

# THE GLEANER:

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

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. VIII.]

MIRAMICHI, MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1850.

[NUMBER 14.]

## Agricultural Journal.

### FARMER'S APPRENTICES.

The system of apprenticing boys for farm servants, as they do in England, it would be necessary to introduce here, if we are desirous to have efficient farm laborers. It requires a regular apprenticeship, under competent instruction and superintendence, to fit a man for the various duties of a farm laborer, and we believe very few of the laboring class coming to this country, with the exception of some English and Scotch, have had the advantage of this regular instruction, for a period of years when young. It is never attempted to put a man to work as a tailor, a shoemaker, or a carpenter, without serving a previous apprenticeship to the business, and it is a most absurd idea to suppose that an apprenticeship is not equally if not more necessary, to make an efficient farm laborer fit to execute well every work upon a farm. There is not a doubt, that in every country where this system of apprenticeship to farm labor is not adopted that Agricultural improvement has not and does not make much progress. There is more lost by want of skill in laborers in the field than most persons imagine. In ploughing we wish to make a straight furrow, because it is impossible to execute the work well unless the furrows are straight, and how difficult it is to find men who can do this work properly in every respect. If the furrows are not straight, the land cannot be turned over perfectly, nor can the surface of the soil, under the furrow slice, be even as it should be found, if the ploughed soil were removed. It is equally important that harrowing should be properly executed, and by a person not duly instructed, it never can be, and particularly, if accustomed to the work in a slovenly manner. There is less difficulty in training a young person to execute work properly than to change the habits of those who have been accustomed to do work in a careless and unskillful manner. Draining is another business little understood by the generality of laborers, without constant superintendence, and it is a work that, if not properly done, the labor expended upon it is a dead loss, and the crop depending upon the drainage, perhaps a loss also. It is most extraordinary, that although Agriculture is universally admitted to be of vastly more importance to the human race than any other business or profession, nevertheless its improvement is neglected here,—and it is at this moment further from the perfection it is capable of than almost any other business or manufactory. This state of things is chiefly to be attributed to the deficiency of capital and skill employed in Agriculture, being far less in proportion than is employed in any other business. As one means of advancing the improvement of Agriculture, we hope the system of apprenticeship of young lads will be adopted. In England, they are apprenticed until twenty one years old—the farmer finding them in suitable clothes all the time, and at the expiration of the term, giving them a fixed sum of money. We do not wish to fix any particular amount as that which might be paid in this country—the parties to the agreement being the best qualified to do this. The services rendered by the apprentices may be very different; one might be better deserving of twenty pounds than another of five pounds, at the expiration of his engagement. The quantity and quality of clothing might be fixed between the parties, or a certain amount determined, but this amount should be actually expended on clothes for the apprentice; and in every case, a farmer's frock, made of linen or other suitable material, should be a part of the clothes of the apprentice, and be constantly worn when at work in the farmyard or in the field. These matters may not be considered of much consequence, but we are convinced they would have a great influence, and a most favorable one in making good farm laborers and good farmers. These frocks save the other clothes, keep them clean, and are

every way a suitable dress for all persons working upon a farm or driving carts or teams upon the road. In England they are constantly worn, and in no country on earth is Agricultural improvement more advanced, or more efficient farm laborers to execute every sort of work.—In Holland, and the Netherlands, frocks are worn by the rural male population. The sort of clothes generally worn by the emigrants coming here are unsuitable for working in this, or indeed in any other country, as it is possible for them to be, and many of them are here for years before they adopt anything more suitable. A loose lined frock, short or long, will, at all events, allow a man to work if he be disposed, and gives him the appearance of a farm laborer, which he never can have in the ordinary dress of emigrants.

### THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER.

She may not, in the mazy dance,  
With jewelled maidens vie;  
She may not smile on courtly swain  
With soft bewitching eye;  
She cannot boast a form and mien  
That lavish wealth has bought her,  
But ah, she has much fairer charms,  
The Farmer's peerless daughter?

The rose and lily on her cheek  
Together love to dwell;  
Her laughing blue eyes wreath around  
The heart a witching spell;  
Her smile is bright as morning's glow  
Upon the dewy plain,  
And listening to her voice we dream  
That Spring has come again.

