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AGRICULTURAL.

From the Memoirs of the Philadelphia
Agricultural Society.

Notices for a Young Farmer.

(CONCLUDED.)

Render WATER subservient to all its purposes. Dams and ponds for collecting streams and their deposits, are magazines for manure, as well as heads for irrigation of grass, or even tillage crops; and watering is found, in countries wherein it is practised equally beneficially to both. When springs or streams are absent, dams, to retain the deposits of rain-floods, are highly advantageous by furnishing temporary irrigation, and finally, supplies for the compost heap. The Chinese have, time out of mind, set examples of constant use of irrigation; and their modes of raising water from rivers, streams, &c. and of applying it are to be found in many writers.

Visit, often, every part of your farm; and fix beforehand, your work. View, frequently, not only your water courses, but all your enclosures, crops and woodlands; and note what is amiss. You will thus guard against evils consequent on negligence.

Shew yourself in your fields, in busy seasons especially. Your presence will animate the industrious, and stimulate the unfaithful and indolent. More profit will arise, if your concerns are extensive from such attentions, than from all you could accomplish by your personal labor confined to one object; to which however, if your circumstances compel you to submit, you will soon discover the superiority, (according to the country phraseology,) of "come boys," to "go boys." The one ensures your work; the other leaves it half done. If you are rich enough to employ an Overseer, you will be fortunate if he will not require overlooking.

Gather all your SUMMER DUNG; dropped near fences & hedge rows, (if you will suffer such incumbrances,) and under trees, and mix it with earth, on a ploughed head land, to save it from sun, wind and dung-beetles. All dung should either be covered with earth or a roof, to prevent evaporation and waste of its most valuable ingredients. Mix no hot lime with your muck, dung, or compost heap, before fermentation has ceased. Instances, of even conflagration of strawy muck, by hot lime to a great extent, can be given. No doubt, cess, of fermentation is injurious; and over-rotted dung is not desirable. But extreme cases should not be resorted to, for instruction or argument. If lime be used, that slacked is always safest and best, when mixed with either dug or compost.

Sow no winter grain the first year of liming fields. The crop is generally retarded in ripening, & caught by mildew, blight or rust. The liming here meant, is one sufficient for durable improvement of the soil. Those who lay on lime in small quantities, which may do neither good nor harm, often, (not always,) escape injuries, though they gain no immediate advantages.

Select the best seed of all your grain; roll it in plaster after wetting it, if you will not steep it. But a change of seed entirely, when the grain has been sown too long on the same farm, can be at once accomplished by procuring a full supply from distant places, and the more distant the better, without waiting for tedious process of gradual selection, however commendable the latter may be.

It is not yet agreed, what kinds of wheats best withstand injuries from the Hessian Fly. The yellow

bearded and other wheats with solid straw or strong stems, (the solid stemmed wheats being designated by the application of cane or cone wheats) are deemed the most efficacious. Farmers should bend their sedulous attention to the selection of such wheats. Good farming manure, and reasonably late sowing, are certainly, the best securities. But too late seeding is unsafe; for the spring-brood of flies attack the tender plants of very late sown wheat, not sufficiently forward to be capable of resisting this foe, with the like destructive effect, we experience in spring barley; appearing to prefer, for this purpose, plants in the early state of their growth. It is, most probably a native here.—It never entirely leaves us; though it appears, at irregular periods, in numbers less scourging than at times when its ravages are more conspicuously destructive. It seems to make movements of its main body from North and East, (where it was first perceived,) to South; leaving always on its march, detachments or stragglers, sufficiently monitor to keep us on our guard. Its name does not prove it importation, for that appellation was bestowed during our revolutionary excitements, when every thing we disliked was termed Hessian. Entomologists class it among the *Tipulae*, whereof there are more than 120 varieties. In Hesse, they have not this vermin to annoy their crops.

Steeping your seed wheat, is attended with little trouble or expense; and is assuredly, worth the trial, as it has so many, and such respectable advocates. Avoid, however, steeping too strong, as they sometimes prevent seed shooting; particularly if the seed be not well washed. You need be at no less for a choice, as so many receipts are to be found in books of agricultural authority, for steepings of various compositions.

The stunted or sedge wheat, may, possibly, be the consequence of seed grain being infected by disease, or infested by insects. It would be worth the experiment, to try the effects of steepings. Changing the seed, to a kind entirely different from that usually sown, has been found to be a guard against the serious and increasing evil. Lime, and strong lime water, often have beneficial effects on diseased seed wheat.

