

THE GLEANER:

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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.]

NEW SERIES, VOL. IV.]

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Agricultural Journal.

From the London Farmers' Herald. BREEDING OF SHEEP.

As it is an indisputable fact that must ton of the high breed and high fed Leicester sheep is much too fat for general consumption—that it is only quite suitable (legs excepted) to the out-door labouring classes—I think it well worth your consideration, who are breeders or feeders of sheep, to endeavour to get such that will produce mutton best suited to consumers, that which has a proper proportion of lean to the fat meat; and which may be had by crossing Leicester with Southdowns.

I often had conversation on this subject, about twenty years ago, with that Noble Earl whose loss to this country is irreparable, who was patron of the Northamptonshire Farming and Grazing Society, of which I was president for 25 years; but as his Lordship did not think a true distinct breed of sheep could be established by such cross—the Duke of Bedford having tried it and been unsuccessful—I then gave up the idea. But, within these three years, I have begun with this cross breeding, and feel great confidence of succeeding to my wishes; for I have at this time as well framed good theaves as could be wished to be seen on any farm; and with what I wished to have, dark grey faces. Having put these to a half-bred tup of my neighbour's—with whom I have exchanged tups for fresh blood to come into our flocks—I have no doubt of breeding lambs that will, in due time, become such wether sheep as the best London butchers will like to purchase; but who seldom will buy sheep that are quite white-faced.

On the rich pastures of Lincolnshire, and in some parts of the North of England, they now have sheep which were formerly very large and coarse; but which, by crossing with pure Leicesters, are much improved, and will produce, on such pastures, a greater weight of mutton than any other breed will. But it is well known that where oxen are feeding, there must not be beyond a limited number of sheep, otherwise the pasture would be offensively stained for the oxen by the sheep. On the good arable land of this county, Leicester sheep will produce the largest average weight of mutton; but if this over fat mutton is obliged to be sold, at a less price than other kind not so fat, this loss is not made up by the increased weight, and taking into the account that the fleeces of halfbred Downs and Leicesters are of more value than those of pure Leicesters.

NEW THRASHING MACHINE.

There is now in operation at Tywarnhaye experimental farm belonging to S. & R. Davey, Esq. a thrashing machine, which from its simplicity of construction, and its great power, is a vast improvement on the former thrashing machines for those now generally used. It performs the work of three horses, and thrashes 125 sheaves of wheat, 225 sheaves of barley or oats an hour; and this is performed by a poor pony of 13 hands high. The improver is a miner named Michael Harris, a poor man residing at Silverwell in the parish of St. Annes, who is possessed of surprising natural genius and therefore deserves support. He carries the whole apparatus about in a small cart, and contracts with the farmers of the neighbourhood at per 100 sheaves. Several gentlemen have seen the machine and pronounced it to be the greatest improvement yet made. Could the poor man have raised sufficient money to have carried him and his machine to Southampton the gentlemen say no doubt he would have obtained a good prize, since they did not see one there that approximated to any thing near the improvement he has made.

From the Scottish Farmer. MANURE AND COMPOSTS.

We would suggest as soon as the farm-yard is emptied, a quantity of light soil,

which may always be procured from banks, or road scrapings, should be brought into it. All inequalities on the surface should then be levelled, and the yard formed into the shape of a very shallow saucer, being the deepest in the centre. This should be immediately covered with litter, and be the general receptacle for potatoe tops, and waste of every kind that is convertible into manure. The value of the manure will greatly depend upon the quantity of live stock that is kept in it and the cattle houses around it, and especially upon their being well supplied both summer and winter with green food and bulbous roots. The manure from the doors of these houses should be thrown to the middle of the yard, that all may be duly mixed. When carted out it should be placed upon a layer of earth, and the carts ought not press it down by being driven over it, as it greatly retards the progress of decomposition. The manure-hill should be made in a compact form, and banked up square, to exclude as much as possible both sun and air. It should then be slightly covered over with another layer of earth on the top. By this means, none of its virtues are lost, and the top and bottom soil will mix with, and nearly equal in value, the rest of the heap. It is too often the practice to lay manure on the sides of the roads, and on sloping ground, where its juices are perpetually wasting this is unsightly and unprofitable: it is best, laid upon level land, in the field where it is intended to be used. When it is spread, much care should be bestowed in dividing it minutely, and shaking it evenly over the whole surface of the ground; and it is absolutely necessary that the plough should instantly follow the dung carts on arable land.

