CHAPTER XXIX.

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF APPLE GROWING.

"Give fools their gold, and knaves their power,
Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall;
Who sows a field, or trains a flower,
Or plants a tree, is more than all."

The next time Mr. Philips came to see me he took several apples out of his pockets and cut them up with his knife and put them in my feed box and said, "You see, Queen, I have not forgotten about your appetite for apples and how fond you were of them. Now, while you are eating them I will tell you about our seedling apple man's visit to me the next spring after you came away and again last spring. You remember I gave him quite a talk about seedling apples the day before you started east, and you have, no doubt, been wondering what has happened to me that, in all the visits I have made you, I have not said anything about seedling apples, and if I should go back home without you hearing me talk about them you might think I had become a backslider from my horticultural faith.

"Well, the last time our seedling apple man came to see me I filled him so full of seedling apple talk that I don't believe he has got it all digested yet. The first question he asked me was if I knew anything about the Pewaukee apple. I told him it was originated and disseminated by the veteran horticulturist Uncle Peter Peffer, of Pewaukee, who was once buried in a
well with several tons of stone over him for several hours, but miraculously was taken out alive. We at one time had great hopes of it being a good winter apple for Wisconsin. It did well in a few favored places, and also in some localities in Canada, but on the whole was not hardy enough and has been dropped from our Wisconsin list, by our state society. He said one of his neighbors had a few trees of it that were doing quite well. The next thing I told him was about Iowa's great exhibition of apples at the St. Louis World's Fair, where they exhibited more than eighty plates of the Wolf River and three hundred plates of the N. W. Greening, which were as fine apples of those varieties as could be grown.

"I then told him about a seedling apple grown by a dear old friend of mine, Joseph Moran, who was an honest New York merchant and never accused of grafting, except in apple trees. He came west to give his sons a better chance in the world. He came to La Crosse county in the sixties and bought a farm. He brought with him a love for the apples of his native state. As soon as he had bought a farm he began inquiring where he could buy apple trees to plant on it. Some of his knowing neighbors told him the old story, 'You can't grow apples in Wisconsin,' to which he replied, 'Then I will not stay here.' But soon afterward he heard of a nursery in Vernon County, owned by Mr. Waters of Springville, thirty-two miles away. Not owning any team, but oxen, he went there on foot. He reached there in the evening and selected and bought one hundred apple trees, eighty of which were one year old, the balance being older. Early the next morning he started for home, with the trees on his back, and that evening landed them on his farm. Having walked sixty-four miles in the two days and well loaded half the way; a feat no man in La Crosse County, or even in the state of Wisconsin, ever, to my knowledge, performed, and no one, except an honest, apple-loving, strong and determined son of the Emerald Isle would have ever tried to do.

"I am glad to say that those trees have produced and abun-
ance of apples for him and his family, and some of them are still living. And, in proof of the saying that ‘God helps those that help themselves,’ about sixteen years ago Mr. Moran found, about sixty rods from his orchard or any other apple trees, a small, thrifty seedling apple tree, growing alone by itself. True to his kind nature, he built a fence around it, to protect it, and

JOSEPH MORAN, West Salem, Wis.
A Pioneer Apple Grower.

now, for eight years, it has given him a crop of apples each year that keep all winter and furnish him and his three little grandchildren, whom he loves so dearly, with plenty of fruit to eat. It does look, Queen, as if, in this instance, at least, Providence remembered the diligent worker. I have exhibited some of the apples from this seedling tree for the last four
years, at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, as new seedling apples is a subject I am greatly interested in. Mr. Moran is past eighty years old, and I make it a rule to visit him at least once every year. He takes great pleasure in showing visitors an old bible his old, Irish grandmother gave him when he was a boy. As I grow older I enjoy more than ever these visits with good, old people.

