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**CLARKE & CRAIG,**  
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S. A. CLARKE. D. W. CRAIG.

Terms of Subscription.  
One copy, one year (52 numbers).....\$2.50  
One copy, six months (26 numbers)..... 1.25  
One copy, three months (13 numbers)..... .75

SALEM, FRIDAY, DEC. 21, 1877.

**Planting out Fruit Trees.**

The fall season, until of late, was not favorable to putting out trees, as we have had so much rain that the ground has been too wet to work. At this time, when so much attention is paid to planting orchards with a view to raising drying fruits, prunes, etc. it is desirable to have the experience of good orchardists with regard to planting out and cultivating trees, and we invite attention to that subject as one of great importance. We can take the following facts as well established: the idea of digging deep holes has become obsolete; the best orchards are where the ground has been plowed deep and the trees set no deeper than they came from the nursery, and as good a nurseryman as Beth Luelling tells us that he would as lief set a tree on the ground and throw dirt around it as to dig any hole at all. Mr. W. B. Simpson, who had a farm in the Waldo Hills twenty years ago, informs us that he then set out an apple orchard by back furrowing ground and setting trees on that ridge. He scraped away the dirt thrown up by the plow and placed the tree on the sod ridge that remained underneath throwing up dirt around the tree, and of course plowing towards the tree. This orchard is yet thriving, and most of the trees living. It has been more successful than orchards set in holes and planted deep. If this course succeeded in hill land, certainly it shows that deep planting and too much cultivation are useless. The true idea seems to be, to plant out, not too deep, not quite so deep in fact, as the trees stood in the nursery, and each year plow and harrow in the spring, and in June and July run twice through with a cultivator and then harrow well, and if the ground can be rolled after each working and harrowing, all the better, to retain the moisture. The trees should be hoed around, to keep the ground finely pulverised, and no doubt such cultivation, not to continue after the first of August, will insure rapid and vigorous growth through the proper growing season, and give the wood time to thoroughly ripen before winter comes. After a few years of such cultivation, say four years at most, the orchard can be seeded down to clover, the trees mulched and then left alone. Every three or four years the clover can be turned over and will enrich the ground, and keep up the growth and bearing capacity of your trees. Sheep, goats, horses and cattle have little business in any orchard. Goats are destructive and cattle the same, sheep will browse on the bending limbs, and an orchard properly cultivated and trimmed, when loaded with fruit should have limbs near the ground. Horses are less trouble than any of the animals enumerated, but we have found that even the horse will browse off the young growth of wood and do great damage.

It is a great help to an orchard to keep turkeys and chickens running in it, for they will make great part of their living on the clover and destroy all the vermin, insects, &c. that are so destructive to fruit culture. Even the curculio, back East, stands little show to live and prosper, when turkeys and chickens have their run. Swine, too, are calculated to thrive on clover and to destroy troublesome insects as well. They can be prevented from doing damage by cutting off the rim of the snout, which does away with their rooting power, but makes them dependent in a great measure on man's care.

We are planting out 1200 trees this month, having been obliged to wait for suitable weather, and profiting by our own experience in the past we have pursued the following plan. Plow deep furrows, throwing two furrows each way, so as to scrape out the dead furrow deep as possible; loosen the soil under the trees a little, when the furrow is not deep enough, and then set your tree well up, so that it is a little higher than it grew in the nursery, and hill around the tree. Plow out a dead furrow exactly in line with the trees and then set stakes to sight across the rows, and trees can be set out with less than half the cost, and more correctly than in any other way: that is if the plowman understands his business and runs the furrows exact. Two years ago we set out plums and prunes, most of them

grafted on plum roots, and 200 trees of Petite Prune d' Agen on peach roots, purchased of Mr. P. F. Bradford. All received the same cultivation, and our experience goes to show that plums and prunes grafted on the peach all live and make good growth—not a single one dying, and we are sorry we cannot say as much for the others. This year we take all varieties we need of plum and prune with peach stocks, and we believe it is the safest method. The peach root is healthy and long lived and those who have tried them for years past bear out our belief that they make healthy, long-lived and good bearing trees. We notice that nurserymen are generally prepared to suit their customers with either. Mr. Henry Denlinger informs us of a fact that he bears witness to in the catalogue of H. W. Prettyman's Railroad Nurseries, at East Portland, that he procured over 3000 plum and prune trees, of Mr. Prettyman, that had been grafted on the peach, and that with scarce an exception they all lived and made vigorous growth. We know that such is our own experience and we give our readers the benefit of it, and we presume every nurseryman has discovered that plum and prune grafts on peach stock are saleable.

