

The next vineyard that came more immediately under our notice was that of Jno. Strentzel, about a half a mile above Barber's. Soil similar in every respect. S. is a **Polander**, perfectly conversant with the culture and management of the vine as practised in many countries in Europe. He also discards the entire theory and practice of setting vines in vineyards a year or more old, preferring slips in all cases; nevertheless, he always keeps vines one or two years old in nursery rows to supply those who may choose to buy such plants, but never sets them in his own annually increasing acres of vineyard.

He prefers and uses cuttings thirty inches in length, with two buds only above ground; he sets them inclined to that degree that the bottom of a thirty inch slip shall be two feet beneath the surface to the bottom; so that the theory of many that long cuttings are rather detrimental than otherwise, seems not to hold good in this locality, as all who have here experimented with cuttings give preference to the long cutting; and if we can judge of its vitality from the growth made the first year from its cutting, it may well be considered an established rule of practice here. We found upon examination that a large majority of the slips set last Spring, have made a growth of over four feet in length, and not a few of them bore grapes; and this upon land not irrigated, but upon river bottom.

S.'s vineyard contains ten thousand vines, seven of which are in bearing. He plants eight feet by eight; considers six by six too close for this country; would do very well in an European soil and climate, but is satisfied a different practice is required here. He also, like Barber, abandons the use of all support for his vines after the second year from the slip. Experiment has proved to his entire satisfaction that the grapes are better the nearer they are grown to the surface of the ground, and by allowing the vines to spread over the surface, the ground is kept moist under its shade, and the fruit is also kept from the sun, an essential requisite to its fullest perfection; he therefore considers stakes or any artificial support to the vine not only of no benefit, but positively detrimental.

S. finds no difficulty in converting the California or Mission grape, such as he raises, into very good raisins, and our own trial of bunch after bunch entirely satisfied us on that point; we know them to be excellent, and like other raisins, will keep any desired length of time. Both soil and climate of this valley seem perfectly adapted to the successful culture of the grape, but not to this alone; for here we find the finest fig trees we have ever seen, and that never fail to bear abundantly. Pomegranates succeed equally well, and as late as Christmas were in perfect eating condition and of exquisite flavor. Strentzel is one of the amateur as well as practical fruit culturists of beautiful Alhambra valley, and being among the first who gave their attention to fruit growing in that locality, his experiments and results are entitled to consideration.—*California Culturist*.