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BY CAVIS & TRIMMIER.
T. O. P. VERNON, Associate Editor.

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Chinese Sugar Cane.

We have repeatedly called the attention of our readers to the value of the Chinese Sugar Cane, and have extensively distributed the seed with which we were furnished by the Agricultual Bureau of the Patent Office. We are, therefore, greatly rejoiced to find that the article has fallen into the hands of so scientific and careful an experimenter as Ex-Gov. Hammond, who will be widely recognised as one of the highest authorities in Southern Agriculture. We copy below a carefully considered report of his experiments with the Chinese Sugar Cane, prepared for an Agricultural Society in his own neighborhood, and furnished for publication to the Barnwell Sentinel. It will commend itself to the attention of the planters of the State. There can be no doubt that the Sugar Millet is destined to prove an important addition to the resources and comforts of the plantation.—*Charleston Mercury.*

REPORT

Of an Experiment in making Syrup from the Chinese Sugar Cane Corn or Sugar Millet, made to the "Beach Island Farmer's Club," August 2, 1856.

A rule of this Club, requiring every member to make and report, each year, an Agricultural experiment, I will take this opportunity to acquit myself of that duty. One of our members—Mr. Redmond, of the Southern Cultivator—distributed among us, last winter, some seeds of what is commonly called Sugar Millet. He very kindly gave me enough to plant half an acre—about a pint. I prepared a plot of ground on a northern slope, of old, stiff and worn out land, in such a manner and with so much manure as would probably have made it yield, with average seasons, about 20 bushels of corn per acre. On the 22d of March I planted the Millet seed in 3 feet drills, dropping every eighteen or twenty inches some six or eight seed. It was ploughed and hoed often enough to keep the grass down, and about the 1st of July begun to head. The heat had then been unusually intense for two weeks, and has continued so up to the present time; and, latterly, the drought has been very destructive. I do not think this half acre would have yielded five bushels had it been planted in corn. Having intended, however, to ascertain whether the Millet would make Syrup, I had a rude mill put up with two beech-wood rollers.

Finding that by the 22d of July the most advanced heads had passed the milk stage, I had 1750 canes cut, that I supposed were a fair sample of the patch. The first 3 or 4 hundred were passed through the mill twice, the remainder four times, and the yield was 194 quarts of juice. But 10 canes that I selected and passed 7 times through the mill yielded 3 quarts. Mr. Clark, one of our members, was present when this was done. The juice was received in common tubs and tested by a Thermometer, and a Sacchrometer with a scale of 40 degrees. The Thermometer stood in every instance at 78°. The Sacch meter varied from 21 1-2° to 23 1 2°. At the latter point the juice would float a fresh egg. I boiled it in a deep, old-fashioned cow pot, and, after 6 to 7 hours' boiling obtained 32 quarts of tolerable syrup.

The next day I selected 10 canes, the heads of which were fully matured, 10 more in full milk, 10 more the head of which were just fully developed and the top seed beginning to turn black, and again 10, comprising all these stages, but from which I did not strip the leaves. They were all passed through the mill seven times, and yielded nearly the same quantity of juice—about three quarts for every ten canes. The juice, tested by the Sacchro. showed that the youngest cane had rather the most and the oldest rather the least saccharine matter. The whole together, with that of a few other good canes, exhibited at 80° of the Ther. 24 1-2° of the Sacchro. From 42 pints of the juice I obtained, after four hours' boiling, nine pints of rather better syrup than that made the day before. In these boilings I mixed with the cold juice about a teaspoonful of lime water of the consistency of cream for every five gallons.

These selected canes grew on the best spot of the patch, and where probably corn might have been produced the present season at the rate of 20 bushels per acre. They were 1 inch in diameter at the largest end, and 7 1-2 feet long after cutting off the head and a foot of the stem.

After this I cut down all the inferior cane and cured it for forage.

