

# THE MICHIGAN FARMER.

A Weekly Agricultural, Horticultural, Family and News Journal.

NEW SERIES. DETROIT, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1861. VOL. III., NO. 50.

## 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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Down-Town Office.—Allen's Book Store, 158, Jefferson Avenue. Office subscribers will find their papers at ALLEN'S. A slate will be found there on which to write orders, requests, or business of any kind. We call there every week-day morning, between 8 and 9 o'clock.

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WM. M. DOTY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

R. F. JOHNSON, } Corresponding Editors.  
MRS. L. B. ADAMS, }

### Important Arrangement.

It is with the highest degree of satisfaction that we are able to announce that Prof. L. R. FISK, the president of the Michigan Agricultural College, has consented to become a Contributor to the columns of the *Farmer*.—Being at the head of one of the few successful Agricultural Education institutions of the country, and heartily engaged scientifically and practically in Agricultural advancement, our readers will see at once that this arrangement is most desirable. We take the liberty to copy from a private letter recently received from Prof. F. a portion which warrants this announcement of the arrangement:

"AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, }  
LANSING, Dec. 5th, 1861. }

"WM. M. DOTY, Esq., Dear Sir, Your favor of the 2d inst. is received. I am pleased with your interest in agricultural improvements. I should be quite willing to furnish articles for your valuable Journal from time to time, and that without any remuneration; as I shall consider myself well enough paid, if any good should be done thereby. After you have finished copying the address to which you refer, and which you deem worthy

of more extensive circulation, I will send you communications on practical subjects."

### Now for the Work.

Friends of Agricultural Progress in Michigan, we now appeal to one and all to take hold of the work of extending the circulation of the *Farmer*. We are engaged in the great cause of Agricultural Progress, and those engaged in Agricultural pursuits are most earnestly solicited to co operate with us so that we may be able to insure efficiency as a result of not only our own efforts, but of all those who have so kindly consented to assist the *Farmer*.

Now is the proper season to talk the matter over with your friends and neighbors and secure recruits to fill up, if not the most imposing, at least the *most important* army in the world! the grand wealth producers of the great American nation. Take our army rolls (prospectuses!) and circulate them far and wide. Prevail upon the patriotic soldiers not to "enlist in companies of other states," but take interest and patriotic pride in "filling up the ranks" in our own noble state.

Rest assured that we shall spare no pains to render the *Farmer* as valuable as its support will possibly admit. Our arrangement with Prof. FISK, T. T. LYON, and others, to assist in rendering the *Farmer* valuable, together with our arrangement for occasional Illustrations and facilities for neat mechanical execution will doubtless be appreciated by all, and they are only a *beginning* of what we shall do for the *Farmer* patrons, if its patronage is such as this state can well afford.

PICKLED EGGS.—Boil the eggs until very hard; when cold, shell them and cut them in halves lengthways. Lay them carefully in large-mouthed jars, and pour over them scalding vinegar, well seasoned with whole pepper, allspice, a few pieces of ginger, and a few cloves of garlic. When cold, tie up closely, and let them stand a month. They are then fit for use. With cold meat they are a most delicious and delicate pickle.—[Exchange.

Very hard boiled eggs, vinegar, whole pepper, allspice, ginger—whew! what a "delicate" mess for the sensitive inner coating of the human stomach!! Verily, in reading some of these recipes one is reminded of the witches' soup, in the play of Macbeth. Don't waste your time and jeopardize your health with any such compounds.

A good many men are in the best health when out of spirits.

### Educational Wants of the Farmer.

Address of Prof. L. R. Fisk of Lansing, delivered before the Macomb County Agricultural Society, at Romeo, October 4th, 1861.

MR. PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

I know of no more fitting occasion to consider the educational wants of the farmer, than an assemblage of the intelligent tillers of the soil. And I am sure I shall not be called to account for directing your attention to the domain of thought, to man's intellectual nature, to the improvement of that department of his being on which all his skill in the arts depends, to that indeed which makes him a man rather than a brute. The intense mental activity of the age demonstrates the belief in something more effective than blind force, that all success results from the intelligent application of means in the accomplishment of ends.

It is not true, as is generally believed, that farmers, even those least educated in the sciences of the schools, repudiate the advantages of knowledge in practical agriculture. It is with them rather a question of the value of *certain kinds* of instruction, and of the *mode* of gaining Knowledge. I do not wonder there is so little faith in the instructions of the lecture room, and the dogmatic teachings of the press. That he is a safe leader in agricultural reforms who has only seen a farm at a distance is highly absurd. All arts are twofold. They have an inside and an outside. There is an inward principal and an outward manifestation, and the latter is an exponent of the former. Theories have their place, but like an untrained steed they will rush us to ruin unless first curbed and bitted, and introduced to the practical realities of life. I would not discard systems of farming simply because they originated in the study, but I should consider them far safer to follow when they had stood the test of experience. All theories, therefore, should pass for just what they are worth. They are not knowledge completed, they are only probable truths, and their correctness must be determined by practical application. He that announces his speculations as settled truths, is either deceived himself, or designs to deceive others.

