

See that they are well fed. Keep the stalls clean. Blanket the horses; and if you do the same to the cows so much the better. Make sure of as warm a place for them as possible. Give them straw beds to sleep upon. Comfortable animals will thrive best, and give back the best returns.

In the day time, when your children are at school, cut and haul home wood enough to keep a years stock of seasoned fuel beforehand. This is economy. In short every farmer has enough to do in winter; and that, well done, is often the most important and profitable labor of the whole year. Keep stirring and do good.—*Maine Farmer.*

#### CHINESE SUGAR CANE.

We have the following from an esteemed correspondent personally acquainted with the facts. It has before been intimated that this is the same with the *Holcus bicolor* or Chocolate broom.— This is in proof that it was distributed under this name by the Patent Office. Some varieties of the chocolate broom are very sweet, others less so.— We are under many obligations for this interesting statement.—*Homestead*

MESSRS. EDITORS :—There are various attempts being made to introduce the culture of Chinese Sugar Cane into the Northern States—with what success remains to be seen. A plant resembling the description of this in the papers at the present day, was grown in East Windsor, Hartford Co., Conn., nearly forty years since, under the following circumstances. Mr. Samuel Bartlett, Senior, a resident of East Windsor, then about seventy-five years, old, was furnished by Hon. Henry L. Ellsworth, late Commissioner of the Patent Office, then a resident of Hartford, Ct., with a small quantity of seed that came from the Chinese Empire, requesting him to experiment with it as to its adaptation to the climate, &c., as he was a man rather inclined to such things.

The seed was planted, making about ten or twelve hills; the seed matured was saved for another year's growth. The name as furnished to him with the seed was *Holcus bicolor*. The second year he planted about one eighth of an acre; the stalks grew about twelve feet in height, tassal resembling broom corn, but shorter, and standing erect, even in a storm; the seed jet black, smooth like a flax seed, and about the size. The seed ripened well. The stalks were ground in a common cider mill, the juice submitted to some kind of process, and found to contain sugar in large quantities. The seed was ground and bolted, and

used in various ways for culinary purposes, and was also fed to animals with success. It was the opinion of Mr. Bartlett that the seed would furnish an abundance of food for man and beast, and the time would come when the stalk would be raised to furnish sugar in the Northern States.

C. H.

#### WHY ARE GARDENS MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN FIELDS?

Because in many instances, the gardener has unwittingly subsoiled his garden with the spade. There are frequently good crops of vegetables made in our dry and burning summers.

What think you kind reader, has produced these? Not manure alone, for unless the manure was buried deep in the soil before the seeds were planted, it had proved an injury.

The gardener is anxious to get an early garden, his manures are applied early, and as the patch is too small to plow it is turned under with the spade, Now had it been trenched two spades deep it would have produced better, and as the truck is small, the hoe is substituted for the plow in the after culture. And this simple and natural method of culture is the reason why the garden, in a dry season, is more productive than the field. When a more general system of sub-soil plowing before the planting, and surface culture afterwards shall be adopted by our planters the crops of the south will be doubled from the same land. We the past season planted some acres in corn; it is an uncommon productive variety. We subsoiled the land thoroughly before planting the seed, and never put a plow into the field after the corn was six inches high, but stirred the soil frequently with a horse hoe, an instrument that answers all the purposes of the plow without cutting the roots of the corn. The drought was very severe, so much so that one of my neighbors cut up his entire crop for fodder. My corn has no doubt suffered materially in the product. Yet I have measured two acres which has turned me out one hundred and eighty bushels shelled corn to the two acres. Now although it is a most wonderful corn, yet had we not subsoiled the land, and given it only surface culture afterwards, we should not have raised the crop that we have. Will it pay to cultivate a field upon the same principles of the garden? If it is economy to cultivate a garden well, it surely is economy to cultivate a field well, and this we believe the true reason why gardens are more productive than fields.—*Soil of the South.*