

FARMERS' DEPARTMENT.



Transplanting and Treatment of Grape Vines.

Sir:—In compliance with your request for information on the Cultivation of the Vine I will respectfully state that my experience convinces me that a rich, deep dry soil, is by far the most conducive to the vigorous growth and longevity of the grape vine. The numerous vineyards in various situations in the vicinity of Cincinnati afford good opportunities for observation and comparison. The *Cotetoba* is the variety chiefly cultivated. I consider the best mode of preparing the ground for a vine yard is to trench it with the spade to the depth of two feet, which costs about \$200 per acre; although good preparation is made with a sub-soil plough at much less cost. Strong plants (two years old, if possible) are better for planting than cuttings, as they are more certain to grow, and bear one year sooner. When the vineyard is in bearing, I find it to be good practice to manure well every other year. I apply 20 two-horse loads to the acre, and spade it in 6 inches deep; this covers it better than the plow, and makes it look neater. I prune close in early dry weather in February, leaving one cane of 10 or 12 eyes to make bearing wood for the next year. I bend down the canes and tie them to the stakes in March, when the buds are fully swollen and near breaking out; by deferring the tying until this time, the breaking of the terminal buds is insured, and the vines remaining free to the agitation of the winds, are less liable to injure from frost and sleet than when tied earlier. I keep the ground clean and loose with the hoe and frequent use of the one-horse harrow, by which means I ensure an earlier and vigorous growth.

When the shoots have grown from 10 to 15 inches in length, I tie from 2 to 4 to the stakes, from which I select bearing wood for the following year. I then pinch off all the lateral shoots, as soon as the third leaf is developed beyond the last bunch of grapes. I avoid disturbing the foliage during the time of blooming. When the fruit is well set, I watch it closely; if the weather is showery and mildew appears it is best to roll the ground with a heavy roller and make it as solid and impervious to rains as possible, and let it remain so all summer. I also make shallow cross drains to lead the water into drains, which are made at every 4 or 6 rows, through which the water passes into one large deep cross drain, at the end of the vineyard. When the foliage becomes injured by frequent showers and scorching sunshine, I allow the laterals to make more foliage than usual, with a view to keep up a healthy circulation in the fruit branches, and also to afford shade and protection to the fruit. I am careful to keep the vines tied to the stakes to prevent the winds from breaking the shoots intended for the year's bearing, and to give a free circulation to the air, as well as a neat appearance. By this mode of cultivation I saved one-fifth of my crop of grapes the past season, which was an average of more than one hundred gallons per acre. One bushel of bunches of grapes yields nearly four gallons of wine. Much difference of opinion prevails as to the cause of the rot, and some gentlemen of much practical experience now declare that vineyards planted on a dry gravelly subsoil will escape the rot. This has proved to be the case the past season with many vineyards thus planted, but it is not invariably so.

The vine in its native state twines around our forest trees, and flourishes and bears fruit beneath their shade on our cold swampy clay lands. I consider the rut to be caused in some degree by the influence of the atmosphere, the sudden changes from heat to cold, and frequent showers alternately with hot sunshine, which injures the foliage and thereby impairs the circulation of the sap. The rot soon follows, and continues its ravages as long as the weather remains wet and unfavorable. I know of many instances where branches of vines having been accidentally protected from the sun and weather, have borne fine, perfect fruit, while other branches of the same vines that were exposed lost nearly all their fruit. I would suggest to amateur cultivators to erect copings of from one to two feet in width over their grape trellises; they will also protect the vines from the late spring frosts and doubtless enable them to grow the *Hercmon*, *Oko*, and other tender varieties with better success. The coping should be proportional to the height of the trellis; a high trellis will require a broad coping.

Very respectfully yours,

ROBERT NEALE.

Patent Office Report.

Mr. Buchanan and Kansas.

Some of the Know nothing papers (says the *Nashville Union*) profess to believe that Mr. Buchanan will not be true to the South on Kansas matters. We tell these papers that to be true to the south, it is only necessary he should be true to the constitution. The democratic party does not expect nor desire that the incoming administration shall do anything to make Kansas a slave or a free State; that is exactly the policy we oppose. Nor do they care what Mr. Buchanan's private views may be on the abstract question of slavery, so he recognises its constitutional rights. The Democracy stand upon national, not sectional principles; and all they ask for is that no outside influence shall be brought to bear upon this question, but that it shall be left solely to those whom it concerns, viz: *The people of the Territory themselves.*

EUROPEAN ALLIES.

