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A. E. HANNER & C. N. B. EVANS,
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"TO GIVE TO AIRY NOTHING—A LOCAL HABITATION AND A NAME."

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HUSBANDRY.

INDIAN CORN.

Made without tillage after planting.
To the Editor of the Farmer's Register.

By experiments, I have arrived at some conclusions in regard to the culture of Indian corn, which I think are of importance to planters in the Southern States. I communicate them for the use of the public with great hesitation, because they are directly at variance with the received opinions on the subject.

The early part of my life was spent in agricultural pursuits—and hence, if there were no other reason, I feel a deep interest in every thing relating to agriculture. I noticed, very early, the great difficulty in transplanting successfully the young corn plants. Whence comes this, but from breaking the roots in taking the plants up? How is it then, that intelligent farmers affirm the doctrine that one chief object in ploughing corn, is to cut its roots? If breaking the roots of young corn in transplanting it, is really fatal to its future growth, must not breaking its roots with the plough, when it is older and the season hotter, be a serious injury to it? Any other conclusion seems to me to be at variance with the general economy of nature. It seems to me there can be, in truth, but two reasons for ploughing or hoeing corn—1st, to destroy grass and weeds; and 2nd, to keep the soil loose, so that the roots may penetrate easily, in search of their proper food. But in accomplishing these two purposes, great injury must be done to the corn, by breaking its roots. Can we not accomplish both these ends, and at the same time keep clear of the attendant mischief? I think we can.

Last spring, I planted a small piece of poor ground—first breaking it up well. The rows were made three feet apart, and the stalks left about a foot apart in the drill. The ground had been very foul last year with crab grass, whose seeds matured. The corn was not well up this spring before the grass began to appear. When the corn had about four or five blades, the young grass completely covered the ground, and the corn was turning yellow. I spread a small quantity of stable manure around the corn, and covered the whole ground three or four inches deep with leaves from the forest, taking care to do this when the ground was wet, and the leaves also, that they might not be blown away, and leave the tops of the young corn uncovered. In ten days there was not a particle of living grass to be found, and the corn had put on that deep bluish green which always betokens a healthy condition of the plant.

From the day the corn was planted until after the fodder was pulled and the tops cut, nothing more was done with it, and the result is a product of forty two bushels to the acre—about one third of the stalks having two ears on each of them.

I noted in the course of the summer, the following facts:—

1st. The corn treated thus, was always ahead of some planted alongside of and treated in the usual way.

2d. It ripened at least ten days sooner than other corn, planted at the same time.

3d. During the hottest and driest days the blades never twisted up, as did other corn in the neighborhood.

4th. In the driest weather on removing the leaves the ground was found to be moist to the surface, and loose, as deep as it had been at first broken up.

5th. The heaviest rains had scarcely any effect in washing away the soil or making it hard.

It certainly will require less labor to produce corn in this way, than in the usual mode. And even if it required more, we have the consolation to know, that

while, by the old mode, every hour's work is an injury to the land, by this mode every hour's work is making the land better; for few things can be better manure than the coating of leaves put on in the summer, when ploughed in the winter or spring following.

I used leaves raked up in the forest, because of these there is an ample supply within the reach of almost every person; and because there seems, from my observation, to be a strong antipathy between dead and decaying forestleaves, and crab grass, that most harrassing foe of agriculturists.

I make this communication, as I have already said, with hesitation, because the idea of raising corn without ploughing and hoeing, and at the same time improving the land, protecting it against the influence of a scorching sun and washing rains, is so directly in the teeth of the universal practice for ages. The thing is, however, at least, worthy of further trial. It may lead to most important results. Those who think the plan worth any attention, may easily make an experiment with an acre or two, and note carefully its progress through the summer. If they are satisfied, after the trial, that there is any thing in it, to extend the operation will not be a difficult matter.

If, on experiment, it should be found advisable to extend the operation, the proper way would be, I think, to collect the leaves in winter, and deposit them in heaps on the ground on which they are to be used, and the next spring during a wet season, after the corn is up, spread them, taking care to leave the tops of the young corn uncovered.

