COMETH A BLESSING DOWN.

Not the man of dollars,
  Not to the man of deeds,
Not to the man of cunning,
  Nor to the man of creeds;
Not to the one whose passion
  Is for the world's renown,
Not in form of fashion,
  Cometh a blessing down.

Not unto land's expansion,
  Not to the miser's chest,
Not to the princely mansion,
  Not the blazoned crest;
Not to the sordid worlding,
  Not to the knavish clown,
Not to the haughty tyrant,
  Cometh a blessing down.

Not to the folly-blinded,
  Not to the steeped in shame,
Not to the carnal-minded,
  Not to unholy fame;
Not in neglect of duty,
  Not in the monarch's crown,
Not at the smile of beauty,
  Cometh a blessing down.

But to one whose spirit
  Yearns for the great and good;
Unto the one whose storehouse
  Yielded the hungry food;
Unto the one who labors
  Fearless of foe or frown;
Unto the kindly-hearted
  Cometh a blessing down.

THE ABORTIVE EARS OF CORN.

We have published heretofore some of Dr. Sturtevant's views. He is a working, thinking, progressing man, and we hope will finally bring out some good results, He will certainly place the agricultural world under lasting obligations if he succeeds in improving seed corn up to the point he indicates. His views seem at least reasonable. Allowing the pollen from poor miserable stalks that can produce only a "nubbin," to fertilize the best, must assuredly exercise a deleterious influence on the resulting grain. The case is altogether analagous to *promiscuous* breeding of stock—with scrub, runt males bred to thorough-bred females, no one would expect any improvement in the race.

In the matter of "root pruning," it must be carefully kept in mind, that cutting the roots is only recommended where the soil is exceedingly rich, or abundant food is furnished the corn. In a luxurant clover field a cow may obtain a full meal within the compass of a few yards—in a poor sedge pasture she must, to do the same, roam over much ground. So with corn—in every rich soil, the short, thickly branched roots may find all the food needed in a very small space, but on poor land they must wander far and wide. Hence, in the latter case, it is the greatest folly to cut them, especially in the latter stages of growth, when both stalk and ear rapidly develop. Something is greatly needed to prevent our Southern corn from running so much to stalk. Climate helps the Northern farmer in this respect and gives him a small stalk. We must discover something to arrest stalk growth with us, and we wish Dr. S. God speed in his investigations.—*Southern Cultivator.*

Dr. Sturtevant says:

If any gentleman will take the trouble to go into his cornfield when the pollen is about to fall, and will take a stalk of corn and commence at the lower joint and cut directly across, he will have, of course a circular section, and he will find a little line each side, and in the centre a point. If he will take his knife and dissect it at that point, and take an ordinary magnifying glass, which will magnify eight or ten times, he will find that what he has cut out is a perfect ear of corn—just as perfect as a large ear will be before it is fertilized. He will see a place for every kernel on that ear just as plainly, with a magnifying glass, as he would on a large ear of corn; so much so, that he could count every kernel upon it just as he would upon a ripened ear. Now, suppose he takes the second joint from the ground and does likewise, There he will also find an ear of corn, but slightly larger than the lower one. At the third joint he will find a third ear, only slightly larger; at the fourth joint the same. And at the fifth joint he will find an ear, but very much larger than the rest, and the corn from that upper joint is the corn that we ordinarily harvest as our crop. Let me remind you that I am speaking only of the Northern corn; I know very little of Western or Southern corn, but in a dozen examples of Southern white corn, I have found the same rule to apply. But in our Northern corn you will see that nature has laid the seeds for at least five ears of corn on every stalk in our fields. When we get above the fifth, there are usually three or four joints where there is no embryo ear; and yet occasionally you will find where corn will be found close up to the tassel. In Southern and Western corn, we find five or six joints above the upper ear; but in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred that I have examined of Northern corn, there were three joints above the upper ear. I have in my collection one case where this upper joint had four ears of corn.

Now we get from this statement an idea of the immense prolificacy of corn—of the possible theoretical yield; in other words, we conceive of every stalk of corn in our fields giving us five ears. That is a theoretical possibility of increasing our crops five times over the present crops. On making this discovery, the first thing which occured to me was, how can these small ears be made to develope and grow? Well, in the beginning, as many people do, I made a mistake. I commenced by saying that the first thing to do was to put plenty of manure on the land, and cultivate well; and I prophesied two hundred bushels to the acre. I own up that I failed; I only got one hundred bushels where I expected two. But I learned the cause of the failure, which was, that the seed was not good enough, to begin with; so that I learned that the first thing of importance in growing a crop of corn is to secure proper seed. On that point I simply state, that I do not know a good variety of corn for the farmer. That is a pretty strong statement: in other words I do not know a variety that meets my ideal of what corn should be. I have not got it myself. I have got the best corn I can find, but I do not claim it is what I want, by any means. It does not come up to my expectations yet, but I hope to bring it up to that point. Now, in raising corn for seed, I want to get the barren stalks out of my field, because I find upon investigation that fifty five ears to a hundred tassels, is about the average, In the best fields I have examined, there have been seventy ears to a hundred tassels. If I can get rid of the barren stalks in my field, I have increased my crop in some cases thirty per cent., and in some cases forty five per cent. That is a very simple thing to do, it seems to me, only give me time enough.

