

GRAY'S BOTANICAL TEXT BOOK.—The small edition which was printed in June last having been exhausted, a second issue has been published, bearing the date of 1880. In it various typographical errors and small oversights have been corrected. The author will be obliged to botanists who use the book to point out any errors they may detect, that they may be hereafter corrected.

COMMON AND TROUBLESOME WEEDS NEAR SANTA BARBARA, CAL.—Mrs. Bingham, of Sta. Barbara, California, being asked what were the most common and troublesome weeds in that region, responds as follows:

“The most persistent weed, in cultivated grounds, is *Malva borealis*, which grows sometimes eight or ten feet high. It dies during the dry season, where the ground is not irrigated, but whenever the ground is moistened for a few hours, the seeds will germinate.

Solanum nigrum grows everywhere, blooming and bearing fruit the year round; very difficult to eradicate and troublesome.

Brassica nigra covers thousands of acres of pasture land, rendering it almost entirely worthless.

The old Californians have a legend, that when the country was ceded to the United States, the Catholic Fathers were so enraged that they determined to curse the ground, and so scattered broadcast the *Malva* and mustard.

Stellaria media is abundant after the first rains. *Calandrinia Menziesii* is troublesome in wet weather. *Matricaria discoidea* is common. A variety of *Rumex* abounds in wet weather. *Verbena officinalis* is common in damp places all the year.

Lepidium nitidum is common. *Capsella Bursa-pastoris* grows sparingly in some places. *Datura meteloides* is common in some localities. *Silene gallica*, *Marrubium vulgare* and *Erodium cicutarium* are also common. *Erodium moschatum* and *Medicago denticulata* cover large areas and are valuable for pasturage. Along water courses *Plantago major* and *P. lanceolata* are seen in small quantities, and *Nasturtium officinalis* grows in large patches where the ground is moist. *Hemizonia fascicularis* covers uncultivated grounds in dry weather and is very troublesome. Bees make a very poor quality of honey from it. In cultivated grounds in dry weather we have two varieties of *Chenopodium* and two or three of *Ambrosia*, also several other apetalous plants which I cannot name. *Eremocarpus setigerus* is very abundant in some localities in the dry season.

I have given you the most prominent troublesome plants, and if I was as good a botanist as I would like to be, might tell you more.”

Similar information from other districts is solicited.—A. GRAY.



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