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THE SOUTHERN PLANTER;

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, and the Household Arts.

Agriculture is the nursing mother of the Arts.

Xenophon.

Tillage and Pasturage are the two breasts of the State.
Sully.

C. T. BOTTS, EDITOR,

MAIN STREET.

VOL. I.

RICHMOND, FEBRUARY, 1841.

No. 2.

TERMS.

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THE PLOUGH.

[In the February Cultivator, an article upon the plough, noticed in our first number, is very ably concluded. The Editor sums up, in the following words, the result derived from the various experiments detailed.]

“From the results of these various experiments those of Mr. Pusey, those at Worcester, and those described in the Magazine, it would seem, in the first place, that the friction or adhesive power of the plow is much greater than has usually been allowed, and that consequently the less surface there is exposed, the less will be the draft. This opinion receives corroboration from the fact that the skeleton plow used in some parts of England where the clay is stiff, a plow in which the cutting part is narrow, and the mould-board of narrow bars of iron, run, easily with two horses, where three or four would be required to move the Scotch plow with its long, broad, smooth iron surface.

2d. That the shorter the working part, or that part of a plow exposed to friction, can be made, consistent with steadiness of motion in the ground, the easier will be the draft. This arises from two causes—the less weight of the implement itself; and less space for adhesion of earth or friction. It is not to be inferred, however, that such short, square-breasted plows, will do the best work; on the contrary, the long plows invert the earth more completely; the advantage is only in the matter of lightness of draft.

3d. That a wheel plow is to be preferred to a swing plow, where lightness of draft is a great object. On smooth, or well cultivated lands, a wheel acts favorably several ways; it lessens the surface or friction draft in the same degree that a weight can be easier rolled than slid over the ground; and it regulates the depth without that constant attention of the plowman that some other forms of this implement require. The wheel, however, will not make a poor

plow a good one, though it may obviate some of its deficiencies. On soft, clayey land, the wheel plow is inadmissible, as the wheels clog and add to the weight to be drawn.

4th. That a harness should be so constructed as to give the greatest effect both to the muscular force and weight of the horse, and hence the nearer he is brought to the point where the power is to be exerted, the better. Horses abreast have much more power than when in line; and experience shows that a team works more easily when part of the weight is supported by the back rather than wholly by the neck.

5th. That a pace of 2½ or 3 miles per hour, occasions no heavier draft than a pace of 1½ miles per hour. This is an important fact, where much plowing is to be performed, and it is clear the pace must add to or detract much from the value of the farm or road horse. The pace, however, when once established, cannot be essentially quickened without causing much additional distress to the animal; and the rate of travelling is in a great measure dependent on the training of the colt. Neither man nor beast can exert themselves beyond their usual habits for any time without great suffering; both man and animals have the power of accustoming themselves to movements and exertions, which unless the result of habit, would be impossible or fatal.

6th. While the Worcester experiments show that in the same soil, some plows have more than 100 per cent. advantage in the lightness of draft, the experiments of Mr. Pusey show that the difference in power required to plow loamy sand, and clay loam, is not less. By overlooking this important fact, and by not adapting the plow and the team to the difference in the soils, some farmers are guilty of the most cruel treatment of their animals. A pair of horses is expected to perform labor that would severely tax the labors of four, and this perhaps, is one way to account for the “villainous foundered and spavined” beasts that throng our streets, worn out in a few years, and turned over to the tender mercies of some barbarous master, when if properly treated, they might have been relied upon for many years longer.

7th. It may, we think, fairly be inferred from these experiments, that there are two elements of resistance to be taken into account in the

construction of plows, one arising from the weight to be moved, and the other arising from friction and tenacity. The first is the subject of mathematical calculation; and the best methods of obviating it may be ascertained with certainty. The last is continually variable, differing almost in every field, and therefore not to be met by any demonstrations of theory. The experiments of Mr. Pusey prove that the very construction best adapted to divide and raise the earth, is the one that offers the most resistance by friction. Thus the Scotch plow, constructed on mathematical principles and of a most beautiful model, an implement that expends less power in moving the earth than almost any other, owing to the increased friction it occasions from its extent of surface acted upon, is one of the very heaviest draft plows, to be found. This was proved not only by the experiments made by Mr. Pusey, but by those instituted at Worcester, in both which cases the Scotch plow worked heavier than almost any others. We think also that too little attention in constructing plows, has been paid to the line of draft. It is well known that with a single exception, plows are so constructed that the point of the share is in that line, or in other words the landside of the plow coincides perfectly with the line of draft. This is evident by the birdseye view given of the most celebrated English and Scotch plows in the Encyclopedia of Agriculture, or by an examination of most American plows. The plow noted as an exception, is Prouty & Mears' Centre Draft Plow, the one that obtained the \$100 premium, at the Worcester Fair, and which worked 100 per cent. easier than some other plows on the ground. In this plow the coulter and the point incline to the landside so far, that the draft is equal on both sides of the beam, as was proved by its showing no disposition to deviate from its course, when left to its own guidance, and of course imposing no labor on the plowman or the team in their efforts to keep it in a proper position."

SWEET POTATOES.

We were applied to, a short time since, for some instruction as to the best mode of cultivating sweet potatoes. When we inquired of our friends where we could get the desired information, we were universally recommended to a Mr. Joseph Bernard in this vicinity, who has, it seems, obtained an unrivalled reputation for the cultivation and keeping of this valuable root. Accordingly, we made the application, and Mr. Bernard very kindly furnished us the following detailed particulars of his mode of cultivation.

He lays off a bed of any required size, say twenty feet in length by ten in width, from

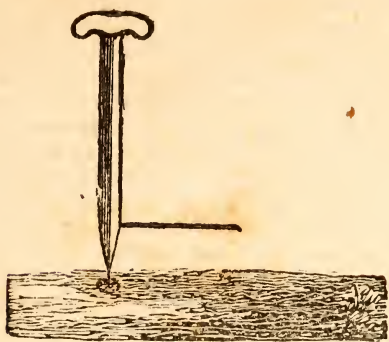
which he removes six inches of the surface earth; this, according to the usual method of making a hotbed, he boards up all round, sloping to the front; the boards at the back, or north side, being two feet high, whilst the front or south side is only one foot in height. He then banks up the earth removed against the outside of the board, all round. In the bed so prepared he puts fresh stable manure to the depth of 15 in. after it is well pressed, keeping the surface flat and level. On this he lays fine rich mould, *free from seed of any kind*, 2½ inches deep, and upon that he places his plantings, one inch apart, and covers them with two and a half inches more of the same mould thrown over lightly, and not pressed down. This is done as near as possible to the 10th of April, and the time he considers important. His bed he covers with a sloping shelter to turn off the rains, but raised a few inches in front to admit the light and air, which is removed, however, as soon as the plants come up.

While the plants are sprouting, he takes a piece of light, poor sandy soil, which ought to have been fallowed the preceding fall. This he again ploughs and rakes down fine and level, about the last of April. He lays off his rows with a single plough not more than two inches deep, four feet apart, running from north to south, these trenches he fills *well* with any kind of old well rotted manure; then with a single plough he turns a furrow on each side of the row, so as to put a cover over the manure about 3 inches deep. This depth may be attained, with care, by the use of the plough alone, without an after resort to the hoe.

Upon these ridges, levelled down smooth and even, the plants are set.

In three or four weeks from the time of planting, if the bed has been properly attended to, the plants will have attained the height of some 3 or 4 inches. When this is the case, he avails himself of such a season as is generally used for setting out cabbage plants, taking especial care that the ground is not too wet, which is even worse than being too dry. In drawing them, he places one hand on the bed, over the root, and with the other gently disengages the plant from the mother root, taking care not to injure the fibres of the root, which he wants to afford a succession of plants.

