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AND CHERAW ADVERTIZER.

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KNOWLEDGE IN AGRICULTURE—AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

The following is part of an article on this subject in the New England Farmer.

What are the causes which have combined to prevent agriculture from advancing with the other arts and sciences? They are to be found in the prejudice of farmers for ancient customs; in their (seemig) unbelief in the progress of mind and consequent aversion to improvements; in their hostility to what they term 'book Farming,' which may be defined the practising of scientific trusts and the recommendation of the intelligent, promulgated through the press. These are the principal cases which have operated to retard the progress of improvement in the rural art. Thanks to agricultural newspapers, they do not now exist to the extent they did a few years since, but their prevalence is still extensive—by far too much so for our national independence,* for the pecuniary interest of the husbandman and every interest of the community. How shall it be lessened? *By the dissemination of knowledge of the yeomanry.*—Knowledge is power—it confers the power which the farmer feels,—the power of making every inch of land productive, and to produce to the extent of its capability,—the power of overcoming by art the obstructions of nature. The knowledge which will give this power, is most easily found and conveyed in agricultural papers. These are within the reach of every cultivator, and should be patronized by all—as well by the indigent as the opulent; for their tendency is not to make the rich richer at the expense of the poor, but to make the poor happier by an increase of their crops, and show them how to become independent of the rich. There is not a whit of economy in refusing to become a subscriber to one of these publications. He who has but an acre might be learned through this means how to cultivate that so as to treble his usual products, alike with him of his hundred acres: at any rate, either could not be benefited by a year's reading of a paper, to more than treble the amount of the subscription price. This is proved in the case of those who are subscribers. It is a fact worth noting, that you seldom (I might, probably, say never,) meet with a subscriber to an agricultural paper who does not set a high value upon it, or who is in the least dissatisfied with paying a dollar or two a year for perusal. Such an investment of money is in their opinion the best they could possibly make, as none other to them yields so great an interest. I was told by a farmer—a subscriber to Judge Buel's Cultivator—that a plan which he found in that paper for steaming apples, potatoes, &c. for his swine, had been of a vast deal more consequence to him than a dozen years' subscription money. Such instances are common,—in fact it is absolutely impossible, in our view, that some useful information or valuable hint should not be acquired in the course of a year's reading, which will not repay many fold the price paid for the paper. Farmers need to be made aware of these facts and to be shown through the convincing means of experiment, how falsely founded is their notion of economy in refusing to take a paper devoted exclusively to their interests.

These vehicles of knowledge are productive of good in another respect;—they take with the young—with those whose minds are not yet warped by prejudice nor fully imbued with false notions,—with whom any thing novel and plausible in theory, begets a passion for experiment. I will state an instance the better to illustrate my meaning. A farmer of my acquaintance in New-Hampshire, was bitterly prejudiced against all other modes of farming than that practised by his ancestors from the earliest generation, and transmitted unimpaired (and *unimproved*) to him. He was loud in his abuse and ridicule of 'book farming,' about which he talked as learnedly as he could of other matters whose discussion renders something more than a *knowledge of the alphabet* and *two ideas* necessary—declaring, in his wisdom, that it was 'intended for the wealthy and college *larnt*,' and that 'he was'nt fool enough yet to plant his land with *mulberry trees*! and buy corn to live on,' &c. This man had a son—a lad of some nineteen years—who was much inclined to reading, and who had often endeavored to induce his father to subscribe for an agricultural paper, but without effect. The father had the misfortune to be stricken with a dangerous sickness, and the management of the farm devolved upon the son, who had obtained the parent's consent to conduct it as he pleased, with the provision that he should plant no *mulberry trees*. As a preliminary step to the reformation contemplated, the son subscribed for an agricultural paper and followed 'book farming' to the extent of his means; the swamp was resorted to for materials for compost, (an idea which never entered the head of the father,) lime was purchased for manure; the swine were increased to increase the means of fertilising the soil; root culture was adopted—alternating crops—manuring by turning in green crops—(for which last act, in particular, he incurred the censure of his neighbors, who were unanimous in pronouncing him a 'fool,' 'notiony,' 'crack-brained boy,' &c.)—and such other improvements made as he found suggested in his paper.

