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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.

From the London Shipping Gazette.
AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT.

Our attention has recently been drawn to a short series of "Letters," headed "On Agricultural Improvement," written and circulated by Mr. J. J. Mechi, of Leadenhall-street. The purport of these letters is to detail the course of operations which the writer has instituted, with a view to show that large capital may be profitably invested in improvements of a substantial and durable character, which, in fact, give an entirely new face to the farm operated upon. Mr. Mechi begins by a somewhat astounding announcement, that he is about to lay before the world an extreme case; for upon a farm which originally cost him to purchase £3,250., he has expended in improvements £6,200., the farm being of the extent of 130 acres. This brings, as will be seen, the cost of the land, at one blow, from £25., the original purchase, up to £72. 13s. 10d. an acre; an advance which, no doubt, would utterly confound the calculating faculties of landowners and farming-tenants from John o'Groat's to the Land's-end. The adventure is a bold one, it must be admitted; but it has been made, and by one not of the hereditary order of agriculturists. A successful London tradesman has ventured to infuse into an agricultural experiment a little of the dash, and daring, and adventurous outlay of money which he has found to be ultimately profitable in his specific commercial avocation. It remains to be seen whether land and trade will bear out a parity of adventurous treatment; but we must wait yet some time to see the comparative results; for it must be made known that the land operations in this instance are only in the first year of their progress. From a general survey of the operations in which Mr. Mechi has expended his improving capital on his Essex farm, we are led at once to the conclusion that he has been guided by a sound or cautious judgment. The well-ascertained results of a similar outlay. In innumerable instances, on other farming land, in almost every part of the kingdom, bear him out in the fullest expectation of reaping eventually a certain, and probably an adequate, remuneration on his large speculative expenditure. The striking peculiarity in the present case seems to be, that the experimentalist has boldly concentrated upon a small spot, and with an unsparing hand, the improving power of capital, without hesitation about the possible capabilities of his soil; for it cannot for a moment be doubted that all soils and every locality will not prove equally grateful for the care and pecuniary investment made upon them.

The improvements over which Mr Mechi has distributed his speculative capital are stated to be—1st. The perfect and permanent drainage of the land, with stones and pipes, four yards apart, and 32 inches deep—between 80 and 90 miles of drains—2nd. The entire removal of all timber trees, which cannot be profitably grown around cornfields.—3rd. The removing all old crooked and unnecessary banks, fences, and ditches.—4th. The cutting and forming new parallel ditches and fences, so as to avoid short lands.—5th. The inclosure of waste, and conversion of useless bog into good soil.—6th. The economising of time and distance by new roads, arches, and more direct communications with the extremities of the farm.—7th. The erection of well-arranged farm buildings, built of brick, iron and slate, in a continuous range, excluding all cold winds and currents of air, but open to sunny warmth.—8th. The building a substantial and genteel residence, with all due requisites for domestic comfort and economy.—9th. The erection of an efficient threshing-machine and needful apparatus for shaking the straw, dressing the corn, cutting chaff, bruising oats, &c.—10th. The avoidance of thatching and risk of weather by ample barn-room, with conveniences for indoor horse-labour at thrashing, &c., when not employable without, so as to have no idle days for man or beast.—11th. The saving of every pound and pint of

manure by a tank (90 feet long, 6 feet deep, and 8 feet wide, with well and pump, and slated roof facing the north), into which is received the whole drainage from the farm yard and stables.—12th. The conveyance, by iron gutters and pipes, of every drop of water from the roofs of buildings, so as in no manner to dilute the manure in the yards.—13th. The perfect drainage of the foundations of the barn, and every building on the farm.—13. A steam house to prepare food for cattle.

Now there is no work in all this catalogue which will not be immediately admitted by every enlightened agriculturist to be one of usefulness, prudence, or necessity; nor is there one which we do not see effected with more or less perfection in every well organised farming establishment, where adequate capital has been at command. Mr. Mechi, with the will and power, seems to have found an excellent opportunity, in the very suburbs of the metropolis, of discharging a whole torrent of the fertilising improvements of modern agriculture in one very circumscribed locality. We admire his judicious enterprise and applaud the bold and bright example which he is showing to the dubious, hesitating, dull adherents of old motionless routine and of hereditary slovenliness.

