

THE GLEANER:

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OLD SERIES]

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

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From the Agricultural Gazette.
AGRICULTURE AS A PROFESSION.

What is the reason that there is so much wealth amongst manufacturers, and so little among agriculturists? Who makes a fortune now a days by farming? and why should so many by manufacturers? What constitutes the difference. These thoughts have often occurred to me since circumstances have changed my residence from the country, and from the society of farmers, to this the strong hold of the manufacturers. Among many other reasons the following two may be adduced; education, and a proper application of capital. Suppose, for instance, a person has two sons to provide for, he determines that one shall become a merchant and the other a farmer. He has laid by, we shall suppose, to start him in business £4000, which he divides equally between them. If a farmer himself, he is now on the look out for the first vacant farm; we shall suppose the one adjoining his own becomes vacant—"450 acres; a little too large it is true for his capital, but such a fortunate circumstance; I shall have him near home, and such an opportunity seldom occurs." Without any weightier reason than the above, off he starts to the landlord, secures the farm for his son and a lease of 21 years. His son now enters on his duties; he was born and bred on his father's farm (rarely was from home further than the next town) of course pursues the course of management that his father did, his capital he finds barely sufficient merely to stock the farm; it is out of question to attempt any improvement this year. "The crops are looking well." However, the disease attacks his Potatoes, or the epidemic his sheep, and he must defer the training till another year; and so he nuddles on the best way he can, trusting to the season.

How different is the case of the son intended for a merchant? "Tom" says to his father, "you must go and learn to be a merchant." Well? he takes him to Manchester; great care is taken to get him into one of the principal houses; he stays there, say five or six years, going through all the departments, seeing and taking a part in the whole system; he thus acquires business habits and gets an insight into details. For the next two or three years he becomes a paid servant, acting as salesman or buyer, taking a little of the responsibility on his own shoulders, and thus gets acquainted with the customers, &c. He will next, perhaps, be induced to go abroad as agent, and in this way he becomes acquainted with the tone of foreign markets. He is, this way enabled to meet, being acquainted with, the wishes of customers; is thoroughly acquainted with the minutiae of business, and has by this time acquired the necessary knowledge where and how he can invest his capital to most advantage. He will not purchase an article which he will stand on his hand; but knowing what is most in demand, will sink his capital at once on its purchase, and will be enabled to turn over his capital several times in the course of a year. All this is the effect of education. Now contrast the two: the farmer embarks in his concern without more knowledge than his father possessed before him, and is thoroughly content. If his father be not a farmer, he requires the supposed necessary knowledge by living a year, or almost two, with a friend who farms. The merchant begins early in life, and his first ten years is taken up with learning how to invest his money to advantage, and it would be strange if, after that time, he was not able to turn it to advantage. The farmer's capital is at once absorbed with purchasing the stock absolutely necessary for a farm which he has taken three times too large for him living nothing for improvements.

What is the remedy. Let the son who is to be the farmer, be sent at an

early age to the Agricultural College (there will be more of these by and by) and let his first three or four years be taken up with being grounded in those sciences which bear on agriculture; let him become intimately acquainted with the theory and practice of agriculture as unfolded in the lecture or seen in the field; let him put his hand to the various manual operations; get a knowledge in purchasing, rearing, and management of stock. After doing this, let him go abroad to the best farmed countries, see the operations carried out on a large scale there, being now intimately acquainted with everything bearing on the subject, let him take a farm in proportion to his capital, and start, and I am greatly mistaken if he does not double and treble the amount of interest for his capital which he would otherwise obtain. It is as inconsistent for the farmer to start business without having thus acquired a knowledge of the theory and practice of his profession, as it would be for the merchant to embark his whole capital on an article which he has not first ascertained will meet the views of his customers. The farmer rarely considers the amount of capital necessary; he unhesitatingly enters on a farm three times the size of the extent of the capital he possesses for its proper management; and thus instead (as he should if his capital were sufficient) of putting the whole farm in the best possible position the first year of his lease, he is contented to dawdle on doing bit by bit every year; his crops continue on the same average quality, and he thus realises no more than a low interest for his capital; whereas, if his farm had been in proportion to his capital, he might have, in the first two years, got all his improvements effected, and during the rest of the term be in the receipt of good crops paying him a high per centage for his capital. I would here remark that the expense of farming well cultivated and improved land, is no more than that necessary to farm land in which the improvements necessary to insure good crops have not been carried out; so that the expense in both cases are similar, while the returns are in many cases double. This will illustrate the advantage of beginning to improve early in the term.