The beneficial change which had been wrought in the order of things on the farm, was so palpable and manifest as to excite the wonder of the father at his son's unexpected success, and he could not help acknowledging that his prejudices against 'book farming' and agricultural papers were ill-founded and supremely foolish. This farm, under the father's exhausting culture comparatively a desert, and yielding but a poor return for toil, has by the scientific and skilful management of the son, been made to teem with plenty and well reward for the sweat of the cultivator's brow. I have heard this farmer declare that his yearly profits did not exceed $100, and grumble at his 'hard lot.' Under his son's administration of affairs treble this amount is annually cleared.'

This case is no fiction—and if it were, it would be a faithful representation of many unwritten instances of like results.

If agricultural papers, then, are productive of so much good—if their tendency is to 'make two spires of grass grow where but one grew before,' no means should be spared to extend their circulation: let the farmer who is a subscriber induce his neighbor who is not, to become one also;—let agricultural societies lend all possible aid in the cause. I can conceive of another method for advancing my object;—In every village there are generally two persons upon whom the citizens bestow extraordinary respect, or a sort of voluntary reverence, on account of their (supposed) superior intelligence—I mean the minister and the physician. Suppose these important personages should exercise the influence they are capable of, to the end of improving the agriculture of their towns, by inducing their fellow citizens who follow the plough, to read—to improve mind in order to improve the soil,—could not the great yeomanry—the hard-handed, honest-hearted yeomanry—be furthered by such a praiseworthy movement?

It is, chiefly, to the influence of such papers as the New England Farmer, the Albany Cultivator, the Genesee Farmer, and others of a like character, that our improvements in rural economy are to be ascribed;—that influence needs encouragement from States as well as individuals,—it needs to be more widely diffused for, in proportion as it is extended, in nearly that same proportion will the profession of agriculture be exalted in the public estimation, its operations facilitated, and its products increased.

J. H. D.

Boston, October, 1839.

Footnote: *I mean to be understood that the freedom of a country Agriculturally great, is more secure than that of a country great only in a commercial sense.

From the American Farmer.

SWINE.

As much attention is now being paid to improving the breed of Swine, the experience of men of established reputation in the business, will be received with attention; and in order that our readers may be advised of the modes pursued by such, in the rearing of the valuable animal, we will from time present them with the advice and practice pursued by breeders in different parts of the country. In another page will be found a paper on the subject from Mr. E. Phinney, of whom and of his farm, the editor of the New England Farmer, in a notice of the farms visited in a recent tour, thus speaks:

"Every part of his farm shows, that by science, industry and skill, it has been rendered worthy of being ranked among the first of well cultivated farms in New England, and its proprietor worthy of all praise for the laudable example he has set for his agricultural brethren."

The editor of the Tennessee Farmer, in urging upon the farmers of the west to improve their breeds, makes some judicious remarks showing the advantages thereof, and very justly observes, that the possession of a good stock of swine, generally involves the additional advantages of better attention and keep than the scrub animal is apt to receive. The farmer takes a pride and pleasure in his care of a good pig, which it is not extraordinary should be altogether wanting in the rearing of an inferior one.

He also alludes to a fact which it is strange should be in existence, yet nevertheless is too true, that

"The southern sections of the country pay out immense sums of money, and subject themselves to much inconvenience, and portions of their population sometimes even to the prospect of starvation, by a total rejection of the maxim, "that no farmer should purchase what he can raise himself; a great part, at least, of which expenditure and inconvenience might be advantageously arrested by the culture of grain and the rearing of domestic animals."

This should not continue to be the case and we trust that the spirit now abroad in some of those states, for the improvement of their agricultural resources, will have this branch in view, as there can be no good reason why they should be tributary to other sections for their supplies of those necessaries of life; and it is gratifying to learn that Tennessee has taken her stand in emancipating herself from this dependence. Such has been the rage for cotton planting in the south and southwest, that most other articles of culture have been neglected, many of which need not in fact to interfere with their great staple. The system now adopted in the Middle and Eastern States, of preparing root crops for farm stock, should be more generally followed in the Southern; and we learn from the above paper, that in Middle and West Tennessee, grain and grass, the high-blooded horse, through-bred neat cattle, and the improved hog, are multiplying with a most gratifying rapidity.