"Well, he kept on asking me questions about apples and I told him if he wanted to learn any more about apple trees and orcharding to visit three places in Minnesota on his way home. First to go to Lake City, a beautiful place on the Father of Waters, and see the orchard and nursery of the Jewell Company, founded by a veteran horticulturist, Dr. P. A. Jewell, over forty years ago, where an immense amount of nursery
trees and apples are grown. Dr. Jewell was a man of perseverance and integrity and laid there the foundation for the immense business now being done by the Jewell Company, which is ably managed by the President, Mr. J. M. Underwood, assisted by his wife and son. They have a large printing outfit connected with the establishment so that they issue a large amount of literature for the public. Their large orchards of apples and native plums are worth going a long distance to see. They also grow a lot of flowers, both indoors and out, for the market. They have been the means of beautifying the depot grounds of the M. & St. P. Railway in that city. Queen, I often think of Dr. Jewell when I visit my orchard for it was his earnest talk, while spending a night with me, on apple growing that induced me to buy land and embark in the orchard busi-
ness. Out of respect to his memory I have twice visited his grave in the beautiful cemetery at Lake City.

"The next place I told him to go was to the city of Owatonna, where the Clinton Falls Nursery Company had built up an immense business along the same lines. The President and

T. E. CASHMAN, Owatonna, Minn.
President Clinton Falls Nursery and Superintendent
Minnesota Tree Station.

founder of this company, Mr. Thomas E. Cashman, who for several years has been Mayor of that city, is a young man with an abundance of push and energy, who not many years ago belonged to a class of men called by some tree peddlers, who, though they have sometimes been abused, have been the
means of furnishing many people with plenty of fruit to eat. It
was here at Owatonna that the state of Minnesota located a
tree station for testing and originating new hardy fruits. This
was managed ably and faithfully for over ten years by that
pioneer of apple growing, the late E. H. S. Dart, who before
his death expressed a wish that the further management of this
public enterprise be given to Mr. Cashman. So the Board of
Regents appointed him, and he has this in addition to his other
interests to look after. This company have a lot of very large
up to date green houses and furnish many flowers for the Twin
City markets. They also grow forest trees and golden willows
by the millions for which they have a good market in the two
Dakotas. Mr. Cashman makes it a rule to employ the best
men obtainable to sell his goods and is assisted by his brother
and sisters. Then, as I had spent a lot of time with him, I told
him if he had not learned enough about apple trees at these
two places to buy a ticket to Albert Lea and call on Mr. Clare-
ence Wedge, who is president of the Minnesota society, and
who would be glad to show him his large stock of northern
grown trees. Then if not satisfied he could stop off at Charles
City, Iowa, and see the large nurseries of C. G. Patten & Son,
and the Sherman Nursery Company. Then Queen, I told him
that a good old Scotchman said to his son, 'Let me gie you a
new commandment Jock, whene'er ye have a chance be plant-
ing a tree, it will be growing awhile ye are sleeping.' and that
I thought it such a good commandment that I decided to follow
his example and give ten commandments for the edification of
those who are interested in apple growing and that he who
plants an orchard is one of the greatest benefactors of man-
kind; that there is nothing in nature more beautiful than beauti-
ful trees; that 'the groves were God's first temples.'

"He asked me to tell him the commandments as, he said,
they might contain something that would be a help to him in
his work of growing apples. So I did and they are as follows:

"1. Thou and thy friends canst have no other fruit more
easily grown, more handsome in appearance, more beautiful when in bloom, more attractive in fruitage or that contains more elements that tend to produce and maintain good health and prolong life than the apple, which men of all nations, kindred and tongues have called the king of fruits. It being the first fruit spoken of in the bible makes it worthy of your consideration. True, it caused some little disturbance then and has been the cause of man going to law with his brother ever since that time, and it has caused the commandment of Moses, 'Thou shalt not steal,' to be broken; still the apple is loved and appreciated by every nation under the canopy of heaven. To grow it successively you must plant some trees every spring, as Frank Yahnke, of Minnesota and Geo. Kellogg of Wisconsin do, or plant apple seed, as John Chapman, of Ohio, and Peter Gideon, of Minnesota, did.

