

THE MICHIGAN FARMER.

A Weekly Agricultural, Horticultural, Family and News Journal.

NEW SERIES.

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THE MICHIGAN FARMER,

A Large Weekly Agricultural, Family and News Paper, designed to interest and entertain Farmers, Stock-Raisers, Fruit-Growers, Mechanics, and the Families of all classes.

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WM. M. DOTY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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MRS. L. B. ADAMS, } Corresponding Editors.

Important Reduction in the terms of the Farmer.

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SECURE THIS PREMIUM!

For the largest number of subscribers obtained for the *Farmer*, at \$1.25 each, previous to the first of next month, we will give the choice between a Colby's Clothes-Wringer, price \$3.50, or one of Smith's Corn-Huskors, both of which took the first prize at the last State Fair. Let the friends of home enterprise begin now to increase our list, and keep the ball rolling. There is no good reason why the circulation of the *Farmer* may not be doubled or quadrupled.

The Wheat Plant and its Improvement.

Extract from an address delivered by R. F. Johnstone, corresponding editor of the *Michigan Farmer*, before the Ingham County Agricultural Society at its annual exhibition in 1861.

A very large proportion of the surface of Ingham county is still covered with aboriginal forest, and as yet time has not been given to the farmers to render its lands fully productive. Like the range of counties which lie within the same parallels of latitude, it has to suffer in some degree from the vicissitudes of climate, the extremes of temperature being very great. These difficulties, therefore, connected with the rough condition of the land and the uncertainty of the seasons, are such as to confine the agriculture of this region of country within certain limits, and to give the precedence to certain crops. These crops are principally cattle and wheat. Comparatively but few sheep are to be found, for the ranges on which they could be grown with profit are not yet cleared, and the produce of the dairy is necessary as well as the work of oxen, the one to and in the support of the family, and the other in the clearing of the land. Necessity, it will be seen, therefore, dictates in a great degree what should be the course the settler must pursue, and in what direction the efforts of the farmer should be made. Here, where the purest and heaviest wheat may be grown, and where much of the land as well as the climate requires that grain should form a large part of the rotation that may be adopted, it is important to under-

stand how these crops may be best and most economically produced.

Wheat is a marketable crop, and returns to the farmer directly money for the labor expended upon its production. But grass and other crops are not ordinarily marketable; they are only the raw material from which it is a part of the business of the farmer to manufacture products that are marketable. These products are ordinarily either butter, cheese, beef, pork, mutton, or wool.

Our Michigan wheat, is a main staple, however, that deserves attention, and it may not be improper here to say something relative to its intrinsic value in the great grain market of the world. The white wheat of Michigan is ordinarily sought after by purchasers, because it serves to increase the value of the flour made from all other kinds of wheat. Our soils grow the several varieties of the white wheat in great perfection, whilst our climate tends to produce it in a very dry condition. During the present year the wheat of Michigan is not only a full crop with regard to quantity, but also in quality we learn it is much superior to the wheat of the States immediately surrounding her. The crop is therefore sought after by purchasers with avidity, for both home and foreign markets. In ordinary seasons, white Virginia and white Kentucky wheats rank a grade above Michigan from their great dryness; this season however, most of the Michigan wheat equals these varieties in this respect, while the condition of those States renders their crops unavailable for a supply. With a fair prospect for a foreign demand greater even than that of last year, it will not be unreasonable to expect that prices will rule so as to afford growers a fair remuneration during the winter and spring.

Wheat being a staple crop on which the farmer depends for money returns, it is important that he should employ the utmost skill and care not only to secure the crop, as it is ordinarily grown, but also to increase the quantity per acre, and improve the quality from year to year. The efforts of the most scientific agriculturists have been turned in this direction for a long series of years in Great Britain, and the result is shown in the average increase of the production of this valuable grain per acre. Within the last fifty years the average production per acre in that kingdom has increased fully ten bushels. When we inquire as to what has produced this remarkable result, we find that several causes

have been combined, which may be enumerated in the following order:

First. Thorough drainage, which is the foundation of the whole system of modern improved agriculture.

Second. Rotations of crops, based upon principles that are in accordance with the advanced state of the scientific knowledge of plants and animals and its application to agriculture.

Third. Deeper tillage, which drainage permits.