The next great war in Europe will unquestionably involve principles far deeper than the fact. The road to India, and the balance of power in Europe are abstractions which may interest diplomats, but can hardly rouse the enthusiasm of the masses. The balance of European preponderance is about to be settled, and when the delicate line is traced that sways back and forth to include the town of Bolgrad and the Isle of Serpents, in the adjustments of the diplomats of the Paris Conference, it will be the last of that portentous phrase.

That the next European convolution will involve the antagonism of principles, is seen to some extent in the hostile attitude of Russia and England, and the manner in which the great powers range themselves in reference to the Neapolitan difficulty. The Persian war may soon involve England and Russia in hostilities, but this is not because one of these powers is constitutional and the other absolute, but because they are rivals for the scepter of the East, and both anxious to enlarge the sphere of their political and commercial influence in Asia. Which of the two is the greater disturber, or annexes on the largest scale, may be doubtful, but that the policy of both governments is continually aggressive is taught on every page of modern history.

In the last war Russia had the sympathy of the people of the United States, not because the Czar was the leader of European absolutism, not that the struggle was between the cross and the crescent, not that Russia was strong and Turkey weak, but solely that the banner of the Muscovites, though hastening to overthrow the Ottoman dynasty, was still maintaining the independent exercise of the sovereignty which belongs to National existence.

In a contest in which Russia represents the spirit of absolutism, and the question does not turn on that of non-intervention, when France and Russia unite to keep down the rising hopes of Europe, this country may direct her sympathy in a different quarter than at any previous period.

England has up to the present moment been the open foe or secret rival of this Republic even when bound in the closest commercial ties. Two terrible wars attest the uncompromising political hostility which has prevailed against this country on the part of the English government, and if this is not sufficient, the aid and comfort given by English public opinion to the Abolitionists and disunionists here, will show the persistency and stubborn nature of this opposition. But at the moment when a general alliance of European despots against the liberal element in England may result in a great war, England appears ready to begin a real entente cordiale toward her old colonies.

The return of the Resolute was a beautiful national compliment that will be one of the most graceful acts of the Presidency of Gen. Pierce, while the assertion of the perfect freedom of the seas as a pendant to the propositions of the Paris Conference, is the most important. It would be strange if Great Britain should adopt this principle which takes from her so much of the prestige of her naval supremacy while she accepts the return of her Arctic flotsam, as an offering of eternal national amity. This would be a strange alliance, but we live in an age in which the progress of centuries seem to shrink within a few years and the course of time hurried along as if hastening to the world's great period.

The Newly Invented War Machine.

A correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce, alluding to the "Infernal Machine" which Gen. Walker's friends have recently purchased for his army in Nicaragua, thus explains its efficiency and deadly instrumentality:

In form it resembles a common grindstone, turned by a crank, and will discharge 300 one ounce balls every minute, attended by only two men. Every machine is calculated to destroy three regiments of soldiers in the same space of time. It can be directed with the same ease as a common rifle is handled.

The inventor, a Yankee, is now in England experimenting before the Admiralty, and a great many old Generals, of all countries, who evince much interest, and have written him letters expressive of their wonder and astonishment. One distinguished Polish General expresses himself to the inventor, "that as soon as this deadly weapon becomes in use, wars and rumors of wars must cease." The gun, or machine discharges, without report, and sends the ball three times the distance of the ordinary rifle or cannon, as the case may be. The British government has offered the inventor £200,000 sterling, if he can enlarge his machine to discharge a 64 pound shot. This he is now doing, and informs his agent here, that he shall accomplish it. The Russian minister at London is anxious for the patent, but he says to his friends, "I mean no other nation shall have it, but England and my own country."

Prior to his going to Europe, he offered the right to the American Government at Washington. Experiments were made with one and seven lb. carriages, before our naval and other officers, by order of the Secretary of State, which proves all I have related above, and to the entire satisfaction of those present. One of these "infernal machines," placed upon the deck of a vessel, one of the Commodores remarked, "would sink a frigate in three minutes." Such a constant discharge of balls, just as fast as they can be handled and rolled in, besides the great distance and out of reach of the enemy's guns would destroy a ship.

