

# THE SUMMER BANNER.

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## AGRICULTURE.

### AGRICULTURE IN CHINA.

The great requisites in the Chinese system of agriculture are manure and water; and to obtain these, their whole energies are devoted. The soil is not allowed to lie fallow, and in most parts produces two crops annually. It is usually pulverized, and different soils are mixed together to improve the quality of each. They will carry sand for a long distance, to mix with clay-heavy soils, and loam, to put with that which appears too loose. During the few months of winter, in the southern provinces, the soil is sometimes thrown up into heaps, where it has been mixed with some vegetable matter, thus making a kind of compost, and also presenting a greater surface to the air; after which, those lands which require flooding, are covered with water, and hoed and turned over, until the white surface is reduced to mud. This process has still a further fertilizing tendency. For a minute, the Chinese collect everything of a vegetable or animal kind that can possibly be applied to such a purpose. Reservoirs of brick or wood, are dug in the banks of the field, near a canal, into which every refuse substance is put. The principal one has a roof over it, and is plastered, that contents may not be absorbed into the earth. Besides this principle, one large vessel of stone ware are sunk in the ground at convenient places, for the use of passing travellers. The children and men are continually employed in collecting these animal and vegetable matters, which they fill up these receptacles, the sweeping of the streets, but from barbers' shops, off from the butchers, feathers, fur, and bones reduces to powder, and the deposits of creeks and rivers, are all industriously gathered up, and brought sufficiently valuable to be carried a great distance, especially if water carriages is convenient. The dung of all animals is esteemed above any other kind of manure; it often becomes an article of commerce, in the shape of small cakes, which are made by mixing with it a portion of hoary earth, and then thoroughly drying them. These cakes are never applied dry, but are diluted in as much animal water as can be procured. Old plaster is esteemed so valuable a fertilizer as sometimes to induce a farmer to re-plaster a plowroom that he may fertilize his fields with it. Before manure is taken out of the receptacle, in the field, it is suffered to become half putrefied, in which state it is put upon the plants. Some seeds are put into manure until they have germinated, while others are planted enveloped in their appropriate manure: After the plant has grown a few inches, it is again manured with that which is much diluted. The effect is immediately apparent in an accelerated growth.

### Chinese Repository.

### TO IMPROVE PEAR TREES.

At a meeting of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, held in P. B. Saml. C. Fort made the following statement as to his method of improving the fruit of the pear tree. He said: "From experience, I can state the advantage to be derived from the application of iron to the roots of pear trees. It is known to all naturalists that iron enters largely as a component part into the fruit of the pear tree; and as many of our choicest varieties have very much deteriorated, I feel it a duty to state that my fruit has been much improved, and some that were almost worthless, restored by the following application: During the winter, when the frost will admit, have my trees dug round to the distance of three feet, barring the upper roots, and then have applied a bushel or more of cinders from a blacksmith's shop—old iron would be better. This oxydizes by the rains of the season, and is taken up in the sap as it ascends in the spring. This is a simple experiment, and one that will be highly prized by all the lovers of fine fruits."—*Sat. Cour.*

### SALTING HORSES.

A curious fact is mentioned in Parkers Treatise on Salt. A person who kept sixteen farming horses made the following experiment with seven of them, which had

been accustomed to eat salt when laid in their mangers, and these jumps previously weighed, were examined regularly, to ascertain what quantity weekly had been consumed, and it was repeatedly found that, whenever these horses were fed on hay and corn, they consumed only two and a half or three ounces per day, and when they were fed with saw hay, they took six ounces per day. This fact should convince us of the expediency of permitting our cattle the free use of salt at all times; and it cannot be given in so convenient a form as a rack salt, it being much more palatable than the other in a refined state, and by far cheaper. A good jump should always be kept in a box, by the side of the animal, without fear that it will ever be taken to excess.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### SCENES IN NEW MEXICO.

#### INTERESTING SCENES IN THE FAR WEST— GEN. KEARNEY AND THE ARMY OF THE WEST.

Extracts from the Journal of Lieutenant Emory of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, now at Santa Fe.

August 15th.—Twelve o'clock last night the colonel (Gen. Kearney) was awakened up and informed that six hundred men had collected at the pass of the Vegas, two miles distant, and were to oppose his march. In the morning, orders were given to prepare to meet the enemy. At seven the army moved, and just as we made the road leading through the town, Major Sworls, of the 3d, and Mr. Dupat joined us from Fort Leavenworth, and presented Colonel Kearney with his commission as brigadier general in the army of the United States. At eight o'clock precisely, the general in the public square, where he was met by the alcalde and people, many of whom were on horseback, (for these people live on horseback.) The general pointed to the top of one of their houses, which are all of one story high, and flat roofed; and suggested to the alcalde, that if he would go to that place, he and his staff would follow, and from that point, where all could hear and see him, he would say to them what he had to speak.