Be particularly careful in expending, as you should be provident in raising, every species of PROVENDER for your stock of horses, cattle, and sheep. A variety of food, and an orderly distribution of it, are more promotive of health and vigour in your domestic animals, than a lavish expenditure of any one species. Such as require previous preparation, should have it bestowed, both for profit and economy. CUT or CHAFF your hay, straw, corn tops & blades, and even your stalks, with a powerful *Straw Cutter*, and you will save a great proportion, which is otherwise wasted or passed through the animal, without contributing to its nourishment. One bushel of chaffed hay at a mess, given in a trough, three times in 24 hours, is sufficient for an ox, horse, or cow. A bushel of chaffed hay, lightly pressed, weighs from 5 to 5 1-2 pounds. An horse, or horned beast, thrives more on 15 lb. thus given, than on 24 or 25 lb. as commonly expended, (including waste,) in the usual mode of feeding in racks; to which troughs, properly constructed are far preferable. This practice has been fairly tested by experience: and the results accurately proved. This, and other great improvements in feeding their domestic animals, have been forced on the people of Europe by necessity. Sulfur your clover and other succulent as well as coarse hay. But over salting diminishes the nutriment.—More than a peck to a ton is superfluous. Half the quantity is often sufficient.

If cattle or sheep are penned, the pens should be frequently moved; and the dung of cattle composted. They should not be placed in declining situations, from whence the

dung and urine are wastefully washed away. Moveable pens for sheep, have great advantages. They are safe (in proper pens) from dogs; and their dung fertilizes beyond any other. If for health and convenience they must range in the day, penning at nights, unless flocked (and well guarded) on an extensive scale, is essentially necessary. Multiply your pens, rather than crowd too many in one fold. Be not sparing of a reasonable allowance of salt, to your domestic animals of every description. Some prefer rock salt for sheep to lick at their pleasure.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FROM THE NATIONAL GAZETTE.

GULF STREAM.

From Notes made during a passage to Europe, in December, 1818.

To-day we find ourselves within the limits of the *Gulf Stream*, which is certainly one of the greatest natural phenomena in the world. The wind blowing from N. E. is in opposition to the current which creates high and irregular swell, and occasions the ship to be tossed about in a very unpleasant manner. The temperature of the water is 24 degrees warmer than the air with which it forms an astonishing contrast, so that on dipping a hand into it, one is almost tempted to draw it out suddenly as if afraid of scalding it. This is the effect of contrast, since the water raised the mercury in Fahr no higher than 74 degrees.

I cannot perceive that this remarkable current is distinguished by any change of colour in the water, which is alike transparent and clear with the rest of the ocean. It runs along the eastern coast of N. America, from Cape Florida to the Banks of Newfoundland; where it turns more to the eastward; running towards, and passing through the Azores or Western Islands.—Here is width its expanded and velocity proportionably diminished.—Taking a south-easterly direction it next turns towards the African continent, and following it awhile finally contributes to supply the loss of those waters driven westward by the constant trades.

The Trade winds afford a very satisfactory explanation of these phenomena. Constantly impelling the waters to the westward, an accumulation takes place, and what are pent up in the great Gulf of Mexico, find vent between the Bahama Islands and Florida, when, pursuing a north-easterly direction, they remain embodied, and circulate in the extensive manner described.

The breadth of the stream where it runs along our coast, is 40 or 50 miles, widening towards the north. From the Shores of the Southern States, its distance is about 75 miles, but from the Northern and Eastern much greater. The common velocity is two or three and a half miles per hour, but this as well as the distance from shore is greatly influenced by winds, for when these have prevailed long from the northward and westward, it is driven further out into the ocean, and has its velocity much weakened, but after the prevalence of southerly winds, it is forced westwardly, when meeting with resistance, its width is lessened and its rapidity rendered proportionably greater.

The limits of the *Gulf Stream* are now pretty well defined, and easily ascertained by means of a thermometer, for its temperature is seldom less than ten or twelve degrees above that of the sea through which it runs. The great current loses only about two degrees of its original warmth in running 1300 miles into a colder climate, being often 81 and 83 degrees in latitude 39 north in summer.

Owing to the great difference between the temperatures of the air and water, a constant vapour spreads over the surface, and clouds and squalls are continually passing over. These commonly let fall their rain

in showers, and are often charged with winds and lightning, particularly in winter when vessels are often struck.

As it is always raining in one place or other, the horizon is unusually studded with rainbows in the day time. A very intelligent captain, whose accurate and interesting observations relative to the use of the thermometer in practical navigation, are only to be better known, to receive a just appreciation, says, "I have seen the *Gulf Stream* off Cape Hatteras in the month of December, when the difference between the temperature of the air and water was so great the latter smoked like hot water running from a brewery."

