Ed McCarthy, Botanist, N. C. Experiment Station.

Indian Corn, our most valuable cereal, is a native American plant and the sole contribution of the New World to the list of cereals. All our cereals have come with the white race from the Old World. Botanically, corn is ranked as a grass, and is very nearly related to Teosinte (*Euchlæna luxurians*), and the Gama or Sesame grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) of our swamps. Its scientific name is Zea Mays, "Food of Jupiter," and was given by the botanist Lineaus. The English call it Maize, the French *Blé de Turquie*, or Turkish wheat. Corn has been known to the Europeans only since the discovery of America, and to this day it is cultivated only very sparingly in Europe. It is there often planted upon lawns as an ornamental plant. Corn was found in cultivation by all the tribes of American Indians when the white man first made his appearance. There are historical and other reasons for thinking that the original home of our great cereal was the country now called New Grenada, on the table lands of Central America.

From this central point it eventually became dispersed all over North and South America before the advent of Europeans—a wide-spread dispersion that indicates a great antiquity. Only an approximation can be arrived at as to the time when Indian corn was first cultivated, but it must have been more than 3,000 years ago. No wild species of Indian Corn has ever been found by a white man, and it probably had ceased to exist in a wild state long before the discovery of America.

Bontanists recognize but one species *Zea*, viz., *Zea Mays*. There are, however, several very distinct subspecies, commonly known as Dent corn, flint corn, sweet corn, soft corn, pop corn and pod corn. Of these, the kinds almost exclusively grown in the South are Dent corn (our common field crop), sweet corn and pop corn. Pod corn is a curious form which instead of having the kernels naked in the usual way, has each kernel covered by a separate husk much as grains of wheat are covered. The form is probably a reversion towards the primitive type, and indicates what the average ear of corn looked like 2,000 years ago. This pod corn has recently been introduced into this State under the name of "cow corn" and great things are claimed for it by some. We warn our people that it is wholly worthless except as a curiosity.

In the United States there are in all about 200 named varieties of corn in cultivation. At one end of the list we have the tiny eared pop corns, with ears less than two inches long, and at the other end we find the giant Southern Dent corns with ears twelve to fifteen inches long and two inches thick.

Corn is a true sun-loving plant, and thrives best under the direct summer heat. Its vitality is so great however, that it accommodates itself to very adverse surroundings, and is profitably cultivated in the Canadian northwest, in the valley of the Saskatchewan.

Since the introduction of the silo in recent years, an additional value has been given to the corn plant. It is by all men conceded to be by far the best plant for ensilage. There are, level-headed men like Prof. Sanborn, of Missouri, and Mr. William Crozier, of New York, who claim that air-dried corn fodder is cheaper and better than ensilage. Corn for ensilage should always be drilled, the drills at least teree feet apart, and one stalk to about every nine inches. If sown thicker, the stalks will not form and mature ears, nor will they grow to such a height as when sown thinly. The soil for drilled corn should be very rich and deeply broken, and the corn cultivated very shallow sufficiently to keep down the weeds and keep the surface mellow. Repeated experiments have proved that the best time to cut fodder-corn is when the kernels have begun to glaze. A well cultivated field of fodder-corn cut at the proper time has been estimated to yield more than twice the food value of timothy hay cut from an equal area of land of the same quality.

Probably, however, nine-tenths of all the corn-fodder used in the Southern States is "pulled." It has been demonstrated time and again that where labor costs anything it does not pay to pull fodder. But there is another question involved. The leaves of the corn plant are at once its lungs and its stomach. Throught its leaves the plant absorbs carbonic acid from the air, and in its leaves the crude sap absorbed by the roots is digested and elaborated into a nourishing food for further development of the plant. When the leaves are prematurely torn off, the further development of the plant must cease as soon as the stock of elaborated sap is exhausted. There can therefore be little doubt but that the pulling of the leaves before the seeds have completed their growth cannot be otherwise than injurious. It is much to be desired that the wasteful and injurious custom of pulling fodder will soon be abandoned for the better way of growing drilled fodder corn.

