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"Our Queen and Constitution."

[By James S. Segee.

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AGRICULTURE.

[From the "New England Farmer."]

COWS AND CARROTS.

GENTLEMEN:—I experienced no little surprise and regret occasioned by the perusal of a communication addressed to you, written by J. G. Hoyt, under the above head, and published in the February No. of the *New England Farmer*, in which he states the opinion of a large milk farmer of Bradford, "that carrots do not contribute in the slightest degree to increase the amount of milk in a cow?" that his informant maintains "that while the quality of milk may be improved by carrots, the quantity is not perceptibly affected." He thinks that the carrots when fed out in ordinary doses, do not diminish in the least the quantity of hay, necessary for his cows; but that they serve merely as condiments." That "he is decidedly of the opinion that \$3 is quite as much as a man can afford to pay for carrots to tickle the palate of a pet cow." You may judge sirs, how much I differ in opinion from the Bradford farmer, when I inform you that for several years past, in addition to the quantity I have raised on my own land, I have purchased the surplus carrots of my neighbors, amounting to several tons per year, and paid for them \$9 per ton delivered at my barn, and have then and do now believe that I paid no more than their value, not to tickle the palate of a pet cow but to feed out to my stock. I was disposed to enquire whether it was possible I should be so greatly mistaken in my estimate of the intrinsic value of carrots. I was aware that in the table of Rham of the relative value of different vegetable substances as compared with good hay, carrots were not placed so high as by me; so also in the table of Boussingault, which has the approbation of Professor Johnston in his *Agricultural Chemistry*, but this was in the production of muscle. I knew that the books were full of commendations of the culture of carrots for stock generally, but particularly for horses, without one word of discouragement, so far as I have knowledge. I had full evidence that carrots were good food for swine. For several years past I have kept my swine principally on carrots through the winter months; they have been boiled, a small quantity of cob and corn meal added, and with the slops of the house, have been the only food of my swine; deprive them of the carrots and the remainder of their food would have been insufficient to sustain life. My winter stock of swine has usually consisted of breeding sows, and they have uniformly been in such condition, that I was entirely willing that my piggery should be visited by any one disposed to inspect it, or its tenants. The usual observation has been, that "those swine are too fat, to do well in having pigs." I formerly kept my swine on potatoes, as I now do on carrots, and they have never done better than of late years.

That carrots contain much nutriment I cannot have a doubt, sufficient as I apprehend to induce farmers to grow them in considerable quantities for the benefit of their stock; that "when fed out in ordinary doses" they may so far improve the health of the animal, as to enable it more completely to digest its hay, by which to add to the covering on the ribs and the secretions of the milk vessels. That either your Bradford friend or myself was greatly in an error was most manifest.

After carefully recalling to recollection what I had been able to obtain from books on this subject, my own experience, and that of others so far as it had come under my own observation, without discovering the fallacy of

my former views, I was induced to inquire whether the opinions of the Bradford farmer were correct, although expressed with much confidence, and partially confirmed by two of the editors of your valuable publication, in whose agricultural knowledge the public have placed so much confidence, that it seems much like presumption to express a doubt. I was desirous of further evidence; I read the communication to Mr. Hawes, who has the immediate supervision of my farm, and requested him to take two cows then giving milk, as much alike as he could find them, ascertain what quantity of hay they were then eating, continue to them the same quantity of hay, but add to one of them a peck of carrots per day—that after a trial of a week to change the carrots to the other cow, to watch the effect carefully, and to report to me the result. He informs me that the milk of the cow eating the carrots was increased one quart or more each day, on no day less than a quart, and on some days a little over a quart; that the cow having hay alone, constantly eat up her whole allowance, and the one having carrots uniformly failed to do so, and this was the case with both cows while having the carrots—that each cow, when deprived of the carrots, at the close of each trial, fell off in her milk below the quantity given at the commencement, occasioned probably by their becoming dry preparatory to having their calf, which is expected with both, about the 1st. of June next.

