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RURAL ECONOMY.

"May your rich soil,
Eminent, nature's better blessings pour
Over every land."

From the American Farmer.

THE VALUE OF CORN COBS AS FOOD FOR CATTLE.

When it is recollected how many hundreds and thousands of bushels of corn cobs are annually thrown away, or wastefully used as fuel, it becomes a matter of deep interest to every corn grower to know the degree of value to which this offal of the farm may be entitled to be considered as food for cattle. Does corn cobs possess properties of nutrition? If so, are those properties sufficiently concentrated to render them safe and efficient food? These questions are important; and particularly so in those years when there may be a scarcity of long feed, as hay, tops, and fodder, and fortunately for the solution of these questions, a most accurate test—a nicely conducted experiment—was made many years since by P. Miner, esq., of Ridgway, Virginia, and communicated at the time to the Agricultural Society of Albemarle county of that state. His experiment was conducted by distillation, probably the surest way of testing the degree of nutriment contained in the substance submitted to the test of experiment, is entitled to the more consideration, as it was undertaken at the request of a member of the Society, with the express object of determining the relative proportions of nutritive matter in the grain and cobs of the Indian corn.

Mr. Miner says the experiment was carried on under the eye of an experienced and intelligent distiller, and was as follows: Ten bushels of the corn and cob ground together were taken, which weighed 367 lbs., and 10 bushels of pure corn meal were taken, which weighed 400 lbs. They were both brewed or mashed on the same day and distilled separately, with great accuracy. The product of the pure corn was 19 gallons, and the product of the mixture of cob and corn was 13 gallons of spirit, each of the same degree of proof. Now it is generally agreed that the cob constitutes about one-half of the bulk of corn—in other words, we give two measures in the ears for one shelled, and the cobs are either used as fuel, or thrown away as of no value. If this were true, the product of the mixture then should have been only 9 gallons, which is the half of what the pure corn produced. But 13 gallons were obtained, 4 of which must have been of course, extracted from the cobs; or if we estimate its nutritive power by the quantity of spirit, it is clear, that whenever we shell 10 bushels of corn, and throw away the cobs, we throw away a portion of food equal to the difference between 9 and 13, or nearly one half.

As it relates to the respective weight of each, the difference in favor of the mixture is still greater, the pure meal weighs more than three pounds heavier in the bushel, and I am inclined to think that the product of the mixture would have been greater if the experiment had been made earlier, it was made in March. The distiller mentioned an important fact that occurred in the process. He found that the fermentation of the mixture took place much sooner, and was perfected a day or two earlier than the other: that it mashed much easier and better than any thing he had tried before, and which he accounted for by supposing, that the particles of the cob being lighter and coarser than those of the grain, when mixed together, prevented too close and heavy a deposition of the mass at the bottom of his brewing tub.

This experiment of Mr. Miner's, accurately and nicely as it was conducted, does not settle the question as to how much nutriment the cobs contain—it only settles that, of how much spirit they will make—and what is their relative value for the production of spirit when compared with the grain. It proves that while 10 bushels of meal made from the grain made 19 gallons of spirit, the same quantity of meal made from cobs and grain made 13 gallons, and, of course, that the 5 bushels of cobs yielded 4 gallons of spirit. Besides the principle of alcohol to be found in all grains, and most vegetables, there are other substances, or principles, in all, possessing nutritive properties—among these, may be enumerated the saccharine and oleaginous properties, of infinite value, not only in the sustenance of the animal system by the elaboration of carbon, but in the production of fat, as these are known to be active agents in these particulars. And besides these, there are other principles which contribute to the formation of flesh, muscle and bones. Without reference to the chemical analysis of the corn-cob, of which we are not aware that one has been made, we take it for granted, that

