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BAST FIBERS.
THE UNCULTIVATED ONES OF THE UNITED STATES.
The U. S. Department of Agriculture issues Something Very Interesting on Fiber Culture.
THE FOREIGN SPECIES OF HIBISCUS.
The most valuable foreign species of this genus is the "hemp-like Hibiscus" (*H. cannabinus*). The plant is a native of the East Indies, and at present is largely cultivated for fiber throughout India, the product being almost wholly utilized by the agricultural classes where grown as a substitute for hemp. Its common names are Decan hemp and Ambar hemp, the latter particularly in western India. In Madras it is called *Patungon*. It is the *Mesta* plant of Bengal and Decan hemp of Bombay. The Sanskrit name is *Nalika*. The plant has a prickly stem, the leaves deeply parted, and the stem attains a height of 6 to 8 feet. The fiber is described as soft, white, and silky, and by some writers is said to be more durable than jute.
Though thriving at all seasons of the year, it is generally cultivated in the cold season. The seeds are sown as thickly as hemp, in rich, loose soil, and it requires about three months' growth before it is ready to be pulled for "watering" and dressing, the mode of treatment being the same as that given the sunn hemp, *Crotalaria juncea*. Full-grown plants that have ripened their seed capsules stronger fiber than the plants cut while in flower, through the fibers of this species are more remarkable for their fineness than for strength.
In harvesting, the plants are either cut close to the ground or pulled up by the roots, as the lower portion of the stem contains the best fiber. The stalks are submerged in water and allowed the remain from six to ten days, according to the weather, when the bark can be readily peeled by the hand. Too long steeping, while it makes white fiber, results in a loss of strength.
In a report of the Revenue and Agricultural Department of India another account is given, as follows:
The fiber is prepared by hand-pulling the stalks, which a few days are steeped for nearly a week in water under stones; when sufficiently rotted they are cleaned by beating them on the ground, the fiber stripped off, washed, and dried. Five hundred stems, about 8 feet high, as grown en masse in gardens, were recently taken at random and the fiber removed and cleaned in the usual way; the result was 5 1/2 pounds clean and good fiber. The stems when carefully dried weighed nearly 20 pounds. Assuming the acre to be 40,000 square feet after allowing the waste patches, the number of stems at 3 inches apart would be 640,000, hence the yield in clean fiber at 1 pound per 100 would be 6,400 pounds, equal to 2 1/2 tons; the stems would yield also 11 tons of poor fuel. The yield of three fine stems grown along the ridges in terraced plantations and measuring 16 to 17 feet high, was 3 1/2 ounces of clean fiber, or somewhat over 1 ounce each, instead of one-sixth of an ounce. The dried stems each weighed 5 ounces instead of less than three-fourths of an ounce.
As to uses, a coarse sackcloth is made from its fiber in India (sometimes called gunny fiber), though its chief employment is for ropes and cordage, it being the common cordage of the country in a few districts. Coarse canvas is also made from it. In Bengal it is employed at the present time for all the purposes of jute, and also for making fish nets and paper. Vettillat says:
The fiber of *H. cannabinus* is stiff and brittle, and has no superiority over jute, and it is very inferior to that of India hemp or sunn. The leaves of the plant are eaten as a pot herb in many parts of India, the taste being pleasantly acid, not unlike sorrel.
The fibers of carefully prepared Ambari are from 5 to 6 feet long. Compared with ordinary hemp they are paler brown, harsher, adhere closer together, though divisible into fine fibrils, possessed of considerable strength. Its tenacity tested with sunn is as 115 to 130.
In the Kew Bulletin for August, 1891, the announcement is made of the discovery, on the shores of the Caspian, of a new commercial fiber plant, known as *Kanaff*, the fiber of which, "from its abundance and consequent cheapness, and its extraordinary durability, will successfully compete with any other textile for sacking, ropes, and pack thread," with "a greater resistance than hemp." The plant is thought to be *Hibiscus cannabinus*, the Decan hemp plant of India.
Hibiscus splendens (Hollyhook tree).—Fiber from this species, a native of Queensland and New South Wales, is exhibited in the museum of the Department, prepared by Dr. W. R. Guilfoyle, director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, who states that the species is a splendid tree, growing to the height of 20 feet or more. "It is very pubescent, bearing large pink flowers resembling hollyhocks in size and appearance." The fiber is suitable for cordage, fish lines, paper, etc.
Fiber of *Hibiscus orbifolia* and *mutabilis* was also received from Dr. Guilfoyle, through the exhibition of 1876. Both of these species are indigenous in Queensland. *H. mutabilis* is a native of China, but grows in India and other eastern localities. Fiber of *H. tetracus* was also received with the above, but does not differ materially.
The *Machoe* or *Mahauli*, *H. arborescens*, of the West Indies, grows to a height of 16 to 20 feet, and its bark furnishes a superior fiber, which, according to Squier, "is not at all inferior to hemp for most purposes." The fiber is naturally soft and white, and is admirable for the manufacture of paper. *H. alatus*, of the Indies, is employed in making cigarette wrappers. It is a tree that grows to the height of 60 to 80 feet. *Hibiscus tiliaceus* is worthy of passing mention. It is called *majaque* in Central America and the West Indies, where it is much used for cordage. It is little affected by moisture, and is therefore selected by surveyors for measuring-lines. It is the *Bota* of Bengal, and is found throughout tropical and subtropical regions of both continents. The native