Having thus obtained the testimony of two witnesses, that the use of carrots will not only tickle the palate of a pet cow, but if administered in ordinary doses will increase the quantity of milk, and diminish the quantity of hay necessary for food, whose competency to testify on this subject, will not be questioned, I will here rest the case, repeating that I have much regretted the publication, in the apprehension that it might have the tendency of deterring many from growing root crops for the winter food of their stock.

This difference of opinion furnishes evidence of the importance to the farmers of Massachusetts of having a school and farm where all similar practical questions can be settled under the direction of a Board of Agriculture, to be established, as it is hoped, by the present Legislature.

JOHN W. LINCOLN.

Worcester, Feb. 17, 1852.

Moss on Plum Trees.

The Plum Tree in all its varieties, is perhaps more frequently unproductive than any other fruit tree. This is to be attributed, in a great measure, at least, to the careless and irrational manner in which it is treated. Not long since, being in conversation with a gentleman who had expended a considerable sum in stocking his lands with valuable fruit trees, he informed me that he had uniformly been unsuccessful in his attempt with the common Plums, and that, although he succeeded well enough in transplanting, and generally succeeded in inducing a good growth for several years, yet the trees would never bear but sparingly, and in most cases only in alternate years. Being on a visit to his lands, shortly afterward, he took me into his plantation, and I must confess that it required no small effort on my part, to repress the merriment naturally excited by the anomalous appearance of the poor trees against which his complaints had been launched. Instead of being set in cultivated land, clear of weeds, they were surrounded with densely matted sward—the grass at least ten inches high, and

the trunks and limbs, the larger ones especially, covered with parasites.

White moss, when it has once been suffered to accumulate on the skin of a plum or cherry tree, soon robs the system of all vigor, and is sure death, unless removed.

I pointed out to him what I conceived to be the chief radical errors of his system, or rather his want of system, and left him. In two years, by adopting the course I suggested, he succeeded in effectually redeeming his trees, and rendering them fruitful. The remedy, indeed, was very simple, and consisted in nothing more than the careful removal of the sward around the trunks, and the freeing of the bark from moss with a very slight manuring.

When moss is discovered the trunks should be immediately washed in weakish lye, made of house ashes and water. One gill of salt in a gallon of water may be applied afterward, and two quarts of undissolved salt scattered around the roots.

If the tree louse deposits its eggs in the bark—which will be seen by innumerable small specks, resembling cucumber seeds, of a blackish brown color—scour with coarse sand and water till they are removed, and wash off with lye. On the small limbs where washing cannot be so well practised, the moss must be removed with the back of a knife. Every particle should be detached, even from the smallest twigs.—*German Journal Telegraph.*

RAISING CALVES.—A NEW METHOD.—

While on a short visit to the farm of Mr. D. M. Crowell, of this town, a few days ago, our attention was drawn to a plan of raising calves for early sale, which to us in this section of the country, has the appearance of novelty, and seems worthy of the consideration of stock growers.

Mr. Crowell took ten calves (all heifers) last Spring, and commenced feeding them on sour milk at a few days old, keeping them on the same kind of food during the Summer, taking good care to feed them uniformly, but not very abundantly, so as to keep them growing thriftily, without forcing too rapidly. In the fall they were put into the stables and fed on hay, and a little meal, increasing the quantity of the latter gradually, with a view of fitting them for beef in the Spring, at one year old or a little under.

These ten calves now look like young oxen, and are estimated to weigh about 500 lbs. each, alive.—*N. Y. Farmer*

CHOICE OF FOWLS.—Turkeys—If young, the legs will be black and smooth, the eyes lively, and the feet pliable. If old the eyes will be sunk and the feet dry.

Geese.—If young, the bill will be yellow, and the feet limber. If old, the bill and feet will be red and dry.

Hens.—If their comb and legs are rough, they are old. If smooth and limber, they are young.

Wild and Tame Ducks.—If young they will be limber-footed; if fat, hard and thick on the lower part of the body. A Wild duck has red feet, and smaller than tame ones.

