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HAMMONTON, N. J., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1866.

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Agricultural.

[Reported for the Republican.] HAMMONTON POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

President, ASHER MOORE,
Secretary, G. VALENTINE.
Saturday, Feb. 3d.
Subject, Peach Growing.

Mr. S. B. Nichols stated that an interesting paper on this subject had lately been read before the American Institute Farmers' Club; that he had made a copy of the paper for the benefit of this society, and would read it. We give the paper entire.

How to Grow Peaches in Cold Climates.

The following directions are adapted to any section of country where the season is long enough to ripen the full grown fruit sufficiently for packing purposes. Of course no one will expect to raise peaches in Labrador by this plan, but they can be thus grown in nearly all parts of the Eastern and North Western States, I am positive from my own experiments in both sections. On the vast elevated table lands of Western Asia, subject to great extremes of heat and cold and the natural habitat of the peach, travellers tell us that the plant that produces this fruit is of a low, spreading, bushy form, while with us as an exotic, it has persistently been pruned into a tree with its lowest branches 3 to 6 feet from the ground and its top reaching an altitude of 25 or 30 feet.

This unnatural forcing of the sap to such a height in cold climates has gradually killed off more of the trees and is killing off others by the yellow engendered thereby.

Early next spring select the North or West side of a hill, especially for early varieties, or high dry lands; plow it deeply; then take your trees, low-budded or seedlings (the latter are the best) not more than an inch in diameter, and with a sharp knife, at one cut, as smoothly as possible, behead the trees 12 to 15 inches from the collar or surface line as they stood in the nursery. Have ready a varnish of one fourth pound of gum shellac, dissolved in one pint of alcohol and apply a coating to the cut surface. This is very necessary to prevent the exudation of gum and sap, which are needed to develop new buds. Set up sticks 20 feet apart each way, 200 to the acre; dig a hole at each and set in a peach stump. Fill in the original soil nicely around the roots, using no water nor manure until the earth reaches an inch above its former mark on the tree, after which, if the land is poor, a little well rotted compost may be spread upon the surface around each tree. Proceed now to sow broadcast a barrel of salt to every acre so set out, letting the principle part fall within six feet of the trees.

As new limbs begin to grow out, care must be taken to keep them parallel with the surface of the earth; on no account allow them to grow upwards. If on a hill side, train as many down hill as you can. As soon as the limbs are two feet long, provide small sharpened sticks, six inches long, with strings attached, drive one under each limb that tends upwards, pass the string over the limb, drawing it down quite near the ground, then tie to the stake, forming a loop in which the limb can grow without injury. Do not suffer any limb to grow higher than its point of origin at the trunk of the tree. During the summer, you have choice of two forms which you can give the future tree, accordingly as you train the growing limbs. The limbs may be trained horizontally; diverging from the body of the tree like the spokes of a wheel from its hub when lying upon the ground, allowing side branches from these main limbs till the spaces between are filled. Second, by training on opposite sides, ten large lines, each ten feet long, with many parallel side lines from these two and at right angles with them, all together in form somewhat resembling the revolving portion of a wooden horse rika. These should remain permanent. From these parallel limbs grows the wood every year which is to bear fruit the following year.

In mid-summer this new growth should be cut back one half, which will cause larger and better fruit. Along the Atlantic coast, sea weed may be spread over the trees in the fall, or straw, as a protection against severe cold, and will form an admirable mulch in the summer, also keeping the fruit from contact with the dirt. Do not remove this covering in spring until the buds begin to swell and open underneath. If there are indications of frost after the trees are in blossom, they should be covered with old blankets, quilts, bagging &c., every night until the danger is past. Every two years the orchard should receive a dressing of salt in the spring as directed above, and every fall a good supply of well rotted manure, that prepared with lime slacked with salt water is best. Apply all manures upon the surface, and keep clear of woods with the hoe. Never use

the plow after the trees are set. It is designed that the trees should cover all the ground except such narrow paths as may be necessary for supplying manure and gathering fruit, which may be done with wheel barrows. Wherever the saline properties of the soil have been exhausted the peach tree will not fruit. Salt must be supplied either in the soil or by the atmosphere, through the sea breeze. Very fine fruit is reported as grown near Great Salt Lake in Utah.

Peach trees trained in this manner present the following advantages. First. They will bear much quicker—younger than as ordinarily grown.

Second. They will bear fruit for a longer period of years, if properly cared for, and in much colder climates. Third. The fruit is very much larger and firmer and ripens earlier. Specimens thus grown at Portsmouth N. H., measured over a foot in circumference; the limbs were loaded with fruit and rested upon edges of narrow boards laid beneath.

