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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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BREAKING A COLT.

Some good people who raise colts are not aware that they are thinking animals and have feelings, passions and affections, very much like human beings. They cannot talk—that's all. People who do not appreciate—the character of horses, are apt to treat them like brutes, without love or mercy, and without any appeal to their glorious intelligence. "The horse knoweth his owner;"—and he knows much more, —he knows when he is treated as a Christian's horse should be—and in respect of treatment the Turk and Arab have much the advantage of us in civilization. Those pagans make friends of their horses—they love each other, and in the sandy desert or the wide plain they lie down side by side and each is equally ready to resist the approach of an enemy.

It is not often so with us. The Colt is left to grow up to manhood wild in the pasture, with very little acquaintance or sociability with his master. As soon as he is thought strong enough to work, he has a saddle or a harness slapped upon him, so hard as to make him toggle again. He is put into some strong cart or wagon without understanding what is wanted, and being bewildered in his ignorance, and exasperated at such rough handling, it is generally the case that he exerts his strength to get out of the scrape and avoid his enemies, by plunging, kicking, throwing himself down and sundry other such *vile tricks*, (as they are called) as would naturally occur to a poor beast who thought himself most villainously abused. While this is the operation in the mind of the unsophisticated colt, the *horse-breaker*, is swearing at his vicious obstinacy, laying on the licks with the string or the butt of the the whip handle, and doing his best to draw blood at every stroke. His intention is to subdue the beast to obedience. He may succeed, but it will only be by destroying his noble spirit, and rendering him a tame, passive beast of burthen, working only as he is forced, but without ambition or good will. The man is the most ignorant brute of the two. He is destitute of all proper knowledge of the animal who "knoweth his owner," and should be beaten with many stripes himself.

The fact, is, the colt should be treated with unvarying kindness, except when he is manifestly vicious, contrary to his own knowledge, after having been fairly taught. When he is taken up for breaking he should be kept hungry and be fed from the hand of his master; while all the little tokens of praise, fondness and approbation, which are as gratifying to a horse as to a woman, should be liberally bestowed upon him. No act of rudeness or unkindness should inspire him with fear;—and in a short time he will come to his master as to his best friend. Let him feel that he is safe in the hands and care of man, and he will place confidence in that attention which is bestowed, and with a light heart will exert himself to please his rider. Bestow upon him the whip, and jerk him about with the halter and bridle, and his temper will rouse to resistance, or sink to stupidity.

A horse may be taught, like a child, by those who have won his affections; but the method of teaching is by showing distinctly what you want him to do, not by beating him because he does not understand and perform at the outset. Judicious management is required in the course of instruction, for these creatures, like men, have very different intellectual capacities and tempers; but all may be mastered by kindness, while the best, the most high-spirited, the most generous, will be ruined by beating.

To illustrate this which we mean to enlarge upon hereafter, we will relate a little circumstance that occured during a tour to to the White Hills. Having a horse—a fine light gray saddle poney, we undertook, with a friend, to ride to the summit of one of the mountains. *Federal*—that was his name—and he belonged to Niles—would have done anything for me, for he and I had become well acquainted, and he was a most noble-hearted fellow. Federal clambered up according to any directions. I thought I could see the best way, and guided him accordingly. We got at last upon the peak, where was a level of some yards square, and Federal who never had been up so high in the world before, as we slacked the rein, turned three times round to look at the prospect, and then set up a scream of delight. It was not a neigh nor a whinner, nor any common mode of talking for a horse, but it was a regular hurrah, as much as to say "O! thunder and lightning! Aint this glorious?"