as it contains four-ninths as much spirit as does the grain, that its elements bear a proportional relation. But we are not left to conjecture as to its value; because the experience of every one who may have lived in the neighborhood of a distillery, will have taught him that the residuum, after the spirit is extracted from the grain, familiarly called *distiller's slop*, is used advantageously in the fattening of swine, and that when fed to milch cows, though its fattening properties are not so apparent with them, it is eminently conducive to the secretion of milk, and that when fed in connexion with fiddle; or hay, never fails to keep them in good heart and condition. But to return to the corn-cobs. We have already shown that so far as spirit is concerned, that they yield nearly half as much as the grain itself, and we think the inference a fair one, that if they were reduced to meal, submitted to some cooking process, and incorporated with chopped fodder of some kind, that they would be found for cattle, to be fully equal to half their quantity of corn, whether regard be had to their general health, the formation of flesh, muscle, bone and fat.

We conclude, therefore, by the expression of the opinion, that every corn-grower should save his corn-cobs for his cattle, and that to render them available, he ought to provide himself with the means of reducing them to cob-meal, if not that of cooking them also.

AMERICAN TEA.—It appears from the September number of the Southern Planter that a successful attempt has been made in Virginia to cultivate the Chinese tea plant. Mr. N. Puckett, who has given considerable attention to the subject, is to have specimens of his tea at the Henrico agricultural fair, in November. It has always been urged that the silk business must succeed in this country because the climate is so much like that of China. We do not see why the same rule will not hold good in relation to tea. We make the following extracts from Mr. P.'s letter concerning it:

The rolling of the leaf into the form in which it is brought from China, is wholly unnecessary, but, if it is desired, you have only to take the leaf after it is cleared of the stalk and party dried, and, placing it between your finger and thumb, give it a tight squeeze.

Once in seed, never out. After you have once sown the tea seed you will never look for plants, for, manage as you will, more seed will fall upon the ground than would be necessary for any plant bed; they will be in the ground all the winter, and come up with every rain during the next summer, and you may either transplant them, or you may thin them out into rows at the proper distance. Thus, notwithstanding the dryness of the season, I have now volunteer plants in the greatest profusion and of the finest quality.

I assure you, sir, there is no reason in the world why the farmers and gardeners in the Southern States should not grow their own tea, and grace their tables with this delightful beverage, infinitely more pure and wholesome that can be obtained from the unknown, adulterated stuff that comes from abroad. *Lou. Jour.*

GOOD AGRICULTURAL RULES.

"Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might."

The above injunction, which is to be found in the book of books, if it had been written as a rule for the guidance of agriculturists throughout all time, could not have been more happily adapted to the business, circumstances, and duties, of those who derive their living by the cultivation of the earth. Wisely does it prescribe, that that which is to be done should be done with all the might within the physical ability of the laborer or he who may direct the labour of others. True, indeed, it is, that the work of the farm, when necessary to be done, should be commenced and completed without let or hindrance, for unless the entire "might" of the operator be brought to bear upon the preparation of the soil, the putting in his seed, or the tending of his crops, disappointment will inevitably be his portion, for neither the seasons, nor the weeds of the field, will await the tardy operations of the sluggard. That which should be done to-day, never should be delayed until to-morrow, as a change of weather, or our power not only to then act, but delay exertion for days, during all which time crops may be suffering—may they suffer on until the point of safety shall be past.

We will conclude in the language of our text—"Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might"—do it at the right time, and do it well, for that which is worth doing, should be done in season, and done well.

The Potato-rot, of which so much complaint has been made in this country, has, we are told by our European correspondent, made its appearance in France! A Professor of Agriculture and Rural Economy in the University of Liege, Charles Morren, ascribes the disease to a parasitic mushroom, extremely thin and prolific,

He particularly describes it, after having closely studied the whole action of this *botrytis*. The French Government has taken measures for a proper investigation of the evil.

Mr. William Cammack, a very skillful and successful horticulturist of this District, anticipated the French savan in this discovery, and mentioned to us, nearly a year since, that he was convinced the disease arose from a parasitical plant, the roots of which penetrated the potato, and caused the mischief complained of. Evidences of the existence of this parasitical destroyer may be perceived by any one who examines a diseased potato after it has been cooked. *Nat. Intel.*

ABSENCE FROM HOME.

