

The Farmers' Column.

The History of the Peach.

The peach is supposed to be a native of of Persia, and its botanical name refers to that region. It is known to have flourished in both Persia and China at a very early period, and was highly valued in both countries. It has often been found growing spotaneously in Asiatic Turkey. It is mentioned by Pliny, and several other classical writers, and many anecdotes are related of the veneration and even superstition with which it was regarded by the Asiatics. There is no doubt but it was one of the "Trees of the Garden" which God planted in Eden, and which were to nourish and cheer our first parents in their pristine purity and happiness. It is not mentioned in the Bible, but its congener, the almond, is mentioned several times, and as early as the days of Jacob. And we find, when he was preparing his present for the Governor of Egypt, he commanded his sons to take "myrrh, nuts, and *almonds*" as a gift, showing the esteem in which it was then held. Again, in the directions for making the golden candlestick, among the ornaments, the myrtle and *almond* are mentioned as of the chief.

The peach, like civilization itself, traveled from this center westward into Europe, and we find it mentioned in Roman history in the reign of the Emperor Claudius. It was highly valued by the patricians of Rome, and was cultivated by them as one of their choicest luxuries. It is still a standard tree in Italy.

It was introduced into England from Italy, about the middle of the sixteenth century, and has been cultivated there as an exotic ever since. Her cool, moist climate, however, prevents its general cultivation, and it is only grown on walls or under glass, and the fruit is seldom seen, except on the tables of the aristocracy.

Even in France, where the climate is much milder, it is not always reared without protection, and the fruit has never gone into general use, but is a delicacy confined to the wealthy alone, the cultivation being confined principally to the garden.

In China it is extensively cultivated in the gardens of the rich, and has attained an extraordinary size. But of their manner of propagation and culture but little is yet known, owing to the exclusive policy heretofore pursued by that ancient empire. Now, since its amelioration, among the many other benefits hoped for, a more accurate and complete knowledge of the peach is one. The Chinese are great gardeners, and much affect the curious in horticultural as in other arts, and we may expect to learn much that is interesting, if not useful. We know already that they produce peaches of very large size, and two, at least, of rare shapes—the Chinese Flat, and Crooked Peach. With this beginning, we will not be surprised at still more curious developments. The curiosity, ingenuity, and enterprise of our countrymen will soon discover whatever may be known.

It is to our credit that the United States is the only country in the world that, either in ancient or modern times, has produced peaches in sufficient quantities to allow them to become a common marketable commodity; so cheap that the poor, as well as the rich, may regale themselves and their families with one of the most wholesome and delicious of fruits at a very small expense, and with every prospect that they will be still more abundant and cheap.—*Peach Culture.*

Preparation of Soil for Wheat.

The following observations on the preparation of the soil for wheat are taken from an exchange paper and offered for the consideration of the practical wheat grower:

"It requires 'high farming' to raise paying crops of winter wheat. Hence, we intend to reiterate the fundamental principles of wheat culture, at least once a year, until the tillers of the soil who attempt to raise wheat fully understood and appreciate the peculiar habits of the wheat plant, and the essential requirements in preparation of the soil for a crop of winter grain. A great many farmers, forty years ago, understood that winter wheat requires a moderately firm seed-bed. They had learned by observation, that when they sowed the seed for a crop of winter wheat on new land, for example, where there was only two or three inches of mold resting on a firm sub-stratum, they never failed to get a paying crop of excellent grain; yet, when they ploughed up that same land deep, and made it mellow, a large proportion of the wheat plants would be lifted out by the frost These were *the facts*, which to their minds were utterly inexplicable, except that as the soil is deepened and made more thoroughly comminuted, the liability to heave by freezing was augmented, which is by no means a philosophical explanation. Yet, it is a fact that deep ploughing and thorough pulverization does augment the absorptive capacity of soils of every character. The observation has never been made that *spring* wheat (*Triticum æstivumi*) requires the advantage of a firm seed-bed, like winter wheat (*Triticum hybernum*). Yet, if spring wheat were required to withstand the influences of freezing and thawing of the soil, it would need the same preparation required for winter wheat.