This was a wise precaution. He was thus enabled to speak so that all could hear and see, and were placed out of the reach of difficulty, of which there might have been some danger, as we were pressed closely in a dense mass of people, the distance of some of which we then knew.

The colonel, now Brigadier General Kearney, then addressed the multitude, nearly as follows: "Mr. Alcalde and people of New Mexico: I have come amongst you by the orders of my government, to take possession of your country, and extend over it the laws of the United States. We consider it, and have done so for some time, a part of the territory of the United States. We come amongst you as friends, not as enemies; we come to you as protectors, not as conquerors; we come amongst you for your benefit, not for your injury.

"Henceforth I absolve you, from all allegiance to the Mexican government, and from all obedience to General Armijo. He is no longer your governor. [great sensation.] I am your governor.

"I shall not expect you to take up arms, and follow me, to fight your own people, who may be in arms against me; but I now tell you that those who remain peaceably at home, attending to their crops and herds, shall be protected by me in their property, their persons, and their religion; and not a pepper or an onion shall be disturbed or taken by my troops, without pay, or without the consent of the owner. But listen! he who is found in arms against me, I will hang.

"From the Mexican government you have never received any protection. The Apaches and the Navajos come down from the mountains and carry off your sheep, and your women whoever they please. My government will correct all this. They will keep off the Indians, protect in your persons and property, and I repeat again, will protect you in your religion. I know you are all good Catholics, and that some of your priests have told you all sorts of stories; that we would pollute your women, and brand them upon the cheek as you do your mules upon the hip. It is false. My government respects your religion as much as the Protestant religion, and allows each man to worship his Creator as his heart tells him is best. Her laws protect the Catholic as well as the Protestant, the weak as well as the strong, the poor as well as the rich. I am not a Catholic myself; I was not brought up in that faith; but at least one-third of my army are Catholics. And I respect a good Catholic as much as a good Protestant. There goes my army! You see but a small part of it. There are many more behind. Resistance is useless.

"Mr. Alcalde, and you two captains of militia, the laws of my country require that all men who hold office under it, shall take the oath of allegiance. I do not wish for the present, until things get settled, to disturb your mode of government. If you are prepared to take the oath of allegiance

I shall continue you in office and support your authority."

This was a bitter pill, but swallowed, the discontented captain looking close down in his toes. The general remarked to him, in hearing of all the people: "Captain, look me in the face, while you repeat the oath of office." The hint was understood; the oath administered; the general pronounced the alcalde, and two captains still in office, and called upon all the citizens to obey the alcalde, &c. The people grinned, and exchanged looks of satisfaction; but seemed not to have the boldness to express what they evidently felt, that their burdens, if not relieved, were at least shifted to some ungalled part of the body.

As we approached the ruins of the ancient town of Pecos, a large fat fellow came towards us at full swing, and extending his hand to the general, congratulated him on the arrival of himself and army. He said, with a roar of laughter, "Armijo and his troops have gone to hell, and the canon is all clear!" This was the alcalde of the settlement, two miles up the Pecos from the ruins, where we encamped—15 3/4 miles from our last camp, and 2 miles from the road.

Pecos, once a fortified town, is built on a promontory of rock, something the shape of a fort. Here burned, until within the last seven years, the eternal fire of Montezuma; and the remains of the architecture exhibit, in a pointed manner, the engraving of the Catholic church upon the ancient religion of the country. At one end of the short spire forming the terminus of the promontory, are the remains of the stupa, with all its parts distinct; at the other, are the remains of the Catholic church. Both showing the distinctive marks and emblems peculiar to the two religions. The fires from the stupa burned and sent its incense through the same altars from which was preached the religion of Christ. Two religions so utterly different in theory, were here, as in all Mexico, blended in harmonious practice, until, about a century since, the town was sacked by the Navahoe band of Indians.

Amidst all the havoc of plundering the city, the faithful Astek managed to keep his fire going in the stupa, and it was continued until, a few years since, the hand became almost extinct. Their devotions rapidly diminished their numbers, until they became so few as to be unable to keep going their immense stupa, forty feet in diameter, when they abandoned the place, and found a tribe of the original Montezuma, and some of the remnants, about sixty miles south. There to this day it is said, they keep their fire, which has never yet been extinguished.

The labor and watchfulness, and exposure to heat, required, is fast diminishing this remnant of the Montezuma race; and a few years will see the end of this interesting people.

