The Wisconsin horticulturist...issued monthly, under the management of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, for the purpose of disseminating horticultural information. Vol. II, No. 10 December 1...

Wisconsin State Horticultural Society
Baraboo, Wisconsin: Republic Print, December 1897

https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/LK2CZCWR3LLUK8T

Christmas Number--with Colored Supplement.

VOL. II. DECEMBER, 1897. NO. 10.

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Subscription Price Fifty Cents Per Annum.

REPUBLIC PRINT, BARABOO, WIS.

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

[Entered as second class matter in the Post Office at Baraboo, Wis.]

A monthly magazine published under the management of the State Horticultural Society.

Terms: 50 cts. per annum.

Payment of $1.00 per annum entitles one to the magazine for a year, and to a year's membership in the State Horticultural Society.

All business communications should be addressed to the Business Manager,

W. J. MOYLE,
Madison, Wis.

All matter for publication should be sent to the Editor,

MRS. FRANKLIN JOHNSON,
Baraboo, Wis.

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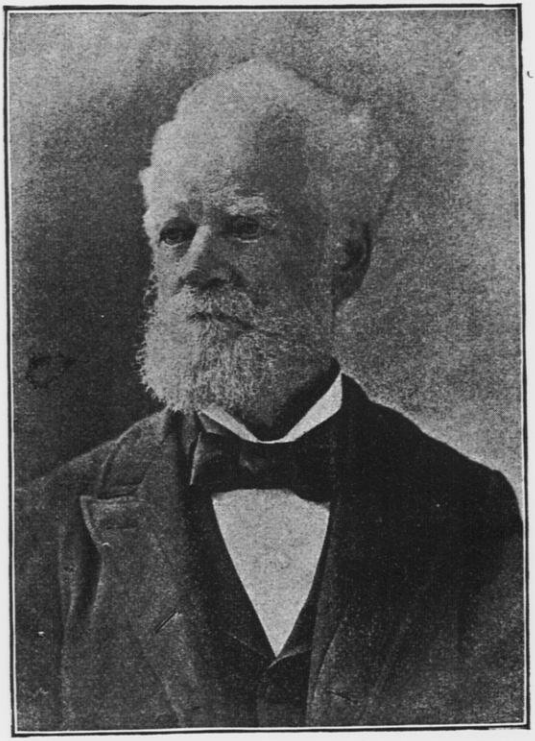

ROBERT DOUGLAS.

Courtesy of Florists' Exchange.

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

VOL. II. DECEMBER. NO. 10.

ROBERT DOUGLAS.

By J. C. Plumb.

Distinguished eminence in life's work is not the lot of many to attain. Most of us, when at the end of the journey, may well be content if able to look back upon an uneventful but useful life, and to receive the "well done" for good and faithful service. So when a life of rare usefulness closes it is well to hold up the same, both for honor and for its lesson to the living.

Robert Douglas was born at Gateshead, England, April 20, 1813; removed to Canada in 1836 and to Vermont two years later. In 1844 he drove to Illinois with horse and buggy, settling at Little Fort, now Waukegan, where in 1848 he started a nursery. But a year later, with the "49'rs," he started on the overland journey to California with an ox-team. Losing his outfit in Bear River, east of Salt Lake, he with characteristic fortitude pushed on afoot, reaching the land of gold two weeks ahead of his company.

Leaving California in the autumn of the same year, he resumed his nursery work at the old place in Waukegan, and continued it until his death, June 1, 1897,—of late years in connection with his sons.

Not content with transplanting our native evergreen and deciduous trees, nor with importing foreign-grown seedlings, Mr. Douglas with his customary energy commenced the growing of evergreens from the seed. He was the first man in this country to grow evergreen and forest-tree seedlings by the million, having at one time a contract for growing three million forest trees, which contract was

so well filled that he was paid more than the contract price.

Mr. Douglas was an extensive grower of Catalpa speciosa and Wild Black Cherry for forest and ornamental purposes. He introduced the Colorado Blue Spruce, Douglas Spruce and Abies concolor; originated a number of Arborvitae and the Golden Juniper, and pushed the true White Spruce (*Picea alba*) into prominence in the West, as against the worthless Black and Red Spruces.

In "Garden and Forest" of June 9, we find additional notes by his friend, W. A. Stiles, who has now joined him in a world fairer than this: "His counsel has always been in demand wherever forest problems were studied in this country, as at the Leland Stanford University in California and the Vanderbilt estate in North Carolina. He was one of the valued assistants of Prof. Sargent in gathering data for his forest report of the Tenth Census, and in making the Jessup collection of woods. In the study of trees no one in his time has shown greater intelligence or done more to increase the love of them and encourage their planting in this country.

The total lack of self-seeking, his unfailing cheerfulness and rich sense of humor, made him a most agreeable companion, and the integrity and purity of his life commanded the respect of all who knew him. Endowed with a hardy physique, he continued active until almost the hour of his death, in his eighty-fifth year."

From a long and pleasant acquaintance with Mr. Douglas, the writer cordially endorses the above testimony to his personal character. Unassuming and modest to a fault, it was not always easy to draw him out on his favorite theme, at our National gatherings, but when once enlisted he well deserved the title, "Little Giant of Forestry."

He laid broad and deep the foundations for both economical and commercial Forestry, on which others, as well as his sons, will continue to build, as our country's needs in this line are yearly growing more pressing.

Milton, Wis.

FOREST PLANTING.

The recent death of Mr. Robert Douglas, of Waukegan, Ill., brings to mind the great forest, of twelve hundred acres, which was planted thirteen years ago at Farlington, on the Ft. Scott and Memphis Railroad. The kinds selected for the experiment were Black Walnut, cherry, catalpa, ash, osage orange and chestnut. The chestnut has not done well, but the others have done remarkably. The walnuts are forty feet high and about two feet in circumference. They were not planted so much for timber as for railroad ties for use by the railroad companies. They were planted comparatively close, about four feet by four. The catalpa has done next best to the walnut. The ash has also done very well. Many of the trees are fit now to cut for the purpose of making railroad ties; it is, however, conceded that better results would have been obtained if they had been set six feet by six instead of four feet by four.

—Meehan's Monthly.

HORTICULTURAL ITEMS.