There is one very important result that must follow the success of this plan on a large scale—and it was with an eye chiefly to the result, that my experiment was undertaken. The constant excuse for not improving our land, is that where cotton is grown, the time necessary first to cultivate the growing crop properly—next to gather it and then to prepare for a new crop, leaves no time to collect manure. My plan will put an end to that excuse at once; for wherever leaves are to be had, half the time usually bestowed on working the corn crop in the usual way, spent in gathering leaves and putting them on the ground, instead of ploughing it, may in short time accomplish every thing that can be desired in the way of manuring.

Why may not the same process answer in the cultivation of cotton? If it keeps the ground soft and moist, and prevents the growth of grass and weeds in a corn crop, it will surely have the same effect with cotton—and be the means, further, of preserving the cotton, when the bolls open, from all the injury it sustains from the soil in wet seasons. This is, however, but speculation. Let it be tested by actual experiment.

JAMES CAMACK.

Athens, Ga. Oct. 10 1836.

A Good Soil.—according to Bergman, contains four parts of clay, three of sand, two of calcareous earth, and one of magnesia, and quantum sufficit of vegetable matter. In 400 grains of good soil, Floury found 52 of water sand 240, vegetable fibre 5, vegetable extract 3, clay 48, magnesia 2, oxide of iron 14, calcareous earth 30; loss 6.—*Loudon, p. 200.* The ability, in the farmer, to analyse his soils, would not only serve to discover their defects, but would enable him often to correct them, at little cost, and to apply to them, with more certainty, the crops to which they are most suitably adapted.

Timber.—The best timber is that which is seasoned before it is cut down. If a tree be barked the year before it is cut down, the sap is expelled, and the albumen is converted into wood in the course of the year.—*Enc. of Gard. p. 174.*

COMPARISON OF SPEED.—A French scientific journal states that the ordinary rate is, per second:—

Of a man walking,	4 ft.
Of a good horse in harness,	12
Of a reindeer in a sledge, on the ice,	26
Of an English race horse,	43
Of a hare,	83
Of a good sailing ship,	19
Of the wind,	82
Of sound,	1,033
Of a 24 pounder cannon ball,	1,300
Of the air which so divided returns into space,	1,300

He that by the plough would thrive,
Must himself either hold or drive.

SELECT.

FROM THE SATURDAY COURIER.

TEXAS.

This interesting country at the present moment attracts so much attention, and so many inquiries, that we are assured we shall render an acceptable service to the public in presenting the following information derived from a source of accurate personal knowledge.

Under the Spanish dominion, Texas was a separate province occupied by three military posts, La Bahai, St. Antonio de Bexar and Nacogdoches; and settlements of Mexicans were around each which grew into a considerable town at Bexar of about 3000, and at Nacogdoches and La Bahai into villages of about 500 and 300 inhabitants. This number has not increased, and forms at present nearly the amount of the Mexican and Spanish population in Texas; an addition of 1,000 would include the whole.

The country at large in all its beauty and fertility was left unoccupied except by the wild horse, the deer and the buffalo; and all of which, amidst luxuriant natural pastures, have multiplied to an extent almost incredible. An intelligent trader among the Indians in the interior regions of that country, upon being asked how many buffalo he had seen in one herd, replied, one million,—meaning literally what he said,—but it may be restricted to a declaration that they could not be counted. The deer are still more numerous and that noble animal, the horse, roves the country in gregarious masses with all the pride & majesty of his Arabian ancestors. The progress of population has not diminished the numbers of either, but only limited their range.

Texas was but little known to our countrymen until seen by the gallant bands who entered in aid of the patriotic cause, at different periods of the Mexican struggle for independence. They saw a country equal to France in extent, intersected with numerous rivers running hundreds of miles in the interior, producing in its various climate and soil all the commercial staples of the whole American continent.

They brought home this knowledge and gave an account of its beauty fertility and salubrity,—and many were tempted to seek an abode there in spite of the prohibition of the then existing laws. Foremost in this enterprise was Moses Austin who about twelve years since, obtained from the commandant at Bexar permission to introduce settlers and repaired to the United States to procure them but dying on the route, left his son Col. Stephen F. Austin, the fulfillment of his undertaking. On this gentleman's arrival at Bexar he found the commandant indisposed to comply with his engagements, and the revolution being accomplished, and a new order of things established, he determined to proceed to the city of Mexico, and there renew the proposal of introducing settlers into Texas. The result was the passage of a general colonization law, authorizing particular districts of country to be assigned to contractors who would undertake to populate the country. This law laid the foundation of a system which was more liberal and extended by that of the state of Coahuila and Texas, under which were made the grants which have been made the subjects of so much enterprise.