Fourth. As the system of yearly pruning is somewhat similar to that now generally used for the grape, women can soon learn it and from the lowness of the trees take the entire care of them, as also the gathering of the fruit, thus affording outdoor occupation pleasure and profit, so much needed by many of their sex at the present day. An acre of such trees well cared for, will yield 500 bushels or 1000 baskets worth \$3 to 4, the basket. Reckoning but half this yield, an acre or two around any town or village in the North would pay handsomely better than flowers.

I think, again, do you want to grow plums? Pursue the same treatment with your trees and you will have plenty. Early in the spring fence your hives in with the trees. Get up some morning at day light, go out and see what is going on. You will discover Mr. and Mrs. Shanghai and family running around, tumbling over the plum tree limbs and breakfasting upon every little insect they can find. If you see them picking into any ripe fruit, do not hurry to twist their heads off; they are only after a worm—for wormy fruit is first to ripen. You will shortly find the curculio has left the premises for luller trees, out of reach of the hana. Then remove the hana, select full grown fruit as soon as the berries ripen and keep it in a dark room or kind to market at once.

This method of growing the peach, I discovered many years ago, and have since kept secret, while experimenting. It costs the public nothing, hence many will say poh! poh! until their mouths are stopped with their neighbor's peaches. Those who try this method and succeed, I hope will report and give credit, and let those who do not succeed, try again. It has been done and can be again, but like any thing of value, requires pains, patience and practice.

I. H. SANBORN.

Vandalia, Ill., Jan. 17 1866.

The President said he had tried the system recommended in this article in Maine without success.

Mr. Crowell thought peaches will not bear so low temperature here as in a colder climate, and thought the fruit buds will kill at three or four degrees below zero. Most of the buds here seem to have been killed by the severe cold of the first of January.

Mr. Brown asked if any one had tried coal tar to kill and prevent borers.

Mr. Nichols had tried it, and thinks it effectual. He advised the growing of peaches as a profitable crop. He asked whether any one had tried salt among peach trees.

Mr. Taylor had tried it and with good success. He recommended seedlings as the best to grow and as more certainly productive than nursery varieties.

Mr. Conkey tried salt last year, sowing it broadcast, and thinks it was of great benefit to his trees. They were thrifty, the foliage dark green, and the crop of peaches much improved. He thinks it the effect of the salt. He thinks six to eight bushels to the acre a proper quantity.

Mr. Parkhurst had grown peaches to some extent, and found that light soil was better than heavy. He stated that Mr. Bisbee, of Waterford, had used salt to a good advantage among his trees.

Mr. Bassett thought early peaches will not be as profitable as late, as Delaware peaches come into market with the earliest. By growing the later varieties, competition with the southern growers, who depend almost entirely upon the early peaches, is in a measure avoided. He recommended the "Late Crawford," the "Old Nixon," and has a nameless variety that he regards as valuable. Thinks covering the trees might save the buds from early frost, and so save the fruit.

Mr. Crowell thought the killing of the fruit buds this year, an advantage rather than otherwise. It will give the trees a chance to rest. We shall get a good crop of thrifty wood this year. He recommended

thinning fruit. He has not had good success with seedlings. Thinks the old Crawford not the best, and recommends the "Stump of the World," "Old Nixon" and several others.

Mr. Valentine cultivates seedlings mainly, and has had good success with them, many good peaches, and good crops.

Mr. Conkey gave a statement from a fruit grower in New York, in relation to growing trees that sustained Mr. Taylor's theory respecting seedlings. The grower plants in rows where the trees are wasted, thus avoiding the necessity of removal. He recommends the destruction of all fruit that falls from the trees to prevent the increase of insects.

Mr. Nichols recommends picking of damaged fruit, and putting where curculio cannot hatch. He also spoke of fruit preserving houses, and of the importance of forming a company for the establishment of one here.

Mr. Parkhurst had not seen any advantage in shaking the trees to get rid of the curculio. He argued that it would not pay to raise peaches to any great extent, for market. His success with seedlings, has not been good. Does not consider them worth raising.

Mr. Hill has had some acquaintance with the peach trade, and believes they might be sent North and so made a profitable crop.

The President had not met with good success in growing seedlings. Thinks the late peach the best variety for a crop. Thinks yellow fleshed peaches the most likely to give satisfaction as a seedling.

FRIDAY, FEB. 9th.

Subject, Running Vines, Melons, Cucumbers, Sweet Potatoes, &c.

