

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th February 1861.*

The young plants grew vigorously and appeared remarkably healthy. When about six weeks old, their height then averaging twelve inches, they were transplanted.

The ground selected was sandy in some parts, with a substratum of clay; and in part consisted of rich vegetable mould.

The different species of *Gossypium*, especially the exotics, throw out a tap root of some length. We therefore had holes dug three feet square and nearly four in depth. These were eight feet apart and filled in with earth to within six inches of the surface. When there were no rain the plants were watered every second day; but often they had attained a height of eight or ten inches every third day.

When the plants were four months old, their height varying from four to six feet, and having fine, broad, healthy-looking leaves, and vigorous stems, they blossomed and podded; but in about six weeks the blossoms and pods, with the exception of two, withered and dropped. These two matured, and the bolls looked healthy. We enclose the Cotton obtained from one which weighs twenty-two grains.

The staple is long and apparently fine, and but very slightly adherent to the seeds. Coincidentally with the blossoming of the plants, they were attacked by a grub, which either insinuated itself at the point of union of the leaf with its stalk, or the upper part of the leaf stalk itself, and ate its way downwards. Its presence was indicated by a drooping of all that part of the branch above where it was found. Every morning and evening the branches that were drooping were cut away with a penknife and the plants were thus saved. When the plants were seven months old, their height being then about eight or nine feet, they again blossomed and podded, but only to wither and drop as on the first occasion.

Three months subsequently the same thing occurred. On both these occasions not a single pod arrived at maturity, nor were the plants attacked by grubs a second time.

On the 19th October there was a gale when the plants suffered considerably; several were broken close to the root, and nearly all had a good many branches broken. The height of the plants at this time was as follows; those planted where the soil consisted of vegetable mould were about fourteen feet high, with lateral branches from seven to nine feet in length: the others were about ten feet high, their lateral branches averaging five feet. The distance between the plants, eight feet, was too near. They should not be less than twelve feet apart, sixteen would be better, for the branches become so intimately entwined as to leave no passage between them, and ventilation becomes very much impeded.

Immediately after the gale of the 19th October we had the plants cut down to five feet, and the lateral branches were considerably trimmed. The plants are now flowering for the fourth time; and as the blossoms and pods look promising, we hope there will be a fair yield of Cotton. Continued heavy rain for several days has always acted prejudicially on the flowers and pods, as then they nearly all drop off.

In December 1862 a few seeds were sown in a small plot of ground; these received no watering, but what they obtained from the rains. Their growth has been slow, they look dwarfish, their lateral branches being few and slender. These are now for the first time in flower.

Egyptian Cotton.

Upwards of 3,000 young plants were transplanted from a nursery, to a piece of ground two Cawnies in extent, where holes had been dug three feet square, three deep, and six feet apart; but on account of the proximity of this patch to a salt-water inlet, on all occasions of high tide, it became submerged, and the soil is therefore impregnated with saline matter; but as no other ground was available, we resolved upon raising it about a foot, and throwing up an embankment to keep out the salt-water.

The seeds were sown on the 20th June, and transplanting commenced on the 15th July. The plants grew well, looked very healthy and promising, the salinous nature of the soil not operating detrimentally.

On the 19th October the plants were from two to three feet high, in full blossom, and a large number in fine pod. On this day there was a gale, and an unusual high tide covered nearly the

1. The Board are much obliged to Messrs. Keess and Gibbs for their full and interesting report which will be submitted for the information of Government, and communicated to the Agri-Horticultural Society and to the Chamber of Commerce.

2. The Board beg to be informed of the further results of the experiment with the Peruvian species. The success with the Sea Island variety is very important and encouraging.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

(True Copy.)

Wm. Keess

Acting First Assistant,

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

„ A. Hunter, Esq., M. D., Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society.

„ W. H. Crake, Esq., Chairman Chamber of Commerce.

„ All Collectors.

Exd. J. Wright.

29 / 1864

Govt have perused with much interest the report of Messrs. Keess & Gibbs, for which the Bd will convey to them the acknowledgments of Govt.

18th Feb. 1864

Copy in a letter to Govt. dated 18th June 1864

Copy in a letter to Govt. dated 18th June 1864

Recd. 1864. 20th Dec. 1864

MISCELLANEOUS CIRCULAR, No. IV.

Wm. J. Keess

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REFERENCE.
To All Collectors, &c.

Dated 29th January 1864.
Received 26th Feb.

For of the Bd of Ref. 18th May 64. 1864

Board No. 418.

Submitting copy of a report from Messrs. Keess and Gibbs, forwarded by the Collector of South Arcot, on the results of certain Cotton experiments made by them in the District.

Wm. Keess