On the 28th of July, two of the members of the Club (Dr. Bradford and Mr. H. Lamar) being at my house, remained to see the result of pressing and boiling 400 canes I had cut and stripped. Each of us selected 10 canes, and put them through the press 8 times; the result being as before, about 3 quarts for every 10 canes. But even after the pressure, juice could be wrung from the canes by the hand, and we agreed that at least one fourth of it, and that the best, remained in the cane—so inefficient was my mill. The rest of the cane I ordered should be pressed 6 times, but we did not ourselves remain to see it done, nor did we count the 400 canes. The yield of the whole, however, was 37 1-2 quarts. With the Thermometer at 85° in the juice, the Sacchrometer stood at 24 1 2°; we boiled the juice until it run together on the rim of the ladle and hung in a transparent sheet half an inch below it before falling. And this in 2 1-2 hours. The result was 6 quarts of choice syrup. The next day I repeated the experiment on a larger scale, with equal success, and I have brought to the Club enough of the syrup to enable every member to try it and judge of its quality. All who have tasted it agree that it is equal to the best that we get from New Orleans. In these last boilings I put a tablespoonfull of limewater, prepared as before, to every 10 gallons. The whole process of clarifying and boiling was carried through in the same pot, and that very unsuitable from its depth.

I measured the grain from a number of heads, and the result was an average of a gill from each. I weighed a half peck of matured grain, after several day's exposure to the sun. It weighed 4 3-4 lbs., equal to 38 lbs. per bushel. I weighed 20 of the best cane cut for forage, after it was cured sufficiently to house. They weighed 24 lbs., equal to 30,000 lbs. for 25,000 canes, which I think might be grown on land that would make 25 bushels of corn with average seasons. I have tried horses, cattle, and hogs, and find they eat the cane, its leaves and seed, greedily, and fowls and pigeons the last. I think, however, that when allowed to mature, the cane should be cut up fine for animals, as the outer coat is hard.

I did not attempt to make sugar, not having prepared for that. There can, however, be no doubt that sugar can be made from such syrup as this. And, as they make more syrup in the West Indies per acre than they do in Louisiana only because the cane matures better, it is not unreasonable to infer that the Millet, which matures her perfectly, and will even make two crops in one year, will yield more and better sugar than the Louisiana cane.

Beginning to cut the cane as soon as the head is fully developed, it may be cut for a month before it will all ripen—how long after that I do not know. A succession of crops might be easily arranged so as to insure cutting and boiling from the 1st of July—probably earlier—until frost. I have housed some stalks immediately from the field, to ascertain, hereafter, whether thus treated it will yield juice and make syrup next winter.

A good Sugar Mill, with three wooden rollers, may be erected for less than $25, and a Sugar Boiler that will make 30 gallons of syrup per day may be purchased in Augusta for less than $60.

This Millet will, of course, mix with any other variety of the Millet family planted near it. Unfortunately I planted Broom Corn about a hundred yards from mine, and shall therefore have to procure seed else where for the 10 acres I intend to plant next year.

I have now stated the chief particulars of my experiment. Every member of the Club is competent to draw his own conclusions. A single experiment—especially one in agriculture—is rarely conclusive. I may err myself and might cause others to err were I to express with any emphasis the opinion I at present entertain of the value of this recently introduced plant.

J. H. HAMMOND.

A Merchant's View of the Effects of a Dissolution of the Union.—Mr. William A. Crocker, a friend of Daniel Webster, an active Whig, and one of the most intelligent merchants of Massachusetts, in a recent letter presents an admirable protest against sectionalism. The following is a pregnant passage:

"I invoke the manufacturer, the merchant, the ship owner, the mechanic—every man who has the smallest stake in the prosperity, the wealth, the happiness of the country—to consider how his interest and the welfare of those with whom his interests are bound up, would be affected by a violent disruption, or even a peaceable dissolution, of the Union of these States. It is common to hear the remark that the North can take care of itself. Doubtless she can. The enterprise of her people is boundless, and their energy indomitable. But it must be remembered that a dissolution of the Union, with the formation of a Northern republic, would cause new combinations. Commerce is essential to national wealth, no less than national greatness. The North is not an exporting region, and from its climate, soil and productions, cannot be so to any uniformly general extent. It is mainly from the South and Southwest that we are indebted for the immense carrying trade which employs our navigation. It is in the same States that our manufacturers find a large market for their goods, and our importers no inconsiderable proportion of their orders. Now suppose the Union dissolved, and the Northern States forming one republic, and the Southern and Southwestern States forming another.

