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Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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THE GLEANER.

Agricultural Journal.

From the Farmer's Cabinet.
SHOEING THE HORSE.

Mr Editor.—The remark of your correspondent at page 318 of your number for May, 'That many of us transpose the order of our labours,' reminds me of the mode adopted in the shoeing of the horse, which I once witnessed, and which is, I believe, of importance sufficient to deserve notice in the pages of your valuable and interesting work. It occurred in the town of Croydon, near London, which is known as the centre of a stag-hunt, so well attended by the whole country round, and especially by the high-bred bloods of London; and where may be seen a field of the best horses in the whole world—many of them worth their six or seven thousand dollars.

As I once passed through this town, one of my horses' shoes became loose, and I went to the shop of a smith named Lovelace, to get it fastened: the shoe was nearly new, and had become loose in consequence of the nails having drawn out of the hoof, although they had been clinched in a manner universally practised. The smith remarked that all the other shoes were loose, and would soon drop off, when I requested him to take them off, and replace them; and then did I perceive the different mode which he adopted for fixing them, which I will here detail. As fast as he drove the nails, he merely bent the points down to the hoof, without, as is customary, twisting them off with the pincers; these he then *drove home*, clinching them against a heavy pair of pincers, which were not made very sharp: and after this had been very carefully done, he twisted off each nail as close as possible to the hoof; the pincers being dull, the nail would hold, so as to get a perfect *twist round* before it separated. These twists were then beaten close into the hoof and filed smooth, but not deep or with the view to rasp off the twist of the nail. 'Oh ho!' said I, 'I have learned a lesson in horse shoeing.' 'Yes,' said he, 'and a valuable one; if I were ever to lose a single shoe in a long day's hunt, I should have to shut up shop; my business is to shoe the horses belonging to the hunt, and the loss of a shoe would be the probable ruin of a horse's worth, perhaps a thousand pounds, but I never am fearful of an accident.' 'Simply because you drive home and clinch the nails before you twist them off,' said I—'Yes,' replied he, 'by which I secure a *rivet*, as well as a *clinch*.' The thing was as clear as the light of day, and I have several times endeavored to make our shoeing smiths understand it; but they cannot see the advantages it would be to themselves, and guess, therefore, *it would never do in these parts*; but if my brother farmers cannot see how it works with half an eye, and have not the resolution to get it up into practice, they ought to see the shoes drop from the feet of their horses daily, as I was once accustomed to do. Now, let any one take up an old horse shoe at any of the smith's shops on the road, and

examine the clinch of the nails which have drawn out off the hoof, and he will soon see how the thing operates. In short, if the nails are driven home before twisting off, and the *rivet* formed by the *twist* be not afterwards removed by the rasp, I should be glad to be told how the shoe is to come off at all, unless by first cutting out the twist. I am, sir, a constant reader of the Cabinet, and one who has been benefitted many dollars by the various hints which have been given in its pages.

Training and Ordering Flower Plants.—Continue to support with sticks all the tall growing flowering plants and long stragglers and climbers, according to their growth.

This work should be duly attended to, for there is none more necessary in a flower garden, than to have the general flowering plants standing firmly in their places, and neatly trained in an upright growth.

Likewise to climbing plants give proper support of sticks, &c., for they will now require that assistance.

Go round now and then among the perennial and biennial plants, &c.; that are now flowering, and such as are still to come into flower, and when any grow disorderly, trim and train them to some regularity, cutting out or reducing any very rude rambling growths, and too straggling shoots; whereby to continue the plants in some regular order; detaching also withered leaves, and decayed flower stalks &c., and let such plants that require support have sticks and tie them thereto in a regular manner.

Examine such plants as branch out so as to form heads. They should be somewhat assisted in their own way: that is, let all shoots that arise from the main stem stragglingly near the ground be cut off close; and any shoots from the head, that advance in a straggling manner from the rest should also be reduced to order.

Many of the large kinds of annual plants should be treated in that manner; in particular the African and French marigolds, chrysanthemums, and such other similar large plants of rude branching growth.

For by training these kind of plants each with a short single stem below, and cutting away any very irregular growth above they will form handsome full heads and blow more agreeably regular.

Cut down the decaying flower-stems of all such perennial plants as are past flowering, cutting off close to the head of the plant, and clear the plants from dead leaves.

But where intended to save seeds from any of the seed propagating kinds, leave, for that purpose, some of the principal flowering stems.

Trap Doors.—We would advise every young farmer who is about building, to be careful not to introduce this nuisance into his house. No great room is lost by making cellar stairs under the chamber stairs. The farmer's wife has such frequent occasion to go into the cellar, that were nothing taken into calculation but the loss of her time in passing the trap door, it would show that there was very

had economy in using it, but there are so many serious accidents caused by these mischievous traps for breaking bones, that we wish there was a tax of three pounds a year upon each of them; the money to be applied to the support of the cripples of the parish.