The timid lark is not more wild,  
Nor yet more gay nor free,  
The lily's cup is not more pure  
In all its purity;—  
Of all the wild flowers in the wood,  
Or by the crystal water,  
There's none more pure or fair than she  
The Farmer's peerless daughter?

The haughty belle whom all adore,  
On downy pillow lies,  
While forth upon the dewy lawn  
The merry maiden hies;  
And, with the lark's uprising song,  
Her own clear voice is heard—  
Ye may not tell which sweetest sings,  
The maiden or the bird.

Then tell me not of jewelled fair,  
The brightest jewel yet  
Is the heart where virtue dwells  
And innocence is set!  
The glow of health upon her cheeks,  
The grace no rule has taught her,—  
The fairest wreath that beauty twines,  
Is for the Farmer's daughter!

### CULTURE OF WHEAT.

Wheat is the most important of all the grains, and its varieties are numerous.—Among those now in cultivation, the following may be enumerated:—The bearded, the Darglass, the golden ear, the velvet ear, the egg-shell, the hedge-wheat, the Essex duo, the Kentish yellow, the white and Red Essex, the Mungo-well's, the Burwell red, the Hunter's, and the Georgian. A general division of wheats is made into white and red, with several shades between, and summer and winter. Winter wheat may be brought into the nature of summer, by altering the time of sowing. If winter wheat be sown at the period for putting summer wheat into the ground, in the course of two seasons, the winter will become of a similar habit as the summer, and the same process will bring a summer wheat to be a winter one.

In general, the fine white wheats are preferred to the brown and red; but the latter is most profitable for wet adhesive soils and unfavorable climates, on account of its hardness and ripening early. A red wheat of great productiveness, has been recently introduced into Scotland from Mark Lane.

The variety of wheat profitable to be produced must depend upon the nature of the soil, as land which has produced an indifferent crop of one may yield an abundant crop of another kind; and land is frequently found to yield better crops if the varieties be alternately changed.—

It has been observed, that a mixture of grain produces the heaviest crops, and that mixed flour makes the best bread.

The richer description of clays and strong loams are the best adapted for the production of wheat; but if properly cultivated and well manured, any variety of these two soils will produce excellent crops. Good wheat land ought always to possess a large quantity of clay and little sand; for although light soils may be made to produce good crops, yet the strong clay lands in general yield the heaviest grain. Sandy soils, being deficient in firmness, do not afford sufficient support to the roots of plants such as wheat, which do not sink far into the soil. There are light soils, however, made from decomposed granite, felspar, or clay-stone, compounded with vegetable matter, which produce excellent wheat.

The season for sowing wheat is necessarily regulated by the state of the land, as well as of the season; on which account it is not always in the farmer's power to choose the moment he would prefer. After fallow, as the season allows it may be sown from the end of August till the middle of November. On wet clays it is proper to sow as early as possible, such soils when thoroughly drenched with moisture in autumn, are seldom in a proper state for harrowing till the succeeding spring. In the opinion of many experienced husbandmen, the best season for sowing wheat, whether on fallow, rag-fallow, or ploughed clover stubble, is from the beginning of September to the 20th of October; but this must depend upon the state of the soil and weather.—In East Lothian, on dry gravelly loams, in good condition, after a clover crop, and well prepared, wheat has been known to succeed best when sown in November. After drilled beans, whenever the season will admit of ploughing and harrowing, wheat may be sown from the middle or end of September to the middle of November; after this season, the sowing of wheat ought not to be hazarded till the spring quarter returns.

After turnips, when the crop is consumed or led off, and the ground can be properly ploughed, wheat may be sown any time betwixt the last of February and the middle of March; and it is customary to plough and sow the land in successive portions as fast as the turnips are consumed. It is only on turnip soil of a good quality, verging towards loam, and in high condition, that winter wheat sown in spring, can be cultivated with success. When circumstances favorable, however it will generally happen that such lands, when wheat is not too often repeated, will nearly produce as many bushels of wheat as of barley. The wheat crops, therefore on an average of seasons will exceed the value of the barley crop considerably; hence its culture is an object which ought not to be neglected.

