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By M. MAC LEAN.

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AGRICULTURAL.

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From the Ohio Free Press, (at Xenia,) Oct. 30.

SILK CULTURE.

Since the multicaulis mania has subsided, and people have come to their sober senses, there is a fair prospect that the business will be prosecuted in a judicious manner, and will richly repay the labor and capital expended in it. The Western Citizen, published at Urbana, Champagne county, says several of the citizens of that county have turned their attention to the culture of silk, and have made it profitable. One farmer, Mr. Nathaniel Kiddler, has manufactured sewing silk the past season, to the value of more than two hundred dollars, which the editor considers equal, if not superior, to the best foreign article. Those who have engaged in the business, he says, have found a ready market for their silk, while other productions of the farm are a dead weight upon their hands.

We know that several of the citizens of our country have, for a few years past, paid some attention to the mulberry, but we have not yet heard of much silk being made by them. We hope some of them will soon report progress for the encouragement of others. There need be no fear about a market for the cocoons.—There is a prospect of a manufactory being established at Columbus, under the management of Mr. Fox, [the author of the following Letter,] that will require all that can be supplied for some time, and others will be built up as occasion may require. Should this not be the case, it can be profitably made into sewing silk, by families, without any expensive machinery.

Mr. Pleasant. (O.) Sept. 20, 1841.

DEAR SIR: In your last, of August 19th, you requested me for your satisfaction, as well as others in your section of country, to give you my real unvarnished sentiments on the silk business. With the greatest pleasure I comply with your request. Still I am persuaded that all I have written and published will never wholly remove the deep-rooted prejudice latent in the minds of thousands, originating chiefly for the want of reflection and observation; and as there is nothing like ocular demonstration, I have enclosed a few patterns woven in our factory from the silk we have raised this season; but I want something that will prove more effectual still. I wish you would bring 500, or more, I had like to have said unbelieving Jews, to witness our establishment. I am confident they would return home proselyted to the silk faith.

But, as you wish a more minute detail, I will commence from six years back.—About that time I engaged with G. Rapp, Esq. of Economy, Pennsylvania; and there wove the first piece of silk velvet ever manufactured in this country; also, with hat plush, &c. When I first visited them they only had one loom—now seven. Three years back my eldest son arrived here from London. He engaged with Mr. Rapp and I came to Mount Pleasant. During his stay with them he, with the assistance of some of their ingenious and patriotic Society, built a French riband loom, at a cost of \$1,000, with other looms for flowered silks.—They can now compete with France or England in point of excellency and elegance of fabric. Miss Rapp received a

premium of upwards of \$600 last year from your State Legislature, for the silk raised that season. Now, sir, if the silk trade is a humbug, let us have more of it.

When I came to Mount Pleasant under the patronage of J. W. Gill, Esq. in April, 1839, there was not the vestige of any thing pertaining to a silk factory. I felt discouraged, but I and my youngest son went hard to work, and by January 1st, 1840, built six looms, with all the necessary tools for weaving, and brought out one hundred yards of velvet, hat plush, ladies' plush, and figured velvet, all from these trifling pieces of sticks called multicaulis cuttings. Now, sir, I feel very proud in being a member of the humbug and silk mania society. Since then we have made safe but slow advances, owing to the many difficulties we had to encounter, in reeling, winding, twisting, tramming, and dyeing, in order to bring out our silk for weaving equal to European splendor. These difficulties are all obviated, and we are now going ahead. From April, 1839, to the above date, we have manufactured two hundred yards of silk velvet plain, forty-five yards of figured velvet, one hundred and seventy yards of hat plush, one hundred yards plain lustring, twenty yards of Ohio cord for vesting, two hundred yards of flowered silk vesting, twelve dozen black silk handkerchiefs for cravats, seventeen dozen handanna handkerchiefs, making, in the whole, about 2,110 yards in two years and a half, and all from such a discouraging beginning. The whole of the machinery, looms excepted, is propelled by steam power; we employ about twenty persons in the factory, and in feeding time eight, including my son and Mr. Wm. Gill. J. Watson, Esq., magistrate of this town has weighed off 704 pounds of cocoons raised by them this season. I believe few will beat this. Yet, sir, good but mistaken men will say, Ah! its all a humbug.