"Suppose what, under such a condition, would inevitably be the case, this Southern republic, with little navigation of its own to foster, and with no manufacturers to encourage, in reciprocal commercial intercourse with all the manufacturing countries of Europe, on the basis of absolute and uncontrolled free trade; suppose what, under the sentiments of animosity engendered by the disruption, would be no less likely to occur, discrimination against our ships and goods of the North, and where would be that prosperity which now gladdens our manufacturing towns and fills our seaports with life and activity? A dissolution of the Union would depreciate the value of the property of New England fifty cents on the dollar. The wheels of our manufactories would be stopped, the implements of the mechanic would be put by, our ships decay at our decaying wharves, and the grass spring up in the streets of our towns and cities. These would be the material consequences. The moral consequences may be summed up in a single line: The destruction of the world's last hope."

Discoveries in Jerusalem.

The following notes on ancient quarries in Jerusalem have been placed, says the Hartford Times, at the service of our readers, through a friend. They were made by a Scotch gentleman, Mr. Douglas:

"During a visit to Jerusalem in the spring of 1855, I became acquainted with a very intelligent Hebrew, who informed me that there were extensive quarries beneath the city, and that there was undoubted evidence that from these quarries the stones employed in the building and the rebuilding of the Temple were obtained. He told me that these excavations were accessible through a small opening under the north wall of the city—that he had descended some time before with two English gentlemen, and had spent with them several hours in exploring the excavations, which were sufficiently extensive to have furnished stones enough, not only for the construction of the Temple, but for the whole of Jerusalem, the walls included. He expressed his readiness to accompany me, but proposed to go after dark, as he feared the Turkish guards might fire upon or maltreat us if they detected us. As my party comprised two ladies and my two sons, all equally desirous with myself to see these excavations, as the gates of the city were closed at sunset—and as there were no houses outside the walls—I would not listen to the proposal to spend the night in the open air, unless upon trial I found we could do no better. We accordingly went to examine the situation and size of the opening. We found it about 150 yards to the eastward of the Damascus Gate. It seemed like the burrow of some wild animal; there was no rubbish above the opening, but some tall grass and weeds. Persons entering might be observed by the guards; but this did not seem very likely, as the soldiers generally remained within the gate, and only very rarely one sauntered outside. We accordingly decided to make the attempt by daylight, fully satisfied that, even if observed, we should only be rudely driven away. The next morning, therefore, we left the city as soon as the gates were opened. One of the party got into the hole, but returned, saying it would be necessary to get in feet foremost, as there was a perpendicular descent of six or seven feet at the inner opening. He went back again with the lights, I followed. The ladies were got through with considerable difficulty. When fairly inside, we found ourselves in an immense vault, and standing upon the top of a pile, which was very evidently formed by the accumulation of the minute particles from the final dressing of the blocks of stone. On descending this pile we entered, through a large arch, into another vault, equally vast, and separated from the first by enormous pillars. This vault or quarry, led by a gradual descent into another, and another, each separated from the other by massive stone partitions, which had been left to give additional strength to the vaulted roofs. In some of the quarries the blocks of stone which had been quarried out lay partially dressed; in some the blocks were still attached to the rock; in some the workmen had just commenced chiselling, and in some the architect's line was distinct on the smooth face of the wall of the quarry. The mode in which the blocks were got out was similar to that used by the ancient Egyptians, as seen in the sandstone quarries at Hagar Tisilis, and in the granite quarries at Syene.

The architect first drew the outlines of the blocks on the face of the quarry; the workmen then chiselled them out in their whole thickness, separating them entirely from each other, and leaving them attached by their backs only to the solid wall. They were then detached by cutting a passage behind them, which, while it separated the blocks, left them roughly dressed, and left the wall prepared for further operations. We remarked the similarity between the stones chiselled out in these quarries and the few blocks of stone built into the south-east corner of the wall of Jerusalem, which are so remarkable for their size, their weather-worn appearance, and the peculiar ornamentation of their edges.

