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FARMING.

If one half the zeal, energy, and expense that blots so many gazettes with low and coarse abuse, setting the whole community by the ears, for the vain and paltry purpose of a few demagogues and office seekers, were bestowed on the advancement of agriculture—if the people were half so ambitious to improve and beautify their fields, as they are to settle the affairs of the nation; and half so angry with thistles, thorns, and poor fences, as they are with their political opponents, who probably wish as well to the country as they, we should have more productive fields, less complaints of poverty, more ability to be charitable and munificent, and abundantly more good feeling. From Pittsburg to New Orleans, the son plows as his father did before him, and the great mass of farmers are as stationary in theory as they are in practice.—Nine in ten believe at this moment, that book farming is the mere, useless visionary dreaming of men that know nothing about practical agriculture.

We would tell them that England is the garden of Europe, simply because almost every acre of the ground is cultivated scientifically, and on principles which have been brought to the test of the most rigid and exact experiment. We would tell them that N. England, of whose soil and climate they are accustomed to think as conigned by Providence, to sterility and inclemency, is the garden of the United States, only because the industrious and calculating people do not throw away their efforts in the exertion of mere brute strength—but bring mind, pains, system and experience to bear upon their naturally hard and thankless soil.

On every side, the passing traveller sees verdure, grass and orchards, in the small and frequent enclosures of imperishable rock, and remarks fertility won from the opposition of the elements and nature. After an absence of ten years, on our return to our country, we were struck with the proud and noble triumph, conspicuous over the whole region.

The real benefactors of mankind, as St. Pierre so beautifully said, are those who cause two blades of wheat to mature where one did before. The fields ought to be the morning and evening theme of Americans that love their country. To fertilize and improve his farm should be the prime temporal object of the owner of the substantial soil. All national aggrandizement, power and wealth, may be traced to agriculture as its ultimate source. Commerce and manufactures are only subordinate results of this main spring.

We consider agriculture as very conducive not only to abundance, industry, and comfort, and health, but to good morals, and ultimately, even to religion. We shall always say and sing,—“Speed the Plough.” We shall always regard the American farmer, stripped to his employment, and tilling his grounds, as belonging to the first order of noble men among us.—We shall always wish him bountiful harvests, good beer, and moderate use of cider; and if he will rear it himself, of the grape; but none of the pernicious gladness of whiskey; and we shall only invoke upon his labors the blessing of God, and say of him—“Peace be within his walls.”—Rev. T. Felt.

LIME WATER.

Accidental Discovery.—During the last season, Mr Joseph Wilcox, of this town having occasion to administer lime water to a sick horse, inadvertently left a pail of the preparation in his barn, which remained there for some months, serving as a favorite drink for his hens. He soon afterwards found that the laying of his hens was apparently increased to a considerable extent. Being convinced of the importance of the (to him) new discovery, he has during the present season, kept his hens constantly supplied with lime water, placing in troughs within their convenient access, and the result was an increase in eggs of nearly four-fold as compared with previous experience.

He is willing to share the benefit of the experiment with his neighbors, if they

choose to try it; and hence his publication. The newness of the discovery (though it may not now be new to all) is claimed only as applicable to the mode of imparting the lime in this case—its use in another form for the same purpose having been understood by many.—*Wayne Sentinel.*

THE GOOD EFFECTS OF GARDENING.

Gardening is a civilizing and improving occupation in itself; its influences are all beneficial; it usually make people more industrious, and more amiable. Persuade a careless, indolent man, to take an interest in his garden, and his reformation has begun. Let an idle woman honestly watch over her own flower-beds, and she will naturally become more active. There is always work to be done in a garden, some little job to be added to yesterday's task without which it is incomplete; books may be closed with a mark where one left off needlework may be thrown aside and resumed again; a sketch may be left half finished; a piece of music half practised even attention to household affairs may relax in some measure, for a while; but regularity and method are constantly required, are absolutely indispensable to the well-being of a garden.—The occupation itself is so engaging, that one commences readily, and the interest increases so naturally, that no great share of perseverance is needed to continue the employment, and thus labor becomes a pleasure, and the dangerous habits of idleness is checked. Of all faults of character, there is not one, perhaps, depending so entirely upon habits as idleness; and nowhere can one learn a lesson of order and diligence more prettily and more pleasantly than from a flower garden.