2. Thou must not select the low and frosty grounds for thy orchard; neither shalt thou plant it on poor sandy soil or barren places; neither on land that has been made too rich by alluvial deposits these many years, for this will cause thy trees to grow too fast and make the branches thereof to be too tender. But if thou doest the things which I have commanded thee not to do, then, as Moses' father-in-law said to him, so will all the practical apple growers say to thee, 'thy way is not good,' and though thou shouldst plant trees and seed, as the men I spoke of did, thy success nor thy profits will not be great in the cold north, in the land thy fathers gave thee for an inheritance.

3. "Thou shalt select high, well drained land with a clay soil, and if it contains stones, even limestone therein it will do no harm, but I say verily, it will be a benefit, for moisture will result and dampness, caused by the waters of heaven falling on the land, will be retained around and about thy trees, thus causing the tiny rootlets to grow and multiply and the trees to bear fruit in their appointed time, even though a drouth should prevail in the land. As Moses built an altar on the hill, so if thou wouldst avoid frosts in the springtime thou hadst better
plant thine orchard on a hill. And if thou shalt heed this commandment and plant a few trees each year, as Dart, of Minnesota, or Barnes, of Wisconsin, did, or plant a few seed each year as Mrs. Thompson, of Iowa, and Mrs. Perkins, of Minnesota, did, then thou and thy household, thy children and thy children’s children, and the stranger within thy gates shalt have plenty of apples to eat and to give to thy neighbor who canst not grow them.

4. “Thou shalt select varieties that the chief men and the elders have found, by years of experience and a trial of a score of years or more, to be of sufficient hardiness to withstand any cold that may come upon them. Thou shalt also, select those which have not cumbered the ground and been ordered cut down by the owner thereof because of unfruitfulness. But consult thou with those of thy fellow men who are well versed in the various kinds of apples. And above all take heed of what I say unto thee and listen not unto the smooth talk of the stranger who comes within thy gates and tries to sell thee worthless trees, grown in far away lands, in far distant parts of the earth, which are not well suited to thy climate, and which wouldst prove an experience to thee that wouldst be grievous to bear, and per chance, cause thee to break the third commandment given by Moses to his people. But by doing as I have commanded thee, thou mayest be filled with horticultural knowledge and wisdom and be found willing to impart the same to thy fellow men; then thou wilt be called wise and great and good hearted in thy day and generation. And by planting a few trees each year as Wedge, of Minnesota, and Tuttle, of Wisconsin, did, or planting seed, as Patten, of Iowa and Springer, of Wisconsin, did, thou wilt not only have apples for thy own use, but have them to give to the unbelievers in apple growing who dwell in the land of thy adoption.

5. “Thou shalt select and plant the apple as the favorite fruit for thyself and thy wife, thy children and thy children’s children and for thy man servant and thy maid servant and the stranger who is sojourning within thy gates. Thou shalt select
the best site and the best varieties, and thou shalt not suffer thy orchard to be neglected and grow up to weeds and briars, or become the abode of thy or thy neighbors’ horses or cattle, nor allow thy sheep to gnaw the bark from the trunks of the trees, nor allow thy swine to break the roots asunder for verily, I say this will cause damage and disappointment to thee and they of thy household. And thou shalt enter into the congregations of the horticulturists and ask questions, one of another, and learn the best and most approved way to cultivate and protect thy trees, in order to have them grow and bear fruit even thirty, fifty and an hundred fold. Thou shalt be willing to learn of thy fellow men and shalt not be an ignorant stiff necked people, thinking thou dwellest in a land flowing with milk and honey saying by thy actions, ‘we do not need apples for food.’ But without them thy health will be impaired and thy years will not reach three score and ten, as did the years of Plumb, of Wisconsin, and Harris of Minnesota, when they planted a few apple trees each year, or Zettle, of Wisconsin, or Hoskins, of Vermont, who planted a few apple seed each year. But, by following the example of these wise men, thou mayest live long and have an abundance of apples for thyself and those of thy household.