"We are convinced, (says the editor,) that this is the system best adapted to our state, and we therefore rejoice that it is in course of adoption throughout its length and breadth."

From the N. E. Farmer.

E PHINNEY, ON SWINE.

In compliance with your request I cheerfully devote a few moments to giving you an account of my Piggery. I have often stated and now repeat, that the manure from my hog pens will pay for all the food which I *purchase* for them the residue of their feed, by far the greater part, being the produce of my own farm.

My breeds are principally of the Berkshire full blood, and a cross of this breed with the Mackey breed. This cross I have found decidedly preferable to the full bloods of either. I have an imported sow of the "Essex half blacks," being a descendant of the Berkshire, and highly spoken of by English breeders. The Mackey pigs were imported into this country from England some fifteen or twenty years ago, by Capt. Mackey, of Boston, and till within a few years were decidedly the best stock in New England, and perhaps in America. When first imported, Capt. Mackey, on his farm at Weston, not unfrequently brought them up to 700 lbs. at the age of 18 months. In all the essential points, such as maturing early, lightness of offal, greater weight in the more profitable parts, fineness of skin, &c., they greatly exceeded the Berkshire breed, but by breeding *in and in*, as it is termed, they had greatly degenerated, had become weak and feeble in constitution, small in size, ill-shaped, and in some instances deformed. With the exception of the human species, no animal degenerates so rapidly by this practice of breeding in and in as the hog. Judicious crossing is the only way by which a good breed of swine can be kept up and preserved. By proper attention to this principle, all good and valuable qualities of a breed may be preserved and the bad rejected;—without it the best breeds will soon become worthless. With a view of restoring some of the good properties of the Mackey, I tried crossing them with various breeds, and with none have succeeded so well as with the Berkshire. The produce of this cross possesses all the good and valuable points of the Mackey united to the health, vigor and size, without any of the coarseness of the Berkshire. The best pigs, however, that I have ever seen, were produced by putting a full blood Berkshire boar to a sow which was a cross of the Mackey with the "Moco," a New York breed, the progeny being half Berkshire, a quarter Mackey, and a quarter Moco.

My stock of fattening swine usually consists of about one hundred, besides about fifty stores. My time for slaughtering is in February and March, when half my pigs are at the age of 15 and 16 months, being the fall and winter litters of the previous year, the other half being the pigs of the spring next previous to killing, and are at the age of 9 and 10 months. The former in years past have weighed from 350 to 400 lbs., and in some instances as high as 500 lbs. The latter from 250 to 350.

An inquiry is often made as to the best time of killing, or what age it is most profitable to slaughter them. On a large farm where much green herbage is produced and where the value of the manure is taken into account, I consider the pigs killed at the age of 15 & 16 months as giving in general most profit. When it is intended to kill them at this age they may be kept on more ordinary and cheaper food for the 10 or 12 months or till within 4 or 5 months of the time of killing. The manure they make and the extra weight of pork more than pay the expense incurred in keeping them the longer time; but the spring pigs which are to be killed the ensuing winter and spring, must be kept upon the best of food from the time they are taken from the sow until they are slaughtered.

The older class of pigs for the first 10 or 12 months, are kept principally upon brewers's grains, with a small quantity of Indian or barley meal or rice, ruta bags, sugar beet, &c, and in the season of clover, peas, oats corn-stalks, weeds, &c., they are cut green and thrown into the pens; the next four or five months before killing they have as much Indian meal, barley meal or rice, with an equal quantity of potatoes, apples or pumpkins as they will eat, the whole being well cooked and salted, and given them about blood warm. During the season of fattening, an extra two of hard corn is every day given to each pig. This small quantity they will digest well, and of course there is no waste. Shelled corn soaked in water made as salt as the water of the ocean, for 48 hours with a quart of wood ashes added to each bushel and given to them occasionally in small quantities, greatly promotes their health and growth. Their health and appetite is also greatly promoted by throwing a handful of charcoal once or twice a week in each of their pens. Their principal food should, however, be cooked as thoroughly and as nicely as if intended for table use. From long practice and repeated experiments, I am convinced that two dollars worth of material well cooked will make as much pork as three dollars worth of the same material given in a raw state.

