

# THE GLEANER

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

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## Agricultural Journal.

[We take the following truly humorous remarks on Swine, from a recent Report made by the Committee of the Essex Agricultural Society.]

### REPORT.

The committee cannot close their report without expressing their thanks for the honor conferred on them. To be selected as judges to decide the comparative merits of individuals of the interesting class of quadrupeds committed to their care, is a distinction to which they had not the ambition to aspire.

It has not escaped the attention of the committee in their reflections on the dignity of the swinish race, that a new era in their history has just commenced. They are henceforth to be the lights of the world! It is to be from their liquid substance, after having "shuffled off this mortal coil," that the human race is to derive that light for which adventurous seamen have sought the huge leviathan in the remote parts of the Globe. Chemists have discovered that a substance may be derived from pork having the economical properties of oil. Thus the student at his midnight lamp, will be indebted to the light furnished from the swine, for varied lore that will in its turn, enlighten the world!

The hog has much reason to complain of his treatment from the hands of man. Not only is he deprived of his liberty, but he is exposed to violence and assassination, and seldom lives to old age, or dies a natural death. No sooner does the youthful porker arrive at adult swinehood, and exhibit the fine proportions of his portly form than his brutal master begins to show a most unaccountable disposition to get him into "hot water," and he is cut off "in the midst of his usefulness" by the hand of the executioner. In his dealings with the hog, man reverses the simplest rules of justice, as he hangs him first and tries him afterwards.

The committee lament to see that other animals of inferior worth have usurped a place in the affections of the people to which the swine is a stranger. Instances of this may be seen in their preference for the dog and the cat. The committee do not mean to be dog-matical, and they have no intention of delving into the mysteries of Pusey-ism; but they cannot be blind to the fact that the canine and feline races, inferior as they are in usefulness to our swinish friends, are treated with far greater deference and respect. The former are made the companions of man in his wanderings and at his domestic fireside, while the latter, virtue is emphatically its own reward. The former are pampered and indulged by men, and fondled and caressed by woman. But what lady is ever seen fondling an unweaned pig? Alas! nobody caresses a pig—nobody loves a pig—unless he is roasted.

In common with some of the greatest names in the annals of the world, the hog is not appreciated until death has made him insensible to all human

or swinish applause. History affords many instances of great benefactors of mankind, who in their lifetime were treated with scorn and neglect, but after death were rewarded perhaps by a monument or a statue. So it is with the swine. However he may be despised and neglected while he lives, he has the consolatory reflection that at his departure, he will have a place in the stomachs, if not in the hearts of the people.

There is something in the name of the animal we are considering, which is associated with literature and science in their highest walks. The Ettrick Shepherd, whose simple poetry has beguiled many an hour on this side of the water, as well as in his native Scotland, rejoices in the name of *Hogg*; and the mental food of many an urchin in the long winter evening, is derived from *Hogg's Tales*. In science and philosophy how much would have been lost to the world if no light had been shed upon it by *Bacon*!

In the physiognomy of the hog there is something that engages the attention of the most casual observer. There is an expression of cunning in his eye that betokens shrewdness, and with the length of his nose we are accustomed to associate wisdom. Humility is stamped on all his features, and he is a most profound thinker. There is an expression of gravity in his countenance not inconsistent with that contentment and freedom from care, which often manifests itself in a jolly grunt or a merry squeal.

He cannot properly be called a non-resistant, although he holds some of the opinions of the new sect of *Come-outers*. He is a firm believer in the absolute equality of the sexes, favours amalgamation, and is opposed to all government.

In his domestic habits the hog is not abstemious or over nice in the choice of his food, and consults no treatise on cookery in its preparation. He claims no kindred with "striped pigs," but is temperate in drinking and may justly be called a cold water hog. He never signed the total abstinence pledge, yet never violated its letter or spirit. He is often in the gutter, but he always goes in and comes out a sober hog—and never boasts of it afterwards. The hog is a gentleman. This discovery was made as long a time ago as *Franklin*, and that eminent philosopher was the first to make the important fact known to the world. The aristocratic hog eats drinks, and walks about like another gentleman dandy of leisure. He turns up his nose at labour, and despises that vulgar portion of the community who, from choice or necessity, have anything to do. He sports no whiskers, but chooses to wear his bristles on his back rather than on his chin. He is celebrated for a certain kind of independence in his movements, and will go any way but the right one. The gentleman hog is no *Count D'Orsay* in costume, and his dress, if it cannot be called graceful, yet considering that it consists of nothing at all, it has no positive demerits—which is more than can be said of the dandy's.