"When the seed for a crop of winter wheat was sowed on new land which had never been ploughed, the roots spread out horizontally, interlocking near the surface, thus forming something of a matlike grass sod, with which the wheat plants were lifted bodily by the frost, without heaving them out, as is the case when the roots strike downward into a deep and mellow bed. Now then, to meet the requirements of the wheat plants during winter, a deep and thoroughly pulverized bed is essential; and on the surface there should be a few inches of fine, rich mould, through which both the primary and the secondary roots may spread, and intertwine, thus producing a tenter mat of fine roots, which will effectually prevent the young plants from being thrown out by the frost. The foregoing are the essential conditions of successful wheat culture; from which it will be perceived that when the barnyard compost is applied to the land where a crop of winter wheat is to grow, it should be reduced to a fine condition, spread evenly over the surface, and harrowed in, so that the roots of the growing wheat may find the requisite plant-food near the surface, rather than being required to strike so deep into the seed-bed, in search of food, that the main roots will be severed by the heaving of the surface in cold weather. The sub-stratum should be broken up deep, that the roots may spread downward the next season, in search of inorganic elements which are requisite for the full development of a bountiful crop.

Who Wrote Andrew Jackson's Messages.

The following is an extract from a speech of Mr. John C. Rivers, before the Democratic Association of Washington City, more than twenty years ago. Among other personal reminiscences, it contains two or three anecdotes of Gen. Jackson, which cannot fail to be read with the interest which attaches to everything that tends to illustrate the character of that remarkable man. Mr. Rives, who was associated with Francis P. Blair, Sr., in the publication of the Globe, states that it was not only his fortune to be "patronized by Andrew Jackson," but it was also his good luck to know more about his presidential career than those most near and dear to him. After thus presenting his credentials Mr. Rieves proceeded as follows:

"It is generally known that Gen. Jackson was a man who above all others took "responsibility" in peace or in war and that word bring to the minds of the people of this country his name almost letters which spell it. But it is not so well known that he made others take it in times of profound peace. I know it well. He made me take it, and that made me know him so well.—The occasion for making me take it was, his annual message got out from the offices the National Intelligencer and the United States Telegraph before it was sent to Congress, soon after I came into the Globe office—the first session of the twenty-third Congress, I believe—and afterwards, as long as he was President, he gave all his messeges to me to have printed, with the admonition: "I will hold you responsible, sir, if that message gets out before Congress is ready to recieve it. Don't let any person—not even one of my Cabinet officers—have a copy of it before I send it to Congress.'"

"The printer prints from the rough draught of the President's message is completed. I invariably went after a copy and took the proofs back to the President myself, which gave me an opportunity of knowing all about who wrote and who were consulted about them. It has been said, and is no doubt believed by many, that Gen. Jackson did not write his messages. Neither he not any other president ever wrote those parts of their messages which showed the condition of the several departments. They are written by the heads of the departments respectively. Nearly the whole of the balance of Gen. Jackson's message was in his hand writing. The proclamation which was intended to carry out his memorable toast.—"The Union must be preserved," that was uttered as a rebuke to nullification, when it first showed its front, at the celebration of Mr. Jefferson's birth day in Washington, was re-written by Mr. Livingston, then Secretary of State. Mr Blair, who saw the original paper has frequently told his friends that he thought it better than the finished prodution and not liable to the objections to some of the principles advanced in the latter. It was Gen. Jackson's invariable practice to put down in writing every official paper which he submitted to the public.—He was however, always willing to admit suggestions and permit alterations where he thought them improvements.

"I will relate an anecdote, or incident which will lead to a correct conclusion as to who wrote Gen. Jackson's messages, and also, who attended to them after they were written.

"When I went after the annual message which demanded of the French King (Louis Philippe) the indemnity due to citizens of the United States by the French Government, I found Maj. A. J. Donelson, then Gen. Jackson's private secretary, and a clerk belonging to the State Department, (Mr. Derrick,) comparing the copies to be sent to both branches of Congress with the rough draughts Gen. Jackson was walking the floor some twenty-or thirty feet from them smoking his pipe, paying no attention to the reading, as I thought. When they read that part of the message which pressed the demands in the strongest terms, Gen. Jackson said: "Donelson stop there; that is not as I wrote it. Maj. Donelson made a stammering reply, saying: "General, the Cabinet had a meeting and agreed to soften this a little. I cannot alter it in time for Congress, and Mr. Rives is here waiting for the message, and if he does not get it shortly, he cannot have it printed in time, and continued to stammer on regarding it.

