



AGRICULTURE.

"The first of Arts: source of Domestic ease,
"Pride of the Land, and patron of the Sea."

FROM THE ENQUIRER.

At a meeting of the Richmond Society for promoting Agriculture, held on the 2d instant:

The Corresponding Committee, who were required, by a resolution of the last meeting, to make a report specifying the particular objects to which the attention of the Society should be directed and the best means of obtaining information thereon, did in conformity to the said resolution, submit to the Society, a number of queries: which being read and considered, were, after some amendments and additions, approved, and ordered to be published.

They are now published, under a hope, that the persons qualified to give information on any of the subjects to which they relate, will consider themselves as individually called on to communicate to the Society, for the public benefit, the results of their observation and experience.

The object of the society, is to collect from every quarter, and to diffuse, all the information which has a tendency to promote the agriculture of Virginia. It is well known, that there are in various parts of this state, individuals distinguished for their industry, skill and success, in the cultivation of the earth. Knowledge, however, can be imparted by oral communication, but to a few, and the beneficial influence of individual practice, however judicious and profitable, must be confined within very narrow limits. To remedy this evil, the society proposes to collect all the practical agricultural knowledge of the country, and to convey it to the public, in the way which may be deemed most conducive to the general welfare. In this undertaking, they call for and confidently expect, the aid of all, whose studies and labors enable them to add to or improve the public stock of agricultural information.

GEO. HAY, Sec'y.

April 7, 1811.

QUERE.

1. The best mode of restoring worn out land, filling up gullies and bringing it in order for the plough.
2. The best rotation of crops in which Indian corn, wheat and clover are included.
3. Do. in which tobacco, wheat and clover are included.
4. Do. for a sandy soil including Indian corn.
5. Do. for a clayey soil including wheat.
6. The best rotation of crops, for new lands, with a notice of the particular soils.
7. The best mode of preventing lands under the plough from washing.
8. The comparative advantages or disadvantages of the two systems, that of inclosing for the purpose of excluding stock, or keeping a large stock—which will produce the greatest annual profit, and which will tend most to the improvement of the soil.
9. The best method, practicable on a large scale of bringing exhausted lands into a condition to bring clover.
10. The best mode of clearing new land, and bringing it in order for cultivation.
11. How are broom straw old fields best bro't into cultivation; how is the broom-straw most effectually eradicated, and reduced into manure?
12. The best rotation of crops for river low grounds, in which wheat, corn and clover are included.
13. Is there any ameliorating crop that can be cultivated between a corn and a wheat crop with advantage?
14. The comparative advantages and disadvantages of wheat and tobacco as the principal crop, taking into account, in each case, the distance from market.
15. Whether Indian corn can be cultivated year after year on the same land with advantage, and so what species of soils is this mode of cultivation best suited?
16. The best method of preparing land for Indian corn and cultivating it.
17. The most effectual mode of protecting Indian corn after a clover lay from the worm.
18. How is wheat most effectually protected against the Hessian Fly?
19. The advantages and disadvantages of deep ploughing and what soil is it best suited to?
20. Do. of Coultering.
21. The comparative advantages of fall, winter and spring ploughing for spring crops.
22. A rotation of crops in which annual leguminous plants follow Indian corn and precede wheat.
23. Which is the best preparation for wheat, a fallow or a clover lay.
24. The best method of securing wheat against the weevil.
25. Is there any annual leguminous crop that can be cultivated to advantage on a large scale in a rotation of crops.
26. Can Barley be cultivated to advantage on a large scale in a rotation of crops? To what soils and situation is it best suited?