A late number of the "Philadelphia Gazette," in a sensible article upon the advantage to the health and spirits, arising from a change of scene in the summer time and from a relaxation from the daily cares and duties of life, introduces some excellent comments upon absence from home and the joys of returning. In selecting the closing portion of this article for the attention of our readers, we cannot help commending the truthful beauty of the sentiments it conveys:

"It is good occasionally to wander away from home in another sense. We should miss for a time the sweet voice, the ready smile, the kind greeting, and the thousand little comforts that cluster within the precincts of a well regulated household, in order that we may appreciate them the more on returning from our journeyings. Thoughts, associations and reflections are apt to find their way to the heart and the mind, when we are away from the loved and the cherished, which are indulged too seldom perhaps, when the enchantment of distance does not lend its aid. When absent, moreover, many a gentle recollection is apt to soften the heart—many a fount of affection is likely to gush forth that was before concealed even from ourselves, and many an inward resolve is made as to reformation in tone, manner and general intercourse. Many a thought is indulged for hasty expressions, acts of unkindness, looks of anger. We dwell upon the past in a contemplative and philosophical temper, and we soon begin to yearn for the scenes, the amenities, the affections of home. And then the joy of returning—the anticipated embrace, the welcome of friends, of relatives, or of parents and of children, what could be more delightful! What could yield to the human heart, purer or hotter pleasures! It is then that we appreciate home and its enjoyments—it is then that we feel that life still possesses such that is worth living for. Improved in health, gladdened in spirit, enlarged in mind, refreshed and invigorated, we recommence our pursuit with a lighter heart and firmer hand, grateful to God for the blessings enjoyed, and resolve to make an effort more fully to deserve them."

QUARRELS.—One of the most easy, the most common, most perfectly foolish things in the world, is to quarrel,—no matter with whom—man, woman or child; or on what pretence, provocation, or occasion whatsoever. There is no kind of necessity in it; and yet, strange as the fact may be, the theologians, politicians, lawyers, doctors, and princes quarrel; nations, tribes, corporations, men, woman, children, dogs and cats, birds and beasts, quarrel about all manner of things, and all manner of occasions. If there is anything in the world that will make a man feel bad, except pinching his fingers in the crack of a door, it is unquestionably a quarrel. No man fails to think less of himself after, than he did before one; it degrades him in his own eyes, and in the eyes of others, and what is worse it blunts his sensibility to disgrace on the one hand, and increases the power of passionate irritability on the other. The truth is, the more quietly and more peaceably we all get on, the better for ourselves, the better for our neighbors. In nine cases out of ten, the wisest course is, if a man cheats you, quit dealing with him; if he is abusive, quit his company; if he slanders you, take care to live so that no body will believe him. No matter who he is or how he misuses you, the wisest way is generally just to let him alone; for there is nothing better than this cool, calm, quiet way of dealing with the wrongs we meet with. *Charleston Courier.*

ROMANCE IN REAL LIFE.

A circumstance which has lately transpired at Ormskirk has been the theme of much gossip. A person named William B., of Lathom, near Ormskirk, about twelve years ago, paid his addresses to Miss A., of the same village. Both were respectably connected, and it was fully expected that the acquaintance would end in wedlock; but the fickle fair one eventually discarded her suit, who in consequence, was seized with deep melancholy, and though in perfect good health, has ever since confined himself to his room. The prevailing report, when this first happened, was that B. had gone to America; but three or four years afterward, a person affirmed that he had seen him walking one day, near the house in which he and his family then lived; and another person,

about four years since, when looking through the parlor window, saw him decidedly and stated that his head had grown to an enormous length. These reports, nevertheless, never gained much credence; and as his immediate friends never alluded to him, the general belief was that he had forever left the country. Last Wednesday, however, at the funeral of his mother, B. again made his appearance in public, to attend the corpse to the church. He is apparently about forty years of age, and, from his protracted seclusion, his friends had some difficulty in recognizing him. It was in the year 1834 when he thus withdrew from all intercourse with society; since which he has constantly resided in the same house, unknown to any except his nearest relations. The lady who was the cause of B.'s singular melancholy has been dead some years. *Preston Chronicle.*