A. Clark Tuttle.

COVER NOW.—If the freezing and thawing of early spring is what kills the tender fruits in this climate, then how is it that Missouri, Southern Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee can grow any fruit at all? The whole of winter in that part of the United States is a succession of rain and mud one day, snow and frost the next. Those who neglect covering their strawberry plants till March, may lose them all by MID-WINTER HARD FREEZING, especially if there is little or no snow to protect. The safest way is to cover as soon as the ground is frozen. Would advise those who have not covered to do so at once. Wild hay is good, as it has but little if any foul seed in it. Put on just enough to cover the foliage. Too much is injurious.

WHAT STRAWBERRIES SHALL WE PLANT?—We wish to

plant a patch of strawberries next Spring, for market, and presume there are many in Wisconsin who are thinking of doing the same. Cannot we trade ideas through the columns of the Wisconsin Horticulturist that will help us all to determine "WHAT TO PLANT?" Among the newer varieties, are there any that beat the Crescent—well fertilized—for dollars, both for home and distant market? How is the Greenville fertilized with Enhance for long distance shipment, or Staples for the nearer market? Those who have tested the Brandywine as a fertilizer, please speak. How is the Wm. Belt for Wisconsin? Also the Margaret and Marshall? If any one has a pet, please dress it up and set it out where we can look at it.

TIME FOR ANOTHER SEASON.—It is about time for a hard winter to teach its lesson. It may be just at hand. It is bound to come. We have about forgotten the teachings of the winter of 1884 and '85. Such varieties of apple as North Western Greening, Pewaukee, Mann, Salome, Ben Davis and others of that degree of hardiness are being planted in localities where the aforesaid winter wiped out every specimen. What is the use of such winters, if we do not remember and act upon their teachings? The fact that a variety endures the climate of the counties bordering on Lake Michigan, is no proof of its hardiness in the remainder of the territory of the Northwest. The winter moisture of Door County permits the successful growing of varieties that would not survive the climate of Sauk.

Baraboo, Wis.

A boy walked into a merchant's office the other day in search of a situation. After being put through a catechism by the merchant he was asked: "Well, my lad, and what is your motto?"

"Same as yours sir," he replied; "same as you have on the door, 'Push.'"

He was engaged.

HOW TO RUN A NURSERY.

J. Cole Doughty.

Take a fool's advice and don't do it. You will never even make a fourth rate nurseryman unless you are content to get up at 4 A. M., put in sixteen hours' hard work and after supper just run down to the office and put in five or six hours, and then, if you have forgotten anything or can't find any other little job, take a nap and be ready for breakfast.

As to what to grow, that is the easiest part of the business. Don't trouble yourself about that. Just look over the State Horticultural Society reports and plant what is recommended there. I don't think you can name many varieties that stand a ghost of a show of living in this climate that don't find a friend in the society, some one to say a good word for them. This, of course, only goes to show that jolly good feeling that animates those horticultural fellows. When they get together up there at Minneapolis and get to swapping stories, they have a mellow spot in their hearts for everybody unless it is the guileless "tree peddler." For him they always have a marble heart and the stony glare of the eye that means a shot gun and bull dog reception.

But to return to the subject of planting. By all means keep "up to date." If John Smith discovers a new strawberry that does not runner but grows upright just like a bush, get the exclusive control of it. It MAY be a grand, good thing, and you would hate awfully to have some other nurseryman walk off with a "bonanza." Keep your eye open for all the new things. Hop onto every new seedling apple you see. It may be another Wealthy—the grandest apple of the last decade—waiting for some one "to bring it out." It is true there are some failures and disappointments in "fathering" new things. It is wonderful, the infant mortality of seedling apples! Like the "Ships That Pass in the Night," they gently fade away, and "the places that knew them know them no more."

But "there are others." The Tree Blackberry, the Everlasting Everbearing Raspberry, the Japan Wineberry, etc., etc. Until you have had something to do with all of these, your education as a nurseryman is incomplete. It is much like the measles, if you follow the business, you have got to have them some time; hence, I would recommend that you take them in allopathic doses, and, better still, if you can, take them all at once. If you survive and the above does not spoil a right good fellow, it is liable to make a fairly decent nurseryman out ot you.

Above all, you must be public spirited. To do this, you may beg, borrow (but never steal), all the money you can get and pay it out for labor, freights, printing, etc., and thus build up your town. True, your fellow townsmen may not buy trees or plants enough to enable you to pay your taxes—and they generally don't—but that doesn't count. Before you get through, you will command their sympathy if you don't see their dollars.

By all means, you must entertain. When the "advanced horticulturist" visits you, take him in and give him the best there is in the larder. He deserves it for several reasons: first, he is something of a martyr himself, working for glory, just like you, and as such he does not live any too high at home. Of course, you do not expect to sell him anything, nor do you expect him to give you any great big puff in the newspapers. In fact, you are most anxious about what he doesn't say. He is generally a pretty good fellow and not given to shying stones at glass houses, so give him the warm hand and a kindly greeting. Show him all the good things you have and cover your weak spots as best you can. It won't take you long to learn what to hide. He will tell you before you lose him, and you will be loaded for the "other fellow."

Be a little shy of the tree dealer, the man who buys your best trees at the price of culls, who borrows your money to conduct his business, who uses your name to give you a shady reputation, and whose balance is almost sure to be on the wrong side of the ledger. He is generally a

smooth duck with a vivid imagination, an adamantine cheek and very fertile in resources. He is designed by Providence to hold the progressive nurseryman in check and prevent his getting rich too fast. The regular salesman who handles your goods under your direction, and who is sometimes known as the "tree peddler" is a blessing, sometimes faintly disguised, 'tis true, but still a blessing to the nurseryman and also to the farmer. Without him, there would be but one tree growing in this state to-day where there are now fifty. Kick him, to be sure, and lay the blame of unsatisfactory deals upon him; he is generally irresponsible and always away, so it is safe to abuse him—besides he expects it. Everybody, from the most honored member of the horticultural society to the humblest tree puller on the Mississippi sand bars, has a whack at him, and yet he survives and goes bravely on with the good work. There ought to be a sunny corner for him somewhere in heaven, "Where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest."