But another common instance of the good effect of gardening may be mentioned, it naturally inclines one to be open-handed. The bountiful returns which are bestowed, year after year, upon our feeble labors, shame us into liberality. Among all the misers who have lived on the earth, probably few have been gardeners. Some cross-grained curl may set out, perhaps with a determination to be niggardly with the fruits and flowers of his portion; but gradually his feelings soften, his views change, and before he has housed the fruits of many summers, he sees that these good things are but the free gifts of Providence to himself, and he learns at last that it is a pleasure, as well as a duty, to give. This head of cabbage shall be sent to a poor neighbour; that basket of refreshing fruit is reserved for the sick; he has pretty bouquets for his female friends; he has apples or peaches for little people; nay, perhaps in the course of years, he at length achieves the highest act of generosity—he bestows on some friendly rival a portion of his rarest seed, a shoot from his most precious root! Such deeds are done by gardeners.”

SKILL IN FARMING.

Skill adds more to the profits of farming than hard work. In the article of butter for instance, the same outlay is required, or nearly the same, to make a hundred pounds of poor butter as would be required to make a hundred pounds of that which is good. But when the two articles are marketed, they may be five or six dollars of clear extra profit in the pocket of the skillful dairyman. The importance of scientific knowledge is realized by those who have found such benefit as is noted above in nearly every department of their labour.

HINTS AS TO MANURES.

Hoofs, hairs, feathers, skins, wool, contain more than 50 per cent. of carbon, and from 13 to 18 per cent. of nitrogen, besides sulphur, salts of lime, of soda, and of magnesia. These substances hold, therefore, the first rank, as it were, amongst manures; and as long a time is required for their decomposition, their action may often last for seven or eight years.—They yield excellent results, especially when made into a compost for potatoes, turnips, hops, hay, and, generally, on meadow-land. Hairs spread upon meadows are said to augment the crop threefold; and the Chinese, we are told, are so well aware of the great value of that manure, that they carefully collect the hair every time they have their heads shaved—and the operation is performed every

fortnight—and sell it to their farmers. Now, the crop of hair which every individual leaves at the hair cutter's yearly amounts to about half a pound; reckoning, therefore, at 13,000,000, the number of individuals who in Great Britain and Ireland are undergoing the process of shaving and hair-cutting, we have a production of about 3000 tons of hair—that is, of manure of the most valuable kind—since it represents, at least, 120,000 tons of ordinary farmyard manure, which might be collected almost without trouble, but which, on the contrary, such is our carelessness or indolence in those matters, is, I believe invariably swept away into our streets or sewers, and utterly wasted.—*Farmer's Manual of Agricultural Chemistry.*

BARN.—In that part of Pennsylvania through which we passed, the barns are generally built of stone. They consist of two stories, the lower of which is divided into apartments for horses and cattle, and the upper is appropriated to the storage of hay, grain, &c. The walls are usually very thick—not less than two feet—and being well laid in mortar, are nearly impervious to moisture and air. Windows are placed in the walls at proper places, for ventilation. The large doors are on the side, and teams with loads reach the floor of the second story by means of a bank or wharf made for the purpose. Stationary horse-powers, mostly on the lever principle, requiring from five to six horses for threshing grain, are generally placed in the basement, or in an adjoining building. In some instances these powers are being displaced by the endless-chain powers, which occupy much less space, and are worked by one or two horses. The stalls are very warm—or can be made so—and in winter afford excellent quarters for the animals. In warm weather, they may be cool, but in some instances there appeared to be insufficient ventilation. The fodder is thrown from the upper story through scuttles or holes in the floor, and is then distributed to the various animals.

The practice of pitching hay from the load by horse-power, prevails on many farms in Bucks country. The apparatus for this operation consists of a strong fork, to which is attached a rope passing over a pulley fastened to the ridgepole of the barn, and thence over another pulley attached to the barn-floor. A horse is attached to the lower end of the rope and when the fork is plunged into the hay he raises it by pulling. The balance of the fork when loaded is preserved by a small rope, attached to the end of the handle, and held by a man on the floor, who by slacking the hold of rope, permits the fork to discharge itself when it has reached its destined place. By this contrivance the hay is readily raised to the highest parts of the barn. A man, with a boy to lead the horse, can pitch six tons of hay in an hour,—raising it fifteen to twenty feet.

