

# THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE  
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SERIES] *Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.* [COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.

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## Agricultural Journal.

From the Albany Cultivator.

### BENEFITS OF AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.

An immense interest is evidently awakened throughout the country in favor of these meetings, and it is only necessary that they be properly conducted, to ensure their great and permanent usefulness.

There are, or may be, important advantages of a social, may we not be permitted to say political nature, connected with these annual gatherings of those devoted to the agricultural interest. A free and familiar intercourse should be had by farmers, on all topics connected with their calling. The various modes of protecting and advancing this interest—the most important of all interests, both in a national and individual sense—should be freely discussed and understood. As no other opportunity is more favourable, let the great meeting of the New-York State Agricultural Congress, where the ways and means of advancing the cause of agriculture and the interests therewith connected, shall be fully considered. Let this plan be adopted and continued, till an union of feeling and concert of action among this class, shall cause their influence to be felt and answered in our national councils! till the farmer shall receive from our legislative bodies the respect to which his acknowledged usefulness entitles him!

From the advantage which these shows afford for the sale or exchange of animals, the purchase of implements of husbandry and articles of every description, it is very desirable that the feature of fairs should as far as possible be incorporated into the general system of agricultural associations. To all classes it would be convenient, but to purchasers and breeders of stock, the opportunity of comparing the merits of different breeds, herds, and particular animals, and obtaining by purchase or exchange, such as each one needs to carry forward his improvements, would be incalculable benefit. If, for instance, the show of the New-York State Society could be permanently located at some point easily accessible, the purchasers and sellers of all kinds of stock, from a large portion of the country, would resort thither in crowds; and the longer the system was continued, the greater would be the numbers annually drawn together.

We have been induced to make these latter remarks, from knowing that numerous sales of stock and implements took place at the late exhibition at Utica. From what we saw and heard, we have reason to believe that sales were effected at this exhibition to a much greater extent than at any previous one: indeed, we are informed by those whose position enables them to possess correct information on this subject, that the sales made at this time, were more extensive than at all previous shows of the society included. Sheep, of both fine and long-wooled breeds, were purchased for various sections of the country, from Maine to Mississippi. Horses were purchased for different sections—the pair of matched or carriage horses which took the first premium, being bought by Mr Gilmor, of Maryland. Cattle of various breeds, also, changed owners to a considerable extent, and at fair prices.

The *Tribune* suggests another improvement in conducting these fairs, to which we cordially respond, viz: that there be a succession of off-hand, farmer-like addresses, by all who shall be deemed able and shall avow themselves willing to shed light on any department of agriculture." By having suitable men engaged beforehand, to speak on various subjects—as stock of different kinds, cultivation of different crops, manures, &c., we have no doubt that a great amount of information of the most practical and valuable kind, would be elicited. We hope to see these suggestions carried out, and the usefulness of the society perfected and extended to the utmost limit.

### FROST IN VALLEYS.

It is familiar to many that night frosts

under a clear sky, are most severe in sheltered valleys, and lightest on exposed hills, where the difference in altitude is not so great as much to affect the temperature from the natural decrease which always takes place as we ascend from the surface of the earth. The tendency of the cold air to sink into hollows, or to become cooled more rapidly by radiation, without the counteracting influence which air in motion always exerts, was finely exhibited by the severe frost which occurred at the commencement of the present summer. A number of thrifty young hickories, about fifty feet high, stood in a depression which was about twenty feet deep. The young shoots had grown a few inches, and being fresh and succulent, were very easily touched by frost. Accordingly, after that cold night, about one-half the young leaves on the tree, occupying the lower half, were completely killed and had turned black; while the upper part of the trees, which reached above the valleys, remained as fresh and green as ever.

Dr. Kirtland, of Cleveland, mentions an experiment in Elliott's Magazine, where the thermometer situated in a valley, sunk during a frosty night, down to 27°, while on a neighbouring hill only sixty feet higher there was no frost whatever; the thermometer scarcely sinking to 32°.