Mr. Prassey, when first trying to raise melons in this soil, had failed. The vines at first looked thrifty, and the fruit promising, but when half grown the vines were struck with blight, and the fruit rotted. He was told by experienced growers that he must use it to the method recommended to him to dig a deep hole, put in coarse manure, cover and plant seeds. When the plants were of some size tread down the earth around them. He had not been very successful with any method, but did not have a favorable opinion of them as a profitable crop. Some years ago his brother had a large crop, and sent three two horse loads of water melons and one two horse load of cantaloupes to Philadelphia. His net profit on the whole was sixteen cents.

Mr. Bassett had never raised melons on a large scale, but was of opinion, they could be raised without difficulty. On a small scale, he thought the following plan as good as any, and possessed of some advantages. Take a barrel, knock the heads out, set it on the ground and fill it half full of common, coarse manure. Throw the earth up around it for a distance say of eight feet from the barrel, making a circular mound half the height of the barrel, more or less. Plant the seeds around and close to the barrel. Lay a board or plank on which to walk to the barrel, and in dry weather pour two or three buckets of water into the barrel every day. In this way cucumbers of the finest quality can be raised in great abundance; also melons, if not too many are planted. Another method is to clear off new ground in the fall and sow winter rye. In spring turn furrows together and plant, and continue to occasionally turn in the rye for nourishment for the plant as needed till all is used. For cucumbers he also recommends deep cultivation and abundance of manure.

Mr. Nichols inquired if marl had been tried. He had raised fine melons, but found difficulty. They were liable to be struck with blight in August. The leaves would turn brown and wither, and the melons stop growing and rot. Had entirely failed to raise pumpkins or winter squash. Would also like to know if mulching had been tried.

Mr. Brown had found blight and rot a serious difficulty. In New York had been troubled to ripen melons before frost, but was otherwise successful there. His method was to dig a hole the size of a bushel basket, fill half full of coarse manure, cover, and on the top plant the melons. Bugs sometimes cut the vines partially off. When this was done, he covered the vine where out. It would take new root and do well.

Mr. Elvins did not think marl worth much. Thinks well rotted manure and plenty of it, all that is requisite.

Mr. Nichols thought New York preferable as a market for melons. He had been told by persons who raised melons for the New York Market that they could be made to yield \$500 to the acre.

Mr. Brown had bought good melons raised in this vicinity on the New York plan.

Mr. Prassey enquired whether pie melons were good for stock.

Mr. Brown had tried, but stock would not eat them.

Mr. Nichols had fed them to cows, but would eat them once or twice only.

Mr. Valentine had found cattle would eat them if cooked, but did not consider them worth much.

Mr. Crowell had good success with melons the first year. Planted new ground, used stable manure, made the hills small, and covered the manure before putting on seeds; thinks new ground the best; thinks if manure is put deep enough, say from a foot and a half to two feet, they will grow well; thinks cheese pumpkins as good as any for pies, and that they can be well grown.

Mr. Prassey lets tomatoes take care of themselves, and always has enough for his family use; does not think them profitable here.

Mr. Nichols thinks the early and late crops will pay. The smooth kinds are best for market, but not the best for eating.

Mr. Valentine had generally failed in growing squashes. Last year he tried a new plan with some success. He got what is known in this vicinity as cheese pumpkin, but which is a squash, as the seeds show. He planted the seeds of this, and from the vines, got three or four Boston Marrow weighing 14 or 15 pounds, and crooked necked squashes, of all imaginable kinds, and all good eating, though not fully equal to the Hubbard. He has seeds from these squashes which he will furnish.

Had tried melons on new ground. They set thick, but the blight and rot struck them. Thought they might have been planted too thick. He tried raising them among sweet potatoes, putting one seed once in six or eight hills, and without much cultivation, had a good crop. Did not think the potatoes were injured. He universally failed when trying the hill system.

Mr. Elvins had forwarded tomato plants with great care and effort; was satisfied that they could not here be ripened earlier, but the market was supplied two weeks before his was ready. Did not believe they could be grown profitably here.

Mr. Bassett thought ground could not be made too rich for tomatoes. Did not regard them as profitable for market.

Interesting statements concerning sweet potatoes were made by Mr. Elvins and others; but as the subject for the next discussion is sweet and Irish potatoes, we defer a report till then.

It was generally admitted that much is yet to be learned concerning melon culture. We hope to receive communications for the REPUBLICAN from those who have had experience in growing them.

Miscellaneous.

[For the Republican.]

HOME LETTERS.

NUMBER I.