"General Jackson then stamped his foot on, the floor, and said in a loud voice; "I say, stop! and put that as I wrote it. I don't care for the cabinet, nor for Mr. Rives and Congress waiting. It shall be as I wrote it." Maj. Donelson then opened his table drawer, and took from it the slip which he had cut from the message, and inserted it in the place of the alteration made by the Cabinet. I have both the original and the alteration, I believe, filed away, but with so many other papers that I cannot find them conveniently. Many predicted at the time that the supposed affront contained in the message would cause France to declare war against the United States. So far from it, it caused the money to be paid; and Louis Philippe then King of France, thought so highly of General Jackson, that he sent an eminent artist (Mr. Healy) to the Hermitage, to take his likeness was completed only a few days before the General's death, and is said to be the best ever taken."

The Contradicting Couple.

'I do believe,' he said, taking the spoon out of his glass and tossing it on the table, 'that of all the obstinate, perverse, wrong-headed creatures that ever were born, you are the most so, Charlotte.'

'Certainly, certainly, have it your own way, pray. You see how much I contradict you,' rejoins his wife.

'Of course, you didn't contradict me at dinner time; oh, no!' says the husband.

'Yes, I did,' says the wife.

'Oh, you did!' cries the husband, 'you admit that?'

'If you call that contradiction, I do,' she answers; 'and I say again, Edward, that when you are wrong I *will* contradict you. I am not your slave.'

'Not my slave!' repeats the husband bitterly; 'and you still mean to say that in Blackburn's new house there are not more than fourteen doors, including the door of the wine cellar?'

'I mean to say,' retorts the wife, beating time with her hair brush on the palm of her hand, 'that in that house there are fourteen doors and no more.'

'Well, then,' cries the husband, rising in despair and pacing the room with rapid strides, 'this is enough to destroy a man's intellect and drive him mad.'

By-and-by he comes too a little, and passing his hand across his forehead, finally reseats himself in his former chair. There is a long silence, and this time the wife begins.

'I appealed to Mr. Jenkins, who sat next to me on the sofa, in the drawing-room during tea.'

'Morgan, you mean,' interrupted the husband.'

'I do not mean anything of the kind,' answers the wife.

'Now, by all that is aggravating and impossible to bear!' cries he, clenching his hands and looking upward in agony—'she is going to insist upon it that Morgan is Jenkins!'

'Do you take me to be a perfect fool!' exclaims the wife. 'Do you suppose I don't know one from the other? Do you suppose that I don't know the man with the blue coat was Mr. Jenkins?'

'Jenkins in a blue coat!' cries the husband with a groan. 'Jenkins in a blue coat! a man who would suffer death rather than wear anything but brown!'

'Do you charge me with telling an untruth?' demands the wife, bursting into tears.'

'I charge you, ma'am,' retorts the husband, starting up, 'with being a contradiction, a monster aggravation, a-a-Jenkins in a blue coat! What have I done that I should be doomed to bear such perpetual torments!'

The Devil and Tom Walker.

Everybody has heard, and a great many make use of the expression, "The Devil and Tom Walker," and yet we presume very few know who Tom Walker was, or what relation between him and the Devil justifies this frequent association of their names. As the most authentic account of who Tom Walker was, we give the following interesting story by the best writer America has ever produced—Washington Irving:

A STORY OF THE LAST CENTURY.

As Tom waxed old, however, he grew thoughtful. Having secured the good things of this world, he began to feel anxious about the next. He thought with regret on the bargain he had made with his black friend, and put his wits to work to cheat him out of his conditions. He became, therefore, all of a sudden, a violent church-goer. He prayed loudly and strenuously, as if Heaven were to be carried by force of lungs. Indeed, one might always tell when he had sinned most during the week, by the clamor of his Sunday devotion. The quiet Christians who had been modestly and quietly traveling Zionward were struck with reproach at seeing themselves so suddenly outstripped in their career by this new-made convert. Tom was as rigid in religion as in money matters; he was a stern supervisor and censurer of his neighbors, and seemed to think that every sin entered up to their account became a credit on his page. He even talked of the expediency of reviving the prosecution of the Quakers and Anabaptists.

Still, in spite of his strenuous attention to forms, Tom had a lurking dread that the devil, after all, would have his due. That he might not be taken unawares, therefore, it is said he always carried a Bible in his pocket. He also had a great folio Bible in his counting-house desk, and would frequently be found reading when people called on business; on such occasions he would lay his green spectacles on the book to mark the place, while he turned around to drive some usurious bargain.