Maj. Noah, the distinguished leader of the Jews in the United States, thus speaks of our Saviour:

"It has been said, and with some commendations on what was called my liberality, that I did not in this discourse term Jesus of Nazareth an impostor. I have never considered him as such. An impostor generally aims at temporal power, attempts to subsidize the rich and weak believer, and draw around him followers of influence, whom he can control. Jesus was free from fanaticism; he was a quiet, subduer, retiring faith; he mingled with the poor, communed with the wretched, avoided the rich, and rebuked the vain glorious. In the calm of evening he sought shelter in the secluded groves of Olivet, or wandered pensively on the shores of Galilee.

He sincerely believed in his mission. He courted no one, flattered no one; in his political denunciations he was pointed and severe; in his religion calm and subdued. These are not the characteristics of an impostor; but admitting that we gave a different interpretation to his mission, when so many millions believe in his divinity, and we see around us abundant evidences of the happiness, good faith, mild Government, and liberal feelings which spring from his religion, what right has any one to call him an impostor? That religion which is calculated to make mankind great and happy, cannot be a false one."

KEEP YOUR SONS EMPLOYED.

Let play be their occasional privilege, and they will enjoy it far more highly. Employ them in the garden, if you have one, as work is not play. Give them daily and regular duties about the house. It will do them no harm to perform humble services. It will help you, and them to do more, to have them bring wood or coal, to scour the knives, to make their own beds, to keep their own room in order. You may thus render them highly useful, and greatly contribute to their happiness, and their future welfare. Louis Philippe, the present king of France, was in childhood and early youth, required to wait upon himself in the humblest of offices. It was through this culture that he was trained up to be one of the most remarkable men of the present age.

NINETY YEARS AGO.

The following advertisement is copied from the Pennsylvania Gazette, published in Philadelphia, July 11, 1755:

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
Philadelphia, Feb. 14, 1755.

It having been found very inconvenient to persons concerned in trade, that the mail from Philadelphia to New England sets out but once a fortnight during the winter season, this is to give notice, that the New England Mail will henceforth go once a week, the year round, whereby correspondence may be carried on, and answers obtained to letters, between Philadelphia and Boston, in THREE weeks, which used in the winter to require SIX weeks.

By command of the Postmaster General. WM. FRANKLIN, Comptroller.

The Burnt District of New York.

It is now but two months since a large portion of the main business quarter of the city was reduced to a heap of ruins, by the most disastrous fire but one that has ever occurred in New York. Before one week had elapsed preparations for rebuilding had commenced, and at the present time several stores have been rebuilt, furnished with new stocks of goods, and the occupants are as busy as ever trying to drive a nail in the wheel of fortune. From all parts of the district ascends the musical ring of the mason's trowel, and before winter is upon us, the smoking heaps of half-destroyed bricks and mortar will have disappeared, giving place to long rows of warehouses more beautiful, costly, and substantial than those which once occupied the ground. Truly, it appears as if Aladdin's lamp was to meet its realization in New York energy and enterprise. *Com. Adver.*

"My lad," said a young lady to a boy carrying an empty mail bag, "are you a mail boy?" "Ye duzn't think I ze a female boy, duz ye?"

NORTH CAROLINA-PENITENTIARY.

From the North Carolina Standard.