After a while we turned to descend, and gave Federal his own way. It seemed at times rather a ticklish job; but he managed it well. The little rascal stopped now and then and made a survey as carefully as could be done by a civil engineer. He turned and tacked, and worked ship, like an old sailor among the breakers; and being careful and surefooted, he came down as safe as a tortoise. But we brought up at last against a fence—having taken a different direction from that by which we ascended. We rode at the fence fairly, but Federal stopped short. "You fool," said I, can't you jump?" Tried it again—no go. I stopped a moment, and thinks I to myself this horse has never leaped a fence in his life. I felt sure he would have tried his best for me at any time, and would have broken his neck sooner than have refused—if he had known exactly what to do. I talked kindly to him—coaxed him—patted his neck—and as soon as I saw his head raised about two or three inches, and his ears pricked up brightly, and felt the muscles of his sides swell under the saddle, I knew he had caught the idea—that was all he wanted—I gave him the hint to try it, and over he went, like a swallow, at least two feet higher than was necessary. The little scamp meant to make a sure job of it. He was no sooner down, than he wheeled about looked at the fence, and snorted, as much as to say, "what do you think of that?" and trotted off. Ever afterwards during our journey, Federal was on the look out for some excuse for leaping. A log, a run of water across the road, even a stone bridge, he uniformly picked up his ears at & leaped across—giving a snort each time to announce his joy at having performed a new feat.

The moral of the matter has been stated at the outset. Federal only needed to understand what we wanted, to do all in his power for its accomplishment. He was *only a hired horse*, but we understood and loved each other. He was little, but high spirited, noble, generous—no whipping on earth would have managed that horse so readily as kindness and encouragement.—Pulling, jerking, whipping and spurring, might have been tried in vain to make him leap the fence—with a moment to think about it, and a nice dose of flattering applause, he flew over it like an experienced hunter. More about this hereafter.

Boston Times.

From the Franklin Farmer.

TREATMENT OF BROKEN LIMBS OF HORSES.

To the Editor of the Franklin Farmer:

Dear Sir.—Being a great lover of stock, and deriving more pleasure by contributing to that part of animated nature that cannot make its wants known to man, than from any other source, and learning through your paper that Medoc has met with a misfortune that may prove fatal, I have thought fit to give you the result of my experience in a parallel case that occurred to a Jack last spring. I feel much hesitation in doing this, being well apprized that Medoc is in the neighborhood of as good surgical aid, as can be procured in the west; but as cures are frequently the *result* of accident as well as the *effect* of mature thought and experience, a tyro in the profession, may be pardoned for suggesting his opinions, *even* to the sage—but to my case. The left fore arm was fractured transversly, about five inches above the knee joint, the *bone betwixt this fracture* and *the knee, was split down to the joint*, so that, in reality there were two fractures, communicating with each other. The first thing done, was to suspend him, for the reason that it had been the practice heretofore, but close attention soon satisfied me that my animal was very uncomfortable and restless. Although I knew, the fractured parts could be kept better fitted to each other, by keeping him suspended, than they could be, if he were permitted to touch the ground; I determined to make the experiment for the following reasons. The pressure upon his lungs affected his breathing very much, and upon his bowels produced great costiveness. However, after turning him loose, I soon found the limb swinging about, whenever he moved, and quite crooked when he touched the ground. It immediately occurred to me, that something more than ordinary bandages must be applied. I made a bandage of strong cotton domestic, about two inches wide, long enough to reach from the ancle to the body, and back to the ancle joint—spread it from end to end with thick tar—applied it carefully, so that every time, it went round the limb, it would lap half the width upon the previous turn of the bandage: I then had some cotton nicely carded and laid betwixt two pieces of the same domestic, wide enough to rap round the limb, extending from the knee joint to the elbow, so as to encompass the whole of the fractured limb—quilted carefully—running the rows of stiches about an inch from each other, for the purpose of keeping the cotton permanent, this was also spread with tar and laid over the first bandage. I then made some white oak splints, about an inch wide, long enough to extend from the knee to the elbow, quilted them betwixt two layers of domestic, wide enough to go round the whole of the previous dressing; this was likewise spread with tar and laid on, and the whole secured with strong tape, sewed to the domestic. This dressing was continued for eight weeks, without being touched except to tighten the tapes as the swelling receded, and my patient recovered with very little deformity. After the whole is applied, be *certain* to examine and see that the cushion betwixt the first bandage and the splits, is wide enough to prevent the ends of the splints from coming in contact with the limb, otherwise they will irritate the skin and keep him restless. In Medoc's case the dressing should extend only from the knee to the ankle. If you think the above suggestion could be of any service to this splendid horse, or to any other unfortunate quadruped, you may give them a place in your valuable paper, if not, lay them by with other such stuff, that I have no doubt you are frequently plagued with.