Every observant farmer knows that in a field of corn the majority of stalks bear but one good ear, while a good number bear two ears, and a few three ears. Now, a very little calculation will suffice to show that a field of corn in which the larger number of stalks bear three good ears will be worth very much more than a field of similar area in which the majority of stalks bear but one ear. It is a law of nature that like tends to produce like. A corn plant which bears one, two or three ears, will be very likely, under favorable circumstances, to produce seed which will in turn produce plants bearing the same number of ears, as did the parent plant.

It is by taking advantage of this natural law that breeders of cattle, horses and other animals, have developed from the primitive scrub the different thoroughbred breeds of dairy and beef cattle, race and draught horses. The same care, perseverance and judgment which have been so eminently successful in stock breeding will yield analogous plants. Yet how few are the farmers who make any rational attempt to improve their seed stocks! How many know whether the seed they sow was produced by strong or by weak, by prolific or unproductive plants?

The man who farms with brains as well as muscle and machinery, will be quick to discern the value of improved strains of seeds, and will find that it is profitable to take some pains to secure for seed the best he raises in any year. The best way to select seed-corn is to go through the field after ears are out of the silk and tie a tag or a string to all the most vigorous plants which bear two or more ears. Care must be exercised, however, to mark no ears which show signs of infection by "smut," and ears which become come infected after marking should be discarded, as well as all marked plants in their neighborhood. Seed from a "smutted" ear will be almost certain to produce "smutted,' ears in turn. Small and malformed kernels should not be sown for the same reason. If a farmer has different varieties of corn, and wishes to keep them distinct, they must not be grown on the same plot, as the different varieties of corn mix very rapidly. Seed-corn possesses great vitality, and seed one year old will usually sprout 99 per cent.; seed three years old will sprout 70 per cent.

The black powder called "smut," which is often found at the tip of a growing ear of corn, is itself a plant—a parasitic fungus known to botanists as *Ustilago maydis*, closely related to the ergot of rye. There is no cure, when a plant is once infected. When infected ears are discovered in a field, they shoul be at once removed and destroyed, otherwise they will infect other plants. Soaking the seeds before planting for twenty-four hours in a strong brine is a good remedy for "smut," but not always practicable. Squirrels, birds and vermin often pull up seeds before or soon after they have sprouted. Soaking the seed in tar water has been recommended as a preventive of such depredations, and this and the brine remedy for "smut" might be combined.

In the year 1887 North Carolina had in Indian Corn about 2,673,960 acres, being about one-third the entire cultivated area of the State. This area produced 35,830,000 bushels of corn, worth, in the market, $21,139,000, being a larger acreage and larger yield per acre than any State on the South Atlantic or Gulf coast, except Texas! In the same year the total value of our cotton crop was about $18,000,000; so corn is still king in North Carolina. In 1888 the value of the corn crop was about one-seventh larger than in 1887. The average yield of corn per acre for the whole United States is 24 2-10 bushels. For North Carolina the average is 12 7-10 bushels, which is higher than the average of any other State on the South Atlantic or Gulf coast. This average is, however, much lower than it need be, and with a reasonable amount of care in selecting seed, judicious fertilizing and good cultivation, the State average could be easily and profitably doubled.

Mr. William Crozier, the model farmer of Long Island, New York, on land naturally poorer than the average of good corn land in this State, has raised as high as 207 bushels of shelled corn to the acre! What North Carolina farmer will come foward and beat this record?

Reed the Speaker.

The able Washington correspondent of the Louisville Courier-Journal says:

"It is a little surprising that Reed should have received so many votes from the South and Southwest. * * That he was the candidate of the monopoly rings of the country, the corruptionists, the railroad and trust corporations, is known beyond a doubt. He has been for six months supported by all of the combined monopoly interests in the land for his position, and that he should have failed would have been a startling surprise. He will go into the Speaker's chair Monday nearly as heavily loaded with obligations as did J. Warren Keifer in the beginning of the Forty-seventh Congress."