**Shearing Sheep in the Fall.**

ED. FARMER: I saw an article in your paper of Nov. 23d, taken from the *Mountaineer*, with regard to shearing sheep twice a year, from which I beg to differ entirely. As I have had considerable experience in the sheep business, and with your permission, I will make a few remarks on that subject. In the first place, I would say that the kind of wool that is most in demand, is combing or long wool, such as Mr. Wilkins of Lane county, and Mr. Ingram, of Linn county, and several other enterprising sheep farmers over the country, produce. Now I say as sheep farmers all know, that if they shear the sheep twice a year it is impossible to produce that sort of wool, and likewise, the oftener the sheep is sheared the coarser the wool gets, and as far as curing the scab is concerned, my experience has proved to me that it is much easier curing them of that disease, when the fleece is long, than when short, and it is a great deal easier to do it in the winter than in the summer, because when the fleece is long and the weather cool it allows the ingredient to remain so much longer at the skin, and thereby gives it a better chance to destroy parasites than it does in the summer season when the fleece is short and the weather is hot. Time will not allow me to write more on the subject just now, but I will do so by and by. A. A.

Clackamas, Dec. 1, 1877.  
Our correspondent is no doubt correct as to the ill policy of shearing sheep in the fall, in Oregon, but Mr. H. L. Rudd, of Peoria, Linn county, a celebrated breeder of Cotswold sheep, informs us that he makes a practice of shearing his lambs in the fall and finds they are better for it. He says that when the ewes are sheared in the spring the ticks leave them and go on to the lambs, and in the winter, being young and tender, the lambs suffer so much from that cause that many of them die, and few of them do really well, while if they are sheared in the fall the ticks leave them, and they live and thrive through the winter far better than they would carrying full fleeces and a full supply of ticks, besides which he gains about two pounds of wool from each one by the operation.

**Notes from Palouse.**

ED. FARMER: Have just received a letter from E. L. Cornelius, late of Turner, of which a few extracts may be of interest to the many readers of the FARMER and those seeking homes in this seemingly far-off West. The letter is dated Nov. 27th.

"We were fifteen days on the trip, and only four days without rain; the weather is clear and very fine now, we are very comfortably housed at present at Mr. Funstons. There is plenty of land for everybody, that is good, well timbered, well watered, that is open for settlement." In speaking of his place he says: "I have as good a ranch as any in Washington, only five miles from Colfax, plenty of pine and balsam timber on it." He was lucky in finding some dissatisfied bachelor, bought him out for \$12, has since been offered a considerable sum for his right, and ends by saying: "It is just the place I want for a home." Turner.

**The National Grange.**

Hon. Wm. Cyrus, Master of our State Grange, has kindly sent us copies of the *Daily Grange Bulletin*, published at Cincinnati during the session of the National Grange. We shall hope to receive the full file before another week. The mails are irregular and some of the early numbers are not on hand. We find much of interest and shall give all the important acts, with extracts from the reports of Master, Secretary, and Executive Committee, if received in time, as some papers with these reports in, have not yet come to hand.

Marion County Pomona Grange  
Will meet on the first Friday in January, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at Grange Hall, Salem. A full attendance is desired. The installation of officers will take place during this meeting. Work in the fifth degree.  
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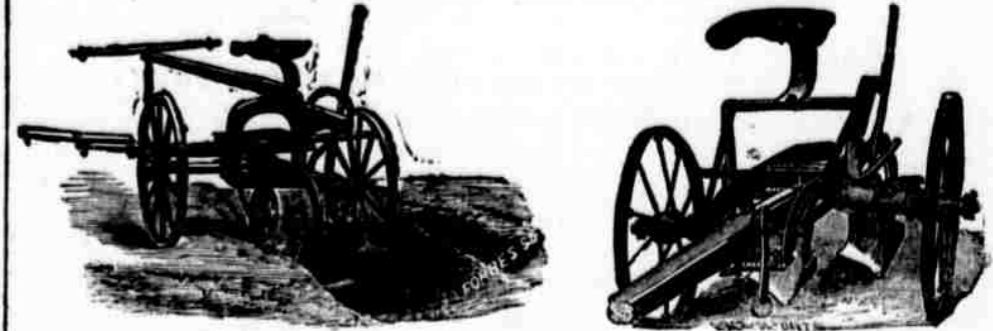
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