But I also discovered another thing. I discovered that in almost every case the upper ear would develop and absorb the principal nutriment of the plant, and cause these smaller ears to shrivel up and become abortive, If this upper ear is broken off, then the second ear goes through the development in its place. It develops into a full and perfect ear, but it causes the lower ones to shrink and disappear. By cutting down further, you can cause these little embryo ears to develop clear to the ground.

Now, how can those ears be made to develop in practice? I find a large percentage of facts in favor of the belief, that if I can fertilize the plant so as to get a great amount of growth, and then check that plant so as to prevent that vigor from expending itself, some more of these embryo ears will develop, and I shall get a larger crop; because I have produced twenty-three ears of corn from one kernel; root pruning being used, which was accomplished by thrusting a carving knife into the one side, and then on the other, which was so excessive a mutilation that the corn plant fell over; it had not root enough to support it. By this treatment in the garden, I found the benefit of root-pruning in producing these great experimental results. It is a different thing to carry it into practice in the field. In the first place, all cornplants do not mature at the same time. You will find a great difference in the maturing of plants in the same row. In order to get the fullest benefit from the theory, we should apply it at the proper period of maturity of each plant in the field. We can take a row of corn, and drive down stakes so as to only go a given length, and can take a spade and drive it down each side of the row, and we can get a larger crop from that portion of the row thus treated than from the rest of it. I have proved that conclusively. I have also proved that the increase in the yield has been somewhat in proportion to the efficacy of the tillage; but the experiment has presented so many difficulties in the way of obtaining accurate results, on account of variations in the field, that I do not give them any mathematical expression. In the experiments carried on at the Illinois Agricultural College on the effect of tillage, there was only a small per cent. in favor of increased tillage; but I do not remember at what time in the maturity of the plant the tillages were carried out, and that is an important point.

In order to raise a large crop of corn, we want to get, first, the proper seed; second, the proper amount of fertility; and third, thorough cultivation, or root-pruning—for that is what it is in effect, applied at the proper time, so that we shall get the largest results. If we carry our cultivation beyond the flowering of the plant, we shall, according to my experience, find an injurious result. The more I have cultivated, the more I have mutilated, up to that period, the larger has been the increase.—Dr. Sturtevant, *from Transaction Conn. Board of Agriculture.*

[NOTE by editor of the Watchman: In a conversation with Mr. J. M. Horah, clerk of Rowan Superior Court, a few days ago, in which seed corn was the subject, Mr. H. said "the best seed corn he had ever seen was obtained through Maj. R. E. Wilson, of Augusta, Ga. He had written to him making a request for seed corn of almost fabulous qualities. He received two bushels, and in due time its merits were fairly tested. It far exceeded his expectations, though failing to realize the figures he had called for when making the order. Mr. H. thinks it would be wise for those who desire to improve their corn to order the seed from some careful and intelligent man in the States South of us. He is still experimenting with the seed sent him by Maj. Wilson, a gentleman well known here and is entirely satisfied with the results thus far.]

An old soldier has dug his grave near Utica, and sleeps in it every night. His sweetheart died after his return from the war; he taught school, pined for the dear girl, took to drink, went mad. His friends recently found him in a secluded spot, near Silver Spring Glen. He had dug a large hole in the ground, and let down a box shaped like a coffin and covered it with flowers and sod, and had resolved to end his days there, singing hymns and dreaming of the girl who had gone before him.

A Kentucky man who went to the Black Hills writes back to a local paper, saying: "Offer a premium at your county fair for the biggest fool in the country and I'll try and be there in time,"

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TIME TABLE WESTERN N. C. RAILROAD.

In effect Friday, May the 10th, 1878.

GOING WEST.

STATIONS.	ARRIVE.	LEAVE.
Salisbury.....		7 35 A M
Third Creek.....	8 27 A. M.	
Statesville.....	9 15 "	
Catawba.....	10 07 "	
Newton.....	10 55 "	
Canova.....	11 07 "	
Hickory.....	11 35 P. M.	
Icard.....	12 15 "	
Morganton.....	12 59 "	
Bridgewater.....	1 43 "	
Marion.....	2 27 "	
Old Fort.....	3 07 "	
Henry.....	3 28 "	

GOING EAST.

STATIONS.	ARRIVE.	LEAVE.
Henry.....		7 00 A.M.
Old Fort.....	7 12 A. M.	
Marion.....	7 52 "	
Bridgewater.....	8 32 "	
Morganton.....	9 16 "	
Icard.....	9 56 "	
Hickory.....	10 36 "	
Canova.....	11 04 "	
Newton.....	11 16 "	
Catawba.....	12 04 P. M.	
Statesville.....	12 56 "	
Third Creek.....	1 44 "	
Salisbury.....	2 30 "	