GEN. BUTLER BOLTS
HE WON'T ABIDE BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA PRIMARIES.
He Denounces the Election, Saying That Everything Has Been Cut, Girded, Packed and Salted Down.
COLUMBIA, S. C.—A sensation was created in the State by the announcement that Senator Butler would not abide by the result of the primary election which took place Tuesday. At this election members of the Legislature will be nominated, who will elect a successor to Senator Butler. In withdrawing from the primary, Senator Butler leaves himself and friends free to make a contest in the general election, which takes place in November. It is a rule in the Democratic party in South Carolina that each candidate must pledge himself to support the nominees of the party, otherwise he cannot be voted for. General Butler made such a pledge, but withdrew it to-day in a letter to the secretary of the Democratic executive committee. He gave no reasons for withdrawing the pledge. It is understood that legislative candidates will be nominated in November who will support Mr. Butler. He is further said that General Butler, if defeated by Governor Tillman, will make a contest before the United States Senate, contending that the registration laws of the State are illegal, and that if a full vote could have been polled General Butler's legislators would have been elected. An ardent supporter of Senator Butler said Monday: "Butler's withdrawal must speak for itself. Certain it is, however, that it places General Butler entirely independent of the action of the primary of the 28th. You will know a great deal before ten days elapse, and you can rest assured that Senator Butler is still a most active factor in State and national politics."
Senator Butler in a telegram to the Columbia Register says:
"I beg to say, in withdrawing the paper filed by me with Mr. Tompkins, secretary of the Democratic executive committee, announcing my candidacy; that I am following the footsteps of distinguished Reformers, who are unwilling submit their claims to a primary where everything from a coroner up has been cut, dried, packed and salted down by the rings when the result is slated and known by the ring, before a vote has been put in the ballot box."
Several counties have already taken action and nominated candidates opposed to Tillman and there is likely to be a bitter political fight in the State in consequence of Senator Butler's action.

A Clerkship for Blaine's Brother.
WASHINGTON, D. C.—Robert Blaine, brother of the late James G. Blaine, has been appointed by Librarian Spofford to a \$900 clerkship in the Library of Congress.
They Shall Not Chew Her Smoke.
Among the interesting proceedings of the annual meeting of the Society of Friends recently held in High Point, N. C., was the adoption of the report of the temperance committee, which says among other things: "We recommend that in the future no member of the Society of Friends of North Carolina shall be recorded as a minister, or appointed an elder, who engages in the use of tobacco." This is the "tobacco platform" says the Charleston News and Courier, which the Quakers have long been endeavoring to adopt and which they now stand upon.

Receipts of New Cotton.
New cotton received at New Orleans includes 4,734 bales from Texas and 22 bales from the Mississippi Valley proper.
The first bale of cotton for Columbia, S. C., was purchased by D. Crawford & Son. It was classed as strict middling, weighed 548 pounds and brought 7 cents per pound. The crop prospects around Columbia are very good.
The first bale of new North Carolina cotton was brought to Wadesboro by W. H. Odum, who is the Populist candidate for clerk of the court there.