There are some drawbacks to the business, and you will meet with some queer people and many funny experiences, that will have a tendency to expand your mind and make a broad gauge man of you. You will realize how little real force there is in an iron-clad tree contract and how "No countermands will be accepted" simply invites countermands. You will also be surprised how your little notice of the delivery of your nursery stock will stimulate the real estate business. I have known of a dozen farmers selling their places within ten days of the date for delivering their orders. At least, that is what they write, and, of course, it is gospel truth. True, the register of deeds knows nothing of these transfers, nor do the man's neighbors, and, if you ship the goods, he is generally the first man to pay cash and no complaints. Then again, once in a while a man dies, and his wife or daughter will write you that he is dead and cannot pay. Well, sometimes he will fool you and die sure enough, but if you ship the goods with a second notice, he generally sends his son with the cash and no comments. The men who have "sold out" or who have "died"

are almost always on hand to get their goods early in the morning and invariably pay cash.

If a man writes that he is "hailed out," it is always well to investigate, but if he simply sells his farm or dies, don't worry; nine times in ten they will be there early with money to pay and generally with plenty of blankets to protect their trees. They are always careful, prudent men.

We have known a "tree delivery" to produce, well—not a famine—but a terrible failure of crops in that locality. After a time, you will view these little peculiarities with charity. They are but blemishes on the human character, which, once understood, can be easily forgiven.

In conclusion, when you can make 98 per cent of your grafts "catch" and make the slow growers keep up with the faster ones; when you can dig nothing but straight, smooth trees, all six feet high, without scar or blemish; when you can give every man the pick of your stock and have enough of that to go around; when you can pack each man's goods first; in fact, when you can obtain perfect control of the laborer, the salesman, the transportation companies and the elements, and can command a favorable dispensation of Providence occasionally as to the seasons, etc., then you will know "how to run a nursery" and not before.

—Minnesota Horticulturist.

CHOICE LIST OF HOME GRAPES.

Following are some extracts from an article with the above caption, written for the Independent by E. P. Powell of Clinton, N. Y. Our readers will not need to be told of Mr. Powell's success as a practical horticulturist and high standing as a horticultural writer:

"Out of a collection of over eighty varieties of grapes I think a dozen may be selected that would cover the needs of a family, and most of them be good grapes for market. I should myself not like to reduce my list below twenty of my favorites.

"There are three grapes that for all purposes, everywhere, on all soils, stand at the head of the list as people's grapes—the Worden (black), the Brighton (red), and the Niagara (white). There are better white grapes than the Niagara, but none better suited to general planting. There is no longer any reason for planting Concord while the Worden is its exact counterpart in all good qualities, with the addition of being two weeks earlier and much sweeter. Brighton has but one drawback—it *must* be planted with other sorts in order to secure pollenization of its flowers. A vine will rarely bear a single bunch if growing by itself; but in close proximity to Worden and Niagara it will be loaded with superb bunches. I recommend that these three grapes be grown on houses, fences, trees, barns, rockeries, as well as on vineyard trellises. The grape is one of the best of fruit foods.

"There are three white grapes of supereminent excellence—Lady, Eldorado and Hayes. The first is one of the very earliest to ripen, about August 25th; but it is a shy bearer with me. The difficulty does not seem to be entirely lack of pollenization. The quality is simply superb, and the berries are large, and the bunch of good size. Eldorado is better as a bearer of large crops of grapes, ripening about the middle of September; while Hayes, with a somewhat smaller bunch, is loaded down, and ripens about the first to the fifth of September. Lady is not a good keeping grape, but the other two sorts can be had till November. It is difficult to choose between these for quality.

"Alice is a new grape that has not yet been much disseminated; but it is of first-rate quality, and is the very best keeper we have. It does almost as well as winter apples under similar conditions. It resembles Diana. Vergennes completes the list of long-keeping sorts—very good, thick-skinned, red, large and handsome.

The best late black grape is Herbert. It is of remarkable quality; a large bunch, large berry, and has the fault of all Rogers seedlings, that it does not quite well pollenize itself. Grow with it alternately Pocklington. This last is

another grand late grape, ripening about the last of September. The bunches are a splendid sight when well opened to the sun.

"For running wild over trees and rocks and barns nothing surpasses August Giant, which is also a really good grape. Martha is a good running mate.

Of newer grapes Colerain (white) is very promising; Undine I like very much; and the Campbell grape, when it gets on the market, may be counted on as a great acquisition. It is as early as Moore, as good as Worden, and very hardy."

WINTER PROTECTION OF GRAPES.

On the question of laying down grapes or not laying them down the pros and cons seem so evenly balanced that many hesitate. Perhaps we may be helped a little in our decision by Mr. E. P. Powell's experience.

In his "May Notes for 1896," he says:

"The exploits of the winter of 1895-'96 surpassed the records of certainly thirty years. All grapes not laid down to the ground are killed back—most of them killed to the ground. The exceptions are Pocklington, Moore's Early, Grein's No. 7 and some Wordens.

"The lesson of the winter is that we must incessantly guard againt the cold if we expect to succeed with horticulture. The one night that did the mischief dropped the thermometer to more than thirty degrees below zero. This was a still, dry night. We need more moisture, more windbreaks, and more covering. All grapes that were laid down have come through in fairly good condition. I find that the shelter of pines and spruces proved favorable. My son had found that no advantage had accrued from staking down grapes for several years, and, after consultation, we left most of them on the trellises. The result is a loss of tons of grapes."

This wholesale destruction happened in central New

York two years ago. A similar "exploit" is liable to occur here in Wisconsin any year, for certainly Wisconsin is seldom outdone by New York in the coldness of her winters.

THE GOVERNMENT FREE SEED DISTRIBUTION.

