

# THE GLEANER:

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

Old Series] Nec araneorum 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, for Dec.  
ADDRESS

Delivered before the Greene County Agricultural Society, by the Hon. ZADOCK PRATT, President.

Let us, gentlemen, follow these bright examples; let us study to inform our minds and improve our hearts, and enlarge our hearts, and then we shall not only know how to increase and improve our fortunes, but how, at the same time, to benefit our country and our race.

Washington was great in war, but still greater in peace. He presided with unsurpassed wisdom and dignity over the affairs of State; but added increased lustre to both by the calm contentment of Mount Vernon. Every farmer cannot expect to occupy so high a position or gain so much applause; but every one ought, in his own sphere, to practice the same strict integrity and faithful performance of duty; and be, in his principles and conduct, a Washington—possessing the same virtues, though he may never have the same glorious opportunity to exemplify them. Every mechanic cannot expect to make such useful discoveries as the steamboat and cotton-gin; yet every one can and ought to acquaint himself with all the mysteries of his art, and give diligence to make himself as capable and his work as nearly perfect as possible, and do all that Whitney or Fulton would have done in his place.

I rejoice to be able to say, not only this is the course our farmers and mechanics ought to pursue, but also to a great extent they are pursuing it now.

The formation of this, and other like associations, and the variety, and standard worth of our many periodicals which are devoted to agriculture and the mechanic arts, show the spirit of our people. The benefit which the country receives on account of the free interchange of thought, and general diffusion of intelligence through these channels is incalculable. An intelligent and well informed gentleman from the south, once asserted that through the influence of the Albany Cultivator alone, the wealth of that part of the country had been increased more than two millions of dollars.

Before I close these remarks, let me suggest (being myself a father, with some opportunities of observation,) that you should incline your sons above all things, to prize the honest station, however humble, which is gained by personal industry, and enjoyed without dependence on the capricious breath of party, or any mortal man in power.

Any honest pursuit will be esteemed by a young man, of independent spirit and honourable ambition, in preference to being seen lounging in the anti-chambers of public departments, and the lobbies of the capitol, a suppliant for the precarious emoluments of office. Let it ever be deemed a high honor by those who are qualified to be called on to serve the people; but when you see your son, made in the image of his God, inclined to quit the handles of his plow, or throw down his hammer and sell his birth right for a mess of pottage—put into his hands the homely fable of the dog and the wolf, which inculcates the love of independence as a boon above all price.

It is the independent spirit of our people that ranks them above all other nations of the earth: because each man has, in himself, the ability and resolution to accomplish his ends of and by himself; it is on this account that an American can be cast penniless and alone in any corner of the earth, and amongst any people, and instead of wasting his life out, a poor and despised stranger, he will summon his energies and bear himself like a conqueror.

Whatever the natives are doing, he does it better than they; he makes the most money—exerts the most influence, and soon becomes a leader and a prince among them; from selling a shoe to heading an army, he shows him-

self in all things capable, in all things superior; and having accumulated sufficient wealth for himself, and honor for his country, abroad, he returns to lay at her feet the spoils of other lands, and enjoy, in his native home, the society of equals. What does such a man want of official patronage or protection. He scorns to eat the bread he has not earned, or to enjoy honours he has not deserved.

I should give, however, but half the praise that is due to my countrymen, did I not remark that, remarkable as they are for their independence of spirit and ability to take care of themselves, they are equally distinguished for benevolence, true politeness, and a liberal and enlightened regard for the best interest of others. No where on the globe are women treated with more tenderness and respect, and no where are they more worthy of it. It is, indeed, under the gentle and kindly influence of mothers, sisters, and wives, that the best points of our national character have been formed; and who would not yield to that influence? If men have all the strength, women have all the loveliness; strength is needed to protect loveliness, and loveliness is equally needed to adorn strength.

Depend upon it—the young man who pretends to despise the society of virtuous females, does so because his conscience tells him, he is unworthy of it.