WASHINGTON NOTES.
Senator Ransom has filed at the State Department a strongly endorsed application of E. J. Hale, of Fayetteville, N. C., to be consul to Manchester, England. The present incumbent is Wm. F. Grinnell, a Republican, who entered the consular service in 1877.
Rev. W. E. Edmonston was confirmed as chaplain in the Navy. He is a Methodist. His salary begins with \$2,000, with gradual increase to \$3,000.
North Carolina Farmers' Alliance.
RALEIGH, N. C.—The State Farmers' Alliance has authorized the organization of the "Alliance Mfg. Co.," for the purpose of manufacturing shoes, clothing and hats, tanning leather, etc.
The Alliance has cut down salaries, President from \$3 to \$2 a day when traveling. State business agent from \$1,600 to \$1,200; secretary-treasurer from \$1,200 to \$1,000; trustee of business fund from \$800 to \$700.
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WOULDN'T SIGN.
GIVES HIS REASONS IN A LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE CATCHINGS.
President Cleveland Allows the New Tariff Bill to Become a Law.
WASHINGTON, D. C.—President Cleveland has written the following letter to Representative Catchings, of Mississippi, in which he sets forth his views of the new tariff law, and gives his reasons for not approving the bill:
EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, D. C.,
Hon. T. C. Catchings:
MY DEAR SIR:—Since the conversation I had with you and Mr. Clark, of Alabama, a few days ago in regard to my action on the tariff bill, now before me, I have given the matter further and most serious consideration. The result is, I am more settled than ever in the determination to allow the bill to become a law without my signature. When the formation of legislation, which it was hoped would embody Democratic ideas of tariff reform, was lately entered upon by the congress, nothing was further from my anticipation than a result which I could not promptly and enthusiastically endorse. It is, therefore, with a feeling of the utmost disappointment that I submit to a denial of this privilege.
I do not claim to be better than the masses of my party, nor do I wish to avoid any responsibility which, on account of the passage of this law, I ought to bear as a member of the Democratic organization. Neither will I permit myself to be separated from my party to such an extent as might be implied by my veto of tariff legislation, which, though disappointing is still chargeable to Democratic effort. But there are provisions in the bill which are not in line with honest tariff reform, and it contains inconsistencies and cruelties which ought not to appear in tariff laws of any kind. I well know, incidents accompanying the passage of the bill through the congress, which made every sincere tariff reformer unhappy, while influences surrounding it in its later stages and interfered with its final construction, which ought not to be recognized or tolerated in Democratic tariff reform councils.
And yet, notwithstanding all its vicissitudes, and all the bad treatment it received at the hands of pretended friends, it presents a vast improvement to existing conditions. It will certainly lighten many tariff burdens that now rest heavily upon the people. It is not only a barrier against the return of any protection, but it furnishes a vantage ground from which must be waged further aggressive operations against protected monopoly and governmental favoritism. I take my place with the rank and file of the Democratic party who believes in tariff reform and who knows what it is; who refuse to accept the results embodied in this bill at the close of the war; who are not blinded to the fact that the livery of Democratic tariff reform has been stolen and worn in the service of Republican protection, and who have marked the places where the deadly light of treason has blasted the councils of the brave in their hour of need.
The trusts and combinations—the communion of self—whose machinations have prevented us from reaching the success we deserved, should not be forgotten or forgiven. We shall recover from our astonishment at their exhibition of power, and if then the question is forced upon us whether they shall submit to the free legislative will of the people's Representatives or shall dictate the laws which the people must obey, we will accept and settle that issue as one involving the safety of American institutions. I love the principles of true Democracy because they are founded in patriotism and upon justice and fairness toward all interests. I am proud of my party organization because it is conservatively sturdy and persistent in the enforcement of its principles. Therefore I do not despair of the efforts made by the House of Representatives to supplement the bill already passed by further legislation, and to have engrafted upon it such modifications as will more nearly meet Democratic hopes and aspirations. I cannot be mistaken as to the necessity of free raw materials as the foundation of logical and sensible tariff reform. The extent to which this is recognized in the legislation already secured is one of its encouraging and redeeming features; but it is vexatious to recall, that while free coal and iron ore have been denied us, a recent letter of the Secretary of the Treasury discloses the fact that about 700,000 tons of unnecessary revenue. I am sure that there is a common habit of under-estimating the importance of free raw materials in tariff legislation, and of regarding them as only related to concessions to be made to our manufacturers. The truth is, their influence is so far-reaching that if disregarded a complete and beneficent scheme of tariff reform cannot be successfully inaugurated. When we give to our manufacturers free raw materials we unshackle American enterprise and ingenuity, and these will open the doors of foreign markets to the receipt of our wares and give opportunity for the continuous and remunerative employment of American labor. With materials cheapened by their freedom from tariff charges, the cost of their product must be correspondingly cheapened. Thereupon justice and fairness to the consumer would demand that the manufacturers be obliged to submit to such a readjustment and modification of the tariff upon their finished goods as would secure to the people the benefit of the reduced cost of their manufacture, and shield the consumer against the exaction of inordinate profits. It will thus be seen that free raw material, and a just and fearless reduction of the tariff to meet the changed conditions, would carry to every humble home in the land the blessings of increased comfort and cheaper living. The millions of our countrymen who have fought bravely and well for tariff reform should be expected to continue the struggle, boldly challenging to open warfare and constantly guarding against treachery and half-heartedness in the settlement. Tariff reform will not be settled until it is honestly and fairly settled in the interest and to the benefit of a patient and long-suffering people. Yours very truly,
(Signed) GROVER CLEVELAND.

