

Agricultural Department.

THE CRANBERRY,
ITS HISTORY, CULTURE, VARIETIES, &
NUMBER ONE.

The American Cranberry (*Oxycoccus macrocarpus*) is found growing in great profusion in the low, marshy grounds of New England, also the Middle and Western States. In Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, it is exceedingly abundant. Michigan alone containing more than a million of acres covered with this plant. Although so general and extensive in its growth, it does not appear to have attracted public attention until comparatively a recent date. According to London, Sir Joseph Banks was the first to introduce the culture of the fruit in England. In 1818 he obtained from America a small quantity of the vines, and planted a plot of ground eighteen feet square which produced a most abundant crop, equal to four hundred and sixty bushels to the acre. This remarkable product, with the success that soon began to attend the cranberry culture in this country elicited a good degree of attention, and the result is well known in various statements which have appeared from time to time in the numerous Agricultural and other publications during the past five years.

VARIETIES.

One species of the cranberry, (*Oxycoccus punctatus*), the small European cranberry, abounds not only in northern Europe, but also in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. This is inferior in size and appearance to our native varieties, but it is said to bear good crops and be adapted, not only to low, sour soils, but also to poor, rocky, upland localities. We think, however, it will never successfully compete with the American species of this country.

Of our native species there are several varieties growing together, or in a neighborly locality. A very successful cultivator enumerates more than twenty, growing on his own grounds. These vary in the color, form, size, and general appearance of the fruit, from the large white variety with a mere blush to the small, entirely red berry of one-fourth its size. These also differ in productive time of ripening, &c., yet are nearly similar in their foliage. By attention to this, those engaged in the culture of the cranberry have been enabled to derive advantages by a judicious selection from these varieties, and obtain, from those most productive, large and valuable crops. Some of these, with their peculiarities and properties, will be more particularly considered hereafter.

The natural habitat of the common American cranberry is low, marshy ground and bogs, although some of the varieties are found under different circumstances. Mr. S. W. Cole* one of our most intelligent and reliable agricultural writers, remarks: "We have seen the cranberry starting spontaneously on very hard, tolerably moist, grassy land, and spreading rapidly, yielding good fruit. We saw the cranberries of natural growth in a field, closely by which the owner was reaping a good crop of barley. We examined the soil; and it was dry and sandy, with a layer of shallow vegetable mould at the surface; yet apparently wet in Spring, from its level situation. When gravely knoll had been reaped, for a road, we saw excellent cranberries, of spontaneous production, on dry, hard, and poor soil. On another spot we saw fine fruit by the roadside, on a very poor, hard, dry soil."

These facts, indicate, first, that from the number of improved varieties, which seem to be, in part, at least, the result of cultivation, some will be superior to others in regard to productivity, some more hardy, and others more excellent in flavor. Some of these have already been, and others undoubtedly will be found better adapted to upland culture and dry soils, than the others, and experience will dictate to the grower a proper selection. Indeed we can see no reason why, by repeated experiments and continued cultivation, we may not have an extensive assortment of varieties of the cranberry as we have of the strawberry, gooseberry, &c., &c.

CULTIVATION.

The most important part of our subject is connected with the culture of this delicious fruit; and it is surprising that with all the advantages promised from and remarkable results already obtained in the culture of the cranberry, so little attention has been given to this pleasant and profitable department of fruit growing. The plants are exceedingly productive, and when once established, the fruit costs nothing but the simple expense of gathering, and always commands the highest prices and a ready market.

As the culture of the cranberry is very properly divided into two departments, the Marsh or Bog Moulting, and the Up-land, we propose in our next article to consider the former.

*Edmund Bagley.

*Author of the American Fruit Book, Editor of, the N. E. Farmer, &c., &c.

CULTIVATING HOPS.

A valuable discovery in the cultivation of hops has just been communicated to the French Academy. Like most agricultural improvements, it has been the result of observations made by the laboring peasant. It consists in making the plant run in a horizontal direction, instead of climbing up the pole. This is managed by means of a low trellis work of the simplest construction. The advantages of this mode of culture are numerous. In the first place it enables the grower to investigate the plant while growing, and cleanse it from the numerous insects which injure it so vast an extent; then it is protected from the sun, which always destroys the upper shoot; it obviates the great destruction of hops in stormy weather, when the wind lays low whole hop grounds, from the height of the poles; and most of all, it enables the gathering of the cones to take place without uprooting the plants, besides permitting the selection of the ripest ones at first, and preventing the great loss which arises from the necessity of tearing down the whole plant to get the ripest blossoms.

Rosmarinous Buds should be made this month or the early part of April. Roots from last year's seed are the most vigorous, but the risk has to be run in getting an inferior article, as the seed rarely produces its like. The surest way is to take old roots, separate them into as many plants as they will admit of, and retain a portion of the core to each plant in deep rich soil, the top an inch under the surface, about two feet each way. Cover over in autumn with mulch. Unless seed is wished, they should not be permitted to run to seed, as it weakens the stalks and gives but half a crop.

Educational.

KIRKING FEMALE COLLEGE,
NEW YORK.

This Institution, designed for the liberal education of Young Ladies, has been in operation two years, with the most gratifying results. It is now established in the United States, and its popularity is daily increasing.

It is located on the Hudson River, in a beautiful and safe neighborhood, and is the most eligible and beautiful location of the valley, and is in close proximity to one of the most moral, healthy, and comfortable parts of the State.

In its construction, it contains all the comforts and conveniences. In these respects physician pronounced unrivaled. The lumber is large and well selected, and the building is well ventilated. Only two students occupy the same room.

The hall contains great all time supplied with warm air.

The grounds are ample, and well arranged for recreation and various athletic exercises.

The Faculty of Instruction is efficient and expert.

In the College Devotions, the course of study is in accordance with the best system of Christian Education.

In the Preparatory Department pupils will be carefully trained in all the branches forming the basis of a Classical and Christian Education.

For further particulars address,

Rev. A. O. MARLIATT, A. M., President.

Aug. 3, 1859.

Miscellaneous.

CUMBERLAND VALLEY R.R.
WINTER ARRANGEMENT.

CHANCE OF HOURS!

On and after MONDAY, NOV. 14th 1859 Passengers

Train will run as follows: (Sundays excepted)

FOR HARBOUR.

J. D. HALBURG has again replenished his stock of coal.

COAL-WARE AND DOOMS.

Watterson's fine leather and side paper, White Ware, painted, stained and varnished.

PAINTING, DRAWING and other Ornamental Branches

at the usual rates.

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Fires are sold, viz: Chambersburg, Shippensburg, York, Lancaster, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, & New York.

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