The proposals for furnishing seed to the Department of Agriculture for free distribution were received at the office of the Secretary, Friday, October 15. The Henry Phillips Seed Co., of Toledo, Ohio, has been awarded the contract, as the law directs that it shall be given to the lowest bidder. The following is a partial list of firms with the figures at which they proposed to furnish seed:

Cameron Seed Co.	$143,983 48
Robert Buist Co.	118,695 21
Harndon Seed Co.	110,865 74
Madison Seed Co.	99,312 50
Western Seed Co.	96,482 99
D. Landreth & Son	96,092 37
J. C. Vaughan	93,552 48
J. Breck & Sons	84,500 00
W. Atlee Burpee & Co.	89,190 37
L. L. May & Co.	86,190 07
P. Henderson & Co.	87,473 98
H. W. Buckbee & Co.	86,210 84
Sioux City Seed Co.	82,451 03
Brown Bag Filling Co.	81,844 88
T. W. Wood & Sons	81,807 34
Jerome B. Rice & Co.	80,280 87
J. M. Thorburn & Co.	75,243 56
Henry Phillips Seed Co., Toledo, O.	69,420 88

So it seems the "Free Seed" hoax is to be continued another year. Again the farmer will meekly pay taxes to buy seeds which nobody wants, in order that philanthropic congressmen may have something to "freely distribute!" "Are ye men, and will ye suffer this?"

One could be more tolerant of this humbug if the seeds were sent to the extremely needy; but after many careful

inquiries I have yet to find one of the "submerged tenth" to whom seeds have been sent. They are mailed to men of more or less influence and of more or less means,—men, for the most part, who prefer to select their own seeds and who fling these out-of-date Congressional varieties into the fire or feed them to their chickens.

On the table beside me are the flower-seeds sent out a year or two ago, four-o'clocks, nolana, white clarkia, white sweet William, nemophila, common poppy, tall calendula, single zinnias,—a "choice" collection, so little in demand that most seedsmen would be glad to sell their entire stock for a merely nominal price.

Why do not you farmers put a stop to this farce? Why does not every man of you write to your representative in Congress requesting him to send you no more seeds and asking him hereafter to vote against this useless waste of money?

"IN HOLIDAY ATTIRE."

"They know where the berries are thickest
On the long, thorny blackberry vines;
They know where the apples hang ripest,
And where the red 'Bitter-sweet' twines."
—From "Little Brown Hands"—Anon.

Just south of "Hiram Smith Hall" on the University grounds at Madison, stands a noble specimen of the white pine (Pinus Strobus). Any lover of beauty in nature will remark about and stop to admire the symmetry and graceful carriage of this particular tree, if, as with the writer, while visiting the "Dairy School," he has occasion to pass it.

In stopping to admire at leisure, I found a surprise awaiting me. Old "Mother Nature" had been at work decorating, as only Nature can, this majestic pine for the Christmas holidays. There, deftly woven among the branches, clung a vine which had climbed upwards over a dozen feet, during the summer time, when unobserved and

screened by other foliage. Now it was very conspicuous, adorned with bright red berries, which shone the more brilliantly on that frosty morning because of standing in such bold relief against the dark green of the pine-needles and the blanket of downy snow that, during the night previous, had settled gently down to earth, covering the pine branches as with glittering frost.

Close by the tree stood a telephone pole, a necessary adjunct to the convenience of man, but an unsightly thing in the eyes of Nature. So she instructed this vine to cover it, and the vine was doing so at a rapid rate; running up an old wire stay of the pole, it had succeeded in gaining the top, and now capped the summit with a crown of berries.

It may be you would like me to give you the name of this vine. If so, know that it was Bitter-sweet or Celastrus Scandens, so common and yet so pretty.

While traveling through Waukesha and Washington Counties some time ago, the writer noticed rods and rods of old stone fence, literally scarlet with the berries of the Bitter-sweet; and in the northern part of the State, the pine-stump fences become marvels of beauty when covered with this same vine.

Such a hardy, climbing shrub, with so many good qualities, should figure more prominently in our horticultural plantings. It should be to the American people what the holly is to the English. If the branches adorned with berries are cut in the late fall or early winter, they may be dried with berries intact and they make beautiful decorations for indoor Christmas festivities.

PRIMROSE.

"What help is a comrade's bugle blast
When the peril of Alpine heights is past?
What need the spurring pæan roll
When the runner is safe beyond the goal?
Nay, if thou hast a word of cheer,
Speak it while I am alive to hear."

FLORAL NOTES.

A writer on floriculture recommends the Japanese Morning Glory as a window-vine for winter blooming. If it can be successfully grown in-doors what a charming window decoration it must make with its unique foliage and brilliant flowers! We once planted some seeds of the common morning glory in a hanging-basket, training the young vines up the cords by which the basket was suspended. They were in bloom at Christmas and were beautiful, although both flowers and foliage were not more than half as large as when grown out of doors.

Among the new things for the window, Asparagus Sprengerii, while not so dainty and graceful as its predecessor, A. plumosus, may prove even more generally satisfactory. It seems a very easy plant to grow, makes good show of foliage, and is of an unusually fresh, lively, green color.—Ex.

HYACINTHS IN WATER.

Many people are afraid to try Hyacinths in water, just because they never have done so; but it is a very simple matter thus to bloom them. One needs good bulbs, to be sure, but it is not necessary to insist upon the very highest priced exhibition bulbs. When glasses are used, they should be filled with water to such a point that the bases of the bulbs rest in the water. This height of the water should be held as nearly as possible till bloom is past. The dark room for root formation is as necessary as when potting in earth, but the period may be shortened to ten days or two weeks. As the water becomes impure, the bulbs may be taken out and rinsed carefully, the glasses cleansed, and fresh water supplied. The use of glasses is desirable many times both because the bloom may be advanced faster in water, and because the glasses present a better appearance than do pots. It should be remembered that gas light is one of the worst enemies of Hyacinths in water. Of

course they have not quite the resistant power of those grown more naturally in earth. The choice of varieties, too, is a matter of moment among the doubles.—Ex.

ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

The old Teutonic and Saxon races in Central and Northern Europe, before the introduction and spread of Christianity, had a great veneration for trees. They would never willingly damage them. Under large trees, especially old oaks, the great councils were held and judgment given; and the graves of this people were found in groves—they always being buried under the roots of a tree. This was the result of the superstition that their gods lived in those trees. In the linden tree Berchta dwelt, a benign spirit who took charge of the babies, and rocked their cradles when the nurses fell asleep; in the oak, Donar, the thunder god; in the willows, all sorts of spirits; in the elder trees, the dwarfs. Whenever the festivals of these gods were celebrated, their trees were decorated with lights, wreaths, and *questen* (tassels), and offerings were hung in the branches, which, however, were plundered again when the festival was over, the gods being supposed only to appropriate the best. —Sunday-school Times.

