

Anniversary of New Style in England.

The year 1852 is the first centennial anniversary of the adoption of New Style in England. This is a circumstance which may serve as an occasion of a few remarks on the history of our present calendar. A lecture which we recently heard from Dr. Cox, of New York, on Chronology, and the Calendar, and which, from its discursiveness, was best described by the Dr. himself, as merely "flying round the world and touching only the mountain tops," excited much interest in our minds on the subject of ancient and modern reckonings of time.*

Men have ever deemed it necessary to have divisions of time. The first and most natural, is that of periods of twenty-four hours each, marked by the diurnal revolution of the earth. But as some larger division was found necessary to convenience, months, or the periods indicated by the revolutions of the moon, were adopted. And as these were soon found to multiply too greatly for convenience, annual periods, or the periods indicated by the apparent revolution of the sun in the ecliptic, were at length adopted. All these periods, to say nothing of the weekly, which is merely arbitrary, depending directly on the revealed will of God, are mentioned in the earliest history of our race. But, though the divisions into months and years have ever been employed, they have been of very variable duration. To say nothing of the month, to ascertain the exact length of the year, indicated by the sun's apparent annual revolution, was found a difficult task. It could be settled only "by long and attentive observation." Hence, the calendar of the ancients was very imperfect.—At length we find the early Greeks reckoning twelve and a half revolutions of the moon, to one of the sun. Solon, perceiving the defect of this computation, fixed the number of days in a month at twenty-nine and a half.—Still the length of the month and that of the year were not brought into exact adjustment, and new disorders followed." In the fourth century before Christ, Meton and Euctemon succeeded in so adjusting the length of the year to the lunar cycle, that it varied only about six hours in nineteen years of its true length as marked on the sky.

In Rome, Romulus, its first king, introduced a year of ten months, of thirty and thirty-one days. His successor, Pompilius, added two months more, of such length as to make the year consist of three hundred and fifty days.—But this, it was discovered, did not agree with the course of the sun. Disorders continued until Julius Cæsar found the "year crazy."—As pagan priest, it became his duty to attend to the calendar. Aided by Sosigenes, he succeeded in making great improvements upon it. He found that, according to their common reckoning, they were two months ahead of solar time. That is, they had got the Vernal Equinox pushed forward into May. He restored the equinox to its proper place in the calendar. This gave him a starting point. He then adopted the reckoning, which was at length established in Greece, at 365 1/4 days. This quarter of a day would in four years make a whole day. To meet this, therefore, Julius intercalated, or added, every fourth year, one day to the 365, making every fourth year consist of 366 days. This mode of reckoning would have kept the calendar free from disorder, if its basis had been exact. But, unfortunately, this was not the case. His year was about eleven minutes longer than the time of the sun's apparent revolution. Hence, every year he would fall about eleven minutes behind Solar time—that is, the year of the sun's revolution would run out eleven minutes before the arbitrary year which he had established. This annual falling back of eleven minutes a year, would amount to about one day in one hundred and thirty years. This recession of the vernal equinox continued, till in the 16th century, it had changed from the 21st to the 10th of the month—that is, it occurred on the 10th, instead of the 21st, in which it was placed in the calendar." In the 16th century, an amendment of the calendar was adopted, which will probably keep it free from all future disorder. This was done under Pope Gregory, and hence, our present calendar is called the Gregorian calendar, or New Style. We have seen, that, according to the Julian reckoning, the vernal equinox would fall back one day in about one hundred and thirty years. This disorder was remedied by retrenching three days every four hundred years. Regularly, the first year of every century would be leap, that is, consist of 366 days. The three

days were retrenched by reckoning the first year of only every fourth century leap. The first year of the twenty-first century, that is, the year two thousand, will be leap. Then the year twenty-four hundred, twenty-eight hundred, and so on, and by this, the calendar will be kept free from future disorder. The New Style reckoning is now adopted by all Christian countries except Russia.—*Morning Star.*

* This, however, is not a sketch of his lecture, though it may embrace some of his ideas.

Poisoning by Copper Utensils.

An English Publication, now before us, contains an interesting article, which may be useful to those who are in the habit of using copper utensils for cooking. The melancholy and mysterious fatality of several gentlemen who are poisoned at a public house, some years ago, supposed at the time to be in consequence of deleterious compounds in the wine which they drank, was, after a lapse of many years, developed by the confession of the cook who then lived at the inn, and who, when on her death bed, sent for a clergyman, and related to him the following circumstances, which she said lay so heavily on her mind that she could not die easy without revealing them.

