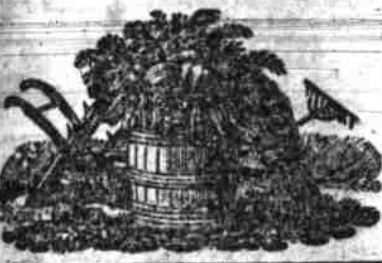


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AGRICULTURAL. From the Fayetteville Observer. Sampson County, July 20, 1833. Mr. HALE: When we were together, short time since, I promised to send you some account and description of the GAMA GRASS...

The first notice I saw of this Grass, was by Doctor Hardean, of Missouri, whose account of its wonderful properties and valuable properties, may be found in the 8th vol. of the American Farmer, page 244. I considered the calculations he made of results, visionary; and had forgotten it.

It, however, attracted the attention of Mr. James Magoffin, of Alabama, who procured some seed, and has, now, been cultivating it several years. The result of his experiments may be seen in the 15th vol. of the American Farmer, pages 50, 143, and 215. Also, in the 4th vol. of the Southern Agriculturalist, pages 112 and 475. Further experiments with this grass are detailed by Mr. Wm. Ellison, in the 4th vol. of the Southern Agriculturalist, page 404, and the 5th vol. of the same work, page 5. To these several communications, I would refer such of your readers as have those works, for a better and more particular description of the grass, than I can give them.

It grows in tufts or bunches, measuring about two feet across and three in height, which tufts are composed of numerous branches, springing from a common root, which is tuberous in its form for about three inches, and terminates in many small, but strong radicles. These branches, in their origin, form the common root, and have a peculiar arrangement; being produced from two opposite sides of the tuberous portion only, and departing from it at an angle in opposite directions, gives to this part of the plant a flat shape.

The leaves which (previous to the period of flowering) all issue from the root, are of a deep green colour, from 2 to 3 feet long, and from 1 to 1 1/2 inch wide, are shaped like a blade of fodder, but are sawed or rough on the edges, particularly towards the point. The leaves commence in a sheath, at the bottom, which incloses and covers the origin of several other interior leaves.

of one drill 35 feet long. It yielded 25 lbs. of green hay, which, when cured, produced 8 lbs. of delightful forage. At this rate, an acre would yield 15,750 lbs. of green hay at one cutting. It may yet be cut three times more, and consequently, the product would be 63,000 lbs. of green hay, from seed planted in January last. The product of old roots is from two to three fold. These seeds are planted on pine land, with a poor sandy loam on the surface, with a clay foundation—well manured. I have not made any experiment with this grass, on any other soils than those above specified, but I know, it grows much more luxuriantly on alluvial bottom, and rotten lime stone lands.

Mr. Magoffin is certainly mistaken, when he supposes this grass is found indigenous, only, in the western prairies. He furnished me with a few seeds of his own raising. I also procured some from Mr. Ellison of South Carolina, which grew in Fairfield District, and some from Gen. Owen, which grew spontaneously on his plantation in Bladen county, in this State, on the alluvial soil of the Cape Fear. They are all planted near each other; and are unquestionably, the same species of grass. There is not the least difference between that found in this State, and that from South Carolina. That sent me by Mr. Magoffin, from Alabama, is a little different in color, being of a paler hue, and of a little finer texture.

This grass is, without doubt, the Tripsacum of botanists. In Elliott's Botany of South Carolina and Georgia, vol. 2d, page 522, two varieties are described: 1st. Dactyloides.—Root perennial. Stem 4 to 5 feet long. Leaves large, 3 feet long, 1 1/2 inch wide. Flowers, in terminal spikes. Spikes numerous.—Very rare have only seen it growing on the margin of the Ogeechee river. Flowers from May to July. 2d. Monostachyon.—Root, perennial. Stem, 3 to 5 feet long. Leaves 1 to 3 feet long, 1 inch wide. Spike, solitary.—Flowers in terminal spikes.—Grows abundantly on the Sea Islands, (particularly on Paris Island) and along the margin of the salt water.—Flowers from August to October.