MANAGEMENT OF MANURE.—The general plan of the barns is tolerably convenient, as respects most of the arrangements; but they differ in some important features from the plan which is most approved in some other sections, especially as to the accommodations for animals and the disposition which is made of the manure. The stalls are neatly cleaned, and the manure is thrown into the yard. The impression of a New-Englander, accustomed to depositing manure in a cellar under the barn, would be that this exposure of that substance, spread about as it is over the yard, would be productive of great loss. It is probable that some loss does take place under these circumstances, but to a less extent than would occur if it were not for the fact that the manure is mixed in the yard with a large quantity of vegetable matter. Wheat is largely grown on many of the Pennsylvania farms, and the straw is at intervals spread over the yard, and is trodden in by the stock with the manure from the stalls, which is also spread about the yard. This absorbs the liquid and prevents the waste of gases from the manure. The urine voided by the animals in the stalls is partly taken up by the litter with which they are (or may be) abundantly supplied, partly soaks into the ground, (the animals generally standing on the ground without any intervening floor) add partly runs into

the yard. But with all practicable attention, there is more waste of this valuable liquid than there is where the animals are kept over cellars into which the manure and urine falls, and is there mixed with muck, litter, &c., to any necessary extent. In some instances, it was noticed that there was a drainage of the liquid from the yards—the extract of the manure being thus carried into the highway, or a stream, or to some neighboring field where it rendered a small portion of the soil too rich to give good crops. This is scarcely avoidable where there are no means of governing the quantity of water which goes into the yard. In seasons of abundant rain more water will accumulate in the yards, unless it is allowed to run away, than is useful for the proper rotting of the manure. For this reason a sheltered depository where just the requisite amount of moisture could at all times be secured, and where it would be protected from washing, and from exhalation, would be preferable.

But it will perhaps be argued, that it is necessary to spread the straw and corn stalks, which are to be converted into manure, over the yard, in order that they may be broken up and made short by the tread of stock—that if the litter were thrown into a mass with the manure, it would not rot well, and hence could not be readily moved with the fork or shovel. The answer to this is, that it is better to cut the straw and corn-stalks with a machine. This is readily and cheaply done by the application of horse-power, and is the quickest and best way of converting these articles into manure. They absorb more liquid when cut, mix better with the manure and offer no impediment to its being worked over for composting, or loaded for carrying to the field. When spread in the yard, and uncut, these substances decay slowly, and when deposited on the wheat or corn field, are often in so rough a state as to obstruct the operations of the plow and harrow. This objection would be done away by passing the materials through a cutting machine.

The common practice in the section of which we are speaking, is to spread the manure on the surface of the ground, for wheat and corn, and plow it in three and a half to four inches deep—a very suitable depth for burying manure, unquestionably, though it can scarcely be doubted that it would be useful to loosen the soil, which is of a tenacious tendency, to a greater depth. Were marked in a previous chapter, that the land here is seldom plowed deeper than five inches. It seemed to be the almost universal testimony that all experiments at a greater depth had resulted injuriously—that the mixing of the underlying clay with the surface soil, tends to sterility. Some examples of this kind were detailed to us persons whom we regard as entirely reliable; but no trials at subsoiling, so far as we learned, had been made in this district. It would be highly desirable to ascertain what would be the effect of loosening this clayey stratum thus opening it in some degree to the action of the air, and giving to the rows of plants a wider extension.

It should have been mentioned when speaking of the course of cropping, that it is usual to apply about fifty bushels of lime, from the kiln, to the acre, once in six to seven years. This costs ten cents per bushel. Experience, we are assured, has demonstrated the usefulness of this application, though specific effect lime may not be fully known.

FENCES.—These are generally made of posts and rails. White cedar affords the best rails; white oak is much used for posts. Cedar rails will last forty years, oak posts twelve years. The rails cost nine dollars per hundred—the posts the same. The cost of the fence when set, is fifty cents per panel, of eleven feet—four rails to the panel.

Frequent attempts have been made to raise hedges of various kinds of thorns do not grow well, and their proper management in hedge form is often neglected. It is the opinion, however, of judicious farmers, that such post and rail fence as has been described, is on the whole, most economical—that the interest on the additional sum which a hedge, or some more permanent fence would cost, would more than support a fence of the former material. Most of the fences here are well put up, present