A small pocket telegraph apparatus has been invented, not longer than a tobacco box which can be attached to the wire at any point along the line, at the instant and a message sent as desired.

Snow has fallen to the depth of five inches on a level and four feet in banks, in Fayetteville.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS.

There is a large, and we fear, an increasing class of very foolish young men in several of our northern cities who have undertaken to unite piety with politics—Christianity with black republicanism—and to distribute, at one and the same time, among the spiritual and political heathens, tracts and Testaments, Garrison's speeches and Sumner's orations. In many instances they have formed themselves into what are called "Young Men's Christian Associations;" and if the statements of the opposition press are to be credited, not a few of the members of these associations have rendered most efficient service to the cause of black republicanism, anti-slavery caissons and propagandists. The introduction of anti-slavery resolutions into the Young Men's Association of New York is thus noticed in the Tribune of that city:

"On Monday evening last a member of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city, at a meeting of that body, offered resolutions declaring slavery to be a sin against God, and a sin of such a character and such relations to the American people as to make it the duty of every organization of American Christians to bear a testimony against it. The passage of the resolutions was opposed, not on the ground that slavery is not a sin, but that it was not a sin for which the Christians of New York are directly responsible. That, it seems to us, is hardly a good reason against the resolutions. Certainly it is proper for an individual Christian to utter his abhorrence of any anti-Christian practice or institution, even though it may not flourish in his immediate vicinity; and it would seem to be equally proper for an association of Christians to do the same. Especially is this the case where the influence of opinion, and above all, of religious opinion, is so strong and the need so pressing with regard to slavery in this country. We would suggest, then, to those members of the Young Men's Association who have hitherto resisted the adoption of the resolutions in question, that it might perhaps be better to allow them to pass. It is by no means clear that opposition to so simple an expression of sentiment on such a subject can conduce to the usefulness of their society. If the resolutions bear anything of a political or secular character, such opposition might be justified; but as they are confined to a declaration of Christian feeling and Christian duty, we hardly see why they should not be adopted at the meeting of the association this evening."

It would seem from the above that these men, or at least a portion of them, have declared, in spite of the greatest presumption and arrogance, that it is the duty of every organization of American Christians to bear testimony against slavery as a sin against God?" As the framers of our constitution regarded slavery simply as a domestic institution, to be established or abolished in each State by the sovereign will of the people, as the institution is approved, protected, and sustained by Christian people and Christian associations whose numbers can only be estimated by millions; and as the institution, not in a declining but a prevailing condition, was in existence when our Savior was upon this earth, and yet He, the great head of the Church, did not recognise it as a sin against His Father, the minds and consciences of those politico-religious prigs should, we think, have rested satisfied with the present condition of things. As to the abstract questions whether involuntary servitude is expedient or inexpedient, profitable or unprofitable, or whether it can be introduced into this or that degree of latitude with advantage, we have nothing to say; but when foolish and pharisaical young gentlemen undertake to denounce as sinful an institution which has been legalized in no less than fifteen States, and which is explicitly recognised by the constitution which they are bound to respect and support; we are more disposed to regard their opposition, not as zeal without knowledge in the service of God, but as one of the attending symptoms of that chronic political disease which a few weeks ago prevailed to such a serious extent in so many of the northern States.

But, say the apologists of these young gentlemen, there is not, and cannot be anything political in the simple affirmation that slavery is a sin against God. The philosopher of the Tribune, who appears to oscillate between Fourierism, spiritualism, free-loveism, black-republicanism, and the gospel according to Beecher, and to alternate with the negro and the strong minded woman in his daily worshipping, assures his disciples of the Young Men's Christian Association that there is nothing political or secular in the anti-slavery resolutions spoken of, at the same time intimating that it is the duty of individual Christians to hold slavery in utter abhorrence as an anti-Christian practice. The assurances of the Tribune carry upon their face their own contradiction. If it be admitted that slavery is a sin against God, if this dogma should be successfully engrafted upon the Christian mind of the north, we create at once a sectional politico-religious party which no effort of patriotism could resist, and which would pass away with our nationality, glory, power, and prosperity. If slavery be a sin against God, how much greater the sin to vote for a candidate for office who holds that the institution is eminently civilizing and Christianizing in its effects; or to have fellowship with the ministers or members of a church who countenance the sin; or to have social, political, or commercial intercourse with a people who cling to this sin? Mr. Greeley recommends a very simple and very direct plan for making these Young Men's Christian Associations most efficient recruiting shops for the cause of black-republicanism; and, although many of its members have patriotism enough and Christian spirit enough to protest against all attempts to unite the political with the religious element, there is too much reason to fear that they have been inveigled into associations with many people disposed to regard as mission schools the churches of the political priesthood.