For any practical purpose, there is no difference between these two varieties.—They are found growing together.

The following characteristics will render this Grass obvious to common observers: It grows in tufts or bunches, measuring about two feet across and three in height, which tufts are composed of numerous branches, springing from a common root, which is tuberous in its form for about three inches, and terminates in many small, but strong radicles. These branches, in their origin, form the common root, and have a peculiar arrangement; being produced from two opposite sides of the tuberous portion only, and departing from it at an angle in opposite directions, gives to this part of the plant a flat shape.

The leaves which (previous to the period of flowering) all issue from the root, are of a deep green colour, from 2 to 3 feet long, and from 1 to 1 1/2 inch wide, are shaped like a blade of fodder, but are sawed or rough on the edges, particularly towards the point. The leaves commence in a sheath, at the bottom, which incloses and covers the origin of several other interior leaves. About the last of May, a number of flower stems shoot up from different parts of the bunch, and grow from 3 to 7 feet high, and terminate in one, two, or more finger-like appendages (called by botanists spikes.) The upper end of the spike, resembles a single spike of the tassel of Indian corn, and has a blossom (sarina) on it. The seeds, (which vary from 5 to 6 on each spike) are imbedded immediately below this tassel, and when flowering, each has a single tag, of a deep purple color, resembling the silk of Indian corn. The tassel drops as soon as it has shed its pollen, and then the seeds ripen, one by one, and drop off. The seeds are imbedded on opposite sides of the stem, and attached together, after the manner of the rattles of a rattle snake.

The flower stem is jointed and clothed with leaves, much shorter than those which proceed from the root, the sheaths of which embrace the stem, to within a short space of the next joint. It is channelled on alternate sides like a stalk of corn. When full grown, it puts out branches at nearly every joint, which

A well known writer in the Newbern Spectator of the 15th inst. (H. B. C.) states that during the last year, he found the Gama grass on the shore of the Neuse river, and that a gentleman in Florida assured him that he had found it in that Territory.—(Editor of the Observer.)

terminate and produce seeds like the main stem.

I have been thus particular in my description, to enable persons to search out this grass. I am satisfied it will be the source of much wealth and comfort in our pine country particularly. It is certainly the spontaneous product of our own State. I know it grows in New Hanover, Brunswick and Bladen Counties, and have been informed it is found in Craven and in Orange, & may, probably, on any of our alluvial bottoms.

Now is the time to search for it. It is in bloom and more readily identified, by the peculiarity of the seed. When not in bloom, it very much resembles some other grasses which are different in their nature, and not so valuable. I might add much more regarding it, but again refer your readers to the essays above referred to.

Very respectfully, yours, W. M. B. MEARES.

From the Portland (Maine) Courier.

The Great Land Sale.—This subject at present excites a good deal of interest. There is a mystery hangs over it, which nobody hereabout can solve. Five or six townships of land, belonging to the State of Massachusetts, after being advertised some months in the papers of several States, were sold at auction at Bangor a week or two since, for a sum but little short of \$400,000. The collection of People at the sale was very great, hundreds of them having come from a great distance. The expenses, including time and money, must have been some thousands. The minimum price at which the lands were to be put up was one dollar per acre; and they would have been sold at that price if no more had been bid. Some land dealers from this place who attended the sale, had made up their minds not to give more than 70 cents an acre. The sale commenced, and the bids ran far above the expectations of every one; and they were finally all struck off at more than \$2 an acre, and some of the townships at nearly \$4. Mr. Ralph Huntington, of Boston, was announced as the purchaser of the whole.

But lo! and behold, as soon as the news reaches Boston, Mr. Huntington appears in the public papers, and denies having any knowledge of the transaction, or being any way, directly or indirectly, concerned in it. And report says that the individual who bid the lands off is irreproachable, having no property.