WATERING GARDEN PLANTS.

The past season has been remarkable for its heat and moisture, and has consequently greatly favoured the growth of plants. Yet the importance of a copious watering has been very strikingly shown by a row of Red Antwerp Raspberry, a part of the row standing in matted land in open ground, and a part under the eaves of a woodhouse and on its north west side. The shoots of those in the open ground have grown this year about four feet; a small part have grown five feet. Those under the eaves of the woodhouse have grown from seven and a half to eight feet, and are much more numerous.

This experiment shows the importance of attention to some efficient system of irrigating gardens.

From the American Herd Book.

BREEDING CATTLE.

To such as intend to breed cattle of decided excellence—and they, we hope, constitute all—we recommend them to select bulls of only moderate size, coupled with all the fineness of bone and limb, consistent with a proper masculine vigor and energy, coupled with fullness of carcass and ripeness of points; so as to embody great substance within small compass. In addition to this, let him be as deeply bred, that is, of as pure blood, and of as long ancestry as possible; and above all let him be descended of good milking stock, where milkers are to be bred in his progeny. Your cows we will presume are such as your opportunities have enabled you to procure, but of approved blood. If the bull selected breed well to your cows; have no fears of continuing his services to a second, or even a third generation of his own get. Such practice will produce uniformity, and uniformity is one great excellence. No

matter for the colour, so that it be within the Short-Horn colors. Above all things, avoid coarseness—looseness—flabbiness—and a general tendency in the animal to run their valuable points into offal. Such cattle, of whatever breed, are great consumers, bad handlers, light provers, tender constitution, and unsatisfactory altogether. If you have an occasional production of this sort, transfer it to the shambles or elsewhere, with all dispatch. On the principle that "like begets like," which is an unerring law of nature in the long run, with the presence of such in your herd, you will be perpetually afflicted with the production of animals, which by hereditary descent, sympathy, and the thousand accidents springing from association, will be neither creditable to your good breeding, nor satisfactory to yourself.

Feed well: not lavishly. Your cows should be in good breeding and milking condition—nothing more; and your bulls in fair working order. Such is the condition most consonant to nature, and promotive of the highest animal health. The scale of points laid down in our introduction, with the occasional remarks on the practice of breeders, as we have passed in our history, detail what a good animal should be. These, together with a close examination of the general figure of good cattle, as illustrated in our plates, will aid the judgment of the breeder. With a well balanced judgment of his own, a sound experience, they will be a safe guide, and he may go on his way rejoicing.

A single word to such, if any there be, into whose hand these pages may fall, as deride the value placed on superior cattle by their breeders, and such as know their real worth: Breeding good animals is a subject of great labor, and incessant care. Such labor cannot be bestowed for nothing. To breed successfully, requires skill,—talent,—research,—observation; all of these in a high order. Let the breeding of our fine stocks fall into unworthy hands, and hardly a single generation of man will pass before the real lover and promoter of the matchless herds which now so proudly embellish many of our rural estates—a source of pleasure, of pride, and of comfort to their possessors—will moan over their degeneracy, and which the time of another generation with great labor and constant solicitude would scarce suffice to restate in their former splendor and excellence. Talent and labor of this kind cannot be had for nothing; and without remunerating prices be maintained, the downfall of the Short Horns in America will sooner or later be at hand.

From Colman's European Agriculture.
RESULTS OF SUBSOILING AND DRAINING.