### SELF-CASTIGATION IN THE CITY OF MEXICO.

I have seen in the church of San Augustin, one or two hundred people assembled at night, the chapel was darkened and they took off their clothes and lacerated themselves severely with pieces of hard, twisted cord, made like a cat-o'-nine tails. It was not such a flogging as Saicho gave himself to disenchanted Dulcinea, but a real bona fide castigation. Of this I have no doubt, for I picked up one of the disciplinas, the instrument used, and it was wet and soaked with blood. I stood at the door as the penitents came out, and recognized among them some of the most respectable people in Mexico. No one in his senses can doubt the sincerity of those who will voluntarily inflict such torture upon themselves.

There was an amusing incident connected with this scene of self-castigation. Some mischievous boys (for boys are pretty much the same in Mexico as everywhere else) had contrived to get into the church, and for fear that the whipping would not be well done, they commenced operations themselves. They were discovered, perhaps, from the greater severity of their blows than those which the men were inflicting on themselves, and there was a great commotion for a short time. The whipping lasted for ten or fifteen minutes, and the sound was very much like the patter of hail.—*W. Thompson's Mexico.*

### THE CLERGY OF MEXICO.

I do not think that the clergy of Mexico, with very few exceptions, are men of as much learning as the Catholic clergy generally are in other countries. The lower orders of the priests and friars are generally entirely uneducated, and I regret to add, as generally licentious. There is no night in the year that the most revolting spectacles of vice and immorality, on the part of the priests and friars, are not to be seen in the streets of Mexico. I have never seen any class of men who so generally have such a "route" appearance as the priests and friars whom one constantly meets in the streets. Of the higher orders and more respectable members of the priesthood, I cannot speak with the same confidence; if they are vicious, they are not publicly and indecently so. Very many of them have several nephews and nieces in

their houses, or at least those who call them uncles. The reason given for the immorality of the clergy, is that those who are debarred from the priesthood should not be encumbered with the care of a family, as I think in Mexico; much more theoretical than practical.

I cannot close remarks without saying that there are men who belong to the Priesthood of Mexico, whose pure, virtuous, and self-sacrificing lives would make them ornaments of any Christian sect in any age or country.—The Bishop of California for instance, who after spending the prime of his life in doing the work of his Divine Master, returned to Mexico utterly destitute, and lived on charity. He had all his life been in the receipt of a large income, all of which he had expended in charities.—*Ibid.*

### UPPER CALIFORNIA.

The following extract from the St. Louis Reveille, of a letter from Upper California, written in May, 1845, is of some interest, when we consider the fact that our countrymen are now emigrating to the farthest West:

Our harvest happens in about three weeks, and I hope to secure at least 12,000 bushels of wheat with barley, peas, beans, &c., in proportion. The next year, however, I hope to obtain a double quantity, and so on each succeeding year. A fanega (two bushels) of wheat is usually worth here about two dollars, but at present, before the harvest, it is sold for 4 dollars. Through our excellent water communications, the sale of our products has facilities unsurpassed in the world. For example, I have now large contracts for wheat and other staples to the Russians of the northwest coast. Were I able to freight the amount of four hundred tons more, they would receive it. The Russian colonies of the north are increasing every year. When I visited Sitka, six years ago, their consumption was already great, and is now four fold. Sitka is the Governor's residence, and the See of the Bishop, with a seminary, good schools, a theatre, etc., and lies in 67 north latitude. I am negotiating for the opening of a second good outlet for export with the French government, which needs wheat and other products for its Madagascars and Oahie islands. A French ship of 900 tons, the *Bonaparte*, visits the bay yearly to purchase cattle for those islands. We have much intercourse too, with the Sandwich Islands, which has been greatly increased within a few years. Our visits grow more frequent every year from the South Sea navigators and whale fishermen, the latter of which from 25 to 30 already touch at the harbor of St. Francisco yearly. Ships of war occasionally make their appearance here, and their captains have often assured me that this harbor is the finest in the whole Pacific Ocean.

Next to agriculture, the raising of cattle is our most important pursuit, rendered easier by the fact that we have hardly any winter, and no snow. So soon as it begins to rain in autumn, everything is green again, and stock is fat the whole winter through. My collection of stock consists of about 4,000 head of oxen, 1,200 mares, 200 tame horses, mules, &c., 3,000 sheep, and many hogs. They all pasture themselves, without difficulty, in the rich prairies and bottoms of the Sacramento valley, and requires no trouble but a little watching, generally attended to by the native Indians. It is particularly a great assistance to us—one, indeed, which we could hardly dispense with that we can hire the Indians as laborers very cheaply. They make slavery wholly unnecessary here, and may be employed for all field and house work. In harvest, I have frequently employed 400 Indians.

No country in the world is better adapted for the vine raising. An excellent wine is made in some parts, and a considerable quantity of brandy. Any one who plants a good vineyard here and understands the management, can in a few years, varying with the yields, gain great profits. We have several instances of French and Americans, whose fine young plantations, I have myself visited. The vineyards are full of fig, olive and orange trees, the last bearing at once flowers and ripe and green fruit! A proof of the fitness for the culture of the grape, of the valleys of the Sacramento, the St. Joaquin and other streams, is the abundance of the wild vines upon their banks. These bear very good grapes, of which we often make wine, vinegar and brandy.