NEW ENGLAND STRIKE.
17,000 COTTON MILL WORKERS AT NEW BEDFORD IDLE.
They Have Quite Large Sums of Money to Draw From, and Can Hold Out.
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.—The cotton operatives have inaugurated their general strike, and nearly 17,000 are idle. The machinery of but five of the twenty-seven mills in the city is in operation, and it is thought that these will soon be shut down with the others. The manufacturers have nothing to say. Secretary Ross, of the Spinners' Union, stated Monday morning that the members of his union have lived up for a long struggle and confidently expect that it will be of six months' duration.
The strike promises to be the most important ever occurred in the textile industry in Massachusetts. The manufacturers must fight perfectly organized unions, some of which are fairly wealthy. Notable in this particular is the Spinners' Union, which has a fund in its treasury aggregating at least \$30,000. The spinners have voted, however, not to touch any of this money for a month. The situation in New Bedford is quite different from that in Fall River. In the latter city, print cloths are manufactured for the most part, and there is a larger stock of goods on hand. Here, however, the mills manufacture a finer grade of goods and some of them have orders which would keep the mills busy for several months.

TO McPHERSON AND WALKER.
The Atlanta Veterans of Both Sides Will Erect a Joint Monument.
ATLANTA, GA.—The Confederate Veterans' Association took the initiative in the erection of a joint monument to the memory of Gen. McPherson of the Federal army and Gen. W. H. T. Walker of the Confederate army who were killed in a few yards of each other in the battle of the 22d of July, 1864. The Grand Army post of Atlanta will join in the movement. The scheme is to raise \$200,000, one-half by each side, with which a heroic double equestrian statue will be erected upon the spot where McPherson fell. Gen. Walker is to face the North, and is to be clasping hands with Gen. McPherson, whose face will be to the South.
The project has been under consideration for several months, and correspondence already held with Federal and Confederate throughout the country gives promise of success. The joint monument was suggested by the tower to the memory of Wolf and Montcalm in the Governor's garden in Quebec.

SOUTHERN INVENTIONS.
WASHINGTON, D. C.—Patents have been granted to the following meritorious Southern inventions:
Lantern slide mat, Percy S. Benedict, New Orleans, La.
Sheet feeder, Geo. R. Clarke, Monteal, Tex.
Adjustible ratchet wrench, Chas. H. Bernheim, Lexington, N. C.
Wire stretching spool carrier, Thos. P. Williams, Abilene, Tex.
Fertilizer distributor, Daniel M. Averitt, Bedford, Ky.
Type holder, Jno. C. Corbett, Corbett, N. C.
Railway switch, Jno. F. Ober, New Orleans, La.
Drying kiln, La Fayette Moore, Cordele, Ga.
Hay press, Samuel Etchison, Weiner, Ark.

Has Prayed Over It and Found That He is the Man.
F. M. Jordan, in a card in the Brevard (N. C.) Hustler, says he has made a matter of special prayer to God as to who should represent Transylvania county in the Legislature, and it is perfectly clear to his mind that God has indicated to me (him) that it is His will that I should give the people of Transylvania county an opportunity to vote for a sober, moral and, I trust, Christian man. Believing that he has been "called" to represent the county, Mr. Jordan says his platform is "God's eternal truth." He wants to go to the Legislature, he says, not for the money or honor that is in it, "but expressly for the glory of God and the happiness of the people of my land and country." Having thus announced himself, Mr. Jordan leaves the matter to the prayerful consideration of the voters of Transylvania.

Unfilial Brothers.
In Granville county, N. C., two brothers named Burwell had a shooting affair and exchanged eleven shots. One was struck in the leg. There was bad feeling growing out of a quarrel over the division of their father's estate. One of them lived with his mother and wife at the old home. The other went there to see his mother, and the brother who lived at the place began the attack in the presence of the ladies.
Chinaman in a Legal Pickle.
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—Pan Wym, a Chinese merchant of this city who recently took his American wife and child to China for a visit, is now in a pretty fix at a Pacific coast port. The law will permit the wife and child born in America to land, but the father and a baby born in China may be barred out. The local revenue officers say that it may require an act of Congress to admit Pan and the youngest child.

Do Loved Not Wisely.
GREENSBORO, N. C.—Fence Webb, the adopted son of Dr. and Mrs. A. M. White, of Reidsville, attempted suicide at that place. He shot himself through the neck with a pistol. It is understood that he left a note saying a love affair caused him to attempt to end his life. He is not dead, but is dangerously wounded.

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