Partridge.—If young, will have a black bill and yellow legs. If old, the bill will be white and the legs blue. Old fowls, tame and wild, may be told by their hard, rough, or dry feet.

HOW TO JUDGE CATTLE.—In all domestic animals, the skin, or hide, forms one of the best means by which to estimate their fattening properties. In the handling of oxen, if the hide be found soft and silky to the touch, it affords a proof of tendency to take meat. A beast having a perfect touch, will have a thick, loose skin, floating, as it were, on a layer of soft fat, yielding to the slightest pressure, and springing back toward the finger like a piece of soft leather. Such a skin will be usually covered with an abundance of soft, glossy hair, feeling like a bed of moss—and hence is ever termed a mossy skin. But a thick-set, hard, short hair, always handles hard, and indicates a harder feeder.

MASONRY.

In the year 1748, M. Preverot, a gentleman in the navy, and brother of the celebrated M. Preverot, M. D. in the faculty in Paris, was unfortunately shipwrecked on an island, whose viceroy was a Freemason. Along with his ship M. Preverot had lost all his money and effects. In this destitute condition he presented himself to the viceroy, and related his misfortune in a manner which completely proved that he was no imposter. The viceroy made the Masonic signs, which being instantly returned by the Frenchman, they recognised and embraced each other as brethren of the same order. M. Preverot was conducted to the viceroy's house, who furnished him with all the comforts of life, till a ship bound for France touched at the island. Before his departure in this vessel, the viceroy loaded him with presents, and gave him as much money as was necessary for carrying him into his native country.

In the battle of Dettingen in 1543, one of the king's guards having his horse killed under him, was so entangled among the animal's limbs, that he was unable to extricate himself. While he was in this situation, an English dragoon galloped up to him, and, with his uplifted sabre, was about to deprive him of life. The French soldier having, with much difficulty, made the signs of Masonry, the dragoon recognized him as a brother, and not only spared his life, but freed him from his dangerous situation. He was made a prisoner by the English dragoon, who was well aware that the ties of Masonry cannot dissolve those of patriotism.

Lawrie, in his History of Freemasonry, relates the following anecdote, as illustrative of the Fraternity of Masonry and its tendency to produce reciprocal feelings of kindness among men of all countries, sects and opinions. "A Scottish gentleman in the Prussian service, was taken prisoner at the battle of Lutzen, and was conveyed to Prague, along with four hundred of his companions in arms. As soon as it was known that he was a Mason, he was released from confinement, was invited to the tables of the most distinguished citizens, and requested to consider himself as a Freemason, and not as a prisoner of war. About three months after the engagement, an exchange of prisoners took place, and the Scottish officer was presented by the fraternity with a purse of sixty ducats to defray the expenses of his journey."

The Freemason's *Quarterly Review* relates the following characteristic anecdote. Lord Ramsay, a distinguished Scotch nobleman, and who was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1836, was induced to join the fraternity by the following circumstances: "As his lordship some years ago was walking with his clerical tutor, a wretched beggar, apparently a foreigner, entreated his charity. The clergyman turned round to question the supplicant, and in a moment grasped his hand with the most cordial kindness." Lord Ramsay was surprised. The stranger was a Freemason; he was fed, clothed, and supplied by the generous Englishman, with the means of transport to the coast of Syria, where he stated he originally came from. The circumstance made such an impression upon Lord Ramsay, that he determined to join an association so pregnant with good works.

Brother Just, of the Lodge "the Golden Apple," in Dresden, has bequeathed to the fraternity a capital of twenty-four thousand thalers, about seventeen thousand dollars, for an asylum for female orphans, daughters of Masons. The young girls are here instructed, with a view to prepare them for the post of teachers, while the physical and moral education which they there receive, enables them better than their mothers to discharge the duties of wives, as companions to their husbands, and the earliest instructors of the mind. Well has this brother placed the capstone on his earthly Masonic labors.