

The Home Circle.

Edited by Mrs. Harriet T. Clarke.

THE FARMER'S WIFE

PAUL HAMILTON HAYNE. Bird-like, she's up at day dawn's blush. In summer's heats or winter's snows— Her veins with healthful blood afish...

IN LIVERMORE

WRITTEN FOR THE "FARMER." The ride from Oakland to Livermore is for the first twenty miles through the wonderfully beautiful "garden of California."

yard well supplied with redwood and fir, a steam brewery, a number of dry goods and drug stores and all the belongings of an incipient city.

The culture of grapes is being extensively entered upon in this valley. Although the movement began within the last two years, yet there are now over three thousand acres in vineyards lying along the banks of the Arroyo valley, from near Pleasanton to two miles south of Livermore.

J. P. Smith, of the Olivina Vineyard, will plant this season four hundred acres of grapes, also ten acres of olives, having purchased 450,000 cuttings of the choicest wine and raisin varieties.

"My friend," say I, "I do not ask you where is de goot grape land; I see de land here; it is de goot land," raising his voice as he pronounced his ultimatum.

Land suitable for grapes can be purchased at from twenty to sixty dollars per acre. The land for vineyards is very thoroughly prepared, contracts being let for one subsiding to the depth of fourteen inches, one plowing to ten inches and one harrowing at ten dollars per acre, this being the lowest price yet paid.

Everywhere we found superb roads; no unforfeitable mud or jolting corduroy, that make Oregon roads a terror. Every farmer has his dog-cart, buckboard carriage or hack of some description, and riding is a recreation freely indulged in.

The Eucalyptus or Australian Gum is principally used for shade trees, their smooth brown trunks and long, pointed leaves harmonizing well with the almost tropical aspect of the landscape.

Comfortable carriages wait at the different stations for home-comers from the "city" who have dwellings in this delightful region.

Then the road winds through darkening defiles, between steep hills, with here and there little valleys sloping westward, where the last sunset rays linger lovingly.

Considerable attention is paid to improving horses and cattle, there being many fairly good specimens of the former seen on the roads.

sweep over no deep, dark forests and bring soft whispers from the woodlands.

It is yet May, and before the fields grow yellow and parched we bid farewell to Livermore and turn our faces northward.

The South may be fair as a dream, But North lies the land we call home.

CHOICE RECIPES

Dust and Duster.—Do not dust but wipe! The duster, that peaceful emblem of domestic labor, may, says Le Voltaire, under certain circumstances, become more dangerous to handle than a six-shooter.

Graham Bread.—No. 1. Three pints of graham flour, or two pints of graham and one pint of wheat flour, one pint warm water, one cup yeast, one-half cup molasses, a little salt, one-half teaspoonful saleratus.

Egg gruel is something relished by the invalid who is tired of almost anything else he is allowed to have: Beat the yolk of one egg with a tablespoonful of sugar, till very light; on this pour two-thirds of a cup full of boiling water; on the top put the white of the egg beaten to stiff froth, with a teaspoonful of powdered sugar; flavor with something as unlike other flavors he has had as you can give him.

Blanc Mange is an acceptable addition to the supper table, and easily made. Take a handful of Irish Moss, wash thoroughly in several waters, add a few pieces of stick cinnamon, and tie up loosely in a piece of mosquito netting. Boil about fifteen minutes in 1 quart of milk, turn the milk into a mould or bowl previously wet with cold water; let it stand until cold. When ready for use, turn it out upon a dish. If boiled enough, it will keep its form. Eat with sugar and cream.

A sauce which is very popular with those whose taste is educated to like a good deal of oil with salads is made thus: Beat the yolk of two or three eggs (the number to be determined by the quantity of salad), to these add as much oil as the eggs will hold without separating, season to suit your taste with mustard, sugar, pepper, salt and vinegar.

Water Cookies.—Three cupfuls of sugar, 1 cupful of butter, 1 cupful of water, 1 egg, 1 teaspoonful soda, and 1 nutmeg.

Cure for Warts.—Take nitrate of silver, wet the end with spit and rub on the wart, and it will effect a cure. Be very careful not to touch the skin any place else.

Receipt for Ginger Cookies.—One teaspoonful of molasses, 3 tablespoonfuls of sugar, 1/2 teaspoonful sour cream, 1/2 teaspoonful butter, 3 tablespoonfuls of soda, 2 teaspoonfuls of ginger; mold soft.

Ginger Snaps.—One teaspoonful molasses, one of sugar, one tablespoonful of ginger, one half teaspoonful of alum dissolved, half a teaspoonful of boiling water, two teaspoonfuls of soda, two of cinnamon, 1/2 cupfuls of shortening. Mix soft; bake quickly. This amount makes quite a quantity.