She said that having, the preceding day, prepared a dish which was not called for, she suffered it to remain in the stew-pan (which was of copper) till the next day, when the party alluded to dined there, and the dish so kept constituted a part of their dinner; that before she warmed it again for that purpose, she observed a large quantity of a thick, greenish scum on its surface, but the cause of such appearance not occurring to her at the instant, she permitted it to be sent to the table, and the fatal effects before mentioned followed. That when told that the parties were in the agonies of death, and recollecting to have heard of the poisonous property of copper, the unaccountable appearance of the food occurred to her mind, and she began to fear that she had been, inadvertently, the cause of that dreadful catastrophe. Under this impression she was miserable, but declared that her only reason for retaining the secret within her own bosom, was the dread that a confession would have been followed by the punishment inflicted on wilful murderers.

The Farm.

From an Address delivered by DR. HOLMES, Editor of the "Maine Farmer."

Analysis and Connection of the Wheat and Clover Crops.

One can learn from a study of these changes how one crop of a less value can be made to feed and increase another crop of greater value. Let us give an instance of this, say in the cultivation of wheat.

Dr. Lee, formerly of Rochester, N. Y., and now in the Agricultural Department of the Patent Office, some time ago made a comparative analysis of clover and of wheat. It has long been known that a clover sod when turned under, made a good dressing of the soil for wheat, and this analysis shows the reason of it.

According to this, an acre of stout clover, when perfectly dry, has been known to weigh 3693 pounds, which is some 80 pounds more than is removed from an acre in a fair crop of wheat.

In 284 lbs. of the ashes of clover, you will find 18 lbs. of phosphoric acid, 7 lbs. of sulphuric acid, (oil of vitriol,) 7 lbs. of chlorine, (a substance which, you know, forms a part of common salt,) 70 lbs. of lime, 18 lbs. of magnesia, 77 lbs. of potash and soda, 15 lbs. of silica, nearly 1 lb. of oxide of iron, and 71 lbs. of carbonic acid.

If the clover which it took to make this amount of ashes had been ploughed under, and suffered to become decomposed, or had the ashes themselves been put into the soil, all the articles or materials here mentioned would of course be on hand for the nourishment of wheat when sowed upon it. To use a farm-yard expression, the wheat would be "foddered with clover hay." Let us see what proportion of this foddering would be converted into wheat. In the enumeration of the material found in clover, all of them except carbonic acid, (71 lbs.) are earthy matters, amounting to 213 lbs.

Now an acre of wheat, in order to form both straw and grain, will require 17 lbs. of phosphoric acid—the clover gives 18 lbs.; wheat wants 2 lbs. of sulphuric acid—the

clover will give 7 lbs.; wheat must have 1 lb. of chlorine—the clover will supply 7 lbs.; wheat requires 13 lbs. of magnesia—clover yields 18 lbs.; wheat wants 24 lbs. of potash and soda—the clover will yield 77 lbs.; wheat wants 121 lbs. of silica—the clover affords 15 lbs. of it. So you see that this foddering of clover will give ample food to the wheat in all the earthy matters required, except silica, or flint, and of this there is generally enough in the soil.

But are these all the materials needed to make up a good wheat crop? These, as we have just stated, are earthy or inorganic materials. It wants a few others, and of that kind, which, as they are found largely distributed in bodies that have various organs for different purposes, as in beasts, fishes, &c., &c., are called organic materials; of these, wheat wants, supposing you have 3124 lbs. to an acre, of oxygen 1487 lbs.—clover will give 1750 lbs.; carbon, 1262 lbs.—clover gives 1396 lbs.; hydrogen, 171 lbs.—clover gives 185 lbs; nitrogen 31 lbs.—clover gives 78 lbs.

So you see clover is as good fodder for your wheat as it is for your horse. You also perceive that in foddering your wheat by turning clover under, you use up the roots, stubble, &c., which you don't give to your horses, thereby gaining a greater supply for the former than for the latter.

Well, by this time you are probably ready to say,—"Doesn't the clover crop need a little foddering of something in order to grow to the amount per acre which you have just stated?" Certainly. It has no creative power of itself. It cannot spring and grow out of nothing. But there is this advantage in using it for a preparative crop of wheat: You can apply it to the mineral manures from time to time, or you may use the more putrescent and actively stimulating animal manures, which would never do to put directly upon wheat.

Every farmer knows that if wheat be manured highly with common barn-yard manure, it will grow too much to straw, and become lodged and perhaps rust, and fail to manure its kernel.

But put this dressing to your clover, and it is no matter how rank it grows. If it should lodge and fall down, it is nevertheless all there and there is no kernel or grain to be spoiled. Besides, clover collects other materials from the atmosphere by means of its rootlets and its broad leaves, and gathers together and prepares, as we have before stated, the very elements necessary for wheat; and by ploughing it under, these materials become spread uniformly, and put into the very place where you need them.

The culture of this crop in Maine, is of the utmost importance to the prosperity and welfare of the State.

