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"TO GIVE TO AIRY NOTHING—A LOCAL HABITATION AND A NAME."

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AGRICULTUTAL

We are aware that the subject of the following piece will be unnoticed by most, even of our agricultural readers. But a knowledge of the component parts of a soil is so important to well directed agricultural pursuits; and the mode of analysis here described so simple, free from scientific abstrusities and technical terms, that we transfer it to our columns in the hope that some one may profit by it.—EDS PAT.

FROM THE GENESSEE FARMER.

ANALYSIS OF SOILS.

It has been given as the *golden rule* in agriculture, 'To use such manures as will make heavy land lighter, light land heavier, cold land hotter, and hot land colder;' or in other words to remedy the existing defect, whatever that may be. In order to do this we must know what that defect is; we must understand the nature of the soil we are to operate upon, in order to determine whether this or that kind of manure is to be applied, or whether a large or a small quantity is needed to bring the proportions of the soil to the standard of fertility. It is therefore of importance that the farmer should be acquainted with the nature and proportions of the constituents of soils; that he should know what these proportions are in such as are most fertile; and also what they are in the soil which he has to cultivate. This cannot be determined with any degree of accuracy but by *analysis*.

Another consideration in favour of analysis of soils, is, that it will substitute precision of language for the very indefinite and unsatisfactory mode of expression which now prevails. Thus for instance, the distinction between a *sandy* and a *clayey loam*, often does not depend so much upon certain proportions of clay and sand, as upon the quality of the soil of the place where the term is used. In a sandy region of the country, a soil might be termed *clayey* while the same *soil* in a clayey region would be called *sandy*. Another instance: a large crop of some grain or vegetable is raised; the success is principally owing to the nature of the soil; but unless the proportions of its ingredients are given precisely, instead of describing its qualities by indefinite expressions, we are at a loss to know how to imitate those proportions.

The constituents of soils which more particularly influence their fertility, are these:

1. *Stones and pebbles.*—These generally have little other effect than to keep the soil loose and porous, as they are usually hard and unchanging. Sometimes, however, they absorb and retain water and also disintegrate and mix with the finer parts of the soil.

2. *Silicious matter.*—This is commonly in the form of fine and coarse *sand*. Soils where this predominates are little injured by water, having little attraction for it, and retaining it feebly. They never *winter kill* wheat.

3. *Aluminous matter.*—This is the predominant constituent of *clay* soils. Unlike the preceding, it has a powerful attraction for water, and retains it strongly; hence clay will remain long suspended in water while sand sinks immediately. Aluminous soils suffer from too much wet, and bake hard in a dry season.

4. *Carbonate of lime.*—This exists in the form of limestone, chalk, and shells. It is a principal constituent of marl. Soils which have a due proportion of this ingredient, are naturally fertile and durable in a high degree.

5. *Animal and vegetable substances.*—These improve the soil by operating in several ways. They give *warmth* to the soil, furnish nutriment directly to the plant, absorb moisture and nutritious substance from the air, and render the soil loose and preserve it in a state of pulverization.

6. *Water.*—The power soils possess of retaining moisture enables them to resist the effects of drought. In analysis, the quantity of water held by soils after being exposed to the sun's rays, is that only which is considered as forming a component part of them.

The following method of analysing soils, or ascertaining the proportions of their component parts, is, if carefully conducted, sufficiently accurate for all *practical* purposes.

Specimens of the soil should be taken about three inches below the surface, and from the average of the field. A convenient quantity to experiment upon, after stones are separated, is about 400 grains.

1. Separate by two sieves all the stones and pebbles,—with one, those larger than a quarter of an inch in diameter, and with the other those less. To effect this, the soil must be well dried in the sun and gently bruised in a mortar. Then ascertain by weighing, the rate per cent, each bears to the original mass and note it down.

2. The soil after weighing is then placed in a crucible and heated for [illegible] minutes to a temperature of about [illegible] Fahrenheit, constantly stirring [illegible] a thermometer is not used, [illegible] gree of heat may be easily ascertained [illegible] means of the wooden rod with [illegible] stirred,—while the colour of the [illegible] remains unchanged it is not too [illegible] as soon as it begins to become brown, the process must be stopped. It is then again weighed, and the loss is set down [illegible]

3. It is next returned to the [illegible] and exposed to a high red heat [illegible] blackness remains in it, repeatedly stirring it with an iron rod so as to expose new surfaces continually to the air. It is again weighed, and the loss denotes the amount of *animal and vegetable matter*.