There should be a careful sifting of all the teachings in regard to agricultural science.—Facts proved should have the force of facts; while theories, speculations, hypotheses, should be confined to their own legitimate office, and should never be substituted for facts. This

## Farmer Contributors.

For the Michigan Farmer.

## Our Bright Home Above.

Sweet songsters with music are filling the air,  
Wild flowers are blooming in meadow and grove;  
But with all their *splendor*, none can compare  
To the fairest of all, *Our bright Home above*.

Oh! who in this world of sorrow and pain,  
Has not been bereft of some friend that we love?  
But the hope still remains, to meet them again,  
When we pass from this world, to *Our bright Home above*.

Earth has its sorrows, its trials, and its cares,  
To sadden the heart, as onward we rove;  
Yet this *cheers* the heart, that there are no tears,  
When we pass from its shores to *Our bright Home above*.  
G. G.  
Hamtramck, Nov. 25th. 1861.

For the Michigan Farmer.

## Sorghum Sirup Manufacture.

MR EDITOR: Sir; In your issue of Nov. 2d, 1861, I noticed an article written by Mr. Enoch Hallet, on the culture and manufacture of Chinese Sugar Cane; and as I have been more or less engaged in that business the last four years, I perused the article very attentively, hoping that I might therein find some suggestions that would assist me in future operations.

That part of the article which relates to the culture of the Sorghum is good, and I found in it some things that were new to me and that are, I doubt not, improvements in raising the Sorghum, I was however much surprised when upon reading that part of the article which refers to the manufacture of the Sorghum. I found it just three years behind the times.

It has been fully demonstrated, in our section of the country, to the satisfaction of every sensible man, that "Heat and skimmer" are alone sufficient to cleanse the juice of the Sorghum from all vegetable matter, (if rightly applied) and produce an article of Sirup which can not be excelled by any, sirup brought into market.

Several years ago I tested Mr. Hallet's process of manufacturing Sorghum to my satisfaction, as did many others in this vicinity, and the unanimous conclusion arrived at was that all chemical agents added to the Sorghum juice for the purpose of cleansing it were not only useless, but worse than useless; and the public were just about to pronounce Sorghum a failure, when an apparatus called Cook's Portable Evaporator appeared, which wrought a complete revolution in the Sorghum business. This apparatus has been quite extensively introduced throughout this state, and it's mode of operation is so well known that I need not explain it, but merely refer those wishing information in regard to it to Mr. John Richard, of Tecumseh, the manufacturer. But I will say this much, that with it an article of sirup can be made "by means of heat and skimmer only," which is not gummy, nor "charged with the flavor peculiar to the kind of cane it was made from" and which is saleable in any market at from four to six shillings per gallon.

In proof of the above assertion I send you with this article a sample of sirup made upon one of Cook's Evaporators, which I think will bear the examination of those of the most sensitive taste. I made this season 1,000 gallons of sirup for myself and neighbors, all of which gave good satisfaction.—Others in this vicinity have used the Evaporator with equally good success, and the question, "Will it pay to raise Sorghum?" has been decided in the affirmative.

Not only in this state but in other states has Cook's Evaporator been used with success for manufacturing the Sorghum. In the *Cleveland Herald* of Sept. 21st, I find the following:

"In 1858 the Sorgho experiment was generally considered a failure. The invention of Cook's Evaporator turned the tide. The farmers near Mansfield sent out some 500 lbs. of Sorghum sugar made upon it.—Hopes of agriculture rekindled; many planted; and in 1859 the use of 700 Cook's Evaporators demonstrated the success of the Sorgho experiment. Acres were multiplied in 1860, and over 1800 Evaporators yielded about 2,000,000 gallons of Sirup, thus saving the North a million of dollars on a single article of household necessity."

Judging from this and other statements, as well as from my own observations, I am forced to conclude that the culture and manufacture of the Chinese Sugar Cane is to be a permanent thing in the Northern States, and that it will eventually prove to be a profitable business, and a great source of wealth to the country.

Yours,  
A. R.

Raisin, Dec. 3d 1861.

## Noted People of the Bible.

BY SLOW JAMIE.—NUMBER SIXTY.