That each and all of the enumerated items of expenditure for permanent improvements in this experimental farm, is promising of profit, every skillful cultivator will admit; that the entire outlay is likely to return again equal to, if not surpassing, the return upon dead capital in any of the usual and accepted investments of the day, we believe to be more than probable—may, we look upon it as almost certified by large experience in innumerable cases. Cautious people, uninformed on the subject, will, however, wait to be informed of the specific results on Mr. Mechi's farm, ere they make up their final judgments on the productiveness and certainty of agricultural investments of capital. For our own part, we look upon this individual case only as an additional call of attention to existing demonstrations of the immeasurable capacity of the agriculture of the country to make ample remuneration for capital without bounds, to be invested in permanent improvements of the country to make ample remuneration for capital without bounds, to be invested in permanent improvements of the soil. Under a judicious system, long would it be before capital would lack safe and profitable employment, or the rustic labourer be left to sigh for remunerative occupation, beyond British bounds. But there are vices inherent in our actual system of land-tenure which blur the hope of seeing the wealth and industry of the country, now yearning for appropriate fields of enterprise, not merely wisely directed, but allowed naturally to flow in fertilising streams over a soil, the produce of which they could duplicate for generations to come. It is not enough for us to know that we have the power to make the land yield its increase with a twofold vigour, whilst at the same moment we are paralysed under the consciousness that our institutions will not permit us to think even of the exercise of the power which our reason tells us we possess.

From the American Plough Boy.

AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS.

So wide is the field of the farmer's labor, and so many the objects connected with his various employments, that we see no reason, having aught of sound argument, why the farmer should not be the most learned of men. They have more to do with the element of nature than others, and are practical chemists, depending upon the earth for subsistence—they by time, separate, modify, and change the simple and compounds, so as to afford the several elements of which the vegetable kingdom is composed, thus making of the farm a workshop and laboratory. In plowing and preparing his land for seeding, he is a practical mineralogist and geologist; in observing and preventing the ravages of destructive insects, he is a practical entomolo-

gist. Indeed, to enumerate, his various employments would be hardly possible. He is the practical botanist and meteorologist; but it is quite improbable that one man should be perfect in all these branches; yet the farmer, by a more attentive examination into the cause and effect of all which occurs under his immediate observation, may become a better natural philosopher than heretofore, and, by the cultivation of his mental powers, command and retain that respect to which he is so justly entitled, as one of the many pillars of the constitution. Of all the various employments which have from time immemorial engaged the attention of men, none have been so pre-eminently useful, more honorable, nor so nearly connected with our interest as nations, as individuals, than agriculture; its pursuits offer to the ingenious mind more opportunities for research and experiment than any other science, yet it is a lamentable fact, that there exists among the farmers an apathy to the pursuits of knowledge, and a want of that spirit of inquiry respecting the nature and habits of those objects upon the perfected cultivation of real wealth. What is the cause of this? A want of the proper estimation of the pursuit of agriculture. Is the cultivation of soil regarded with contempt?—'Tis an absurd idea, and we believe it too generally prevails, else why are so many of our young men engaging in the professions, too full, long ere this for the country's good? And why are so many ensconced behind the counter, to learn the art and mystery of measuring pieces of tape?—And why are the many mechanical branches so completely overstocked, while agriculture, the main support of the nation, holds out so many inducements for its pursuit, at once more interesting, more profitable, and, as improvements are made, less laborious than either the professions, the mechanical or mercantile pursuits?