To set them out he makes a dibble of a piece of wood, about 2 inches in diameter, and about 2½ feet long; four inches from the bottom he inserts another piece, at a right angle, 16 inches long, which being the distance between the plants, the instruments tapered and sharpened at the point serves to lay off the distance, and make the hole for the plant at the same time. The following cut will more clearly show this simple and useful contrivance.



The plants must be set as deep as the first leaf, and the holes must be lightly filled with fine earth, taken between the fingers, and gently pressed against the plant.

When the plants have fairly begun to grow, he throws a furrow to them on each side, with a single plough, taking care not to cover the plant. Attention must be paid to keep grass from about the vines, until they begin to run freely, after which they should not be disturbed. Hence the necessity of poor, clean ground, that troubles you less with grass, which you cannot disturb the vines to eradicate.

Mr. Bernard is very careful never to cover too much vine—he assumes that every point of the vine that is covered sends forth fibres, and produces tubercles; hence, if too many joints are covered, he would have a great quantity of small potatoes, instead of a lesser number of fine ones. His plantings, on the contrary, he obtains by pursuing this course of frequent covering.

This is Mr. Bernard's mode of cultivation: his method of keeping, which is peculiar, and which has been very successful, shall be given in a subsequent number, before the period when it will be required. This though we will suggest at present, that Mr. Bernard is fully satisfied that potatoes raised upon a limed or calcareous soil are much easier kept than when they are raised upon land wanting that property.

Mr. Bernard is a plain, sensible, practical man, who was raised at the north to the business of farming. He began here with 60 acres of poor land, which he has increased in value from ten to forty dollars per acre, and in four years, he has cleared two thousand dollars, besides supporting his family, from the sixty acres.

He considers the sweet potato by far the most valuable root crop he has ever seen, and declares that if the northern climate permitted its cultivation, it would supersede all other root crops in that section. He says that he has found it fully equal to Indian corn for fattening beeves, and much superior for his hogs. He has killed hogs fattened on potatoes alone, and

found the fat as firm and fine as that made by the corn itself. As a food for stock he thinks nothing can be superior to it.

The sweet potato vine he thinks an extraordinary fertilizer, and is very sure, that when turned in it affords a great deal more to the land than the root takes from it.

GREAT NATIONAL COLLECTION OF INVENTIONS.

It is with the most lively pleasure we hail the following circular which has been issued from the Patent Office at Washington.

To collect in addition to the models, actual specimens of American inventions at the seat of Government will be to confer a great national favor upon the people of this country.

There is no calculating the good that may result from such an arrangement. The collection of *models* even formed a most interesting exhibition; but models frequently are very imperfect, and afford but an indistinct idea of the working of a machine. To have a point at which any new invention may be actually inspected, with the opportunity of obtaining any information about it that may be required, will be of the most evident and incalculable advantage to every operator in America.

As a matter of course, every manufacturer of an article of which he is not ashamed, will avail himself of the opportunity so liberally afforded him.

The devotion which Mr. Ellsworth has shewn to the interest of the agricultural community entitles him to its most hearty thanks and zealous co-operation.

Patent Office, Nov. 20, 1840.

Notice is hereby given that the Hall in the new Patent Office for the exhibition of manufactures, is now completed. The Hall is spacious, being 273 feet long, 63 feet wide, 30 feet high, and fire proof.

Agents whose names are annexed, will receive and forward free of expense, articles which may be deposited with them. These articles will be classified and arranged for exhibition, and the name and address of the manufacturer (with prices when desired,) will be carefully affixed. Few, it is presumed, will neglect to improve the opportunity now presented of contributing their choicest specimens to the *National Gallery of American Manufactures*, where thousands who visit the Seat of Government will witness with pleasure the progress of the arts in these United States.

If fairs, in limited sections of our country, have excited interest, what must be the attractions of a national exhibition, enriched by daily additions.

The Agriculturist may be gratified to learn,

that commodious rooms are provided for the exhibition of agricultural implements, and also for the reception of seeds for exhibition or distribution.

The Commissioner of Patents being authorized to collect agricultural statistics, avails himself of this opportunity to solicit information of the condition and character of the crops in the several sections of the country. These data will aid him in presenting with his annual report, the aggregate amount of products of the soil, and it is hoped that the public may be guarded from the evils of monopoly, by showing how the scarcity in one portion of the land may be supplied from the surplus in another.

Names of agents who will receive and forward packages for the Patent Office. Collectors of the Customs at Portsmouth, N. H., Portland, Me., Burlington, Vt., Providence, R. I., Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, Detroit, Buffalo, Cleveland. Surveyors of the Customs—Hartford, Ct., St. Louis, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Louisville, R. H. Eddy, Boston, Mass., David Gardner, (Custom House,) New York.

HENRY L. ELLSWORTH,
Commissioner of Patents.

POTATOES.

A correspondent of the Boston Cultivator seems to think, from experiments, that the Rohan potatoes have been greatly overrated, and that they are neither so productive nor so nutritious as a potato he designates as the long red, sometimes called long johns. He very correctly remarks that erroneous and exaggerated conclusions are frequently drawn from the result of novel experiments. When we get any thing new, he says, we are sure to plant it on the very best land and take the best care of it, and the product is too frequently compared with others, without a due allowance for these circumstances.

In his estimate of the two potatoes, the Editor of the Cultivator fully concurs.

A Mr. Grove also, in the last number of the Albany Cultivator, adds his testimony against the value of the Rohan, both with regard to quantity and quality. He prefers what he calls the "Merino, a flesh colored long potato."

FENCING.

Mr. Editor,—I was very much pleased with the description of your correspondent S's mode of constructing his stables, and am resolved to follow his example as soon as circumstances will permit. I think I can suggest one or two improvements upon his plan, but of that hereafter. My present object is to say, that the mode he recommends for securing the ground

end of his posts from rot has been adopted by me for my fencing posts for several years. I was induced to resort to it from a statement made me by a northern gentleman to this effect. He informed me that his grandfather, who was a very eccentric and particular man, kept an exact diary of his farming operations, from which, he found that some white oak posts, which, upon being moved, were found perfectly sound under ground, had been set more than thirty years. A detailed account of the mode of operation was given in the diary, and it corresponds exactly with the method recommended by your correspondent, viz: charring and pitching.

A very important subject sir is this of fencing, as to the best and cheapest mode. Much certainly will depend upon situation, and I believe it has generally been conceded that in a thickly timbered country like Virginia, the worm fence is the *cheapest*. This I hold to be a great mistake, for, whilst it is certainly not so pleasing to the eye, I think it costs half as much again as a post and rail fence, made in a proper manner. It is all important in a fence of this sort that the post, in which so much of the labor consists, should be of durable material. If you have locust or mulberry, or even cedar convenient, no artificial preparation is necessary; but if not, I believe a little labor in using the burning and pitching process will render common white oak equal to either. Now sir, if you can get durable posts, the chief labor of your fence is done, once for all. My plan is to take such posts, and under cover, in rainy weather, I set my hands to morticing. This is done by flattening two of the sides with a broad axe, which is the work of one hand, most accustomed to the use of the tool. Two others are employed in laying off and boring holes with a two inch auger, and a fourth uses a very long narrow axe, that I have for the purpose, in removing the wood between the holes, every two of which are, of course, bored close together to form the mortice. It is surprising what skill will be readily acquired in the use of the morticing axe, and with what facility the mortices will be made with a little practice. I generally use white oak trees, split up into triangular posts, about five inches on the back or narrowest side. If the fence is intended for the bank of a ditch, I cut four mortices about a foot apart—if the fence is to be put up without a ditch, six mortices may be required, disposing them so as to make the fence close enough at bottom, whilst the upper part may be left more open. The usual rail is flattened and slipped into these mortices, and I have my fence complete.