4. Mix the remainder with three or four times its weight of water, stir it thoroughly for several minutes, until it is intimately diffused, and then suffer it to rest. The coarse sand will fall to the bottom of the vessel in about a minute, the finer in two or three minutes. The liquid is then poured off into another vessel, the sand dried and weighed, and its quantity noted down as *silicious soil*.

5. The decanted liquid is suffered to stand till it settles and becomes clear,—it is then poured off, and the sediment dried at a red heat, weighed, and set down as *aluminous soil*.

6. [illegible] of carbonate of lime [illegible] is generally in small quantities, [illegible] readily ascertained by pouring upon it muriatic acid diluted with water. If it contains carbonate of lime an effervescence immediately takes place in a greater or less degree, according to the quantity. To ascertain the proportion of this ingredient, place a few grains of the soil in a glass vessel, and ascertain its weight,—also determine the weight of about a gill of diluted muriatic acid, and place weights in one side of the scales to balance them both; then pour on the muriatic acid. In three hours, all the carbonic acid from the carbonate of lime will have been driven off, and after blowing it out of the vessel ascertain the loss of weight. Then as 22 is to 50, so is this loss to the amount of carbonate of lime in the soil.

It may be important to be able to detect sulphate of lime (gypsum) in soils, though it is not generally looked upon as a component part. The following is Sir H. Davy's method: A given weight of soil must be heated red for half an hour in a crucible mixed with one third of powdered charcoal. The mixture must be boiled for a quarter of an hour, in half a pint of water, and the liquid passed through filter, and exposed for some days to the air in an open vessel. If any considerable quantity of gypsum exist in the soil, a white precipitate will gradually form in the liquid, & the weight of it will indicate the proportion.

The most fertile soils are those which contain a proper proportion of the different ingredients. The following are the proportions of a rich alluvial soil, given by Sir John Sinclair as the most fertile for grasses. Silex, (including stones and sand) 71 parts, alumine 7, carbonate of lime 6, animal and vegetable matter 9. It also [illegible] one part in 200 of gypsum. [illegible] proportions agree very nearly with those given by professor Eaton of the best river alluvion near Troy, (N. Y.) These were, Silex (including stones and pebbles) 75, alumine 7, carbonate of lime 3, decomposed animal and vegetable matter 11, soluble salts 1, water 3. A soil whose constituents approach these, cannot be unproductive in any climate.

The minuteness of the division of the parts of soil greatly influences its qualities. In the first part of the above soils 185 parts only out of 400 could be separated by a very fine sieve. Poor soils often have 300 parts out of 400, of coarse materials.

The attraction which soils have for water, so as to remain suspended in it when mixed with it, also influences their qualities. According to Eaton, when any soil, or any portion of it, will remain suspended in water over *four hours*, wheat sown in it is often 'winter killed.' The river alluvion (above given) settled clear in two hours. A clay alluvion of the following composition did not settle till 26 hours: silicious soil 48, aluminous 39, carbonate of lime 2, soluble salts 2, animal and vegetable matter 5, water 7.

In determining the [illegible] proportions for a good soil, it must be remembered, that [illegible] rent plants have different [illegible] roots, branches and leaves, [illegible] flourish best in [illegible] soils; [illegible] rooted plants need a looser and lighter soil than fibrous [illegible]; and plants having [illegible] roots demand [illegible] have longer [illegible] [illegible]

MISCELLANY.

[illegible]

W[illegible] I [illegible] knew [illegible] grey [illegible] wise and [illegible] as well as wise. Once he said to me, 'I know a way to be happy.' 'Who taught it to you?' I inquired. And he answered, 'I learned it in the fields.' Then I drew near and entreated him to teach it also unto me. But he replied 'go forth into the fields, among living things and learn it for thyself.

