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"Our Queen and Constitution."

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## AGRICULTURE.

### PLOUGHING IN GREEN CROPS.

It is yet a common notion that herbivorous animals have some distinct and peculiar mode of action upon the various constituents of their food, by which those parts expelled as excreta are rendered more fit for the food of plants than could be the original food, rotted or decomposed in any other way. It is also ordinarily received that the deposit of a number of animals fed upon an acre of any green crop, will be more beneficial to the land than an acre of the same crop, ploughed in and properly decomposed in the land.

For some time past, I have endeavoured to combat with those opinions, but as they are still retained at some quarter, I intend in this letter to repeat my arguments and give instances where practice has proved the truth of theoretical productions. I shall not here argue as to the amount of profit and loss attached to the mode of proceeding, as that must always depend upon circumstances, of which the farmer is the best judge. Nor shall I attempt to prove that under all possible circumstances to give a greater produce than to feed it off. For in case of exceedingly light lands, the mechanical actions of the treading of the feet of sheep, however, is, that under general circumstances, in ordinary soils, the ploughing in of a green crop, and its subsequent decomposition in the soil, will give more manure to that soil than if the crop had been fed off; and that the effect of this great amount of manure will be seen in the subsequent crops. The argument in proof may be stated as follows:—

Firstly: It is well established that animals, in breathing, give back more to the air than they derived from it. They receive nitrogen and oxygen, carbonic acid and aqueous vapor. Animals also transmit to the air much insensible and sensible perspiration.

Secondly: The experiments of Boussingault and others have shown that the liquid and solid excrements of animal weight is much less than the food from which they have been derived, and that as regards the food, excreta are also deficient in nitrogen in carbon and in hydrogen.

Thirdly: It is well known that animals consume a considerable portion of the farinaceous and oleaginous portions of their food for the production of animal heat, and the greater portion of the excess is laid up in the form of fat; part of the nitrogenous portion is consumed by the voluntary and involuntary motion of the muscles, and part forms fresh flesh for the growing animal. Of the inorganic matters of the food, a portion is required for the formation of bone. It is, therefore, quite clear, that there must be less manuring matter in the excrements than in the food, of which they are merely the unconsumed remains—that is just the ashes.

Fourthly: It is known that animal and vegetable substances are composed of the same original elements; that all animal particles have had vegetable life; that though the proximate changes and combination of their elements are innumerable yet the results of ultimate decomposition of animal and vegetable matter in contact with the air are the same.

Fifthly: To sum it up; if, as it has been proved, the excreta of animals weigh less than the food they have eaten; if there is a diminution of the most valuable of the ingredients in passing the animal; and if, in their ultimate decomposition, the food and excreta give the same products, it follows that the products

of the decomposition of the original food will be greatest in quantity and richest in quality; but practical experiments are in this instance, so easily made, that I should be wrong if I omitted to mention the numerous facts which experimentally prove the truth of my assertions.—Mr. W. Trumper, Mr. Oakley and others have forwarded me the results of trials made on their respective farms. Mr. Trumper in a field of rape, part fed off by sheep and the other ploughed in, found in the succeeding wheat crop a difference of 1-4 per acre in favor of ploughing in.—*Mark Lane (English) Express.*

**PRESERVING CHEESE IN A HAY MOW.**—Being desirous of contributing my mite to the Ladies' department of your paper, I offer the following with the hope that it may be of some value to some of your readers who are engaged in the dairy business:

About a year ago, a neighbor informed us that we could preserve our cheeses, during the fall and winter, with comparatively no labor, by putting them into a hay mow, a strange place to keep cheese we thought, but we have tried it, and the result has exceeded our utmost expectations. Each cheese was first inclosed in a sack, which was made to fit closely. The sack should be of pretty strong cloth, as the weight of the hay is apt to break it if it is too old. They were then laid in the hay mow, and the hay pitched on as usual. As the hay was fed out during the winter, they were found as sound as when first put in. We put one in within an hour after it was taken from the press, and when we came to it, we found it entirely free from mould, and good in every respect.—The great advantage of this method, seems to be in a saving of labor, as they require, after being taken from the press, is to be sacked, oiled and put in the hay, where they are safe from all kinds of animals, whether flies, mice, or human beings. Let every housewife who makes cheese, try it.—*Correspondent of the Ohio Cultivator.*

**SCYTHES.**—Many farmers grind too much and wear away the steel without need. A razor may be ground and honed to an edge too feathery. If a scythe is made too thin, the edge breaks and has teeth like a sickle. It is safer to make the edge more stout or round that it may resist all the hard substances which are found in grass fields. One great fault in grinding a new scythe is the neglect to bring it completely to an edge. If the back is kept down close upon the grindstone, the edge will be too thin and feathery, or there will be no edge.—Young mowers are more likely to err in this respect than old ones.—*Mass. Ploughman.*

Witch-grass or wire grass is a peculiar curse to the garden and all tillage land. Burying will not kill it, and the more the soil is stirred the more it flourishes—for when the field is laid to grass, the witch-grass is never ambitious of obtaining the mastery. The plow only encourages its extension and burying the tops only increases the roots. In a garden a hoe should be used in a dry time to chop up the roots fine. We have completely eradicated this grass by this mode of treatment. If you hope to kill it with the plow, you should do it just before the ground freezes in the fall. This sometimes kills the roots.—*Ploughman.*

Milk varies so much in richness, that while a pound of butter has been made from seven quarts of the richest milk, it takes nineteen or twenty quarts of the poorest to make a pound of butter.

