

# THE GLEANER:

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OLD SERIES]

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

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## Agricultural Journal.

### From the New England Farmer. SUCCESSIVE APPLICATION OF LABOR AND SKILL.

On the 30th of June I visited a friend, living on the banks of the Charles, about twenty miles south-west of Boston, who has occupied his farm six years. It contains seventy acres, fifty of which are tillage and pasture, the remainder interval and meadow. The low lands are of first quality, and yield grass in abundance for the feed of the stock. The surface of the upland is uneven—soil a mixture of sand and clay, free of stone, and easy of cultivation. When the present proprietor came in possession, the produce was small, the pastures were run out, and of course the stock reduced. His attention was first directed to a renovation of his pastures.

This was done by the means of the plough and the application of compost manure. He has spared no effort to increase manure in every way possible.—His swine have been co-laborers in this department. Pastures that were covered with dry moss and wild bushes, are now blooming with white clover. Nearly all his pasture ground has been reclaimed. His fields have been made productive of a large burden of grass, by the use of the subsoil plough and manure. Where this plough has been used, the beneficial effects are most apparent. The land endures the drought much better than the adjoining land. We have often heard this stated, but never saw it so distinctly illustrated as in his fields at the present time. The difference is as great, as is usually seen on adjoining pieces, where a coating of manure has been spread on one, and not on the other.

Our attention was directed particularly to his stock. He has seven cows, and several heifers coming forward. Some of his cows are old, but all of them appear to be superior animals. We were informed by his daughter, who takes the charge of the dairy, that these cows yielded, during the month of June, two hundred and fifty pounds of butter, beside the milk and cream used by a family of twelve persons. This, we think, speaks well for the cows, and the pastures in which they feed.

We noticed one heifer, now about to have a second calf, and learned that she will be three years old in October. This animal, when young, was fed entirely on hay and water, and not on milk and grass as is usual. Her size is large, and she appears like a cow four years old. She is a fine animal for milk as was her mother before her. Among these cows are indications of the Durham, Ayrshire, and Devon blood, but in what proportions we are not informed. They are all reputed to be natives; and so far as milking properties are concerned, we think as well of native blood as any other.

The fences on the farm are of wood, except those bordering on the highway—consequently easily moved. The lots are alternated from year to year—sometimes cultivated with corn or potatoes, sometimes mowed, and sometimes fed as pasture. But little attention appeared to be given to the raising of beets, carrots, and onions—crops with which we have been familiar, and which we think could be raised on these lands to advantage.

Within the six years last past, the crops on the farm have trebled in amount. But the best effect of all is seen upon the younger members of the family, four or five of which are able to labor to advantage. The eldest daughter, now about twenty, takes the entire charge of making and preparing the butter for the market. Others at this time are gathering and preparing straw for bonnets. The father and sons are laboring together in the field. Having spent the better part of his life in pointing out to others the way to heaven, he now feels it to be his duty to provide for himself and family on earth.

Notwithstanding the proprietor has re-

alized a fair return for his labor in his annual crops, he is of the opinion that the increased value of the farm, in its improved condition, is equal to one dollar a day since he has been upon it. As this communication is made entirely without his knowledge I do not feel at liberty to use the name of the proprietor. P.  
July 3, 1849.

### KNOW YE NOT THAT YE ARE MEN.

Know ye not that ye are men?  
Ye laboring throngs of earth?  
Must ye be told and told again  
That Truth and Toil are worth?

Why do ye look upon the ground?  
No fire within the eye,  
When noble born are all around,  
And Wealth and Rank go by?

For have ye not a heart within,  
And sense and soul as they?  
And more—have ye not toiled to win  
The bread ye eat to-day?

Do ye despise your sunburnt lands—  
So hard and brown with toil,  
That have made fair the forest lands,  
And turned the forest soil?

What! do ye fear the haughty gaze  
Of men in rich array?  
'Tis said Pride hath not many days,  
And Riches fly away.

