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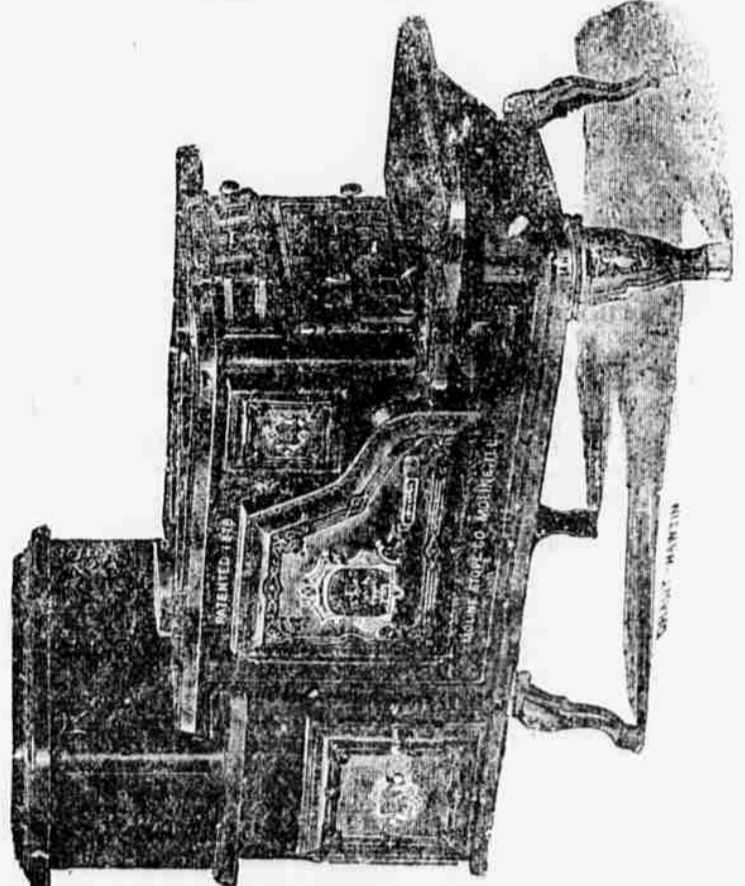
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A MONSTER WATERMELON.

The Remarkable Patch Which a Georgia Farmer is Cultivating.

Correspondence Atlanta Constitution.

STONE MOUNTAIN, August 23.—As a general thing, it is difficult to grow a watermelon in the South. The soil is so rich that the plant grows too luxuriantly, and the fruit is small and insipid. But one man in Georgia has succeeded in growing a watermelon of such size and quality that it has become famous. This man is Mr. Miller, of Stone Mountain. He has raised a watermelon which weighs over seventy pounds, and it is expected that by the time it ripens it will weigh over a hundred pounds. The melon is of the "Cuban Queen" variety and is short and "square shouldered." In appearance it resembles the rattle-snake melon, except that it is not so long drawn out, being shorter and longer round. The largest watermelon that Mr. Miller has ever raised heretofore was a sixty-four pounder, which was raised a year or two ago, and which when cut into sections like a barrel-hoop and the pulp removed, left a rind through which the body of a large man could easily be slipped. In fact, your correspondent saw Mr. Miller slip a section of the rind over his head and body. This feat was easily accomplished although Mr. Miller weighs in the neighborhood of two hundred pounds. The next largest that he ever raised was a sixty-two pound melon, which was raised in the year preceding that in which the sixty-four pound melon was raised. This steadily increases in size of his melons, from a thirty-two to a probable seventy-five pound melon, leads one to wonder where the end will be. Your correspondent asked Mr. Miller to give him the secret of his success. Taking the scribe by the arm he led him into the patch, where the vines ran in every direction, and the bees buzzed about the yellow blooms while the melons looked lazy, as their backs, streaked with green and yellow white lay upturned to the sun. The ground was covered with straw, and the finest melons were just visible through the straw that was piled about them to hide them from the burning rays of the August sun. Beside each of the largest melons were sticks stuck into the ground to show how fast the melon was growing and when it had stopped growing—an evidence that it was ripe. As Mr. Miller passed through the patch he reached down and "pulled" a shabby looking specimen about twice the size of a man's head. The newspaper man noticed, also, that there were quite a number of smaller melons lying around loose in the patch, and accordingly inquired the cause of such an apparently wanton destruction of melons.