MISTLETOE AND HOLLY.

Year after year Christmas comes and goes, its joys and merrymaking losing no whit of interest and sentiment for young or old.

The day would hardly seem like Christmas without the hanging of Christmas greens, and though a greater variety is offered in the way of decorations than formerly, those are still most liked and used that bear out the old practices and significance; and chief among them are the mistletoe and holly, whose very names carry one back to the days of ancient English cheer at yule-tide, with wassail-bowl, yule-log, and joyous merrymaking.

The most favored mistletoe comes from across seas, but

some is sent from Canada and the South, where, particularly in Texas, it grows in large clumps on the live-oak trees, always to the latter's gradual destruction; for, being a parasite, it saps the oak's life-blood, flourishing luxuriantly the while. It is not so artistic in appearance as its English cousin, the leaves more commonplace, and the berries smaller and poorer in quality, though more in quantity. Strange to say, the Texas mistletoe, like the prophet in his own country, is not greatly prized at home, and at few of the Christmas festivities does it make part of the decoration; while in all other quarters a cluster of the oddly shaped green leaves and opaque white berries must almost of necessity be suspended in the doorway or from the chandelier when Christmas comes in, and it never fails to cause the same jesting and merriment; for a kiss stolen under the mistletoe is one's right, and the pilferer cannot with justice receive rebuff.

The English holly, too, is finer in quality than that grown on American shores; the leaves are a better green, and the berries larger; and before the holiday season sets in, great hampers of it are shipped from the English ports to delight American eyes and hearts. An attractive manner of using it is to tie big bunches with long satin ribbon loops and ends, matching in shade the hue of the berries, and place them over pictures or mantel-shelf, or fasten against the wall, especially in some picturesque nook or corner. Underneath the mantel, when there is no fire-place, the space may be banked with masses of the spiny leaves and bright berries; jars or vases may be filled with them, while holly wreaths and ropes are another form of decoration, very effective both in large and small apartments.

—N. W. Advocate.

'Twas Ever Thus:—

The rain it falls upon the just,
And, too, upon the unjust fellows;
But more upon the just because
The unjust have the just's umbrellas.

—Judge.

A PAGE FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS.

By the Editor.

A merry Christmas to you, boys and girls! We wish you the merriest kind of a Christmas, with plenty of presents, plenty of fun, plenty of "goodies," and, best of all, "peace and good-will."

What do you think happened last Christmas? A big girl, a grown-up girl old enough to be a young lady, went up-stairs and sulked all day and wouldn't eat any dinner, because her sister had a present of a gold watch and she didn't.

And a boy who had just been to church, singing the song of the angels, "peace on earth, good-will toward men," came home and struck his brother because he had knocked the head off their snow man!

Here is a true story about a wee bit of a girl who was sometimes sick and had to take thoroughwort tea, which is very bitter. When Christmas came there was a bowl of thoroughwort tea in the pantry, ready for emergencies, and there was a large stocking—borrowed for the occasion—full of figs and juicy oranges, hanging by the chimney. Mamma, anxious to have her little girl generous, asked, "Now what are you going to give poor, sick Mrs. Wardwell for Christmas?" A moment of profound thought, then the little one answered, "I will give poor, sick Mrs. Wardwell my foroughwort tea!"

Here is a story which I clipped from a newspaper. I think it must be about one of the boys who reads the Horticulturist:

A MODERN KNIGHT.

At a village shop the other day a plain, old country woman drove up and stopped. Her horse, though not young, was restless, and she had trouble in making it stand. Men and women passed by without a glance or thought.

Finally a schoolboy came along who took in the situation. Stepping to the head of the horse, he held it by the bridle and encouraged the driver to alight. Then he tied the Rocinante. Not satisfied with that, he helped the grateful woman unload some bundles from the vehicle and carry them into the shop. That done, the lad lifted his cap with a courtly air, smiled in reply to her thanks, and sprang away to rejoin his companions. To one onlooker he seemed not less chivalrous than did Sir Walter Raleigh on a famous occasion. To the knight the presence of his sovereign had an inspiration. The lad had none other than the innate kindness and gentle breeding of his own royal nature.

HORTICULTURE AT THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR.

J. L. Herbst.

It was the good fortune of the writer to be in attendance at the South Dakota State Fair held at Yankton the last week in September, and see the rapid strides the people of that State are making in the growing of all farm products, and especially in the culture of fruits and vegetables.

In a State which, in the general opinion of eastern people, is a cold, level country without any winter protection, the cold, sweeping winds continually blowing, and blizzards a common occurrence, they raise fine apples, plums, grapes, and, I am told, small fruits of all kinds. It was too late to have any of the small fruits on exhibition, but a talk with the President and Secretary of the South Dakota Horticultural Society convinced me that strawberries, black and red raspberries, blackberries, currants and gooseberries are being raised successfully, on a small scale, in various parts of the State.

Most of the exhibits were by Counties. Those attracting the most attention were the exhibits of Sanborn and Clay Counties. H. C. Warner, President of the State Horticultural Society, had charge of the Sanborn County exhibit and he deserved credit for the manner in which it was arranged. E. D. Cowles, Secretary of the State Society, had charge of the Fruit Exhibit, and I am indebted to him for the many favors shown me. I learned from Mr. Cowles that the people of South Dakota can raise small fruits successfully and that they are doing it every year. No one grower has a very large acreage. It is for this reason, probably, that they are successful. They have small plantations and can give them the best of care. Most of the successful growers give winter protection. I learn that there is not much winter killing of cane there, and I lay it to the fact that when cold weather sets in in South Dakota it continues throughout the winter. In our State we have too many changes, too many extremes of temperature, and

this we know is a serious drawback to the successful growing of small fruits.

South Dakota growers of apples and plums are not ashamed of the fruit they produce, and they need not be, either, for I saw as fine an exhibit of certain varieties of apples as I ever saw on our own State Society's tables. Plum culture is very successful with South Dakota growers. They raise fine fruit of both native and foreign varieties.

A. Carpenter, of Vermillion, had some fine specimens of Duchess, Haas, Wealthy, Utter's Red, Seek-no-Further and Walbridge. In crabs he exhibited Forbes, Minnesota, Whitney, Alaska and Virginia. In plums Mr. Carpenter showed some fine fruit of De Soto, Weaver, Barnsbach, Alson, and Florida.