The Baltimore Sun's Washington correspondent says:

"When Mr. Reed's committees are announced, the hand of New York and Pennsylvania will be plainly visible, and the smouldering embers of yesterday's strife will burst out afresh. With a speaker like Carlisle the selection of the committees necessarily required time and deliberation. With Mr. Reed it need not take long, for the friends whom he intends to reward know exactly what they want, and doubtless have already advised him."

It is well recognized in Washington and throughout the country that Mr. Reed was the candidate of all those element most vicious and hurtful in American politics. Yet he received the votes of the solid Republican vote of the House for Speaker.

A Very Large Percentage

Of the American people are troubled with a most annoying, troublesome and disagreeable complaint called "Catarrh." It is not necessary to be so troubled. It is demonstrated beyond question that Clarke's Extract of Flax (Papillon) Catarrh Cure immediately relieves and permanently cures Catarrh. A thorough and fair trial will convince you.

Use Clarke's Flax Soap for the Skin. Catarrh Cure, $1.00. Soap, 25 cents. At Jno. H. Enniss' Drug Store.

The Australian Ballot.

In 1888, and again in June of the present year, *The Companion* has drawn attention to the introduction of a new system of voting, which goes under the name of the Australian system. We return to the subject again because the new plan has been practically tried, and has been wonderfully successful, and because, being a step in the direction of honest and pure elections, which good men of every party should desire, it is the duty of *The Companion* to promote this reform.

Inasmuch as we have described the system in detail, we will now mention only the outlines of the Australian method of voting as it was tested in Massachusetts in November.

All the ballots for every voting place are printed by the State, and all those for any voting place are exactly alike. They are folded once down the middle, and all names are within, and are hidden when the ballot is folded. The names of all candidates for any office are printed in alphabetical order, and following each name is the designation of the party which has nominated the man. At the right, opposite the name, is a blank space.

A voter going to the polling place is admitted to a railed-off space, and one ballot is given to him. Ranged along the side of the wall are little stalls, each with a desk, a pencil and a piece of India rubber. The stalls are so made that a person marking his ballot cannot be overlooked.

The voter places a pencil mark X opposite the name of the person for whom he wishes to vote, but does not erase any name from the ballot. Having completed his preparation of the ballot, he folds it, goes to the ballot box, his name is found on the registry, he deposits his ballot, still folded, and immediately passes out of the railed-off space.

Now, as to the working of the system. It is proved by practical experience that it is as speedy a way of voting as the old way. We know of one place where more than 300 persons voted in one hour, without crowding or inconvenience.

It is a perfectly secret ballot, as it should be. No man can force another to vote contrary to his wish, or can know how another man has voted. There can be no fraudulent ballots or trickery. There is no opportunity for a crowd of "heelers," vote distributors and political spies to collect about the polls,—since a man is admitted to the railed-off space only long enough to vote—and there is nothing for them to do if they were there.

All this was hoped for as the result of the new system, and trial of it has brought no disappointment. At the worst precincts in Boston there was perfect order and decorum, and nowhere was there a crowd. Indeed, for a great part of the day, not even one person was to be seen standing at the door of the school-houses and other buildings where the polling was going on.

Moreover, every one was pleased with the system. So far as we are aware not a single paper in Massachusetts has found, or desired to find, a reason for condemning it; and we have not heard of one voter in the State who now prefers the old way. The Australian ballot was instantly and universally successful and popular, in city and in rural district, and with men of every party, without distinction.

