

# The Carleton Sentinel.

Devoted to Agriculture, Literature, and General Intelligence.

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"Our Queen and Constitution."

[By James S. Segee.

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## AGRICULTURE.

### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND IMPROVEMENT.

[We take the following from the *Maine Farmer*, which we believe to be so very *apropos* to the interests of the agricultural state of this Province, that we think we cannot do better than transcribe it to our columns entire.—*Ed. Sent.*]

It is universally admitted that agriculture is the base and trunk of the sustenance and business of the world. Its chronology may be learned from record.

The press keeps a kind of day-book of passing events; the Commissioner of Patents annually posts up the agricultural accounts of the whole country, and makes valuable suggestions, which reach one in a hundred of our population, and are read by one in a hundred of those who receive them. (These facts and suggestions should be thoroughly perused, investigated and understood by the mass.) Much is anticipated from the Agricultural Bureau, as recommended by the President. There has been within the last thirty years, in various States, a whole catalogue of Schools, pattern farms, &c., agitated and prayed for without success; and within the same period numerous Agricultural Societies, and shows and fairs have been instituted, with fair promises; but are, at least in this section on the decline, so far as my knowledge extends. So much for agricultural education.

Now for improvement. This was once the world renowned State for valuable forest timber, with a fertile virgin soil for all vegetation of our climate—stocked with moose and other game for the pioneer, which have made us what we are, viz.: as enterprising, enlightened, independent, and happy a people as there is on earth. Our literary, professional and mechanical men, legislators and mariners, will not suffer by comparison with those of any other State or nation. But alas! our timber, moose and wild game are almost gone, and many of the elements of our virgin soil, are misplaced or lost; and ignorance is too prevalent in the agricultural class. How are we to sustain our high position? What are our resources, and how are they to be rendered available? are questions of some moment.

We have an arable soil, containing the remains of most of the elements of fertility, which may be much improved by draining and deep tillage, both as to elements and temperature.—We have storehouses, in rich profusion, scattered throughout our valleys, containing elements of fertility, to an indefinite extent, in the form of muck, clay, &c., which, when prepared by art, are worth as much, load for load, as barn-yard manure, exclusive of what is added, and the addition is an economical auxiliary; and we have an athletic, hard-handed, strong-minded yeomanry, to perform the needful labor, if, by doing it, they can but realize the *almighty Yankee dollar*. Our agricultural resources are ample to furnish all the food needed for the consumption, and wool and flax for the clothing of the entire population. Our numerous water privileges, (for which steam is an expensive substitute,) mechanical genius and business tact are competent to manufacture for the world, and our facilities for exchanges and our marine interests require no comment. Now to the main question.

How are our resources to be rendered available? By education, and in usual form, like every other science and art. How is this to be effected? it may be asked. Let the forms first alluded to be carried out to prepare the few to instruct the many, and as an inducement, let the masses avail themselves of the means now in

their power, viz. let the School Commissioners or Committees obtain, as best they may, primary text books containing the first principles of Scientific Agriculture, as developed by Geology, Chemistry, Botany, Physiology, Philosophy, &c., and introduce them into our Academies and high Schools. Any young man, qualified in other respects to teach a common school, would, in a short time, by the aid of the Preceptor, be competent to instruct our boys in nomenclature and the definition of words, or terms, and the prominent properties and action of the elements, and by the help of some simple chemical apparatus, the study would be rendered pleasing and economical. Let this course be commenced and persevered in, and my word for it, there is no lion in the way.

In consultation with well informed gentlemen of this city, the opinion was expressed that the public mind was prepared for the above enterprise, if a feasible and economical form of action could be devised, which would obviate the expensive outlays which pattern-farm schools would require. I proposed to take the *stump*, (as they say down South,) and have addressed mass meetings in Glenburn, Kenduskeag, (the late Levant village,) East Corinth Academy and our City Hall, where the following resolutions were fully canvassed and unanimously passed.

RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this meeting that the laws of nature have been so developed by the science of chemistry, that the art of farming may be reduced to fixed principles, and to obtain a knowledge of these principles, requires that our understandings should be informed, which can be effected by a course of tuition and study. We therefore request the Board of Education to give this subject the consideration its merits demand, and devise ways and means that the rising generation may be prepared to place agriculture on its proper level among the sciences.

RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this meeting that the agricultural interest of this State demands an agricultural journal, located in its midst, which shall record statistics, the practical results of improved farming, the valuable part of the communications of common farmers, a series of articles on animal and vegetable physiology, veterinary and kindred subjects, with extracts from foreign papers, adapted to our locality. If the editor of the *Maine Farmer*, (in whom we have confidence,) will issue a prospectus, we pledge ourselves to use our exertions to fill up a subscription list that shall sustain the work of increasing the agricultural matter of that sheet.

At the two former places the following votes were passed:

VOTED, That Martin Mower forward these resolutions to the *Maine Farmer* and correspond with the Secretary of the Board of Education.

VOTED, To request our School Committee to introduce James F. W. Johnston's Chatechism of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology into our Schools.

It will readily be perceived that the object of the first resolve is to familiarize the whole mass of scholars with the elementary substances, their nomenclature or names, and definitions; and actions, which substances constitute the animal and vegetable kingdoms; and the second resolve will inform the practical farmer of the management of these elements for the production of vegetable and animal matter, and will constitute his family members of a kind of State conversational club, where they can meet every day in the year, at their own fireside, and interchange views at nominal expense, and the father and son can mutually assist each other

one studying the theory and the other the practice of the art. Should this article meet with a favorable response, or a better plan be proposed I hold myself in readiness practically to carry out the measures to advance our agricultural interests, by obtaining subscribers, lecturing, giving advice in composting and preserving manures, the constructing of barn cellars and out-buildings, and the draining and ridging of ground the construction of drains, general management of the farm, &c., in any section of the State that shall be assigned me.