Intending always to practice what I preach, it has been with me a matter of pride to appear before you to day, clothed in the manufacture of our own country. With the labors of our own husbandmen, and the skill of our own mechanics, no man need send abroad for subsistence or clothing. For my own part, so fully am I impressed with the importance of looking for comfort and happiness, within ourselves, that I would have the very children in our schools taught to sing the old song, which says:

"I'll eat my own ham—  
My own chicken and lamb,  
I'll shear my own fleece and I'll wear it."

### CATCHING RATS.

Government have offered bounties for the destruction of bears, wolves, and foxes, while the rat, the most injurious to the interests of man of all quadrupeds, is allowed to pursue its marauding career entirely independent of legislation.

It is not a very easy matter to exterminate rats; they are endowed with much more sagacity than they generally have credit for, and under the promptings of self-preservation, often elude plans which are laid for their capture. A friend of the writer, quite distinguished as a successful hunter, has frequently been heard to make the remark, that he could catch a fox easier than he could catch a common house rat.

A writer in the Ayrshire (Scotland) *Agriculturist*, appears to understand the business of rat trapping, and gives some directions on the subject, which we think worthy of remembering. He recommends the round and square wire traps; and in order to take the rats, he states that "it is in the first place necessary to remove their suspicions, to get the better of their cunning, in short to throw them off their guard." He thinks this can be most effectually done by "fastening the doors of the trap open for a night or two, so that the rat may have free ingress and egress." He supposes that rats, as well as many other animals, possess the power of conveying intelligence to each other; and when one has found a delicious morsel, he will convey the intelligence to his comrades. As bait, he prefers bacon, fried till it is somewhat burned, with plenty of grease. He recommends that the trap be visited early in the morning, for if the rats remain long in the traps it will be the means of frightening the others so that it will be difficult to catch them.

"Poison," he says "can only be resorted to in such cases as are inaccessible to any other living animal. It can safely be applied in sewers, drains, and such like places, and should always be combined with some sarory fry. In this in-

stance again, feed for a night or two ere mingling the poison in the food—you will thus lull suspicion and commit greater havoc. I may here observe that common bottle corks cut in very thin slices, will kill rats, and will be greedily devoured. Phosphorous has been recommended, and so has broken glass. For my own part, I detest poisoning, and prefer the trapping system. Either when using trap or poison, you will find your success immeasurably enhanced by using a few drops of the following mixture upon the mess used as bait. It is the preparation generally employed by professional rat catchers, and is that to which they have imputed such wonderful effect—such as decoying the vermin into one spot, and there destroy them wholesale. I must, however, confess that I have both sought and met with some of the most talented and successful professors of the art of rat catching, without witnessing such miracles. I once however, did see a tame rat, (in Edinburgh, at the back of the Castle, in the year 1837,) which, having been previously smeared with a certain composition—that which I am about to describe—was let loose in a vault, and in less than half an hour returned followed by some half dozen others, which seemed so enamoured of the decoy, or of the scent that hung about him, that they suffered themselves to be taken alive in the rat-catcher's hands, without offering to bite. The preparation I purchased from an eminent practitioner in rat catching. It is as follows.

Powdered Assafetida,  $\frac{1}{4}$  grain.  
Essential oil of Rhodium, 3 drachms.  
Essential oil of Turpentine, 1 drachm.  
Oil of Anniseed, 1 drachm.

### BUSINESS FOR WINTER.

In the Northern section of the country, not much can be done on the farm during the winter months; but the care of the stock, the procuring and preparation of fuel, will necessarily occupy much time.

If pastures and fields are covered with grass it is deemed best to feed off stock may be turned on for that purpose when the ground is not soft, but they should be kept away when there is a liability of poaching the soil. In general, cattle and horses had better be fed in the barn-yard. The extra quantity and quality of the manure which may be saved from keeping them in this situation, will more than compensate for the trouble of feeding them. Sheep, however, while the ground is bare and dry, may run out, more or less, according as there should be food for them on the ground.