Tennessee Farmer.

HAIR OF THE HORSE.

From the non conducting qualities of hair, its almost universal diffusion over the bodies of animals, the change which it undergoes during sickness, and the effect which it exercises on the perspiration of the animal, it may safely be inferred that it performs an important part in the animal economy. Nature arranges this covering to the wants of the animal, or the climate it inhabits. Under the equator, the hair of animal is scattering, and with few exceptions coarse; as we recede from that point, the hair becomes thicker and finer, until in high northern latitudes, for of the fineness of silk, constitutes almost the entire covering. The horse is subject to the same laws that govern other animals in this respect, as may be seen by comparing the Arabian horse, or other southern horses with the northern most breeds, the Shetland horse, for instance. In the first, the hair is short and smooth during the whole year; while in the latter, it is long at all times, and during the winter, has the thickness and closeness, almost of wool.

Animals shed, or moult their hair, twice a year; in the spring, to prepare them for the summer heats; and in the fall, to make way for a new thicker, and finer covering. These changes of hair, or moulting are always productive of more or less constitutional disturbance to the animal, affecting his health, and frequently requiring the attention of his owner. While the horse is shedding his hair efforts to hasten the process, are improper; and the old hair should not be removed until the young is prepared to take its place. Rubbing down, to remove the loosened coat, and give a slight friction of the skin, is admissible, but at this time, the curry comb, or card, should be banished from the stable. At this period there is always more or less fever, and any treatment that can add to the irritation of the skin must be carefully avoided. Farmers in general pay little attention to their animals at this season and their horses not unfrequently suffer in consequence of this neglect in the way of colds, distemper, loss of flesh, &c.

Horses that are kept in warm tables at all times of the year, do not have that variation in the thickness of coat during the winter or summer, that occurs to those exposed to the vicissitudes of our climate. They resemble in this respect, the animals of a warm climate; but experience shows, that such warm housing, is unfavorable to their general health, and that when exposed to the cold of our latitudes, they suffer far more than those animals do, that have been inured to exposure, and their hair has become adapted to its exigencies.

Horses that are suffered to lie in pastures after cold weather comes on, instead of having their hair short and smooth, have it longer and thicker, and of course, standing out more in the manner of fur-producing animals during the season. Such animals, when afterwards put in the stable, though the appearance of the coat may be improved, cannot be made to look like those taken up before the thickening of the coat for winter begins. Farmers, and others, therefore who are nice about the appearance of their horses, must take them from the pasture to the stable, as soon as the fall moulting commences; those who regard his comfort more than this appearance, will permit sufficient exposure to thicken his coat and prepare him to meet the blasts of winter, without injury.

Gen. Farmer.

PROPAGATING FRUIT TREES FROM SCIONS

A subscriber in Vermont lately requested to know whether apple trees could not be propagated from scions or cuttings; the best season for cutting the shoots; the method of preserving them till wanted; the mode of setting or planting them; and whether the trees when grown would be like the original stock? &c. The following extract from the Farmer's Cabinet is the best reply we are able to give, having never tried this particular mode ourselves, and having never to our knowledge seen an apple tree growing from a cutting, though we have seen them produced from the roots. We should have much more confidence in seedling trees, grafted or inoculated to insure the right kind of fruit than we should have in cuttings. If this mode of growing apple trees could be made to succeed, however, it would certainly be a decided improvement on all other methods, as there could be no doubt but that the tree would resemble, when grown, that from which the cutting, was taken. Will some or many of our friends give the plan a trial, and report the result?—

Gen. Farmer.

"The method of preparing the plant is as follows:—Take the scions as for grafting, at any time after the first of February, and until the buds begin to grow considerably and put each end of the shoot in melted pitch, wax or tallow, (grafting wax would be good.) and bury it in the ground, buds uppermost, while the body lies in a horizontal position, at the depth of two three inches. We are informed that trees obtained in this way will bear in three or four years from the time of planting. We have no doubt of the practicability of this method of raising fruit. A gentleman in this vicinity the last season planted about twenty different kinds of pears, which appear to flourish. The composition which he used was shoemaker's wax."