Coment for Broken Chins.—Make a thick solution of gum arabic in water then stir in plaster of Paris, until the mixture becomes a sticky paste. Apply with a brush to the broken edges, stick them together, and in three days the articles cannot be broken in the same place.

Soft Gingerbread.—One egg, one cup of sugar, three-fourths of a cup of butter, one teaspoonful ginger, one teaspoonful cinnamon, a little nutmeg, one cup butter milk, or sour milk one cup molasses, teaspoonful soda, put half in the milk and half into the molasses until it foams. Stir all together; mix in about one quart flour, in which put three teaspoonfuls baking powder.

To Clean Glass Globes.—If the globes are much stained on the outside by smoke, soak them in tolerably hot water with a little washing soda dissolved in it, then put a tablespoonful of powdered ammonia into a pan of luke warm water, and with a tolerably hard brush rub the globes until the smoke stain disappears; rinse in clean, cold water and let them drain till dry. They will be quite as white and clean as new globes.

Mixtures for Erasing Grease Spots.—Half an ounce each of castile soap, aqua ammonia and sal soda. One ounce each of alcohol and chloroform. Cut the soap fine, dissolve in one pint of soft water, add three pints more water and ingredients in the order mentioned.

Mr. Thomas Condon, the professor of natural science and history of the Oregon State University, was in New Tacoma this week, says the Ledger, and visited the coal mines of Carbonade and the lime kiln near Orting, taking specimens of coal and lime rock for his large and valuable cabinet at Eugene City.

For The Children.

WAITING TO GROW.

Little white snowdrop, just waking up, Violet, daisy and sweet buttercup! Think of the flowers that are under the snow.

And think what hosts of queer little seeds; Of flowers and mosses, of ferns and weeds; Are under the leaves and under the snow, Waiting to grow!

Nothing so small and hidden so well, That God will not find it, and presently tell His sun where to shine, and His moon where to go!

Helping them grow! Selected.

A TURNED DOWN PAGE.

There's a turned down page, as some writers say, In every human life. A hidden story of a happier day, Of peace amid the strife.

A folded leaf that the world knows not; A love-dream rudely crushed; The sight of a face that is not forgot; Although the voice be hushed.

The far distant sound of a harp's soft strings, An echo on the air; The hidden page may be full of such things, Of things that once were fair.

There's a hidden page in each life, and mine A story might unfold; But the end was sad of the dream divine— It better rests untold.

OUR LETTER BOX

Is so near empty that we are very glad to get a nice article from our old friend "Luelling," who has often before remembered the Home Circle. She gives this time something of her travels in California, which will make up for the lack of letters.

Clyde Cooke has sent home from Europe some sketches, which are in Mr. Shannahan's window, and which are pronounced by judges to be very excellent, and showing progress. At the same place are to be seen also the efforts of a young man from Washington Territory by the name of Rickett, showing a remarkable native talent, the more to be remarked as the young man has not had the benefits of instruction or the advantage of seeing fine paintings or sculpture; yet his show a natural gift in that direction that we hope may be cultivated.

Department of Agriculture—Its Origin and Progress.

About the year 1837, an act was passed by Congress declaring "that there shall be appointed in the Patent Office a clerk to be designated the 'Agriculturist,' who shall, under direction of the Commissioner of Patents, superintend the collection and distribution of seeds and plants, and render such other services as may be required for this general object; and his salary be \$1,600 per annum, with two laborers to be employed, if necessary, to aid in the distribution of seeds and plants."

For this "Agricultural Establishment" the sum of \$5,000 was appropriated the first year as the basis of operations.

Such was the beginning and extent of our Department of Agriculture forty-five years ago, but which is now enlarged to a separate bureau or department, with a commissioner at its head, at a salary of \$3,000 per annum with about two hundred employes of different kinds, and requiring two or three hundred thousand dollars annually for its expenses. It now propagates as well as distributes many valuable varieties of seeds, plants and fruits, besides, obtained from abroad, and widely sent; it is now asked of Congress by politicians and others to make it a Cabinet department, with the same dignity and pay as the other departments of Government; and, certainly, in reason and justice, that great attention and fostering care as any other subject, for it is the great productive industry which feeds and sustains all others; and Government should wisely extend that aid in such prompt and effective and widely promote active agricultural operations.

It was the wish and belief of Washington, in an early day, that the Government should establish an Agricultural Department, equal in dignity and official station to the War and Navy departments; and he also contemplated the creation of a great national university of highest grade devoted to the fostering of this and kindred industries.