MARTIN MOWER.

Bangor, May, 1852.

NOTE.—The *Maine Farmer* has always been devoted to the spread of knowledge on the subjects spoken of in our friend's communication and its columns are always at the service of the farmers, mechanics and productive classes of the State serving as a medium of communication, among them, on the topics immediately connected with their calling.

If the farmers, in any portion of the State, see the necessity of more active and combined action—more union and concert of action among themselves, and are willing to lend the helping hand in the way of *mental* and *material aid*, we stand ready to enlarge the size of our paper, (as we have already done, several times, since it first started,) in order to give room for additional communications in the several departments above named. We are glad to see the manifestation of a rising spirit of inquiry and improvement among the farmers of Penobscot, and hope their precepts and example will spread over the whole length and breadth of the State, and that the *soil* and *mind* of Maine will ultimately arrive to its greatest pitch of cultivation and productiveness.

## MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

FATE OF A ROBBER AND HIS WIFE.—We translate the following from a French paper:—

An individual passing through the wood in the department of Langres, at the commencement of the evening, was stopped by a man with a pistol in his hand, who demanded his purse or his life; the traveler gave him twelve francs, affirming that he had no more in his possession. The robber took the money, and the stranger fled from him with all possible speed, trembling with fear, but, notwithstanding, well satisfied with escaping on such good terms. He soon arrived at a farm, where he thought himself secure; he claimed the hospitality of the inmate, after relating the unfortunate adventure, and imprudently added, that he had succeeded in concealing a large sum of money from the rapacity of the robber. The mistress of the house, who was then alone, offered him an asylum, and told him he should sleep in the hay-loft; this offer was accepted with gratitude, the traveller preferred to lodge badly than to run any more risk by going farther. He had scarcely entered the hayloft when the master of the house arrived; the latter announced to his wife, that fortune had been this time unfavorable to him; that he had only met with one stranger, from whom he obtained twelve francs.

The woman immediately knew that the person she had sheltered was the individual her husband had robbed, and she disclosed to him what had passed during the absence of the robber, and they agreed that the man should mount the hayloft when the stranger was asleep and precipitate him into the under apartment, where the woman was to stand prepared with a hatchet ready to despatch him. Fortunately for the stranger he overheard every word of this

conversation, and kept himself on his guard for the moment the robber should approach him; this happened a very short time afterward, when the stranger pretended to have fallen asleep. On the robber's approach, the stranger struck him a violent blow on the head with a stick, which had the effect of precipitating him into the room below, where the wife, with a single blow, severed the head from the body. The stranger made his escape, and, on his arrival at the next village, denounced the woman. She was afterwards arrested and executed for the murder of her own husband.

THE FATE OF A LEARNED MAN.—There is a man in Boston, an old man of sixty, who graduated at the University of Dublin, Ireland; at the age of 22, was admitted as a surgeon in the British army, and in that capacity visited this country with the English; was present at the destruction of the public buildings at Washington city—has been in India with the British army—has been present during his services as a surgeon at 4,000 amputations, and fifteen severe battles—was shot twice; performed surgical operations on three wounded generals, three colonels, twenty captains, and over eleven thousand officers of smaller grade. He has dined with two kings, one empress, one emperor, the sultan, a pope, innumerable great generals, &c. He has held the largest diamond known in the world, except one. He has had the British Crown in his hand. He has been married three times; father to eleven children, all of whom he survived. Broken down by disease, he could no longer practice his profession—too poor to live without employment, too proud to become a pauper, he sailed in an emigrant ship to this country three years ago; and this man of remarkable adventures, classic education, master of four languages, 60 years of age, poor, old, and decaying, is now peddling oranges and apples in the streets of Boston! "We know what we are—verily we know not what we may be."—*Boston Bee*.

A GENTLEMAN—Show me the man who can quit the brilliant society of the young to listen to the kindly voice of age—who can hold cheerful conversation with one whom years have deprived of her charms—show me the man who is willing to help the deformed who stand in need of help, as if the blush of Helen mantled on her cheek—show me the man who would no more look rudely at the poor girl in the village than at the well dressed lady in the saloon—show me the man who treats unprotected maidenhood as he would the heiress surrounded by the powerful protection of rank, riches and family—show me the man who would abhor the libertine's gibe, who shuns as a blasphemer the seducer of his mother's sex, who scorns as he would a coward the ridicule of a woman's foibles, or the exposé of womanly reputation—show me the man who never forgets for an instant the delicacy, the respect which is due to women in any condition or class—show me such a man and you shall show me a gentleman—nay, you show me better, you shall show me a true Christian.—*Giles*.

HANGING.—The *Key West Gazette*, in speaking of the insecurity of the prison at that place relates the following strange story:—"Some years ago a seaman named Sherwood accidentally shot a shipmate on the fourth of July, and was placed in this jail to await his trial. The main door had no lock or bolt, and Sherwood roamed about when he pleased, but made it a point of honor to sleep in the prison. His friends vainly urged him to go off; and the jailor finally getting tired of being bored, swore that he would have to go, for he could not feed him any longer,

and under such conditions."