Mr. Carpenter has not been successful with top-working trees. He uses root grafting. When questioned in regard to top-working the Virginia Crab, he said: I can't use it because it blights too badly."

He has tried various stocks but finds he is most successful with root grafting.

Outside of the South Dakota exhibits in fruit was the show of Jewell Nursery Co., of Lake City, Minn., in charge of John Nordin. They showed eighty-seven varieties of apples and eleven of grapes, besides a collection of plums, and some fruit of the Loudon raspberry, Red Jacket gooseberry and Sharpless strawberry in bottles. Apples which deserved special attention were specimens of Okabena, Wolf River, McMahan, Wealthy, Magog Red Streaked, and several Thompson seedlings. In crabs were shown, Whitney, Gideon, Dartt, Hesper, and Windsor. In plums I found some good specimens of Aitken, Wolf, Hawkeye, De Soto, Weaver and a seedling of Miner. Grapes were in splendid condition, and such varieties as Concord, Worden, Moore's Early, Delaware, Lady, Martha and Rogers' 9, 15, and 39, were at their best.

I visited the Whiting Nursery situated out from the city of Yankton, for the purpose of getting acquainted with the varieties grown there. I find in the small fruits, apples

and plums, about the same as we grow in our State. I found the Ancient Briton, Marlboro, and Loudon unknown to any extent.

Irrigation is being used to a considerable extent in some localities. At the Whiting Nursery an artesian well is continually flowing and the water is carried in furrows among the young cuttings and seedlings of ornamental trees and shrubs, as well as among the small fruits.

Sparta, Wis.

ANNUAL MEETING OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AT DE KALB.

Editor of Wisconsin Horticulturist:

I have returned from my visit as delegate from the Wisconsin Horticultural Society to the annual meeting of the Northern Illinois Horticultural Society, with notes suggesting enough material to more than fill one number of the Horticulturist; but as your space is valuable will sketch only a condensed synopsis of the proceedings.

The Hall in which the meeting was held was beautifully decorated with plants, festoons of Lycopodium and wreaths of holly.

There was a fair showing of apples of good quality, several fine lots of sweet potatoes, and a fine exhibit of over twenty varieties of common potatoes, besides many seedlings raised by Mr. Read of Grand Rapids, Wis.

Among the leading thoughts of the convention the two most prominent were desire to reach more persons with the benefits of the society and inquiry for hardy winter varieties of apples. Horticulture in the Public Schools received a fair share of attention in both the Secretary's report and the President's address, resulting in the appointment of a committee with President Hartwell as chairman, to appear at the next meeting of the Illinois Educational Association to plan for definite action in regard to horticultural education in the schools.

The papers were all very good, and some of the lead-

ing points which I now think of were as follows: Emma Groh of Dixon, while urging farmers to grow their own garden vegetables, thinks it not advisable for them to try to market the surplus, for they cannot get so good a price as the regular growers with an established reputation and line of trade. They unsettle the market with but little profit to themselves.

C. G. Bodman of De Kalb, looking at fruit and vegetables from a dealer's standpoint, says that the home-grown product because of its freshness crowds the shipped-in product out of the market. The grower should deal either directly with consumers or else only with the middle man. It breaks down prices to sell to the consumer as low as to the grocer. Honest packing and measure pay in the long run. Better to hold back produce sometimes and not congest the markets.

Spraying plum trees with London purple was advocated by several, and experiences mentioned seeming to show that this spraying had caused good crops of plums.

Keeping the codlin moth from late varieties of apples is still an unsolved problem. Bandages as well as spraying must be made use of.

Corrosive sublimate, two ounces to sixteen gallons of water, will prevent scab in potatoes, if seed are soaked in the solution one hour. Children have been poisoned by eating green currants sprayed with Paris Green; hellebore is just as effective and not dangerous.

Jennie M. Wilson of Mear's, Mich., in prize essay on Horticultural Education in Schools, said she has found in her teaching that scholars become very much interested, and has found it helped in her general school work.

E. S. Fursman of El Paso, Ill., gave reasons to show that the farmer growing his own fruit helps himself and family, intellectually, morally, socially, physically and financially. The farmer who says he can raise other crops and buy his fruit eats dried peaches with the skins on. Can get a crop of cherries or grapes in less time than he can raise a colt for market; can have currants and other shrub

berries in less time than he can breed a dairy, so time is no hindrance. Deal directly with nurseryman and save expense of supporting the tree peddler. Write out your order, get wholesale prices and do not trouble the nurseryman with a visit; his time is valuable.

Would cultivate strawberries ten times, the season of planting. To increase gooseberry bushes, break down some bushes with the feet in July, cover with soil and next spring dig up a lot of gooseberry bushes.

Cultivation of orchards was advocated by Mr. Cotta of Freeport, following this with buckwheat late in the season.

Col. Parker, President of the Cook County Normal School in Chicago, formerly of Quincy, Mass., says that all children are born with a love of the beautiful, which continues through life if not suppressed by education or environment. Told of where flowers were brought to a school in the slum district of a large city, and one girl ran home, soon appearing with clean face and hands that she might feel fit to touch the beautiful lilies. Would have education made practical by illustrations from nature as far as possible.

Every child should understand the sacredness and dignity of labor. Jesus Christ, the greatest Teacher on earth, was a worker.

WILLIAM TOOLE.

Baraboo, Wis.

HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION INSTEAD OF A CHARITY BALL.

A most remarkable horticultural exhibition was held in New York in November, the proceeds to be used for the poor. It was held in the new hotel, the Astoria, whose banqueting halls, ball-room and theater were filled with the choicest plants all contributed by amateurs distinguished in social or political annals. There were some choice exhibits from the White House conservatory, sent by President McKinley, and from the private conservatory of Secretary of Interior Bliss. The Vanderbilts, Thomas A. Edison, Whitelaw Reid, Miss Helen Gould, John J. Rocke-

feller, the Havemeyers, Mrs. Elliott F. Shepard, James Gordon Bennett and other notables were also well represented. The public conservatories of Pittsburg and St. Louis also sent extensive exhibits.