The improvement effected by the process of thorough draining and subsoiling have been most remarkable. The manager of the farm of Sir Robert Peel says, "that he can confidently state that the crop of turneps, after the above treatment, was four times the quantity in weight ever produced in the same field at any previous time." Mr. Smith says in an early treatise on this subject, that when land is thoroughly drained, deeply wrought, and well manured, the most unpromising, sterile soil becomes a deep rich loam, rivaling in fertility the best natural land in the country, and from being fitted for raising only scanty crops of common oats, will bear good crops of from 32 to 48 bushels of wheat, 30 to 40 bushels of beans, 40 to 60 bushels of barley, and from 43 to 70 bushels of early oats, per statute acre, besides potatoes, turneps, mangel wurzel, and carrots, as green crops, and which all good agriculturists know are the abundant producers of the best manure.

Mr. Smith also states that when he commenced operations on his farm, the soil of a part of it was not more than four or four and a half inches deep, but since he has drained and subsoiled it, he can turn up sixteen inches of good soil.

It seems however, that equal success has not attended subsoil plowing in all

cases. Where the soil is very adhesive and heavy, it soon runs together and becomes so impervious to water as it was before the subsoil had been stirred. Hence, thorough draining is essentially necessary in connection with the loosening of the substratum.

SUBSOILING LIGHT LANDS.

Though some may be surprised that this system should be applied to light and sandy land, yet Mr. Colman states many cases of its beneficial effect have come within his own knowledge. He mentions the case of a man having 400 acres of sandy land which had been used as a rabbit warren. The surface was undulating, the swells being covered with heather, and the hollows with aquatic plants. The soil of the hills was a sterile sand, which had heretofore been cultivated and then abandoned. About six or eight inches below the surface, this sandy soil seemed to be hardened almost into a limestone, with the occurrence occasionally of an impervious bed of ironstone, presenting wherever it did occur, a complete obstacle to the entrance of the plowshare." After this land had been thoroughly subsoiled, it yielded over 80 bushels of oats per the acre, and when the account was written, had a beautiful crop of wheat growing on what had been the worst portion.

From the Boston Cultivator.

THE FARMER.

If there is one man more than another who has reason to be proud of his calling, that man is the farmer. Behold him in the morning rising with the sun and going cheerfully to his labour; as he goes he is fanned by the cool and refreshing breeze that is gracefully waving the green clad tree, from among whose leafy branches a hundred of nature's minstrels welcome him with a light and cheerful heart to his work, with their morning songs. A contented man is a happy man. But why should the farmer be a contented man above all others?

In the first place because his property is safe. The merchant knows not when he lies down at night but a storm may arise and send his ship upon some hidden rock in the sea and she be dashed in a thousand pieces, and her cargo buried in the depths of the ocean.

The man of business fears lest he may hear every moment of the failure of some extensive firm, that will sweep him from the avails of a life of anxiety and toil.

Another whose property is in buildings, fears lest the raging fire should consume his all.

But the farmer has none of these anxieties; storms may rage but they cannot sink his farm—houses may fall but they will not effect him—fires may rage, but there is little danger of their reaching him. The farmer can lie down to rest with the assurance that his property is safe, and not only safe, but even while he sleeps his crops are growing and his flocks and herds are increasing.

Another reason why the farmer should be contented, he is more independent than most other men.

The clergyman is dependant upon his people. He must preach, pray, and live to suit them; in short, he must have the fear of offending them continually before his eye or he must go.

The physician is every body's servant he must be at every body's neck and call, when called upon by night or by day, in rain or shine, hot or cold, he must go; he cannot consult his own wishes, or do that which is best for his own health, but he must go, or we will get some one else.

The mechanic is dependent upon his employer: he must labor for him for whatever compensation he sees fit to give, and takes his pay in what and when he pleases.

But the farmer is his own master: he is "lord of the soil," he can go and come when he pleases. He is not obliged to do his work to suit this one or that one, but to suit himself.

Another reason why the farmer should be contented, is, he is always sure of a