Wheat is liable to certain fungous diseases, as, for example, smut, mildew or rust, &c. With the view of preserving the grain from these most injurious disorders, it is customary to prepare the seed by steeping or pickling it in a kind of saline brine, or diluted urine. Steeping or pickling is performed after the seed has been washed, by allowing it to lie for a time amongst stale urine, diluted with water, or salt brine, of sufficient strength to float an egg. The seed is put into tubs, containing as much liquid as will cover the grain a few inches, and allow it to be well stirred, so as to bring all the light grains to the surface, which are skimmed off as long as they continue to rise. Another way is to put the seed into baskets, which are immersed in the water, are easily taken out, and be conveniently placed over an empty tub to drain. The seed is left for three or four hours in the chamber lye, or full six hours in the pickle, after which the liquor is drawn off, and the wheat spread thinly on the floor of the granary, where it is well sprinkled over with quick-lime slacked in the liquid. About half a peck of lime is sufficient for a bushel of wheat and it should be well stirred, so that every grain may get a portion. If the

seed is to be drilled, it should be passed through a coarse sieve after being limed, which will facilitate its progress through the machine. The grain will thus be quick dried; and it should not lie more than six hours in the heap, then be spread out and used the following day.

Some caution should be used in having the lime properly slacked, for if this is not done, too great a heat may be raised which will destroy the vegetable principle.—Doubts have been expressed of the efficacy of lime, and a solution of copperas is used on the Continent instead. Dry powdered lime would certainly have no effect, but when newly slacked lime it is very efficacious, as has been proved from experiment. It was found that a steep of lime water alone, in which wheat was immersed for 24 hours, proved a powerful preventive, of disease, while the good effects of unmixed brine were very inconsiderable.

Of the two kinds of steeps mentioned, urine is thought most efficient, and it should be used neither too fresh nor too stale, as in the first state it is ineffectual, and in the second injurious. The seed should be sown as soon as dry; for if allowed to lie in sacks or heaps beyond a day or two, the lime may be very hurtful. Another steep which is recommended by Sir John Sinclair, and is much used in Flanders, France, and Switzerland, is a solution of the sulphate of copper, or blue vitriol. The modes of using it are as follows:—

Into eight quarts of boiling water put one pound of blue vitriol, and while quite hot, three bushels of wheat are wetted with five gallons of the liquid; in three hours the remaining three quarts are added and the wheat is suffered to remain three hours longer in the solution.

The whole should be stirred three or four times during the six hours, and the light grains skimmed off. After the wheat is drained, slacked lime thrown on it to facilitate the drying. Another way of using it is to dissolve five pounds of the sulphate of copper in hot water, and add as much cold water to this as will cover three bushels of wheat. The wheat is allowed to remain five or six hours or even longer, in the liquid. After two or three bags, of three bushels each, have passed through the liquid, one pound more of the sulphate for each bag should be added; and after 12 bags or so have passed through, new liquid will be required.

To this we may add, that sowing the land with salt is considered an excellent means of preventing liability to any of these fungous disorders.

Farmer and Mechanic.

### MIGNONETTE.

To some persons who take pleasure in growing Mignonette in pots in their windows, the following modes for obtaining large plants may be new, although the plan has been adopted by a few cultivators long ago. Sow seed of the common Mignonette towards the end of February, in pots about 6 inches deep, and four-and-a-half diameter, inside measure. Use a rich soil; after the seed is sown, place the pots in a warm situation; when the plants are up, place them where they can get air to prevent them from damping off; when the plants have made a few leaves, pull all but two; as the plants grow, side shoots will push, they must be pinched off, always leaving the leaf at the base of each shoot which contributes to its growth. If the leading shoot should show flower, pinch it off. Water must be given when the plants are dry. As the season advances, the plants must be placed in an airy situation—they will gradually harden. When the plants have reached a desirable height, from half-a-yard to two feet, pinch out the leading shoot; this will induce a number of lateral shoots to push and form a bushy head. Plants thus treated will bloom early the following spring. After they have showed flowers, the plants, if vigorous, may be removed with ball entire, into pots a size larger; they will then bloom all the season.