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By H. MAC LEAN.

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AGRICULTURE

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From the Temperance Advocate.

"I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than to one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching."

I am not going to bore thee, gentle reader, with a chapter on the variety of "criticisms." I am not the roan for that—in truth I am a plain old fashioned sort of fellow, who knoweth little more about botanical names, than the girl who said, she knew very little about any flowers, except those belonging to the class of "delirium tremens." By the by, Du Bose, that might not be half so bad a lad after all. Hast thou not seen the ladies sporting with many flowers belonging to that class, in these modern times? But "this is from the purpose." I was about to ask a plain question. Why is it, few of our farmers make good crops of wheat? Well, I think I hear a dozen old fellows answer—why they don't do that's it. I believe it is the truth—as this is about the season for a talk on that subject, let's have it.

To sow wheat after corn, is very dry to land—but if you must do so, try to turn the vegetable matter which of the ground under, before it is dried or killed by the frost. Set your plow deep, and turn up the soil—and let it do well; no scratching and sifting for these things are insufferable.

Now, run your seed through a sieve before you sow it, to take out the cockle and other weeds, which will be the crop. Soak it 10 or 15 hours in a solution of blue-stone. About 1 lb. dissolved in what water will soak a bushel, is a very good preparation. You cannot get blue-stone, take copperas, if you cannot get copperas, by

brine, with a strong addition of salt-petre—and you may rest assured you will have no smut in your wheat.

The effect of the blue-stone I have seen so often, that I have no doubts on the subject. I'm willing to go before a magistrate anytime on that point. It is moreover a powerful stimulant, hence, insures you a better "stand" and forces the plant in its development.

Now roll your seed while wet, in strong lime, and you add another stimulant, as well as the surest preventive of the Hessian fly I have ever known.

I know an experienced practical farmer, who has pursued this plan for many years, and has never been troubled with the fly, while his neighbors, even those who bought their seed wheat from him, suffered by severely—and that's what I call pretty hard to get over.

Some faners recommend immersing the seed for 10 or 15 seconds in boiling water, before rubbing it in the lime, as a more certain method of killing the eggs of the fly, which by a good glass are said to be discernible near the sprouts of the grains that are infected.

Now, he would be a very pretty place to branch off into a learned entomological enquiry—the origin, nature and habits of the Hessian fly—whether it is "Cecidomyia" destructor, Ceraphron destructor, or Cecimyia tutica—whether it makes its appearance in the shape of long, thin infusor gelatinous semi-transparent homogeneous contractile, without vertebra, radiated tentacula, or hyaline aspect, &c., but this would be killing—and stirs not to me, what names these so-called scientific gentry may envelope these little destructors—it is sufficient for me to know, that I have extracted from the wheat in four weeks after it has been sown, from one to four small semi-transparent destructors (I should call them) within the sixteenth of an inch of the grain—when there was but one leaf to the wheat, and when the grain had not yet lost its shape, or dropped its envelope. The blades thus effected, were yellow, and ultimately died. In fact, that year, I hardly made a grain of wheat from the original stalk—what matured, came in the suckers. I have seen the fly or destructor, at various stages, and may we experience goes to confirm what I learned from the old Pennsylvania farmer forty years ago, that the egg was deposited in the wheat grain. The proof of the fly lies in chewing the bag, is an easy one. And an experiment on the grain prevents the fly—I consider that strong enough evidence for me—but every one to his notion, as the girl said when I kissed the cow. Again, put your ear in, about 3 pecks to the acre—Plow carefully, and run over it with a heavy roller. And if you don't make a good crop it's not my fault.

But there is probably a great secret in hang your wheat, after it is made, as in King.

Turn to your negroes, or your overseer see to it yourself. Set it is carefully thrashed out—carefully cleaned—kept free from weevil—washed and aired—sent to a good mill, above all, well put up when it comes, and if those canst not show a good crop upon thy table, I will be mistaken. But enough, methinks I already hear half a dozen cry aloud.

I thee, cease thy counsel, which falls mine ears as profitless as water in the sea.

the Cultivator for November.

