

WEEKLY ERA.

AGRICULTURAL.

Planting Peach Trees.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

I have just now read in the October number of the American Farmer your article upon "Planting Orchards," and for planting peach trees, I take the liberty of disagreeing with your system of shallow planting in toto, and offer my practice against your precept, high as I acknowledge the authority to be. I dig holes three feet in diameter, from 18 to 20 inches deep; have the surface soil laid aside carefully; have the subsoil scattered around; make a mound in the centre of the hole about 3 or 4 inches high; set the tree upon the mound and spread the roots, and fill the hole exclusively with surface earth, putting in sods and rubbish, if at hand, and raise a mound 5 or 6 inches around the tree.

I planted 403 trees in April, 1872, and 220 last year. The weather, as you will remember, was extremely dry both seasons in Baltimore county. Of the planting of 1872 I lost 9, and of 1873 I lost 3. In November, 1868, I planted 350 trees, and lost but one. The crop upon these trees last year was quite too abundant for the welfare of the trees.

The land upon which I was compelled to plant my little orchard is, in my judgment, very illy adapted to the growth of the peach tree, being a cold, hard yellow clay, flint soil, with a southern exposure, yet I can show you trees now in their fifth year, that measures, many of them, from fourteen to over fifteen inches in circumference. Many of the trees planted in April, 1872, measures from five to over six inches in circumference. The trees planted last April, I think, without any exception, have put out young branches, three to six on every tree, which measures from three to nearly five feet in length. In planting my trees I have never used any manure or fertilizer of any kind or description whatever. All my peach trees stand erect; not one had a stake to support it.

I shall be much gratified if you, or any of your friends who contemplate planting peach trees the coming fall and spring, will call and see my little orchard, 14 miles on the Liberty turnpike road.

L. W. G.
Balto. Co., Md., Oct 11, 1873.

[From Goldsboro Standard.]
The Duke's Lesson.

The following article is so well suited to a majority of the farmers of this section, that we hope it may do some good, since the raising of all cotton and but very little, if any corn, has worked so disastrously. Does not every farmer know that one bushel of corn in his crib is worth to him two if he has to go abroad to buy it? Is there a farmer in Wayne, or any of the adjoining counties, who has raised his own supply of corn and meat, whose farm is mortgaged? Not one that we have heard of. Try it farmers, and if it does you no good, it can certainly do you no harm.

A Duke once placed a rock in the road near his place. Next morning a peasant came that way with his ox cart. "O, these lazy people," said he, "there is this big stone in the road and no one will take the trouble to put it out of the way," so Hans went on, scolding about the laziness of the people.

Next came along a gay soldier who stumbled over it, and went on, complaining.

Then came a company of merchants, who went off in single file on either side of the road. One said "did you ever see the like of that big stone lying here, and no one stopping to take it away?"

It lay there for three weeks, and no one tried to remove it. Then the Duke sent word to the people to meet him near where the stone lay, as he had something to tell them. A great crowd gathered. The Duke said: "It was I who put this stone here three weeks ago. Every passer-by has left it just as he found it, and has scolded his neighbor for not taking it out of the way." He then stooped down and lifted the stone; under it lay a small bag, marked, "For him who lifts the stone." In the bag was a gold ring and twenty gold coins. So they all lost the prize by not moving the stone.

Moral.—Don't wait for your neighbor to plant less cotton, but roll the stone of too much cotton from one-fourth of your land, and raise your own pork, cows, mules, bread, hay, vegetables, fruit, and therefore manures. You will find that your reward will be gold or its equivalent greenbacks and prosperity. Three million bales of cotton will sell quicker at 20 cents per pound, than four million bales will at 15 cents per pound.

Combing Wools.

The Bradford Observer, in a review of the wool and worsted trade for the year 1872, observes on the probable increase in the price of combing wools in England:—

It is worthy of notice that the raw material has ruled the market much more than usual, and the price of yarn has frequently advanced or been depressed in sympathy with wool; while on the contrary, wool has frequently advanced without any apparent corresponding movement on the part of yarn. The question of the adequacy of the supply of deep English wool (combing wool) for our present consumption, is becoming more serious year by year; and unless greater supplies of wool which can be substituted are produced by our colonies, it seems doubtful whether the present high range of prices will not before long be considerably exceeded. When we consider the great increase in the value of most other commodities—notably coal and corn—the greater wealth of the country, the increase of wages, the large amount of new machinery which is continually being put in motion, and then remember that our supply of English wool is certainly not greater, if as large, as it was twenty years ago, the conclusion is forced upon us that with anything like an ordinary trade, and an average amount of machinery running, wool is not at all unlikely to range even higher than it has done.

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