Some say Tom grew a little crack-brained in his older days, and that, fancying his end approaching, he had his horse newly shod, saddled and buried with his feet uppermost, because that, at the last day, the world would be turned upside down, in which case he would find his horse ready for mounting, and he was determined at worst to give his friend a run for it. This, however, is probably a mere old wife's fable. If he really did take that precaution, it was totally superfluous—at least so says the authentic old legend, which closes his story in the following manner:

One hot afternoon in the dog-days, just as a terrible black thunder gust came up, Tom sat in his counting-house in his white linen cap and India silk morning gown. He was on the point of foreclosing a mortgage, by which he would complete the ruin of an unhappy speculator, for whom he had expressed the greatest friendship. The poor land jobber begged him to grant a few months' indulgence. Tom had grown testy and irritated and refused.

"My family will be ruined and brought upon the parish," said the land jobber.

"Charity begins at home," replied Tom. "I must take care of myself these hard times."

"You have made so much money out of me," said he, "I have not made a farthing."

Just then there were three loud knocks at the street door. He stepped out to see who was there. A black man with a black horse, which stamped and neighed with impatience.

"Tom, you are come for," said the black fellow, gruffly Tom shrunk back, but too late. He had left his little Bible at the bottom of his coat pocket, and his big Bible on the desk, buried under the mortgage he was about to foreclose—never was a poor sinner taken more unaware. The black man whisked him like a child astried the horse, and away he galloped in the midst of a thunder storm.

Such was the end of Tom Walker and his ill-gotten wealth.

The story has resolved itself into a proverb, and is the origin of the popular saying prevalent throughout New England, "The Devil and Tom Walker."

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Cheapest Calicoes, Muslins and Sheeting are now offered by *Wm. A. Vickers.*

Hats & Caps.

The Largest Stock in Kent county, and we have marked them down *At Very Low Prices!*

BOOTS & SHOES.

Home made! Nice Goods for Ladies and Children. Men's cheap Heavy Balmorals, high cut, only $2.25; as cheap as any $300. Shoe we have seen this season. offered by *Wm. A. Vicker's.*

ESPECIAL NOTICE.

The great reduction in prices of all kinds of Goods, we announce in to-day's paper, is for the want of money. We have heavy demands to meet, and will thank our friends for as early settlements as they can, to enable us to meet our immediate wants. Cash buyers, and punctual paying customers, will find it to their interest to examine the greatest bargains ever offered in Chestertown.

Respectfully,

WM. A. VICKERS.

NEW GOODS! NEW GOODS!!

Call and examine my stock of Tinware, Stoves, Hardware, Woodware, Jappanned Ware, Stone Ware, &c., &c., received direct from Importers and Manufacturers, and for sale at SMALL PROFITS.

HARDWARE.

Two, three, and four prong forks, shovels, spades, hoes, rakes, post spades, grain scoops, bramble scythes, briar hooks, trace chains, breast, back and halter chains, brass and iron chain by the yard, carriage, plow and tire bolts by the hundred or dozen, from 15 to 100 cts. per dozen; barrelbolts; tower nicked, flush and shutter bolts, rip and cross cut saws, pruning, meat, back, compass, keyhole, web and wood saws of Diston, Spear, Jackson, and Brown's manufacture; hinge nails, cut, wrought, finishing, clout, fence, and galvanized nails, by the pound or keg; horse shoe nails, tacks, galvanized tacks, carriage tacks, pump & carpet tacks, curry combs, sad irons, augers, post augurs, Coops, P[illegible]and Bright lip augur bits, wood and iron braces, [illegible] and steel squares, try squares, rules, guages, framing and firmer chisels, gouges, levels, compasses, compass dividers, hooks and staples, staples, brass screw rings, hand-rail screws, screws from ¼ inch to 3 inches; screw drivers, smoothing, jack and fore planes, plane bits, one and two foot rules; tin, iron and plated tea and table spoons; a large assortment of knives and forks, carvers, ivory handle tea and table knives; strap and T hinges, hooks and hinges, Mayer's, Tull & Porter, and Seymor window blind butts, table, parliament and brass hinges, acorn butts, knob locks, plate, pad, rim, dead, trunk, till, wardrobe, chest, drawer, and jail pad locks, hat and coat hooks, thumb latches, door latches, barn door latches, brass and lead spickets, molasses gates, coal oil spickets, tap borers, mill saw, bastard, round, half-round, taper and saw files, horse rasps, monkey wrenches, carpenters' and shoe pincers, round and flat nippers, bed and plate castors, door bells, farm bells, frame and axle pulleys, drawer pulls, shutter and blind fasteners, turn buckles, gimlets, window springs, hooks and eyes, closet latches, sash fasteners, wad cutters, gun worms, heads, tubes and caps, brass and iron buttons, pad, cabinet and door locks, keys, taper files, chest handles, door stops, harness awls and needles, cow bells, coffee mills, axle clips, tea scales, brick, plaster and garden trowels, hatchets, hammers, post axes, hand and broad axes; a large assortment of scissors, razors, brushes, strap with hone, harness hooks, porcelain-head picture nails, copper rivets and burs, punches, porcelain shutter knobs, glue kettles, stew pans, tobacco cutters, pruning knives and shears, saw sets, wagon and cart boxes, &c., &c., &c.