In a small farm house the stairs should not have a steep ascent, nor should they wind; it is much better to ascend a few steps, and then turn upon a landing, or broad step, as wide as it long, if a turn should be necessary. The young Farmer's young wife has generally a flock of children; and as she has much to do besides watching them, there should be as few traps in the house that can injure them as possible.

From Jackson's Agriculture and Dairy Husbandry.

CULTURE OF TURNIPS.

A correct system of husbandry, as already noticed, depends much upon the cultivation of turnips, potatoes, and clover, for without them the live stock must decrease, and the supply of manure be consequently circumscribed. Turnips yield a most profitable crop for the maintenance of live stock, and they are also useful as a fallow crop, in cleansing the soil from weeds. The leaves being large and spreading, they afford a shade which retains the moisture, and tends to decompose any vegetable matter in the ground.

Turnips are supposed to have been first cultivated as a field-crop in this country in the county of Norfolk; and except in some remote parts, they are now very generally raised for feeding sheep and oxen. Lands which were formerly worthless have been rendered fertile by their judicious culture, and the application of the manure which they are the means of producing. The soil formerly considered as best adapted for their successful growth was of a dry free nature, of some depth and fertility; but the modern system of farming has rendered all soils fit for their cultivation, from the strongest clay to the poorest sand.

Turnips may be divided into three general classes; the round or globe shape, the depressed or Norfolk, and the fusiform or oblong, which latter is best known by the name of the Swedish. They are also sometimes distinguished by their colour, as the white, the yellow (including the yellow), and the purple topped. These classes have many intermediate varieties, obtained by crossing the sorts. The white, with the green and purple topped, is early, particularly suited to those light soils where sheep are fed, requires less manure and yields a larger crop than any of the other kinds. It must be consumed however, as soon as possible, or it is apt to run to seed, or be injured by frost, and thus rendered unfit for food. The purple topped, will afford food to the end of February, after which it becomes fibrous, and unfit for feeding cattle.

The Aberdeen yellow is a variety between the globe and Swedish. It is much hardier than the globe, later of coming to maturity, and better able to resist frosts. It yields an excellent crop; but some have objected to this variety that it is not relished by cattle. On this, however, there is a difference of opinion; and Sir John Sinclair re-

lates an instance where Swedish, yellow, and Norfolk, were strewed indiscriminately over a field, and it was observed that the stock selected the yellow after being used to them. The preference which cattle show for particular kinds may depend very much upon the season of the year, for some sorts being later in growth than others, may not have attained that sweetness and nourishment which the cattle relish. There are many kinds of the yellow Aberdeen, some being nearly red in color, or approaching to purple. Others assume a greenish shade, and others again verge to white. The Swedish, which was comparatively late of being introduced into this country, has stood the severest test as to its merits, and it is acknowledged that no other turnip so well resists the frosts of winter, or retains its juices in the spring. The only objection which some farmers have to them is, that they are of so hard a nature as to be hurtful to the teeth of stock, particularly the very young, when shedding their teeth, or the very old. They are best adapted for a low situation and good soil, and on this account few farmers, in the more exposed districts, attempt their cultivation, preferring rather one or other of the yellow Aberdeen sorts. They require more manure than the other sorts, but this is compensated by a weightier crop, and the length of time they may be eaten, being in good condition till the end of May. On being weighed, the difference between a Winchester bushel of Swedish, and another of the Norfolk turnip, was found to be 28lbs. in favour of the Swedish. This turnip also possesses the great advantage of bearing transplanting, by which means a blank space in a field can be easily filled up. The operation can be performed in the month of June, the earlier the better; and the roots which have been transplanted ought to be consumed first, as it is found that they that they have a tendency to shoot early in spring.

The time of sowing varies in the different sorts, according as they are early or late in arriving at maturity; it also depends upon the climate, and the elevation or exposure of the ground.—Those which are most nutritive require the longest time to grow, and consequently ought to be earliest in the ground. On this account, the Swedish are sown as early as possible, from the beginning of April till the end of May, but never later, or if the season is not very favorable, the crop will be decidedly inferior, both as regards bulk and weight. The yellow sorts are sown next in order, and then the white, which can be put into the ground from the middle of May to the end of June.

These periods of sowing however, must depend upon the nature of the ground as well as its elevation. If the soil be of a most clayey texture or the seasons give indications of being wet, the seeds must be very sown: and if the season should appear to be very dry, it is advantageous to have the seed early in the ground, in order that the plants may be sufficiently braided before the sun's rays attain strength enough to injure the crop.