Austin was the first to begin colonizing, and laid the foundation of the extensive settlements now existing in Texas. But others soon followed, and Zavala, Burnet and Vehlen were equally successful in their applications for lands. They selected the district of country immediately on the boundary line of the United States, lying between the Sabine to the east, and the St. Jacinto and Novoste to the west, and the Gulf of Mexico on the south, running north about 300 miles.

Austin's settlement is contiguous, and lies on the western line of Vehlen and Burnet, and embraces the rivers Brassos and Colorado. Grants have been made to others in different sections of the country, more remote from our borders, and all of good land. But the settlements from the Sabine to the Colorado being continued and nearer to us, and can be described with more certainty.

Texas in general is a prairie country, having all the streams skirted with timber. This is more particularly his character after passing the Trinity, and as you advance towards the northwest, the prairies are of vast extent. But in the grants of Zavala, Burnet, and Vehlen, there is less of prairie and more of wood-land. They abound in beautiful and natural meadows of dimensions from one to five hundred and a

thousand acres, producing a luxuriant herbage at all seasons, but have a large proportion of woodland without under growth affording fine pasturage and presenting the aspect of fine lawns and parkes, prepared with the taste and labor of high cultivation.

On some of the rivers,—the Brassos for instance,—are dense forests, but they are never found on the highlands.

The mildness of the climate is such that no provision is made for horses, cattle, stock nor for any hogs on a farm; nature's ample store is sufficient thro'out the year—and at all seasons they fatten on the natural pastures of course they multiply rapidly; and Texas may be called the paradise of animals of the inferior order.

That splendid plant, the Indian corn, grows throughout in perfect majesty, almost scorning the aid of cultivation. From the Gulph to an average distance of 70 miles, the country is level and forms the sugar district. At this point about latitude 30 degrees the surface becomes undulating, and wheat, rye, and oats can be raised; and one degree further north produce abundant harvests. Cotton is cultivated from the Gulf to the Red River and yields largely with a staple uniformly good; and near the Gulph in length and fineness of staple, approaches the Sea Island Cotton.

POLITICAL CONTROVERSY.—It is very common to hear men speak of political contests as a great evil, but being wisely conducted, they are far from it. On the contrary, by eliciting investigation, by presenting justice and truth in fair light, and giving to the people juster views of Government, they exert a healthful influence on the State. The great Legislator of Athens made it a capital offence for any citizen to remain neutral when parties ran high in the Republic. Reasonable controversy is always useful, we feel a more perfect security in the wise administration of affairs, when a respectable minority stands by, with Argus eyes, to detect the slightest error or to expose the least defect.—*Raleigh Register.*

Diamond cut Diamond.—The champion hero in politics, J. Q. Adams, seems to be rather ungratefully treated by his new companions in politics, who take the liberty, occasionally, to speak truth of this consistent gentleman. Mr. Adams and the Editor of the Globe, that pink of decency, have lately come in collision.—Mr. Adams recently said in debate, that the Editor of the Globe was 'an ambassador, sent abroad to lie for his country.' To which the Globe replies: 'This is an honor to which we never aspired. Mr. Adams has devoted his life to the act diplomatique; is celebrated for his skill in it; but whether it has redounded to the benefit of his country, we leave the country to decide.'—*Western Carolinian.*

THE POLAR BEAR.

In the desolate regions of the north, where unrelenting winter reigns in full appendage of horrors during the greatest part of the year, even the stormy ocean itself is long imprisoned by thick ribbed ice, the Polar Bear finds his most congenial abode. There, prowling over the frozen wastes, he satiates his hunger on the carcasses of whales deserted by the adventurous fishermen, or seizes on such marine animals as come up to bask in open air, and when occasion calls, he fearlessly plunges into the sea in pursuit of his prey, as if the deep were his native and familiar element. To most other animals extreme cold is distressing and injurious, to him it is welcome and delightful: to him the glisten ice bank or snow wreathed shore, canopied by lowering and tempestuous clouds, are far more inviting and agreeable, than verdant hills and sunny skies. Being endowed with extremely acute senses, great strength, and a savagely ferocious disposition withal, it is not surprising that this animal is dreaded as the most formidable quadruped of the region he inhabits. Notwithstanding his great size and apparent heaviness, he is very active; and though his ordinary gait may appear clumsy when excited by rage or hunger, his speed on the ice far exceeds that of the swiftest man. This animal swims excellently, and advances at the rate of three miles an hour. During the summer season he principally resides on the ice islands, and leaves one to visit another, however great be the distance. If interrupted while in water, he dives and changes his course; but he neither dives very often, nor does he remain under water for a long time. Captain Ross saw a polar bear swimming midway in Melville Sound, where the