To Destroy Weevils in Granaries.—*Sir*—Seeing in your paper inquiry respecting the destruction of weevils, I send a copy of a paragraph which has been cut out of some publication. It is as follows:

"Accident has discovered to a French farmer a very simple mode of destroying weevils in corn warehouses, happening to lay in the corner of a granary in which there was a quanty of corn, some sheep skins with the fleece on, he was not a little surprised to find them, a few days after, covered with dead weevils. He repeated the experiment several times, and always with the same success. At last he ordered his corn to be stirred up, and not a single weevil remained in it."

I remain sir, yours,
London Farmers' Magazine] A CONSTANT READER.

From the Franklin Farmer.

COLOR OF HORSES.

Deep or dark bays and browns, for use and exposure to weather, are to be preferred. They are more fixed or stand better. Chesnuts, dark, are pretty good, and light is also a good racing color, but grow rusty, when exposed. Greys, when well rubbed and in fine condition, look well, nay splendid in superb trapping. Chesnut roans and bay roans, when well kept, are also good and handsome. Dark red sorrels are good for the saddle, but are not favorites in harness. Some like duns, and I have seen good horses of this shade. The yellow mare by Tandem, was a good one. Some like blacks but, perhaps it may be prejudice in me, I never saw a good black horse, Sorcerer and his sire Trumpator are called blacks. I reckon they were dark browns, and that scrupulous examination of the muzzles and flanks would have shown the chesnut or bay. Pale colors are to be rejected as indicative of wasting constitutions.

CROFTS.

From the Mississippi Farmer.

CULTIVATION OF MILLET.

The following communication will doubtless be read with interest. It is from the pen of a gentleman who is well known throughout the State, and whose initials will at once recommend his suggestions to the attention of our readers.

MILLET.

Near Jackson Oct. 1839.

Dear Sir:—Your favor relative to the cultivation of Millet in this State, is received; and I will with pleasure furnish you with the result of my experience:

In the fall of 1838, I procured from a friend in Alabama, one peck of seed, and which I sowed last spring as directed by him. I had previously learnt, in a trip through Kentucky and Tennessee, the estimation in which it was held by stock raisers in those States. Many of them assured me that it yielded from eight to twelve thousand pounds of hay to the acre. And though the food is coarse and rough, yet its astonishing product seemed to render its cultivation expedient for our mules and oxen and cattle generally, if for nothing more. Our winter range being pretty well exhausted, it is indispensable that we provide rough forage for our stock, from cultivation.

I sowed the above peck of seed, on about three acres of ground, after breaking it with the plough both ways, and harrowed it in. One fourth of a peck to the acre is probably sufficient; and the first of March the proper time for sowing. It should be cut when fairly headed out and in milk, for hay, which, in ordinary seasons, will be in July. Such as is kept for seed, must remain until it fully matures. From those three acres, I have cut upwards of fifteen thousand weight of hay, and find that horses, mules and cattle are very fond of it.

I am much pleased with its cultivation, and shall enlarge my crop. It seems to me preferable to oats; because it yields more, and is better winter food.

From the Same.

FOOD FOR HOGS.

Until the grasses are introduced, and meadows or fields established, we must look to melons, pumpkins, cymlings, squashes, &c for food for hogs, in the spring, summer and fall; and to the various roots, beets, carrots, turnips, and potatoes, &c. Those who feed with corn only, will find their hogs half fed and half starved, or will incur an expense nearly equal to the value of the hog.

An acre of cymlings will supply two or three bushels a day for as many months; and at a season when green food is most needed. There is scarcely any planter who may not, with ordinary care, prepare turnips, pumpkins and potatoes in abundance and to spare. Why then should we neglect them? An Inquirer.

From the Boston Cultivator.

MAKING BUTTER.

Many rules for making butter have been given to the public, and some of them are good if we could persuade dairy women to follow them. It is quite an object to make butter of the first quality, if we make any, since the purchasers have begun to bid up handsomely for the best; and the difference in the labor, of making the best and the poorest is so trifling that none should think of making any of inferior quality.

It should be remembered by all who make butter for sale that for several years past the best made—the prentium butter—has brought at auction more than 40 cents a pound—some of it 45—while ordinary butter has not, in firkin, commanded half that price. To lose one half of the proceeds of the dairy merely for want of skill and care is rather more than we can afford to do, and it is time to resolve not to submit to this loss when we can avoid it.