PREJUDICE AND ITS CONSEQUENCE

MR GEO. ADAMS, of Attica, Wyoming Co., N. Y., gives the following remarks in reference to agriculture in that section:—

It is deplorable to see men who consider themselves first rate farmers, so blinded to their prejudice, and a superstitious fondness for their old notions as to ridicule those who are trying to make improvements. I hardly know how to get along with such men, but have come to the conclusion that the best course to do away prejudice and introduce a better system of farming is to push forward and make all the improvements we can, and show them by our example that we can make greater crops and more money by our improved system of husbandry than they can by their skinning system; taking crop after crop without returning anything to the land to keep up its fertility. It may be said that I am judging my brother farmers too hard, but by their works they must be judged. I can refer to a number of farmers with whom I am well acquainted, who boast of their skill in farming, that have cropped certain portions of their farms without returning anything near an equivalent for what they have taken from them till the crops will hardly pay the expense of making them. There are a good many farms in this section, which, when new, would have produced fifty bushels of corn or twenty of wheat per acre, that are so reduced by severe cropping that the average yield is not more than twenty bushels of corn, and about ten of wheat. Now my own observation has convinced me that the manure wasted on these farms by laying exposed to the weather and washed by rains and snows, and carried off through gutters into low, wet places, and the highways, would, if properly saved and judiciously applied, be sufficient to manure a considerable portion of them, and yet these men complain that they have not the means of manuring their farms."

Blind Teeth in Horses.—Wm. Little, of Poland, Ohio, relates a case of a stallion of his having gone entirely blind without any apparent cause. A friend who examined him, found 'blind or wolf teeth,' which were immediately knocked out, and the horse soon recovered his sight.

The Beauties of War.

TWENTY-SIX REASONS

Why every Good Christian and True Patriot should immediately engage in the manly occupation of making Widows and Orphans for twenty-six cents a day.

BY NATHANIEL P. ROGERS, Editor of the Herald of Freedom.

ENLIST! ENLIST! ENLIST!

1. Because God says, "Thou shalt not kill."

2. Because Jesus Christ says, "Love your enemies." "Do good to them that hate you and despitefully use you and persecute you, and do all manner of evil against you." "If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink."

3. Because the Duke of Wellington has said, "that no one who had much sympathy with religion, had any business with the army;" and that "nothing can be worse than a victory, except a defeat."

4. Because Father Mathew says that recruiting goes on heavily in Ireland, since the Temperance Reformation began, and that wives, and mothers, and helpless children are not deprived of their protectors, so often as they used to be.

5. Because the Mexican war is a cowardly invasion of the territory of a feeble people—a willful waste of incalculable treasure—a horrid butchery of unoffending neighbors—a scandalous infraction of the law of nations—a fiend-like and blood-thirsty disregard of the heavenly precepts of the gospel—an unholy crusade against the liberties and rights of a free-people.

6. Because the Mexicans killed a number of scores of the American army the other day, and you may probably meet the same glorious fate, if you will only enlist.

7. Because the Mexican Government has abolished Slavery throughout the Republic, and refuses to allow its citizens to buy slaves; thus causing great loss and inconvenience to the slave-breeders of Virginia and Kentucky.

8. Because the measures of the Mexicans, which afforded occasion to the Americans to rob them of one of their fairest provinces was calculated to promote the cause of liberty and human happiness. ENLIST! ENLIST! ENLIST!

9. Because it is so patriotic, for the the poor people especially, to sell themselves for eight dollars a month, to a recruiting sergeant, who will instruct them in the best way of skull-splitting, brain spattering, limb-chopping, heart-stabbing, and other ingenious surgical operations, all performed in the most off-hand way, for the honor of the American arms, the good of our country, and the "extension of the Area of Freedom."

