I have not been troubled with them since, while my neighbors have many quantities of them. I feel confident that any person who is troubled with these pests could easily get rid of them by gathering a good supply of mint, and placing it around the walls or base of their barns."

A PARROT'S FRIENDSHIP. Birds and animals often form friendships for other animals not of their own family, and show a deep and sincere attachment. Mr. Adolph Saxe, a celebrated inventor of optical instruments, had a little green parrot, sickly, weak, and almost featherless. His work room was full of brass filings and unhealthy odors. Accordingly he placed his old favorite's cage in a large Judas tree that grew near. The parrot was adroit enough to open her cage, and would fly to the upper branches to enjoy her liberty, returning from time to time to her cage for food. As the cage was often open and untenanted, a sparrow, with the usual modesty of its kind, used to enter and help itself. He got so much to him that even when the parrot returned he would not fly off, but kept on eating as though he were the owner, not an invited guest. The parrot not only did not resent the intrusion, but formed a strong friendship for the sparrow, which was evidently reciprocated. When the parrot felt lonely and wanted company, he invited the sparrow's chirp to invite his friend to pay him a visit, unless he was beyond hearing distance, the sparrow always came. On his part, the sparrow, in rainy winter weather, allowed himself to be shut up in the parrot's cage, utterly disregarding the bolts that were back; which he knew would be drawn back in the morning. But one fine, or rather, one fatal day, a cat belonging to the neighborhood, pounced upon and devoured the sparrow, who, from his familiarity with the house, had not learned to be upon his guard. The parrot, not seeing him return, passed day and night thereafter in calling upon him whom he was never more to see again, and a week afterwards she was found lying dead on the floor, her white, her supreme effort, she had contrived to draw herself.

ABOUT CANARY BIRDS.—Place the cage so that no draught of air can strike the bird. Give nothing to eat but bread and butter and canary seed, water, cuttlefish bone and gravel, or sand on the floor of the cage. No hemp seed. A bath three times a week. The room should not be over-heated—never above seventy degrees. When moulted (shedding feathers) keep warm, avoid all draughts of air. Give plenty of German rapeseed, a little hard-boiled egg mixed with cracked corn, and a few raisins. Feed at a certain hour in the morning. By observing these simple rules birds may be kept in fine condition for years. For birds that are sick or have lost their song procure bird tonic at a bird store. Very many keep birds who mean to give their pets all things to make them bright and happy, and at the same time are guilty of great cruelty in regard to perches. The perches in a cage should be each of different size, and of different material. If perches are of the right size and material, it is ever had about the bird's toes, and growing too long. And of all things keep the perches clean.

TO KEEP FLIES OUT OF THE HOUSE.—Why is it that so few (comparatively speaking) of our farmers' wives have clean and comfortable houses? I think, after cleaning from garret to cellar, let the flies in a few weeks, to soil all our labor, in a little while, and the flies and gnats will be in the house, and the time and money necessary to prevent it. Those who can't afford wire netting should get a piece of muslin for each window, and doors, surely "sam" will be kind enough to make frames for the doors or get them made. One can sleep, and rest, and eat, in a room where there are no flies and plenty of sunlight. I think any one who uses them once will not think of getting along without them again.

HOW TO USE A GUMSTONE.—First, don't waste the stone by running it in a stand, but if you do, don't allow it to stand in water, as the water will cause it a soft place. Second, wet the stone by dropping water on it from a pot, suspended above the stone, and let the water run over it. Third, don't allow the stone to get out of order, but keep it perfectly round by the use of a gas-pipe or hucker. Fourth, clean all the grooves and cracks with a brush, as grease or oil destroys the grit. Fifth, observe: When you get a stone that suits your purpose, send a sample to the proprietor of the stone, and he will send you a letter by mail.