A. B. ALLEN'S VISIT TO ENGLAND.

Mrs. Gaylord & Tucker: Being my way home to Buffalo, and knowing the anxiety of my friends to the success of my agricultural experiments to England, I avail myself of a few moments of leisure to state the general results. In wine I went into a thorough minute examination from the different species of the Chim, the wild boar of Asia, and from the forests of Germany, specimens of which I found in the Zoological Gardens and on the estates of the noblemen and gentlemen in different parts of the country. I also examined all the original breeds of England still left to us, of any consideration, and the various crosses and improvement that have been made on them by importations from abroad. I also saw specimens of the Italian, Spanish, French, German, and Russian breeds; then Scotch, Irish, and Welsh, with crosses too numerous to mention. And the result of the whole is that the Berkshires, as brought to this country by Mr. Hawes, and such as I have heretofore and now imported, for general purposes of the farmer are, upon the whole, the very best animals in the world. There are some kinds of swine that beat them as to size; and others, perhaps, in little minor points, but what I wish to be understood as asserting is, that the Berkshire unites more good qualities in him for general purposes than anything within my knowledge; and in coming to this conclusion, I stake

my reputation as a breeder, and my judgment as a man; and although I may be called an interested party, I may be permitted to also add "without prejudice, and after a long, laborious, strict, and, I sincerely trust, an impartial investigation."

Berkshires in England are spreading very rapidly, and are also now taken to Scotland, Ireland, and other parts of the world. The name, consequently, as with us, has become very popular; and all sorts of impositions are there practiced as well as here, with grades and every imaginable breed. But the real true animal in shape, color, and quality, is precisely such as Mr. Hawes first imported here, saving one exception; and that is, a pig will now and then be cast after the model and color of the original breed; as figured in Lowe's Illustrations, viz., sandy or buff with waves or spots of black, and also black with some spots or waves of white; but the fancy of the people inclining to those more black, or a dark, rich, plumb color, just flecked with a little white, the lighter colored and buff ones have been constantly thrown out, till they breed with now and then a stray pig, as I have so often before explained in the pages of the Cultivator. For my part, I rather fancy a slight buff with the black, and I found the largest hogs in the county so marked, after the old original. Windsor Castle has a buff spot on one fore leg, besides a slight flecking of the same on other parts of him; and I noticed that more or less of his stock was thus marked.

The old breed has become nearly extinct, a few specimens only remaining; and these so degenerated in size that they are not now so large even as the present improved race; not comparing at all with Windsor Castle. All assured me that he was the largest animal that had been bred in the county for twenty years; and in the last No. of the Cultivator you have rather than overstated his dimensions. I know from what I saw of the weights of inferior sized Berkshires fattening in England, that he may be made to easily attain 800 pounds. Added to this great size, he is fine in his points, a most excellent conformation, and what is rather remarkable, of soft thin hair and skin. I took unwearied pains with all my other selections; and though I could find none else quite as large as Windsor Castle, they perhaps had a trifle more of fineness of point and fashion.

In regard to the size of hogs, breeders and pork packers in England take the same ground as I informed the public in last July's Cultivator, that they had in Cincinnati, the greatest pork market in America, and upon precisely the same principles; and it would be a waste of time for me to add another word on the subject. Large animals have consequently become very scarce in Berkshire, and exceedingly difficult to find. I personally perambulated all Berkshire and the neighboring counties, and also employed agents who are dealers in pigs, each one of whom annually buys thousands, and knows every man's breeding in the country, to assist me; and I sent over by the London packet ships Mediator and Wellington, and am to receive next season stock from all the different families bred there that are worth possessing. These I shall keep apart in breeding at home; and thus, I trust, save the necessity of further importations for twenty years to come. Stock of all kinds is very high in England now. Pork and mutton sell readily in market at 6d to 7 1/2d sterling; equal to 13 and 14 cents per pound of our money.

White, light spotted, black blue, gray, and all sorts of colored pigs may occasionally be seen in Berkshire county; but the people there would scout the idea of their being called by their name; they would consider it an imposition, and I might almost add, an insult. And, to my numerous questions, what do you call them? They would give me some specific name, or say, "we don't know, they're not our sort." I do hope now for henceforth and for ever to hear no more about white and other Berkshires than as here described for perhaps the hundredth time as the true and genuine breed, as improved by the Siamese cross. I have full notes of all these things; the discussion of which alone would occupy a long article, which I must defer to some more convenient period.

