NUMBER 36

## By M. MAC LEAN.

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## AGRICULTURAL.

From the South Western Farmer.

The communication from Dr. Nutt in our present number, which he has furnished in compliance with a request from us, will be read with interest by every one acquainted with the reputation of him and his father as cotton planters.

Dr. Nutt, sen, was for years perhaps the very best planter of the Pet t Gulf hills; and acquired such a reputation in the business that his brand hecame well known and sought after in all the cotton markets on both sides of the ocean, and commanded a price of three or four cents per pound in advance of the general crop. Our readers may judge the value of the detail his son gives us of his management.

It will be seen that his management is just the reverse of that recommended by a correspondent of a Memphis paper which we have seen often quoted with approbation-which is, to keep the cotton damp and let it sweat and the seed rot before ginning--a plan we before distrusted, but are now convinced from Dr. Nutt's remarks should be shunned.

Our correspondent's suggestions respecting ginning and gin stands are important, and deserve the attention of our mechanics

The folding scaffolds he mentious we recollect to have seen on his father's plantation. Any one imagining a common table with the leaves made so as to be turned up over it instead of down at its sides, will have a tolerably correct idea of these scaffolds. The centre boards are fast and the leaves are joined to them by hinges, and turn over them so as to join above and form a roof which well turn off any kind of rains. When a shower is seen approaching all the hands in attendance have to do is just to turn up the folding leaves of those scaffolds, and the cotton on them is safe.

For the S. W. Farmer.

Messrs. Editors :- It is with pleasure that I comply with your request. I consider it no less a duty, not only as regards myself, but as regards every other citizen of Hinds, to do all in his power to aid you in your laudable undertaking-the pronulgating the science of farming-the cultivation of which has given prosperity to every country, and the neglect of their downfall. It is humillating to think that in most of the older portions of the Globethis useful and noble science is nearly forgotten, and what remains of it is in possession of the poor and illiterate .--Even on the Island of Sicily, the former granary of Rome, and which gave to Rome all its greatness, the name of Farmer is considered a reproach; so much so, that our consul to Messena, (Mr. Peyson,) whilst looking over the Tavern register and discovering that along with our names, place of destination, &c. we had written "Farmer" as our profession, cried out "My dear sir! that will never do. What will people think of you?-The Farmers throughout these countries are of lower orders." My reply was that I gloried in the name, was only ashamed that I did not deserve it-and that if the talents which are thrown away in searching out the particular spot of the birth and death of a Saint or celebrated Sculptor, was applied to the noble and useful science of Farming, their country, old as it is, might give profitable and honourable occupation to its herds of Priests and Beggars, and again occupy a respectable station among the nations of the earth. But to return to the object of this communication. You wish to know "the plan pursued by my Father in the management of his Cotton," which I will endeavour to give you in as few words as

In the first place, my Father was very careful never to plant more cotton than he could keep up with in picking. He considered it altogether impossible to make fine cotton of that which was suffered to remain open in the field for any length of time. He invariably, when obliged to have such, would put it to itself, as the Slugs destroyed by lime. second quality, on account of its having lost in a great measure its golden hue; and should a rain fall on this, it was bella and Catawba grapes, &c.; Liquid buckled on a surcingle, and then a saddle, slight pregress in the counties of Somerclassed as the third quality, because of the inanure; Destructive insects; The sea and finally fitted the horse with a rope. set, Hants and Wilts; that they grew corn, dingy colour imparted to it by the adher. devil caught at Charleston; Need for During the whole of these operations the manured the land, and had abundance of

riably accompany it to the stand and then not entirely be separated by the false grates and hue. He was very careful to have his cotton picked clean from the field, of the larger portions of leaf, and once accustomed to this habit, the hands will pick as much, minus a very few er leaves, bolls, and every thing else that may come in their way. Many think a great deal of time must necessarily be lost in picking off the leaf or trash as it is called- This is not the case where cotton is newly opened. There is a peculiar way of catching hold of the cotton, in picking, that separates it entirely from all leaf. A yellow lock or rotton end never went into his gin house, unless it escaped the eye of the picker and dryer. After his cotton was brought in from the field, however dry it may appear, it was scattered thinly on folding scaffolds .--Each hand knew his scaffold as well as he did his cabin, and should trashy cotton be picked, the driver or overseer knew who did it. The morning's cotton was weighed at ten o'clock, so as, being the dampest, to give it the greater portion of day to dry. A hand or two, sometimes more, attended the scaffolds, to turn, looson the cotton and extract the yellow ends or leaf that escaped the eye of the picker. No cotton was considered dried until the seed would crack when pressed between the teeth. Many persons have endeav. oured to persuade me that the cotton lost too much in weight by this unusual dryng. I agree that the seed loses perhaps ounce unless unusually wet from rain or dew, which water would most assuredly escape even were it thrown into the house. This drying, not only increases the golden hue and prevents your green locks from rotting those packed away around them, but ensures to you sound seed for the next year. Many suppose that storing away their cotton wet, as from the field, and suffering it to heat, gives hobblers on his feet, "he gradually ad- worthy of the ablest pen to trace that it the goldon colour so much admired by vances until he is able to place his hand progress, because it is a labor that would he purchasers, particularly the French. This is a great mistake. You can't put breathe in its nostrils, when it soon be- mind. Composed, however, as such an a dirty, dingy red, mushy cotton on a Frenchman for the clear golden hue and