27. Which is to be preferred, winter or spring Barley, and in what parts of the country.
28. On what lands and in what courses of crops can oats be cultivated to the greatest advantage.
29. What varieties of wheat are preferred in any particular district; to what soils are they respectively best suited.
30. Do. As to Indian corn.
31. A notice of the Diseases of Wheat that are most injurious, the preventatives and remedies.
32. What species of grain is found to exhaust Lands in the greatest degree, and a comparative estimate of the expense of cultivation and product.
33. In what soils and situations can Rye be cultivated to the greatest advantage; in what mode, and in what rotation of crops, and what is the most profitable application of it.
34. Will Rye yield a profit if sown in the Autumn, and fed off in the spring, and to what species of stock is it best suited.
35. The soil and culture that are best suited to hemp, the expense and product.
36. A detailed account of the whole management of hemp from the preparation of the ground to the dressing it and preparing it for market:—An estimate of the expense and product.
37. Do. as to Flax.
38. Do. as to cotton.
39. The best mode of draining of swamp lands and converting them into meadow.
40. How are watered meadows best formed, and what soils and situations in the middle and lower country can be improved in this way with advantage.
41. Is there any method by which lucerne, clover or land under tillage can be watered with advantage, in those districts of country.
42. Are embankments practicable on an extended scale on the larger rivers, above or below tide water, & the mode of forming them.
43. What green food is best suited to cattle in the winter, and early in the spring, which will best answer the expense of cultivation.
44. Have lucerne, sainfoin, vetches or chicory been cultivated by any person to a considerable extent, and with what success.
45. Do. as to cabbages, parsnips, carrots and pumpkins in a course of field cultivation for the use of cattle.
46. What soils and situations are best suited for turnips; which is the best mode of cultivating them for the use of stock on a large scale; how are they best preserved, and which is the best application of them.
47. Which is the best method of securing a large crop of clover Hay.
48. To what kind of stock is it best suited.
49. The forming and management of timothy meadows; will they succeed in the lower country, and under what circumstances.
50. Are there any other meadow grasses that are to be preferred to timothy, and in what soils.
51. Will burnett answer when cultivated on an extended scale, what soils is it best suited to, how is it to be cultivated, and what is the best application of it.
52. The comparative advantages and disadvantages of the use of horses and oxen in husbandry, and the soils and situations to which they are respectively best suited.
53. Do. of horses and oxen.
54. The best preventatives and cure of the disease among horned cattle called the bloody murrain.—The history of its origin and progress in this country, and whether it is more contagious in one district than another.
55. The causes and cure of the disease among Horses called the yellow water.—Is it contagious and under what circumstances.
56. The diseases of sheep, how are they best guarded against and what are the remedies.
57. The best breeds of cattle, sheep or hogs in any particular district, are there any situations to which they are better suited than others—and is there any particular system of management to which the different breeds are respectively best suited.
58. The best means of increasing the stock of sheep—to what soils and situations are they best suited.
59. The most advantageous mode of raising and fattening hogs within inclosures.
60. Will the practice of shutting up cattle, and supplying them with green food in the growing seasons instead of turning them out to pasture, answer in this country? Has the experiment ever been tried, and to what situations is it best suited.
61. The most beneficial application of Plaster, and to what soils it is best suited.
62. The quantity of plaster sufficient to manure an acre—How often should it be repeated with a specification of the soils to which it has been applied.
63. Is there any species of fossil manure that can be found in large quantities in the Middle Country, and that can be used to advantage?
64. Is marle (properly so called) to be found in the upper country, has it ever been used as a manure, and with what success.
65. Has marle ever been used in the lower Country—Have the strata of shells that abound there been ever found beneficial as a manure?
66. Will Green Crops raised and turned in by the Plough improve the Land, and will the improvement be equal to the expense.—What plants are best suited to this purpose, and the mode of cultivation?
67. Which is the best method of turning straw, and corn-stalks into manure?

68. How is the greatest quantity of manure to be obtained from Stock in the winter, due attention being paid to keeping them in order?

69. Is the practice of folding cattle, and sheep in the summer, on the whole, advantageous or otherwise, and what are the particular advantages or disadvantages of it as well with reference to the Stock as the Land; to what soils is it best suited?

70. The best application of manure in a rotation of Crops in which wheat and Indian corn are included.

71. Do. where tobacco & wheat are cultivated—due attention being paid to the nature of the soil in each instance.

72. Is manure applied with most advantage in a fresh state or after it has gone thro' a fermentation?

73. The best mode of raising large quantities of manure from fattening Hogs—Can straw be used for litter in large quantities without injury to the Hogs?

