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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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ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

At the Dinner, when the President gave the health of the Queen Dowager, Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, and the rest of the Royal Family, Prince Albert rose, amidst loud and continued cheers, and said—

Gentlemen, I have been most deeply touched to witness the expressions of your loyalty to the Queen (renewed cheering) and to the Royal Family generally. (more cheering.) I beg to return you my best thanks for having received the toast of my health with so much cordiality (cheers.) It has been a great satisfaction to me to have been enabled this year to pay you an old debt in thus coming among you, and attending at this most useful and interesting meeting. All I have seen to-day and yesterday exhibits a bright picture of the progress of British Agriculture; and for much of that progress the country is, I firmly believe, indebted to this society. Agriculture which was once the main pursuit of this, like every other nation, holds even now, notwithstanding the development of commerce and of manufactures, a fundamental position in the realm. And although time has changed the position which was once held by the landed proprietor with his feudal dependents, yet the country gentleman with his wife, and the country clergyman, the farmer, and the labourer, form still one great, and I hope, united family—in which we greatly recognize the foundation of our social state. Science and mechanical improvements have changed the mere practice of cultivating the soil, in these days, into an industrial pursuit, requiring capital, machinery, skill, and perseverance in the struggle of competition. We must consider this a great progress, as it demands higher energies and higher intelligence. Conscious of these changes, we Agriculturalists of England collect in these meetings—the meetings of the Royal Agricultural Society of England—in order to communicate to each other, the result of our various experience, and the progress that some may have made in the application of science, in the improvement and ingenuity of machinery, or in the breeding and rearing of cattle. Feeling as I do, a high and lively interest in these noble pursuits and having myself in a small way experienced all the pleasures and little hangings, and knowing its paramount importance to the country, I feel highly gratified that the President of the Society should have entrusted to me to propose to you the toast of the day, which is, 'Success to the Royal Agricultural Society of England.'

Mr. BANCROFT, in proposing the health of the President elect of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, spoke as follows:

Your Royal Highness, my Lord Yarborough, and Gentlemen, I esteem it a distinguished privilege that you have called upon me, on the present occasion, to propose a sentiment, which will be responded to most warmly from the heart of every one in this numerous assembly. Gentleman, I thank you all for the very cordial manner in which you have welcomed me to-day. I esteem it not any thing personal to myself, but as an evidence on the part of the farmers of Yorkshire, that you too, like the farmers of every other part of England, which it has been my lot to visit—that you too cherish the sentiment of friendship and regard for that other nation beyond the Atlantic—of that other nation where Chatham's language is the mother tongue. But let me seize the opportunity to express my grateful sense of the cordial welcome which I, in connection with others, have received in Yorkshire. The invitation of your President brought me on a pilgrimage to this far-famed, and world-renowned valley of Mowbray, to this land of abbey; and I in common with others, can testify that if the old monasteries are crumbling to the dust, the spirit of hospi-