So I went forth, I looked attentively on all that was moving around. But no voice spoke to me. Then I returned to the gray haired man.—And when he asked, 'what hast thou seen in the fields?' I answered:

'I saw the brook flowing on, among sweet flowers. It seemed to be singing a merry song. I listened, but there were no words to the music. The sparrow flew by me with down in her beak, wherewith to line her nest, and the redbreast with a crumb she had gathered at the door to feed her chirping young. The ducklings swam beside their mother and the hen drew her chickens under her wings, and screamed at the soaring hawk. The spider threw out her many threads like lines of silver, and fastened them from spray to spray, running lightly on the bridge made from her own body. The snail put his horned head out of the door of his shell, and drew it suddenly back. The ant carried a grain of corn in her pincers, and the loaded bee hastened to her hive, humming over to his cottage. The dog came forth and guarded the young lambs, frisking fearlessly by the side of their serious mother, who cropped the tender grass. All seemed full of happiness. I asked them how I also should be happy. But they made me no reply. Again and again I asked, 'who will teach me to be happy?' Yet nothing answered save the echo repeating my last words, *happy—happy*, not telling me how to become so.

'Hast thou looked upon all these,' said the aged man, 'yet received no instruction? Did not the brook tell thee, that it ought not stay to be idle, but must haste to meet the river, and go with that to the ocean, to do the bidding of the ocean's king, and that it had pleasure by the way, in refreshing the trees that stretch to it roots, to meet it, and in giving drink to the flowers that bowed down to its face with a kiss of gratitude?—Thou didst see the birds building their nests, or feeding with food to their little ones and couldst thou not perceive that to make others happy is happiness? The young duck gave diligence to learn of its mother the true use of its oary feet, and how to balance its body aright in the deep water; and the chicken obeyed the warning to hide under the broad wing, though it knew not the cruelty of the foe from which it fled. And did they not bid thee to seek with the same obedience, the lessons of thy mother, who every day teacheth thee, and every night lifteth up her prayer, that thy soul may avoid the destroyer, and live forever? When the spiders silken power was swept away, and she began another without ill temper or complaint, and the snail willingly put forth all her strength to carry her house upon her neck, and the ant toiled with her load of corn to her winter store house, and the bee wasted not the smallest drop of sweetness that could be found in the honey cups—came there no voice to thee from their example of patience, and prudence, and wisdom? Thou did'st admire the shepherd's dog, minding so readily the word of his master, but fail to understand, that faithful continuance in duty is happiness. From all these teachers of the field, came there no precept unto thee When they all spake with different, voices wert thou deaf to their instruction? Each in his own language, told thee that industry was happiness, and that idleness was offence, both to nature and to God.

Then I bowed down my head and my cheek was crimson with shame, because I had not understood the lessons of the fields, and was ignorant of what even birds and insects knew. But the man with the hoary hairs smiled on me, and comforted me. So I thanked him for the good teaching of his wisdom. And I took his precept into my heart, that I might weigh it and see if it were true. And though I was then young and now am old, I have never had reasons to doubt that [illegible] is happiness. L. H. S.

Hartford 1835.

SNEEZING.

We hope we may not be brought [illegible] presumptuous in the matter of sneezing we pretend to be connoisseurs. As a pront [illegible] our taste, we hate one of your snivelling, [illegible] half-frightened-to-death sneezes—[illegible] for one of your full, clear, sonorous, detonating [illegible] explosion—one of those reports that set the wine glasses on the side-board a jingling, and wake pussy—we say for one of those earthquake sneezes we have a love inferior only to that which we bear for woman &—our favorite dog. A sneeze to be in good taste should crack like a rifle on a clear morning. A receipe for a sneeze of this genus is as follows:—When you feel a tickling at the root of your proboscis, just jump up, if you be seated, run to the window, through which the sun shines, throw your head back until the bump of philoprogenitiveness presses on your coat collar, open your mouth, and snarl like a half starved Hyena at a piece of fresh meat, inhale a deep breath and then—blaze away!—The effect will be prodigious—an echo will salute you from the house top over the way—the good house wives will order the clothes to be taken in—your game cock will cock up the red of his eye at the sun—and you will have the best assurance that you have not sneezed in vain.

We commend you to a pinch of sunbeams, and away with your maccaboy, if you would have your sneeze above the vulgar. Snuff is not the thing—a natural say touched off by a torch of sun beams, gives a report worthy the nose of a great and free people. Away with your squibs, which hiss and your sneezes which flash in the pan, and only burn priming, and give us a salute which shakes the head to its foundation. Why, our dog has been taught to do a sneeze up in a more manly way than that. He does not like other dogs, grin and jerk his head like a whip lash, and sneeze as if it were only some of the vertebræ of his neck which were cracking, but he points his snout towards the sun, and breaks forth into an utterance which is only surpassed by the melody of his own unrivalled bark, or the thunder of his unsurpassable growl.