74. Are farm pens for stock in the winter on the whole beneficial, and what is the best plan for constructing them?

75. Does plaster when combined with other manures remarkably increase their effects?

76. The best management of Orchards.

77. Do. of a Dairy Farm.—Is the Dairy a profitable object to be attended to on a large scale, and in what situation?

78. Whether Arable Lands can be converted into grazing Farms with an increase of profit, and in what situations?

79. The kinds of Ploughs that are used in different districts, are there any lately introduced that have peculiar advantages and what are they?

80. Do. as to Threshing Machines, Wagons, Carts and implements of agriculture in general.

81. The best mode of extirpating the Wild Garlic and other troublesome Weeds.

82. What improvement can be made on our present inclosures—Can live hedges be raised, from what plants and will they form a sufficient fence.—To what soils and situations are they best suited?

83. A notice of any improvement in husbandry or the management of rural affairs in any District.

84. Whether in any particular part of the Country the system of Husbandry is improving, and in what the improvement consists?

85. Do. whether it is declining, and in what respect.

86. The quantity of seed wheat and other small grain proper for an acre with a reference to the soil and time of sowing.

87. Do. of Clover seed.

At a meeting of the Richmond Society for promoting Agriculture, held on the 2d instant, Codrington Carrington, of Cumberland, John Seabroke, Richmond, Samuel G. Adams, do. Joseph H. Mayo, Henrico, Dr. Theodorick Banister, Amelia, Dr. John R. Archer, Amelia, Wm. Hay, jr. Richmond, Col. James Clarke, Powhatan, John W. Higginbotham, Mecklenburg, Dr. Thomas A. Taylor, Chesterfield, Col. Wm. Daniel, Cumberland, Christopher Clarke, Bedford, Grief Green, Mecklenburg, Samuel McCraw, Richmond, Wm. H. Cabell, Buckingham, David Robertson, Dinwiddie, Richard Corbin, King and Queen, Samuel Taylor, Chesterfield, Gen. Minor, Spotsylvania, were elected members of the said Society.

The gentlemen thus chosen, will be pleased to consider this publication as notice to them, respectively, of their election.

Mr. Venable, the President of the Bank, is the Treasurer of the Society. To him the members lately elected, will transmit, as soon as an opportunity offers, the amount of the annual contribution.

GEO. HAY, Sec'y.

April 7, 1811.

[The foregoing Queries are addressed particularly to the farmers of Virginia, but might with equal propriety be addressed to the Agriculturists of the Carolinas. We republish them in the hope that they will excite attention here, produce increased observation, and occasion a more frequent communication of facts. We respectfully request answers to these enquiries to be communicated immediately to ourselves for publication in this paper. Should any however wish their information conveyed to the Agricultural Societies of either Richmond or Philadelphia, they are informed that the Star will afford them the means—certain, convenient and unexpensive.—Star Ed.]



MISCELLANY.

A LETTER FROM DR. JOHNSON TO LORD CHESTERFIELD.

(From Boswell's Life of Dr. Johnson.)

[Dr. Johnson's proposals for a Dictionary when first published were addressed to Lord Chesterfield, who promised to patronize it. After the Doctor had suffered neglect and perhaps something worse from Lord Chesterfield for several years, until the work was announced as ready to appear, his Lordship, as was supposed, to procure to himself the immortality of a dedication, wrote two papers in the "World," recommending the Dictionary to the public in terms of studied compliment to the author. This courtesy device so far from succeeding, excited the indignation of the Literary Hercules and occasioned the following letter.]

"My Lord—I have been lately informed by the proprietor of 'The World,' that two papers, in which my Dictionary is recommended to the public, were written by your Lordship. To be distinguished in an honour, which being very lit-

tle, accustomed to favours from the great, I am not well how to receive or in what terms to acknowledge it."

"When, upon some slight encouragement, I visited your Lordship, I was overpowered by the rest of mankind, by the enchantment of your countenance, and could not forbear to wish, that I might myself be the object of your favour. I might obtain that regard for which I am now contending; but I found my attendance so little encouraged, that neither pride nor modesty would suffer me to continue it. When I had addressed your Lordship in public, I had exhausted all the art of pleasing which a retired and a courtly scholar can possess. I had done all I could; and no man is well pleased to have his exertions neglected, be it ever so little.

