AGRICULTURAL.

Horticulture and Agriculture.

BY L. DURAND.

Betwixt the terms Horticulture and Agriculture, there is generally supposed to be a wide division of interest and meaning, and they are invariably treated as separate sciences. This, in my opinion, is an egregious error. The two terms are so intimately connected together that it is difficult to tell where one begins and the other leaves off. Many farmers seem to have an idea that Agriculture and Horticulture have no particular or special connection together. This idea is a great mistake on their part, for the two have a very special and close interest with each other. Agriculture properly means the improvement and cultivation of the soil, or the farm at large, in the various kinds of crops grown, worthy of cultivation. Horticulture, or the so called farming in more refined; that is, general culture, is the cultivation of all classes of vegetables, fruits, flowers, fruit trees, &c., &c. That the farmer should not only learn to be a good farmer or agriculturist, but he should also aspire to be a good horticulturist by practice. When the two are combined together with skill and science, &c., the farmer then may stand at the head of his profession.

Few of us can or do take a just appreciation of what an improved agriculture and horticulture will have on the community at large in refinements and civilization. In fact, it is one of the native powers of progress towards refining and exalting man in which all may participate and to be benefited. The improvement of the soil has a peculiar effect on all who engage in its cultivation in the right spirit, to soften down the rough nature of man and make him a creature of patience, hope, and good works. True, this may not be the case when the business is simply followed as a means to get a living and make money. But when the mind and heart is engaged with the hand labor to carry forward the business, such is the fact that the cultivator becomes a real improver of himself and his race. For instance, whoever saw or heard of an improved agriculture or horticulture growing up and flourishing in a land of "Hue tenism and Idolatry?" Never.—What does this fact prove then? Reply, in plain words, that where the cultivation of the soil is neglected, from generation to generation, that ignorance, barbarism, and heathenism will take the place of civilization and the arts. This fact can be satisfactorily proved by just stating and, of course, the sanctuaries and preaches would again bring about the same results in time. And the improvement of the soil brings with it all the various kinds of moral establishments of the day, which go to make up the happiness of civil society. In fact, it would be difficult to name any special improvement of the age which does not have its origin from this source as a starting point. If these points are true, then should not all feel an interest in promoting these objects, which all are so intimately connected with? Then, as we have shown that not only farmers and gardeners are interested in the development of the resources of the soil, but the whole community at large are brought in debt to their exertions, of course we expect that those directly interested in the cultivation of the soil, or engaging a living by it, would feel more interest in this subject than those not directly in connection with it. But still there is a principle beyond the mere "dollar" that must have a view of the subject which is worthy of attention and consideration. In the grasping age we know the first question is, how much "money" can we bring out of it as a business? Our question now is, what is this enterprise worth to us as an improver of the whole human family. [Page 115, Ed.? Latrobe's Address.

Hints to Farmers.

[illegible]

which a shrewd old farmer whom we knew many years ago, made to one of his neighbors. The latter had obtained some pigs from a man residing several miles off, and who, because intelligent, particular surpassed his neighbors in raising. Shortly after, meeting the old gentleman referred to, he says:

"Well, Mr. Sweetsir, I'm going to beat you raising hogs this year; I've got some of J. M's breed."

"Ahah," brawled out the old man, you had better get the breed of his hog trough!"

From the Southern Farmer.

Harvesting Wheat.

Messrs. Editors:—The interesting season to the farmer, wheat harvest, is now rapidly approaching, the results of which will be the realization of his hopes and fears. The harvesting and preservation of this valuable crop is a matter of no small importance, not only to individuals but to communities. The farmer, in order to avoid all unnecessary delays and impediments to the progress of the harvest, when once commenced, should duly make every preparation beforehand. Every implement required should be in order, and in fact everything in a state of readiness, and all other operations which will not positively suffer from delay, postponed. Amongst farmers there is some diversity of opinion as the state of maturity at which wheat ought to arrive before reaping. It is sometimes not altogether an easy matter to determine from the eye when wheat is in a condition for safe reaping. Occasionally wheat straw will commence ripening from the roots upwards, and will present an appearance of maturity at which the grain has not arrived.—In general circumstances, however, the ripening process proceeds from the grain downwards, and after the hardening of the grain a yellowish color appears on the chaff, and immediately on the stalk below the ear, after which indications the grain rapidly matures. Amongst farmers it is generally agreed that wheat intended for seed should be allowed to mature fully before reaping; but experience seems to justify the belief that under all other circumstances, it should be reaped before that stage known as being dead ripe, or when the grain has passed from the milk to the dough state, and has attained a consistency that will resist a considerable pressure without giving any milky fluid, and the chaff becoming easily detached by rubbing in the hands.

When cut at this stage, the grain will be of a brighter color, plumper in form, and be thinner skinned, and yields more flour than if permitted to become fully ripe before reaping. There is also a considerable saving of grain, for every farmer must have observed that if wheat is allowed to stand until the straw becomes brittle, and the heads to hang down, how much grain is lost by shattering, during the reaping process, and subsequent necessary harvesting.

Many experiments have been made to arrive at some definite knowledge in this highly important subject. An English farmer reaped a portion of wheat on the 4th of August, at which time perfectly green, both straw and ears being in full growth and full of sap. On the 18th of same month another portion was cut, the straw and chaff then becoming yellow, but the grain still soft. On September 1st, when the wheat had fully matured, a portion equal to each of the above was cut, and the whole carefully preserved until the 14th of September, when each experiment was thrashed out, measured and weighed. The first, cut when entirely green, and the last when fully ripe, proved nearly equal, both selling at 61 s. per quarter; while the 21 experiments (reaped at straight between the 2d and 14th) ripe, exceeded in weight at 1 gross product the others by 13 per cent, and sold for 67 s. per quarter. Other experiments have also been made, but it is unnecessary here to refer to them.

There is also some difference of opinion amongst farmers, whether wheat should be immediately stacked immediately after reaping. When the wheat is fully dry and ripe, in our climate there can be but one opinion on this point.

For many years the author of the above has been in the habit of reaping his wheat when it was quite green. It was first determined to leave this to mature more fully, but having discovered symptoms of rust, the whole was reaped and immediately put in shock. Apprehensive that in consequence of its greenness it might become heated, it was closely watched. About the 4th or 5th day afterwards, some of the shocks felt damp on thrusting the hand in, but there was no heating. Two or three were, however, pulled down, and on examination were found to be perfectly sound. No further notice was taken of them until they were threshed, when the straw was found of a darker color than usual, but the grain in every respect plump, bright and good. The experience of your correspondent is in favor of wheat cutting when wet from external causes, and to put it up in shocks as it comes from the cradle of machine. In fact will the result is a saving of grain and straw. To spread out, or expose wheat cut in a loose condition or swathes, when wet or not fully a dead ripe, to the [illegible] of a Virginia sun, even for a few hours will be found injurious to the quality of the grain, giving it a dingy color, and at the same time causing a greater or less degree of shrinkage, according to the degree of maturity.

How often do we hear young men say they will never marry until they can find [illegible] who has money. Our eyes will sometimes shows us how many men there are [illegible] about the world, looking around in all directions coming, contriving, flattering [illegible] seeking for the purpose of [illegible] We always experience a great [illegible] when we learn that one of those [illegible] hunters has, instead of [illegible] "the long range," but we [illegible] creature who, as we imagine, [illegible] which to one of those monsters [illegible] which the purse is supply [illegible] a husband [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]