Permit me, sir, to make a few remarks upon the futile objections of our opponents, which I will endeavor to do with humility and plainness, as I challenge the Union to controvert successfully, what I have or may advance. Let us revert to the year 1833, when John Fitch, Esq. of Mansfield, Connecticut, first started the silk weaving business in that region of country. When I visited him he had on a silk vest wove from silk of his own raising; he was a gentleman somewhat above the mediocrity of intellect, being a counsellor at law; and if you have had any business with them you know, sir, they are pretty smart gentlemen. Well he told me it was his opinion that sooner or later the silk trade would be a staple business in this country, and his remark is rapidly verifying. From Connecticut it made its way to Massachusetts. There it began under the same discouragements as in Connecticut; but now witness the results of care and perseverance. From Massachusetts it winged its way to New Jersey and New York, where they are now raising silk to an incredible amount. From there to Pennsylvania, where almost every county is engaged in it more or less, and some to a great extent.—Economy, Beaver county, is now the pride of the Union. Our establishment is denominated by other States, "The Star in the West." If so, Economy must be the Regent of Night. Again it takes its flight to Ohio, and there diffuses its blessings from Cleveland to Cincinnati; then from Mercer county crosses the State again to Jefferson county, leaving behind it traces of cultivation, industry, and reward. Children that heretofore were running idle about the fields and streets, having their morals corrupted, are now seen picking the leaves, feeding the worms, or reeling the silk, with healthful and smiling countenances, hymning forth the praises of their Creator and Redeemer, while engaged in their various departments; surely there cannot be any humbuggery in all this.

But does it stop here? No; indefatigable in its exertions, and benevolent in its designs, with an eagle's pinion it takes its way to Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, and Georgia; there factories are building; thousands of acres of our worn out cotton lands are now luxuriantly clothed with the foliage of Italian and morus multicaulis trees. The slave and free population are now recreating themselves upon the light, pleasant, and lucrative employment of silk raising. It affords employment for the child and the invalid, the cultivator and the mechanic, the artisan and the tradesman, and is destined to be a source of wealth to this country. Surely there can be no imposition here.

Another difficulty seems to pervade the minds of many that are somewhat friendly to the silk cause. They say, what shall we do with our silk? We cannot weave it as France and England can. To this answer, go to Economy; come to Mount Pleasant; then go to Northampton, Massachusetts; Elizabethtown, New Jersey; New York; Nashville, Tennessee; Providence, Rhode Island, and several other places, and then you will see the objection removed; for what can be done in one place can be done in a thousand; all that is wanting is enterprise, patience, and perseverance. There are a number of silk weavers from London now in this

country, and if not enough, many would be glad to come over were there a prospect of employment; but as I want to encourage domestic industry, I would say there is not a female that has wove a piece of muslin but could weave herself a silk dress with a little instruction. The loom, harness, and reed would not cost more than \$3 00, and would last fifty years with a little harness once in two years, which would cost about one dollar.

The next obstacle thrown in our way is, that it will injure the cotton trade.—This is for want of knowing better; they are not aware that hat plush, ladies' tip-plet plush, lustrings, chamberries, tabernets, Italian sarsonets, collar velvets, Dutch velvets, Genoa velvets, and many flowered silks, are filled with cotton; so that, instead of being an injury, it will ten-fold promote it, and give a fresh impetus to it. Another will say, look how your worms have died off. I grant it, and this season, too, in many places, which has caused me to institute enquiry. One writer informs me that being absent two days upon business, when he returned home his worms were dying. Another that he went to meeting, gone twelve hours, left his worms without food and ventilation; the next morning they sickened and died. The third, owing to age and ill health, was not able to attend to them, and they died. And a fourth, that his eggs were kept in a cold, damp receptacle; they hatched out and died. A fifth, that being short of food, he gave them oak and digwood leaves, and they died. A sixth, that, for the want of vigilance, the rats and mice devoured them all. A seventh, that he kept his cocoonery in a loft, the roof being out of repair, a dreadful gust with rain fell and washed his worms from the shelves, and they died. A person has just called upon me from the Lakes, and says, owing to taking the worms out of the ice-house and putting them in again, 300,000 of them died. Thus you see the principal cause of the late failures is owing to carelessness, neglect, and inattention, and not from any law of Nature dooming its innocent victims to death. Upon the third or fourth moulting, like the human family, they are exposed to disease, but, like us, have their remedies. Much has been said and written upon the disease called the muscorrine or jaundice, but by the application of lime, judiciously sprinkled, they may be cured in six hours. I strongly and conscientiously recommend Mr. E. Morris's Bostington frames for the use of feeding, as I am confident they are conducive to the health of the worms, besides rendering every facility to those employed; they are highly appreciated by those that have used them. Another question of importance is, how can we expect to raise silk equal to France, China, or Italy? If my word, honor, and knowledge are to be taken, I say, without hesitation, we can. "But what do you know more about the silk business than we do?" Because I was born in it, and brought up in it in London, and, being engaged in the business there for thirty-five years in all its various standings, branches, and bearings, I must have had an opportunity of making some acquisitions. For the last ten years I was the purchaser of many thousand pounds of silk, from a Bengal single to a Piedmont, and in point of fragrance and brilliancy the American silk is superior to any I have seen from France, China, Italy, Valencia, or Piedmont. I am aware the fragrance of imported silk may be lost, in most instances, from being so long on the ocean and exposed to the saline air, but the brilliancy is a quality peculiar to America, when the worms are fed on the Italian or multicaulis.