It is true that the counting of the votes is made a somewhat slower process, and the returns do not come in quite so early in the evening. But a delay of a few hours in learning the result is a small price to pay for the great benefits which the new system secures.—*Youth's Companion.*

What has become of the Southern Republican Congressional kickers who, it was said some time ago, under the lead of Hon John M. Brower, of Mt Airy, were going to insist upon the recognition to which they felt entitled, and if this was denied, act independently and knock the Republican majority sky high? It was said with a grand flourish of trumpets that Hon. John M. was forging to the front as an independent candidate for Speaker, and that he was going to get there by a coalition with the Democrats, all of which was, of course, mere bombast and nonsense. The kickers went into the caucus, as it was said they would not do, and not only did not chirp, but voted for the northern candidates for all the offices upon which the caucus acted, not one of which came to a State south of Maryland. So ends the grand kick after all the palavar over it, but it ended just as people who know anything about the make-up of the southern Republican delegation thought it would. Republicans sometimes asks if the South is in the Union. It might be asked if the Republican party of the South is in the Republican party.—*Wil. Star.*

"It will do." is the common phrase of those who neglect little things. "It will do!" has blighted many a character, has blasted many a fortune, sunk many a ship, buried down many a house, and irretrievably ruined thousands of hopeful projects of human good. It always means stopping short of the right thing. It is a make-shift. It is a failure and defeat. Not what "will do," but what is the best possible thing to do, is the point to be aimed at. Let a man once adopt the maxim of "It will do," and he is given over to the enemy; he is on the side of incompetency and defeat, and we give him up as a hopeless subject.

The corn crop of South Carolina this year is put at 20,000,000 bushels, several millions bushels more than any year since the war. The cotton crop is reported at 639,000 bales. The value of the principal field crops is $59,000,000, which is $11,000,000 over last year.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

—The man who said that marriage resembles a lottery labored under a misunderstanding. When you patronize a lottery you have some show of coming out ahead.—*Lincoln Journal.*

—Dudekin (who had just put on a new suit of clothes in the shop)—"Wait a minute, I'll go over to the bank and get a check cashed." Tailor (going out with him)"—Well, I'll follow suit."—*Washington Post.*

—The young wife who makes a shirt for her dear hubby not only runs the risk of shaking his confidence in her, but also of losing all her former admiration for him when she sees him with it on.—*Terre Haute Express.*

—It is amazing how quick the bakers find out when flour goes up, and how awfully deaf and blind they are when a slump in the market knocks $2 off the price of a barrel. They must want to make some money out of the business.—*Detroit Free Press.*

—Dutiful daughter—"Now, mother, don't ask me to marry that man. I admire and respect him, but I do not love him." Practical mother—"O, that don't matter. You won't see him often enough to grow tired of him. He's a politician."—*Philadelphia Record.*

—It's well known that there are absolutely no genuine chamois skins in the market; but, notwithstanding, an English firm is manufacturing a new cloth in imitation of the imitation skins. They will be just as good as the real skins, it is claimed, and will be sold as imitations.

—There ought to be a law in this country providing that none but pretty women should ever wear veils. Then all the homely women would break the law for obvious reasons, while the pretty women would discard the veils through vanity—and the eye of man would be gratified.—*Journal of Education.*

—Wife (reprovingly)—"The great trouble with you is, John, you buy a good many things you don't need simply because they are cheap. That is false economy." Husband—"Here is a lady's watch I bought to-day for twenty dollars that's worth every cent of thirty dollars." Wife—"O, thank you, John; why, it was a real bargain!"—*N. Y. Sun.*

—One of the latest feats of endurance is that of playing the piano for thirty-six hours in one inning. It is the player, and not the listener, who is awarded the prize for endurance. The listener generally becomes exhausted and wants to die in the fourth hour.—*Drake's Magazine.*

—Miss Clara (blushing)—"Do you know, Ethel, that young Mr. Sampson proposed to me last night and I accepted him?" Miss Ethel (heartily)—"I congratulate you sincerely, Clara. Mr. Sampson is a noble young man." Miss Clara—"Do you know him well?" Miss Ethel—"O, yes. It was only a few months ago that I promised to be a sister to him."—*Time.*