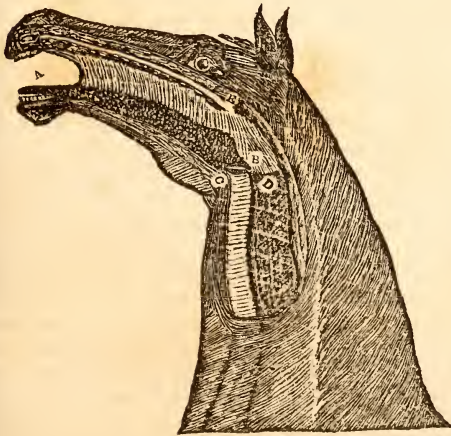
Now let us compare this neat and substantial fence with the unsightly *worm* that usurps its place in our country generally. I use to a panel six rails and a post, instead of ten rails, a rider and two stakes; so that I have a saving

of five rails and two stakes to offset the cost of my post and setting. When you consider the labor, proverbially great, of splitting rails, and the serious expense of hauling them, you will find that it will more than counterbalance all the expense of the post. Remember too that the chief labor on my post is done in the winter, during wet weather, when the hands can be doing little else, so that in the spring, when my fencing is wanting, it is all ready to go up. I have not estimated the additional quantity of timber that is required to surround a plantation with a crooked fence over a straight one, nor have I yet adverted to the ground that is not only lost in the corners of such a fence, but which becomes an eye sore from the weeds with which it is frequently overrun.

There are several other advantages in a post and rail fence, which will be obvious to the farmer, but would be tedious to enumerate. But if sir any of your readers feel inclined to make the experiment, they shall have any additional information upon the subject I am enabled to give.

Your obt. servant, H.

If any of our readers desire it, they can procure a morticing axe such as is spoken of above by calling on the Editor of this paper.



The following is from the pen of an experienced medical friend and one entirely to be relied upon.

Mr. Editor,—It was with much pleasure I saw your correspondent "M." recommend the clyster pipe as a mode of administering medicine to the horse. I would suggest to those, who will not provide themselves with such an instrument, that a very good substitute may be formed by securing a smooth hollow reed to the end of a common bladder, filled with the injection. My own experience leads me to confirm the opinion of "M." that it is the best mode of physicking all animals. The mash is uncertain, and is always unavailable, when, as is most

frequent, the sick animal loses his appetite. I myself have been, on one occasion, an eye witness to the fatal effect of the common practice of *drenching*, and have heard of several others in which the lives of the most valuable animals have been sacrificed to this dangerous custom.

The above sketch is intended to illustrate the difficulty that may, and sometimes does, occur in this mode of administering medicine.

The engraving represents a longitudinal section of the horse's head and neck, the parts as marked above. Now, the horse, like all other animals, receives food into the stomach through the passage (*d*) the gullet, which lies back of the windpipe (*c*) leading to the lungs. So extremely sensitive is the coating of the windpipe, through which the animal breathes, that the presence of any extraneous matter produces great irritation and frequent death. To guard against such an occurrence, the upper end of the windpipe is protected by a lid (*b*) attached to the tongue, which acts as a valve and closes the windpipe, whilst the food passes over it into the gullet. Now, when the horse's head is thrown up, and an attempt made to force a distasteful draught down his throat, in his struggles to resist it, it is possible, that the valve may be raised and the contents of the drenching bottle emptied into the windpipe.

We see here the danger of the practice, not uncommon in drenching, of drawing out the tongue, which has a tendency to raise the valve with which it is connected; also, the injury that may result from stroking or pinching the throat of the animal, an expedient frequently resorted to to make him swallow; the tickling sensation caused by this operation may induce him to cough, whereby the valve is raised.

When it is absolutely necessary to drench, I think it very possible, that an elastic tube might be affixed to the mouth of the bottle, long enough to pass over the epiglottis or lid into the gullet, whereby all danger would be avoided.

PLANTING CORN.

As the season for corn planting is approaching, we copy the following valuable hint from an old paper.

One of the most important improvements, introduced by scientific farmers in the culture of this very important crop, within a few years, is the planting of from four to six times the usual quantity of seed; and, at the first hoeing, pulling up all but the proper number of plants, leaving the best and most thrifty ones to form the future crop. Experiment has shown the great advantages resulting from this course, if confidence is to be placed in the reports of our most successful farmers, upon this subject; or if science and the laws of analogy are to be trusted in this, as well as in other cases. Every farmer must have seen the difference in the size, ap-

pearance and thrift of the corn plants, in the same hill. What farmer would undertake to breed indifferently from a healthy, or a sickly race of animals? Why not apply the same principle to vegetable productions?

The additional quantity of seed, recommended in the culture of this crop, the expense of which is but trifling, enables the husbandman to select the healthy plants only, for the crop, removing all the sickly ones, and with them, the danger, if any exists, of communicating disease to such as remain. Within a few days, an intelligent farmer who had seen the experiment tried, expressed to us the fullest belief, that this improvement in planting had added one fourth to the quantity and value of his crop.

As we know that some of our readers look down with scorn upon humble prose, we enforce the injunction of plentiful planting on them, by subjoining the metrical reply of an old farmer to the question, how many kernels he put in a hill, which was as follows:

One for the blackbird,
One for the crow,
One for the cut-worm,
And two to grow.

THE INFLUENCE OF CULTIVATION ON VEGETABLES.

There appears to be a permission from nature to effect certain changes in vegetables, whilst she retains an inherent property in the plant to revert to its original creation, which is manifested by their tendency to *run wild* as we call it. To satisfy ourselves that the productions of the vegetable kingdom are greatly obedient to skilful cultivation, we have but to compare a cultivated field with a neglected common of the same soil, and in a situation exactly similar; or to take some of our most common vegetables and ask of nature to show us a native grain like wheat, a native fruit like the apple, a native bud like the cauliflower, or a native root like the potato—we should ask in vain, for it is by means of the observations and discoveries of successive generations, and the application of those discoveries in such a manner as to make each one an improvement on the one before it, that men have been able to cultivate the *cereal grasses* into wheat, rye, and barley, which are now the bread and the drink of so many millions. In the same manner, by cultivating the apple, the pear, the peach, the plum, and countless other fruits, we have been able to turn the original design of nature in maturing seed, and rendering this operation secondary to the growing of a repast for us.

We have taught the *crucifera*, (or cabbage tribe) having four petals in their flowers, to linger in the bulbs of their stems, their leaves, or their flower buds, and there form for us stores

of provision, and we have educated some varieties of the potato out of the habit of bearing flowers altogether, and other plants out of the habit of maturing seed; and by skilful culture we have converted the dahlia and many other plants into double flowers, which in their natural state had but one row of petals, and have so improved their size, and beauty, and number, that the *flowers* have ceased to be *flowers*, whilst they have become the highest ornaments of our gardens.

I propose, Mr. Editor, to treat hereafter of the means that have been used to effect these changes, as well as of the physiological laws of vegetables upon which these means have operated, if you should think the above remarks entitled to a place in the Planter.

A NATURALIST.

C. T. BOTTS, Editor of the S. Planter.

We shall be very happy to hear farther from a *Naturalist*.—ED.

PROFITS OF FARMING.

The profits of farming have been, at best, considered doubtful, whilst many have been used to look upon it rather as a means of spending a fortune, than of making one. This we have long considered a great mistake, and having known a gentleman, who, by farming alone, had realized a handsome independence from a very poor piece of land, in the county of Hanover, we applied to him for an explanation of the fact, that he had so signally succeeded at a business, which in his part of the country is generally considered an unprofitable one. After some hesitation arising from that modesty which is characteristic of him, Mr. Edmund Winston, the gentleman to whom we allude, consented that we might inform the public that he commenced life, 20 years ago, with a paternal estate of 150 acres of very poor land, and eleven hundred and seventy dollars in money. Since that time, Mr. Winston has realized from farming an increase of property, which he estimates at \$30,000, but which his neighbors rate much higher; having, in the meanwhile, by the same means, raised and supported a considerable family in the greatest comfort and respectability.