LETTERS SALAD.—Into half a cup of scalding vinegar stir one beaten egg, half a teaspoon of mustard, and a little sugar if desirable. Let it stand for a few minutes. The same is fine for cabbage. Another: Two tablespoonfuls of thick cream, one tablespoonful of thick cream, and one tablespoonful of sugar. Put to taste. This is very much liked by those who do not like much seasoning.

RASPBERRY VINEGAR.—Put one quart of good vinegar over two quarts of berries; let them stand over night; strain and pour the juice over two more quarts of berries, and let them stand over night; to every pint of juice allow one pound of white sugar; let it come gently to a boil; then bottle for use. This is very good for the stomach in a glass of ice-water on a hot summer day is refreshing.

SARSAPARILLA TEA.—Boil one pound of sarsaparilla root in four gallons of water, for several hours, until the strength is exhausted. Add eight pounds of sugar, and one quart of lemon juice, and three-quarters of a pound of tartaric acid. Keep well corked. To prepare a glass for use take half a wineglass of the tea, and one glass of water, and stir in half a glass of lemon juice of the acid. Drink with effervescence.

BRACKET ORNAMENT.—Take wheat bran, just as it comes from the mill, and mix it with milk; work it into a loaf, and let it stand for a few days. It is a very good thing to have in the house, and it is a very good thing to have in the house, and it is a very good thing to have in the house.

CELESTIAL BICRET.—Make a good corn mash, just as if you were going to eat it with milk; work it into a loaf, and let it stand for a few days. It is a very good thing to have in the house, and it is a very good thing to have in the house, and it is a very good thing to have in the house.

SPECIES SUGAR.—This is made by mixing and sifting together one tablespoonful of finely powdered sugar, one half of a pound of pulverized sugar, one half of a pound of cinnamon, the balance equal quantities of ginger, allspice and cloves are the proportions, which may be varied to suit the individual taste.

A GOOD PULMONO.—One dozen crackers rolled fine, one cup of raisins, three eggs; soak the crackers in milk, then add one-half cup of molasses, one cup of sugar, and the eggs and raisins; then bake one-half hour.

ALL THE DISINFECTANTS can be used in the rooms of a patient, and a good ventilation, as well as a good light, in all cases; this is of primary importance and should not be forgotten.

A BRAVE WOMAN'S DEFENSE. A plucky young widow, living near Tazewell Court House, Va., succeeded in defeating two tramp ruffians after a fight which cost her life. About 10 o'clock at night two men came to the house of Mrs. Becky Baldwin, and asked her to give them some silver in exchange for notes, offering her some \$7 of the latter for \$5 of the former. She complied and they soon left, but returned after she had retired, broke open the door and entered. They entered her bedroom, and she jumped from the bed and told them to get out of the room. They demanded her pocketbook and threatened to violate her person if she did not give it up. She went to her dress, deliberately took the pocketbook from it, containing \$23, and threw it in the fire. One of the tramps stooped to get it out, when she snatched up an ax and dealt him a terrible blow, knocking him down, quickly following with other blows dashing his brains out. The second tramp then drew a knife and rushed at her, and stabbed her twice in the left breast. She dealt him a fearful blow with the ax, nearly severing his right arm near the shoulder. The miscreant then fled, leaving a trail of blood behind him. His dead body was found two miles from the place. A young white man, happening to pass by found Mrs. Baldwin in a dying condition. She told her story, and died two hours afterwards. The dead bodies were thrown in a pig-pen, so great was the indignation of the people in the vicinity. There were no papers found on them by which they could be identified.

THE RAILROAD TRACK is like the ship when you can see a cargo on it.

WHEN THE BOATSWAIN PIPES all his aids, who furnishes the tobacco?