MICHIGAN STATE MEETING.

The Michigan State Horticultural Society held its Annual Meeting, at Ithaca, Dec. 1. The old board of officers was re-elected. Among the speakers was Prof. M. B. Waite of the United States Department of Agriculture, his subject being "Diseases of the Pear and Apple." The Michigan Fruit Grower says of this lecture:

"After having come from Washington, it is a matter of regret that so distinguished an investigator and so pleasant a speaker could not have been listened to by every member of the society. Professor Waite illustrated his lecture by a series of stereopticon views.

'Orchard and Nursery Inspection,' by Prof. U. P. Hedrick, state nursery inspector, and 'The Need of Nursery Inspection Laws' by Mr. O. E. Fifield, of Benton Harbor, gave two views of the new nursery inspection law, which from its operation for several months past, is known to be instrumental in keeping infested nursery stock out of our State."

HOW THE TEASEL CROP IS RAISED AND USED.

By George Ethelbert Walsh.

One of the most interesting plants raised in this country, and to the farmers of Onondaga County, New York, one of the most profitable, is a tall, thistle-like growth, which is scientifically known as *Dipsacus Fullonum.* The use to which this plant is put is almost as curious as its peculiar appearance, and nine tenths of the people who wear clothes prepared by the plant's seed-case spines know nothing of it. It seems strange that inventors could not devise

a machine that would raise the nap on cloth fabrics as successfully as the delicate burs of the teasel plants; but such has been the case for centuries. To-day the gigging machine is said to do the work as well as the teasels, and that the plant is used much less than formerly; but for all that woolen factories continue to buy the annual crop of teasels at a fair price.

When the early settlers from Somersetshire, England, took up their abode in the central part of New York State, they appreciated the richness of the soil and its value for raising teasel. They turned their attention early to the cultivation of this crop, and considerable quantities were exported to England. Since that early day down to the present Onondaga County has practically monopolized this farm crop, and nearly all the teasel raised in this country comes somewhere from this circumscribed region. Of late years successful attempts have been made to raise good teasels in Oregon, but so far this competition has affected the market but little.

The supply of teasels varies all the way from twenty to forty million pounds a year, and some seasons this crop pays much higher prices than others. The price paid at the woolen factories for good teasels naturally varies as much as the production, and the range is all the way from ten to twenty-five cents per pound. At the latter price the farmers make a good living; but when teasels bring only ten cents a pound the profits are barely worth considering. The present dull conditions prevailing in our woolen factories have injured the outlook for teasels as much as for any other farm product, and last season the whole crop sold at ten cents per pound.

The use of the teasels can better be understood when the bur of a plant is examined. Nature has formed perfect cylinders out of the burs, set at regular intervals with sharp, delicate but tough points; and when they are revolved by machinery they raise the nap of cloth with all the precision of the most perfect machine. It has been the aim of inventors for a century to make a machine that

would give a rough, shaggy finish to chinchilla and similar fabrics; but it has been uphill work to get ahead of the teasels. The tough little hooks of the teasel are not easily broken, and they have more elasticity than any needle invented by man. Their points are finer than the most delicate cambric needle.

The teasel crop is planted from seed, which is drilled into the soil similar to wheat, only the rows are about three feet apart. The richest soil is necessary for the plants to do their best, and woolen mills are very particular about the quality of the teasels they buy. The inferior, half-grown teasels are almost dead stock upon the farmer's hands. He may raise poor potatoes and wheat, and receive some profitable remuneration for them; but unless his teasels come up to the lowest grade established by the factories, he can do nothing better than burn them. There is no possible market for them. The trade allows three assortments of the teasels. The first grade is called the "kings," and is composed of the largest and most perfect heads. The second grade consists of the branching stems, and sells as "mediums," while the third and last grade is called the "buttons," which are used for cheap, shoddy goods. Prices are paid according to the grading, and while "kings" may bring twenty cents a pound, the "buttons" will be disposed of with difficulty at ten cents or even less.

After seeding the plants are left to grow until they are tall enough for thinning out. It takes three seasons to bring the teasel crop to proper maturity, and consequently many farmers do not take kindly to it; but the farmers in Onondaga County cultivate other crops in the rows between the teasel plants, and thus make a double profit from the soil. Corn is a favorite crop to raise in the same field with teasel, and in the summer time fields of corn and teasel may be seen mingling together. The third year of the growth, however, finds the teasel plants so high that they shadow the ground pretty well, and very few crops can be raised in or between the rows. The plants are large, sturdy ones, and they branch out in every direction, producing large

serrated leaves, and blossoms resembling those of the thistle. Such a field of maturing teasels is very attractive on a spring day, and quite a decided odor hovers over the place.

The trimming, curing, sorting and packing of the teasel crop requires almost as much labor as tobacco. The factories all demand that the teasels be prepared and sorted in this way, and the farmer has his hands full with his one crop. The cutting begins in the latter half of July, when the seed cases on the central stem become ripe. When the plants are cut they are carted to a barn prepared especially for the purpose, and they are piled upon scaffolds eight to ten deep to dry. It takes from two to five weeks for them to dry. —The Independent.

SHOWY STRAWBERRIES.

Garden and Forest notes that the showiest strawberries seen in New York City for several years were immense specimens of the Mary, from Essex County, N. J., and a new seedling from Virginia. The former was of a deep, rich color, fairly regular in size, the largest measuring six inches round at the stem end. Twenty of the berries filled a quart box and sold at thirty cents. The Virginia seedling was equally large, perhaps less even in form, lighter and more brilliant in color and less firm. Great American is another beautiful berry; large, remarkably even and regular in form and of a rich color. It sold for twenty cents a quart.

"You can kill the mice in the orchard now by feeding them wheat that has been cooked in water in which strychnine has been dissolved. Drop a table-spoonful at the root of the tree or under the corners of the rail fence or other places where the mice congregate the most, or where you see their runways. Gophers may be killed by dropping in their burrows pieces of potatoes in which a little of the poison has been placed. As spring approaches, use the cats on the place for rifle targets, and thus protect the more valuable birds. Birds—no worms. No birds—worms."

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Please do not neglect to call the attention of your boys and girls to the Christmas page, written especially for them, and to the Christmas supplement, also designed for them.