10. Because Bonaparte called raw recruits cannon's food, and you are wanted to serve President Polk and his war-making Cabinet, on the Rio Grande, as cannon's food.

11. Because the Texas scrip-holders and the gentry of the land have a stake in the country, and cannot afford to be shot; and because the army and navy would be lost entirely, if it were not for the lower orders being so ready to sell themselves for twenty six cents a day, to kill and be killed. ENLIST! ENLIST! ENLIST!

12. Because the Republic of Mexico is in danger of self-extinguishment—she having abolished Slavery—and Gen. McDuffie has declared that 'Slavery is the corner-stone of a Republic.'

13. Because Secretary Calhoun in his letter to Mr Pakenham of April 18, 1844, declared that Texas was to be annexed to this country to guard against the danger of Slavery's being abolished in our Southern States; and finally declared, 'that which is called Slavery is in reality a political institution, essential to the peace, safety, and prosperity of those States of the Union in which it exists.'

14. Because the forbearance of the Mexicans, under American insults, has been unparalleled.

15. Because you may gather 'deathless laurels' by putting the Mexicans to death.

16. Because the President and his Cabinet, and the manufacturers of war speeches, and the voters of men and money in Congress, whenever they go to church on Sunday say, or somebody says for them, 'From battle, murder, and sudden death, good Lord deliver us!'

17. Because though the army is made up of healthy, strong men, in the prime of life, they die quicker, even when not 'on active service,' than any other portion of the people.

18. Because deserters are shot down without trial and upon suspicion. ENLIST! ENLIST! ENLIST!

19. Because soldiers' wives are the most forlorn, and soldiers' children the worst cared-for and the most ill-thriving in the whole community.

20. Because the art of war is of great use to the art of healing, since a well spread battle-field offers much better opportunities for practice to students in surgery, than a hundred years of ordinary accidents would afford.

21. Because if you serve faithfully through the war, perhaps you will get a pension of a few pence a day for the remainder of your wretched, good-for-nothing existence. You will have nothing to do then, but enjoy the loss of your nose, or your eyes, or your hearing, or your leg, drinking your pension, and being a pest to your neighbourhood.

22. Because if you die on the field of fame, agonizing with pain, parched with raging thirst, no kind hand near you, stripped by the camp followers, and laying on the cold and bloody clay, you will have the comfort of hoping that the joy-bells will ring in all the churches, to celebrate the day you perished gloriously, 'on the field of your fame, fresh and gay.'

23. Because if you enlist you will probably be killed; and then your dead body will make excellent manure. Only think, the best of beautiful corn grows on the field of Waterloo. Human bones are imported in large quantities by the English farmers from various battle fields, where the original owners of the bones no doubt died 'gloriously.'

24. Because the Yellow Fever will probably sweep off more northern soldiers than Mexican bullets.

25. Because it is a fine sight for the despots of the old world, to look upon a young Republic fighting for the enslavement of her LABORERS.

26. Because 'War is a game that were the people wise, kings would not play at.' ENLIST! ENLIST! ENLIST!

European News.

Launch.—On Saturday, shortly after three o'clock, a finely modelled iron steamer, built for the South Pacific Steam Navigation Company, was launched from the building-yard of Messrs. Smith & Roger, at Govan. She went of the stocks in fine style, but in consequence of her stern line breaking she struck the opposite bank, and broke her helm, but received no further injury, and was immediately towed up to the harbour. She was named the "New Grenada," and is of the following dimensions:—175 feet keel, 26 feet beam, 15 feet deep, 500 tons burthen, and the engines are to be 250 horse's power.

Total Destruction of a French East-Indiaman by Fire.—Letters have been received at Lloyd's communicating the loss by fire of the French East-Indiaman Noveau Tambour, which, we regret to say, is supposed to have been the act of an incendiary. The catastrophe took place on the evening of the 18th of last month, off Marseilles, a few hours after the arrival of the vessel at that port. The fire originated in the after part of the ship, under very suspicious circumstances, and had obtained so firm a hold when discovered that it was impossible to arrest its progress. Unfortunately, one person perished in the flames. The loss is calculated at £700. The ship had no cargo on board.