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AGRICULTURAL.



FROM A NORTHERN PUBLICATION.

Employments of Agriculture.

- "Happy the man whose wish and care,
- "A few paternal acres bound,
- "Content to breathe his native air,
- "In his own ground.
- "Whose herds with milk, whose fields with bread,
- "Whose flocks supply him with attire,
- "Whose trees in summer yield him shade,
- "In winter fire."

In the United States the great body of the people are cultivators of the ground; all the other citizens bear but a very small proportion in number to these. This, too, will probably be the state of things for many ages to come; for the cheapness and inexhaustible plenty of land, and the consequent dearthness of labour, will, in all likelihood, prevent for a long time the extensive establishment of manufactures. The inhabitants of the eastern and middle states generally cultivate their own land, and are lords of the soil; and no circumstance can be more favorable to the support of freedom and independence. Idleness, with its train of destructive vices, can never contaminate this body of men, generally; extravagance and dissipation can never poison the great mass of them. Some farmers will be idle, extravagant, and dissipated; but these will bear a very small proportion to the whole number.—In the common course of things, there will always be among them tenfold more industry than idleness; tenfold more instances of saving economy than of waste and ruinous extravagance.

The daily occupations of farmers give them a peculiar hardiness of body and mind, and render them more capable than others of sustaining the fatigues and braving the dangers of warfare.—Being owners of the soil, they have a much greater interest at stake in time of invasion, than those whose property is moveable, and can be easily transported from one country to another. At the same time they are led by their interest to wish for peace with all foreign nations, and for quietness and order at home. It can never be for their interest to leave their farms and turn soldiers, unless imperious necessity should call; and it would be equally contrary to their inclinations. Therefore they would be unwilling to engage in any but a necessary war; and in such a war, a war of invasion on the part of the enemy, they would not fail to bear a hand; they would be among the first to engage, and the last to yield. For these reasons, together with others that are obvious, the farmers are the great bulwark of the country. And if our national independence and republican institutions should be preserved and perpetuated, (and God grant they may be!) it would be principally by means of the substantial yeomanry, a body of men the most incorruptible, the most brave and hardy, the most attached to the country, and infinitely the most numerous.

Our farmers at the present day have advantages much superior to those enjoyed in preceding ages. Great improvements have been made in agriculture, and these improvements are still progressing; great improvements have also been made in roads; so that it is much easier carrying produce to market than it was formerly. Public worship and village schools are attended with more ease; social intercourse is promoted, and friends and neighbors are brought, as it were, nigher to one another; for if by reason of better roads, the travel of ten miles is as easy now as that of five miles was formerly, it is in effect the same as if the local distance were shortened in this proportion.

As agriculture has been ranked among the most useful and honorable employments by every

civilized nation," and has been encouraged by every wise government; so it ordinarily affords a greater share of contentment and happiness than perhaps any other calling of life. As it is favorable to morals, so is it also favorable to health and strength of body. Exercise in the open air gives appetite, and makes food delicious. The laboring farmer has more pleasure in food, as well as more enjoyment from sleep, than any idle epicure ever yet tasted. He inhales from his fields pleasant, salubrious, and invigorating perfumes.—His eyes are delighted while beholding his flocks and herds, and the progressive growth of his plants and vegetables. When he has rendered a barren soil fertile by industry and skill, or when he has made a portion of wilderness "blossom like the rose," he rejoices in the works of his hands; his heart is cheered with an innocent and rational satisfaction.

Industrious thriving farmers are more independent than almost any other men. The merchant lies at the mercy of the winds and waves; the trader depends upon his customers, the lawyer upon his clients, the physician and mechanic on their employers. But the substantial farmer can supply most of his real wants from his land; and whilst he is less dependent upon men than others are, his circumstances of life lead him to feel an immediate dependence on that Being "who giveth rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons."

All these circumstances put together, there is good reason to conclude that the condition of thriving farmers is more free from disquietudes, and more favorable to the enjoyment of contentment and happiness, than that of almost any other class of people. Indeed, many have been glad to exchange high rank and power for the retired and peaceful occupations of agriculture. Dioclesian, the Roman emperor, was one illustrious instance. That emperor, after he had voluntarily left the throne, employed himself in planting and gardening; when being urged by Maximilian to resume the reins of government and the imperial purple, he remarked, "that if he could show Maximilian the cabbages which he had planted with his own hands at Solona, he should no longer be urged by him to relinquish the enjoyment of happiness for the pursuit of power."