Here was a pretty kettle of fish, as Paddy would say. People at the first blush stared and laughed at what they considered the most splendid joke, the most sublime and magnificent hoax on record! But after all, is not this quite too serious a business to be suffered to pass off as a joke. Ought not the authors of it to be made to smart for the deep injury they have inflicted, not only on the land interest of the two States, but on a great number of individuals also? For it will for a while have an injurious effect upon land sales and may effect many persons very sensibly.

We put the question to Mr. Coffin, the Land Agent of Massachusetts, who superintended the sale, whether his duty to himself and the public does not require him to probe this affair to the bottom, and ferret out the secret authors of it, if there are such, and arraign them at the bar of public opinion. At any rate, it is due to his own reputation to make a statement to the public of the circumstances of the sale, and if he has been deceived, to show, if he can, that it was no fault of his.

Work or no pay.—One sultry afternoon, some ten years since, in that "goodlie month" which comes between May and July, and in which the congregated wisdom of New Hampshire is assembled at the Capitol to overhaul the laws of the land, a member who had stowed away a quantum suff. of the good things of this world by the way of eating his dinner, stretched himself out upon one of the seats, and was very quietly enjoying his siesta, when one of the sovereign people, who had seated himself in the gallery to overlook his servants, happened to observe the aforesaid sleeper—and without ceremony he bawled out—

"Halloo, Mr.—you man that's napping it on the bench there, the State don't pay you two dollars a day for sleeping, I can tell you, so wake up—wake up!" By the time the above speech, which was made in no ordinary tone of voice, was concluded, the House was in a roar, the

sleepers arose scared half out of his wits, and the Speaker ordered the galleries cleared.—N. H. Spectator.

From the Portsmouth (N. H.) Journal.

Enterprise of a Yankee Lady.—Several years since, a very respectable young lady, who was in a state of "single blessedness," opened a milliner's shop and fancy goods store in this town. She prosecuted her business with success for some time, and made considerable money; but at length there was a severe depression in the various departments of trade among our citizens, and the milliner suffered in common with her neighbors, although her complaints, at this decline of business, were by no means so loud as theirs. She had a large stock of goods on hand for such an establishment, and not a few of them had become shop worn and rusty. As for staying in this dull town any longer, where there was no prospect either for marriage or money, she said she could not. So she settled up her affairs as fast as she could, with a determination to seek her fortune somewhere else. She packed up her stock of goods, which amounted to between two and three thousand dollars, and shipped them to East Florida, where she went herself also. In a few months she wrote back tidings to her friends in Portsmouth, stating that she had a prosperous journey, had opened a shop, found business brisk, and had sold her merchandise at a profit of fifty per cent. She has resided in Florida two or three years—has been fortunate in all her speculations in buying and selling English and American Dry goods—enjoyed fine health, and made a great many acquaintances and friends. Last and best of all, she has just got married to a very wealthy widower, and writes back word that Florida is the place for her. She says also that there are other chances there nearly as good as hers.

Anecdote of a Sailor.—During the prevalence of the Cholera last year in the Borough of Norfolk, Virginia, a sailor, of decent appearance, called at Mr. W. S. Lacoste's boarding house, and frankly told him that he was adrift at the mercy of the elements, without a harbor-head, or a shot in the locker, and if perchance he should be boarded by the cholera, why, he must founder in the street, he supposed. Lacoste, who was never known to be backward in extending relief to a fellow-creature in distress, and who perceived a warrant for the poor fellow's honesty in his countenance, readily tendered him a bed and a seat at his table, until it should be better times with him, which friendly offer Jack accepted with much joy. Not readily meeting with a vessel to ship on board of, however, our hero became impatient, and after making a suitable acknowledgment of his gratitude to his kind and generous host, and promising to quit the score as soon as it was in his power, he left his house and embarked for New York. Twelve months had rolled on, and the sailor had entirely escaped from Mr. L's memory, when one day last week, a seaman, very neatly clad, and of prepossessing countenance, called at his house, and without any preface, thus accosted him: "Here are \$200; I wish you to take as much of it as you want to pay yourself for your generosity to me, and keep the balance till I call for it. I am just off to sea, and if I should go to Old Davy, why, you see, I had rather you should have it than any body I know."