Such facts may remind those who are about setting out tender fruit trees, as peaches, nectarines, and apricots, that exposed hills, if not greatly elevated, are much better than warm valleys, where the frost is not only more intense, but the increased temperature in summer tends to promote a more rapid and succulent growth, which is less capable of withstanding the severity of winter.

### WASHING BUTTER.

We are aware that good butter makers disagree as to the propriety of working butter in water. In times past, we have made some experiments in this line. We have also persuaded others to make fair trial by washing a part of a churning in cold water, working the other part thoroughly without water. The result in all cases has been, that from which the butter-milk was expelled without water, *kept best*. We notice some pointed remarks on this subject in the *Indiana Farmer & Gardener*, edited by Rev. H. W. Beecher. Mr. D. Embree, who states that he has followed the business of butter-making and kept dairies, sometimes of fifty cows, does not agree with another writer in that paper as to washing butter. "I am satisfied," says Mr. E., that it extracts the good flavor from it, and that it will not keep so well as when water is not used. We salt one butter the first working, and after it cools, say twelve hours, all the buttermilk and watery particles from the salt can be worked out. I would ask any person to try an experiment, by taking 3 lbs. of butter made without having any water come in contact with it, put one pound of ice-water, one in cold spring water for, say, two hours, then expose them all to the same temperature for a few hours, and they will be able to answer a question I was asked while attending Washington market, by an old butter maker who came and stood by my tub. "Why is it, that my butter, which I took out of a cold spring since daylight, is so soft that I can hardly keep it in my tub, while yours, which must have been out almost all night, is as firm as a rock?" I would wish them to keep the pounds separately, but in the same way, for a month, and then try them.

Mr. Beecher adds, that on receiving the above, he conferred with a noted butter-maker, who says, "When butter is to be immediately used, she prefers washing it; but if it is to be kept any length of time it should not be washed."

### TREES FOR SHADE AND ORNAMENT.

The spirit of utilitarianism is carried to such an extent in this country, that the ornamental is almost always sacrificed to the useful. "What will be the

gain thereof?" is the question propounded, when any object is proposed, instead of saying, in accomplishing this or that object, cannot the useful and the agreeable be united, thus gratifying the eye, and at the same time satisfy the pocket, which is the *primum nobile* of the age.

There is nothing that harmonizes the passions of man, quells the evil influence of trade, or adds to the happiness of the soul more, than to throw around him those various charms which are found in the natural world; the green fields, the flowers, the fruits, majestic trees, with flocks and herds reposing beneath their branches, the waterfall, in fact, the panorama of creation as it meets the eye of the agriculturist in his daily pursuits. It enlarges the soul, expands the intellect, and exalts man. If this be the effect of viewing nature in her loveliness, with how much more zest can these things be enjoyed, when our own hands have dug the soil, sown the seed, planted the trees or trained the vine. We view them as the fruit of our toil; and all know there is more real enjoyment in witnessing the results of our own labor, than in partaking of that which is bought with silver and gold.

These are some of the thoughts which have been suggested to my mind in reading in your May number the description of the beautiful grounds of Mr. Colt at Paterson, I can say as did the Queen of Sheba to Solomon, when she saw the splendor of his dominions, "the half has not been told of them." Mr. Colt can truly say that, under his cultivation, the barren hills have been made "to bud and blossom like the rose." It has also induced me to make a few observations on the value and importance of shade trees as an ornament to towns and villages, and to propose a plan by which the object may be accomplished with pleasure to all.

It should require no argument to prove the value and utility of shade trees in public streets and roadsides. Yet when I look at many places in the country, more especially westward, I am pained at the thought that so little attention is given to beautify them with noble shade trees. In too many cases, the streets are as barren of shade as the ocean. The people of New England have paid considerable attention to this subject, and, as a consequence, most of the villages are well cared for in this particular. If any of your readers have passed through the village of Upper Middletown, Ct., they have probably noticed two splendid rows of maple trees running the length of the main street, which improve the appearance of the place more than would the most costly mansions. And as the inhabitants walk beneath the shade of these trees on a summer's day, and feel the cool breeze as it plays among the branches, have they not a just pride in pointing to them, and are they not a strong tie to bind the people to their native place? I mention this place as an instance, because it is my natal home, many more might be noticed, if it were necessary. Take away the elms from New Haven, and it would be shorn of its beauty.