ality still survives and has lost nothing of its strength, and to what an invitation have we been invited! We assemble at the base of the most stupendous monument ever reared by the genius, the delicate taste, and the religious sentiment of our ancestors. And it has been so carefully restored and preserved by their pious zeal for their posterity; and, indeed, it seems as if centuries descended round about to welcome this living and moving panorama of the industrious of the English of to-day—it seemed as if centuries of the past welcomed the results of your farming husbandry, results which it would be presumption to compare to the snow white bulls which of yore grazed the pastures of Rome. You yourselves, coming together from all parts of England to witness the exhibition here made—you yourselves, farmers of the country, are astonished as you contemplate the stock that is exhibited, and in seeing what can be produced by the skill, the emulation, and the perseverance of the British farmer. Nor may I omit to add my mite of admiration of the wonderful results of ingenuity in the yard where the implements have been shown, and which have been accomplished by the workmen of this ingenious nation, enjoying the blessings of liberty without restraint—and living in a climate which for all you may say of it, is one of the very best in the world. It is surpassed by no climate in its averting the excesses of heat and cold, and being on that account above all things friendly to industry. And I, too, as I came here, must add my sentiment of joy in my presence here, as bringing with it a reminiscence of home, for on the other side of the Atlantic we love the cities we establish and the towns we plant—we love to give our villages that mark the line in which the English language proceeds towards the Pacific, names that remind us of our ancient home. A beautiful emporium of American commerce, to the city that boasts more than any other in prosperity, that gems the ocean side—that binds together the two hemispheres, and takes for its name that of this city, but it is a New York, where people are not likely to forget the ties of consanguinity. And thus I am led by the manner in which you assent to these sentiments of friendship, to congratulate myself and to congratulate you, that we live in an age when nations exult in the prosperity of one another. I rejoice that we live in an age when, of all the trees that are planted in the ground, the husbandman of all lands invokes the choicest blessing of Providence on the tree of peace; praying that its root may strike to the very centre of the earth, and that it may be firmly rooted, that its boughs may but rustle in the breeze of the stormiest revolutions. It is with this sentiment and this feeling I stand before you to-day. The kindness of your President has favoured me with a toast; but I do not, in putting myself forward as diplomatist, speak as a privileged spy. I can only say, that any one who comes from any quarter of the world to spy out the nakedness of the land of England, will have to go home again for his pains. He will find nothing but a united people—he will see nothing but a nation that loves English liberties, and is determined to maintain and advance them under the influence of judgment and reason, as conducing to the general prospect and public weal. He will see nothing but society in the finest arch in which the keenest eye can detect a crevice. And I, gentlemen, speaking as an American—I gentlemen, speaking as a representative of my country, tell you that we rejoice in your prosperity. I should be denounced by my country, if I did not utter that sentiment. I tell you that the greatest delight I have in this my happy visit to this far-famed valley—this wide, rich, vastly extended valley, which has not its rival till you pass the Alps and upon the valley of Normandy; I tell you that the greatest delight I have had in this visit, is to see that everywhere fruits of your industry are likely to be rewarded—to see everywhere your teeming valleys promise you a redeeming harvest, before which the sorrows of the past year which I too witnessed, will pass away

like the shadow of a summer's cloud. I think I have in my eye the architect of the bridge over the river Conway. I shall say, then, in reference to the industry and perseverance of the English people that their prosperity is assured; it is like the beautiful famed bridge over the Conway, which, by the heaviest burthens that can be imposed upon it, does not bend so much, but that the first gleam of heaven's sunshine restores it to its true level.

THE KINGS OF THE SOIL.

Black sin may nestle below a crest,
A crime below a crown;
As good hearts beat 'neath a fustian vest
As under a silken gown.
Shall tales be told of the chiefs who sold
Their sinews to crush and kill,
And never a word be sung or heard
Of the men who reap and till?
I bow in thanks to the sturdy throng
Who greet the young morn with toil;
And the burthen I give my earnest song
Shall be this—The Kings of the Soil:
Then sing for the Kings that have no crown,
But the blue sky o'er their head;
Never Sultan or Dey had such power as they
To withhold or to offer bread.

Proud ships may hold both silver and gold,
The wealth of a distant strand:
But ships would rot and be valued not,
Were there none to till the land.
The wildest heath and the wildest brake,
Are rich as the richest fleet,
For they gladden the wild birds when they
wake.
And give them food to eat.
And with willing hand and spade and plough,
The gladdening hour shall come,
When that which is called the 'waste land'
now,
Shall ring with the 'Harvest Home.'
The sing for the Kings who have no crown
But the blue sky over their head,
No Sultan or Dey hath such power as they
To withhold or to offer bread.

I value him whose foot can tread
By the corn his hand hath sown:
When he hears the stir of the yellow reed
It is more than Music's tone.
There are prophet-sounds that stir the grain,
When its golden stalks shoot up—
Voices that tell how a world of men
Shall daily dine and sup.
Then shame, oh shame, on the miser's creed,
Which holds back his praise or pay
From the men whose hands make rich the
lands,
For who earn it more than they?
Then sing for the Kings that have no crown
But the blue sky o'er their head,
Never Sultan or Dey had such power as they
To withhold or to offer bread.