6. “Thou shalt cultivate and prune thy trees well in the early part of the season; rising up with the birds in the morning, so thy work will be done before the heat of the day oppresseth thee. And thou shalt remember the commandment given to the children of Israel to do the work in thy orchard in six days and rest on the seventh, and thou wilt find thy orchard a much better place to rest on the Sabbath day where thou canst hold sweet communion with nature and look from nature up to nature’s God, the God of thy fathers, than to rest on the bank of some stream trying to murder by inches the innocent fish, or wandering in the fields or forests shooting for sport, God’s helpless, harmless birds, or in looking at a game of ball. While resting among thy trees on the Sabbath day,
looking at the growing trees or eating the ripe fruit thereof, thy thoughts will wander back to pleasant hours spent with those whose wise counsels and efforts furnished thee with many of the trees in thy orchard, which, if thou hast been a student of horticulture, will be sweet recollections to thee which only come through the planting of trees every year like unto Hirsch-inger of Wisconsin, and Summerville, of Minnesota, or planting seed every year like unto Freeborn of Wisconsin or Elliott, of Minnesota.

7. Thou shouldst honor those who hold meetings and sit in council for thy benefit. And thou shalt remember that to have an abundance of apples for thee and those of thy household thou must follow the rules already laid down. And thou shalt not plant all thy trees in one season and thereby get more on thy hands than thou canst properly care for, and, perchance, a cold winter mayst follow much to thy disappointment and loss. As thou plantest thy other crops so shalt thou plant thy apple trees and apple seed, some each year as I have repeatedly com-manded thee, and success wilt surely crown thy efforts and thou wilt be blessed with an abundance of apples during all the years thou sojournest in the land of thy fathers, as was Hatch, of Wisconsin, and Underwood, of Minnesota, who planted trees, likewise Lord, of Minnesota, or Hanson, of Dakota, who planted seed for the benefit of others.

8. "Thou shalt not kill thy newly planted trees with kindness, by putting large quantities of water about their roots each day, as it death to them to be continually in water. But thou shalt plant in moist earth, made so by waters and snows of heaven, or by water carried from wells or springs. And, after planting thy trees, thou shalt immediately place some straw or litter about the trees to keep the moisture in the earth, so the roots thereof will not dry up. And thou shalt educate thyself, thy sons and thy men servants, or be educated by others, that thou mayst increase the hardiness and prolong the life of thy trees in a cold climate by budding or grafting them on hardier
and more vigorous stocks. And thou shalt bear in mind that the stock must be free from that dread disease called blight and that it is a strong grower, so that it will keep pace with the top. Thou wilt find this work beneficial and useful to thee and thy sons and thy son’s sons and mayst cause others to become interested in apple growing. And thou shalt plant some hardy trees each year for stocks on which to bud and graft that thou wilt be able to improve thy trees each succeeding year. And thou shalt spend a few hours each week pruning and training thy trees that they mayst soon have shapely, well balanced tops and produce more apples and live longer than the same varieties growing on their own roots.

9. “Thou shalt not depend on getting apples for thyself and thy household by buying or stealing them from thy neighbors, providing thou hast a suitable location for an orchard. But if thou hast not in thy possession, a good place to plant an an orchard it will be far better and more honorable to thee and much more satisfactory to thy neighbor to buy his apples for a price, yea, even if it be paid in silver, than to steal them, and thy family will have a better supply thereby. After thou hast planted an orchard, according as I have commanded and cared for it as I have directed thee, thou shalt take heed and when the young trees begin to bear thou shalt not let them overbear. Thou hadst better by far pick off some of the fruit and cast it away than allow the trees to destroy their vitality by an over-burden of fruit. And thou shalt, when thy trees begin to bear, be sure to fertilize them that their roots mayst have an abundance of nourishment.