Pigs when first taken from the sow should be treated with great care to prevent scouring and from becoming sainted when either of these happen, it will require many days and sometimes weeks to put them again into a healthy, growing condition. When first deprived of the material food, a little new or skim milk, boiled and slightly salted and given to them often and in small quantities, will prevent scouring and greatly promote their growth. If intended for killing at the age of 9 or 10 months, they should be full fed all the time and kept as fat as possible. If on the other hand they are intended for killing at the age of 15 or 18 months, they should not be full fed, nor be made very fat for the first 9 or 10 months.

To satisfy myself of the benefit of this course I took six of my best pigs eight weeks old, all of the same litter, and shut them in two pens, three in each. Three of these I fed very high and kept them as fat all the time as they could be made. The other three were fed sparingly upon coarse food, but kept in a healthy, growing condition, till within four or five months of the time of killing when they were fed as high as the others. They were all slaughtered at the same time being then 16 months old. At the age of 9 months the full fed pigs were much the heaviest, but at the same time of killing, the pigs fed sparingly for the first 10 or 12 months weighed, upon an average, fifty pounds each more than the others.—Besides this additional weight of pork, the three "lean kine" added much more than the others to my manure heap. These results would seem very obvious to any one who has noticed the habits of the animal. In consequence of short feeding they were much more active and industrious in the manufacture of compost, and this activity at the same time caused the muscles to enlarge and the frame to spread, while the very fat pigs became inactive, and like indolent bipeds, they neither worked for their own benefit nor for that of others.

For the purpose of increasing my manure heap, my pens are kept constantly supplied with peat or swamp mud, about three hundred loads of which are annually thrown into my sties. This, with the manure from my horse stable, which is daily thrown in, and the weeds and coarse herbage, which are gathered from the farm give, me about 500 cart loads of manure in a year.

On regular systematic feeding and clean and dry bedding, the success of raising and fattening swine very much depends. A faithful feeder, also, who has some skill and taste, with al a little pride of vocation, is indispensable. Homer informs us that much of the success of Ulysses in rearing his fat hogs, was to be attributed to his faithful Umeus, whom the old soldier styled god-like swineleeder.

E. PHINNEY.

SOILING CATTLE.

Soiling is the feeding of cattle either in the barn or yard, through the summer, with new mown grass or roots.

The following are some of the advantages of soiling cattle over dispasturing them:

"1 A spot of ground which, when pastured upon, will abundantly maintain five head of cattle in one stable, if the vegetables be mowed in proper time, and given to the cattle in proper order.

"2. The stall feeding yields at least three times the quantity of manure from the same number of cattle; for the best and most efficacious manure is produced in the stable, and carried to the fields at the most proper period of its fermentation; whereas, when spread upon meadows or ploughed fields, as it is too common, and exhausted by the air and sun, its power is entirely wasted.

"3. The cattle used to stall feeding will yield a much greater quantity of milk, and increased faster in weight, when fattening, than when they go to the field.

"4. They are less subject to accident—do not suffer so much from heat, flies and insects—on the contrary if every thing be properly managed, they will remain in a state of constant health and vigor."

Von Thaer.

COMPOSITION FOR CORN.

"Take one bushel of plaster, half a bushel of lime, and half a bushel of ashes, and mix them thoroughly together. Apply about a table spoonful to a hill. I have put it on my corn this season and have found it decidedly beneficial, so much so that I have one of the best fields of corn in this vicinity. Try it reader, next year, the cost is nothing, and the application gives but little trouble.

W. E."

Genesee Farmer.

