

MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY THOMAS J. HOLTON...CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH-CAROLINA.

I WILL TEACH YOU TO PIERCE THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH AND BRING OUT FROM THE CAVERNS OF THE MOUNTAINS, METALS WHICH WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO OUR HANDS AND SUBJECT ALL NATURE TO OUR USE AND PLEASURE.—DR. JOHNSON.

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All communications to the Editor must come free of postage, or they may not be attended to.

AGRICULTURAL.

From the Farmer's Reporter & U. S. Agriculturist.

A CONCISE VIEW

Of the mode of agriculture as practised by the farmers of Pennsylvania; and recommended to the attention of farmers in the West, by J. ADAMS.

Every person, who owns and occupies a farm, should have it divided into seven or eight parts, or fields, no matter what the size of his farm may be; and those fields should be occupied in the following manner, viz: One field planted with corn, one with rye, one with clover or grass for mowing, and two standing in clover or grass for pasture. Thus a farm, containing one hundred and forty acres cleared land, should be divided into seven fields of twenty acres each. I mention this as the best mode in our State, all other things being equal.

Of the corn crop.—We always plant our corn on clover or grass sod, generally the oldest clover field on the farm, is ploughed in March or the first of April, deep well, and let lay in that state until near the time of planting; when the ground is well ploughed the same way it was ploughed, until it becomes smooth. When we are ready to plant, we score or mark out this ground into rows across the way it was ploughed, about half through the sod, about three feet apart; plant your corn in these rows, in hills about eighteen inches two feet apart, not less than two grains a hill.—The best season for planting, in our climate is about the first of May. As soon as it is all up, it should be re-planted, if any of it is missing. About the first of June it should be harrowed and set up, if it should be broken down; and a little road plaster sprinkled on each hill. About the 20th of June we commence ploughing our corn with one horse, and give each row one round; one hand follows the plough and sets up what may be down and sets out where he may think it stands too thick. The weeds are removed, clean all season, and leaves the ground in a good state for a crop of any other kind of grain the following season. We now raise from thirty to sixty bushels of corn to the acre, where twelve or fifteen years ago, it was thought, would not bring a crop of corn at all.

I am aware that I have omitted some things in the above, which are practised by the best farmers in the eastern counties, where they practise liming their land; which is generally spread on their corn ground after it is broke up and before planting. But the above contains all the particulars relative to raising a crop of corn on the grain growing countries where it is limestone soil. Indeed, the only difficulty we have in raising a crop of corn, is to get it well started, say a foot high; for as soon as the roots get under the sod, it will nearly bid defiance to the longest spell of drought in the summer. Some farmers say that it is better to plough over a clover sod of corn the preceding fall; but it is not much practised, for this reason—it takes nearly as much more work to keep the corn clear of grass and weeds than that broke up in the spring.

I have thus given a true and exact account of our plan of raising a crop of corn in Pennsylvania; for I am aware that it is the principal crop in many parts of the west, and because there is no branch of agriculture in our State that we have improved so much as that of corn with the last thirty years; and further, I think you will know as much more labor in raising a crop of corn, as is done in Pennsylvania.

Of oats crop.—I stated above, that a crop of corn would leave the ground in a good state for any other kind of grain the following season, and this old corn field is ploughed over the spring after the corn crop is taken off, (as early as our ground is dry enough to plough,) and sowed in oats; the quantity of seed put to the acre is generally about two bushels—where the land is very strong it will bear more seed—this is the general rule with us in all kinds of grain.

The oats crop is taken off as soon as it can be after it becomes ripe. And we haul all our manure out on the oats stubble, or if we have not manure sufficient at our barn yard to reach over the whole, we lay it on the poorest parts, and by this means, we prepare for raising a crop of wheat.

Of the wheat crop.—This we generally sow on our oats stubble, or immediately after the oats crop is taken off and the manure spread. The oats stubble ground is ploughed over, and the manure turned under and let lay in that state until near time to sow wheat, when it is again ploughed over, and the wheat is sowed on and harrowed in. We generally sow a bushel of seed to the acre; and the best season for sowing wheat with us, is from the 20th September to the 1st of October; land very strong and laying to a southern exposure, will do better to be sowed the first week in October.

The great enemy to our crop of wheat in Pennsylvania, is the Hessian fly; and our object is to sow our wheat crop just so late in the fall, that the fly will not get in it much before winter sets in, and that it will be so far forward in the spring, that when the fly comes out in May, they will not be able to do it any injury. In many of the best parts of Pennsylvania, a crop of wheat cannot be raised in the old way of preparing the ground by breaking up fallows; the ground becomes too loose to hold the wheat in through the winter; and by raising a crop of oats on the ground the same season, it leaves the ground a little cloddy and rough, and, it is found, the wheat will stand the winter much better in that kind of ground, than where it is loose or mellow.