The poorest fodder should be reserved for the coldest weather, after the stock has become seasoned to dry food, and when their appetites are sharp. Last spring's calves should be fed on fowen, or second crop hay, as it is less binding in its effects on the bowels than hay from the first crop. A few potatoes, carrots, or turnips, given daily, will be found beneficial. Cattle intended for slaughter, should be fed with strict regularity, in clean mangers; and they should have clean, dry, and comfortable warm places to lie down and sleep.

Farther south, where little or no snow falls, a system entirely different from ours, is pursued with fattening cattle. Instead of being sheltered, they are kept usually in open fields, and fed principally with Indian corn, stalk, ear, husk and all, without any other preparation than to cut and shock the corn at a proper time, and carry it to the fields from day to day. At first, it would seem that there must be great waste in this mode of feeding, and there is unquestionably more food used in making a given quantity of meat, than is required where a well regulated system is adopted. But it should be remembered that a great object in those sections, is the saving of manual labor, that being proportionably a much dearer article there, than beef, or the materials from which beef is made. Hence, on the score of economy, it may be better to waste some corn, than to expend too much labour in saving it all.

Three fields are usually appropriated to stock feeding. The fattening cattle

are fed in each of these, in regular rotation, and are followed in the course by store cattle and swine, to clean up what is first left. Where care is taken to choose dry land, with a firm clean sod, and close attention is paid to feeding, there is less waste, when the hogs have cleaned up the field, than would be supposed by one unacquainted with the practice. Still, with the carelessness which too often prevails,—the cattle being fed in too small fields, or such as become muddy at times, or covered with manure—there is much waste and loss, both from the food not being eaten, and the stock being kept in uncomfortable places, where, if they thrive at all, it is but slowly.

Wood and timber should be cut and hauled if practicable before deep snows. There is economy in this on several accounts. More fuel is saved, and more labor is done in a given time, with less expense, and for more comfort to all those engaged in it. Rails for fencing may be worked out to good advantage in mild weather, and in stormy days, if there is a suitable place to work under cover, posts may be mortised and made ready for setting. Stones for walls may be readily moved, when there is just snow enough on the ground to make good sledding.

Peat for manure may be dug in many places. If designed for use next season, and without being made into compost, it will be best to spread it on the fields at once, and expose it as much as possible to the action of the air, frost, and rains, by which any acid it contains will be dissipated, and it is rendered fine and fit for use as a manure. While hogs are frozen hard enough, it is a good time to carry off the peat which has been dug. If not wanted soon, it may be piled in large piles, in situations where it may be reached at any time.

### SUPPOSED EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING.

On the downs and heaths of some parts of Great Britain, the vegetation sometimes presents certain singular appearances, commonly known as "fairy rings." They are circles varying in circumference, in which the grass and other plants are much more verdant than on the adjacent ground. We believe the same phenomenon has been sometimes noticed in this country. These circles have been accounted for by various theories, no one of which, it is said, is sufficient to embrace all the facts. They have often been attributed to the springing up of fungi, which it is supposed spread in a circular manner, and enriching the earth by their growth, give unusual luxuriance to other vegetation.

In connection with this subject, and in reference to some accounts which have been published of the supposed effect of electricity on plants, a writer in the London Gardener's Chronicle, with the signature of "D. S. E., of Lambeth," relates the following circumstance. He and his companions were travelling in Portugal, when, says he "we were overtaken on our road by one of those tremendous thunder storms incident to hot climates, and which bear no comparison to the slight movements of the elements in our colder atmosphere. Whilst taking shelter from the fury of the storm, the forked lightning struck many objects not far from us. Soon after, I observed several rings of smoke or gas, floating slowly in the air, which preserving their circular form, enlarging or diminishing alternately, until they ultimately settled in that form on the sward before us. In a day or two afterwards, on passing the same spot, I observed on the sward several rings, densely green, two or three inches wide, the grass of which rings had grown full an inch in that short time, and fungi were beginning to make their appearance. There must have been some very highly fertilizing property in the gas. In this country I have always observed that these rings make their appearance after thunder-storms; and I never yet met with a better solution of the phenomena than that which accident afforded me, as above related."