

LET BEECHER CONFESS!
 Said good Nathan one day
 In a roundabout way,
 To David who slew one Uriah,
 God hath sent me to show you,
 How surely we know you,
 To be both a rake and a liar.

Then without any flim,
 Said King David, "I am
 The worst man that ever was born,
 I took from him his wife,
 And then his own life,
 Yes, I frankly acknowledge the corn."

So when David died,
 By truth purified,
 All the world loved to sing his sweet songs,
 And his name forever
 Will be a sweet smelling savor,
 For his penitence cured all his wrongs.

But while Beecher shall live,
 God nor man will forgive,
 While he seeks the foul refuge of lies;
 And when he is dead,
 Not a tear will be shed,
 And his name all the world will despise.
 — N. Y. Star.

THE BEAUTIFUL IN NATURE.
 BY F. L. STANTON.

I thank God for this good, green earth,
 For every fair and pleasant bower,
 That smiles upon the modest birth
 Of every dew-bespangled flower.
 I thank God for these little birds,
 That soar aloft on joyous wings;
 More eloquent than human words,
 And sweeter, are the songs they sing.

I thank Him for the little stream,
 That murmurs softly as it flows,
 And trembles 'neath the golden beam
 That on its crystal surface glows.
 I thank Him for the gentle breeze,
 That comes from o'er the lilted sea,
 And waltzes with the nodding trees
 Whose gracious branches shelter me!

I thank Him for the lovely face
 Of Nature—for the works of art,
 And these, and all, have each a place
 Within my soul, forsaken heart,
 And thought of every hope bereft—
 Though lost to all I love the best,
 I feel that there is something left
 When I can fly to Nature's breast!

Ah! mine has been a lonely life—
 And full of thorns my path appears;
 The world I loved has loved me not,
 Though I have stained its dust with
 tears.
 If I have never deserved its love,
 Then, with a heart, all love and riven,
 I lift these streaming eyes above
 And humbly ask to be forgiven.

PEA FALLOW.

In complying with your request, "to give my views and experience on the use of the pea as a renovating crop," at least two difficulties present themselves. First, the difficulty of saying anything that will be fresh on a subject so frequently written on; and secondly, of bringing a fair discussion of the subject within the limits which ought to be given to one subject, however important.

The Southern pea (so-called, though in reality a bean) has been used extensively in the South for many years as a renovating as well as a forage crop, and to a limited extent in Virginia, especially the Tidewater section.

My own experience and observation extends through a period of only six years, and, as, of necessity, been limited as to space. When I first commenced with pea fallow, I thought that to secure the greatest benefit from the crop the entire product—grain, vine and all—should be plowed in before frost, and that to remove or feed down any part of it was to injure it to that extent an improver.

Having this view, the crop seemed to me an expensive one. It would be almost impossible to get in a crop of peas in good condition at an expense of less than \$5 per acre, including seed; and if by any accident we should fail to realize a crop of wheat after it, the loss would, of course, be considerable.

Several years' experience has demonstrated to me that this opinion is incorrect, at least so far as my land is concerned. Indeed, I find that I do not derive as much benefit in the way of improvement when the crop is turned under immediately on reaching maturity, as when treated somewhat differently as detailed hereafter.

In order to be secure of a good crop of peas, I take land that has either been cultivated in corn the year previous, or has been plowed during the preceding winter, so that it is in fine and mellow condition. About the last of May, either sooner or later, depending upon the season, the land should be well and deeply plowed, and by the 15th of June the peas sown. If the land is in pretty good condition as to fertility, I believe that sowing broadcast will give the greatest improvement in the land, as the vast amount and even distribution of the roots will fill the soil with vegetable matter; but if land is poor, or the season wet and backward, it will be best to sow in drills two feet apart, so that the cultivator may be used to loosen the soil and facilitate the growth of the plants, which will become stunted in wet, cold weather. If the land is poor, I prefer using on the pea crop the fertilizer that would be used upon the surrounding grain crop, as I am satisfied that the final return in grain will be more than 20 per cent. in favor of this method against the application of the fertilizer to the grain crop.

High grade fertilizer, such as Anchor Brand Tobacco and the Trucker fertilizers have proven most satisfactory with me, and I would prefer to use them in homeopathic doses to heavy applications of less soluble and concentrated fertilizers. The pea crop needs assistance until the plant gets six or eight leaves, then it will take care of itself, as the leaves will take from the atmosphere everything which the long tap roots (which will have already penetrated to the depth of six or eight inches) does not find in the subsoil.

If peas are sown broadcast, the fertilizer should be sown upon the ground and

plowed in, and if the crop is drilled the fertilizer should be drilled in with it. The advantages of drilling over broadcasting are, first, saving of one-half the seed, second, on poorer lands a saving of fertilizer; third, on all lands an increase in the yield of grain, and greater facility of picking such as are needed for seeding. The advantages of broadcasting are, the greater expedition in getting in the crop, increase in bulk of crop above ground, great increased and more even distribution of the root, which is a most valuable part of the crop. I have already noted incidentally that the pea has a long tap root that extends into the subsoil frequently in dry seasons, and on porous soils reaching a depth of two feet.

