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SELECTED POETRY.

From the Ohio Farmer. A VISION. BY W. H. TAYLOR.

On a mountain I sat whose summit rose high At its foot ran a river, o'er its head bent the sky, And flow'rs were bending, That clear river o'er, And wavelets were sending Their kisses ashore...

Then I looked far away up that beautiful river, Till I saw from the high leads a thousand rills quiver, And they merrily leaped, Till they mingling fell, In the arms of that river In a beautiful dell; In rapture I followed The waters along, In their beauty and gladness, Their freedom and song...

And while I sat musing a visitor came, With the form of an angel—but told not her name, "Wouldst of the vision?" She sweetly enquired— And I knew by her tongue, She was surely inspired, "The hill that thou seest Descending the mountain, Are the emblems of youth, From life's sparkling fountain; And the broad river flowing In glory and power, A picture of manhood In his loftiest hour."

A vision of life! I exclaimed with emotion, And the sea where it falls, is Eternity's Ocean.

"OLD FRIENDS MET TOGETHER."

Oh, time is sweet, when roses meet, With Spring's sweet breath around them, And sweet the cost, when hearts are lost, If those we love have found them! And sweet the mid that still can find A star in darkest weather, But ought can be so sweet to see As old friends met together.

AGRICULTURAL.

From the American Farmer. AS TO THE PROPER APPLICATION OF MANURE.

TARDORO, N. C., Nov. 15, 1852.

DEAR SIR:—Allow me to trouble you with a few questions upon a subject which is just now attracting considerable attention among the planters of this region—

- 1. Which is the better mode of applying manure, broadcast, or in the drill?
2. What is the custom in the highly cultivated countries of the old world?
3. What is the custom in the New-England States? What is the custom in the Middle States?

Your attention to these queries is respectfully requested, at an early date. PANOLA, JA. Replies by the Editor.

1. If the general improvement of the soil be the object, which ought to be the object with every good farmer, there can be no question but that broadcast manuring is infinitely preferable to manuring in the drill or hill.

2. In England, where the drill culture is most practised, the manure is deposited in the drills. There the turnip is to her farmers, what the corn crop is to us; but as the roots of the turnip do not extend as do those of the corn, some three or four feet, there is no analogy whatsoever between the practice of the two countries. In England, too, they apply the manure in the drills, for the same reason, to crops of potatoes, man-

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, AND THE MECHANIC ARTS—INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS AND RELIGION.

gold wurtzel, &c. But though they there manure in the drills to these crops, almost universally, so far as the culture of the turnips are concerned, the land may be said to be broadcast manured also; for the turnips are eaten off the ground in hedges by the sheep, which in dropping the manure, may be said to do so by the broadcast plan. Turnips precede wheat, so that this latter crop may be said to be manured both broadcast and in the drills; broadcast by the sheep, and in the drills at the time of sowing. Indeed, the manure given to the turnips may be said to be broadcast also, as the drills being but from 9 to 12 inches asunder, the process of cross-ploughing effects a very general distribution of the manure throughout the soil.

3. The farmers of New-England vary in their methods of applying their manure, as well as the farmers of other States; some apply it broadcast—others in the hill. But then they tend but a few acres, compared with the farmers and planters of the Middle and Southern States, and are, therefore, enabled to give much more manure to their crops than those of the latter States. Some corn growers in New-England manure both broadcast and in the hill for corn—as we would always do—first, to secure general fertility to the soil, and secondly, to urge forward the growth of the plants when young.

EFFECTIVE ACTION OF MANURES.

Nothing has had a more retarding influence on the success of chemical agriculture, than the error which has been so frequently committed, of calculating and pronouncing with precision, in advance, the result of the application of more theoretical estimates. Farmers have been told that analysis would show the exact composition of their soils, and its wants; that if any ingredients should be deficient, the chemist could point out with the accuracy of mathematics, the substance and the quantity that would restore its fertility, without restoring to the random and empirical course of applying a whole set of fertilizers in the shape of common manure. Experiments of this sort have been abundantly tried; a few have succeeded, and these have been widely published; most of them have failed, and the failures have slowly found their way among the intelligent portion of the farming community.

We admit that at first view, the chemical theory appears exceedingly plausible, and promises the most satisfactory results. But there are a number of circumstances which were inadvertently overlooked, and which, had they been taken into account and properly appreciated, would have furnished the strongest grounds for doubting this beautiful theory.

Far more important than the mere presence of fertilizing ingredients, of green manures, and practical cultivators of our country, where the complete crushing of the clods of an adhesive soil, and grinding together with them into powder the manure applied to the land, produced an effect upon the subsequent crop five times as great as the ordinary operation of manure.