A knowledge of the extent and influence of this great current has taught navigators how to profit by its influence in their passages to Europe, and to shun it when bound in opposite direction. In many instances ships have been set several degrees to the eastward between America and Europe, and this was a source of great delay and danger previous to the discovery of the chronometer. In the month of December 1811, the *Brig Polly* of Boston, Captain Cazneau, was wrecked on her outward passage to the West Indies, in the *Gulf Stream* soon after clearing St. George's Bank.—The Captain and one of his men, the only survivors, were picked up in the mouth of June following, after having remained on the wreck one hundred and nine-two days, an instance of preservation at sea perhaps without a parallel. During that time, they were drifted by the *Stream* upwards of two thousand miles to the eastward.

When bound to America vessels avoid the *Gulf Stream* in two ways; one is by keeping to the north and passing the Banks of Newfoundland in about 44 or 45 degrees north latitude, and sailing between the northern edge of the stream & the shoals and banks of Sable Island, George's Bank and Nantucket, when they not only avoid the stream but are greatly assisted by the counter current, for it may be set down as an invariable rule that every current has its counter current. This route is usually preferred in summer, but in winter a different one is often chosen, vessels crossing the stream where it is weak and keeping to the southward.

It is supposed that the sand and mud carried down by rivers into the sea and by currents from the bays, meeting with the *Gulf Stream*, have been deposited in its eddies, and now constitute the numerous banks and shoals of Newfoundland, St. George's, Nantucket, Cape Cod, Sable Island, &c.

FROM THE SAME.

Messrs. Editors.

It is now some time since we have had any thing from the pen of *Washington Irving*. What his views are, seems not to be very well ascertained; and we may therefore hope to be gratified with something of a more lasting nature than his last production.

The pieces in the *Sketch Book*, though admirably written—doing honour both to his head and heart—and pleasing alike to young and old, are nevertheless from their nature liable to be soon forgotten.—They make an impression, strong, but not permanent: they are calculated to interest none in particular, which probably may be the reason why they are not sought after as lasting friends, to be deposited in our libraries. Upon a second reading the same delight is felt nearly, as at first; but then the nature of the essays seems not to call for a second reading.

As I thought of him the other day, it occurred to me that no person was more fit to conduct periodical essays. His style reminds us much of Addison—he is evidently a nice observer of men and manners

—and his character generally would seem to qualify him for an *American Spectator* or *Connoisseur*. A few years ago it might have been said, there were not sufficient materials for a work of this kind in this country; but of late civilization has wrought a wonderful change in our habits. We have a little gambling, with dissipation of other kinds, extravagance of dress, with appearances above circumstances—political misdeeds, with national inconsistencies; and as to female concerns—certainly they might furnish a paper or two. Not however, further to particularize, our *Spectator* would find enough to look at. C.

LYCURGAN SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the *Lycurgan Society* of Yale-College, held August 9th, 1820 on the recommendation of a Committee of the Society composed of members from different States of the Union:

Resolved, That extravagance in articles of dress is inconsistent with the republican principles of our government, and an evil which at the present time threatens its interests. It is, therefore, the duty of every friend of his country to afford his assistance in opposing its alarming progress.

Resolved, That it is the peculiar duty of the members of our colleges, and a debt of gratitude they owe their country for the distinguished privileges she has conferred upon them, to exert their influence in the accomplishment of so laudable an object.

Resolved, That we disapprove of extravagance in dress and luxurious indulgences in our seminaries of learning at the present time; especially do we disapprove of them in the institution with which we are connected.

Resolved, That, to reduce the expense of clothing and prevent the evils arising from continual fluctuations of fashion, we adopt a uniform dress to be worn by members of the society.

Resolved, That to promote industry in our country and encourage American Manufactures, we wear cloth exclusively of domestic manufacture.

Resolved, That these resolutions be signed by the Committee, who are instructed to describe our dress for the benefit of those who may hereafter become members of this Institution—and that the same be published in the newspapers.

COMMITTEE.

George E. Adams, Maine.
A. L. Alexander, Georgia.
Charles Atwood, Massachusetts.
Edward F. Barnes, Mississippi.
P. W. Chase, New-Hampshire.
Asa Childs, Connecticut.
J. P. Jones, Delaware.
Thomas F. Little, N. Carolina.
Wm. B. M. Culloch, N. Jersey.
George W. Peters, Dis. Columbia.
Edward E. Phelps, Vermont.
George Sheaff, Pennsylvania.
Edward A. Strong, New-York.
Wm. S. Sullivan, Ohio.
Landon A. Thomas, Kentucky.
Edmund B. Vass, Virginia.
Thomas J. Young, S. Carolina.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRESS.

A Coat or short Coat, and Pantaloon of dark domestic Cloth, black and white mixture, denominated *Iron Grey*, made agreeable to the present fashion in every respect, except the Coat is single breasted, with a small pointed lappel—the pockets on the outside of the skirts with a scalloped welt.

Yale-College, New-Haven, Conn.
August 25, 1820.