For the encouragement of the fair sex who raise and reel their own silk, we have no objection to manufacture it into dresses upon equitable terms. The tariff bill is now passed into a law at 20 per cent, and we have nothing to fear; the humbug is changed to reality, and the mania is at least convalescent.

I remain, dear sir, &c.

JOHN FOX, SEN.

P. S. I have just received news from Economy that Miss Rapp has raised this season 3,500 pounds of cocoons, the greatest amount ever raised in one establishment. Well done, Pennsylvania!

FROM THE BALTIMORE PATRIOT.

PENNSYLVANIA SILK.

Mr. Editor: The Public seem to be quite ignorant of the extent to which the silk business is now carried on in this country, and therefore it may not be inappropriate to throw a little light upon the subject. I have this morning received a report of the silk operations in a portion of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. I am sure it will afford you pleasure, if it do not excite your surprise. The report states as follows:

Charles Herr raised and reeled 552 lbs. of cocoons.

John Lummy and brother raised 534 pounds of cocoons, and reeled 60 pounds of silk, and are now purchasing cocoons and reeling daily.

Charles Carson raised and reeled 524 1-2 pounds of cocoons.

Dr. Bowman raised 188 lbs. of cocoons.

John Wissler " 364 1-2 " "

Mr. Milligen " 160 " "

John Mitzler " 78 " "

Perker & Kentz " 143 " "

Mr. Demuth " 190 " "

Two young ladies " 68 " "

Numerous others raised smaller quantities, say 20 to 50 pounds each.

The above-named quantities will, of course, yield two hundred and seventy pounds of reeled silk. If every county in the United States were to do the same, what would be the result in reference to our monetary affairs?

Yours,
GIDEON B. SMITH.

Baltimore, Nov. 23, 1841.

From the Farmers' Monthly Visiter.

EUROPEAN FARMING.

I think that the superiority to be observed in British and Flemish agriculture is to be attributed to the nice adaptation of crops—the perfect system that prevails in every department—the free outlay for manures to invigorate the soil—the patience that never tires in the completion of a task once undertaken, and the industry that in no kind of weather, at no season of the year, fails to remember and perform its tasks and duties.

England is remarkable for confining to certain districts, the productions which flourish best in those soils. Thus the light sands of Norfolk are best adapted to turnips, barley and clover prevails. It was by this course that Mr. Coke (Earl of Leicester) reclaimed from perfect barrenness his splendid estate at Holkham. Warwickshire is famous for beans as a first crop, wheat and timothy following.

Not less perfect is the system: each one has his part and his duties assigned to him—he is there at all times, and in all weathers, and he stipulates to be only there. And this system pervades all things on the farm.

Upon a farm in Surry, where I spent six pleasant and agreeable months, I had opportunity to see the use and the profits of systematic farming. It was a fully farm, of less than two hundred acres—the rent paid, about \$2000. The whole farm, except the garden was mowed.—After the hay was taken care of, the fields were all shut up until there was a good feed upon them. Then Mr. R. went to the nearest fair and purchased large heaves nearly fat. In these fresh, luxuriant pastures, where the grass grew almost fast enough to render not fabulous Sir Boyle Roche's story of the kite thrown into an Irish meadow over night, hidden by the grass next morning, the heaves became in a very short time fit for Smithfield or Old Leaden-hall. After a few day's rest, the fair was resorted to for a second drove of cattle of smaller size, but in good flesh, which soon shared the lot of all fat oxen, and became the roast beef of old England. The fields were no longer in a condition to make beef and therefore were to furnish the predicament "nearly fat" to take the "first bite" in some unfat meadow. The fourth course was a herd of small Welsh cattle to be merely improved. Fifth and lastly came sheep to be kept till the meadows began to start in the spring, when they were sold and the meadows shut up.

