[From the New York Observer.] "THE MOST USEFUL PLANT"

BY EDWIN BATTLEY.

The number of useful plants has been established at 13,000; and how useful they are we can form no opinion, unless we di- Wool. vide them into groups. Thus, 50 are known as cereals, 100-yield us a supply of every one who paid tithes to produce fruits and berries, 450 vegetables and sal- yearly two pounds of dressed flax or ads, 31 sugar, and 32 arrow-root. If the hemp. Deuton says of the Dutch matrons tea and coffee plants should fail, 129 oth- and maids of New Netherland, New York, er plants will provide a substitute. The arts and manufacturers are largely indeb- and a great part of their woolen cloth for ted to many a strange-looking plant. India rubber is found in 96; gutta percha in 71; gums, resins, and balsams, in 389; 10 yield wax; grease and essential oils can be extracted from 330; 88 plants contain potash and soda, and 47 soap. The dyers can chose from 650, and the makers of perfumery from 266; while paper-makers, builders and roofers can command the ser vices of hundreds of plants grown in all parts of the world. Scattered here and there, in various places, trees and plants are found suitable to the want of the inhabitants. The South Sea Islander rests under the shade of the "bread fruit tree," caring but little for the future; the natives in some parts of Asia and Africa depend almost entirely on the palm for food and clothing; the Chinese thinks himself fortunate in having the bamboo, which supplies him with a certain kind of food as well as material for his chairs, tables and bridges.

Some plants are only found in certain portions of the globe where the climate i favorable to their production, Those most essential to our comfort we find in every quarter of the globe, where they seem to flourish and "bring forth abundantly." Of this latter kind is the flax plant, which is met with, not in one solitary spot, but in Russia, India, Egypt, New Zealand, as well as in the more temperate climate of Europe. When we think of the comparative ease with which it may be cultivated, its value to the farmer and manufacturer, we are quite prepared to endorse all that was said by a writer years ago, to produce food, "the most useful plant United States, concludes as follows: in the world," The truth of this asserue of its seed.

Abram, who said to the king of Sodom: termine the questson of profit or loss. "I will not take from a thread to a shoe and woof was of great antiquity, and not beet sugar.

of modern invention. In the time of Moses the land of Egypt grew not only corn in abundance, but flax as well; and the flax was used for the manufacture of linen. An examination of the cloth in which the mummies of Egypt were enveloped, was made some years ago, and proved by the microscope to be not only linen, but some of it linen of the very finest kind. Rahab in Jericho, covered the spies over with Hax, which she had laid on the roof of her house to dry. Five hundred years after the death of Moses, Solomon imported linen yarn from Egypt. The prophet Ezekiel in speaking of the riches of the merchants of Tyre, says: "Fine linen with broidered work from Egypt, was that which thou spreadest forth to be thy sail." In the prophet's time sails made of matting were common, hence sails made of linen must have been rare and costly. Moses was told to make curtains for the Tabernacle of "fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet;" and the vail of the Temple at Jerusalem was made by Solomon of "blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen." Alexander the Great is said to have bad "sails or linen flags, that were dved with colors." The priests who ministered in the Temple wore linen garments, probably because they were cooler than cotton or silk. Egyptian priests always wore linen. Wool was so much disliked that the very lowest of the people never used it, or allowed it to be employed even in their burials. This hatred of wool extended to the flocks and to the shepherds who attended them; so we read that "every shepherd is an abomination to dye the linen in such beautiful colors the color was permanent. These old to town. Egyptians who lived some three thousand

Court that there shall be an order settled about it, and therefore doth require the in every Town, what men and women are skillful in the breaking, spinning and girls in all Towns the spinning of the yarn, and to return to the next Court

In 1662 the laws of Virginia required in 1670: "Every one make their own linen, their ordinary wearing."

[TO BE CONCLUDED.]

SAVING SEED CORN.

two ears on; even five stalks in one hill no interest or credit prices, will thrive, if Is a valuable remedy for Headache. gave ten good ears, and I think there was he works and manages well." as many single stalks with three ears on as there were with only one, but the two ears to the stalk was almost universal. Now, as we are so often reminded that improve this most noble American pro-

BEET SUGAR.

The Country Gentleman, in an article on beet sugar, in which it correctly states when he affirmed it to be, for a plant not | the disabilities in its manufacture in the

The manufacture was originally comthe early history of this wonderful old fostering care of government. Within a plant, the value of its fibre, and the val- comparatively recent period it has be-

POTATOES.

