

Roots, Pumpkins, Brown Bread, and Things in General.

[From the Pacific Rural Press.]

EDITORIAL:—I do not believe in conceding to prejudice even the value of a turnip. I remembered quite well that friend Olden had taken exception to turnips and potatoes, and had not mentioned beets. It does not affect the question of the comparative value of roots and alfalfa as food for beasts.

My beet patch, near 1/2 acre of low lying, moist, poor sandy land, on which 300 loads of manure have been spread, yielded me this season some 200 tons of beets, mangold wurzels.

What All can Raise. However, is a crop of pumpkins. Choose a friable piece of land; plough deep, (10 inches) early in April; plough again, shallow, in mid-April, and sow in hills four yards apart each way; thin to three vines in a hill, and keep down weeds by running a harrow, followed by a drag between the rows, while the weeds are in their first two leaves, hand-hoeing close to the young plants.

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What Constitutes Truth. Let us leave our turnips and pumpkins awhile just to think this over. What makes Truth? Nothing short of the will of God expressed in His Word (I don't mean the Bible by that) and accomplished by that Word.

For this same cogent reason every operation of God's will must be true and good, for when He wills He generates power to accomplish. He speaks and it is done, and lo! it is very good; because none can gainsay it. He says let two and two make four, and the veriest tyro in figures cannot make it one jot less or more, and he who bases his calculations on two and two making five builds his house on the sands of folly and ignorance.

Hygienic Truth. Is equally God's will expressed in that Word "by whom all things were made, and without whom was not anything made that was made."

Our Lord promised his true disciples that they should "know the TRUTH that the truth should make them free." But somehow, it has come to pass that many of us have been taught that intellect must be shelved when Christianity is mentioned.

How to Dress a Sheep. First, kill the animal in the most approved style; then as life is extinct, skin the hind legs up to the hamstrings; then gambrel and hoist it up; make an incision, high up in the belly, about an inch and a half in length; then insert the stem of a large funnel into the incision, and pour into it from one to two gallons of cold water, the colder the better.

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Profits of Plum Growing.

Errors Pans:—A recent trip through Napa valley, causes me to wonder why farmers will continue to raise wheat and barley on the same land year after year, when nearly every one has more or less of his land adapted to other crops more profitable, and less exhaustive to the soil.

In the neighborhood of St. Helena especially, I noticed on most every farm, land adapted to hops, alfalfa, and the various kinds of fruit especially the almond and plum. The latter is a sure crop here, and as to profit, your readers may count for themselves. At fifteen feet apart, 193 trees may be planted to the acre.

The poorer lands are very properly chosen for vineyards; and the grapes are sold to the wine maker for an average of one cent per lb; whereas five or six cents might be realized by converting a portion of their vineyard products into raisins.

Some of the land owners are dividing up their farms and selling off in lots to suit purchasers, which will give those that can appreciate the value of these lands for fruit growing, a chance to secure a home in one of the most beautiful and productive valleys on the Pacific coast; and amid scenery the most grand, a mild and beautiful climate, with all the advantages of good society, excellent schools, churches, etc., etc.; with a sure competence in a few years from this, the most delightful of all occupations, horticulture.

Those with some experience, and a little capital, to purchase, plant, and wait for a few years for returns, would do well to visit Napa valley before locating elsewhere.

Bottom lands are generally held at \$100 per acre. About the villages at \$150 per acre, and in some cases for \$200 per acre. Small tracts, with house, well, small orchard and other improvements may be had, titles perfect.

It falls to the eye of any person that can tell from actual experience, the yield of the plum tree—dried fruit—he will doubtless confer a favor by communicating through the columns of the RURAL.

St. Helena, Napa Valley, Jan. 1st, 1874.

Guinea Fowls.

We have raised and kept Guinea fowls in considerable numbers, both the common speckled and the beautiful white variety. We never saw any profit in them, though they are prolific layers of very nutritious eggs.

The only difficult period in their lives, in our experience, has been when they are quite young. They require at that time to be fed very often, as they suffer severely from a deprivation of food.

Instinct leads the Guinea fowl to roost on trees and high up, but it is better to get them in the habit of going into the hen-house in winter. They are, however, quite hardy, and we have had them go through the winter safely roosting every night out of doors on the trees.

The Guinea fowl is a favorite dish with epicures, and it will hereafter command a high price probably, as an article of luxury.

In rearing the young it is proper enough to adopt the same mode of treatment as for young turkeys.

The Guinea fowl was well-known to the ancient Romans and Greeks, and in the luxurious days of the Empire it commanded a high price as a great delicacy for the tables of the nobles.

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