We spent between two and three hours in these quarries. Our examinations were, however, chiefly on the side towards the Valley of Jehosaphat. Our guide stated, that more to the westward was a quarry of the peculiar reddish marble so commonly used as a pavement in the streets of Jerusalem. From the place where we entered the ancient was gradual; between some of the quarries, however, there were broad flights of steps, cut out of solid rock. I had no means of judging of the distance between the roofs of the vaults and the streets of the city, except that from the descent the thickness must be enormous. The size and extent of these excavations fully bore out the opinion that they had yielded stones enough to build not only the Temple, but the whole of Jerusalem.

The situation of these quarries, the mode by which the stones were got out, and the evidence that the stones were fully prepared and dressed before being removed, may possibly throw light upon the verses of Scripture in which it is said—2d Chronicles, II: 18. And he (Solomon) set three score and ten thousand of them to be bearers of burden, and four score thousand to be hewers in the mountains, and three thousand and six hundred overseers to set the people to work. And again, 1st Kings, IV: 7: And the house when it was building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither; so that there was neither hammer nor axe, nor any tool of iron, heard in the house while it was building.

In one of these quarries there was a spring of water. A recess in the rock and a shallow trough had been cut for its reception. The water was soft and clear, but somewhat unpleasant to the taste. The expenditure of our candles hastened our departure. We got out as we got in, unobserved. I had not another opportunity of visiting these quarries; but left Jerusalem in hopes that one more enterprising and more able would explore and give a more detailed accurate account of these excavations, which to me seemed so abounding in interest."

Fish Ponds and Fish Breeding.

We find in the forthcoming number of the *South Carolina Agriculturist*, edited by A. G. Summer, Esq., several valuable and interesting reports lately presented to the Newberry Agricultural Society. We extract a portion of a report relating to "Fish Ponds and Fish Culture," as presented by Col. W. S. Lyles, an enterprising and thoroughly experienced planter on the Broad River side of Fairfield District.

Col. Lyles' report is brief and practical, and cannot fail to suggest and encourage similar efforts to all conveniently situated.

"Two years ago, the report on the successful culture of Fish by a Mr. Hill, near Augusta, Georgia, called my attention to the subject. Having near my house a suitable location, (a hollow in the hills, with two or three bold springs breaking forth,) I laid off a pond forty-five feet wide and seventy feet long. I then proceeded by digging the earth from the upper side to a level with the surface water of the springs, to construct a dam on the lower side, six feet high with a seven feet base. This enabled me to raise a five foot head of water, at which point a small trunk of common plank was inserted as a waste away. In this pond I placed, in the month of April last, some six or seven hundred fish, such as perch, mawmouths, silvers and minnows. To these I have since added a few others, such as trout, flyers, &c.

"The increase in size of these fish has been very remarkable; while the increase in numbers has been enormous; indeed, I believe ten thousand, from the appearance in the pond, would be but a moderate estimate. As yet I have only used a few for the table, preferring to wait another year for their increase in size and the thorough stocking of the pond. I have, however, been enabled to spare to several of my neighbors, who have since erected ponds, a sufficient number to start the culture with.

"The pond being too small for such a vast number of fish to procure subsistence in the ordinary way, I have been compelled of course to feed them. Almost any thing answers for this purpose, such as shreds of meat, crumbs of bread, hominy, wheat bran, entrails of fowls chopped fine, together with the offal of all animals, &c. Occasionally I furnish them with a treat in the way of earth worms, grubs, caterpillars, &c. I have recently learned from a gentleman connected with the Japan expedition, that the Chinese, who are perfectly *au fait* in fish culture, feed and fatten their fish on fresh cow dung and grass chopped fine, generally that very common plant among us, known to farmers as purslain. Whether this will answer, I am unable to say, but as I intend to make a trial, I trust I shall be able to report at a future day.