Of the rye crop.—This is generally raised by ploughing up the wheat stubble in the last of August, and sowing our rye about the 10th of September, and harrowing it in. It is usually marked out in lands as a proper size for reaping the crop of rye by, as well as for a guide to sow clover seed and plaster by, until it is again ploughed up. This ground scarcely fails to bring a good crop of rye; indeed there is but little doubt of a good crop of any kind of grain, if your land has lain in clover two or three years and been plastered a little.

Thus you see at first sight, that you will be working your land in a rotation of crops of different kinds of grain, which is found of great advantage; and when your land is not in grass it is in some kind of grain, and not laying bare for the sun to exhale all the strength and moisture from it, and you raise a good crop for every time the ground is ploughed over, except the corn and wheat crops.

Sowing clover seed.—This we generally do in the month of March, on our rye field; a bushel of seed for ten acres, is called thick enough for pasture, and where it is for mowing it is sowed some thicker; but many sow all their clover fields thick enough for mowing, and a number mix timothy seed with their clover with great advantage—it is thought to make better hay and more durable pasture. In May as soon as the clover seed comes up, we sow from a peck to a half bushel of ground plaster to the acre, which helps to preserve the young clover from dying with the drought; the young plant is very tender for two or three months. The next April following, and each succeeding April as long as the land lays out in clover, we sow from one-fourth to one half bushel of ground plaster to the acre, and let it lay in grass not longer than three years, most generally two; this keeps the ground well shaded through the hot suns of summer, which is the great cause of clover improving the land. About the 20th June, we mow our clover for hay which many farmers think invaluable, and there can be no doubt but it is valuable, for while they are cutting hay and raising abundance of the best of pasture, they are improving their land from ten to fifteen per cent. yearly. Indeed if it was not for clover and plaster, I don't know what a farmer, who has been accustomed to using it, would do. I have known it to sell for fifty dollars per ton, during the late war. After the first mowing, we keep up the field for seed which ripens in September. It is then cut with a small cradle of two fingers, two swaths are thrown together, and when dry is raked up and hauled into the barn, or stacked till winter, when it is thrashed out and sold; and we calculate to make as much out of our seed as will pay expense and cost of the plaster.

I have been more particular in describing our mode of sowing and using plaster and clover than any thing else, for I suppose there is less known about that subject in some parts of the West, than any thing else relating to farming.

I hope it will not be understood, that I suppose the farmers in the West should use plaster where the land is rich enough to bring clover for manuring without it; our object is to raise clover and use plaster just enough to make it good pasture and a crop sufficient to mow for hay.

I am aware of the difficulty there is to persuade some farmers to try any experiments in their mode of working their land. I am also aware, that many farmers, even in Pennsylvania, have not adopted the improved mode of agriculture; but mark the effect—these farmers have fallen behind the rest at least thirty years. I am aware of the objections that will be urged against our mode of raising corn, that it would be out of the question to keep the weeds and

grass from growing among the corn with one ploughing. It may be, that in some of your richest lands, it would require more work, until your land would become accustomed to clover; but remember that clover has the power of killing all kinds of weeds and trash which grow naturally on land; even briars will be entirely rooted out by the raising and mowing of clover. We know of no way of killing blue grass so well as working our land in corn in the way above prescribed. We know of no way of keeping our land clean of pigeon weed and cockle as by sowing our corn-stalk ground in oats, and the same season with wheat as prescribed above. We know of no way we can raise a better crop of rye, than by stubbling in our wheat stubble as above described. Finally, we know no way that we can raise more grain with the same labor, and improve our land at the same time, than according to the above rules.

Alexandria, Huntingdon Co., Penn.

From the Man of Business.
SALE OF LAND.
Remarks on the Sale of Land.—A contract for the sale of land is not binding on either party, unless it be put in writing and signed by the party to be charged therewith. The payment of ever so small a sum, as earnest money is sufficient in some of the States, (New-York for one,) but even the payment of the whole purchase money will not bind the bargain in North-Carolina; nor if the purchaser go into immediate possession of the land is the contract good, unless it be in writing.

Although a parol contract of this kind is void in law, it is not to be understood that the buyer, who pays down the price, or any part of it, must hence lose his money without redress; for on proving the payment, the failure of the other party, &c. he will have no difficulty in recovering it back again at law.