Up heart and hand, and persevere,  
And overcome the scorn—  
The haughty hate and heartless sneer  
Of this world's gentle born!

Fear not—shrink not—to you is given  
The guardianship of Earth;  
And on the record book of Heaven  
Is writ your honest worth!

Honor yourselves! ye honest, true,  
And willing, firm, and strong!  
Do well whatever your hands may do,  
Though praise may linger long!

A high and holy work is yours,  
And yours shall be a fame  
That lives for ages, and endures  
Beyond the Hero's name!

Go—with your hand upon the plough,  
And the plough beneath the sod;  
Pity the heart that scorns, and bow  
To nothing but your God!

From the Ohio Cultivator.

### HOUSES OF UNBURNT BRICK

Within the last five or six years, this style of buildings has been pretty extensively introduced into the Western States, especially in Illinois and Iowa.—Houses constructed of this material were supposed to combine many advantages that were possessed by no other mode of erecting walls, and consequently there were many enthusiasts found, who fancied they would ultimately supersede all other descriptions of buildings for farm houses, and out houses, for horses, cows, &c., in South America, Mexico, and in many countries on the continent of Europe, unburnt bricks have been employed in the construction of walls for houses, for a very long period of time, and it has been found that when pains were taken in the preparation of the material for the walls, they would successfully withstand the greatest severity of wet and cold for many generations. Walls of this description should not be raised higher than one story, and should be built upon a stone wall, raised at least thirty inches above the surface of the ground, and should either be protected by a widely projected roof or a verandah. The stucco or plastering should not be laid on the outside of the wall until it has had time to settle, and become perfectly dry. If the walls are built in the spring, the plastering might be put on in the following autumn; but it has been found best in most cases to delay the plastering until a twelvemonth from the period of the erection of the building. Sand of the coarsest and sharpest quality should be procured for the preparation of the mortar, and only a sufficient quantity of fresh slacked

lime, to firmly set the sand, should be employed in making the first coat, which if put on in the month of October, or when the weather is moderately warm, will be perfectly free from cracks, and by the aid of a second coat of plastering, will prove, in most cases, impervious to water for a very long period of time.

Unburnt brick walls are admirably adapted for stables, and other out-buildings; but where stone can be conveniently procured, the latter should be preferred as it is obvious they will make the most durable wall.

The following very practical remarks from the Prairie Farmer, on the subject, may be found interesting to a portion of our readers.

When this mode of building dwellings for our wet and cold climate of the north was proposed some five or six years ago, we had very little faith in it. But when at a later period, the opportunity was offered of examining houses so constructed our opinion was modified considerably; and we have long been convinced that dwellings, of peculiar construction as to form, might be made of unburnt bricks, which would greatly reduce the cost of building, and would possess several excellencies over those of any other construction.

There is no doubt, however, that attention must be paid to the form of the building when constructed of this material.—A two-story house, with close Grecian cornice, is not a fitting shape for it.—Water and frosts together have too convenient access to the walls, and will be pretty sure to act upon them, especially if the house should be provided with no spouts to carry off the roof water; nor, should these be added, would the matter be much mended.

The proper form of a house to be built of unburnt brick, is that of one story, or perhaps a story and a half cottages; with a wall from twelve to fifteen feet high, with sharp roof and largely projecting eaves so as to throw off all water from the walls, and preserve them dry. If a good high stone foundation is laid, there need be no difficulty—these preliminaries being adhered to—in securing a good house.

The last number of Ranlett's Architect contains some valuable hints as to detail in constructing of this material. The size of bricks may be 6x12x18, or 9x12x18, or 12x12. The second size will be found quite heavy to handle. In laying up the bricks, we should prefer lime mortar to that made of clay. It will aid in causing the covering cement to adhere.—But hear Mr. Ranlett.