—Mother, take or send your son to the barber when his hair needs cutting. To be sure, he may get his little head full of political and meteorological chaff from the lips of the loquacious knight of the shears and razor; but on the other hand, the boy who habitually has his hair cut by his mother is likely to grow up a social pariah, if, indeed, he does not develop into a red-handed villain.—*Boston Transcript.*

—In the course of a discussion about the Holy Writ recently overheard a lady remarked that the Bible was a history of men; that her sex was rarely and but incidentally mentioned as compared with the space devoted to men. "I confess," she added, "that it strikes me as being most singular. There might have been more said about us." "O, I don't know," replied her friend. "The authors of the various books had probably studied womankind, and knew they'd be able to speak for themselves."—*Harper's Bazar.*

AN HISTORIC SPOT.

A Chapel Crypt in Paris Full of Relics of the Great Revolution.

One of the most interesting places in Paris is now open to visitors. This is the crypt of the famous chapel of the Carmelite friars, where convent was used as a prison and also as a human slaughter-house during the "Terror." The crypt has been throwa open to the public since the beginning of last week. It is situated in the Rue de Vaugirard, which may be reached easily from the main boulevard. The chapel-crypt contains many relics of the age of blood, which was inaugurated by the great revolution, among them being the skulls and bones of the priests who were massacred in 1792. These victims were about 200 in number, and they were literally hacked to death by the marsellies, to whom they were delivered up by Maillard. In March, 1793, the garden of the convent was turned into an *al fresco* dancing place called the "Bal des Tilleuls," where the "Grilles d' Egout" and "La Goulace" of the day distinguished themselves by their choregraphic *cochonneries*. Later on the convent prison contained within its walls Josephine de Beauharnais, who had been marked for the guillotine, but became wife of the First Consul Bonaparte; the lovely Mme. Tallien, the Mme. Gauthereau of the directory, who also wore Greek fillets like her modern imitator; Vergnaland, Mme. de Custine, and the two poor mountebanks, the Loisons, who were found guilty of treason against the powers that were by having dressed one of their marionettes in their "Guignol" theater in the Champs-Elysees as Charlotte Corday and made it sing out, "Down with Marat!" To a comparatively recent period some of the inscriptions written on the convent walls by unhappy and illustrious prisoners were still visible.—*Paris Cor. London Telegraph.*

Intelligent Readers will notice that

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Weighing in the Balance.

The balance is the emblem of justice. He is a righteous judge who holds the balance even.

In the courts of law, justice is sometimes defeated because of the fallibility of the judge, and the imperfection of the balances; but in the high Court of Heaven exact justice is meeted out to all, for the judge is infallible and the balance even.

To be found wanting when weighed in the balance of an earthly court is a misfortune, but time and opportunity may repair the injury and restore the man to his lost position; but to be found wanting in the balance of the court of Heaven is a calamity irreme diable that fixes the man's eternal doom.

Men are sometimes weighed in the balances of public opinion and found wanting. Now, public opinion is not infallible, but its judgments are so often just that almost unlimited credit is given to its decree. Community—and public opinion is the combined sentiments of community—insists that justice, honor and integrity shall have a preponderating weight in the balance, and if, on the contrary, injustice, dishonor and fraud carry down the scales it were better for that man that he had never been born.

It is asserted that President Harrison has been weighing in the balance and found wanting. It is said that he is cold, reserved and exclusive, and does not let the light of his personal influence fall with beatific power on those around him. They tell us that atmosphere of the White House is murky and chilly, except when the presence of woman lights up the scene with a pure and heavenly radience. It is said, too, that he fails to rise to the altitude of a great statesman, and shows an inability to grasp and control the affairs of State to the honor and well-being of a great Republic. If these things are so a remedy has provided. If President Harrison has been weighed in the balance of public opinion and found wanting, the next election may change the current of public affairs and restore the government to the people.