Failing to find Berkshires as large as I anticipated when leaving home, I immediately set to work with my agents for some other breed; and after a volume of inquiries, and traversing half the kingdom, I found the Kenilworths, the very largest breed of swine at present existing in Great Britain. The owner of the sire of one of the pair of pigs I purchased, asserted that he would weigh, full fattened, 1,700 lbs.; but I think his maximum would not overgo 1,300 lbs. He stood four feet high, was proportionably long, with no bristles, but thin hair, and really possessed a fineness of points that abso-

lutely surprised me in so large an animal. Indeed in general shape and conformation he nearly approaches the Berkshire. His color was pure white. The size of the other pigs was not quite so large, and a trifle coarser, while the sows were still less; but this I was informed was always the case with the breed. I do hope that my friends now will be satisfied; for they have at last in these, a large hog, and, above all, a white one. But if these are not large enough, I shall quite despair, and recommend the importation of a rhinoceros that I saw flourishing alongside of an elephant hardly superior to him in size, at the Zoological Gardens of Regent's Park in London. He was upwards of four feet across the buttock, and might weigh some three or four tons.

I shall not have any of the Kenilworth breed of pigs for sale short of a year, I propose crossing the males upon the large white Yorkshires, and also with a few of my Berkshires. I think the produce of either will be of great size and excellent quality; and as the number of sows to be stunted in December to farrow to a Kenilworth boar in the spring will be in accordance with the orders of my friends for this cross, they will please to let me know their wishes on this head as quick as possible; for they may be assured, that ever with this produce, they may safely compete for gain of flesh, in a given space of time, with Woburns, or any other breed that gentlemen may happen to have on hand for the purpose of a banter.

Nothing can be superior to the South down sheep that I brought over for Mr. Rotch, of Otego county, this State, and our late minister at the Court of St. James, Mr. Stevenson, and Bishop Meade of Virginia. The sire of Mr. R.'s buck won the first prize, 30 sovereigns, as the best of his age, at the Royal Agricultural Show at Liverpool in July, and was let to the Duke of Newcastle for this season only, for 100 guineas. He was considered as near perfection as it is possible for a sheep to be; and I may add that the son I chose, is no disgrace to his sire. Though only six months old, he weighed when brought on board ship at London 152 pounds. Mr. Stevenson's and Bishop Meade's, about 18 months old, weighed respectively 254 and 245 pounds. And the breeder of these superb animals, Mr. Jonas Webb, of Braham, killed a wether last Christmas that weighed, dressed with the head on, 200 pounds. The bucks of this flock usually shear from 10 to 11 1/2 pounds; and I need not add another word to the readers of the Cultivator as to the superiority of South Down mutton, and the hardness and good constitution of the animals making it.

Accompanying the sheep for Mr. Rotch, was the most beautiful shepherd's dog that I ever saw; and of a breed so good, that it requires no instruction to break them into the management and care of flocks. I also brought over for Mr. R. some of the large Dorking fowls, that carry an extra toe to their heels. To these I added a few pheasants, the beautiful game bird of England, and a cross from which on the common barn fowl produced the celebrated game cock breed.

Of Short Horns I brought nothing, for fear of the disease so prevalent throughout horned stock in England, and because there is but one man's herd that can improve our own; and his best I cannot have till another year. It really pains me to see any more Durhams of ordinary quality imported into our country. The expense of shipping is enormous; and, after all, they are now so plenty in America that they can be bought for half or two thirds the price abroad; and throwing two or three stocks out there, New York, Ohio, and Kentucky alone, might show successfully against all England. This is my deliberate judgment after a very careful examination of the best Short Horns in that country. Ayrshires we can make here by the thousand; by crossing Durham bulls on our best native milkers. The Scotch black cattle without horns make the best beef in England; and he is a capital hardy animal, and probably pays the grazier a better profit than any other; but he is black, which don't happen to be a popular color, so that there is no use in talking of him. Hereafter you have already pretty well discussed. The Sussex and South Devons are scarcely inferior to them in size, and of a beautiful blood like symmetry of form that excites universal admiration.

For horses, England ought to come to us. She has nothing that can compare with our famous trotters; and our Dutch Pennsylvania wagon horses are far preferable, in my estimation, to her boasted great cart horses. Our climate and soil, especially in the primitive regions, is much superior to that of England, to produce this noble animal in perfection; and we have only to pay a little more attention to this department of stock to soon become large exporters.