A lease however by parol; (which is by word of mouth,) for a term not exceeding three years, is good. And here I would correct the popular opinion, that a lease made by parol for five years, or any term longer than three, is good and valid for three years. But this, on general principles, is not correct. It is true that leases, originally purporting to be made for a longer term, have failed as to their extent, and yet been supported for three years only; but this turned upon the peculiar circumstances attending the transaction, going to show that the parties were under a contract to each other binding them to adhere to the agreement for three years, in the event of its being void for a longer term.

DREADFUL CATASTROPHE.
We have the following statement from a gentleman who visited the scene of the awful occurrence which it describes, the morning after it took place.—*Norfolk Herald.*

"A respectable citizen of Hampshire Co. Va. of the name of Arnold, who carried on the business of a tanner, had been down to Alexandria to sell a load of leather, and was returning on Thursday, the 25th inst. travelling on horseback by the stage road, when about ten miles below Aldie, in Loudoun County, the appearance of a heavy cloud warned him to seek a shelter for himself and horse. He accordingly rode up to a stable at the side of the road, where the stage stopped to change horses, and having obtained permission of the stage driver, put his horse into one of the stalls. The driver at this time had the four stage horses out before the door—three of them were in a cluster, and a few paces from the door, the fourth was detached a little distance from the rest. Mr. Arnold was standing in the stable door, calmly viewing the threatening cloud as it thickened and rolled over head, flashing and roaring in awful and terrific grandeur. It was not long that he stood thus: a cataract of electric fire descended upon the stable, rending it from the ridge pole to the sill: Mr. Arnold was struck dead—the three horses near the stable door were killed, and the driver knocked down and so stunned that he remained for a time insensible. His life was evidently preserved by the accidental circumstance of his having a silk handkerchief in the crown of his hat. Our informant saw the hat and handkerchief: the rim and the top of the hat were severed from the crown, and a large piece taken out of the latter; the several pieces were cut asunder as neatly as if it had been done with a sharp instrument.—The handkerchief was seared or scorched, as if a red hot iron had been passed quickly over it. A small reddish mark was perceptible on one of the driver's cheeks, but whether from lightning or not was uncertain: besides this there was not the slightest appearance of its effects upon any part of his body. He was entirely free from any pain about the head, though he complained of a soreness in his breast.

The London Morning Herald states, that it is reported, upon good authority, that Mr. and Miss Fanny Kemble have by their united performances in America, cleared £12,000—nearly \$60,000!

What's in a Name?—A man who wished to pass one of the barriers of Paris, in 1793, was required to give his name, &c. to the person on duty. "I am Monsieur le Marquis de St. Cyr." "Citizen, there are no Monsieur now." Very well, then le Marquis de St. Cyr." "You ought to know, citizen, that there are neither nobles, titles, nor Marquises." "In that case, de St. Cyr, if you please." "De is not used now." "Then say simply St. Cyr." "Ah! but all Saints, you know, have been abolished." "Well, if it must be so, write Cyr." "No, citizen, there are no longer any Sire," (the pronunciation is the same.) Thus, piece by piece, the unfortunate Marquis was stripped by the revolution, till he found himself at the barriers of Paris without a name.

Diet for The Season.—The consulting city physicians of the City of Boston, (Mess. Warren, Shurtleff, Hayward, Randall, and Shattuck) on Friday addressed a letter to the Mayor, in which they caution the citizens against unripe fruit and uncooked vegetables, but express their opinion that "ripe fruits and wholesome vegetables, used with moderation, constitute a most salutary kind of food at this period of the year."

The Black Worm.—Complaints are made in Upper Canada of a large black worm, which is making fearful ravages with the grass and wheat of the new settlements. They appear to be as voracious as the locust of Egypt. A single wheat field of fifty acres had been entirely cut off by this new and destructive insect.

PROSPECTUS
Of a novel and interesting Weekly Publication, to be commenced on Saturday the 6th of July.

TO BE ENTITLED
The Spy in Philadelphia,

AND
SPIRIT OF THE AGE.