Dear A.:

Do you remember the little red school house on the top of one of the bleakest of New England hills which was the Mecca of our daily pilgrimage in the days of our childhood? Do you recollect the presiding genius of that temple; the lank, bearded school-master who swayed the scepter of authority for several successive seasons, and who dealt out to his hapless pupils, science and hard knocks in about equal proportions? Have you forgotten how, when his attention was absorbed by some knotty problem in Adam's Arithmetic, we would improve the opportunity to "make faces" at those big boys who used to hide our bonnets and rob our dinner pails, while at the same time we would manage to carry on a telegraphic communication with the two bright-eyed little lads who sat in the seat opposite? How they used to bring us the largest red-checked apples and the nicest parched corn, which we would graciously accept and then, true to our feminine instincts, bestow our favor and smiles upon some other aspiring archer "just to see John and Joe draw on such long faces?" But that is years ago, and "Joe" upon the judge's bench ignores such childish follies, while the absorbing whirl of political life leaves John but little time or thought for the past, and you and I, our maturer wisdom have almost forgotten that a flirtation can be carried on in jackets and pantalons as well as in straight coats and long garments. The incipient coquette can find no better field of operation than the district school as we knew it, and full many a lesson is learned there not set down in books, and much progress made in studies not prescribed by the committee, or taught by their authority.

Don't you remember the time when we arrived at the dignity of having a set copy of "pot-hooks and trammels," and how your unsoiled sheet with its straight lines and smooth curves shamed my blotched exercise, which resembled nothing so much as a cornfield after a gale, with my straight marks all leaning, and what should have been "lines of beauty" as sharp as the corners of a Virginia rail fence? Well, I

think that the luckless printer who is doomed to translate my scrawling characters into fair copy, will bear me witness that in this report I have maintained a consistent position.

Have you forgotten the day that in poring over our geography les on we came to the State of New Jersey, and what air-castles we built about "Great Egg Harbor" and "Little Egg Harbor?" such funny names, like those we had read about in fairy tales. We were certain they must be wonderful places, and thought we should like to live near them. To be sure the geography said that the southern portion of New Jersey was low, sandy and barren; but as we had never been taught to associate ideas with the words we committed to memory, this description was about as suggestive to us as it would have been to a native of Japan.

Had I taken equal interest in the geographical statement regarding the face of the country, and accepted it as authority, several years' residence in this locality would have very essentially modified my views in that particular, for, although this part of Jersey may be low and is a trifle sandy, facts have proved that the soil with proper cultivation is anything but barren. Hundreds of acres in this settlement, which eight years ago formed part and parcel of an apparently sandy desert, have been "made to blossom as the rose," and the stunted pines and unsightly oak bushes with which they were covered have given place to thriving vineyards, well-cultivated orchards, strawberry patches and blackberry fields which it would do you good to look at, to say nothing of the watermelons, sweet potatoes and numerous other vegetables which seem to grow here as "naturally as a duck takes to the mud."

Not only has Yankee industry and tact accomplished this change externally, but they have acquired for this settlement the reputation of growing some of the best fruits ever sent to the New York markets, and the city dailies mentioned this fact and commented upon it, until we Hammontonians "awoke" in the morning and found ourselves famous. It was so difficult for the Gothamites to believe that any good thing could come out of the State of Camden and Amboy that they sent a committee here to spy out the land, consisting of Solon Robinson, Dr. Trimble and several other gentlemen, who having their prejudices removed, have, with commendable frankness, made a public acknowledgment, and have endorsed Hammonton so heartily that we find ourselves so exceedingly popular that we have serious ideas of petitioning Congress to remove the "hub of the universe" from its present situation and locate it here in the Jersey sands. But I have extended this letter to such a length that I must reserve farther details until my next.

Yours, C.

[For the Republican.]

THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

Extract from a letter to a teacher in the West.

I must not omit, my dear C., to speak of my visit to the Normal School at Trenton, N. J. The annual winter examination took place on Tuesday evening, the 30th ult., and the afternoon and evening of the next day, closing, as I have been informed, with a reunion. To my regret I was not able to be present except on Tuesday—but with the exercises of that evening, I can truly say I was highly delighted. We so often hear the remark "the pupils did great credit, both to themselves and their instructors," that it seems like commonplace praise; but of the pupils both of the Normal and Model Schools, it can most emphatically be said. As we had gone some distance purposely to be present at the examination, we started for the Hall at an early hour, that we might "get a good place" and be able to see and hear to advantage—but early as we were, we found the room already half-filled with visitors, members of the Legislature, invited guests, friends of the pupils, &c. The number steadily increased, till the room was filled to overflowing—many not being able to procure seats, were compelled to stand during the whole evening. The exercises commenced with singing by the pupils of the model school under the direction of the accomplished Professor of Music, Mr. Harden. Though not competent to judge critically either of the music or singing, it exactly suited my simple taste, I have rarely heard anything more melodious than some of those sweet youthful voices.