Mr. Winston states that whilst the amount was something smaller, he had no difficulty in clearing ten per cent. per annum on his capital, over and above the support of his family, and that even now, he certainly clears at least 7 per cent. on the whole amount.

When we asked Mr. Winston if he was aware of any peculiar cause to which he could attribute his success, he declared that he knew of nothing except that he always attended strictly and industriously to his business, being always the first at his stables in the morning, and the last at night. He thinks that the same

consequences will always result from the same course, and that there is no difficulty with industry and management in securing an independence even upon the poorest land. This he thinks can be effected by industry alone, and with the knowledge he now possesses, he thinks he himself could have done much more than he has done.

Mr. Winston is now certainly acknowledged to be a most judicious practical farmer, whose opinion, not less than his example, will be potential where he is known, and we venture to promise our readers some rich treats from information gained from him.

There is one thing we must never forget in estimating the profit of farming, the security of the investment. The business may be slow; that is, there are many speculations, many varieties of trade, which, if they are successful, will make a fortune sooner than farming, but no man at this business, with industry and attention can fail to make a support at least, whilst the *quicker* modes, be it remembered, people the world with bankrupts. We venture nothing in the assertion that of an equal number of farmers and traders, taken for a series of years, the sum total of the gains of the former class will greatly exceed those of the latter. If it be certain then, that the industrious farmer may be sure of independence, and need entertain no fears of the result of his venture, how much of ease and contentment, health and happiness, does not this single fact secure him. What an advantage it is to be relieved from the sleepless nights and watchful vigils of the anxious speculator, whom an hour's news may place on the pinnacle of wealth, or sink into the abyss of poverty.—There is no life so cheerful, so healthy, so independent, or so ennobling, as that of the FARMER.

LIQUID MANURES.

Mr. Editor,—I send you the following extract from an old number of the Baltimore Farmer and Gardener, because I have tested the value of both the soot and soap suds therein recommended, and know of no suggestion so simple, which is at the same time so beneficial. My name, if required, is at the disposal of your readers.

O.

“In the preceding volume of this work, page 134, there is a very interesting article on the propriety of using liquid manure for purposes of horticulture; a solution of soot and water is therein recommended, in the proportion of six quarts of the former to a hogshead of the latter. This mixture has been found to exert a most salutary influence on *Peas*, *Asparagus*, and a variety of other vegetables to which it has been applied. We do not doubt the fact stated, and would here observe, that the *soap suds* made in

a farmer's family, which is mostly thrown away, is one of the most effective manures that can be applied to vegetables and flowers of all kinds. From an experience of several years, we can testify to its invigorating effects, and recommend its use with confidence. There are but few families, anywise extensive, who do not make a sufficient quantity of this article, in the course of the year, to keep a garden of tolerable size, not only in good condition, but rich enough to secure good crops of vegetables.”

SEED WHEAT.

February 19, 1841.

My Dear Sir,—My own experience confirms the value of Mr. Taylor's recommendation (published in your first number,) to permit seed wheat to remain until it becomes thoroughly ripe.—My wheat crop has been entirely free from *smut* for the last eleven years, whilst my neighbors, in many instances, have complained much of it. I know of no difference in our cultivation, except, that I never plough or sow my land, when it is the *least* wet. Uniform experience has proven the injurious effects of such a practice in a clay soil. But I always reserve my seed wheat, which is the most forward, until the crop is out, and then gather it after it has had time to become thoroughly matured, taking care to do so before the dew is evaporated on account of the *shattering* to which the very ripe wheat would otherwise be subjected. It is, however, but just to add, that my crop suffers occasionally from the ravages of the fly.

Your obt. servant,

JAMES McILHANY.

C. T. BOTTS, Esq.

The above is from a member of the Va. Senate and a gentleman well known in his own county (Loudoun) for his successful farming. We should be very much pleased if we could induce our correspondents generally to follow the excellent example set them by Mr. McIlhany, and discard that false delicacy which induces them to withhold their names from their communications.

AMERICAN SILK.

The Macon Intelligencer states, that at the late court term of Macon county, Georgia, one of the Judges, A. E. EARNEST, Esq. appeared in a *full suit of silk* (including coat, pantaloons, stockings, pocket handkerchief and stock) produced and manufactured wholly and entirely in his own family. Judge E. is of the opinion that domestic silk will, before many years, be found the most economical article for negro clothing, as well as for ladies and gentlemen. When such examples become common, we shall have hopes for our country.

FLOWERS.

Some one has observed, that the cultivation and refinement of a people may be measured by their devotion to flowers. They are the holiday garb of nature, and there is certainly something very refined and elegant in their cultivation.

To watch the rapid bursting of a little seed into the full blown flower, with its freshness, its fragrance, and its gorgeous dyes, is, as it were, to enter the magic show box of nature. No amusement more befits the farmer's wife, the farmer's daughter, or the farmer himself, than the cultivation of flowers. It is therefore with much pleasure that we copy from the Farmer's Cabinet the following excellent directions for rearing one of nature's greatest favorites.

THE DAHLIA.

Sir,—I find in the Magazine of Horticulture an article on the management of the Dahlia, which is deserving the notice of those who are interested in the cultivation of the most superb of all the flowers which adorn our gardens, at that season of the year, when the beauty and bloom of the spring and summer varieties have passed away. It is there stated, "that the best general bloom is always to be found upon those roots which are planted on a moderately rich, sandy loam soil, in a cool situation, as in hot and dry seasons they do not suffer so much from drought, as those planted upon a gravelly or sandy bottom. Planting the roots on a proper soil near the margin of a river, or other large body of water, seems best adapted to insure a perfect blooming of this exquisitely formed flower; the constant evaporation from the surface in hot weather, producing a humidity in the atmosphere, much more congenial to the nature of the plant, than can be obtained by any artificial means." As an instance, mention is made of Thorburn's garden, which is situated on Long-Island, opposite Hurlgate, and within about twenty feet of the waters of the East River, where the Dahlia has not failed for several years to produce an abundant bloom; while in the interior, cultivators have, in many places, been unable to obtain a hundred flowers from as many roots; and from my own observation, the remark is just, for the best blooms which I witnessed the last season were in situations similar to that pointed out on the Delaware, in a garden reaching to within a very few feet of the river, and on the banks of the Schuylkill, every plant being loaded with blossoms of the most perfect form and delicate varieties, of remarkable freshness and vigor; while on other plantations, more remote from water, where the plants had grown to an enormous size—more like trees than plants of annual growth—scarcely could be found a single well formed flower, with numerous buds which never opened at all.

I have an idea that a great improvement in the cultivation of this most valuable addition to our autumnal flowering plants might be made,

by placing each root in a large pot, instead of into the border of the garden; there would, I conceive, be many and great advantages resulting from this practice. And, first, the roots may be committed to the earth much earlier than would be safe, if they were planted into the border at once, as the pots could be kept under shelter—a piazza for instance—until the plants had shot forth, and then be plunged into the borders, pots and all, to remain during the flowering season; this mode being as applicable to those plants stuck in pots in the green-house, as they could be removed to large pots most conveniently. Second, at the approach of winter, the pots could be removed from the border into the piazza, or into the house, or other shelter, where they might continue their blooming, and bring many blossoms to perfection which would otherwise be cut off by the frost, or be prevented from opening at all if exposed in the borders. Third, a proper soil might be prepared artificially, so as to suit the different sorts of flowers, it being found that the mottled varieties require a gravelly soil to bring forth their beauties: and others doing better in those soils that are tenacious; and in these pots the roots might remain during the winter, if found better adapted to their safety than taking them out; it is presumed, however, that in either case, it would be advisable to replace the earth with fresh mould at the time of planting the roots in the spring, and this could be prepared during the winter, by exposure to the atmosphere and agitation, the grand secret of preparing mould for the potting of plants of every description. D. E.