shores were full forty miles apart, and no ice was in sight large enough for him to have rested on. The best time for attacking him is when he is in the water: on ice or land he has so many advantages that the aggressor is always in danger. Even in the water he has frequently proved a formidable antagonist—has boarded and taken possession of a small boat, forcing the occupants to seek safety by leaping overboard. Instances are related in which this animal has climbed up the sides of small vessels, and been with difficulty repelled from the deck. Generally the polar bear retreats from man: but when pursued and attacked he always resents the aggression, and turns furiously on his enemy. When struck at with a lance, he is very apt to seize and bite the staff in two, or wrest it from the hands. Should a ball be fired at him without taking effect in the head or heart, his rage is increased and he seeks revenge with augmented fury. It has been remarked that, when wounded and able to make his escape, he applies snow to the wound, as if aware that cold would check the flow of blood.

A great majority of the fatal accidents following engagements with the polar bear, have resulted from imprudently attacking the animal on the ice. Scoresby, in his interesting narrative of a voyage to Greenland, relates an instance of this kind. A few years ago, when one of the Davis's Strait whalers was closely beset among the ice at the 'south west,' or on the coast of Labrador, a bear that had been for some time seen near the ship, at length became so bold as to approach alongside, probably tempted by the offal of the provision thrown overboard by the cook. At this time the people were all at dinner, no one being required to keep the deck in the then immovable condition of the ship. A hardy fellow who first looked out, and perceiving the bear so near, imprudently jumped upon the ice, armed only with a handspike, with a view, it is supposed, of gaining all the honor of the exploit of securing so fierce a visitor by himself. But the bear regardless of such weapons, and sharpened probably by hunger, disarmed his antagonist, and seizing him by the back with his powerful jaws, carried him off with such celerity, that on his dismayed comrades rising from their meal and looking abroad, he was so far beyond their reach as to defy their pursuit. A circumstance communicated to me by captain Monroe, of the Neptune, of rather a humorous nature as to the result, arose out of an equally imprudent attack made on a bear, in the Greenland fishery of 1830, by a seaman employed in one of the Hull whalers. The ship was moored to a piece of ice, on which, at a considerable distance a large bear was observed prowling about for prey. One of the ship's company, emboldened by an artificial courage, derived from the free use of rum, which in his economy he had stored for special occasions, undertook to pursue and attack the bear that was within view. Armed only with a whale lance, and against all persuasion, he set out on his adventurous exploit. A fatiguing journey of about half a league, over a yielding surface of snow and rugged hammocks, brought him within a few yards of the enemy, which, to his surprise, undauntedly faced him, and seemed to invite him to the combat. His courage being by this time greatly subdued, partly by evaporation of the stimulus, and partly by the undismayed and even threatening aspect of the bear, he leveled his lance in an attitude suited either for offensive or defensive action, and stopped. The bear also stood still; in vain the adventurer tried to rally courage to make the attack; his enemy was too formidable, and his appearance too imposing. In vain also he shouted, advanced his lance, and made feints of attack; the enemy, either not understanding or despising such unmanliness, obstinately stood his ground.

Already the limbs of the sailor began to quiver: but the fear of ridicule from his messmates had its influence, and he yet scarcely dared to retreat. Brain, however, possessing less reflection, or being regardless of consequences, began, with audacious boldness to advance. His nigh approach and unshaken step subdued the spark of bravery and that dread of ridicule that had hitherto upheld our adventurer; he turned and fled. But now was the time of danger; the sailor's flight encouraged the bear in his turn to pursue, and being better practiced in snow-travelling, and better provided for it, he rapidly gained upon the fugitive. The whale lance his only defence, encumbering him in his retreat, he threw it down, and kept on. This fortunately excited the bear's attention; he stopped, paved it, &c.