**SOOT.**—Soot, it has been ascertained, contains 50 per cent of potash.

## THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I am induced by considerations of public policy to release you at an earlier period than usual from your legislative duties. The zeal and diligence, however, with which you have applied yourselves to your parliamentary labors have enabled me in the comparatively short session to give my assent to many measures of high importance, and I trust of great and permanent advantage.

I receive from all foreign powers assurances that they are animated by the most friendly dispositions towards this country, and I entertain a confident hope that the amicable relations happily subsisting between the principal European States may be so firmly established as, under Divine Providence, to secure to the world a long continuance of the blessings of peace; to this great end my attention will be unremittingly directed.

I rejoice that the final settlement of the affairs of Holstein has removed one cause of recent difference and of future anxiety.

The amicable termination to the dissensions which have taken place between the Sublime Porte and the Pasha of Egypt affords a guarantee for the tranquillity of the East, and encouragement to the extension of commercial enterprise.

The refusal, on the part of the King of Ava, of redress justly demanded for insults and injuries inflicted to my subjects at Rangoon, has necessarily led to an interruption of friendly relations with that sovereign. The promptitude and vigor with which the Governor-General of India has taken the measures rendered unavoidable, have merited my entire approbation; and I am confident that you will participate in the satisfaction with which I have observed the conduct of all the naval and military forces, European and Indian, by whose valor and discipline the important captures of Rangoon and Martaban have been accomplished, and in the hope which I entertain that these signal successes may lead to an honorable peace.

Treaties have been concluded by my naval commanders with the King of Dahomey, and all the African chiefs, whose rule extends along the Bight of Benin, for the total abolition of the slave trade, which is at present wholly suppressed, upon that coast.

I have had great satisfaction in giving my assent to the measures which you have wisely adopted for the better organization of the militia. A constitutional force which, being limited to purposes of internal defence, can afford no just ground of jealousy to neighboring powers; but which, in the event of any sudden and unforeseen disturbance of my foreign relations, would at all times contribute essentially to the protection and security of my dominions.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, I thank you for the liberal provisions which you have made for the exigencies of the public service. The expenditure which you have authorized shall be applied with a due regard to economy and efficiency.

The recent discoveries of extensive gold fields have produced in the Australian colonies a temporary disturbance of society, requiring prompt attention. I have taken such steps as appeared to me most urgently necessary for the mitigation of this serious evil.

I shall continue anxiously to watch the important results which must follow from these discoveries.

I have willingly concurred with you in any act which, by rendering available to the services of those colonies the portion arising within them of the hereditary revenue placed at the

disposal of Parliament on my accession to the throne, may enable them to meet their necessarily increased expenditure.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN, I have gladly assented to the important bills which you have passed for effecting reforms, long and anxiously desired, in the practice and proceedings of the Supreme Courts of Law and Equity, and generally for improving the administration of justice. Every measure which simplifies the forms, and diminishes the delay and expenses of legal proceedings, without introducing uncertainty of decision, impairing the authority of the courts, or lowering the high standard of the judicial bench, is a valuable boon conferred upon the community at large.

I hope that the measures which you have adopted for promoting the extramural interment of the dead, and for improving the supply of water, may be found effectual for the remedy of evils, the existence of which has long been a reproach to this great metropolis, and may conduce to the health and comfort of its inhabitants.

The extension of popular rights and legislative powers to my subjects residents in the colonies is always to me an object of deep interest, and I trust that their present native institutions, which, in concert with you I have sanctioned for New Zealand, may promote the welfare and contentment of the population of that distant but most interesting colony, and confirm their loyalty and attachment to my crown.

It is my intention, without delay, to dissolve this present Parliament; and is my earnest prayer that, in the exercise of the high functions which, according to our free constitution, will devolve on the several constituencies, they may be directed by an all-wise Providence, to the selection of representatives whose wisdom and patriotism may aid me in my unceasing endeavours to sustain the honor and dignity of my crown, to uphold the Protestant institutions of the country, and the civil and religious liberty which is their natural result, to extend and improve the national education, to develop and encourage industry, art, and science, and to elevate the moral and social condition, and thereby promote the welfare and happiness of my people.

## A PERILOUS BALLOON ASCENSION.

The following account of an ascension made by a foolish aeronaut, we copy from the Paris correspondence of the *Republic*:

I mentioned some weeks ago that M. Coste, one of the late editors of the *Avenement*, had deserted journalism for aeronautics. The third ascent of this gentleman, ten days ago, was the most perilous in aerostatic annals. The wind had been violent all day, and at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, the hour of departure, the balloon instead of being of the form of a pear, looked more like the letter S. M. Godard advised his pupil not to venture; all the gentlemen who had engaged places in the car refused to embark; and the audience were upon the point of opposing the ascent, when M. Coste, taking advantage of a lull in the wind, jumped into his place, and gave the order to let go. His departure could not have been called an ascent; his upward motion was so slight that he barely escaped the roof sheltering the seats of the Hippodrome, but his speed horizontally was terrific. In less than thirty seconds he was out of sight, and the universal belief was that he never would be seen again alive. He soon found himself in the midst of the clouds that were causing all the commotion, and knowing that it was impossible to descend, he determined to soar above them. He threw out thirty pounds of ballast, and was