Agricultural pursuits may be made profitable and the farmer's profits are sure, while by the fluctuations of the market, the merchant or manufacturer may be robbed of the reward of their labor.—They may have done every thing which intelligence and industry could to ensure success, and yet at the year's end, wind up business with a loss, not only of profits, but capital too; but this cannot happen to the industrious farmer; his capital is invested in the soil, and he draws upon a fund which has never failed, since time immemorial, to honor all just demands; his profits may be diminished, but never wholly suspended. Although they are more imposed on than any other class of the community, and have less money, still they may grow rich. They mechanic may earn his six, eight, or twelve dollars a week, yet his condition is no better at the year's end than when he commenced it; while the farmer, earning from fifty cents to one dollar a day, grows rich. If the artisan lays down his tools, and the professional man is idle, they are sinking money: not so with the farmer: if he sleeps, his wealth still accumulates. Indeed the mechanic, physician, merchant, and idler, may receive their thousand yearly, yet die poor; while the farmer scarcely receives as many tens, and lives and dies as the lord of the soil. Many deem farming fit employment for such only as have not sense enough to pursue anything else; notwithstanding the glaring facts, that from the soil is drawn nearly all the wealth of the nation.

From the Valley Farmer.

REMARKS ON TRANSPLANTING TREES.

It is frequently the case, that a tree which has received all the care and attention which can be bestowed upon it by the most experienced nurseryman, is transplanted to a soil of very inferior character, and being thus stunted in its growth, is the frequent cause of dissatisfaction to the purchaser. The planter should therefore bear in mind, that it is impossible for the soil in which a tree is planted, to be too rich, and

that the rapidity of its growth and its subsequent productiveness, are very much influenced by the proportion of fertilizing matter contained in the soil.

For planting an orchard, the ground should be well cultivated before and after the trees are planted, and as highly manured as the means of the cultivator will admit. It is impossible for a tree to flourish, as it should, when the roots are surrounded and covered with a thick sod. When the tree is isolated, as in a garden or lawn, a rich compost of earth and manure should be dug in around the tree, care being taken that no pure manure be allowed to come immediately in contact with the roots. The ground about these, also, for the space of two or three feet should be kept mellow until the tree is of large size, and it would also be well to dig in a portion of manure about the roots every Spring.

Many of the most experienced cultivators regard the Fall, immediately after the first hard frost has arrested the growth, as the best season for transplanting every variety of trees but evergreens, which should be planted during the last days of Spring, or the first of summer. Where, however, it is not convenient for the cultivator to give them attention in the Fall, deciduous trees may be deferred until Spring.

The reason of this preference for the Autumn is obvious; when trees are transplanted at that season, the earth becomes during the winter, properly settled about the roots, and they are ready to throw out fibres in the Spring. The spring is preferred for evergreens, for the reason that their period of hibernation has shown that they succeed best when thus planted. When a tree is removed, great care should be taken to preserve the roots uninjured and entire; if this precaution has not been observed, the tops should be lessened in proportion to the loss sustained by the roots.

When the tree has been some time out of the ground, it is well to immerse the bodies and roots in water for about twenty-four hours; this will much benefit the tree, and advance its vegetation. The holes for receiving them should be sufficiently large to admit the roots without crowding or bending,—from 5 to 6 feet in diameter, and from one to two feet deep, according to the size of the trees. The subsoil should be entirely removed to this depth, and its place filled with rich mould, well combined with compost or manure fully fermented. All bruised or broken roots should be shortened and smoothly parted with a knife. Let a person hold the tree upright, while the operator pulverizes the earth, and scatters it among the roots. Let the tree be shaken gently while this is being done, and let the earth be carefully filled in around every, even the smallest fibre; it is all important that the soil should come in contact with every portion of the root. When the hole is three quarters filled, pour in three or four gallons of water, and after it has settled away, fill up the hole, pressing the earth around the tree with the foot. Earth watered in this way will retain its humidity a long time, while water poured on the surface, after the hole is filled is very injurious, causing the top of the soil to bake to such a degree as to prevent the access of air and light, both of which are highly essential to the prosperity of the tree. One of the most universal and fatal errors in planting trees, is placing them too deep; we have known many fine and thrifty trees die from this cause alone; they should not be planted more than an inch deeper than what they stood in the nursery, and if the frost is likely to have them the first winter, a small mould can be heaped about the stem, to be removed again in the spring.

By attending to the preceding suggestions, we feel assured that the cultivator will be amply repaid for any extra trouble or expense, by the consequent increased growth, beauty, or productiveness of the tree.

The juice of onions, applied to the sting by a bee, will afford immediate relief.