"Seven years, my Lord, have now past, since I waited in your outward rooms, or was repulsed from your door; during which time I have been carrying on my work through difficulties, of which it is useless to complain, and have brought it, at last, to the verge of publication, without one assiduous, one word of encouragement, or even of favour. Such treatment I did not expect, I never had a Patron before.

"Is not a Patron, my Lord, one who looks upon a man as a man struggling for life in the world, and when he has reached ground, encourages him with help? The notice which you have been so good to take of my labours, had it been early, would have been kind; but it has been delayed till I am indifferent, and cannot enjoy it; till I am weary, and cannot improve it; till I am known, and do not want it. I hope it is no very cynical asperity to confess obligations where no benefit has been received, or to be unwilling that the public should consider me as owing that to a Patron, which providence has enabled me to do for myself."

THE INDIAN BONAPARTE.

The Editors of the *Monthly Review*, in their notice of Turnbull's Voyage round the World, introduce to our acquaintance Tamahama, the King of Whahoo and some of the adjacent islands.

"Those who, in the accounts of former navigators, have observed the simple and almost patriarchal manner in which the kings of the islands in these seas lived with their subjects will no doubt be surprised to hear that Tamahama has regular body guards clothed in uniform, who go on duty and relieve each other, calling out at every half hour, 'Allis well!' that he has a palace built after the European style, of brick, and with glazed windows; that he has about him European and American artificers of almost every description, and that his own subjects have acquired great knowledge of several of the mechanical arts; that he has a naval force of upwards of twenty vessels, from 25 to 30 tons burthen, some of them even copper bottomed; that he has a considerable trading connection with the western parts of America, and that he is about to open a commerce with China; in short, that he unremittingly spreads all knowledge which is useful, and praiseworthy, sets himself against abuses among his subjects. It seems, indeed, that his mind is always brooding over new designs; his soul burns with ambition and the love of conquest; he excites in the islands and the kings around him a continual alarm; and he is darkly suspicious of his chiefs. In these respects do we not behold a Bonaparte of the South, constantly awake himself and keeping others awake, feeling terror and incessantly infusing it?"

ECONOMY.

The following Anecdote will set the subject of economy in a very striking point of view: "At the time when the London Bridge was building, or repairing, the gentlemen, who were soliciting subscriptions to carry on the work, called at the door of a wealthy gentleman; and just as they were entering the door, they heard the gentleman scolding at his female servant, for throwing into the fire, a match of brimstone, after she had used it, in lighting a candle. The reflections of the gentleman at the door, were as follows: "Well, if this man is so much afraid of losing a match of brimstone, we shall most certainly lose our labor in shewing him our proposal." They, however, presented their subscription paper, and he put down against his name the generous sum of a hundred pounds. The gentlemen then told this liberal donor what had been their reflections when standing at the door and hearing him scold at his servant, for wasting the match of brimstone. The gentleman replied, "that it was not for the sake of the match that he scolded at the servant, but it was to manifest his displeasure at seeing any thing, even a candle match wasted, and to teach his servants a lesson of Economy and Frugality." "For" continued the gentleman, "if the servant had been indulged in wasting a candle match, she would take the liberty of throwing away things of greater value. But if all the servants and the whole family, be taught to observe the strictest rules of Economy in all things, much in the course of a year, may be saved for charitable purposes. Thus, by a prudent Economy in saving small things from being wasted, I am ever supplied with a sufficiency to meet all charitable demands in the liberal manner, which you have witnessed."—It is hoped, that every reader will take this friendly hint, and go and do likewise.

In the dilemma of a fourth act, an author once applied to Murphy for assistance—"Sir, (says he) I do not know how it has happened but I have killed every being but one, in my tragedy, at the end of the fourth act, and I cannot contrive business for the fifth." "Sir, (replied Murphy) as the dramatic person are deficient, what if you were to introduce such excoedens, administrators, and assigns?"