OVERSEERS OR MANAGERS.—*the difficulty of getting good ones.*—It would be difficult to designate any subject, in reference to which landholders of Maryland, and probably in Virginia and other states south of it, suffer so much inconvenience and detriment—one in regard to which they are liable to so much imposition as in the qualification and character of their managers. It well behoves them to consider the causes of what may be set down as one of the greatest evils under which they labor, and the means, if any, which may be applied to remove it. All admit the existence of the grievance, all lament it—but how far will that go towards curing it? In pursuing the inquiry, with a view to any practicable amendment of the present system of employing overseers, if amendment be practicable, the true course is to ascertain in what its defects consist—Suppose Dr. Muse, or Dr. Franklin, or any other skilful physician to be called in to a patient prostrate and speechless; does he plunge in the lancet or pour in the calomel, without first endeavouring to ascertain by the symptoms and by inquiry, the *seat and the cause of the disorder*? No, certainly not; some there are, it is said, with whom these two remedies constitute a *panacea* of universal efficacy, like Dr. Sangrado's hot water, and so they bleed first, and inquire afterwards! For ourselves, unskilled in the divine art, we confess to some faith in the pulse and the tongue. What then are the causes that managers are, in so many cases, lazy, ignorant, incompetent, drunken and dishonest? This inquiry we are aware opens a broad field of investigation—So far from pretending to be prepared to solve the problem, we readily admit our inability to do it. On this, as on a thousand subjects which we should rejoice to understand and illustrate, we feel but too sensibly that like Socrates of old, "all that I know is that I know nothing!" Are overseers too poorly paid? Is the occupation degrading? Has the system of discipline over slaves been so much relaxed by their owners, as to prevent the overseer from doing himself justice?—To determine these questions, a variety of facts are necessary—On the point of compensation, we must consider the nature of his services and the degree of his responsibility; and compare these with the services and responsibility of men of equal grade of capacity in other callings. At first view we had adopted the opinion that, with a few exceptions, the pay is too little—that higher compensation in almost every other employment attracted all young men of industry and character—That is to say, that the degree of intelligence, industry and integrity necessary to make a good overseer, would command higher wages, at almost any other business, whether on land or water; but on reflection, we doubt the truth of that impression. Suppose the manager to be a married man, he usually gets a house, a garden, his firewood, and a certain allowance of meat and corn, with the privilege to his wife of raising poultry, keeping or using a cow, and sometimes the right of a hog or two from the offal kitchen milk and garden stuff—such offal being sufficient for one hog at least. How does that compare with the best journeyman's wages at any mechanical business, or with a great number of good clerks? Suppose a journeyman's wages to be $1,50 per day, for, say three hundred days, though in many cases, such as plasterers, bricklayers, painters, &c. &c., they are without employment for six weeks or two months in winter—but we will say three hundred days—that would be four hundred and fifty dollars—Now suppose him to be a married man, what are his expenses? With an opportunity to inquire, we might speak with more accuracy; but we will say, for

House rent,	$40
Wood,	35
Meat, as much as the overseer gets and raises,	50
Milk,	10
Marketing vegetables for the year, say,	75
Making	200

Deduct this from his four hundred and fifty, and he has in money two hundred and fifty against the overseer's two hundred.—But suppose him to be sick for a day, or a week, or a month—*his* pay is stopped to the hour, while the overseer's goes on—And then he is not stinted in the use of firewood; gets, or ought to get, from one cow, which every married man, in common humanity, ought to be allowed to keep, as much milk as will go far towards feeding his children; and his wife, if a thrifty woman, will raise poultry enough to pay for their groceries, except *liquors*, and were it possible, there should be a stipulation against the use of them in or out of his house. But in this, the Boss should set the example, as does our friend—and we are proud to call him friend Jacob Woolf, a master mason in Baltimore—a most active, early rising, industrious, thriving, rich-growing mechanic—one with whom we have often stole away before daylight, to enjoy a delightful hunt, killed our fox, and got back almost in time to escape the malignant observations of some envious backbiting drones, who looking out yet but half awake, through their chamber window, would say, "Ah, there goes the fox-hunting postmaster—better be in his office: never mind—we'll fix his flint for him—we'll get up a *secret* memorial for his removal!" But away with such vermin—It would not be fair to connect them by any sort of association, with Woolf's Leader of Dido. By-the-bye, in all our exhilarations—after all the fatigues of the chase, W. could never be tempted to drink any thing but water.—Once at Harewood, I remember me, he was prevailed on to let down a glass or two of sparkling champaigne, but there was no steam in his reluctance to go it—Sooner would he have gone a five-barred gate. So much by way of a by-blow, at an honest, worthy, high-spirited bricklayer, whose politics, like his trade, lead him to build up, and not to pull down.