During the winter of 1837-8, a convention was held in Washington, composed of representative farmers from nearly all of the States, of which the veteran Marshal P. Wilder, of Boston, was the president. The session lasted about a fortnight, during which time many able addresses were made on various subjects of greatest importance to farmers. The writer of this was a member of the convention, and listened to a most eloquent and convincing speech by Hon. Charles B. Calvert, the father of the Maryland State Agricultural College. In that speech Mr. Calvert stated that it was well known to many of the statesmen in the

time of President Washington that he was in favor of a department and national educational institution for agriculture as soon—or sooner—as for the War and Navy interests, and Mr. Calvert regretted that Washington's views had not long ago been put in operation.

Moisture and Fruit Preservation.

Gen. J. H. Shields, of Los Angeles, sends us apples of the Pearmain and another variety, sound as on the day they left the tree in 1881, and promising to remain sound for many days—probably till the first of July. The apples were raised in Shields canyon, in the Sierra Madre range, twelve miles, as the bird flies, north of the city of Los Angeles, California. They were kept in barrels in a tunnel through a side ridge of the canyon, cut to connect its reservoirs and zanjas with the zanjas of another and appurtenant canyon. Buckets of water were poured into the barrel every week or two for some months after the apples were gathered. The watering was discontinued some two months since, as the apples being nearly all marketed, the remnant was no longer an object of solicitude.

General Shields, it will be remembered, in his correspondence with the State Horticultural Society, mentioned the case of apples keeping far into the spring, under the tree where they had fallen, and with no other protection than the fallen leaves. This remarkable case is personally known to Judge R. Raney and other citizens of Florence, in whose vicinity the apples were discovered among the leaves under the tree. Here is a suggestive parallel: In the one case showers watered the apples at intervals; in the other, buckets. In the one case the apples lay upon the damp ground among damp leaves; in the other damp apples among damp apples, in damp barrels in a damp tunnel. The question now is, what more can our fruit growers tell us about humidity as promotive of the fresh life and long keeping of fruit. Let us have the light of every experience upon this very important subject.—Pacific Rural Press.

Artesian Wells.

A large portion of the lands in Baker county, and the southern part of this county, though rich, need irrigating to produce crops, the rainfall and natural moisture being insufficient therefor. The sage-brush plans extending from Powder river to the Nevada line would, with very little exception, produce as large crops as any of the Walls Walls wheat lands, if properly irrigated. Most of the country is destitute of water or streams sufficient in size to afford a supply, and much of it lies so high that it is impossible to bring water thereon.

To us, then, the experiments in boring artesian wells in Colorado, now being made by virtue of a Congressional appropriation, are of especial interest. Many years ago it was very unusual to hear of such enterprises, as this means of obtaining a water supply was deemed too expensive to be profitable. Through sheer necessity, in many localities in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah, the trial of deep boring for a water supply was undertaken, and in most instances, where the work was scientifically prosecuted, a good flow of water rewarded the effort. In France, England, and various parts of Northern Africa, such wells have proved successful, not only affording water for domestic consumption, but for reclaiming large tracts of dry, desert land.

The process has been cheapened, and scientific research has enabled engineers to locate with great precision districts liable to obtain many subterranean streams and water sources. The advantages of securing water through the means of artesian wells are nowhere as great as upon the Pacific coast, and the varied results obtained in experimental borings have greatly encouraged these enterprises. The experiments in Colorado may be as prolific in valuable discoveries as those conducted in other countries, where mere accident has given the world the benefits of the economy of Nature in sources never considered worthy of careful inspection. There are three very remarkable wells in Dakota—one at Hillsboro which yields a good strong brine; one at Tower City which sends forth waters of many medicinal properties; and a third at Yankton, in which the indications promise an abundant yield of oil.

From scientific gentlemen who are familiar with the subject, we have learned that the whole of Baker and Union counties present appearances of being underlain with subterranean streams, which would afford an ample supply of water for irrigating purposes, if tapped.—Mountain Sentinel.

Prohibition in Kansas.

A correspondent says: The question is often asked whether prohibition is really enforced in Kansas, and I asked it of Gov. St. John. He thinks it is, to the extent of diminishing the sale and even the manufacture of liquors; and it is true that the Kansas breweries, except one in Lawrence, have been closed. But I am told this was due as much to the cheapness of manufacturing beer in the great breweries of Milwaukee (which aim to crush out the small breweries) as it was to the prohibition amendment of the Kansas constitution. The sale of liquors of all kinds goes on in Lawrence, Topeka and Atchison—probably also in Leavenworth and other large cities, as steadily as ever—but it is less public than formerly, and I think the law has diminished the amount sold to the same buyers. Of course, as the population of Kansas increases, the whole amount sold grows larger—but there is far less drunkenness visible here than in Missouri, or in most Western States. A new sort of morals is seen in Kansas more than elsewhere—indeed, an old resident here said to me, "Kansas is New England over again."

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