Some investigations by Prof. Hallay have been set on foot to ascertain the most profitable way of growing potatoes. the experiments extending over a series of four years. From these it results that potatoes with a rough surface are both in quantity and quality the most recommendable. They contain less water and more starch. If the potatoes used as seed have been air-dried, and withered, the result has been a harvest of especially large tubers, not less in number on the average than if the seed had been in the usual condition. Prof. Hollay believes further to have reasons to conclude that as to the position of the tuber in the earth, it is best to lay the tuber navel uppermost. The reason is said to be that in this position the germs spread wide apart, and are deeper in the ground. The same has been observed with potatoes cut in pieces, when the cut surface should always be uppermost. The Gulich method of allotting to every plant a hill for itself, hilling crosswise and giving space freely has been surpassed by the common Silesian method, with the plant sixteen inches apart, laid in a groove six inches deep and thirty inches apart. The former method is said to foster the best seed notatoes, but equaling the latter in quantity. As to hilling, the sooner this is done the better.-German Correspon-

TOWN FARMERS.

ation the absolute necessity for the rais- ducks, pea-fowls, turkeys, with from 150 practiced."-Home d. Farm.

ing of the manufacture of linen cloths, to 300 chickens, kept at night in a minkdoth declare that it is the intent of this proof and negro-proof hen-house. We also had many hives of bees. Mr. Editor, Magistrates and Deputies of the several did you ever tire of milk and honey, or Towns to acquaint the towns-men there- butter and eggs? If I ever did, I do not with, and to make enquiry what seed is now, for in an evil hour I left my farm and removed to town, and the farm and weaving, what means for the providing of all things felt the change. Do you know wheels; and to consider with those skill- a thrifty farmer who lives in town? I ful in that manufacture, and what course don't. From that 100 head, my cattle fell may be taken for teaching the boys and to less than 40. Hogs from 300 to 100. Sheep from 85 to 7, chiefly by dogs (yet Says a Boston physician, has no equal as a blood their several and joint advice about this we cannot get a dog law). Geese from thing. The like consideration to be had 45 to 3 or 4 desolate old ganders, too for the spinning and weaving of Cotton and tough for Cuffee's teeth. Bee hives from 15 to 20 down to 3 or 4, and they saved herbs, each of which is highly effective, and Crampton's Imperial Soap is the Best. in a pine pole pen, under a lock and key. The negroes said the overseer's wife ate and sold all the chickens, and she said the darkies devoured them; and so on of Is the great Blood Parifier. everything. The prospect that the Cultivator helped me so much to achieve, all gone. Now regretful memories crowd upon me in my moody moments. But I will never again be troubled in seeing the sills of my barn bending under the weight of 800 or 1,000 bushels of wheat. I am in The best time to save seed corn is at town, however, tremendously respectable husking, or while the corn is yet hanging (if it was a negotiable commondity, I Has effected some marvelous cures in cases of on the stalk. Select the best ears, those would exchange some respectability for that are bright and plump and well filled bread and butter)-I wear "store clothes," to the tips. Then leave on three or four instead of walnut-brown home made husks to each ear by which to braid the jeans, as formerly, and I eat "town victuears into a "trail," which should be hung als," such as it is. But let me whisper a in a dry place. An ear that has been word in your ear, and don't let it get out : Meets with wonderful success in Mercurial disheated by being in the middle of a large to kill a chicken is as great an event now stack, or one that has been wet by rain as it was to slaughter an ox when I lived inside the husk is unfit for seed; its vital- at the plantation. I have ceased to wonity has been impaired. Henry Ives, of der at Jacob's children longing for the Batavia, writes to the Rural Home the re- leeks and enions of Egypt. If I could sult of saving only the upper ear. He shake off a few years from my shoulders says: I have just examined a piece of I would fly to my farm and prosper again, evergreen sweet corn which was planted as I did while on it, for 2 and 2 will alwith seed-selected by using only the upper ways make four while the world stands. Cures Constipation and regulates the bowels. ear where two grew on a stalk last year. Any farmer who is willing to live hard The result is that nearly every stalk has for a year or two, then buy for each, pay

COMMON SENSE IN PLOWING.