Fourth. The application of manures at the right time and season to aid the development and growth of the plant.

Fifth. The constant and steady selection of good seed, and improved varieties of stock.

Sixth. The invention and use of new implements and labor saving machineries.

The general adoption of a practice based upon these principles in Great Britain has not only raised the production of wheat from an average of less than twenty bushels per acre to thirty bushels, but it has also enabled the farmers of that kingdom to sell three pounds of beef and mutton where in former years they sold but one. The maximum produce of wheat has reached over sixty bushels per acre. Indeed we may here state that at the State fair lately held in Detroit, there was exhibited a sample of white wheat, which had produced the present year at the rate of nearly fifty bushels per acre, and which weighed sixty-seven pounds to the bushel. This result was of course owing to a very careful preparation of the soil, and the selection of seed.

Of the benefits of drainage in the amelioration of land, I need hardly speak here, except to say that wherever it has been carried on to any extent in this state, on lands which needed such improvement, it has invariably repaid the investment, principal and interest, within from three to five years; at least such are the conclusions arrived at by reliable men who have tried the results of drainage to their satisfaction. In this section of the State however, the application of capital and labor is necessarily applied more to the improvement of the surface, than to the subsoil; yet even here the wrong direction of labor may be the means of preventing a return for the capital or labor laid out. We have always contended that it is better to have five acres from which thirty bushels of wheat may be reasonably expected with certainty, than to have ten acres from which but twenty bushels per acre can be looked for, and that but a contingency

POMOLOGICAL GOSSIP.

INGRAM'S HARDY PROLIFIC MUSCAT GRAPE

—We have already noticed this new grape. It has recently been again exhibited before the Royal Horticultural Society, competing for a £5 prize for the best seedling grape of this year, and receiving the reward as such; it also received a first class certificate of merit, Mr. Standish, who has the entire stock and who has exhibited the fruit, states that he has fruited Prolific Muscat both in pots and planted out, and can therefore speak with certainty to its great productiveness and hardiness. It produces hard, short jointed wood, with thick, robust foliage, a property which adds to its value. Most of the Muscat's having tender foliage are apt to become scorched under a bright sun. The bunches are some what long, tapering, and well shouldered. The berries set very freely, even under the disadvantage of a low damp atmosphere; the berries are medium sized, oval-shaped, of an intensely black color, and well covered with bloom, possessing a rich vinous flavor, with a slight dash of musky aroma; the variety has been pronounced by competent judges to be a most delicious as well as very useful grape. It was raised from a black seedling, impregnated with the Muscat of Alexandria.

THE SALWAY PEACH.—This new variety, which has attracted considerable attention among English cultivators, has just fruited in the garden of Mr. H. H. Hunnewell, of West Needham, and Mr. Harris, the gardener, exhibited very fine specimens at the annual show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society last month. The specimens measured eleven inches in circumference, were very beautiful and of excellent quality. They were grown in pots. By the kindness of Mr. Harris we received one of the specimens, which enabled us to test its quality, and we can commend it as a large, showy and most excellent peach, particularly adapted to orchard-house culture, where very large fruits are desirable.

FINE ORCHARD-HOUSE PEARS.—Mr. Chamberlin, gardener with Governor Lawrence at Newport, R. I., exhibited several very large specimens of Cœur Clairgeau Duchess and other pears at the Fair of the Rhode Island Society for the encouragement of Agriculture and Horticulture, held in Providence, on the 11th of September. Mr. Chamberlin has been highly successful in the management of his trees, and he has promised us an account of his new mode of growing pears and other fruits in *baskets* in orchard-houses.

VERY FINE MUSCAT OF ALEXANDRIA GRAPES.—The most remarkable specimens of this grape we have ever seen recorded were exhibited before the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Aug. 20. They were from Mr. Matheson, gardener to F. C. Yarnell, and the bunch weighed *nine pounds and a quarter.*—The berries were very large and uniform in size, and of excellent flavor. This bunch was only one out of nine on the same vine, the ag-

gregate weight of which was upwards of *fifty pounds.* Mr. Matheson was awarded the special premium of five dollars for his superior grapes.—[*Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture*]

Farmer Contributors.

Noted People of the Bible.

BY SLOW JANIE.—NUMBER FIFTY FOUR.

EBEDMELECH.