NEW AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Mr. J. F. Schermerhorn has called upon us, within the last day or two, for the purpose of bringing to our notice two agricultural implements lately invented by him.

The first is called the **CYLINDRIC TILLER AND PLANTER**, and is very handsomely figured in a late number of the *New York Mechanic*. It consists of a frame, in which is fixed a cylinder 7 feet long, with twelve rows of iron teeth, nine inches in length, which are intended to cut up the soil in the revolution of the cylinder; behind this cylinder is placed a shaft with *spiders*, upon which, it seems, the sod, raised by the teeth of the cylinder, is intended to be thrown, and, in its revolution pulverized. Back, again, of the spider shaft is placed some one of the many planters or sowers, coverers, and rollers, now in use.

The cylinder is designed to do the work of the plough, the spider shaft of the harrow, and the whole, drawn by three horses, is intended to complete, at once, the several operations of ploughing, harrowing, seeding, and rolling.

We incline very much to improvements, espe-

cially in agricultural implements, and we would wish to speak with diffidence of a machine we have never seen in operation, which we may possibly misconceive, and undervalue.

The inventor designs it for the prairie lands of the west, but thinks that it will work well on the old level land of the Eastern States. That there may be lands so light and friable that three horses can work up six or seven feet in a breadth may be possible; but we do not think we have ever seen such, in any tolerable body. It may be however, that Mr. Schermerhorn, in getting rid of the friction of a mould board, which has been shown to be a large proportion of the labor of ploughing, may have greatly increased the efficiency of his team; if so, and the work is effected as perfectly as with the common plough, there is no telling the extent to which he has benefitted the agricultural community. We think, under any circumstances, Mr. Schermerhorn will find that the planting, covering, and rolling, had better form the subject of a second implement; for whilst, to us, who have served a long apprenticeship to mechanics, the combination presents no difficulty at all, yet we have generally found that separation, rather than combination, which to them is complication, was most desirable for the unskilful hands in which farming implements are commonly placed.

The second invention of Mr. Schermerhorn is designed as a mode of applying other than human power to the common art of DITCHING.

A particular description of this machine would occupy too much of our space; suffice it to say, that the earth is removed by a scoop made of boiler iron, a quarter of an inch thick, two feet and half long, the shape of the ditch to be cut. This scoop, armed with thin knives is drawn easily through clean land, (for like the tiller it is only designed for such) by three oxen, until it has traversed its own length, when a perpendicular cutter descends in front, and divides the earth. Then the scoop and its contents are raised by a compound lever, to which three other oxen are attached, and the earth in the scoop by a proper apparatus is deposited on the side of the excavation, about ten inches from the edge, when the scoop returns to the hole, to be again drawn forward by the three first oxen.

This machine has been actually worked in the presence of a committee of the United States Society of Science and Mechanism, in N. York, who make the most favorable report of its operation. They say,

"By this machine was made the most perfect and complete ditch and bank, your Committee have ever seen. The ditch was four feet at the top, three feet deep, and one foot at the bottom. The bank was just the reverse of the ditch, being four feet at the bottom, three feet high, and one foot at the top, and which toge-

ther, must make a very good and efficient fence for the prairies of the west, in which we understand this machine is more particularly intended to operate.

"Your committee do not hesitate to recommend this machine to the public, as one of real value and great utility, for its simplicity, durability, cheapness, facility of working, and keeping it in order, (which will not be much more than to keep a plough in order) and in their opinion, far exceeds any thing of the kind, that has been brought into use. Your committee are of opinion, that six yoke of cattle and three or four hands will be able to make from fifty to eighty rods of ditch and bank in a day."

Mr. Schermerhorn deserves great credit for the ingenuity displayed in the invention of these machines, and we hope he will eventually reap from them something much more substantial.

We shall be extremely pleased to hear from the practical operation of the TILLER, and from Mr. Schermerhorn himself, who seems to be devoted to the cause of agriculture, a communication will at all times be acceptable.

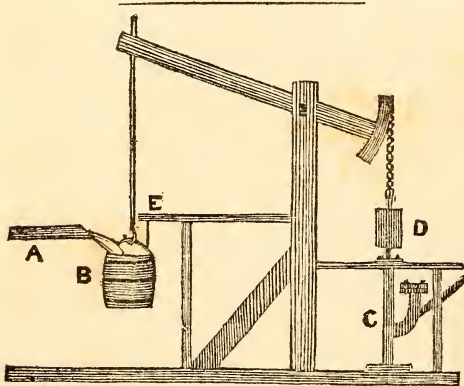
SUGAR BEET.

Dr. W. S. Morton, in a very sensible address delivered before the Cumberland Agricultural Society in Nov. last, recommends strongly the culture of the sugar beet. He says:

"The turnip, which in the moist climate of Great Britain, has done so much for agriculture, will rarely succeed here. Our climate is too liable to drought in the fall season for this root; but I can most confidently recommend the beet. I have been cultivating this crop for stock, on a small scale, for some seven or eight years, and have never experienced a failure. My best crops have, however, been invariably produced in the driest years. I believe that six or eight times as much food for cows, sheep, or hogs, may be produced from the same quantity of land in this crop, as in any other that I have ever tried. The kind which I greatly prefer, is the white Silesian sugar beet; it withstands cold much better than the mangel wurtzel, and I believe is more nutritious. I received a few seed in the fall of 1836, from my friend Mr. Ruffin, of Petersburg, and have scattered them largely since; with what benefit to my friends I cannot tell, but to myself, I consider them almost indispensable. I believe that no man, who would provide a plenty of beets or pumpkins to feed his milch cows for one winter, could be satisfied without them afterwards. The recommendations of the beet as food for stock, in our agricultural journals, are so strong and so respectable, as to render a refusal to try them, by those who love economy and comfort, quite inexcusable. Their product is prodigious on the richest land, and they are well worth cultivating

on that of medium quality. If the introduction of turnip husbandry into England, is considered there the greatest era in their agricultural history, we may well be thankful, that a root, much richer and more productive, is found so well adapted to our arid country. There are two things specially to be attended to in its culture. The soil should have a clay substratum, and the land should receive a thorough winter or fall ploughing, to destroy insects. I lost every young beet on three-fourths of the land planted last spring, from neglecting to plough in the fall. I made out a fine crop, however, from transplanting."

Hogs.—Dr. Morton also, in the address above alluded to, states, that he has great reason to complain of an unnatural but not uncommon habit prevalent amongst his sows, that of destroying their own pigs. This he entirely remedied by simply providing them with the greatest possible variety of food; and also, by furnishing them with, by way of condiment, occasionally, a little salt, sulphur, rotten wood, charcoal, &c.



The plan and description of the machine represented in the engraving is copied from the Domestic Encyclopedia. It is a simple and valuable contrivance for making use of the power to be derived from a fall of water, when that power is too insignificant to justify the erection of a common water wheel.

There are a variety of purposes to which it may be applied, and it is adapted to any situation where there is a constant stream of three or four inches, and a fall of five or six feet. The engraving represents it as used in working a forcing pump for the purpose of raising water.

A is a pipe, two inches in diameter, through which the stream is made to flow in such a direction as to fall into the bucket B, when the latter is elevated; but as soon as it begins to descend, the stream passes over it and flows progressively to supply the wooden trough or well in which is placed the forcing pump C, three inches in diameter. D is a large wooden tub or

cylinder, which is filled with stones, bricks, or other convenient matter, and should weigh about 240 lbs. The bucket is suspended to the long end of the beam, and is so placed that its weight when nearly filled, shall overbalance the weight of the cylinder D, which of course will cause it to descend.