"Why, who are you, and what claim have I to your money?" "Oh, then, you have forgotten the poor sailor you took out of the street last year, and treated so kindly—but he has not forgotten you." So saying, he forced the money upon his benefactor, adding—"I know if I get back it will be safe, and if I don't, why, keep it and welcome. And here (pulling a lottery ticket from his pocket here, take this, and if it draws a prize, keep that too." Then giving Mr. L. a cordial shake of the hand, he left him and went on board his vessel, which in an hour after was under way for a foreign port.

In less than 24 hours after his departure, Mr. L. called at a lottery office to inquire the fate of Jack's ticket, when he had the satisfaction to learn that his numbers had drawn the handsome sum of \$1,000—Jack's share of the prize money being \$250.

Norfolk Herald.

Cure for the Consumption.—A young lady in the last stage of consumption, was lately restored to health by the following extraordinary and accidental remedy: She had been long attended by the faculty, but derived no benefit from their prescriptions, and considered herself verging to the end of existence, when she retired during the summer to a vale in the country, with

the intention to wait in solitude the hour of approaching dissolution. While in that situation, it was her custom to rise as early as her malady would permit, and contemplate the beauties of nature, and the wonderful works of God, from her chamber window, from which she observed a dog belonging to the house, with scarcely any flesh on his bones, owing to disease, constantly go and lick the dew of a camomile bed in the garden; in doing which the animal was noticed to alter his appearance, to recover strength, and finally look plump and well. The singularity of the circumstance was impressed strongly on the lady's mind, and induced her to try what effect might be produced from following the dog's example. She accordingly procured the dew from the same bed of camomile, drank a small quantity each morning, and after continuing it for some time, experienced very sensible relief; her appetite became regular, she found a return of spirits, and in the end was completely cured.—Christian Sentinel.

Extraordinary Cure.—On the 21st ult. a negro lad the property of Mr. Dustain Banks, near this place, as he was returning from work about dark, was bitten by a rattlesnake, so severely that in a few moments he became entirely blind and fell down—he was carried to the house, when a messenger was despatched for Dr. James Guild who in about an hour afterwards reached Mr. Banks. At the time of his arrival, the boy was suffering the most excruciating agony, when he had a common black or junk bottle about half filled with the spirits of turpentine made quite warm, and after scarifying the wound made by the snake, applied the mouth of the bottle to it, and commenced pouring cold water on the bottle until the contents were perfectly cooled. In about half an hour, and before the bottle was removed from the wound the boy became perfectly easy and fell into a sound sleep. Next day he was able to walk about, and the day following was at work as usual. We could recommend this simple and easy application, as it is in the power of almost every one to procure it sooner than almost any other, and its immediate efficacy is a great consideration. Any spiritous liquors would have the same effect, and even if that could not be immediately procured, warm water would answer a very good purpose. Tuscaloosa Chronicle

CRUSADES AGAINST HERETICS.

History of the Crusades against the Albigenses, in the thirteenth century. By J. C. L. Simonde de Sismondi, 1 vol. B. Mussey, Boston. In the history of religious warfare, the persecution of the Albigenses in the thirteenth century, stands almost without a parallel. It was remarkable alike for the courage and devotion of its victims, and the brutal ferocity of their persecutors. The recital of the cruelties inflicted upon that innocent and unfortunate people, by those who unfurled the banner of the cross and pretended to be governed by the precepts of Christianity, makes the blood run cold and curdle in the veins.

In the beginning of the eleventh century a race of heretics afterwards known by the name of Albigenses, from Albigen, near Toulouse, sprung up in the territories of the King of Aragon and the Count of Toulouse. They were remarkable for their simple manners, the purity of their religious creed, and the simplicity of their worship, as well as their harmless life and strict observance of the duties their religion prescribed.