To recruit this farm, the carts which took the hay to market returned laden with manures to be used as a top-dressing. When not bringing back provisions for farm use I think I may say they always came back with manures. I had some years ago, in my possession a book, which was borrowed by some friend or other, who liked it so well that he forgot to return it. This book gave the best account of the English practice with respect to manures, of any I have seen. It was said in that book that five thousand tons of manure had been applied in one year on a single estate. I know that the quantities are immense, and that the lands in that country are kept in a high state of fertility by the axiom impressed on the husbandman that food is as necessary to the earth as to the human body. But do not think that I have selected a pattern farm for the subject of the foregoing remarks. It was in all respects only a medium farm. There could not be the same opportunity for the more elaborate practices of husbandry that there is in large Yorkshire farms. It is my opinion that some of the best managed farms in England were on the estates of the Duke of Buckingham at Stowe, in Bucks. It is, however, the fashion in England, to patronize agriculture: heaven grant it may become so here. You can form no idea with what ease an American can introduce himself to the English, if he is fond of farming. The gift of a few ears of Indian corn to the Horticultural Society, brought me tickets and invitations without number to their gardens and fetes at Chiswick.

From the Gleaning of Husbandry.

Burke County, (Ga.) Aug. 16, 1841.

Friend Holbrook:—Allow me through the columns of your valuable little Journal, to lay before your patrons and the public the result of a very new species, called the Cluster Cotton, which I must confess excels any thing yet seen of the staple of our country. Much has been

said in favor of the Petit Gulph, Texas and Multibolled Cotton—and each has had its day, as every other humbuggery, but the Cluster Cotton is not to be supplanted by any pros or cons.

Description. The stalk grows up with branches in a conical form—more substantial and better able to sustain its fruits from falling to the ground than even the Petit Gulph, its leaves too are of somewhat different shape and of a greener color; its branches at the ground, are rarely over two feet in length, graduating to the top from three or four inches.

Production. This seems to be the great desideratum with the genius and the agricultural skill of our country, and it is eminently attained in the introduction of the Cluster Cotton, which is 50 per cent above any other species of Cotton, as is admitted by those planters who have had the good fortune to get its seeds. The bolls are very large, and when fully grown, crowd each other on the branches—possessing a staple equal to the Multibolled Cotton, which has been classed with second quality of Sea Islands by all competent judges; its stalk bears a boll, when it puts forth a branch and blooms anew between the grown bolls, which together with its thousands of forms has never been before observed of any other kind of cotton. The forms are produced in Clusters of from two to four bolls; from whence I presume, it properly derives its name, and there is never less than two bolls on different sides of the branches.

The joints of the branches are nearer together than in common cottons, consequently there are more bolls and forms. There are at this early season, on single branches not over ten inches in length, from six to eight full bolls with as many blooms and forms.

This is indeed a rare species of cotton, fully demonstrating the wonderful developments that are going on in the agriculture of the country.

The gentleman upon whose farm I have seen this only acre of cotton, tells me, he preferred planting it upon pine land, that he might give it a fair experiment upon an exhausted soil, which has been so, for many years past, and without any additional help but that of mere ploughing and hoeing; he is sanguine of realizing over a square bale of cotton for his acre of pine land, and he further adds in a letter that I have just received from him: since I visited his farm: "My Cluster Cotton is the thing—I shall gather (if nothing befalls it,) a pound of Cotton to the stalk—I shall pick it out and count the stalks; last year, you remember, I had in my garden only three stalks that bore me many seeds, and from those three, I planted this year one acre (barely,) of old pine land—one stalk producing me one pound and a quarter of cotton. I am chiefly of the opinion, that upon our old exhausted grey lands, this cotton, planted in hills, at two by three and a half feet apart, when manured with compost or stable manure, will yield in any ordinary season, from 1500 to 2000 pounds of seed cotton per acre—then what will it do on virgin lands?"

I have watched it closely during the last two seasons, through all its stages, and am convinced that it can stand all the vicissitudes of climate better than any other cottons I have ever cultivated.

I have already engaged seven bushels of the seeds and shall realize more from them than the best twenty acres of cotton in this country at fifteen cents per pound, will yield."

This is from not only a practical, experienced and successful planter, but any opinion of his agriculture, is authority in the section where he resides.

PLOUGHSHARE.

An extraordinary fact was mentioned the other day at the sitting of the Academy of Sciences. One of the members stated that the Agricultural Society of Brest had, upon the proposition of a member of the committee, sown some wheat upon land without any preparation of ploughing or digging, and in one of the worst soils possible, and after having merely walked over the ground to press the grain on the surface, had covered it with fresh straw to the thickness of two inches. The produce was, it is asserted, more abundant, and infinitely superior in quality to corn raised from the same seed in the ordinary way.—English paper.

From the Farmers' Register.