Now for the Gin. Get saws nine to the inch My Father always used the curved grate; so do I, perhaps the straight may answer the purpose as well. Use false grates—give your brush motion until another revolution would send it all to atoms--you will thereby blow each fibre separate and lodge it at the far end of your lint room. You may have a flue between twelve and twenty-five feet long, with a floor of tin or cherry rods slatted only ten or twelve, to catch the dust, flyng particles of leaf, short lint and motes escaping through the false grates; be very careful in filing your saws to leave no sharp edge or your fibre will be cut. Also, to prevent the same, keep the mogin can make good cotton and clean more than two bales per day.

lieve my brother now makes nearly or quite as much. So it is not at all probable that by this extra attention to the ga hering, &c. there is much loss. Even should there be in the number of bales, the difference in price will more than make up the clear gain.

chant in New Orleans, who knows what he don't send you the best price in money, will make the best exchange for sugar,

R. NUTT.

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the second secon

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particles of the same, which would inva- ral condition of Pennsylvania; Address | nor flinch in the least degree." before Cayuga county Agricultural Soci- | Two experiments are all Mr. Ellis has ety; Casks for preserving grain; History | had the opportunity of either witnessing. of the cane; A new source of the best or hearing the results of. But as he states. manure; New artificial manure; The these have been to him perfectly satisfacinfluence of the origin of seeds on the tory; and, as he has no opportunity of quantity and quality of crops; Sowing carrying them p, since he is unacquaintcorn for fodder; Sings destroying the ed with the treatment of horses, and neiwill pick as much, minus a very few cotton crop; The fruit garden; Remarks ther own nor is thely to be thrown on draining, and particularly Smith's in the was combroken colts, he has re-Deanston system.

## TRAINING HORSES--A CIRCUMSTANTIAL HOAX?

Horse training, by A. J. Ellis, B. A. buffalo calves, and wild horses.

"I have often, in concurrence with a well known custom of the country, held my hand over the eyes of the calf, and breathed a few strong breaths into its nostrils; after which I have, with my companions, rode several miles into our encampment, with the little prisoner busi- By ly following the bells of my horse the whole way, as close and aff. ctionately as in the spring of the year, on my way up ruin of the best interests of the country. the river, I assisted (in numerous hunts of the buffalo, with the Fur Company's men.) to the eyes of the world for ages, it is an a tenth, but deny that the fibre loses an in bringing in in the above manner, several of these little prisoners, which sometimes follow for five or six miles close to our horses heels, and even into the Fur Company's fort, and into the stable where our horses are fed. In this way, before I left for the head waters of the Missouri, I think we had collected about a dozen.

In the same way, the wild horses are comes docile and conquered, so that he inquiry should be, of a history of its conhas little more to do than to remove the dition, principles, practice and statistics, hobbles from his feet, and lead or ride it and that too, in a country where an end-

when on a visit in Yorkshire, and forsooth | to vary every practice, and to mystify resolved to try the experiment. He and every calcanation, it would seem to by a his friends were alike incredulous, and work which, if not above the power of an sought amusement from the nature, rather individual, would require assistance every than knowledge by the result-but two that time and talent could secure him. To experiments he was able to try, were both attempt, then, had we the ability requisite. successful. Here is the particulars of one to give such a history, of even one branch