At E is fixed a cord, which, when the bucket approaches to within 4 or 5 inches of its lowest projection, is extended and opens a valve in the bottom of the vessel through which the water is discharged, when the weight of the cylinder D again preponderates, and the bucket is brought up to catch the water again. The frame and other parts are too clearly delineated to need explanation, and the whole cost, without the pump, cannot exceed fifty dollars, made in the best manner.

This engine was first erected at Irton Hall, in England, and there applied to raising water for purposes of irrigation, which is there considered of immense benefit, especially to meadow lands. It has been sometimes resorted to, and it is said profitably too, at an expense of thirty pounds sterling, (\$133 33) per acre. This mode of raising water is certainly more economical and more manageable than that of wind mills frequently recommended.

By substituting a pestle and mortar in the place of a piston and pump, we have known it applied with great advantage to the pounding of corn into fine hominy, for feeding, which it will do most effectually.

There is hardly a farm in Virginia on which a stream cannot be found fit to drive this simple machine, and there is no farmer that ought not to be perfectly prepared to erect it without going off his plantation. There are many purposes to which such a constant acting power could be applied, that would pay the cost of erection with usury. It will work while you are asleep.

For the Planter.

THE VALUE OF COMPOST.

No point of economy and management is perhaps more worthy of attention, and none probably so utterly neglected by the farmer of the south, as that of preparing and increasing the manure heap. It is indeed the raw material from which he manufactures his products, and the cotton manufacturer, who would fail to procure sufficient raw materials for the supply of his looms, would be about as wise as the farmer who neglects his compost.

A circumstance, that occurred to the writer of this article, may serve somewhat to illustrate this position, and may be considered not altogether unworthy of note.

Some years ago, in the division of a large hereditary estate amongst several legatees, of which I was one, it happened that there were an

old negro man and his wife among the slaves, who being considered chargeable, a question arose as to the disposition to be made of them. Moved by the consideration of their being old and faithful family servants, I offered to take them and provide for them. Of course no opposition was made, and I carried them home.

To make the most of a bad bargain, I purchased an old horse and cart, and made it the sole duty of the old man, with his horse and cart, to deposite on the manure pile the leaves of the forest, which it was the business of the old woman to collect together for him on every good day. The plan, thus resorted to from necessity, proved infinitely more productive than I had ever calculated on, and I entertain very serious doubts, whether any two hands on my plantation were ever worth more to me than this *chargeable* old man and his wife; that is, I mean to say, that the result of their labors was perhaps more beneficial than that of any other two hands on my plantation. Now Mr. Editor, how many *chargeable* negroes are there in Virginia, that might be as advantageously employed?

Mr. Editor,—There is much in a name, and hereabouts, we are not altogether satisfied with the one you have adopted. If you will pardon the liberty, I would suggest one that we think would be more appropriate to your design and the character of your valuable little work. As you propose to skim the agricultural periodicals of the day, and serve up the proceeds in your paper, suppose you had called it the **AGRICULTURAL CREAM POT**.

A little club, of which I am a member, have been talking the matter over, and thinking the title very appropriate, we hope that even now you will adopt it. Yours,

HANOVER.

We publish the above, partly because it is complimentary, and partly because it affords us an opportunity of saying a word or two upon the size of agricultural papers. We have been cheered in our short career by much more of compliment, both in public and private, than we had any right to expect from our humble undertaking, and we have received support and encouragement which we know has been elicited rather by approval of the plan of the work than any merit of ours in the execution. We are happy to say that we have heard but one objection, except to that of our name. Some of our correspondents have complained that our sheet was not as large as some other agricultural periodicals. It is true, but who ever heard, as our "Hanover" friend would say, of a cream pot as large as a milk pail?

We hope we will not be considered guilty of the indelicacy of drawing an invidious comparison between ourselves and others—nothing is

farther from our thoughts; we only mean to say, that we started with the design of performing for the farmer a very laborious monthly job, viz: that of extracting and condensing into a small space the sum and substance of the agricultural productions of the day. When it is considered how much of those journals are occupied with matter foreign to our climate and soil, it will readily be seen that, if the work is well done, it must of necessity occupy but little space, the very object that we thought desirable to the agricultural community; but if we were mistaken, and if our subscribers continue to increase, and demand more paper, they shall have it with pleasure. For whilst the expense of publishing a large paper is rather greater than a small one, the labor is much less: since, it is much easier to tell the printer to copy an article, than to study and condense that article for your readers.

Still, there is reason in every thing, and we frankly admit that our present sheet is not as large as we should like to have it even according to our own views, and nothing shall keep it long at its present size but a want of patronage, which, from present appearances we have no sort of reason to anticipate. Will the farmers of the country, who are pleased to see such an attempt made, and we know there are thousands such in Virginia alone, will they take an active part for us, using a little exertion to obtain us subscribers? Subscribers themselves may rest assured, that every additional subscription they will obtain for us shall redound to their benefit, as we design and expect, for a long time at least, to lay out every cent we receive in enlarging and improving the paper. We are devoted to it, heart and soul, and nothing but apathy or indifference upon the part of the community it is intended to benefit, shall prevent its successful progress.

As to the suggestion of our correspondent, the name he proposes so well expresses our design, and when properly understood, is so entirely free from arrogance, inasmuch as it signifies nothing more than a gleaner of other men's fields, that we have half a mind to adopt it. The Cream Pot—there is no mistaking or confounding it with the numerous Farmers and Planters that are rife in the country—we like it hugely, and if we did not flatter ourselves that we were already extensively known as the **PLANTER**, we might possibly consent to become the "CREAM POT."

Broom Corn—how introduced.—A lady in Philadelphia held an imported clothes whisk in her hand. Whilst examining it as a novelty, Dr. Franklin found a single grain attached to the stalk: this he planted, and a large and increasing article of usefulness has been thus perpetuated in the United States.—*Nat. Int.*

LIME.

The value of lime as a fertilizer, is too universally acknowledged, to need any exposition at this time. The greatest difficulty is the cost of the article, and as we apprehend, that to many who have ready access to the unburnt lime, the cost of burning is still a heavy item, to them we recommend the following method of effecting this object, taken from the American Farmer. We think it probable that no mode calculated for general use, would be more effectual or more economical.

To burn lime, get if you can, three large logs, say two feet in diameter, and of any length according to the quantity of shells to be burned, place these logs on the ground, parallel to each other, at the distance of two feet apart. Thus, three logs, with their two intervening spaces, each of two feet width, will make a base of ten feet wide. On that foundation, the shells will rise as high as they can well be pitched up. Between the three logs, in the spaces each of two feet width, pack as much brush and rubbish wood as you can, until these more combustible materials rise to the height of the logs. Then throw up shells as long as you can get them to lie on one another. The apex of the heap of shells will be as high as it is convenient to throw them, until rolling down they will fall over the sides of the outside logs. Set fire then to the brush, and the heat, radiating upwards, will completely burn the whole mass of shells. As the mass begins to sink at last in the centre, the shells which had rolled down to the outside of the logs, may be thrown up, to be more completely burned. It is said that a kiln, made in this way, 18 or 20 feet long, will burn about 1000 bushels.

GAINSBOROUGH'S HUSKING AND SHELLING MACHINE.

A machine under the above title is much lauded in a communication to the last American Farmer. It may be had of Messrs. Sinclair and Moore, Baltimore. We have made a memorandum to enquire more particularly into its merits without any very sanguine expectation of being highly gratified.

PORTABLE SAW MILLS.

Two are very highly spoken of in the last Farmer; one, the invention of a Mr. Geo. Page, of Baltimore, and the other described in a letter from the inventor, Col. Hamilton of N. York, himself. The modus operandi of neither is fully explained, and we are constrained to admit that our doubts of the practicability of a good portable saw mill, to be worked by animal power, have not been removed by any thing we have yet seen of either of these machines. We

should be glad, however, to learn more upon the subject, because such a thing is a great desideratum to the agricultural community.