GROWING POTATOES UNDER STRAW.

Some remarks in a late number of the Farmers' Register, relative to growing potatoes under straw, induce me to make the following statement:

Many years ago, my father had a bank in his meadow (near Philadelphia) which could not be irrigated in the common way, on account of the thin, porous soil resting on a bed of loose sand stone. The water from a fine spring had been turned on, but it sunk down and disappeared. Recourse was then had to flooding. An embankment sufficient to hold all the water that could collect in twelve

hours, was constructed; so that, every night and morning, a tide swept over the surface, and good crops were obtained.—In process of time, however, the flood-gate ceased to perform well, and weeds of little value for hay got possession of the bank. A new plan was determined on. Late in spring, when vegetation was well advanced, we laid potatoes among the grass and weeds at proper distances, and then covered the whole with straw about a foot in thickness. The product was good, though the season was dry; the grass and weeds were smothered and destroyed; and the year after we had a fine crop of clover.

D. T.

Greatfield, Cayuga co., N. Y. }
11 mo 2, 1841. }

IMPROVEMENT IN THE BREED OF CATTLE.

From a communication in the Kentucky Cultivator, from the pen of that well known and eminent breeder, Lewis Sanders, Esq. giving a "history of Imported Cattle," we make the following extracts.

To improve the breed of cattle of a neighborhood, or upon a single farm, in the shortest time, with the least cost (the great desideratum). Now beginners should commence with such cows as they may chance to own. Sell or otherwise dispose of the ill-shaped, coarse and old ones. A prejudice exists against black; it is best to yield to it, and part with them also; retain the young and well formed females; if good and well bred, so much the better. The bull is the important instrument whereby the improvement is effected. Select a good young bull, having due regard to the blood of the cow he is to go to; the more remote of kin the better.—Let him be from one to three years old; he can serve from fifty to sixty cows from the 1st of April to the 1st of September, the best time for a bull to be with the cows; after getting two sets of calves, sell the bull. If he has been well kept, he will fetch his cost or more, then procure a bull of different blood from the last. Suitable for the young stock. After selling this bull two seasons, sell him a 2d; buy another; and so on progressively. Pursuing this method, the whole stock of a country may be speedily changed from an inferior to a superior race, without any expense or cost whatever, except the risk of the life of the bull and the interest on his cost; by re-investing the money, it will not be lost, unless the animal dies. Carry out this system, and benefit must be the result, and in proportion to the care and abilities bestowed on the subject. A neighborhood now selling one hundred bullocks a year of the common breed, loses two thousand dollars on that number, by not breeding to a full blood bull, and so in proportion to a greater or less number; a feeder will pay ten dollars more for a two year half-blooded steer than he will be willing to give for a 3 year old of the common breed—a year's keep, risk of life and interest of money, is worth ten dollars. Ten dollars received, and ten dollars saved is twenty dollars.

THE BADEN CORN.

Nottingham, Md. Oct. 29th. 1841.

To the editor of the American Farmer.

I have come to the conclusion that there can be no impropriety in informing you, through the public, of an experiment I have made this season upon the corn known by the name of Gourdseed, and Mr. Joseph N. Baden's prolific. I made choice in the spring of a small piece of ground, and in order that each sort should have the same advantage relative to the fertility of the soil, and that each should receive the same cultivation, I thought it would be best to plant one row of the Baden, and another of the Gourdseed, through the lot, making of each kind an equal number of rows. Last week I gathered and carefully measured the Gourdseed, and obtained 17 bushels—I then gathered the Baden corn, and it measured 23 bushels. As the difference is so great, I will say that if any one should entertain a doubt of the correctness of it, it can be removed by such testimony as he may reasonably desire.

Mr. Baden's corn not only yields by far the greatest quantity of grain, but nearly double as much fodder as any other I ever cultivated—of this fact I am so well satisfied that nothing can induce me to plant any other.

Yours respectfully,
J. HOLYDAY.

[The prolific varieties of corn are adapted to rich soils. In poor soils a single stalk and a single ear to the hill will produce most corn. Ed. Far. Gaz.]

EXTENSIVE BEAR SHOOTING IN NEW JERSEY.

Last Wednesday, as Mr. Bodine Coffin, son of Mr. William Coffin, of Hamilton Glass Works, was out hunting, about four miles from the Works, he discovered coming out of the swamp, a large bear, which he immediately shot, when another sprang on the dead one, which he also killed, when a third came and made for him, but his dogs attacked him, and he sprang up a tree, when he shot him also. Coffin is considered the best shot in that part of the country. He had his three in the Philadelphia market last Friday morning.