MR. EDITOR: With your permission, I will give to the people of our State some reasons why I think we should give our votes at the ensuing August elections, on the affirmative side of this question. It is a maxim as well established and as universally admitted to be true as perhaps any other not susceptible of mathematical demonstration, that the effectiveness of punishments prescribed for the prevention of crime depends much more on the certainty of infliction than on their severity. Man or beast may quickly be broken from any evil practice by immediately and invariably inflicting moderate punishment for every transgression. But, if it is only occasionally punished and at other times allowed to go unpunished, the utmost severity will prove ineffectual. How many thousands of what we call rational beings, do we see kill themselves with spirituous liquors every year! Is not this mainly owing to the fact that some men lead a life of habitual intemperance for scores of years, and yet enjoy good health, living to a good old age? We should have very few drunkards among us if it were known that habitual intemperance would produce death with absolute certainty in a year, five years, or even in ten years. Whip a dog every time he enters your parlor or kitchen and you will soon be able to coax him to put his nose inside the door. But if he is sometimes allowed to lie by the fire and sometimes severely lashed, he will take ten thousand stripes, and be a house dog in spite of them. It is notorious that throughout this country and perhaps the civilized world, there is growing opposition to the infliction of the punishment of death, and it is equally notorious that this feeling causes a great many criminals who are known to deserve some punishment for their crimes, to escape punishment altogether, or at least to suffer that which is altogether inadequate. At the last Superior Court in the county in which the writer resides, a free black was arraigned and tried for carrying a female slave to the North, so that she is lost to her owner. So far as I have conversed with the citizens of our county, not one doubts or doubts his guilt. Yet he was acquitted. Some of the jury are said to have been for hanging; but feeling perhaps that this punishment was a little too severe they yielded to the pleadings of Mercy. Had we had a Penitentiary this offender would no doubt have now been an inmate of it. His acquittal, so far as I am informed, is universally looked upon as likely to lead to very mischievous consequences.

There were at the same time several other free negroes confined in jail under the charge of breaking open a store and robbing it of a large sum of money. Of these some confessed their guilt, and took the lash, rather than remain in jail until the next term. The others are still confined; and at the worst can but take the lash too. Now I put it to every grown man in North Carolina to say whether he does not know free negroes who would be willing to take thirty nine lashes certain, upon being allowed to break into any house where there was a considerable sum of money, and possess themselves of it, without farther punishment! Add the chance of free escape to the inadequateness of the punishment, and how vain is the law! I for one would cheerfully pay my share of the tax necessary for building a penitentiary, if none but free negroes were to be confined in it. I should consider it money well laid out. How often does it happen in our State, that men guilty of unjustifiable homicide and even murder, escape with a punishment merely nominal, (sometimes they escape even that,) in consequence of the unwillingness of juries to bring them to the gallows. I risk but little in saying that there is scarcely a man in our State, but that would cheerfully bear his portion of the burden of building a penitentiary, if he could thereby get rid of some one particularly mischievous character in his vicinity. As our law at present stands, there is but little encouragement held out to induce honest people to catch and have the rogues convicted. I have an unprincipled, mischievous, thievish neighbor who trades with my negroes, lets down my fences, and turns his stock into my corn-field, steals my lambs and pigs, &c. What shall I gain by having him convicted in our courts? Conscience will not allow me to have his life taken on account of a little pel; and if I have him whipped, what do I or the community gain by it? The convict who has suffered this ignominious punishment, is only thereby rendered more reckless and mischievous. If we had a penitentiary where he could be kept at work and out of the way of doing mischief, for five or ten years, then there would be a strong motive for me to have him caught in his villainy and convicted.