For many years they were but little disturbed in their religious exercises; but, at length, their doctrines began to spread more widely, and even threatened to shake the foundations of the "infallible church." Taking the scriptures for their guide, they rejected many of the prominent doctrines of the Church of Rome. They denied the supremacy of the Holy see—they rejected the sacraments of confirmation, of confession and other sacraments of the church, as vain and frivolous, and full of superstition, and they charged the church of Rome with idolatry in the worship of images—they rejected purgatory, with masses and prayers for the dead, and denied the prominent doctrine of the real presence of the body of Christ in the Eucharist, or sacrament of the Lord's Supper—using the remarkable, and, as it was called, impious and profane expression that, "if the body of Christ was as large as our mountains, it must have been destroyed by the number of those whom they pretend to have eaten of it." They felt, and they denounced, the corruptions of the church, which

had widely departed from its original simplicity, and they were equally severe upon the vicious and licentious lives of the clergy. In those days of papal power, such heretical opinions could not pass unnoticed; they struck at the root of the papal hierarchy, and threatened it with dissolution.

Innocent III. who was an able Pontiff, and entertained high notions of the spiritual and temporal power of the triple crown, and who looked upon Emperors, Kings and Princes, as the vassals and servants of the Church, determined to extirpate this race of heretics, who dared to think for themselves, and worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. Although professing to be the vicegerent upon earth of Him, one of whose highest attributes is mercy, he was incapable of pity—his soul thirsted for blood, and he decided upon a crusade against the unfortunate Albigenses. By adopting the most rigorous measures; by carrying fire and sword into their dwellings, and massacring their wives and children, his "holiness" hoped to strike terror into Christendom, and root out every vestige of heresy. He, therefore, charged the ministers of his vengeance to burn their leaders, raze their dwellings, disperse their flocks, ravage their fields, and confiscate their property. In Arnold Amalric, Abbot of Citeaux, and the sanguinary Simon, Master, he found fit instruments for his purpose; the first was a cruel and fanatical monk, the latter was a skillful soldier, but blood-thirsty and perfidious, and devoted to the Holy See. To effect their purposes they did not regard the means they employed. The Albigenses were protected by the Counts of Toulouse, in whose territories they principally resided, and they long maintained the unequal contest; but they were ultimately compelled to submit to the superior power of the Sovereign Pontiff and the King of France.

The volume before us forms a part of M. Sismondi's great work, entitled "Histoire des Francais," and is a history of the crusades against, and persecution of, the unfortunate people just mentioned. The author, whose fame as a historian and a man of letters, is already well established by his "History of the Italian Republics," and his "History of Literature in the South of Europe," has detailed the events of these crusades in a manner worthy of his high reputation. The facts appear to have been collected from the best authorities and the most authentic documents, and his reflections are sound, judicious, and philosophical. Cold must be the heart that can read unmoved the details of the horrid barbarities inflicted in the name of religion upon this gallant people, in the destruction of their cities, towns and villages, and cold blooded massacres of their defenceless wives and children.

When the crusaders entered the city of Beziers, they were eager for the slaughter, some of the crusading knights inquired of the Abbot of Citeaux, how they should distinguish the Catholics from the heretics; the Abbot replied—"Kill them all; the Lord will know those who are his." Our author gives the following account of the massacre:

"The fixed population of Beziers did not perhaps exceed fifteen thousand persons; but all the inhabitants of the country, of the open villages, and of the castles which had not been judged capable of defence, had taken refuge in this city, which was regarded as exceedingly strong; and even those who had remained to guard the strong castles had, for the most part, sent their wives and children to Beziers. This whole multitude, at the moment when the crusaders became masters of the gates, took refuge in the churches; the great Cathedral of St. Nicholas contained the greater number; the canons, clothed with their choral habit, surrounded the altar, and sounded the bells as if to express their and the furious assailants; but these supplications of brass were as little heard as those of the human voice. The bells ceased not to sound, till of that immense multitude which had taken refuge in the church, the last had been massacred. Neither were those spared who had sought an asylum in the other churches; seven thousand dead bodies were counted in that of Magdelen alone. When the crusaders had massacred the last living creature in Beziers, and had pillaged the houses of all that they thought worth carrying off, they set fire to the city, in every part at once, and reduced it to