POUDRETTE.

Although some contrariety of opinion exists as to the value of this article, its convenience and powerful action seem to be universally admitted. We expect soon to make arrangements to procure it as it may be wanted by our friends, and invite them to make experiments for themselves. When we obtain it, we will give full particulars of price, mode of using, &c.

We have been requested to copy from the American Turf Register for January and February 1839, the following remedies for the grubs and colic in horses, which our correspondent, a gentleman of great experience and sagacity, says that he has used with signal success.

To cure the grubs. Take 1 pint molasses, 1 pint new milk and one ounce laudanum; put these ingredients in a bottle and after shaking it thoroughly, administer the dose. In half an hour afterwards give the horse a pint of castor oil and he will soon discharge the grubs.

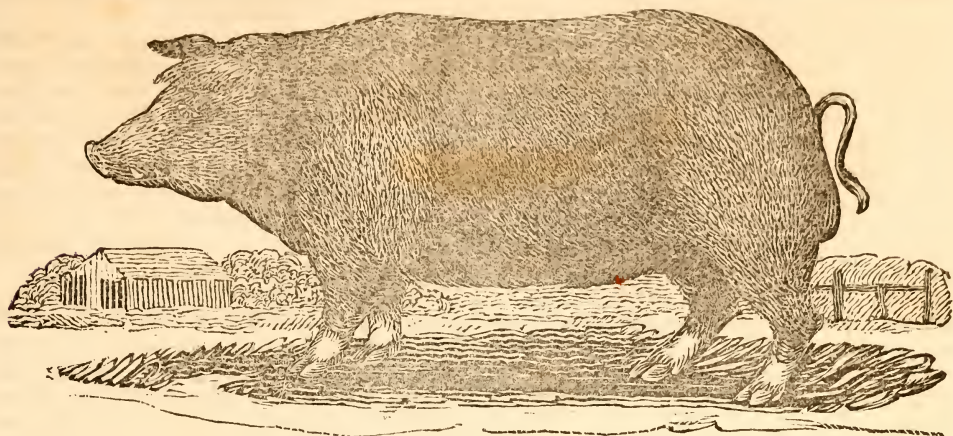
I have never failed in a single instance, of curing a horse attacked by the grubs, if they had not eaten his maw.

To insure a horse against grubs, the dose above mentioned should be given spring and fall.

To cure the colic. Take four large onions and beat them in a spice mortar until you have them well bruised; then add a pint of whiskey and strain the whole through a piece of linen—give the dose. It will relieve in 20 minutes. When a horse has the colic it may be readily seen from his swelling.

HESSIAN FLY.

In opposition to Miss Morris' theory, published in our last, a writer in the Cultivator from Hamburg, N. J., asserts that he made repeated experiments by sowing patches of wheat in the open ground, and other parcels on cotton under a glass, about the middle of September. Upon examination, on the 25th of October, he found by the aid of a microscope, nearly every plant that grew in the lot perforated near the top of the ground, and containing from three to eight eggs or nits each, whilst those taken from the cotton had no perforation nor nits about them. From that time, which was eighteen years ago, he states that he has delayed sowing his wheat until October, that the frost might kill the fly before it had an opportunity of depositing its egg in the tender plant, and the consequence has been, that since that time, he has not been troubled with the Hessian fly.



We have here a portrait of a very fine Berkshire Boar, the property of the Rev. Jesse Turner of this vicinity: the likeness was drawn by the portrait painter, Mr. Petticolas, and engraved on wood by Mr. J. B. Martin of this city. Although we do not think the painter has in some respects done full justice to the animal, this we will say, that it is rather more like a *hog* than some pictures we have seen lately, that were intended to represent that interesting brute. Mr. Petticolas, although standing very high as a delineator of the human countenance, and remarkable for the style of his painting, is not a *professed animal* painter, and is therefore not perhaps aware what parts the rule of the profession require him to enlarge and what to diminish, to please the improved taste of the public for that old fashioned animal. He has been living in retirement for some time, and strangely imagined that it was his business to furnish something like the animal whose portrait he was employed to draw; and the Parson too, in the simplicity of his heart, seems to have fallen into the same error. The consequence has been, that, between them, we have a picture of a very fine animal very well engraved, that must be universally condemned; for it is certainly as like any thing else as the fanciful and unnatural representations we have lately had of the improved Berkshires, where the painter seems to have taken a mode as the beau ideal of a hog. And yet we are credibly informed that this animal, which was purchased by Mr. Alex. Shelton of this city from Mr. Bement of Albany, is a thorough bred Berkshire, of the most superb form and appearance. Indeed, a gentleman who takes great interest in such matters, authorises us to use his name in saying, that he has visited the most celebrated stocks of hogs to the north, and that he has seen nothing superior, scarcely any thing equal, to this boar. Mr. Shelton says that nothing but the objection to breeding in and in would have induced him to have parted with him for three times the sum of \$50, for which sum he was sold. The boar is purposely kept in only moderate order, as he is represented, and is estimated to weigh, in his present condition, about 400 lbs.

We are much indebted to the enterprise which induced Mr. Shelton to introduce so fine an animal amongst us. His stock is widely disseminated, and has obtained great reputation, so that Mr. Shelton has some difficulty in supplying the demand.

These pigs are sold at \$20 a pair, and we freely offer our services in procuring them for any of our country friends.

SYSTEM.

System is as essential in farming as in any other occupation of life. Let the farmer, therefore, who has never reduced his methods to order, commence now; let him examine his farm, make a map of it, number each field, and having provided himself with a memorandum book, (a few sheets of paper doubled will do, if a better one cannot be had,) and a regular debt and credit kept with each field. Charge to the field the manure, labor, seed, &c., and credit to it the crop taken from it, whether of grass or grain. It is only in this way that any thing like an estimate of profit or loss can be correctly formed. In another part of your book, enter in separate columns all the cash received or paid out by you. Look it over occasionally, and see if any purchases have been improvidently or needlessly made. This will be particularly necessary, if you are in the habit of purchasing articles on credit, one of the very worst practices in our opinion, into which a farmer can fall.

STEAMING.

Mr. J. D. Lowndes of this vicinity has kindly called upon us to say, that he has for some time been using a very simple apparatus for steaming, which he finds extremely economical and convenient. He has a cast iron pipe, somewhat of a semi-circular shape, the two ends of which go through the outer wall of his kitchen chimney into a hoghead of water. The heat of the kitchen fire causes a circulation of water through the tube, by which the whole mass is heated in an inconceivably short space of time.

By means of this simple and ingenious contrivance Mr. Lowndes saves both the fuel and trouble of two fires, and has hot water for steaming, or other purpose, whenever his kitchen fire is burning.

HARRISON BEEF.

We see by the Leesburg Washingtonian that a pair of mammoth bullocks, entirely white, raised by Mr. R. L. Wright, in the county of Loudoun, were sold in the city of Washington, in anticipation of the crowd on the 4th of March, for the round sum of five hundred dollars. So that Virginia has the honor not only of having given birth to the President elect, but also of having furnished the beef for the inauguration. Encouraging this certainly to Virginia breeders.

PROTECTION FOR PLANTS IN WINTER.

We are warned in a late number of the Maine Cultivator from using *straw* to cover tender plants during the winter months. It is not, they say, so much the cold of our winters that destroys tender roots, as the wet that is suffered to freeze into ice about them. Our common pine boughs, frequently used for the purpose, are probably much to be preferred, since being more compact, they are less absorbing and turn the water better.

PEACH TREES.