It is very philosophically observed by Addison, that our greatest pride arises from doing good to each other, or, in other words, from being individually serviceable to society. This can be best effected by a proper application of our intelligencies, meeting them out according to the necessities of the community, and less lamenting the decline of public virtue than checking the progress of public vice: for vice retarded is virtue advanced. As the detection and discussion of measures of national and state polity are the business of the daily press, the full application of Addison's remark is necessarily neglected, and the consequence is, that vice shielded by wealth and worldly influence, are abroad among the people, not only unsuspected, but courted and required; and that a publication is necessary which will not only detect, but exhibit these wolves in sheep's clothing to public scorn; a mark by which others will be warned from their intent and service be rendered to society. In effecting this object we shall pursue a yet untrodden path; one where the necessary thorn shall be mingled (not concealed) with contrasting flowers. The manner of the "Spy in Philadelphia" shall be perfectly delicate, and uncontaminated by cant or vulgarity; its censure shall be judicious, its satire chaste. Literature and the arts shall find in it an untrodden friend: Dramatic and Literary criticisms shall meet with most attentive and impartial duty, and sketches of the Bar and Pulpit of Philadelphia shall occasionally appear from the pen of competent judges, uninfluenced by personal acquaintance or professional attachment. To these recommendations, our Poetical column will add another, which, coming from an already popular source, will, we trust, be equal to that of more pretending publications. It is unnecessary to be more explicit, as we presume the want of the proposed journal is not only admitted, but generally felt.—We therefore place ourselves before the PEOPLE and relying upon their love of justice and of public virtue, await their decision respectfully but confidently.

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[From the Raleigh Register.]
ON OUR STATE CONSTITUTION.
NO. VIII.
"All political power is vested in and derived from the people only."—*Bill of Rights.*
To the Editors:—Many men (whose sincerity I am not permitted to question) do admit that our representative basis in North Carolina is unequal and that our Constitution might be profitably amended in other respects, and yet they declare that they are filled with fears of the consequences which might flow from a Convention being called to change it. Others, of less sincerity and no liberality, use this argument to influence the timid, and deal out the most extravagant pictures of ideal danger and weary their hearers with a pretended dread of all changes. But are we to surrender at this day our boasted confidence in the virtue of the people? Have they become unfit to be trusted with their own government? Does the experience of 50 years in this country prove nothing, or has it shown that the people are an unsafe depository of sovereign power? They who really entertain such fears, may be met and convinced by argument—they who affect these fears, are beyond the reach of the force of truth. Both however are indulging opinions and advancing positions which are inconsistent with the freedom of the people, and if they can sustain them, they will they have shown that our Government is built upon a sandy foundation. Some of these talk about "designing intriguers," "ambitious demagogues," "artful politicians," and even recur with horror for a comparison to "the blood-stained soil of Revolutionary France." They warm themselves into zealous fight against the quixotic chimeras of their own brain until they almost seem to be engaged in a holy strife for peace against the fury of the Jacobin mob, or the free People of North Carolina. The arguments (if they prove anything) plainly prove, that no Constitution should ever be changed—no Government corrected,—so long as the ruling authority will keep chains off of the wrists or a lash from the back of their obedient subjects. They subvert all the principles of our Revolution. They sap the foundation of American liberty—and deal a death-blow at the legitimate rights of the people. If circumstances prevail over the minds of the people to sanction them—if temporary expediency induces us to acquiesce in the doctrine that the exercise of popular rights is dangerous, and habit confirms it—if the people themselves discard the great principles of popular rights—what then is our situation? Let the people beware; for though their liberties may indeed be preserved for a long time under any circumstances in this country, still these liberties are endangered whenever the principles on which they rest are despised. The danger is not immediate, but it is not therefore less certain. Open hostility to freedom will never be exhibited in the outset, and in proportion as its approaches are insidious our vigilance ought to be increased. It has been said by another (with truth and beauty) "that the progress of usurpation, is often as little perceived as that of a star rising in the East whilst the sun is in the meridian." It reaches the zenith before the departure of day discovers its ascent. If these dangers of reform are so glaring and so great, is it not remarkable that no one can point out facts to prove it? They who affirm their existence or their probability are surely bound to state them, and how comes it that they do not? The answer is an obvious one. They are mere chimeras of the imagination. Experience and probability are the only guides we have on such subjects—and what are the lessons we learn from them? *Revolutions* are dangerous, because history shews that they are apt to end in anarchy and despotism. *Conventions* however, in America, are not dangerous, because all experience shews us that they have never produced disorder in a State, but on the contrary they have first settled the free institutions of the country, and subsequently reformed and improved them. Extreme cases may be supposed—such as are of most improbable occurrence, but then let us bring them to the test of experience. No other rule can be adopted which is fair or reasonable. It is the glory of our country and its institutions that the experience of 50 years has proved that the people may safely conduct their own affairs—that popular rights are not dangerous to good order—and that the public will may be heard and safely allowed to correct and reform the existing evils of a government or to cure its inequalities. By the republicans of this country it has always been maintained that one of the very best and greatest preservatives of liberty is a vigilant watchfulness of the people and an exercise of their rights in reforming the Government wherein they perceive that is defective. And how have we indeed departed from the republican faith, when we consent to act upon these suspicious of danger in the People.

I have said that some do but pretend to these fears. Let us see if it is not so.—Did you witness the animated debates in

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