10. “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s orchard, but thou shalt plant one of thy own on the best site obtainable, and plant varieties as I have heretofore commanded thee. And thou shalt choose those varieties that have borne profitably, in thy own neighborhood, for many years before and after the coldest winters. Thou shalt take time, in the eleventh month, and cut out the last season’s growth, cions for grafting thy trees the
next season. Thou shalt then procure some roots that were
grown from seed, and in winter, when the freezing winds of the
north make it unpleasant to remain long out doors, thou shalt
sit by the fire and hold pleasant converse with thy wife and
children and do thy grafting, and when done grafting thou shalt
take heed and clean up the litter thou hast made and not leave
it for thy wife to do. Thou shalt in the coming spring, set some
of these grafts in the ground right where thou intenedest them
to grow. These trees thus set, never having been transplanted
will make better and longer lived trees than their transplanted
neighbors, and it will only delay their bearing one or two years
at most. Now take heed of all these commandments I have
given unto thee. And bear in mind that the most important
commandment of all these and on which depends the continuous
fruitfulness of thy orchard, is to plant trees every year, as did
the wise men and benefactors I have told thee of. And thou
shalt then have plenty of apples, thou and thy household for
many coming generations. And they shall praise thee and call
thee blessed for the work which thou hast done in the land
which the Lord thy God gavest thee for a heritage.”

After Mr. Philips told me about the seedling apple man’s
visit and a part of what he said to him, he told me about some
of my descendants he had not yet told me of. He said that my
grandson, Ilwaco’s King, Queen Deette’s first son, that was sold
when a few months old to Mr. Yeaton, of Ilwaco, Wash., was
now owned by Mr. Keyser, of Jewell, Ore., who had recently
bought him to place at the head of his herd of dairy cows. Mr.
Keyser wrote Mr. Philips that he read “The Story of a Cow”
in Hoard’s Dairyman, telling about my work, and wished he
had some of my offspring. It was quite by accident that he
heard Ilwaco’s King was for sale and, knowing that he belonged
to the great Yeksa family he had read about and seen adver-
tised in the Dairyman, went, as fast as railway and steamboat
could take him, to buy him, and barely got there in time to
secure him before others, who were after him arrived. Mr.
Philips said Ilwaco’s King is now nearly seven years old and is a fine fellow. Mr. Keyser sent a picture of him, and some who have seen Puck, my father, say he resembles him. He has some good heifers from him, one of which gives 47 pounds of milk a day, testing five and forty-six one-hundredths. He said that Lord Yeksa, another of my grandsons and one of Yeksa’s Queen’s sons, that was sold to Will Nichols, of Trempealeau, is a fine animal and has made a good record. His owner has refused five hundred dollars for him to go to New Jersey, but he values him at one thousand dollars. It makes my heart glad to know that no matter what section of the country my descendants are in, they make good records that I am proud of.

He told me that my son, King Samm, that was sold to Mr. Hicks, of Michigan, left some good stock, but he was disposed of too soon.

Mr. Philips then told me about another of my sons and said, “Well, Queen, I know more about your son, Salem’s King, than I do of the others, of which I have told you. You remember I sold him to Almon Parks, of Picketts, Wis. Well, he sold him when three years old to a lumber company in Michigan. Last fall Mr. Rietbrock found out where he was and, being desirous to get all of your blood he could into his excellent herd of Guernseys, bought him. He was then eight years old, and Mr. Rietbrock manifested his usual pride in fine cattle, when he took me to his stall at the Wausau fair, where he exhibited him, to let me see him after an absence from me of seven years. He is a fine, handsome fellow and weighs sixteen hundred and fifty pounds. You know, Queen, I told you at the time of his birth, that his head and eyes resembled yours more than any other calf’s, he still bears the same resemblance to you and looks like your father. The Wisconsin Agricultural College sent me a fine picture of him, and Queen, he is considered such a good animal that the officials of this college borrowed him for their winter’s class-work and to use as a sire in their herd of choice Guernsey cows. This is a grand bouquet for you,
Queen, as well as for his owner. It is also, another bouquet for Mr. Rietbrock to have the Minnesota Agricultural College, second to none in the United States, borrow his great, old bull Treynore for the same purpose.