Teams drawing loads on the roads get we can improve our corn by selecting a breathing spell on the descending seed, let us take the more pains thus to ground, when in plowing the draft is the same from morning till night. There is a certain number of pounds that a team Removes the cause of Dizziness, can draw day after day and not worry them, but if more be added, even as little as fifteen pounds, they walk unsteadily, fret and soon tire. No amount of feeding will keep them in condition. I have many | Cures Pains in the Back. plows in use, on which it has been an easy matter to decrease the draft twenty- Effectually cures Kidney Complaint, five pounds, and if men had been drawtion we shall endeavor to prove, by draw- pelled in France by the interdiction of ing them instead of horses it would ing attention to some facts connected with cane sugar, and was long held under the have been done. It must be plain to the farmer that every pound taken off the draft of his plow is so much gained for come self-maintaining, and indeed capa- his horses. It may be done in this way: It is about two or three feet high, has ble of yielding a considerable tax. But for any soil except sand or gravel, use a a slender straight stem, branching only if we are not mistaken, it is because large steel plow. Their cost is but little, and at the top, with small leaves and bright capital is employed at the works-produ- the draft enough less to pay the difference blue flowers; it blossoms in June and July. cing the roots, or engaging them to be in plowing twenty acres. In plowing sod From the fibres of its inner bark when produced by the neighboring peasantry, the coulter does a great deal of the work, separated from the woody portion of the at the smallest possible cost; maintaining and should be kept sharp by forging at stem we have flax or lint, of which linen very large stables of fattening cattle to the blacksmith's and grinding every day thread and cloth are made, and from its consume the residue of the roots after if necessary. Of course it will wear out seeds when crushed we obtain that impor- the juice has been expressed, and depend- the sooner, but new coulters are cheaper tant article of linseed oil. That the flax ing about as much for profit upon sales than new teams. Set the coulter in the plant is a very old one, we have abundant of these to the butcher as upon sales of line with the plow, and edge square in evidence in the Bible, and that linen was sugar. The price obtained for beef must front, with an angle of 45 degrees from made in those early days is equally evi- be considerably higher than here-possi- the point to where it is attached to the dent, for weaving is mentioned in time of bly a difference in itself sufficient to de- beam. When the share gets worn out, it is poor economy to use it any longer, but Beet sugar is inferior in sweetening replace it with a new one. Let the traces latchet," &c.; Rebecca covered herself capacity to cane sugar, and to compete be as short as will allow the horses to with a vail when she saw Isaac; Pharaoh, with it, should be therefore sold at a lower walk without hitting their heels against king of Egypt, "arrayed Joseph in vest- price. While cane sugar can be bought, the whiffletrees, and have just pressure ures of fine linen," and Job says; "My granulated for example, dry and white, enough of the wheels on the ground to days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle." at 12 to 13 cents per pound, we see but make the plow run steady. If the han-These illustrations prove that weaving little opening for the attempt to raise dles crowd continually one way, the draft is not right, and if the plow is a good one it can be easily remedied at the clevis. To prevent the horses stepping over the traces in turning, fasten a weight of about three-fourths of a pound to each singletree-that is, on the right end when you turn to the left, and vice versa. Every farmer knows that horses are susceptible to kindness, and equally so to unkindness. I have seen horses that were working steadily, made reeking with sweat in a short time by a sharp word or a jerk on the bit. Let your horses do their work as you do yours, as easily as possible. and be as willing to overlook their mistakes as you would be the mistakes of a human being.

WHAT IS HIGH FARMING.

An American farmer of note, after visiting England and examining with the contain only Original Literature. critical eye of a practiced and experienced agriculturalist the system pursued there, says: "I am thoroughly confirmed in my old faith that the only good farmer of our future is to be the 'high farmer.' There is a widely prevailing antipathy among the common farmers of our country against not only the practice of high farming, but against the use of the phrase by agricultural writers. This is all wrong, and should be at once corrected. Through some misconception of the meaning of the phrase, and its application, they have come to believe it synonymous with theoretical 'book-fangled notions,' boasted progress, followed by disappointment and final failure. This is ail an error. High farming simply means thorough cultiva-The following article which recently tion, liberal manuring, bountiful crops, to the Egyptians." How they managed appeared in the Southern Cultivator, we good feed, and paying profits therefrom. commend to the consideration of all town It is not strange that misconceptions have the spread-eagle experiments of enthusi-"When I lived on my farm, I attended astic farmers, better supplied with money Coming down to these times and our every year. I had plenty for man and profits, of course are what farmers who took the matter in hand and decreed that: toes, together with beef, bacon, lard, mut- ion that profits are small, and will grow The court taking into serious consider- ton, wool, etc. I may add we had geese, beautifully less where high farming is not

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