The lady pig is also less solicitous about the "putting on of royal apparel," than those of her sex of another race. The form that nature gave her is never deformed by compression or by unseemingly excrescence at her shoulders or elsewhere; and we hope she will not be accused of disrespect to the higher orders of the clergy, if she has no superstitious reverence for "cardinals" and "bishops." She is remarkable for her "good breeding," and in this respect, fears not comparison with any Queen of any realm.

The whole business of the education of her infant family in the various branches of swinish literature and science, devolves upon her. She first learns them the geography of the sty, and so much of the adjacent territory as she is admitted to explore. In the languages, they are easily made familiar with their native tongue, which is *hog-latin*. In geology, they go deep into the different strata of the dung-heap, but they prefer cold batter pudding to pudding-stone, and quarts of sour milk or even swill, to any other quartz. In Arithmetic it is doubtful whether they ever go farther than the *Extractions of Roots*, and they close their education by a knowledge of music. In the practice of this divine art, they depend entirely on their own sweet voices and discard all instrumental accompaniments, believing that the best pitchpipe, is the windpipe, and that church organs are a poor substitute for the vocal organs.

If the committee have gone "the whole hog," in behalf of the race of animals committed to their charge, it is because they have reason to believe that the public have very inadequate notions of their importance of the welfare of our own species. \* \* \* Let us suppose that some Miller prophet of their number, should arise, and predicate a sudden and total destruction of his kind, and that, unlike his human prototype his predication should be fulfilled. \* \* \* There would be at once a famine of pork in all its solid and liquid forms. Never more could we expect to live on the fat of the land. The population of earth would be perceptibly thinner;—we do not assert that the number would be less, but the *people themselves* would be thinner. Lantern jaws and cadaverous countenances would be contemptibly common. Aldermen would lose their rotundity, and there would be no scarcity of living skeletons. There would be a short supply of short cakes, and of spare ribs there would be none to spare. Dough nuts would be banished from our tea tables, and baked beans from our husking; while sensibility shudder in contemplation of the vile substitute for *sausage*!

Your committee, in their endeavours to exhibit some of the high qualities of the race of animals under their special guardianship, have occupied no more time than in their opinion its great importance demands. They have felt so deeply the solemnity of their position, that they have deemed levity wholly out of place, and they would regard any attempt at wit as quite unjustifiable. Having in this plain and solemn manner, performed

their duty to the Society, and the swine, they will feel amply rewarded if others are led to admire and appreciate the social and domestic virtues of living pork.

### ON FEEDING HORSES.

We find in the *Farmers' Magazine*, London, a most excellent article on this subject, by G. Jones, of Manchester, England.

Mr. J. had been the keeper of one horse for years, and was in the custom of feeding hay, oats, beans and bran; but having heard there was a great saving by the use of the cutting box, he was induced to buy one, costing some twenty dollars, for one horse too. As he purchased by weight and fed by weight, he was able to ascertain to a penny, his gain or loss. We will now hear him. "The first week I gave the cut hay to the horse, he did not seem to like it, but on the second week he appeared to relish it very well, (I mention this, that parties who may wish to try the same plan may not be disheartened, if the horse should not take the cut hay all at once;) and at the month's end I found that I had three trusses, or one and a half cwt. hay left." But not satisfied with so much difference, he tried the second month, and found six trusses left. Not yet satisfied, although the second purchase was kept entirely separate, and all hay not eaten, carefully laid aside; he tried the same plan for the third month, and found "nine trusses and about one half" left, effecting a saving "in three months for one horse," of £1 2s 6d., (about \$5 44) he says after adopting this plan "for two years and one week, he had saved the cost of the machine £5 5s., and £4 besides," (\$17 36.)

He asks if he saves this much "per month in the keep of one horse alone, is it not clear that all farmers, &c., that keep more horses must be considerable savers by cutting their hay?"

We have been cutting fodder, shucks, oats, millet and lay on one of Eastman's patent straw cutters, fourteen inches, price \$45, bought of Robert Sinclair, jr. & Co. Baltimore, some twenty-six or thirty months; and although we had fed a large stock; yet we can show oats and fodder, &c., of the crop of '41 and '42, not being yet able to get to the bottom of our barn, whereas, in former years we were hardly able to make both, ends meet, a bad meet it was, having to splice in with a woods grazing. Our horses, mules and colts have not, in three years, been turned in the wood one day; are fed as regular now, as if performing their daily labor. We cut up and fill our horse troughs, and not small ones either, every night through the year; what is left at noon, we remove to our cattle trough. In the winter we cut up food as for horses, and fill the latter every night, 50 feet long, two feet wide at bottom, with twelve inch plank flaring out at top. We are now using shucks, a part of them are from the corn of '41 crop, for bedding for our horses, and litter for cow lot, intending to make manure. Will this, our experience, as well as the more accurate "cyphering" detail of