How absurd it must be to make strict calculations on the result of a given quantity of yard manure, without ever inquiring into the mode of application—whether on the one hand by spreading in large unbroken lumps, carelessly and imperfectly plowed under, and in a condition wholly useless for plants, or even detrimental in case of drought—or on the other by a thorough harrowing of the soil and manure together, before turning under, and a repetition of the operation when necessary afterwards for complete intermixture. We have known the most admirable results by this practice, where nothing but fresh coarse manure could be obtained for succulent garden crops, and nearly a total failure under like circumstances without its performance. Even the time of year that manure has been carted on the land, has sometimes had an injurious bearing on the success of its application, simply by the packing and hardening resulting from travelling over its surface when in a wet and adhesive condition. It is a perfectly self-evident truth, that a mixture of unburnt bricks and clods of manure, would afford immeasurably less sustenance to the fine and delicate fibres of growing plants, than the same mixture ground down together into a fine powder. Hence it may be reasonably believed that the general intermixture and free use of pulverizers, as the most effective harrows, clod crushers and subsoilers, assisted by the-draining, may be of greater benefit to the whole country than the importation of a million tons of guano.

The chief reason of the extraordinary results of liquid manuring, is the complete manner in which the enriching particles are diffused while in solution through every part of the soil. We mix the solid parts of manure thoroughly and freely through large volumes of water, and not to the old mode of applying the liquid portions merely of fresh manure, which impoverishes the land of phosphates and lessens the organic matter, and hence has been justly discontinued. The only doubt of the propriety of this improved mode of applying liquid manure, is on the score of cost in cartage; it is unquestionably much better than the common mode of manuring, but is probably less economical than solid application in connection with finely pulverizing by repeated harrowing.

In addition to the state in which manure exists in the soil, there is another consideration of much importance in relation to its best and most economical use. Succulent crops, as turneps and cabbages, are rapid growers and require rapid feeding; hence, manure which has undergone a considerable degree of fermentation, is found to effect this purpose to better advantage than fresh or entirely unfermented manure. Wheat crops, on the contrary, are of more moderate growth, and less rank feeders, and consequently need a rich in ammonia to such crops as do not need it, would of course result in waste, and different applications to large feeders would give scanty products. The adaptation of the amount to the specific purpose intended should therefore not be overlooked in estimating the effective value of a given quantity.

In making the preceding remarks, we wish to be distinctly understood as not wishing to set aside in practical farming, an investigation of the composition and knowledge of the deficient or

missing ingredients of soils, as well as the restoration of these by special manures. But independently of several difficulties arising from the variable nature of the soil of the same field, and the very different results in growth which a slightly different chemical condition of these ingredients of science in chemical agriculture must be submitted to rigid experiment—independently of these considerations, all experiments based on the analysis of soils and the use of fertilizer whose constituents are determined, which do not take into full consideration their mechanical texture, can not fail to result in the utmost uncertainty. When in addition to this, it is remembered that a large portion of the fertility of many of our best soils of the country, are in a great degree lost by their coarse and miserable mechanical condition, resulting from hasty and imperfect tillage, and from the want of thorough under-draining, it must be admitted that while much of the attention of scientific farmers has been directed to chemical inquiry, too little, far too little, has been given to the thorough pulverization and intermixture of the rich ingredients which they already possess.

From the Charleston Mercury. GYPSUM AS A FERTILIZER.

GREENWOOD, Jan. 20, 1853.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 20th of last, making inquiry about the application of Gypsum, and the benefits resulting from it, came to hand in due time. I deferred answering your inquiries at that time, from the fact that I could not give you reliable information as to the results, as it was the first season that my experiments were not conducted with more care, having an eye more to the general results than to the exact difference in the yield in a given quantity of land. I have always been particular in recommending anything new in agriculture, unless I was perfectly satisfied that it was both practical and profitable to the cause of agriculture, and I have avoided myself of the use of it in columns of the Mercury, that others may be induced to give their experience in the use of an article which it is believed by many will produce a great revolution in the production of cotton in this State. And I would here remark that no one experiment (however well conducted) should be received as conclusive evidence of its practical utility, until it has been tried two or three years; and too much care not to be taken in noticing the different seasons and the various soils in which the experiments are tried. I purchased ten barrels of Gypsum last spring in Charleston, and concluded to try it on an old sandy field which had been in cultivation up to the present time, and which had been completely worn out, and had taken possession. I had planted my cotton three years in succession; it was manured in the drill each year, and I suppose it produced about 650 lbs. to the acre. The past year I planted it again in cotton, and opened the old bed with a long Scooter, and bedded out with a turning Plough. About the tenth of April we commenced planting, and the day previous I measured three bushels of cotton seed one bushel of Gypsum and two bushels of ashes, and we then and rubbed them neatly, and in the manner described I mixed and rubbed until I had enough to plant the field, (which contained fifty acres.) The cotton came up beautifully and grew off finely, having a green, luxuriant appearance, and continued to look well until the excessive rains in June, at which time it died out badly, and I almost despaired of making a half crop; but it recovered in July, and began to grow and spread beautifully, and up to the last of August it still looked well, though it was rather too late; at that time the excessive wet weather set in, giving it another back-set, but it soon recovered and continued to grow and mature, until it was killed by frost. I noticed one particular, that it did not shed the bolls and squares, as my previous crops had done, and I remarked that cotton in the same field, previously, had invariably quit growing by the first of September, but the present year, it continued to grow until frost. I also tried an experiment with one bushel of Gypsum, one bushel of guano, and two bushels of Ashes, which I rubbed with three bushels of cotton seed, but I could see no perceptible difference from that planted with Ashes and Gypsum. There are three things to be noticed in this experiment, first, the land had been manured previously in the drill; second, there was two bushels of Ashes mixed with the Gypsum; and third, that the past year was unusually wet. All this should be taken into consideration, and allowance made in the calculation. I requested my overseer to notice particularly the amount of cotton picked, and estimated it at 800 lbs. to the acre. Here is 200 lbs. more than had ever been made before, to the acre, and I leave you to draw your own inference.