To be weighed in the balance of courts of law or of public opinion and found wanting is a misfortune which may be remedied, but to be weighed in the balance of enternal justice and found wanting is a calamity beyond the tongue of man to tell or imagination to conceive. *Tekel* is the death knell of the soul!—*Newberne Journal.*

A wise man being asked how old he was, answered, "I am in health"; and when asked how rich he was, replied, "I am not in debt."

During the year ended Otober 1 four hundred and ten sheep were killed in Augusta county, Va., by worthless dogs.

Is Consumption Incurable.

Read the following: Mr. C. H. Morris, Newark, Ark., says: "Was with down Abscess of Lungs, and friends and physicians pronounced me an incurable Consumptive. Began taking Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption am now on my third bottle, and able to oversee the work on my farm. It is the finest medicine ever made."

Jessie Middlewart, Decatur, Ohio, says: "Had it not been for Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption I would have died of Lung Troubles. Was given up by doctors. Am now in best of health." Try it. Sample bottle free at T. F. Kluttz & Co. Drug Store.

Here is a bit of practical street wisdom. If a man cheats me once, shame on him; if he cheats me twice, shame on me.

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A swindler sold a Clinton county, Mich., farmer a recept for making his wheat weigh twice as must as it ought to, and signed a contract to divide the money gained by the extra weight with the scientific swindler. The "contract" eventually turned up as a promissory note and the farmer paid $300 for it.

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Oct. 27,'88—1f.

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References—First National Bank, of Chicago, capital $3,000,000; Continental National Bank, of Chicago, capital $2,000,000.

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Mar. 15, '88. 1y

A VOICE from Ohio. Here is a portrait of Mr. Garrison, of Salem, Ohio. He writes: "Was at work on a farm for $20 a month. I now have an agency for E. C. Allen & Co's albums and publications and often make $20 a day." (Signed) W. H. GARRISON.

William Kline, Harrisburg, Pa., writes: "I have never known anything to sell like your album. Yesterday I took orders enough to pay me over $25." W. J. Elmore, Bangor, Me., writes: "I take an order for your album at almost every house I visit. My profits often as much as $20 in a single day's work." Others are doing quite as well; space is not space to give extracts from their letters. Every one who takes hold of this grand invention picks up great profit.

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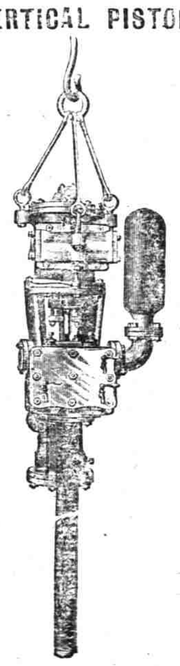

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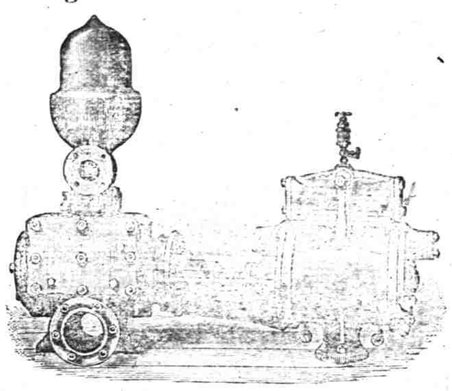

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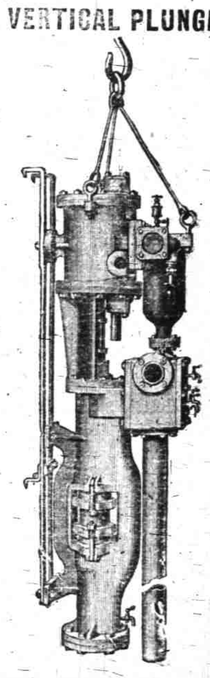

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