These roots bring up from the subsoil the mineral matter of the crop, which in its decay is left in a soluble condition where the roots of the cereals can appropriate it. The leaves of the pea, like those of clover, and even to a greater degree, draw nourishment from the atmosphere, so that the plant in reality takes very little from the surface soil of the field, and when it decays, the product, in both organic and mineral elements of fertility, is left exactly in the position to be of benefit to the succeeding grain crop. If peas are drilled, it will be well to run the cultivator through them, to loosen the soil, as soon as they are well above the ground. So far, my practice and opinions coincide with those of other parties. We have been advised by some to plow the crop under green when it has attained its greatest bulk. This Mr. Edmund Ruffin, in a very exhaustive essay on the pea published many years ago, condemned, recommending that the crop be allowed to mature, and then to be turned under, grain and all. This would be better than the first method, but it seems to me very wasteful. Every acre of a good crop of peas has upon it from 10 to 15 bushels of peas. As good feed for hogs as corn (certainly every acre will make 100 pounds of pork), why should we lose this? The only question to be answered would, of course, be, whether or not the improvement to the land would be as great if the crop is fed down as if turned under entirely? Now, if we supposed that from every acre 100 pounds of pork can be made, worth say \$7, we will see at once that we will have secured a fair return for four months' investment, even should it prove that the elements that enter into the composition of fat pork were really valuable as fertilizers. But, in fact, this is not the case. Fat pork is almost pure carbon and water. I believe, carbon hydrates being the most abundant supply of all the elements of fertility, are of least comparative value. Without making a careful by exact estimate, it may be very safely said that twenty-five cents would purchase all the real valuable fertilizing material in one hundred pounds of pork. The debris of the crop, including roots, stems, leaves, &c., together with all the manure from the animals, remain upon the land, having lost nothing but the pork and the water that has evaporated in the process of drying. If I am mistaken in this I hope some one will set me right, as I am anxious that the truth should be brought to light. This is my theory, and three years' successful practice with several other small experiments previously made have confirmed me in the opinion that it is correct. My land is sandy loam with clay subsoil. It may be that upon very stiff clays, rich in calcareous matter, it would be better to turn in crops green, but upon sandy lands a green fallow will almost invariably bring a heavy crop of sorrel.

Under the method of treating pea fallow, i. e., turning under the entire crop, it was, as before remarked, a costly crop. It required an outlay of four or five dollars per acre, which added to the subsequent cost of preparing the land for wheat, saddled the crop with two great burdens in the form of expensive preparation for it to be profitable. Poor men could not afford to lay out of their money so long, or to take the risk of failure of the wheat crop. The result has been that less land has been seeded to wheat, and our mills have to look to the West for their main supply. But once convince the farmer that for five dollars outlay he can make for his own use one hundred pounds of the very best pork, and also put his land in good condition to raise a paying crop of wheat, and we shall have a supply of both articles at home, and stop the drain upon our resources in making up the deficiency by purchases from the Northwest. One great drawback with me has been the difficulty of saving seed. The pea and summer harvest confined, and I have found it almost impossible to get cheap labor to pick peas. Here is a chance for some one to invent a machine. Every farmer ought, if possible, to save his own seed.

I find, in glancing over what has been written, that nothing has been said about the different varieties of peas. There are at least two varieties of black peas, one of which ripens much earlier than the other. The latest ripening is too long maturing to suit our climate. The buff or clay peas are very little raised in this section. They, with the later ripening black pea, make more vine than any others, and are admirably adapted to more Southern States. The Whipperwill, or cherry pea, a brown pea, with still darker brown specks, has proven an excellent pea with me. It ripens earlier than either of the black peas, and is more prolific. It does not make so heavy a growth of vine; it stands more erect, and retains its foliage longer than the black, which drops its leaves as soon as the peas begin to mature.

It is particularly valuable for forage, as the stems and leaves remain green when the peas are nearly all ripe. This quality recommends it to me, as I use peas for feeding my cattle and horses in the stable

as much as possible, finding them cheap and excellent food. But I have already transcended the limits I had laid down for myself and must close, though not half has been said that might be in commendation of the pea, which I believe is to prove to Virginia what the turnip has to England—the salvation of the farming interest.

Cheslerfield county, Va.
 T. L. P.

There is a time when a man loses faith in all the cherished traditions of childhood, look on life as a hollow mockery, and wouldn't go around the corner to see the President. It is just after he has sailed into the clothes-line on a dark night, pulled his nose higher than a student's aspirations, and sat down with abrupt precision in a garbage box.

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The Record will of necessity take part in the politics of the country. It is the duty of every man to keep himself well informed in respect to public affairs, and to take a decided and manly part therein. It is especially the duty of the editor of a newspaper faithfully to investigate all questions of public concern, and give to his readers the facts of the same. The undersigned pledges himself to be true in this regard. He will not knowingly deceive his readers for the sake of party or anything else; but by laying before them the facts, as he may be enabled to obtain them, will endeavor to aid all to act wisely for the general good. As political matters now stand, his personal convictions are most decidedly in accord with the views and feelings of the Democratic Conservative party. He believes that the efforts of this party in 1876 wrenched from the grasp of tyrants and corruptors in high places the civil liberty that we now enjoy. He regards that great victory as second only to that gained by the fathers of 1776. The danger was imminent, the constant tendency fatal, but the courage, wisdom and devotion of the Conservative party proved itself equal to the occasion, and gloriously rescued the imperiled liberties of the people. While that party shall continue more pure and more patriotic than any other, he intends to be fully identified with it.

But the main design of the Record is to serve the county of Davidson in all the ways it may be possible to advance her interests and promote the welfare of her people. And to this end the undersigned desires such intimate relations with her citizens as shall enable him to perform his duty efficiently.

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