There is one argument against the establishment of a penitentiary which I have been mortified at seeing admitted into the Standard, although in the shape of an extract from another newspaper. I allude to the objection that the mechanical labor of the convicts in a penitentiary would injure the business of honest mechanics out of it. I have, Mr. Editor, too high an opinion of the correctness of your

principles and the soundness of your understanding, to believe for a moment that this objection could have been admitted into your paper otherwise than by inadvertence. I was not surprised to see it in the Richmond Whig, because I had seen many handlings of the same family and hue in the same way, in previous occasions; but really it is too dirty for the North Carolina Standard. I know nothing of the standing of the Georgia paper from which the extract in the Standard was taken, but feel confident it cannot be very high. And what is this mighty argument forsooth! which is to induce the intelligent citizens of our State to vote down the penitentiary project! Hear it, people of North Carolina; weigh it well; look at it; mark it. A bad man, a convicted thief, a ravisher, a man-killer must be kept in jail and fed in idleness at the public expense, must be whipped and turned loose, branded and turned loose, must be hung; but for the sake of the public morals and the common good do not, do not, do not, let him work; if you let him work honest folks will be thrown out of employment and starve. The world for some hundreds of years has been quarreling about the real inventor of the art of printing, and is yet disputing about the true inventor of the steam engine. Away with such poltry squabbles! Here is a subject worthy of your researches, worthy of the ablest pens. The mists of time are hourly enshrouding the past in dark obscurity. Hasten then, ye men of genius, ye gas-lights of the world, to rescue from oblivion and hang high in view of the world the name of the heaven-inspired man who has discovered to a hitherto benighted world, the sublime truth, that the more idle persons a community maintains the more prosperous it must become. Rejoice, ye much abused losers! A brighter day is dawning for you. The value of the "anti fruges consumer" will now be known and acknowledged. Your idle hands and active mouths will now be properly appreciated; your idleness, gluttony, and light-fingeredness will be valued at the high standard of their real worth to society. You are the real protectors of the mechanic arts. You eat, you steal, and work no. You have "otium cum utilitate" if not dignitate. If any one of your number has been weak enough to entertain a thought of engaging in any active mechanical pursuit, let him dismiss the noxious ideas from his mind. You are more useful citizens as you are. If you go to work you will only injure your fellow-citizens of the mechanic trades. Eat, lounge, and steal, we are workers abroad, and will feed and clothe you. But to be serious, if our mechanics' labor is inadequately recompensed, if there is danger of that branch of industry being too much crowded, let our Legislature pass a law to limit their number in each county in the State, so many carpenters, blacksmiths, shoemakers, hatters, tailors, &c. to each. But in the name of common sense, let us have some place in which bad, idle men can be kept from injuring their neighbors and be made to support themselves. The question we are to vote on at our next election is simply this: Shall we continue to feed in idleness in our common jails our convicts, or whip or brand them and turn them loose on a suffering community, or shall we give a small portion of our money to prepare a place where they can be kept from doing mischief and be made to support themselves?

A PLANTER.

If frost does not threaten my tobacco too strongly you shall hear from me again ere long. In any event I will trouble you with some more homespun talk when my crop shall be all safely housed.

SINGULAR PHENOMENON ON LAKE ONTARIO.

On Saturday last an extraordinary occurrence was noticed in the lake at this place. Shortly before noon some gentlemen walking upon the wharf, happening to cast their eyes upon the water between the piers, were struck with the very unusual appearance of a strong current tide, as it were, setting directly out to sea. It seemed as if the whole lake was going bodily away. In a few minutes nearly a third part of the inner harbor, with a corresponding portion of the shore on either side, was left entirely bare, when suddenly the tide turned and came as rapidly back again, filling the harbor at least two feet higher than it was before. This extraordinary action of the lake was continued at regular intervals of every eight or ten minutes till after dark, the highest tide noticed being a little before six in the evening, when the water rose seven inches higher than it was last spring, and just two feet and an inch above its present level. We understand the same occurrence was noticed at other places on the lake, and hear that at Port Hope the effect was so great that the steamboat Princess Royal could not get into the harbor at all, running hard aground when more than her length outside the entrance to the piers. The cause of so extraordinary a phenomenon is at present a matter of various conjecture, but the general opinion seems to be that it could only have been produced by a violent earthquake in some part of the continent, which we shall probably soon hear of. *Cobourg (Canada) Star.*