With sincere sorrow we learn of the death, on Dec. 11, of M. C. Bushnell of Omro, who so hospitably entertained us at his home during the summer meeting last June. Mr. Bushnell was a native of Vermont, but had been a resident of Omro since 1846. Was a member of the Legislature in '67 and '68.

Dr. Geo. Horn, president of the American Entomological Society, died in Philadelphia Nov. 25.

Our vice-president, Mr. Toole, visited President Hartwell of the Northern Illinois Society, at his home in Dixon, before going to De Kalb to attend the annual meeting.

Treasurer R. J. Coe was the delegate from our Society to the Northeastern Iowa Horticultural Convention held at Forest City. We expect to hear from him next month.

Mr. J. L. Herbst of Sparta has been appointed Superintendent of the grounds of the South Dakota Hospital for the Insane, at Yankton.

Prof. Otto Lugger, State Entomologist of Minnesota, spent the summer in Europe visiting many old friends and becoming intimately acquainted with several new bugs. We should like to see the pictures of these insects at Madison this winter and listen to Prof. Lugger's graphic description of their haunts and habits and the "human nature" they display.

Prof. N. E. Hansen of the South Dakota Agricultural College is in Northern Russia studying hardy fruits with the hope of finding varieties adapted to Dakota.

Our holiday supplement is from the Nature Study Publishing Co., 277 Dearborn St., Chicago. Have you seen their beautiful monthly magazine called "Birds?" Each number contains ten colored pictures of birds, similar to

our supplement, with description and anecdotes,—a fine Christmas present for your boy or girl. Price $1.50 per year. A bound volume of six of the magazines, containing sixty birds and descriptions, $1.25 postpaid.

The Orange Judd Farmer advocates the holding of a great International Corn Exposition for the sake of inducing the world to eat more corn meal. Secretary Wilson expresses interest in the project, yet it is his opinion that the most profitable way of disposing of corn is to convert it into poultry, pork, beef and butter.

"If the cow-milking machine becomes a success, we will make the butter of the world in the United States, furnish the British people with the $65,000,000 worth they are now buying annually and drive the Danish people out of the market." SECRETARY WILSON.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Wm. Toole we have had the pleasure of reading "Uncle Robert's Visit," written by Col. F. W. Parker and Nellie Lathrop Helm, and published by D. Appleton & Co. The book was prepared for boys and girls of the Third and Fourth Grades in school, but like the Rollo Books, it interests older persons as well. Under Uncle Robert's direction the children draw a map of the farm and a plan for Susie's garden, observe birds and flowers and learn to study nature. It is a charming little book for farmers' boys and girls, pleasantly blending instruction with entertainment.

"In cold weather always warm the horses' bits before putting them into the horses' mouths, or else try them on your own tongue first and see how you like it."

All who have suggestions to make regarding the winter meeting of the State Society should send them in time for the January issue of the Horticulturist, as the February number will not be out until after the meeting. Send copy for the January number during the first week of the month.

Who will be the first to reply to the suggestions in Mr. Tuttle's "Horticultural Items?"

ANTIDOTES FOR IVY POISONING.

Poison Ivy (*Rhus toxicodendron*) is known also as three-leaved ivy and in some localities as Poison Oak. In growth it much resembles the harmless Virginia Creeper or American Ivy (*Ampelopsis quinquefolia*). To avoid mistaking one for the other, remember that the Poison Ivy has but three leaflets on a stem, while the Virginia Creeper has five. Children distinguish them as "three-leaved ivy" and "five-leaved ivy." The Poison Ivy bears clusters of small smooth berries, greenish white when ripe.

This poisonous plant wherever found is a menace to the comfort, if not to the life, of the horticulturist, his family and his employees; hence it may be well, at this season when our pages are not crowded, to give some remedies for its baneful effects, which can be kept for future reference. A writer in American Gardening gives remedy I: I have not seen published my mother's remedy for the poisoning, so take the liberty of sending it to you, thinking it may prove as great a godsend to some one that is easily poisoned by the Ivy, as it has been to one of my own family. It is the broad leaf Plantain, Plantago major; make a strong tea of the leaves. Take two tablespoonfuls several times a day; also bathe affected parts with the tea.

One member of our family could never go near the Ivy without being affected, twice being dangerously poisoned. After we learned about using Plantain as an antidote, never was she again seriously poisoned, and also learned from experience that if she took a sponge bath of the tea and used it internally for 24 hours after she had been near or through Poison Ivy, that she would not feel any effects of poisoning at all.

II. Recipe: Take bluestone in a stoneware vessel and pour boiling water on it, so that some of the bluestone will remain undissolved; when cold keep in a bottle, scratch the blisters open and bathe. The second application usually cures.

III. Take the clay usually used for red brick, dry it in

the sun, until it can be powdered and run through a sieve; mix with hot water until of the consistency of putty; apply this clay-mud directly to the poisoned surface. The powdered clay must be kept in an air-tight jar. A similar poultice made of fullers' earth is also good.

IV. Hot water, as hot as can be borne. It may not work with all, scarcely any remedy does, but the man who told me of it had tried about every other remedy, and by accident discovered the benefit of hot water. Now as soon as he discovers that he has been poisoned he applies the hot water with a sponge or cloth. The first application stops all itching for a while. A few repetitions of the application stop it completely.

V. Wash the poisoned surface with sweet spirits of nitre three or four times a day.

G. M. Stratton affirms that the poison of this plant can be carried in the clothing, citing an instance of a gardener who handled it without ill effects to himself, but would take the influence home in his clothes and his wife suffered martyrdom in consequence. The same writer states that clothing which one has worn during an attack of the poisoning, if reworn without washing, even after having been laid aside several weeks, may cause a renewal of the attack.

New York City pays annually for flowers more than the entire rye, or buckwheat crop of the whole country is worth; nearly as much as the total annual imports of tea; more than the value of all the lead mined; and nearly as much as the natural gas production is valued at. This, in most of its phases, is strictly a luxury; but it is a luxury the indulgence in which, by those who can afford it, does only good. Its effect every way is beneficial. It gives profitable employment to a large and very worthy class of gardeners, and the product cannot but have a good effect on those who spend money in this way.

Farmer's Home.

WISCONSIN STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

* * *

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