Much of the butter that is made for sale in summer is sent off to market immediately, and before the rancid matter, shut up in the lumps has begun to ferment and send forth its effluvia; and as most fresh butter will, for a few days, taste sweet, the purchaser makes but little difference in price, and this is the principal cause why so great a proportion of our butter is carelessly made. It is hurried off to market and is not suffered to rest long enough to rot on our hands. The old tune of, "Robin's alive" is sung—"If it does in my hands you may saddle back me."

To make butter that may be kept sweet brough the winter we need not say the pails and the pans must be perfectly clean. If cream is to be kept more than three days before churning it must be salted and daily stirred. When the butter is formed and gathered the buttermilk should be all turned from the butter and good quantity of pure cold water should be put in the churn, and the whole should be agitated for some minutes that no buttermilk may lodge in the cavities of the butter.

We are well aware that some have *fancied* "we wash away the goodness," when we churn the butter in water; but we are happy to see better notions latterly prevailing, and that the celebrated highland Scotch butter is made as our own experience has proved to be best. There is no mistake about it. The buttermilk left in the butter is the principal cause of its rancid taste when long kept.

The butter must now be taken out with a small wooden shovel—maple wood is good—and the dairy woman's hand—clean or unclean must not touch the butter, for it must not be melted. This shovel should be used to work over the butter and let out the water contained in it; and the next day it must be shovelled over again and worked as well as a neat mason works his mortar, not touching his hand to it.

Salting down Butter.—On the first working some salt should be intermixed, and one ounce of salt to 16 of butter is commonly sufficient, but as much of this salt will be washed away on the second working it will be necessary to add more as taste may require. And now on the second working a little *saltpetre* and a little pulverized *loaf sugar* must be well mixed with the salt last added. We have found one teaspoonful of salt petre and two of sugar quite sufficient for twelve pounds of butter. It must be thoroughly mixed so that every part of the butter may have a share.

This should be packed in hard-wood firkins, as close as possible, to exclude the air, No brine need be poured on for the salt will form a sufficiency with moisture of the butter; and when a new layer is to be added this brine must be poured on to let the two churnings come close together.

We have often had butter put up in this manner in September and in October that proved perfectly sweet in the following June. People who ate of it could hardly be made to believe it had been made eight or nine months.

This delicious article,—this indispensable in cookery—is more often spoiled for want of care than any thing that is brought to market. When pure it is one of the most wholesome articles of diet, and no pains should be spared to preserve it in perfection.

From the Franklin Farmer.

REMARKS ON FRUIT TREES.

The following are equally appropriate to apple and pear trees. Those trees, in order to last long and bear well, should be dug about one foot deep and two feet around towards the end of October. The dry and dead limbs and the bad ones cut off—the outward rough and creviced bark carefully scraped, either with a rasp or any instrument for the purpose. This may be done in February, taking care not to hurt or damage the inner bark; if the live bark be touched the wound should be covered with an ointment made of cow dung and clay mixed together with urine. This will do well also to apply upon those parts of any tree that have been pruned. The hole around the trees must be filled up early in March with new earth. The peach tree must be pruned at the end of the winter, and the wound be covered with the above composition. Nature has designated the most proper time to plant the best peach stones; as those which fall on the ground when the fruit is ripe, and are buried by hogs or any thing else, most certainly grow better than if we plant the dry seed, which we generally plant without success. As soon as you see and eat such peaches as are worth having, put the kernels in the ground, in a trench of six or seven inches deep, cover them well, and they will all, or nearly all, come up the following spring.—

To rub a pear or apple tree with fish oil after scraping, is, I think advisable, as a pear tree 5½ feet circumference, thus treated has revived this year, and instead of an almost dead condition, was covered with superb foliage and bore fine fruit which it had not done for the last three years.

W. MENTELLE.

CULTIVATION OF CORN.

In a report of the "Cattle Show and Fair" at Easton Md. in October, which we find in the American Farmer, is the following.