On Making Hay,

AS PRACTISED IN ENGLAND.

The farmer may easily judge the proper time for mowing grass by the quality of it. When the crop is very great, it should be cut as soon as the bottom of the grass begins to grow yellow; for if it stands longer, more will be lost by the quantity of leaves rotted at the bottom, and the ill flavor which these will give to the rest, than will be gained by its growth.

When other circumstances permit the choice of time, it should be when the grass is in full bloom, before the stalks begin to harden, and rather early than late, because the more sap remains in the roots, the sooner the next crop will spring up. A dewy or dusky morning should be chosen for cutting the grass; because, being then fullest of sap, it stands best to the scythe.—When the high noon tide sun has dried the grass, and made it recline its head, the mower will employ his time more usefully in making the hay already cut, than in continuing to mow, with great additional labor, grass which no longer makes the due resistance. Let the haymaker follow the mowers as fast as it is cut down, especially if it lie so thick in the swarth that neither the air nor sun can pass freely through it; but if it is likely to rain, let it remain in the swarth.—In the evening make it into grass cocks; and the next day, as soon as the dew is off the ground, spread it again, and turn it, that it may wither on the other side; then handle it, and if you find it dry, make it up into large cocks. If the weather prove favorable during the second day, the grass will by that time be so dry as to bear being kept in these cocks till the day on which it is to be carted, when it should be spread over again in the morning, to receive a further drying.

The cocks should be made as tall and taper as possible, because the winds, by passing through them, will dry the hay moderately and equally, and though wet should fall upon them, it will not

do much hurt, because the greatest part of it will run off directly, and the sun and wind will soon dry that which may have penetrated into the cocks. These cocks have, therefore, a great advantage over the common small and low ones; for if a rainy season comes on, these last will be so thoroughly wetted that the wind will not be able to pierce sufficiently to dry them.

It is a great prejudice to land to mow it too often, except it be land that is constantly mended with water floods; and, therefore, when you have not that conveniency, once in three years, or every other year, seed your mowing lands, if you cannot get manure constantly to keep them in heart; for seeding is as necessary for hay ground, as following is for corn ground.

A. N. H. FARMER.

PORTRAITURE.

A friend has lately furnished us with a small volume, entitled "Letters from Washington, on the Constitution and Laws, with Sketches of some of the prominent public characters of the United States," written, (as it is now known,) by GEORGE WATSON, Librarian of the United States' Library.

From a hasty glance over the contents of this little production, we think it has considerable merit, both for the beauty of the composition, and the correctness of the portraits. We trust we are not taking too great a liberty with the author, occasionally to present a few of his pages to our readers.

The following sketch of Mr. MONROE is drawn with less embellishment than any of the others; but being President of the United States, we think he is entitled to the first translation to our columns. EDITORS.

WASHINGTON, —, 1813.

LORD B.....

I had yesterday the honor of an introduction to Mr. MONROE, the present chief magistrate of the United States. "It is seldom," says Dr. Johnson, "that we find men or places such as we expect to find them;" and I must confess that, in the present instance, the truth of this observation has been realized. I found Mr. MONROE a little different from what my fancy had pictured him, but neither a Lilliputian nor a Patagonian. He appears to be between fifty and sixty years of age, with a form above the middle size, compact, muscular, and indicating a constitution of considerable hardness and vigor; his countenance exhibits lineaments of great severity, and seems as if it had been seldom irradiated by the rays of joy, or softened by the touch of sensibility; he does smile, however, but not like Shakespeare's Cassius,

"in such a sort
As if he mocked himself, and scorned his spirit
That could be moved to smile at any thing."