Jerusalem was doomed; the decree had gone forth that she must fall, and her citizens expiate their treason against God, by seventy years' captivity in Babylon. But still they held out against the besiegers, in hopes of receiving help from Egypt. Jeremiah was forbidden to speak in the name of the Lord, lest it might discourage the people from fighting. But little did he regard the word of man, when he had the command of God. He had been beaten, and put in the stocks, yet still he told the truth. So the nobles came to the king and insisted on his death. The weak minded and perplexed king yielded, but at the same time protested that it was their deed, not his.

Partly because they were afraid to put him to death publicly, and partly through cruelty, they threw him alive into the dungeon.—In the prisons and in private houses too, there were cisterns thirty or forty feet deep. As they had no water lime they were generally made of tough clay. When the water was used out of these, there was deep mud left in the bottom. Into one of these the prophet was let down, and he sank into the mire. Here he could not live very long. But an Ethiopian slave in the king's household happened to hear of it, and resolved to make an effort to save his life. The king happened at the time to be holding a council in the gate of Benjamin. To go there and speak in favor of Jeremiah, among the very men who had put him in the dungeon, would be a perilous matter, and yet to wait till the king would return, might endanger the prophet's life.

Poor Ebedmelech considering the prophet's life more important than his own, went directly to the king. He represented to his master that all that had been inflicted on Jeremiah from the first was unjust, and that he was now in a miserable condition, for he was like to die of hunger even before he was let down into the dungeon. The influence of a black chamberlain could have but little weight with the king, yet as he had acted before in opposition to his own conscience, it served to turn the scale. He gave him permission to take Jeremiah up, and gave him a guard of thirty soldiers to secure the doing of it.

With a thoughtful regard to personal comfort, which has always characterized his unfortunate race, and which has made them preferred as body servants by the luxurious, he was careful to provide Jeremiah with a bundle of rotten rags to have under his arm-pits, while they drew him up slowly and tenderly out of the deep pit.

By what strange providence it occurred that this poor fellow was carried from his home in Southern Africa, and thrown into the king's household in Judah, we are not told.—Neither do we know how it came that he heard Jeremiah and believed the word of God, while others despised it. We do not even know his name, for Ebedmelech which Jeremiah calls him, signifies a king's servant, and is a Hebrew word, but his name, of course, would be Ethiopic. But we do know that he showed mercy to a prophet, and would receive a prophet's reward. Jeremiah was authorized to tell him, that the men who hated him for rescuing the prophet would never get their hands on him, and wherever his lot might be cast, in these troublesome times, his life would be spared. His case reminds us of what our saviour said long after, "Many shall come from the east and the west and sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the children of the kingdom shall be cast out."

Letter from "Susie.—A. Pic Nic.

DEAR FARMER:—There! Is there any impropriety in calling one's friends dear? If so, please excuse my ignorance; but being alone to night and in talking humor, I really must talk to *some* one, and if the *Farmer* does not, like some people, forget an old friend because dressed up, I hope to get somewhat acquainted with our new proprietor.—I said I was alone to night, but not exactly lonely, for my thoughts have been very busy. I have been living my childhood over again. I have been thinking of my childhood's home, with all its dear associations. How freshly memory brings back to my mind every loved spot which my infancy knew!—the old house at home, with its little back porch covered with clambering vines. (Hop vines, some may say.) Well, is it any body's business what another's business is? and who will tell me that hops are not beautiful? I think they are far more beautiful than fops, besides being more useful, although they would rhyme very well together. But as I said, they were very dear to me.

I wonder if there are any readers of the *Farmer*, who, like me, can look back to homes they have left long years ago—wonder if the old cherry trees stand unharmed and beautiful as when they last tasted their luscious fruit? Oh! if my feet could press that threshold to night, no matter how thick the darkness which surrounded me, how easily could I pick out each dear familiar spot at the hearthstone around which we gathered, an unbroken band, ere Death, with its icy hand, had sought out our Loved.—How distinctly I remember, to-night, that darling, blue-eyed sister, who came into our midst like an angel of light upon an errand of mercy. Her bird-like voice was heard all the day, falling sweetly upon hearts grown cold and hard by fighting the stern battles of life; and it awoke new echoes, and watered the parched and thirsty soil of the heart, and