The poet hath gladdened with song the poet,
And still sweetly he striketh the string,
But a brighter light on him is cast
Who can plough as well as sing.
The wand of Burns had a double power
To soften the common heart,
Since with harp and spade, in a double trade
He shared a common part.
Then sing for the Kings who have no crown
But the blue sky o'er their head:
No Sultan or Dey hath such power as they
To withhold or to offer bread.

From the Genessee Farmer. PRACTICAL HINTS ON HAY MAKING.

Good farmers differ in opinion as to the time in point of maturity, when grass should be cut. Some commence their haying as soon as the plants are fairly in blossom, whether herdsgrass, timothy, or clover; while others wait until the seed is nearly ripe. Something is due to the consideration how much work in haying one has got to perform, how much "help" to execute the task, and how pressing the harvesting of the wheat, barley, oats, and other crops may be, to affect the farmer's arrangements for securing his hay. If one can choose his time, we think that all gramineous plants should be cut while the seed is in the milk or just at the time when the seeds begin to form. At that period, the nutritious elements—those that form the starch and gluten of all seeds—are largely diffused through the stems or leaves of grasses.

Much sound judgment needs to be ex-

ercised in cutting grass at the right time in avoiding rains and dews, and in curing hay just enough, or neither too much, nor too little. If it were practicable, hay would be much better if cured in the shade, and free from the decomposing power of the heat and light of the direct rays of the sun. These dissipate much of the aromatic oil and peculiar colouring matter in new made, and badly made hay.

It is a well known fact, that butter and cheese made from milk drawn from cows fed on ordinary hay, is pale and insipid when compared with richly scented grass. Indeed the fact is well known, that some soils abounding in alkalies, and free from an excess of moisture, yield plants of a more fragrant and oily character than others, while better milk than is derived from plants that grow on sour wet soils.

Rest assured, kind reader, that the alkalies, potash, and soda, and the alkaline earths, lime and magnesia, have much to do, not only in correcting mineral acids in the soil, but they perform in the laboratory of plants, an important function in changing vegetable acids into starch sugar, and oils.

It is better not to cut grass when there is a heavy dew early in the morning, it can be well avoided. It requires a longer exposure to the sun after it is mown, than is desirable. Get your grass into winrow and cock, as soon as it will answer; and then by shaking it up light for the air to pass through the hay, finish the curing with as little sun as practicable.

In curing all medicinal plants, they should be dried in the shade.

In stacking, or mowing a way in a barn, calculate for yourself how much salt your sheep, cattle, and horses will need while eating a ton of your hay and then spread, as you unload, that quantity evenly over the stack or mow. The writer of this has cured a good deal of hay, and has often put on too much salt to avoid injury to a pretty green mow, which was not exactly hay per grass. While you put on salt enough, remember that cattle don't need to be scoured in cold weather with salted hay.

From the Albany Cultivator. SOILING WORK HORSES AND OXEN.

Whatever may be the decision in regard to the expediency of soiling milch cows and growing stock, we think there can be no doubt as to the propriety of keeping up work horses and oxen, in all situations where they are required to labor constantly. The advantages are, first a saving of time. When the animals are turned to pasture, considerable time is unavoidably occupied in driving them to and fro to be yoked or harnessed. Second, it is better for the stock, they have more time to rest, are more uniformly supplied with food, and are in better condition to labor. Horses are liable to *slaver* when running at pasture, especially the second growth of either red or white clover, and from this cause they frequently become unhealthy and poor. By keeping them up this is avoided. If it becomes necessary to feed clover of the second growth, it should be dried or wilted, and some clean dry straw or old hay cut or mixed with it. Third the quantity of manure that may be made by keeping the animals up, will more than pay the extra labor in bringing the food, &c. Let a due supply of muck or materials for absorbing the urine, be daily used in such a way that none shall be wasted.

Until green food can be had, the best of hay, with a little meal, or grain in some form, should be fed. Rye, cut while it is tender, may by first used: clover may come in next, and the different grasses afterwards. Rich, moist ground, properly swarded, will throw up such a rapid growth that it may be cut five or six times in the season.

INVIGORATING FRUIT TREES.

The papers often contain notices of the advantageous of applying ashes, salt,