

BARNYARD OR COCK'S-FOOT GRASS,

Our illustration upon this page shows a luscious annual which is quite widely distributed over the Eastern States, and is known as "Barnyard grass" or "Cock's-Foot grass," its botanical name being *Panicum crusgalli*. It is figured and described in the "Report of the Depart-

otherwise smooth, with the sheath smooth or rough; spikes 1 to 3 inches long, numerous, crowded in a long raceme or a dense panicle, which is rough with stiff hairs; the glumes ovate, rough, abruptly pointed; lower palea of the neutral flower usually bearing a rough awn; varies greatly, sometimes awnless or nearly so, sometimes long awned, especially in the variety

makes a hay of good quality. It is justly regarded as an excellent grass, particularly before it ripens its seed, as in the later stages of its growth the long and stiff awns of its spikes tend to make it somewhat unpalatable. Mr. D. L. Phares, Woodville, Miss., says of the grass: "The hay is very highly esteemed by many farmers. In northeast Mississippi I have seen large fields of it mowed." This grass should be cut early, while it is juicy and palatable. This will be at the first appearance of the flowers.



COCK'S-FOOT GRASS—*Panicum Crusgalli*.

ment of Agriculture for 1878" as one of the grasses worthy of test in the Southern States. We take from the report a description of the plant and some record of its valuable properties, as learned by its growth in Alabama and Mississippi. It is an annual grass, with thick, stout culm, branching from the base, 2 to 4 ft. high; leaves long, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or more wide, rough on the margins,

hispidum, a very large and coars: form of the species, with the sheaths of the leaves rough, hairy; another variety, *muticum*, is destitute of the awns and is smooth throughout. Very common in waste places in all parts of the country.

Of this grass Dr. C. Mohr says: It grows luxuriantly, particularly in the lowlands of the coast, is greedily eaten by horses and cattle, and

GIANTS IN MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, in describing the mound in which the remarkable discovery of the gigantic skeletons were made, says it was about 64 ft. long and 35 ft. wide, top measurement, and gently sloped down to the hill where it was situated. A number of stumps of trees were found on the slope, standing in two rows, and on the top of the mound were an oak and a hickory stump, all of which bore marks of great age. All the skeletons were found on a level with the hill, and about eight ft. from the top of the mound. Now to a more particular description of these antiquated remains:

In one grave there were two skeletons—one male and one female. The female face was looking downward, the male being immediately on top, with the face looking upward. The male skeleton measured nine ft. in length, and the female eight ft.

In another grave were also found two skeletons—male and female—with the female face looking upward and the male face looking downward. The male frame in this case was nine ft. four inches in length, and the female eight ft.

In another grave was found a female skeleton, which was incased in a clay coffin, holding in her arms the frail skeleton of a child three ft. and a half long, by the side of which was an image, which, upon being exposed to the atmosphere, crumbled rapidly.

The remaining seven were found in single graves, and lying on their sides. The smallest of the seven was nine ft. in length, and the largest ten. One single circumstance connected with this discovery was the fact that not a single tooth was found in either mouth, except in the one incased in the clay coffin.

On the south end of the mound was erected a stone altar, four ft. and a half wide and 12 ft. long, built on an earthen foundation nearly four ft. high, having in the middle two large flagstones, upon which sacrifices were undoubtedly made, for upon them were found charred bones, cinders and ashes. This was covered by about three ft. of earth. This excavation was made under the direction of the Muskingum County Historical Society, and the things alluded to in this letter, or dispatch, can be verified by a number of witnesses who were present and watched the work as it progressed. It was pursued with great interest and diligence, there being the strongest incentive to prosecute the investigation, for such remarkable developments in mound-opening are very rare, and are therefore fascinating in the extreme. Their future labors were also rewarded with additional developments, which, if they do not throw additional light upon this giant race of people that once inhabited this country, will at least stimulate research.

What is now a profound mystery, the result of this excavation may in time become the key to unlock still farther mysteries that centuries ago were commonplace affairs. I refer to a stone that was found resting against the head of the clay coffin above described. It is an irregular-shaped red sandstone, weighing about 15 lbs., being strongly impregnated with oxide of iron, and bearing upon one side two lines of hieroglyphics.