"These two sons of yours, Queen, and your son Uncle Dan were, like your grandson Guydette, used in their younger days in grade herds for this reason; Guydette is now the only one of them in the advanced register, he having done creditable work, at the head of a thoroughbred Guernsey herd, long enough to earn an entrance to this Mecca of noted Guernsey sires. I think your son Sufficiency will be admitted to the advanced register at an earlier age than any bull has yet gone in. I throw this bouquet to you now, Queen, because I think as a seventeen-year-old mother, who has done a wonderful work and has done her duty as you have, richly deserves it, and Mr. Sagendorph, although a young breeder, deserves it too."

All the foregoing set me to thinking and figuring, for a cow can figure things from cause to effect pretty well, though she figures by common sense principles instead of according to scientific theory, and it set me to asking myself some questions:

First. If it is true that an animal can have too much of one kind of blood in their veins why did my father and mother, Puck and Yeksa, brother and sister by Sir Champion blood, produce three such strong constitutioned prepotent offsprings as Bonnie Jean, Yeksa’s Prince and myself?

Second. If Bonnie Jean possessed too much of this blood why did she leave descendants that can make such records as Yeksa Belle, Yeksa Lind and many others of her family have done and are still doing?

Third. If Yeksa’s Prince had too much of this same blood how is it that his descendants are so strong and vigorous and vigorous and sure transmitters, and if too much of one kind of blood enabled him to produce a Yeksa Sunbeam what could she not have done had she possessed more of the same blood?

Fourth. Why is it, if too much of this blood coursed through
my veins. I was able to give so many offsprings to the world capable of transmitting and perpetuating the great potency and wonderful power of achievement of their ancestors, among them Yeksa's Queen, Salem's King and Queen Deette? If I have too much of one kind of blood why was I able, at fourteen years old, when ordinary cows are either dead or worn out, to more than meet the requirements necessary to enter the advanced register, and still later, at fifteen years old, give birth to a son of such wonderful promise as Sufficiency, and now, at seventeen years of age am still able to produce a good yield of rich milk?

Fifth. If we three are too much inbred with the same kind of blood what of my daughter, Yeksa's Queen, that was sired by my father and her grandfather, thus giving her a double portion of the "too much of the same blood?" Why was she, at three years old, able to produce six hundred pounds of butter in a year's official test, and why was she so large and heavy, weighing fourteen hundred and fifty pounds, and why so strong and vigorous and with such sure prepotent powers as to give birth to such remarkable animals, among them Queen of Salem, Campbell's King, King Yeksa, Lord Yeksa and Guydette?

Sixth. If it was not the possession of so much of one kind of blood that enabled more cows of the Yeksa family to make large official records than any other family of Guernsey cows in the world. What was it? If it was not this same blood that made two cows, and they cousins, of the Yeksa family to be two out of six cows in the advanced Guernsey register to produce over fourteen thousand pounds of milk in a year, and two out of nine to produce over seven hundred pounds of butter in a year, and one of these two cows to be the only cow in the advanced Guernsey register to produce over eight hundred pounds of butter fat and not only that, but the only cow in the world to produce the enormous amount of one thousand pounds of butter in a year, thus making her the champion butter cow of the world, what was it?

As a result of all my thinking and figuring I have come to
the conclusion that if any of the Yeksas family should fail to keep up the grand record of their ancestors and "make good" its perpetuity it will not be because they have too much of the Yeksas blood in their veins, but because they have too much of some other blood that they ought not to have. It, also, made me prouder than ever that I am one of the original Yeksas family and a part of its fountain head. And it makes me believe more than ever that my first owner was right when she said that anyone could not have too much of one kind of blood, providing it was good blood, and that "blood will tell" and the better the blood the more it tells, and that we Yeksas have proved the truth of her assertions and fulfilled her prophesy.

When Mr. Philips bid me good-bye and started for town he said, "Well, Queen, when I come tomorrow I will tell you an interesting story of things I learned since you left Wisconsin, entitled 'Westward the Star of Empire takes its Way.'"