A communication in the last number of the Farmer's Cabinet, signed B. H., asserts that the decay of the peach tree, is, in a great measure, owing to the practice of grafting, whereby an imperfect union takes place; sickly growth is the consequence, and the diseased tree is then rendered vulnerable to the attacks of the worm, which completes its destruction. He recommends strongly the practice of planting out, every year, a row of the seeds of the finest peaches to be obtained in the market, and pruning them in their places, until they produce fruit, at which time those of inferior sorts could be grafted, and others of fine flavor, might be permitted to remain, with the expectation of their retaining health and vigor for many years to come. Peaches of the finest flavor may be obtained from trees the third year, by planting the stone, without grafting or budding.

RECIPE.

To make a plaster which will relieve the breasts of a nurse, hardened and inflamed by cold.

Melt together 8 oz. mutton suet, 4 oz. bees-wax, and 4 oz. rosin. Add to them whilst on the fire, a gill of linseed oil and half a gill of sweet oil. When cold, it is fit for use. The breast should be well rubbed with sweet oil and spirit, mixed in equal parts, as hot as can be borne, and then the plaster should be applied, spread thin upon a linen rag.

[The above was obtained, many years ago, from a physician of high standing, and has been found not less efficacious with the brute than the human family. Young animals frequently suffer very much from hard and inflamed breasts, which, if not relieved, produces very serious consequences both to the mother and the offspring. The above recipe has been always found to afford the most speedy relief. After one trial of its powers, no family will be without a constant supply of the plaster.]

AMERICAN PLOWS ABROAD.

American plows are becoming celebrated abroad, and if the various trials made at home and abroad of the power required to move them may be relied upon, they are superior in ease of draft and perfection of work to any others.—Our plows have found their way to Russia, are creating a new era of agriculture in Turkey, are to be seen at the Agricultural Schools in France, and at the late meeting of the English Royal Agricultural Society, an American plow was exhibited which elicited the greatest admiration; and though not allowed to enter into competition with the English plows, was tried by many distinguished and noble persons, and pronounced a most superior implement.

Alb. Cultivator.

MISCELLANY.

EDUCATION.

How much more powerful is example than precept, and how much the one is sometimes neglected even where the other is most scrupulously enforced.

Parents frequently take the greatest pains to instil into the minds of their children lessons of love, charity, and the christian virtues, yet, inconsiderately exhibit before them the marks of anger violence and unbridled passions. How shocked those very parents would be to know, that they had been sowing in the mind of a beloved child the fruitful seeds of the very vices, which it had been the object of their lives to repress and smother.

Certain it is, that the conduct of a man should no where be so guarded as in the presence of his child. The petty vices of human nature should no where be more carefully repressed, and he

should receive precepts of virtue from one with whom he is accustomed to associate only what is noble and good.

These remarks have been called forth by the following excellent observations on Mrs. Opie's "Illustrations of Lying," in the London Literary Gazette.

"There is one class of lies, which we are a little surprised did not attract a larger share of Mrs. Opie's attention—*Lies told by parents to their children.*

"We believe that the slight regard in which strict truth is held among mankind is principally owing to the lies which are told to children by their parents, during the few first years of their lives. Then is the time that permanent impressions may be as well made as at any later period. It is then probably, that what is called the natural propensity of a child is unfolded. Many persons who have great abhorrence of lying, and whip their children if they detect them in it, yet make no scruple of telling and acting to them the most atrocious falsehoods. There are few parents who do not do this in a greater or less degree, though doubtless without dreaming that they are guilty of criminal deception. With many, the whole business of managing their children is a piece of mere artifice and trick. They are cheated in their amusements, cheated in their food, cheated in their dress. Lies are told them to get them to do any thing that is disagreeable. If a child is to take physic, the mother tells him she has something good for him to drink; if recusant, she will send for the doctor to cut off his ears, or pull his teeth, or that she will go away and leave him, and a thousand things of the same kind, each of which may deceive once and answer the present purpose, but will invariably fail afterwards.

"Parents are too apt to endeavor to pacify their children, by making promises which they never intend to perform. If they wish, for instance, to take away some eatable, which they fear will be injurious, they reconcile them by the promise of a ride, or walk, or something else which will please them, but without any intention of gratifying them. This is lying downright. People think nothing of breaking their promises to children, if the performance be not perfectly convenient. But they are the last persons to whom promises should be broken, because they cannot comprehend the reason, if there be one, why they are not kept. Such promises should be scrupulously redeemed, though at a great inconvenience, and even when inadvertently made. For the child's moral habit is of infinitely more consequence than such an inconvenience can be to a parent.

"We have only noticed a few of the cases of lying to children, but enough to illustrate the frequency of it. And yet, after having pursued

a course of deception for two or three of the first years of life, if the parent then finds his child is trying to deceive him, and will tell a downright lie, he wonders how he should have learned to do so, for he always "taught" him to speak the truth; not reflecting that he has been lying to him from his very birth. So he attributes those habits to an innate disposition and tendency to falsehood, which he has himself been fostering and nourishing from the first."

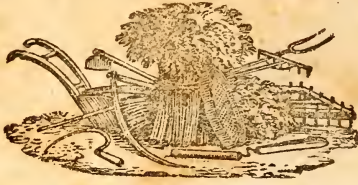
A habit, much too common among our countrymen, and one for which they are most ridiculed by foreigners, obnoxious as it is to every principle of good breeding, is very wittily satirized in the following pun taken from an old paper:

"As several gentlemen of the bar were a few days since in conversation, one of them, under favor of the wind, received a portion of his neighbor's *saliva* upon his summer's coat. "Mr. R—," said the sufferer, "if this is the way you treat other persons' habits, you cannot expect to rate as a gentleman."

AUCTIONS.

Strange enough, most of the ordinary usages of life, social, commercial and martial, may be traced up to the remotest antiquity. Who would suppose that a sale by auction, and the red flag, which denotes the locality of him of the hammer, could, by the stretch of fancy, be assimilated with the Roman General, or Emperor, wielding his baton, or truncheon; the symbol, in all ages, of military command? And yet they are the same, as far as their functions with respect to sales are concerned. The system of sale by auction originated with the Romans, who sold their spoils in war under a spear fixed in front of the General's tent. The spear was decorated with, or in the immediate vicinity of the crimson standard, which indicated the tent or residence of the supreme commander, in the centre of the camp.

The celebrated John Stow, in his Survey of London, relates, that there is an old tradition of a flitch of bacon, due, by custom, from the Prior of Dunmore, in Essex, to him that had lived seven years with his wife, without any disagreement between them; if he should come and demand it, there, at the Priory, on his oath. He never heard of but *three* applications for the flitch; and he has thought it worth while to preserve the names of the applicants. They were Stannel de Ayton, Thomas Leyfuller and Richard Wright. If the custom had only been continued to these improved times of ours, *no doubt* the Prior of Dunmore would find it no sinecure to supply the applications that would be made by the loving lords and dutiful dames of the present day.



To "Arator," who requests us to give a description in our paper of C. T. Botts's straw cutter, of which he speaks in the highest terms, we answer, that uniting in our person the character of editor of the paper, and proprietor of the cutter, delicacy forbids our complying with his request, unless he should make it over his own signature, then our motives could not be misunderstood.

Several subscribers have sent us their names, stating that they will pay for the paper at some future time. It is with regret that we inform such gentlemen, that obvious necessity compels us to adhere to our rule of collecting in advance. The sum we require for subscription is so small that it is clearly not worth opening an account for. The fact of a name being on our subscription list is the only account we keep of the transaction, and that alone entitles the owner to the paper. Of course, those gentlemen to whom we allude, will receive this number containing this notice, and receiving it in the spirit in which it was intended, will, we hope, place their names in our book by remitting us one dollar, either through a Post Master, or if they please, at our expense.

The Editor respectfully offers his services to his friends and subscribers in executing any agricultural commission in this city, or in obtaining for them any information they may desire, which it is in his power to supply. Such communications will always be received and attended to with pleasure.

POSTAGE.

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