The rivers are full of fish, especially the salmon, which surpass those of Columbia river. The heaviest weighing from 40 to 50 lbs.

Game is found in profusion—as for example, thousands of the elk, which gather in herds, and in summer are very fat. Equally numerous are the vast herds of wild horses, deer, antelopes, &c. Of bears, there are a great number. And in the rainy season especially, one can kill immense flocks; I might say millions, of ducks, geese, cranes, pelicans, &c.—Beaver, too, and land otters may still be found in some abundance, chiefly in the mountains.

The New Orleans Times, speaking of the same country, says:

"A very large portion of Upper California is nearly valueless. All the southern and eastern parts, indeed the whole province, except that section bordering on the Pacific, is an arid and barren waste with extensive and parched sandy plains. When we reach, however, the western portion, which lies nearest the Pacific Coast, the eye is greeted with an aspect of nature, in her loveliest and most attractive forms.—This beautiful tract of land embraces the whole country drained by the waters which empty into the bay of San Francisco. The river San Joaquin, which runs 600 miles, and is navigable through nearly its entire extent, irrigates a splendid and spacious valley, covered with dense foliage, and possessing a soil of unsurpassed fertility. All the elements of agricultural wealth abound in profusion, save a propitious climate. From April to Autumn the lowlands are converted into huge fens, by incessant rains. The Sacramento river is another of the tributaries that flow into the bay of San Francisco. It rises among the mountains that skirt the lower border of Oregon, and flows 300 miles through an open and level country, interspersed with groves, lakes and beautiful savannahs. It is navigable three-fourths of its course, and the country watered by it, in soil and climate, is alike admirable. These are the principal streams that water and fertilize the western portion of upper California. The superficial area of this magnificent valley is estimated at 40,000 miles, or about the size of our larger States. In respect to its agricultural capabilities, those who have explored the region furnish the most glowing descriptions. VAN COUVER, FARNHAM and HUMOLDT unite in attesting its wonderful advantages, the richness of the soil, the luxuriance of its herbage, its diversified scenery, and the mildness of the climate."

### INDIAN'S EPITAPH ON A GROSSSELLER.

—An Indian agreed to furnish an epitaph for a gross seller named Teasel. This epitaph was to be put at the head of Teasel's grave when he died, and for this service the Indian was to receive his grog and supper. So, after having got biters and his supper, he commenced thus:

There was a man who died of late,  
Whom Angels did with joy assist  
With a star-bathed arm, and wings of love,  
To bear him to the realms above.

But here the Indian came to a dead stand, declaring he could not give the rest of it until morning. So, after a grog and biters next morning, he concluded as follows:

But while contending for the prize,  
Just hovering near these lower skies,  
In what the Devil likes to grant,  
And down to Hell he sent old Teasel.

### CAMP ANECDOTE.

A friend who has just returned from the Mexican country furnishes the following as the manner in which a Dutchman, who was on gentry duty, proclaimed the hour. "The usual cry is 'Half past ten o'clock, and all is well!' The Dutchman had forgotten the precise words and sung out at the top of his voice—'More as den o'clock and all ish pletter as goot!'"

### BEAUTIFUL ANECDOTE.

—It is related in Whartons History of English Poetry, that during the reign of Edward III a troop of warriors being drawn up for perilous enterprise, the beautiful and accomplished Countess of Salisbury stepped forth, and to inspire them with fortitude, kissed every one of them in the presence of thousands of admiring spectators. It may be added that one of her garters becoming accidentally unloosed, was picked up by one of the heroic band, who bound it around his knee, saying as he did it, "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*," (evil to him who evil thinks) and this beautiful incident became the origin of the Order of the Knights of the Garter. The days of Chivalry have passed away.

### FORBIDDEN MARRIAGES.

At the late meeting of the Presbytery of Louisville, the case of a man who had married his deceased wife's sister, came up by way of reference from one of the church sessions, and the Presbytery by almost unanimous vote excluded him from the church. They passed a standing rule some years since directing the sessions to take that course with all such cases.

Pres. Russell.

A little urchin who was in the habit of staying out later than boys of his age generally do, got a talking the other day from his mother, for misconduct: "William, my boy," says she; "if you persist in this practice, it will most undoubtedly shorten your days."

"Well, mother," replied the boy, "if it shortens my days it will make my nights longer—won't it mother?"

"Pete, how does your father hamper his sheep to prevent them jumping over fences?"

"Oh, that's easy enough; he just cuts a hole through one hind leg and sticks the other through it, and then puts one of the fore legs through that for a pin."