Crop of Corn.—Raised by Col. N. Goldsborough, of Talbot county. The subscriber regrets that it was wholly out of his power to procure a Surveyor to measure his ground. The ground was measured in the first instance with a 20 foot pole, and was 220 feet long and 200 feet wide—making 44000 square feet; 43500 square feet make an acre. But it appears by the annexed certificate, that the ground actually covered by corn was 42984 square feet.—The product 123 bushels—clear of the sample, an even half bushel of ears, which was reserved to show more particularly the variety, called Barnet's corn.

Cultivation.—It was covered with long manure, (a good dressing) which was well turned under with the plough—repeatedly rolled and harrowed till fine—furrows opened 4½ feet apart—and planted at distances of eight inches in the row, leaving two stalks in a hill—cultivated well with Beach's Cultivator—but perceiving just before harvest, that the corn had not sufficient hold on the ground, it was ploughed. After harvest an old cultivator was passed over very lightly, merely to break the crust formed by the rains. Soil—deep black mould, in clover the preceeding year. Another acre, same preparation, cultivation, &c., but planted three feet square, produced 93 3-4 bushels. The ears were much larger, and the corn looked better than on the preceding acre, but there were not so many plants to the acre, and a portion of the ground not so good. I have sent no sample of this.

N. Goldsborough.

FROM THE FLUSHING SILK JOURNAL.

Great Cocooneries.—William R. Gracie, Esq. of Jamica, Long Island, one of the most opulent land proprietors in New York, commenced forming extensive mulberry plantations for sale about two years ago, but has become so thoroughly convinced of the immense and certain profits to be derived from the growing of raw silk for export, that he now refuses to sell any of his trees, but is erecting an immense cocooner, replete with every convenience for feeding from one and a half to two millions of worms. Dr. Bloodgood, of Flushing, who made experiments the past season with a cocoonery on a limited scale, has so fully satisfied his mind as to the safety and certainty of the business, that he proposes to devote himself almost exclusively to the erection and management of extensive cocooneries on his property near the village. When such men take the lead, it augers every success to the cause.

KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS—CORN CATTLE, &c.

To the Editor of the Lexington Reporter.

A more extended as well as a more particular view of the natural growth and agricultural products and advantages of your state, leads me now to ask a small space in your journal, in explanation of some remarks which you had the goodness to publish in respect to the improved Durham or Shorthorns. I am now satisfied that this is emphatically *the* state for that race of cattle With a climate well suited, it enjoys two other great and fruitful resources—its heavy *crops of Indian Corn, and rich blue grass pastures*; the latter to be set down as invaluable in themselves and *peculiar* to the State! I have often heard of your verdant *woods* pastures of Kentucky "blue grass;" but never had formed a just conception of their beauty and luxuriance. That resource alone must forever give to Kentucky indisputable preeminence over all other countries or state as a *stock-growing* region! Here, the broad straight backed short-horn, whose characteristic is early maturity and propensity to fat, are in the range exactly adapted to their nature; and it is not risking much to say that with *American* maize and *Kentucky* blue grass, *adelibitum*, the imported English progenitors will soon be beaten by their native progeny. Let me repeat that while our Indian corn of itself, may be reckoned, as it has been admitted by English farmers and graziers, to give us one decided advantage over the mother country, in fattening stock, your woods every where afford a *fuller and a richer bite*, than is to be found in the parks of English noblemen. To judge of the results of these advantages, I am pesuaded you have only to see as I have, some of the young stock, in your immediate neighborhood—Capt. B. Warfield's, *par excellence*—his prize heifer, *Caroline*, is an animal that an English Farmer would put aside for himself, as above all price. Hence there is no hesitation in admitting that this state is suited to this race of cattle. It is in fact a commodity, which may be said to have been manufactured for the Kentucky market; and for Kentucky alone of all the slave holding states. Some doubts are entertained, whether they will do as perfectly well in Ohio, Illinois, or Indiana; because I doubt, or rather I do not know that they have, but am under the impression that they have not, your never to be too much admired, nor too highly valued blue grass pastures.

Were the views of the Kentucky farmer and grazier, confined to the domestic markets of Lexington, Louisville, Frankfort, Georgetown, Maysville, and other towns within the State; and to travelling their beef for exportation, then it is conceeded that their interest might dictate exclusive