"Any soil will be found suitable for making bricks to be dried in the sun, except sand or gravel, and can usually be obtained in making the excavation for the cellar of a house. A proportion of two parts clay or loam to one of sand or fine gravel, and of straw, about one hundred pounds cut in lengths of five or six inches to three hundred and fifty bricks; the clay should be removed to a level spot, and mixed by treading with oxen or horses, which can be done in two or three hours. A better material even than straw, to mix with the clay, when it can be obtained, is salt hay, on account of its toughness and durability. We have seen it used, in mixing mortar, in place of hair.

The moulds of the bricks should be made of boards, strongly fastened at the corners, and holes bored in the bottom to facilitate the discharge of the brick; when placed to dry, the bricks should be laid upon their sides, and dry sand sprinkled upon them to prevent them from cracking in the sun; in two or three days turn them upon the edge, and let them remain three or five days, according to the power of the sun, when they should be piled up so as to admit of a free circulation of air, and protected from the rain. In two weeks they will be fit for use. If a cellar is to be made, the wall should be of stone, and two feet of the top laid of lime mortar or cement: the latter would prevent dampness. In laying the bricks, clay mortar may be used, but mortar of lime and sand would do better. The roof should, in all cases, pro-

ject from two to four feet, according to the height of the building. If one or two full stories, the roof may be flat; but if a story and a half, it must be high to relieve the lateral pressure on the walls.—The coating and plastering on the outside of the walls should be of the best description; it may be made of equal parts of lime, ashes, sand, and clay, and thoroughly mixed with water, having a strong infusion of glauber salts."

From the Canada Farmer and Mechanic.

### THE DEW.

The dew, celebrated through all times and in every tongue for its sweet influence, presents the most beautiful and also striking illustration of divine agency in the economy of nature, and exhibits one of those wise and beautiful adaptations, by which the whole system of things, animate and inanimate, is fitted and bound together. All bodies on the surface of the earth radiate and throw out some rays of heat, in straight lines—every warmer body to every colder; and the entire surface is itself continually sending rays upwards through the clear air into free space. Thus, on the earth's surface all bodies strive, as it were, after an equal temperature, (an equilibrium of heat,) while the surface as a whole, tends generally towards a cooler state. But while the sun shines, this cooling will not take place, for the earth then receives in general more heat than it gives off; and if the clear sky be shut out by a canopy of clouds, these will arrest and again throw back a portion of the heat, and prevent it from being so speedily dissipated. At night, then, when the sun is absent, the earth will cool the most; on clear nights, also, more than when it is cloudy; and when clouds only partially obscure the sky, those parts will become coolest which look towards the clearest portions of the heavens. Now, when the surface cools, the air in contact must cool also; and like the warm currents on the mountain side, must forsake a portion of the watery vapor it has hitherto retained. This water, like the floating mist on the hills, descends in particles almost infinitely minute. These particles collect on every leaflet, and suspend themselves from every blade of grass, in the drops of "pearly dew." And mark here a beautiful adaptation. Different substances are endowed with the property of radiating their heat, and thus becoming cool with different degrees of rapidity; and those substances, which in the air, become cool first, also attract first and most abundantly the particles of falling dew. Thus, in the cool of a summer's evening, the grass-plot is wet while the gravel-walk is dry; and the thirsty pasture and every green leaf are drinking in the descending moisture, while the naked land and the barren highway are still unconscious of their fall.

From the American Agriculturist.

### KEEPING LEMONS FRESH.

I have been a house-keeper for some years, and never, till lately, have I been able to keep lemons fresh and juicy for any length of time. But, with all my care—now in this closet, now in that—now wrapped in paper, now packed in bran—now in a cool place, now in a dry one—they would dry up and become hard as wood. Of late, however, I have preserved them perfectly fresh in Summer, by placing them in a closely covered jar, or pot, kept in the ice-house. Each lemon is wrapped in a paper, (perhaps they would do as well without,) but opened and wiped once in ten or twelve days, then covered again with dry paper, and put back into the jar, or earthen vessel on the ice.

READ TO IMPROVE.—Any young farmer who will make it a point to read a little every day, from some approved agricultural book or paper, will have profitable food for reflection as he treads the furrows—and will find his mind rapidly advancing in useful knowledge connected with his profession.