## NEHEMIAH.

Ezra was in all probability the last of the old testament writers, for it is likely that both Malachi and Nehemiah died before him.—However, the latter came to Jerusalem some years after him. He was cup bearer to the king of Persia. At his court he lived in ease and splendor, yet when he heard that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down by the spite of some of the heathen princes, and the people were in distress, he could not be at rest till he obtained permission to go and labor for the benefit of his country. He heard the news in Chialere, which is December, and did not make application till the month of Nisan, March. Why this delay we are not told, but it is probable that his turn to wait on the king did not come till that time.

Arrived in Jerusalem he told nobody that he was going to build the walls till he made all preparations for it, and then, when the work was once started, it was carried on with such expedition that it was finished in fifty two days. But it was not without great exertion that this good work was accomplished. Even the daughters of the nobles labored in

the work as well as the men. From the morning light they toiled till the stars appeared, and during all the time, neither Nehemiah nor his servants, ever undressed themselves, except to change their clothes.

This expedition was well timed, for the moment the Samaritans, the Ammonites and the Arabians heard of it they collected their forces to stop the building, but before they were ready for action, the fortifications were finished. Some of our young readers will wonder that these nations which were subject to the king of Persia, would dare to interfere with Nehemiah, when he had the king's commission for all he did. But they must understand that the Persian empire was as loose and disjointed a body, as some wish these United States to be. Each province was an independent kingdom, only bound to pay tribute to the central government. It was nothing unusual for one state to make war on another, and the imperial government to take no notice of it. Such a state of things produced great confusion and much bloodshed.

But the envy of the surrounding heathen was not the only source of trouble to Nehemiah. He found many of the Jews oppressing their own brethren. The rich taking advantage of the necessities of the poor, mortgaging their lands and houses, and charged them interest one per cent a month, or twelve per cent a year. Some were forced to sell their sons, and even their daughters, into bondage, to pay their debts, and all they could do was to pay the interest, so that there was no hope of redeeming them.

Nehemiah was engaged in the work of building the wall when he heard these complaints, and although he might have deferred the task of redressing their grievances till he had more leisure, yet he set about it immediately. He at once called an assembly on the matter. There he reminded the people that, as the Jews had contributed money to redeem their brethren out of slavery, it would be inconsistent to sell them again for debt; he reminded them that the eyes of the heathen were upon them to mark their failings, and showed them that by virtue of his commission from the king, he might demand his expenses from them, whereas he was living on his private salary as cup bearer, and even keeping an open house at his own cost for all strangers. Finding that the guilty parties did not defend themselves, and that the majority of the assembly was against them, he pressed the matter on, and got the creditors to return the heavy interest they had taken from the poor, and to restore the property they had taken in mortgage, that the poor might have the means to pay the principal.

For twelve years he was allowed to bless his country with his presence, and even when he did go to Persia he was soon after permitted to return. To him might we be applied the words of David, describing a conscientious ruler. "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of the Lord. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when

the sun shineth, even a morning without clouds, as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain."

When he was settling the courses of the priests, there arose a question as to whether a certain family belonged to the house of Aaron or not. Nehemiah's decision was, that they must keep back from holy things until the oracle of Urim and Thummim should be restored, and then they could inquire of God; but that time never came till Aaron's priesthood was done away. From Nehemiah's time till the advent of Christ, a period of better than four hundred years, there was no revelation from heaven, either by response from the holy of holies, or by inspiration.

#### Horticultural.—Work for the Season.

With those who are up with their work, this is comparatively a season of rest, so far as Horticulture is concerned; and the labor of the season, in this department, must be mainly in the way of preparation for another spring.

It is taken for granted that the garden crops are secured, and the ground carefully plowed or spaded, and left in its rough state, to receive the mellowing and disintegration influences of the winter's frosts.

If not already done, we should embrace the opportunity to deposit a supply of well decayed manure where it can be spared and worked into the surface in early spring; thus saving the necessity of treading up the yielding soil, before it has time to settle in the spring. This supply should be ample, as the growing of fine garden crops involves a free use of such material; and the uninitiated would be surprised at the results of this practice, combined with deep and thorough culture. When the soil of the garden is at all inclined to clay, the writer would recommend that a fine pile of barn-yard manure be provided, to be well worked over during the spring, to hasten its decay; and, as soon as the seed is placed in the ground, apply a top dressing of this material, which will be found an efficient means of preventing the baking of the surface, while the dew and rain will carry its virtue to the roots of the growing plants, in the best possible condition for immediate absorption.