"The varieties of fish proper for such ponds as mine, or any still waters, I think, are bream, the perch, the mawmouth, the red bellied perch, the trout, &c. I would by all means avoid the pike, the jack, and that horrid fish known as the cat. The objections to these are, that they are extremely voracious, and prey not only upon the spawn, but the small fry of all other fishes; besides this, the two former are very boney, while the latter is scarcely fit even for a stew. The trout, too, is a voracious fish, and the propriety of breeding them with other fish is very doubtful; but as I took care to stock my pond well with minnows before I procured the trout, I hope to be able to succeed. This fact, however, only can be settled by time.

"The cost of my pond was only twenty-five dollars, and it is sufficiently large, I think, for the purpose. The gentleman referred to previously informed me that almost every garden in China had its fish-pond, many of them not more than ten feet square. In these, however, the fish were only fattened, while they were bred elsewhere. If this be so, it follows that every man in the State can have a pond who has a spring or running brook on his place, and at an expense so trifling, in comparison to the advantages, that its cost will be a mere bagatelle.

"In my neighborhood there are now, besides my own, four fish ponds; and one near Winnsboro', belonging to my relative, Capt. T. W. Woodward, commenced at the same time or before my own. His experience has so far been perfectly satisfactory, and he concurs with me, that fish can be as easily propagated and raised as poultry. If such be the fact, and I sincerely believe it, why should not every man have his fish pond as well as his poultry yard? To say nothing about the pleasure of angling, the fact that fish can be obtained at all seasons, when poultry is scarce, &c., ought to determine the question favorably.

"In conclusion, I will say that my experience is too limited as yet to determine what varieties of fish are best for particular localities, &c. This must be the result of trial and experience on the part of fish breeders. I have no doubt, however, the time will come when fish ponds will be almost as common as poultry yards, and when fish of almost every variety will be acclimated, (if I may be allowed to use the expression to convey my idea,) including the choice European varieties, such as the trucle, the carp, the sole, &c."

Peach Trees.—The prosperity of the peach tree requires that it should be shortened in annually, in the spring. The operation consists merely in cutting back about half the smaller, or two thirds of the larger limbs of the last year's growth, beginning when the tree is two years old, and continuing it during the life of the tree. Of course the eye will direct the exact distance to which the limbs should be cut back, care being taken to preserve a round, well balanced head. Every cultivator should practice this treatment, as it contributes both to the long continued healthiness and beauty of the tree, and to the superior size and lusciousness of the fruit.

Deep Tillage vs. Drought.

"Everything seems to be drying up," is the remark of many a farmer about these days. "Grass, barley, oats, potatoes and corn, are suffering much for the want of rain." It is too true they are "suffering much," especially late sown barley and oats. Unless we have rain, the straw will be short and the product a meagre one. But it is useless to talk of this; we would rather offer some hints on the best means of escaping the effects of these "dry spells"—these weeks and months when little or no rain falls upon the parched and thirsty earth. It is not a new subject with us—but its importance will excuse repeated reference. "line upon line and precept upon precept."

One of the most effectual preventives of the effects of dry weather upon the crop, is a fresh and mellow state of the soil in which they are growing. To attain this perfectly, there is but one way—frequent stirring and cultivation—but it can be greatly promoted by a proper preparation of the ground before the crop is sown or planted upon it. If land is deeply ploughed and thoroughly pulverized, and at the same time prepared, either by the nature of the subsoil or under draining, for the ready passing off of all surplus water, it will remain for a long time in a moist and mellow state. But shallow ploughed land, or that with a retentive subsoil at a short distance below the surface, is always found to become comparatively sterile under the influence of dry weather. A heavy rain falls, completely saturating the mellow portion of the surface soil, making it too wet for the favorable growth of plants at first, but the surplus water has no outlet through underdrains or a porous subsoil; it must pass away by evaporation, and the surface becomes baked and hard under the process. Whereas, had the soil been deep and mellow a larger portion of moisture would have been retained; the surplus would have readily passed off, and the earth have been left in the condition most favorable to rapid vegetation.