At these moments, there is a benignity and suavity in him that invite confidence and dispel suspicion. He is rather awkward in his address for a man who has mingled so much in polite society, and his manners and habits are more those of a plain country gentleman, than an accomplished statesman, or a profound politician. Awkwardness of manners, however, seems to be more common among the Americans than I had conceived. Their most eminent men are, I think, deficient in that ease, elegance and grace, which distinguish the prominent political characters of France and England. The nature of their government has a tendency to beget this, by preventing those sacrifices to the graces which are made in the more refined and polished nations of Europe. The importance and magnitude of their pursuits, and their general association with what we call the lower ranks of society, preclude the acquisition of those exterior embellishments so industriously cultivated by our countrymen.—A disciple of Chesterfield, with all his refinement and fascination, would be regarded in this country as a mere *petit maitre*, calculated only to charm the eye and to fascinate the heart of female ignorance. But I have wandered from my subject. Mr. MONROE is attached to what was once denominated the republican party; for at present all party distinctions seem to be lost, and the parties themselves wholly amalgamated. In his political career he has manifested the most unimpeachable and unbending integrity; and though long before the public, has seldom failed to meet the expectations and to gratify the wishes of the people. That he possesses ambition, will not be denied; but his ambition is limited to the attainment of excellence and distinction within the bounds of patriotism and honor. If he has not the unbending sternness of Cato, he has the more pleasing and benignant integrity of Fabricius. Mr. MONROE entered early into public life, and has performed the various and complicated duties

of a soldier, a politician, and a statesman.—His mind has been accustomed to dwell on the nature of governments, and the revolutions of empire; subjects so vast produce a correspondent enlargement of intellect, and sweep of comprehension. The mind which is occupied in trifles will not be apt to amaze by its greatness, or astonish by its magnificence; it may glitter, but will never blaze. The peculiar character and magnitude of Mr. MONROE's pursuits have withheld his attention from the minor and less important subjects of literature, and he is very far from what we should call a man of reading or general science. The knowledge he possesses has been acquired more by personal observation, laborious reflection, and frequent conversation, than by the repeated perusals of books, to which his important occupations would not permit him to devote his time; but he has examined and re-examined that knowledge, till it has in fact become his own; re-created by combination, established by practice, and tested by experience. It is said his mind is neither rich nor brilliant, but capable of the most laborious analysis, and the most patient research; not hasty in its decisions, and not easily changed when its decisions are formed. Judgment appears to be his prominent intellectual feature; and in the examination of any object, he seldom suffers it to be darkened by prejudice, or warped by passion. This brief sketch, my lord, will satisfy you, I presume, that no man could be chosen better calculated to fill the dignified station he holds under this government, and that no man could be more cordially and sincerely disposed to further the interests and to promote the prosperity and happiness of his country.

Mr. MONROE has never been blessed with male issue; and, what is remarkable, out of the five presidents who have served since the organization of this government, but one has had sons. I mention this merely as a curious circumstance. Mr. J. Q. ADAMS, the present Secretary of State, is the son of the second President of the United States, and a man of great talent, information and industry. Mr. MONROE, since his elevation to the presidential chair, is said to have discovered much sagacity in the selection of his cabinet council, or executive officers. These are the secretaries of state, war, treasury, navy, and attorney general, all of whom, with one exception, possess the rare gifts of nature in no ordinary degree; and who have already rendered themselves conspicuous in the walks of literature, the fields of eloquence, and on the theatre of politics. You will understand that I do not mean to include in these remarks the Secretary of the Navy, (the exception I have mentioned) with whom I have no acquaintance; and with whom, from what cause I am unable to say, the American public seem to be a little dissatisfied.

QUEEN OF ENGLAND.

The following extract of a letter from the Queen of England, published in the London *Sax*, possesses considerable interest, as it throws a little light on the secret and abominable plans which have been resorted to, to traduce her character, to prevent the different powers of Europe from treating her with the least respect and decency, and even to destroy her life!—Indeed, from the character of the exalted personage with whom she is connected, and from the known obsequiousness and servility of his vassals, no better treatment could have been expected from them; but that the governments on the continent should so far divest themselves of every honorable, every noble feeling, as to become the protectors of assassins, the persecutors of a helpless and almost friendless female, would not be believed, were it not for the "damning facts" which the following letter discloses.

Extract of a letter from the Queen of England, dated at Rome on the 16th of March.

"During my residence at Milan, in consequence of the infamous behavior of Mr. Ompteda, (he having bribed my servants to become the traducers of my character,) one of my English gentlemen challenged him: the Austrian Government sent off Mr. Ompteda. I wrote myself to the Emperor of Austria, requesting his protection against spies, who employed persons to introduce themselves into my house, and particularly into my kitchen, to poison the dishes prepared for my table. I never received any answer to this letter. After this I was obliged to go into Germany, to visit my relative the Margravine of Bareuth. The shortest road for my return to Italy was through Vienna; and I took that road, with the flattering hope that the Emperor would protect me. Arrived at Vienna, I demanded public satisfaction for the public insult I had experienced in Lombardy; this was