THE GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS. Nicholas has a face which in repose is so placid, and so full of a wonderful capacity for passion. A lightning-like temper might at a moment's notice be betrayed by those keen eyes, ordinarily filled with pleasant smiles. Quick in all his motions he likes quickness in others; he rides a horse which it wears others out to follow, and was fond of dashing away to some distant place, and then sending for the others to come up with him, while he was on the road to Tirmopolis. He told me with great glee that he left the palace of Cotroceni, in Bucharest, by stealth, went down to the Danube, and had half his plans perfected before anybody outside his immediate personal circle knew of it. He speaks English as perfectly as a foreigner can; it was the first language that he learned, and he has a Scotch nurse. His dress is always simple and unassuming, and he accepts the deference paid him by the officers who surround him with second nature to one bred to it, he will not receive it from strangers, and even dislikes to be called by his title. On the whole, he has the strength of character and fine sense of honor which are the family traits, with a winsome, fascinating manner added to them. Of his abilities as a military commander the world has been able to judge, though he has been surrounded by competent advisers, he is nevertheless entitled to much credit for the successes which the Russians, in the face of tremendous obstacles, have finally achieved.

FORGET-ME-NOTS. Young men should pattern after plants—be square, upright, grand. Hold on to your foot when you are on the point of kicking, running off from study, or pursuing the path of error, shame or crime. A man is never so emphatically embraced by the spirit of economy as when the dead bodies of his relatives are thrown in a pig-pen, so great was the indignation of the people in the vicinity. There were no papers found on them by which they could be identified.

MEANING OF THE TERM FORTE. The term "forte," which is used to denote the administrative government of the Ottoman empire, and includes the sultan, the grand vizier and the great council of the state, had its origin in this way. In the famous institutes established by the warrior sultan, Mahomed II., the Turkish body politic was divided by the metaphor of a stately tent whose domes rested upon four pillars. "The viziers formed upon four pillars, the judge the second, the treasurer the third, and the secretaries the fourth." The chief seat of government was figuratively named the "Lofty Gate of the Royal Tent," in allusion to the practice of earlier times when the Ottoman rulers sat at the tent door to receive their subjects.

THE GREAT STORM IN NEVADA. For a time recently quite a large sand-storm was in progress on the Nevada desert some forty miles to the eastward of Virginia City, Nevada. Great clouds of sand were seen to rise and sweep along over the plain, gradually ascending until the highest peaks of the Humboldt Mountains were hidden. In the distance the drifting sands much resembled the clouds of the sea, and winter storms on the prairie west of West. The sand also formed drifts or dunes, as drifts are formed from snow. Every clump of greasewood has its surrounding hillock of sand, and in places long ridges of sand are seen in many localities on the shores of the sea. Among these dunes, and on the level alkali flat, the mirages play their fanciful tricks upon weary travelers. Bunches of bowing beaver forest trees crowd look like grasses, and broad sedge-bordered lakes lie shimmering in the sun, all to recede or vanish when approached. Here, too, pillars of sand, formed by small whirlwinds, glide along over the desert like a troupe of ghosts, half a dozen sometimes being seen in company. These are frequently several hundred feet in height, and remain in fact for an hour or more. Three or four small pillars of this kind were seen waiting about for half an hour or more. They are of the same nature as water-spouts met with at sea, the waters might not inappropriately be termed sand spouts. The deserts being generally sand surrounded by high mountains, eddies or whirls in them are not infrequently produced when heavy wind is blowing, and thus are produced the great pillars of sand.

AIR-TIGHT FLOORS. Air-tight flooring is a most important factor in the construction of practically fire-proof buildings. An English brewer made the floor of his malt-house of three-inch planks grooved together. A fire broke out in the house. The roof over the floor fell in, and the fire raged twenty-four hours above the floor without burning through it, because the substantial, well-grooved planks prevented a supply of air from below. An easy test of the soundness of the explanation may be made by any one. Fasten a piece of board on the ground and build a fire upon it. The time taken to burn the board will surprise most people.

HON. A. H. STEVENSON. The great statesman of the South, says: "I used Duraz's Rheumatic Remedy for rheumatism with great benefit." It never fails to cure. Send for circular to H. R. Stevens, Philadelphia, Pa.

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