The effects of deep and shallow tillage upon the moisture of the soil is readily observable by every farmer. We have had occasion to notice it since commencing this article. Taking up the hoe as an interlude to the pen, we found in spots, where the plough had but just skimmed the surface, that the soil was baked and dry at least six inches deep, (as far as we dug among the stones,) while not three feet distant, where well ploughed, at two inches deep, it was most and fresh. Passing through the corn field we found the hills near stone heaps or stumps were wilted, and almost burned up by the heat, while those on the open and well ploughed space around were fresh and vigorous. The fineness of the soil also has considerable influence; anything like lumps, however small, will not retain moisture like that well pulverized and deep. This may be frequently noticed on head lands, where the soil is always in finer tilth from the more frequent passage of the plough.

Some years since, in preparing a piece of ground for the crop, a portion of it was thoroughly subsoiled, so that the whole soil was stirred to the depth of eighteen inches, and made fine and mellow. The remainder had only the usual preparation, and to this day a slight drought affects the shallow part, while one long continued and severe is scarcely felt by the crops where it was deeply tilled. In a greater or less degree this is found to be the case on all soils, and proves conclusively that subsoiling is not for one year—that its effects will continue for many years. It has been found, we would remark, that ploughing ten inches in depth, or even eight, upon a porous subsoil, would act very beneficially in preventing the effects of drought.

Hoed crops need not suffer so severely from dry weather as spring grains and grass must do. The soil must be kept clean and mellow by frequent cultivation, which all farmers and gardeners know is very beneficial in this respect. It is true that the evaporation of moisture is greatest from a light soil, but it is also true that it receives moisture more readily and largely from all the sources which supply it. There is little or no dew upon the beaten path, while the path at its side drips with wet. The fresh turned earth receives a much larger supply than that upon which a hard crust has formed—it penetrates farther, and hence passes off more slowly. Of light showers this is also true. Hence the more mellow the soil the less it suffers from lack of rain when covered with growing plants.

Deep and thorough tillage is the best preventive of the effects of drought, and the best preparation for growing profitable crops, whatever be the character of the soil or weather.—*Moore's Rural New Yorker.*

Grape Vines.—Where grape vines have been neglected, so that the tops are quite too high and the branches too numerous, it is necessary to cut off a large portion of old and new wood together—the more of the old, the better—leaving only the new shoots that spring from nearest the ground, and suitably shortening these. A few new shoots should be allowed to grow from the lower parts of the vine each year, for bearing fruit the succeeding year; and by cutting away the wood which bore fruit the preceding year, we have what is called the renewal system of treatment, which is found to be the best, for American grapes, for trellis or wall culture.

Care of Pear Trees.—The pear tree will grow in almost any soil, provided the subsoil is not too wet, but it thrives best in a deep, strong loam. As too luxuriant a growth may induce blight, a moderate top dressing of manure in the autumn is all that is necessary. When the tree is assailed by blight, the part affected should be cut off far below all appearance of disease. The insects which beset it are chiefly the caterpillar, the bark-louse, and the slug-worm, to remedy which, soft-soap is sometimes spread upon a tree, or a strong bath of whale oil soap suds applied. Air slacked lime powdered liberally over the tree is useful.

From the London Star.

Maritime Law—American Government.

The influence exerted by the new world, upon the traditional policy by the old, is not a grateful topic to the governing classes of Europe, and hence they say as little as possible about it. It is with the greatest reluctance, indeed, that they can be brought to acknowledge the fact every day forced upon their attention, that, without mixing ostensible and formally in the politics of Europe, the mere existence of powerful communities that have sprung into vigorous life on the other side of the Atlantic must, for the future, enter as an essential element into the account whenever the affairs of the civilized world have to be adjusted. Few people are aware, for example, that the new principle which the belligerents in the late war adopted towards neutral powers at sea, arose out of representations made by the United States, to the effect that the "right of search," for which we did battle with them in 1812, would no longer be submitted to. Nothing was said by our statesmen or diplomatists of the real motive which induced our Government to "suspend," during the war with Russia, the exercise of it old "belligerent rights;" and as our people know nothing of the secret correspondence that was carried on between Lord Clarendon and Mr. Buchanan, they have, of course, considered this more humane and courteous treatment which neutral flags have received, during the late war, as an act of homage on our part to the advanced civilization of the age.