A description of the avenue leading to the residence of Mr. Clay, as given by a correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, is so *apropos* to our subject, that I am induced to insert it. "Mr. Clay has paid great attention to ornamenting his land with beautiful shade trees, shrubs, flowers, and fruit orchards. From the road which passes his place on the north-west side, a carriage course leads up to the house, lined with locust, cypress, cedar, and other rare trees, and the rose, jasmine and ivy were clustering about them, and peeping through the grass and boughs like so many laughing fairies as we drove up. His mansion is nearly hidden from the road by trees surrounding it, and is quiet and secluded, save to the throng of pilgrims continually pouring up there to greet its possessor, as though it were in the wilderness."

Facts like these might be enumerated to show their utility. But shade trees have their value in a pecuniary point of view, for they increase the value of land in places thus improved. If an individu-

al is choosing a location, he does not look to the worth of the land by itself, but weighs all the advantages and disadvantages the place possesses; and to a man of taste, shade trees would often be the turning of scales.

The objection is sometimes urged, when public improvements of this kind are proposed, we may not live to reap the benefit, and what use is it to trouble ourselves about the matter. They forget that their posterity will receive it if they do not, and it is a narrow selfish soul that is not willing to do anything for future; a spirit which, if carried out by others, would stop many of the public improvements in which mankind are now engaged. What would our country be at this time if our forefathers had acted on this principle? Trees might be planted that would serve the ends of ornament, and be a gain also to the owner. For instance, the maple might furnish sap sufficient to supply the family with sugar; the locust when grown is a valuable timber; the oak and the ash have their various uses, not to specify others that might subserve both ends proposed to be gained by them. Thus, in a selfish view of the case, they can be made profitable, as they would generally be set out in land that is otherwise a waste or a common. I would recommend that each man adopt the plan of planting shade trees in front of his dwelling; if this were done by a few persons, others would soon see the advantages of it, and follow their example.

There is no reason why the U. States should not stand pre-eminent among the nations of the earth in this respect. Considerable attention is paid to it in England, with manifest advantage to the people. Nature has done everything she can for us; our soil, our climate, our trees, are all favourable to the end proposed,—it only remains for man to do his duty.

These are some of the reason I would give in favor of a more general system of ornamenting the towns and villages of our country; many more might be urged did space permit. The following is an instance of what has been done by a systematic effort in a town in Orleans county, New York.

A friend (one of those public-spirited men that the world needs more of) on temporarily settling in the western part of this state, was impressed with the negligence of the people in ornamenting the place with shade trees; and determining that something should be done to remove the reproach, went to work in the following manner. He invited all the young men in the town to meet him on a certain evening, as he had a proposition to communicate to them that was for their advantage. This excited their curiosity, and they therefore met him. He then stated to them the condition of their town, that no shade trees were to be seen in all their streets, the great improvement they would be to the place, and then, after their feelings were enlisted in the subject, showed them how the difficulty might be overcome. He proposed to them to form a Tree Association, each member of which was to set out one tree and take care of it, and if it died to set out another and another, until he had a thriving tree. In this way each one felt his individual responsibility, and had an incentive to do his work well, lest others should excel him. The consequence was, that more than a hundred trees were at once set out, and now they have the pleasure of knowing that their town will soon be one of the handsomest in the state.

To those villages which are in like situation, I would commend this plan. Form tree associations, invite the young and the old, and the ladies also, to assist you, and let not your places suffer any longer for the want of ornamental shade trees. Go thou and do likewise.

In this article, I have enumerated some of the leading points in favor of shade trees, believing that it was only necessary to bring it before your readers for them to see its value.

C. C. SAVAGE.

New York, June, 1845.