Several of the scholars displayed wonderful aptitude for map-drawing; describing the triangulation, coast-line, capes, rivers, mountains, &c., as they drew them—and in so short a space of time that I would have thought it next to impossible if I had not witnessed it. I cannot pass from this subject, without saying a word to you, as a teacher deeply interested in all that relates to education, respecting these new charts of E. & A. Apper, for drawing maps by triangulating the counties. They seem to me a wonderful improvement upon the old

plan and I think that they ought to find an honored place in every schoolroom.

But the chief attraction of the evening for me, were the exercises in Elocution. Several of the young ladies both of the Normal and Model schools, particularly distinguished themselves by their manner of reading the poems, essays, &c., assigned them. I was also very much interested with the concert reading by several classes composed of the younger pupils of the Model School. Seldom have I heard anywhere, even in classes, trained by some of the best Professors of Elocution, a style of reading that pleased me better, simpler, easy—every word distinctly enunciated, the accent and emphasis placed so as to give the meaning of the writer, without bordering upon an affected, theatrical style, which to often spoils for my ear, what is called "good reading."

Altogether, my dear C. the evening was a pleasant one, a time long to be remembered; there was only one thing that I regretted—that was, that I could not have the pleasure of hearing, at least, a short address from Dr. Hart, to his graduating class, as they passed away from those stately halls of learning to their humble school rooms.

But perhaps they do not need it—for enjoying the high privilege of associating day after day, with so faithful, earnest a teacher, the store house of whose mind is so well filled with rich treasures—that they become ungenially imbued, in a measure, with his spirit and go forth, ready to labor faithfully in the field assigned them.

The new boarding arrangement is giving great satisfaction. All the female pupils and teachers live in the house lately erected for this purpose on the premises, and fitted up especially for their convenience. The pupils have here a comfortable and pleasant home, under the immediate supervision of their teachers, and the opportunities for uninterrupted study are much greater than when the pupils were scattered about the town. The cost for board, room, fuel, light and washing, is only \$3.50 a week. As there is no charge for tuition, the whole expense of a residence at the school for the school year (40 weeks) is thus reduced to \$150, even in these times of high prices. Full particulars in regard to this point are given in the annual report of the Trustees.

Selected.

Be Kind to Each Other.

Be kind to each other!—
The night's coming on,
When friend and when brother
Perchance may be gone!—
Then midst our dejection
How sweet to have earned
The blest recollection
Of kindness—returned!—
When the day has departed,
And memory keeps
Her watch-broken-hearted,
Where all else hovers aleep!

Let falsehood assail not,
Nor envy disprove,—
Let trifles prevail not
Against those ye love!—
Nor change with to-morrow,
Should fortune take wing;
But the deeper the sorrow,
The closer still cling!
Oh! be kind to each other!—
The night's coming on,
When friend and when brother
Perchance may be gone!

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S HUMOR.—A correspondent of the Independent tells this little story of the late President. It is not generally known that the speech always made by the President upon the presentation of a foreign Minister is carefully written for him by the Secretary of State. A clerk in the Department, ignorant of this custom, was one day sent to the White House by Mr. Seward, with the speech to be delivered upon such an occasion. Mr. Lincoln was writing at his desk as the clerk entered, a half dozen Senators and Representatives occupying the sofas and chairs. Unable to disguise a feeling of delicacy in the discharge of such an errand, the young man approached, and in a low tone said to the President: "The Secretary has sent the speech you are to make to-day to the Swiss Minister." Mr. Lincoln laid down his pen, and taking the manuscript, said in a loud tone: "Oh, this is a speech Mr. Seward has written for me, is it? I guess I will try it before these gentlemen see how it goes." Thereupon he proceeded to read it in a wagging manner. And as he concluded, with sly banter, "I like that; it has a nationality."

Gail Hamilton says one can be a teacher, without imbecility of mind; but it is a dreadful endorsement of a man to marry him. That is, a man there is another side to the case—many a man has been made bankrupt by writing confidence in such endorsements.

ARMED
AND DANGEROUS
DO NOT RESIST

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DATE and DATE, and
ROBERTO
actually invited to talk with
(has purchasing class
greatly reduced cost
by the substitution of
satisfaction.