I planted ten acres in stubble land, prepared in the manner described above; the result was entirely satisfactory, as we gathered ten bales of cotton. In conclusion, I am inclined to think that land containing a quantity of vegetable matter will give better results than that which has but little, and I am perfectly satisfied in my own mind, that if our Railroads would adopt a liberal rate of freights for fertilizers, we would increase the production of our soil at least one-fourth.

I am yours, respectfully, THOMAS B. BYRD.

To Col. JOHN CUNNINGHAM.

LIME FOR CORN LAND.

LOCHINAR, VA., Dec. 11th, 1852.

DEAR SIR:—In forwarding the amount of my subscription to your "Farmer" for this and the ensuing year, allow me at the same time to express my thanks for the information that I have gained from its valuable pages, and to ask your advice relative to manuring my next cornfield. I will have to buy manure for about fifty acres of it, and am hesitating whether to apply fifteen bushels of lime to the acre, or whether to use "Chappell's Fertilizer." As I design putting the field in wheat after the corn, I am inclined to think that the lime will be best. The soil is a cold white clay. I think that an application of was made about four years ago to this field. As I have only been farming two years, I have not

cultivated this field since it has been in my possession, but think that it will bring about five barrels of corn per acre without any manure.—Please let me know which you think I had better use, and oblige, Yours, very truly, RICHARD ASHEY.

If the field of our correspondent was limed as he states four years ago, it is probable that the fertilizer he speaks of would tell better than would an additional quantity of lime at the present time. If there be any doubt of its having been limed, we would advise him to dress with both the one and the other, as we hold it to be philosophically true, that lime should be the base of every attempt to improve land that may have been exhausted by long continued or imperfect culture; but in saying so, we wish to be distinctly understood, as not desiring to encourage the idea that lime, unassisted by animal manure, will improve worn-out lands. A soil well filled with organic matter, in a partially insoluble state, will be highly benefited until such time as such materials shall become exhausted by the force and action of the lime. Among the best effects of this mineral, is that of encouraging the decomposition of the inert matters in the soil, and rendering them tributary as the food of plants. But when this office shall have been performed, unless a resupply of materials shall have been given to the soil, the evidences of melioration will cease, as its powers of doing good will only be so long as the substances to be acted upon shall be in the soil. Limed soils should also receive nutritive manures and be sown to clover and grass in the course of rotation.

From the New England Farmer. INDEPENDENCE OF THE FARMER.

MR. EDITOR:—Everybody in America wants to be independent. We have lawyers, physicians, mechanics, ministers and farmers; all striving to obtain or secure independence; and all, in a good degree, feel satisfied with the result of their labors in this behalf. We glory in our political and religious freedom; all of us. Here we are all equal, from the President down to the pauper; if, indeed, the down hill slopes in that direction, which is a question fairly debatable.—But after all, there is no class among us so decidedly independent as the farmer.

Look at the minister! Does he dare give utterance to sentiments that he knows will be generally distasteful to his society? Does the lawyer want to displease his townsmen, on whom he may depend for a living? Or do the merchant and mechanic feel perfectly free, at the commencement of their business, when the good will of the community is at stake, to be sure, that feel as independent as the farmer; because, by success in business they do not feel the necessity of employing this ready capital, the breath of popular applause. So long as men see that their daily bread, in a good measure, depends on the esteem of their fellows they must be desirous of securing it. The mechanic depends in part, and principally on his skill; and of all professions. But they all depend also, in some degree, on the good will of others.

The farmer also, relies on his skill; but, the action of his neighbor is not worth a groat to him, so far as his ability to live is concerned.—He plants his fields, and the good Lord, who sends his rain on the just and the unjust, takes no distinction. He waters the fields of the Whig, the Democrat, the Abolitionist, the Hill, and the plow man, alike. The wildest fanatic in the country, by suitable tillage, may raise as good a crop as any one, and sell it, as well.

But let him attempt to live by preaching, or merchant, or mechanic; how would he prosper? He would certainly be driven from his shop, and most likely starved from his shop. Professional men must study social laws. The farmer is always changing; the latter, never. Generally, the professional man is often in a dilemma and hardly knows what to do, for fear of offending the popular taste or branch or interest in fashion. The farmer says just what he pleases; for it never was yet discovered that he filled his cattle or rotted his potatoes. And the farmer has more leisure time than most mechanics or professional men. He is not hurried by the laws of nature. The farmer is always changing; the latter, never. Generally, the professional man is often in a dilemma and hardly knows what to do, for fear of offending the popular taste or branch or interest in fashion. The farmer says just what he pleases; for it never was yet discovered that he filled his cattle or rotted his potatoes. 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