The Americans are now taking another step in a path which, we predict, the rest of the world will be induced to follow, and from which we can foresee far greater consequences to the interests of civilization and humanity, than from anything else likely to spring out of the blood and smoke of the siege of Sebastopol. It will be remembered that, at the late Peace Conference in Paris, a declaration was signed, pledging the great Powers of Europe to exert their influence to put down the practice of privateering in case of future wars between maritime States; and the Governments represented at that Conference undertook to invite the powers not represented there to become parties to the agreement. It appears, by late intelligence from Washington, that the American Government have met the invitation with a counter proposal, offering to go a great deal further, and put down the robbery of private property at sea altogether. And we have not the slightest doubt that, eventually, the European powers will be compelled to acquiesce in this overture; for, as the United States are now the greatest maritime nation in the world, as measured by the only real standard, their mercantile tonnage, there can be no maritime international law enacted to which they are not assenting parties.

The Americans say, and say truly: "We have no large fleets of war vessels like England and France; we have only one line-of-battle ship in commission. In case of war, therefore, we must rely on our merchant vessels for carrying on operations, at least for the first six or twelve months; and we should call upon our citizens to turn every private ship into a vessel of war. These you call privateers, but their mission would be precisely that of your royal and imperial navies—to capture or destroy everything afloat belonging to the enemy; and where is the difference in the scale of justice, morality, or reason, between doing those acts by means of vessels built expressly for the purpose, or by others which were originally designed for better uses?" There is no answering this logic, for the common sense and the natural conscience of mankind are on its side.

But the American Government does not stop here. "If," say they, "your are sincere in wishing to put down privateering, abolish the principal system on which it subsists, treat private property at sea on the same principle of inviolability by which it is now everywhere guarded, in civilized warfare on land. Why should the merchandise of a private citizen be safe from spoliation by an army when found in his warehouse on shore, and not be equally secure from plunder by a navy when in his floating warehouse at sea?" Again there is no answering this reasoning. Indeed, no attempt is made by writers on the law of nations to assign any ground for the distinction hitherto drawn between private property on land and property on sea, except the arbitrary ground of custom—a plea which, if we ascend a little further back in the history of the world, may be urged with equal force in defence of a hundred other barbarous usages in war which have been gradually abolished by the general consent of mankind. And as the present proposal comes from a power which can insist upon being dealt with according to rules of fairness and justice, there is little doubt that it will ultimately become the international law of the civilized world. The consequence will be vast and almost incalculable.

We shall have to recur, again and again, to the bearings of this question on the interests of peace and humanity. Meanwhile we draw the attention of our readers to what is going on, with this single word of comment, that second only to the regret we feel that England had not the honor of propounding this new doctrine, would be our sorrow to find that she sets herself in unavailing opposition to its adoption.

Improved Nectarine.—At a late meeting of the British pomological Society, Mr. Rivers reported on a seedling of the Stanwick nectarine, as an improvement on the original fruit. It is described as very large, one specimen being eight inches in circumference, and of flaeshape of a truncated vane. The flesh separates freely from the stone, is exceedingly tender and melting, being somewhat of a buttery texture, like the most delicate of the Beurre pears. This fruit was from a plant grown in a pot.

The Swell-head Disease.

This dreadful disase sometimes attacks horses, and, probably, other animals, as monkeys and jackasses; and some birds, as the parrot and mocking-bird. But men are more subject to it, and with them it is more fatal.

Cause. Vacuity in the cranium. It is often augmented by flattery, especially when the cerebrum is small and ill-shaped. Men of large information, however, are sometimes afflicted with it, in which case there is found an inordinate swelling in the upper region of the head, just back of the *apex cranii*. The protuberance is called self-esteem.