There are many other things, especially in seeds, methods of cultivation, and the condition of the people of England, that I would gladly touch upon, but I find my sheet already full and must forbear; and to conclude, I hailed England with delight, and left it with deep regret. It is a charming country, bating its everlasting

rain and coal smoke. And the American finds so much in his associations and remembrances there, that after all it is the country that he visits abroad with the most interest and profit. I deprived myself of many a sleep and meal in order to see and learn the more during this short sojourn abroad; and instead of three months, I only wished my stay could have been prolonged to as many years.

I am, as ever, sincerely yours,
A. B. ALLEN.
Albany, Oct. 27, 1841.

COLOUR OF IMPROVED SHORT HORNS.

The Rev. Henry Berry says, "the colours of Short-horns are red or white, or a mixture of the two." The above quotation is made in the sixth No. of the Agriculturist. In the same piece it is said, there are no reds of the best blood. This is directly contradicted by Mr. Berry, who says their colour is red, just as plainly as white. The Herd Book proves that some of the best pedigrees ever imported into the United States were red. Bertram (1816) was a deep red, and was the highest priced bull that had been then imported into the United States. Mr. Hustler refused an offer of 400 guineas for his mother, Red Daisy. He was the first bull that ever sold for \$1000, so far as my information extends. The Duke of York when he was imported, I believe was the highest priced bull that had then been imported into the U. S. He was red with a little white. Mr. Rennick, the Ohio Company's agent, selected him to use to their best imported cows.

I might mention a great number of reds with superior pedigrees, but consider the two given sufficient to show that red bulls have as good pedigrees as any white or roan. I know of no animal in Kentucky or Tennessee with better pedigrees than the two named, and it will be very difficult for the advocate of white or roan to produce one as good.

SAML. D. MARTIN.

Col. Hampton, of Woodville, S. C., having purchased one of the best Short-horn Cows ever brought to this country, requested his agent in Baltimore to secure him a bull calf of the same breed, and enjoined it upon him not to do it, until he could get him one which should be of a pure red colour—which, after some months he got from the fine herd of Mr. Beltzhoover near Baltimore. We most admire the roan, or the white fleck'd (not spotted) with red. The deep, dark, and clear morillo cherry red of the fine coated Devon is very beautiful.

Amer. Far.

From the Farmers Cabinet.

DISEASES OF HORSES—HILLING CORN.

The charlatan practice in the medical treatment of horses readily accounts for the unfortunate termination of the most of their diseases. At least such is the conclusion deduced from my limited experience.

The first horse I ever owned contracted an inflammation of the lining membrane of the eye, from exposure in severe winter weather, and the action of the reflected rays of the sun when the ground was covered with snow. Every one who witnessed the progress of the film which rendered his vision hourly more obscure, insisted on the immediate and free application of burnt alum. The remedy was tried, persisted in, and in a fortnight the animal was stone blind. I reflected afterwards how injudiciously I had acted in yielding to current opinions when they were opposed to the principles of nature. Here was a horse, affected with an acute disease of a sensitive tissue, due in a great measure to a constitutional affection, yet treated as though the part was destitute of vitality, and without any reference to the state of the general system. Under different circumstances the application of burnt alum would doubtless have been very proper—that is, when the condition of the affected part demanded increased action. But the case was just reversed.

Last winter had a horse affected in a manner precisely similar, and received identically the same advice from those around me, I determined, however, to act in accordance with my professional judgment. After proper depletion, therefore, the local inflammation was combated by cold applications (Solution of Sugar of Lead, &c.) and the use of necessary precautions to prevent irritation from excessive light. The active inflammation subsided, the film, which consists of a secretion of fluid within, and the thickening of the conjunctiva, or membrane covering the eye, was easily removed by a solution of lunar caustic, 10 grs. to the ounce of water, applied by means of a camel's hair pencil. The recovery within a fortnight was complete.