We knew an old gentleman once who was a most famous sneezer—in fact his nose was just the thing to imitate the flourish of a trumpet with, or, what we like better, to utter a sneeze, which, like Napoleon's generalship, was without parallel. Anthony Van Corlear might beat him at a regular martial tune, whose inspiring tones heartened the Dutch burghers in the hour of battle, but the flexibility of Anthony's wind never have admitted of the superlative rush of thunder for which our friend's nose was remarkable. One such report as we have heard him utter, would scatter a common nose in lacerated fragment over an acre of ground. His nose when viewed in front resembled a Macedonian phalanx, bold and utterly impregnable, and his sneeze, as counsellor Philips said of Bonaparte, was without a shadow.' Well our friend was an early riser, and every morning just as the roosters were crowing away their bragging orisons, he would open the back door and inhale a little fresh air. Planted firmly in the door way, he would grasp hold of each side, raise his nose to the zenith and fire away.—It was the morning gun for the neighborhood; and its deep echoes used to sound merrily through the streets, falling on the ear less distinct, until they were finally gone too far off to hear. It was the signal for the good folks round about to get up by,—and when they heard it they would scratch open their eyes and start from their recumbent postures to begin the business of the day.—When our old friend died, the neighborhood got into the bad habit of oversleeping itself, and from the briskest, it became the laziest in town—alas! the sneezer and his sneeze were hushed!—*Cincinnatti Mirror.*

EVERLASTING LIFE.

Let it be imagined, that the task were assigned to any man, to set out, at his ordinary rate of movements, on a circuit of that space which is filled by the visible creation. Let him first make his way step after step, from his central starting point to the utmost bounds of the inhabited heavens. He must go on, until he has left behind him the brightest of the stars; and those too that are immensley more remote than the brighter. Fancy him, then, standing, with his task still unattempted, at the extreme orbit of the material system. He has to measure its circumference: the human foot has to tread the zodiack of the universe! Has it, at length, accomplished the round of all worlds—has the course of the traveller girt the skies? Then send him forth anew to do the same, and, when he has repeted his task as often as there have been single steps in his way, he will still be young in immortality. To live for ever, is a far more stupendous matter, than to make the circuit of creation a myriad of times.

In a city well known to every body, if they can find out the name—a poetical genius was handed up before a police magistrate for kissing a girl and kicking up a dust, and the following interesting poetical dialogue ensued.

Mag.—Is your name John Jay?

Pris.—Yes, your honor, so the people say.

Mag.—Was it you that kissed the girl and raised the alarm?

Pris.—Yes, your honor, but I thought it was no harm.

Mag.—You rascal! did you come here to make rhymes?

Pris.—No, your honor, but it will happen so sometimes.

Mag.—Be off. you scamp—get out of my sight.

Pris.—Thank'e, your honor, then I'll bid you good night.—*Union.*

JAMES MADISON.

The following extract from 'the correspondence' of Mr. Jefferson, will prove the justly high estimation in which the character and abilities of Mr. Madison were held by the sage of Monticello.

'Mr. Madison came into the House in 1776, a new member and young; which circumstances, concurring with his extreme modesty, prevented his venturing himself in debate before his removal to the council of State, in November, '77. From thence he went to congress then consisting of a few members. Trained in these successive schools, he acquired a habit of self possession, which placed at ready command the rich resources of his luminous and discriminating mind, and of his extensive information, and rendered him the first of every assembly afterwards, of which he became a member. Never wandering from his subject into vain declamation, but pursuing it closely, in language pure, classical and copious, soothing always the feelings of his adversaries by civilities and softness of expression, he rose to the eminent station which he held in the great national convention of 1783; and in that of Virginia which followed, he sustained the new constitution in all its parts, bearing off the palm against the logic of George Mason and the fervid declamation of Mr. Henry. With these consummate powers, were united a pure and spotless virtue, which no calumny has ever attempted to sully. Of the power and polish of his pen, and of the wisdom of his administration in the highest office of the nation, I need say nothing. They have spoken, and will forever speak for themselves.'

Honor, according to worldly argument, is found only among those who are rich and powerful. It is not so, no man can be strictly honorable, unless he is an undeviating friend to virtue.