Your attention has frequently been called, no doubt, to the vast amount of flour that for several years past has been brought into Maine—to the many millions of dollars thus annually drained from us, and the consequent dependent condition it placed us in, in relation to those who virtually fed us. I am happy, however, to state that the experiments which have been tried by the farmers of Maine, for a few years past, in regard to the culture of winter wheat, and the consequent increase of knowledge which they have thus gained in the cultivation of this crop, bid fair to make it a successful business among us.

It has been estimated by some that a million bushels of winter wheat have been raised in Maine this year. This estimate is probably too high, but this may be relied upon as true—there has been enough raised to essentially diminish the importation of flour into many of our towns; and if a corresponding increase of production should continue a few years more, Maine will no longer be seen bowing down to catch the crumbs that fall from the tables of New York and Ohio.

To Promote the Health of Cattle.

Mix, occasionally, one part salt with four, five or six parts of wood ashes, and give the mixture to different kinds of stock, summer and winter. It promotes their appetites, and tends to keep them in a healthy condition. It is said to be good against bots in horses, murrain in cattle, and rot in sheep.

Horse-radish is valuable for cattle. It creates an unobstructed meeting for various diseases. St. Baptist Church, Grand Lake, commences on the First Saturday in February, the heat of week.—Ministers and other friends are cut up fine to attend. ELIAS KIERSTED, Secretary, May 12, 1852.

Feed all animals regularly. They not only look for their food at the usual time, but the stomach indicates the want at the stated period. Therefore feed morning, noon, and evening, as near the same time as possible.

Guard against the wide and injurious extremes of satiating with excess and starving with want. Food should be of a suitable quality, and proportioned to the growth, and fattening of animals to their production in young and milk, and to their labor or exercise. Animals that labor need far more food, and that which is far more nutritious, than those that are idle.

Guard all descriptions of stock against cold and exposure, especially against cold storms of rain, sleet, and damp snow, and against lying out on the cold ground in cold nights, in the spring and fall.

In dry time, see that animals have a good supply of pure water. When the fountains are low, they drink the drainings of fountains, streams, and passages of water which are unwholesome.

If barns and stables are very tight and warm, ventilate in mild weather, even in winter.

In feeding animals on apples or roots, begin with a small quantity and gradually increase it. It would be better to have all changes made gradually.—*American Vet.*

Cut Feed.

The question is often asked, whether much is gained by cutting up hay, straw, &c., to feed neat stock. Something depends on circumstances. If your hay is of the first quality, your cattle will eat the whole without cutting, and save you the labor. But if your fodder is mostly poor, or if it has been injured in making, you will do well to cut it short, and mix something with it, to make it more palatable.

We have had coarse fodder cut fine, and sprinkled with water, and by adding a little meal, and mixing the whole together, our cattle have been wintered at less expense than on merchantable hay. Cows in milk live well on it, and it seems to be the best way of disposing of a quantity of hay that is not good. Straw also may be disposed of in this mode. We make it a saving, as we do by hashing up meat that is not fat enough for eating without an addition of butter, or something that will improve the meat.

Husks and corn tops, when well saved, have much virtue in them; and most of it goes into the manure heap, unless particular attention is paid to foddering. Cattle find it difficult to bite off the stems, though they place one foot on a part of them, while they pull with teeth and gums. Some farmers cut them up fine for their cattle, and say they would do it even though the stems should be worth nothing for fodder, because of the trouble they make in overhauling the manure. When all the coarse fodder is cut short, there will be no longer manure; a shovel will enter a heap, and when spread, a harrow will bury it sufficiently.—*Ploughman.*

Planning.

The sagacious, systematic farmer, will avail himself of the opportunity afforded by the leisure of winter, to plan operations to be carried out the coming season. In this practice lies the secret of many a farmer's thrift, as well as many a farmer's un-thrift.

The devising and perfecting of plans before attempting undertakings, is as important and as useful to the farmer in his business, as to the military chieftain in his, and is as sure to conduce to the profit of the former, as to the success and fame of the latter. The characteristics which made Washington a great General, made him also a good farmer,—and foremost of these were energy and forethought—the head to plan, and the arm to execute.

Plans for improvements on the farm should not only be devised in a season of leisure, but committed to paper—considered, reconsidered, and perfected—and placed in the order of time at which they will have to be executed.

This practice, if universally adopted, would tend to the accomplishment of many improvements which from year to year are unattempted, merely for the want of forethought and planning.—*Selected.*

It's a foolish sheep that makes the confessor. **December 20th, 1851.**
Just received per Steamer 'Asia' via Halifax:
DICHL Plaid BONNET RIBBONS;
R SATINS; GROS DE NAPS; PERSIANS;
FANCY TRIMMINGS, &c. &c.
T. W. DANIEL.