It would seem that the wages of the overseer are equal to, and his condition probably in some respects better than that of the best journeyman mechanic; for no married men is worthy of the employment as a manager, who would not be worthy of the compensation and privileges here designated.

Can it be that young men eschew the employment because it is not, or is esteemed not to be a *respectable* occupation? Those who consider it otherwise, must surely have strangely perverted notions of respectability—Is the foreman of any manufactary or mechanical business respectable? Well is he not an *overseer*? Is a chief clerkship in a store or and office not respectable? and is not that man who holds it an *overseer*? Is not the birth of a first, or a second, or a third Lieutenant, or mate in a man-of-war or merchant vessel, respectable? and are not they all *overseers*, all of them, moreover, being themselves overseen! Does the overseer on a farm watch over those under him more closely, or enforce discipline so strictly, or punish those under him with so much certainty or severity, as does the Lieutenant of a man-of-war, for neglect or disobedience, or desertion?—No, by no means, while he is himself held to a much stricter account by his commanding officer—So is the mate of a merchant—so is the foreman of a manufactory, or the chief clerk of a public office, held to a much stricter account by their superior, than most overseers are, by their employers. The owner of land who would wantonly treat his manager with disrespect, or without ample occasion, make him feel his subordinate situation, only shews as all fools will sometimes do, that "want of decency is want of sense." On that point every gentleman (a distinctive appellation for which we must still insist) will be guarded not to forget that

"Honor and worth from no condition rise—
Act well your part—there all the honor lies."

Who shall say such men as Crawford, manager for Dr. Stewart, and Tucker, for Mr. Maxcy, are not as good and as respectable men, aye, and a thousand times more so than many a large landholder or merchant, being men of uprightness, of sobriety, of courage and of industry—men who have the talents and the energy to set an example of the best practice, and the greatest success in the most useful, and let us add, one of the most difficult arts of life. Would to heaven our country abounded more in such men. He must have an *obtuse* intellect, with very little of the spirit of inquiry or thirst for knowledge, who does not gain advantage and gratification by associating with such men. If they would consent, and those who would employ them would allow them to take apprentices, or pupils if you will, (for it seems that with some a rose by any other name will not smell as sweet—hence *manager* is thought to be more courteous than *overseer*! what nonsense!) If we say men of any class, high or low, would bind themselves to work under such men as Crawford and Tucker, where such can be found, it would constitute a much more useful school than many which have been endowed by Legislatures and pious Testators. Young men brought up under them, leaving with their certificate, would carry with them a diploma that would not fail to procure them honorable employment and adequate pay.—*Am. Farmer.*

BUCKWHEAT. (*Folygonum.*)

In light lands this crop may be raised to advantage. In this climate* it should not be sown till after the middle of May. One bushel is seed enough for an acre, if sown broad-cast, as is usual; but if sown in drills, less than half that quantity is sufficient. In the State of New York, farmers sow it in August with winter wheat. It affords them a ripe crop in the fall, without injuring the crop of wheat, which grows with and succeeds it.

Buckwheat is harvested by mowing, in the manner of barley. After it is mown it should be several days before it is housed. It is in no danger of the seeds falling, nor does it suffer much by wet. From its great succulency it is liable to heat in a mow, on which account it is better to put it into small stacks of five or six loads each, than either a large one, or in a barn.

Mr. London observes, "that the use of the grain of buckwheat in Great Britain is almost entirely for feeding poultry, pigeons, and swine. It may also be given to horses, which are said to thrive well upon it; but the author of "The New Farmer's Calendar," says he thinks he has seen it produce a stupefying effect. Young says, that "a bushel of buckwheat goes farther than two bushels of oats, and mixed with at least four times as much bran, will be found sufficient for a horse a week. Eight bushels of buckwheat meal will go as far as twelve bushels of barley meal."

The meal of buckwheat is made into thin cakes, called crumpets, in Italy, and in some parts of England. Buckwheat pancakes are likewise common, and thought to be wholesome as well as palatable, in many parts of the United States. Buckwheat blossoms afford rich food for bees, and are useful as well from the quantity of honey which they enable the bees to make, as the long time they continue without fading or ceasing to be fragrant. On this account the buckwheat plant is highly prized in France and Germany; and Du Hamel ad-

*New England.