

# THE DAILY SENTINEL.

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From the Wilmington Journal.

Cultivation of the Grape and Wine-Making in North Carolina.

No. 1.

Messrs. EDITORS.—Having been solicited to write a series of articles on the subject of wine-making in Eastern North Carolina, I have taken the liberty to select the use of your columns to lay my views, and the results of my experience, before the public. The wide circulation of your paper, as well as your patriotic interest in the development of the agricultural resources of North Carolina, point to you as the proper persons to whom to address these papers. My object is to direct attention to what will, at no distant day, become an important branch of industry in this section of the country, and with this view, to point out, not only to our own citizens, but to those of other States, the eminent advantages possessed by North Carolina in the production of a superior quality of grapes, and consequently the manufacture of excellent wines, both still and sparkling. And these wines with proper management and suitable age will, unless I am greatly in error, be pronounced equal if not superior, to any others whether produced at home or abroad. With this brief explanation I will at once proceed to the subject in hand, and treat it in that plain and practical style which may be of service to such as are disposed to invest their capital in this business.

THE SCUPPERNONG.

All that region of North Carolina, which, beginning with the bars of our coast, extends its sandy soil for 40, 50, or 60 miles into the interior, and is timbered with long leaf pine, produces in a wild state a variety of vines which, in the popular language is styled the "Bells." In the western parts of this State, a similar grape, and probably identical with it in genus, is called the Muscadine, and flourishes all along the banks of the Yadkin, Catawba, Deep and Haw rivers—indeed upon most of our upland streams, and is found in various stages of perfection. But the highest development of the whole genus, so far as at present known, is, beyond doubt, the Scuppernong. This Grape still grows wild in its native seat; and on the waters of Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds, specimens may, at this day, be found, uncultivated in the woods, and in all their native luxuriance. Indeed, the first vine of the kind known to Europeans is said to be still growing on Roanoke Island, and to yield its annual crop of fruit, as it did at the date of its discovery. The grape, however, derives its name from Scuppernong River or Creek, where, among other localities, it was found growing wild in the forest. The man who introduced it among our cultivated plants deserves a monument from our State, "higher than the Pyramids, and more durable than brass." As a table grape you well know its superiority; but it is not in that view I am now considering it. It is in this that I am now considering it. Its wine-making properties constituting its chief importance to our State, I do not know that you are aware of all its capabilities in this respect. Not only can it still wine, of superior excellence, be made of it, but in addition, a champagne, possessing all the aroma of the still wine, together with the life and effervescence of the genuine French. Yet such I assume you, is the case; and I can vouch for the statement, from repeated experiments made at my cellar in this place. The difficulty about the matter was, that owing to my want of experience in managing vines of that kind, I lost about 35 percent, by its bursting the bottles. However, that which survived the ordeal of our summer heat was champagne, and such champagne as would do to set beside the choicest French article, and not call up a blush for the comparison. This wine seems to have a natural tendency to effervesce, as any one may verify by bottling a sweet Scuppernong the spring after its mode. If the wine be corked tight, it will invariably become sparkling.

Now, suppose such a Scuppernong property treated by a French Champagne maker, expert in his profession, and we shall have a wine equal to anything foreign delivered in our market, with this compelling proviso, that you are certain you are regarding yourself with a genuine grape juice, and no drugged or medicated article, containing a decoction in store for you next day, and a bad stomach from which you shall not recover by copious draughts of Soda, or it may be, by hearty doses of Rhubarb or Calomel.

Turp juice, eminently disguised, or cider however nicely mingled, or any other villainous compound, whether invented in New York, or manufactured in France, shall never equal it, but there it shall stand, the aromatic, bland, genuine, and unsurpassable "sparkling Scuppernong."

Having reached the limits I have prescribed to myself for one of these papers, I will reserve for my next what I design to say on the subject of still Scuppernong wine, and subscribe myself,

Very respectfully,

A. J. BUTNER,  
Whiteville, N. C., Aug. 21, 1866.

The *Wilmington Sentinel* relates the following: "During the late war, a corporal in Wheeler's famous corps obtained a young recruit for the company to which he belonged, who for nine months fought bravely and endured hardships which would have done credit even to the most hardened veteran to have undergone. At the battle of Bentonville, in North Carolina, just prior to the surrender of General Johnston's army, the corporal was struck by a minie ball, fell from his saddle, and instantly expired. His young recruit, being near, immediately dismounted, and clasping the lifeless form that lay on the ground, declared that it was her husband!"

GENERAL GRANT AND THE PRESIDENT.—Secretary Seward, in a speech at Detroit, alluding to the cheers given for General U. S. Grant, said:

"What the poorest invention of the whole war, and now that we are engaged in the restoration of the country, the poorest invention is that of men who think they can divide General Grant from the President of the United States; or if they thought they could divide him, or any patriotic man, he hoped that class of persons now have their answer."

The National Intelligencer states in its most emphatic manner, that the Radical Disunionists will receive no aid and comfort from Gen. Grant in their more than expected designs to break up the Government, if the elections go against them this autumn.

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