WOOD WARE.

Tubs, buckets, churns, wood bowls, wash boards, well buckets, sugar and coffee boxes, brooms, baskets, potato mashers, rolling pins, butter prints and paddles, lemon squeezers, safes, dust, scrub, horse, wall, paint & white wash brushes, fork, spade, broom, shovel, awl, saw, chisel, plane, augur, hatchet and ax handles, &c., &c.

J. K. ALDRIDGE.

Chestertown, April 1, 1871.

Attention

THE most elegant mode of *perfuming* clothing is by placing them in contact with odoriferous substances. This end can be attained by purchasing at the Drug Store of T. W. WICKES the most popular and prevailing perfumes now used. You can also find at his store a most elegant assortment of Combs, Brushes, Soaps, and Fancy Articles, all of the finest quality, and at city retail prices. The Bachelor Hair Dye, which is used so extensively in Europe and this country, and which has been satisfactorily proven by men of science and taste to be the best Hair Dye in the world, is sold by T. W. Wickes. Natural Mineral Waters for the debilitated, such as Vichy, Kissengen, Saratoga, and other waters. Spices, Ginger, Cloves, Cinnamon, Allspice, Mustard, Mace, Black and Red Pepper, Nutmegs, and *ground* Sage. Extracts for flavoring, of all varieties. Fine Cigars and Chewing and Smoking Tobacco. Jan. 7, 1871.

NOTICE.

Cut this out and keep it for Reference.

WHEN YOU VISIT THE CITY GO TO

W. H. RINGGOLD'S,

95 N. Charles Street,

AND BUY ALL YOUR

UNDER SHIRTS AND DRAWERS,
HOSIERY AND GLOVES,
NOTIONS AND FANCY GOODS.

He can sell them

Cheaper than any one!

And you can

Pay your expenses in your purchases!

☞ DON'T FAIL TO GO: HE HAS THE VERY ARTICLE YOU WANT.

Do not forget the Number!

W. H. RINGGOLD,

95 N. Charles st., 3 doors South of Mulberry.

Baltimore, Sept. 24, 1870.

A CARD.

GEORGE VICKERS and H. W. VICKERS have united under the title of *GEORGE VICKERS & SON*, for the practice of the Law in Kent and Queen Anne's Counties.

Chestertown, July 1, 1871—3m.

PEACH BASKETS

THE subscriber is prepared to furnish the Peach Growers of Kent and adjoining counties with the MITCHEL BASKET, at 18 cts. (at present), and three other[illegible] also, the ROCHESTER BERRY BASKET[illegible]

☞ Samples to be seen at C. F. S[illegible] Bro's., Chestertown; A. L. Gooding's, Chesterville; T. H. Horsey's, Galena, and at D. U. Dewees', Kennedyville.

Also, a general assortment of *NURSERY STOCK*, particularly SMALL FRUIT Plants.

For particulars apply to

ROBERT E. WALLIS,
KENNEDYVILLE,
Kent Co., Md.

June 17—3m°

A Card.

THE report is being industriously circulated, that I have disposed of my entire stock of Peach Trees, which report is incorrect. I have some (25,000) twenty-five thousand good trees yet to dispese of.

N. BARNARD,

Nov. 26; 1870—tf. *Still Pond, Md*

CIDER VINEGAR, RELIABLE FOR PICKLING, on hand and for sale by

THOMAS S. WICKES,

Chestertown, August 19, 1871.

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