Symptoms. The poor creature usually fancies himself the biggest, smartest, best, and handsomest man in the crowd—loves the "uppermost seats in the synagogues"—is given to impudence, impertinence, and usually bad manners in company—is censorious and fond of finding and exposing the foibles of his associates—has few friends and no lovers, and has generally a bad odor to polite and well bred people—given to swelling and strutting, as if in one moment he fancied himself a toad, and the next a turkey-cock. He is egotistic, and passionately found of high-sounding titles, as 'Squire, Captain, Colonel, General, &c. This miserable patient is sometimes so infatuated as to attempt to stride the ocean, or jump over very high mountains. These are only a few of the symptoms of this malady, but enough to identify it.

Treatment. When it is caused by emptiness of the cranium, it is only necessary to fill up the vacuum with good ideas, a solid education, or common sense. When induced by diminutiveness, or malformation of brain, the cure is slow and difficult. We have known some cases which defied every remedy and destroyed the patients. A cure must be attempted by exercising and cultivating those faculties which are deficient, such as the judgment, and the understanding, and depleting self esteem, &c. The skulls of these patients are usually very thick and hard, so that it is hard pounding anything into them; but they are excessively fond of soft soap—give them a pound or two every day, and it will soften the skull so that you can probably get a little gumption into it, or a modicum of ratiocination, and they will soon be well. When this will not cure, soft soap will palliate.

In the case of those *gentlemen*, from ten to twenty years old, who get putting on the boots and pantaloons of their father's, and to teaching their teachers, reproving, counselling, and sometimes insulting old age, chewing tobacco, smoking cigars, and drinking whiskey—swearing, and cutting the dandy swell head generally—appetite for late hours, bad company, and bar-rooms voracious—*a little oil of birch, applied by the parental hand, is the best remedy.* Then keep them out of the night air and bad weather. If this does not effect a cure by the divine blessing—the head grows and grows, till the poor sufferer topples over a few times, and knocks out half his self esteem.—*Louisiana Baptist.*

Peter Funk Worsted.—Peter Punk is a shrewd man, and generally carries his point; but he sometimes gets worsted. A case has recently occurred which we will relate. A comtryman named King was in the city on business, and though appearing somewhat "green," was not altogether unacquainted with the ways of Gotham. He heard of Peter, and resolved to see him. He accordingly went into a mock-auction store, where a number of men were examining watches, with the apparent intention of buying.

When King entered, wise looks were exchanged between these gentry, and the sale soon commenced. A handsome and valuable gold watch was offered, and King, being a good judge of the article, bid it at $25. He immediately put it into his pocket and turned to leave. The auctioneer asked him to have the watch done up. "No," replied King. "I will carry it in my pocket—it will be safe." "You had better have it done up," persisted the auctioneer; "you can then put it in your trunk and carry it home without danger of losing it." "I never lose anything," replied King.

By this time several men had gathered around him, some advising him to have it done up, and others asking him to let them look at it. But he declined all offers, and started for the door. Peter saw that he had got hold of the wrong customer, and resolved to effect by force what he could not by deception. A man sprang before King, and was about to close the door, while the others pressed closely around him.

Thereupon he drew a revolver, and assuring them that it was well loaded and a sure fire, told the man at the door, in a very cool and deliberate manner, that if he attempted to shut it, he would blow his brains out forthwith. Then pushing away the men with a pair of stout arms, he exclaimed, "the first man who dares to lay his hands on me will be shot!" They all stood back, and King walked out with his watch, while Peter found himself done a little browner than he ever remembers to have been.

[*N. Y. Post.*

Waiting for Emotion to Subside.—We clip the subjoined from the "Editor's Drawer" of Harper's Magazine, for August:

"The following is certified to us true to to the letter, by one of the persuasion to which the subject of the anecdote belonged:

The Rev. J. B. S. was pastor of the Second Universalist Society, in Lynn, Mass., a few years ago. He had a fine voice, was a showy preacher, and vain of his abilities to make a great impression. His engagement with the society was about to expire, and on Sunday he was to preach his farewell discourse. Before going to church he sent a note to the chorister in the words following:

'Please defer your customary voluntary for a minute and a half after the close of my sermon this afternoon, in order that the emotions of the audience may have time to subside.'"