"I was resigning myself quietly to my fate when—and would you believe it, sir—a huge piece of the boiler, which had been driven up higher than ourselves, came down upon his head and crushed the varmint into the swamp.

"I thanked Providence for my deliverance, and was glad to get on another steamer that was passing."

"As you may imagine, I endeavored to get down first, but, on alighting, I found that long hair, saffron-faced rascal up to his knees in the swamp, with his revolver cocked, and waiting for me. He threw me another revolver with an oath, telling me to say my prayers quick, and fire as soon as he had counted three.

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"And what became of the other boat?" I asked.

"They were both blown up, Sir, and one of them sank; but the two captains fell down upon the same wreck. A quarrel immediately ensued, each swearing the boat was his. They were both pointed to a shattered plank with the letters ER upon it, and gesticulating furiously."

"'Fool! says one; don't you see ER stands for Great Blower ER?'

"'Villian!' says the other, gnashing his teeth, 'can't you spell S-e-r-e-a-m-E-R—Screamer.'

"Out came the bowie-knives. Blood flowed.

A fearful lunge from his revolver uttered by the captain of the *Great Blower* reeling overboard, and in a few minutes we were far away from this awful scene, which is of almost daily occurrence on the Mississippi river!"

BARTHOLD MUNCHAUSEN IN AMERICA.

A correspondent of Harper's Weekly communicates a conversation between himself and Baron Munchausen, during which that illustrious nobleman confessed the authorship of the London Times' veracious report of "Georgia Railroad Dwelling."—The Baron's next letter (he has been engaged and sent to America as a regular correspondent of a distinguished London journal) will contain an equally authentic and not less interesting account of a Steamboat Race on the Mississippi. We give it to the readers of the *Georgian & Journal* in advance of the next steamer:

"I started from Louisville, on the splendid steamer *Great Blower*. Our voyage was quiet and unmarked by incident until we had passed Cairo, when on a fine morning, we saw a large steamer close to our wake, which proved to be the *Screamer*, of St. Louis, bound for New Orleans.—It was a fine sight to see her plow up the water, and bellow from her great steam-pipes as she rapidly gained on us; but, from the increasing speed of both boats, and the excitement among our two hundred passengers, I soon discovered that we were racing. You may imagine my fear, Sir at this discovery, and how gladly I would have got ashore, if that had been possible.

"Our rival was now directly opposite us; the boats nearly touched; the captain of the *Screamer* shone his lights three times at the captain of the *Great Blower*; the captain of the *Great Blower* showed his teeth, with a half bitten oath and a quid of tobacco between them, and then both captains rushed below. Immediately I saw the hands rolling barrels of salt and tar towards the furnaces. A thick black smoke belched forth in heavy volumes from the chimneys; the steam-pipes groaned hoarsely; making the vast forests on either side roar with the echoes; the wheels spun around with inconceivable velocity, driving our sharp prows through the placid water at a rate of thirty miles an hour. The *Screamer* gains a little light and dry, dipping them into the tar barrels and thrusting them into the furnaces. The *Great Blower* now shoots ahead a foot or two; but the noise of axes is heard; the *Screamer* men are cutting away their hurricane deck, and pitching the white, dry pine into the glowing grates. The pipes are red-hot; the safety-valves are fastened down, when suddenly—"

The Baron wiped his forehead and groaned. Suddenly, Sir, there came a deep, heavy sound as of rumbling under the crust of the earth; which, quick as a flash, burst into a loud report; and at the same instant (how long that is in start!) I saw the hurricane deck where I was standing rise slowly at first (though all in the same second of time,) and then shoot with great velocity, carrying myself and fifty others at least five hundred feet into the air. Our flight was so rapid, Sir, that I voluntarily put my hand to my hat to keep it from flying off in which, it came in contact with a Yankie's nose, and would you believe it, Sir, he drew his revolver, and ejecting a huge lump of tobacco from his mouth, said 'damn your eyes, I'll fix your hash when we get down again.'

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