While the manure heap remains unfrozen, the same process may be carried on in the orchard. Let the manure be placed in piles, convenient to the trees, ready to be spread over the surface as soon as the ground can be stirred in spring. If spread at once, the rains and melting snows of winter will be more likely to wash away its richness, while the frozen ground acts as a shield, to prevent its reaching the roots. It will be at once perceived, that those who keep their manure under shelter should keep it there, till ready to put it into the soil; which should have been done in October or November; so that it would be in condition to minister to the early growth of next season; which, in the

case of grapes and pears, is a matter of some moment, on account of the more perfect ripening of the wood in autumn.

The present is also the season to secure cuttings of trees and plants for grafting or other modes of propagation. This is usually delayed till near spring, but it is believed that, with care to properly bring them through the winter, the probability of success is increased by securing them before severe weather; as the severe frosts of winter often occasion injury to young shoots, which can with difficulty be detected till the starting of the sap in spring.

This difficulty often occurs with the Pear; which, not unfrequently, puts forth a late growth, failing to ripen fully; and still more frequently, with the Grape; which, in many of its varieties, is a native of a more southern climate, and seldom completes its growth till stopped by the autumnal frosts.

The small fruits, Gooseberries and Currants, are abundantly hardy; and, therefore, do not need this precaution; but, where it is convenient to do so, it is better to cut them in autumn, and to plant the cuttings at once; earthing them up, to prevent being drawn out by the frost. By this means the earth becomes settled about them, leaving them in the best condition for starting with the opening of spring.

Strawberry plantations, also, will be the better for a slight covering of litter, to guard against injury from alternate freezing and thawing in winter; which often seriously injures the plants. The covering must of course be raked off in the spring.

Never conclude that the world is standing still, but keep a sharp lookout for valuable, new seeds and plants, not forgetting the old ones at the same time, and when anything that you lack is "brought out," get it as soon as you can obtain a good assurance that it is really valuable. Do not wait for some itinerant peddler to bring it along; who, for aught you know, may palm off some trash upon you, instead, but go, or send to a reliable source. Seeds, cuttings, and even small plants may now be sent by mail, with perfect safety, and at a merely nominal cost.

T. T. LYON.

Plymouth, Dec. 9th, 1861.

#### For the Michigan Farmer. To Pass Away Time.

There are four of us in the room; our day's work is done, and we are left to seek what way we may to pass away a long evening.

One proposes a game of euchre; another one seconds the motion. The cards are bro't forth from their place of concealment. Two refuse to take part in the game, hence, it is necessary that the two favorable to the game should play by themselves if at all.

One of the non-interested ones takes pencil and paper and becomes, or tries to at least, interested in writing, while the other one takes his "posish" on a stool and remains thus un-

til about overcome with sleep, when with the expression of "I guess I'll bunk," he makes his way to bed, and is soon in the hands of Morpheus.

While the gamblers are talking very loud and are seemingly very much interested, the writer is pondering on something "to pass away time."

Benjamin Franklin passed away his time in improving his mind when young, and when older, gathered the fruits of his pains.

It is needless for me to name any of his fruits here, for undoubtedly every one has read his life complete, and if they have not, they should do so at once.

If the boys and girls of Michigan want a book to read these long evenings, that will interest and instruct them, no better choice can be made, than that of Benjamin Franklin's Life and Essays.

I have a very small volume with the above title, that my mother worked for the money and bought, when she was but fourteen years old. It seems to be like wine, the longer it is kept the better it is. I have spent hours in the perusal of it, and have read some parts of it over the second, third, and even the fourth time, and will say that I was no less interested the last than the first time I read it.

I wish the former correspondents, viz: J. N. B., H. M. E., E. M., and others that have had communications in the *Farmer* previous to its late beneficial change would again "fall into the ranks."

Lena of Marshall is respectfully invited to join our ranks. I beg the *Farmer's* pardon for taking the privilege, but as I occasionally have the pleasure of seeing her,—and knowing her writing propensities, I judged it an allowable privilege. I appoint the *Farmer* the President of the day, and await its decision.

Respectfully Yours,  
MACY.

Will LENA please come forward?

PREST OF THE DAY.

For the Farmer.

Sweet Corn, Watermelons, &c.

EDITOR FARMER: Dear Sir, I understand the "Excelsior Sweet Corn" that I distributed among your subscribers last spring failed to grow. I would now say to all such that I have a fine lot of that delicious and unsurpassed sweet corn saved with care for seed which I will distribute in ounce packages by mail *gratis* to them, and to all other applicants on receipt of stamps to pay the postage and a three cent stamp to pay the expense of putting up and mailing the seed.—I have also a choice collection of watermelon seeds which I will dispose of in the same way.

I have been for several years collecting and experimenting with various new and choice products with a view of testing their adaptation to the soil and climate of Michigan and their good qualities generally. The seeds having accumulated on my hands, and not wishing to have them wasted I propose to