

Agriculture.

THE ROTATION OF CROPS.

BY SERENO EDWARDS TODD.

The rotation system, which good tillers fix, Embraces five seasons, and sometimes full six. When one crop succeedeth through many long years, Each harvest decreaseth, and dwarfeth the ears.

If herds of neat cattle or sheep be thy care, Then grass in rotation must form a good share. When corn, barley, clover, and turnips, and wheat, Comprise the rotation, field peas will be meet.

Ere ploughing and sowing, the tiller should know What crops the ground liketh the better to grow. First, break up the grass land and plant it with corn,

The field, the next season, let barley adorn. Succeeding the barley, sow buck-wheat or oats; Then harvest a pea crop to nourish your shotes

Of ploughing and teasing and weeding the ground, With liberal compost scattered around. And sprinkled with ashes to make the land sweet,

With lime and some bone-dust to fatten the wheat. The next, in rotation, a crop of red clover: When blossoms are fragrant, then let the plough cover.

A six years' rotation now beareth the sway, And showeth the tiller a progressive way; A six years' rotation will cattle increase: Will multiply bushels and debtors release.

A six years' rotation, when fairly begun, Will harvest two bushels where now growth one, A six years' rotation, as all will agree, Two years' yield of clover is better than three.

When poor soil needs succor, to keep the land clean, Grow clover and sowed corn to turn under green: But where fertile muck and light soils abound, Arrange the rotation as suiteth the ground.

YOKING OXEN.

The old story about yoking oxen by the horns is revived in some of the journals. "A. J. W.," in the New Hampshire Farmer, says the best way to couple working oxen is to have the yoke fitted to rest on the head just back of the horns; the forehead padded for protection, and ropes bound around to make the yoke fast. This would be a capital rig for cattle engaged in logging--especially when bringing up against a stump or other obstruction. In our opinion, this coupling of cattle by the horns, for the purpose of securing the strength of the neck, is an absurdity, and would be so pronounced by the poor beasts themselves had they a voice in the matter. Freedom of the head and neck while working is quite as essential to quadrupeds as to bipeds, and from neither can a full development of strength be obtained if this freedom is hampered or restrained.

SALT FOR CABBAGE.

A New Jersey gardener considers salt necessary to the development of cabbage, especially in places far from the coast. He finds them more crisp, of better flavor, and to keep better when salt is used than without. He uses it as follows: "A few days after setting out the plants, and when they are damp, either after a rain or when the dew is on, I take a small dish of fine salt and walking among the rows, sprinkle a little pinch of salt on the centre of each plant. When the leaves begin to grow I repeat the salting, and when the centre of the leaves begins to form the head I apply salt again, scattering it over the leaves; after this I look them over occasionally, and if I find plants that do not head well and appear diseased, I sprinkle the salt over freely; this will save all such plants. A quart of salt is sufficient for five hundred plants in a season, although more can be used with safety."

ABOUT THE PUMPKIN.

Mark Twain, in imitation of Horace Greely, is writing a series of articles entitled, "What I know of Farming." Here is what he says: "Concerning the Pumpkin. This berry is a favorite with the natives of the interior of New England, who prefer it to the gooseberry for the making of fruit cake, and who likewise give it the preference over the raspberry for feeding cows, as being more filling, and fully as satisfying. The pumpkin is the only esculent of the orange family that will thrive in the north, except the squash. But the custom of planting it in the front yard with the shrubbery is fast going out of vogue, for it is now generally conceded that the pumpkin, as a shade tree, is a failure."

A preacher in Louisiana said, "Brethren, stop that crevasse in the Sabbath, or your plantations will be inundated with immorality."

MESSENGER ALMANACK.

August, 1870.

First Quarter, August 4th, 4h. 37m. morning. Full Moon, " 11th, 4h. 59m. morning. Last Quarter, " 19th, 3h. 36m. morning. New Moon, " 26th, 6h. 11m. afternoon.

Table with columns: Day, M. Wk., Rises, Sets, South, High Tide. Rows for months from M. to W.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southing gives the time of high water at Parrsboro, Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport, and Truro.

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentina 2 hours and 30 minutes later than at Halifax. At Annapolis, St. John, N. B., and Portland Maine, 3 hours and 44 minutes later, and at St. John's, Newfoundland, 1 hour earlier, than at Halifax.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE DAY.—Add 12 hours to the time of the sun's setting, and from the sum subtract the time of rising.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE NIGHT.—Subtract the time of the sun's setting from 12 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

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THE above books may be obtained at the "CHRISTIAN MESSENGER" OFFICE, 59 GRANVILLE STREET, HALIFAX, April 1.

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