I cannot understand why a rational method of treating all diseases should not be adopted. It especially becomes the duty of the farmer-physician to investigate their diseases, rather than consign them to the "horse doctor" with disgust. The error of prescribing for a name in entire ignorance of the proximate cause, of the malady might soon be avoided. I seldom hear of the death of a horse where the cause of it is professed to be known, and still more uncommon is it to hear of an examination being made after death to clear up the mystery. But it is

the physiologist and anatomist alone who can derive much benefit from opening diseased animals after death.

I may, in this place record the result of my experience the present year in hilling corn. About 1-4 of my crop was ploughed, in consequence of its being overrun with grass. My neighbors insisted upon the necessity of it to support the stalk, or as one of my black men expressed it, to "expert the corn." From the diversity of soil I am unable to come to any conclusion respecting the difference in vigor of growth between that ploughed, and that cultivated with flukes only; but am satisfied, the quantity was not increased by the former process, which necessarily exacted additional labor. As to hilling the corn affording it any support, I am satisfied of its inefficacy. The corn that was ploughed was more prostrated by winds than the other—a result to be attributed, possibly to its more exposed situation, for I do not imagine either mode of culture renders it less obnoxious to the effects of high winds.

From the London Atlas, Oct. 2. COMMERCE OF BRITISH INDIA.

COTTON CULTIVATION IN INDIA.

From the period of Captain Bayles's mission to America, for the purpose of making himself acquainted with the system adopted in that country, in the cultivation of cotton, to the transportation of that successful method to our Indian possessions, we have watched with deep interest and from time to time recorded the progress of the speculation. On Captain Bayles's arrival from his interesting and ably accomplished tour of investigation, we devoted, our readers may perhaps remember, considerable space in this apartment of the Atlas, to the explanation of the system in question, and of the advantages contemplated by its adoption.

That system is, we are glad to learn by the papers of the last overland mail, meeting with the entire approbation of the Indian government and there is every prospect of the anticipated benefits arising thereby, being eventually realized. The Madras United Service Gazette of the 25th June, states, that government has ordered the transfer of the American cotton planters, sent to organize their plans at that presidency, from Tinnevely to Coimbatore, which country is better suited to the project. The local authorities, it appears, with full confidence of its ultimate success, were exerting themselves zealously in promotion of the scheme. Captain Hughes and Mr. Fitch, who are stated to be the most efficient coadjutors in the cause, were busily engaged in carrying out the plans of the government at the Madras presidency, whilst those on the Bengal side, (with Captain Bayles as superintendent,) are equally energetic in the prosecution of their plans. From the Bombay branch we have no recent tidings on the subject.—The American cotton seed and implements of husbandry sent from England, had reached Errode, and great preparations were making in various parts of the country in bringing this extensive enterprise into immediate operation.

At the Agricultural meeting of Calcutta, in May last, some of the soil of the island of Cheduba was stated to have undergone analysis, and was found to correspond exactly with that on which the Sea Island cotton of Georgia (S. C.) is produced. A report on the subject of this important discovery had been made to the Indian government, and a cask of Sea-Island cotton seed had been, accordingly, shipped to Cheduba.

It has long been a dogma, among cotton cultivators, that the description of soil so favorable to the cultivation of cotton was peculiar to America, thus yielding to that country a vast monopoly in the production of a superior cotton; but we have at last discovered a Sea-Island of our own, and will, doubtless, turn it to a profitable account. We may here mention, that the Bengal section of the American planters, in passing through Allahabad, were shown specimens of Indian corn, which they unanimously pronounced nearly, if not quite, as good as they commonly met with in America.

From the Bombay Times, June 23d, 1840.

PRODUCTION OF COTTON IN INDIA.

On examining into the supplies of cotton brought to this market during the twelve months ending 31st of May, we find that the result is well calculated to astonish those who have not been marking the progressive increase of this product, but have been dwelling with fancied security on the recollections of what used to constitute a large supply for us; viz: 200 to 250,000 bales. It appears, then, that from the first of June, 1840, to the first of June, 1841, the imports of cotton into Bombay have amounted to 174,212,755 pounds; or, on the previous average, of 3 1/4 cwt. to the bale, 478,606 bales, little short of half a million of screwed bales! This is a larger quantity than America produced up to the year 1826, and more than was consumed in England during the same year. In 1825, the entire products of the United States amounted to only 169,860,000 pounds, though twelve years after, it had reached 444,224,567 pounds.—(Vide McC.'s Dict.)