"If I get two melons to the vine I am satisfied," replied Mr. Miller. "I try to make my vines bring me an average of two melons, but I will not take even two at the end of their lives. I pulled that melon because it is dwarfish. It would never be anything itself, but it would damage the big melon you see over there near the root of the vine. I believe in the survival of the fittest, therefore the bad melons must go the way of the dodo. There is no secret about it. The old farmers shake their heads and say there is some secret about my way of cultivating my crops, but I tell you if there is any secret it is the secret of hard work and common sense. I go into this piece of ground to plant my melon patch, and I dig the holes ten feet apart and about two inches deep. Into each hole I put a quart of manure, two or three feet across. I put a shovelful of stable manure. I then go around the hole with my shovel and throw in the top earth, which I thoroughly mix up with the manure in the hole. Then I plant the seed, and when the vines come on I prune them and take care of them in a careful, sensible sort of way. I know by my own experience that I could not teach it to you in a dozen years, unless I could show you the vines when they needed pruning. Then, as I told you, I pull the sorry melons and throw them away so that they will not be a useless drain on the vines."

"Do you slip melons away?" "I will not say that I slip them here at Stone Mountain. What is the use in shipping melons when I can take them down the street here and sell them at from fifty cents to one dollar a piece?" Young man, let me give you a secret that is a secret. I can tell you how I sell my melons for three or four times as much as other people get for theirs. People like anything that looks nice. Therefore, when I pull my nice melons—my big-headed melons, you may say—I pack them, stem down, into my wagon-body, as long as one will fit in with just one layer. I pack from looking straw in the bottom and around the sides and on top and when I drive my team into town my melons look fine as they lie in their wagon-body like eggs in a case. I never let a man or boy touch one of them. If a man comes up to buy a melon, I let him look at them and pick out the one that he wants, and I sell it to him, guaranteeing it to be all right, and I have never yet had one brought back to me."

BUCKLE'S ARMO SALVE. THE BEST SALVE IN THE WORLD FOR Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Erysipelas, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all eruptions of the skin. It is guaranteed to give satisfaction or money refunded. Price, 25 cents per box. For sale by C. F. Gooden.

Galena Specimens. A. H. Gaston, of Lucas, Illinois, writes that he has concluded that when such men as Dr. J. A. Warder, E. E. Barney, H. H. Harris, Dr. Furnace, and others interested in tree culture, recommend the catalpa, it must have value. So in the spring of 1881 he planted some seed, which was up in ten days. The weather was so hot and dry that buds and potatoes dried and faded on their sandy and gravelly ground, but the catalpa grew right along. Those that were planted some feet apart and well hood

grow from three to five feet high and an inch in diameter. The roots are fibrous and extend from two to three feet first summer. This second year they have grown from eight to ten feet, with body thick as a hoe or fork handle, and are still growing vigorously. If one wants to see a specimen, he will send the express on the stick, he will send a young catalpa. He does this to prove that he is not telling a fish story.

He has heard that catalpa will grow from cuttings. He has proved it by himself. Last fall he buried cuttings in the ground to callous. Last April he set them out. Some of them have made a growth of two or three feet, which is much greater than that made from seed planted this spring. He says now he is convinced that fields may be planted to corn, and when the corn appears above the ground, the cuttings of catalpa may be stuck into alternate hills. The cultivation of the corn crop will work the catalpa sufficiently, and the corn crop will pay for the planting of the land to catalpa. He suggests that large plantings of this most valuable timber can be made more cheaply the first year with cuttings and some other crop.

This seems feasible where men wish to put corn land into timber-growing. In Ohio we have many bare side-hills and gullies that can be put into timber, but not into corn. We are putting a hillside into locust trees this year, and have planted them eight feet apart, with a row of potatoes between. The trees and potatoes have done well so far.

If You are Ruined in health from any cause, especially from the use of any of the thousand nostrums that promise a largely, with long tedious testimonials, have no fear. Resort to Hop Bitters at once, and in a short time you will have the most robust and blooming health.

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Restores an exhausted nursing-mother to full strength and gives abundant sustenance for her child.

Strengthens the muscles and nerves, enriches the blood.

Overcomes weakness, wakefulness, and lack of energy.

Keeps off all fevers, and other ailments.

Will infuse new life into the weakest invalid.

BROWN'S IRON BITTERS will have a better tonic effect upon any one who needs "bracing up," than any medicine made.

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