While the last experiments were being cumstances over which I have no control tried on the yearling, W. espied B-, [(I am now writing at exactly one month a farmer and tenant, with several men, from the day, yet more than four thouat the distance of some fields, trying most | sand miles from the place of publication. ineffectually, on the old system to break I am able to give to its consideration. a horse. W. proposed to go down and would be absurd. Yet, although the show him what effect had been produced comprehensive nature of this subject preon the yearling. When the party arrived vents any attempt at such a view of it, if is tion regular. I am of the opinion that no at the spot they found that B. and his attended with one advantage, its high men had tied their filly short up to a tree | importance will give, even to this cursory in the corner of a field, one side of which | "glance," which it would not otherwise Observing all the above mentioned was walled, and the other hedged in .- possess. That this interest will not be precautions, I did in 1833 and '36 make | W. now proposed to B. to tame his horse | entirely wasted, I have the presumption on my Father's plantation nine bales to after the new method. B. who was to hope. Information is the corner stone the hand, besides an abundance of corn, laware of the character of his horse, anx. of interest, and few inquiring minds can et ceteras, and in seasonable years I be. | iously warned W. not to approach it, | be led to the view of any subject in its cautioning him especially against the fore past and present phases, without making feet, asserting that the horse would rear some lesson for the future. and strike him with the fore feet, as it had In entering upon the first part of our 'lamed' his own (B's.) thigh just before subject, the progress of English agriculthey had come up. W. therefore proceed ture, the course that itself any good to ded very cautiously. He climed the wall | us is to divide it into those marked epochs and came at the horse through the tree, of transition, or change, which are disto the trunk of which he clung for some | coverable in the progress of every thing After thus getting up this nice article, time, that he might secure a retreat in connected with, or influenced by, human I hope you will not do with it as Doctors case of need. Immediately upon his nature; and to look at the spirit pervading advise their wives to do with dressed Cu- touching the halter the horse pranced the practice at each period. Taking, howcumbers-"throw them to the hogs," but about, and finally pulled away with a ever, a general view of the subject, we obsend it to some solvent and knowing mer- dogged and stubborn expression, which served but one period of marked transition; seemed to bid W. detiance. Taking ad- a change from a state of things under to do with that quality of cotton; and if vantage of this, W. leaned over as far as which agriculture languished for hunhe could, clinging all the time to the tree | dred of years, without making any adwith his right hand and succeeded in vance, to one, under which, in fewer breathing into one nostril, without how- months, it has made wonderful progress ever, being able to blind the eyes. From and improvement. This is the great that moment all became easy. W., who phenomenon that presents itself to us in is very skilful in the management of a tracing the progress of English agriculhorse, coaxed it, and rubbed his face, and | ture; and indeed that a science which was breathed from time to time into the nos-In about ten minutes W. declared his conviction that the horse was subdued; and he then unfastened it, and to the great and evident astonishment of B., (who had | permanent principle; and that, after a been trying all the morning in vain to get | torpid existence for more than 1600 years, a mastery over it,) led it quietly away it should start at once into the vigor of with a loose halter. Stopping in the mid- | youth, develope, in the course of a generdle of the field, with no one else near, W. ation, the energies that centuries had failquietly walked up to the horse, placed his ed to elicit, is one of no mean order. In arm over one eye and his hand over the order therefore, to illustrate this progress other, and breathed into the nostrils. It it will be necessary for us to look, first, was pleasing to observe how agreeable at the practice of agriculture previous to this operation appeared to the horse, who put up his nose to receive the 'puff.' In tending to produce a change; third, the this manner W. led the horse through the result of these influences, as developed in fields to the stable yard, where he exam- the practice up to the present time. ined the fore feet of the horse, who offered no resistance-but while W. was exam. land before the Roman invasion, we find ining the hind feet, bent its neck round, little mention made by historians. We

ing portions of decayed leaves and small | agricultural experiments, &c.; Agricultural experi

solved to publish these particulars, gentlehis nostrils.

From the Transactions of the N. Y. Apricultural Society.

ENGLISH AGRICULTURE --- A GEANCE AT ITS PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS. John Hunnam, North Derghton,

Wetheroy, Yorkshire, England, The paramount importance of, agriof its dam. This is one of the most ex. its capability of rendering a people indetraordinary things that I have met with pendent of others for the means of life in the habits of this wild country, and al. and enjoyment, have always entitled it to though I had often heard of it, and felt take the first rank in a nation's estimation. unable exactly to believe it, I am now | And, although it has not always secured wiling to bear testimony to the fact from this estimation, we shall find, if we exthe numerous instances which I have wit- amine carefully the records of both sacred nessed since I came into the country .-- and profate history, that the policy which During the time that I resided at this post, has sanctioned this neglect, has caused But although this truth has been open

extraordinary evidence of the perversity of human intelligence that it is only within, comparatively speaking, a few years, that it has been perceived, or at least acknowledged, so as to be acted upon in England. The effect, however, of this knowledge has been so magical, yet so pulpably evident; the improvement and extension of agriculture, as a practice, tamed. When the Indian has got him has been so rapid, and its estimation, as well secured with the lasso, and a pair of a science so great, that it would be a labor on the animal's eyes, and at length to be fully appreciated by every inquiring less variety, of seasons and climate combine Mr. Ellis chanced to read this account to make exceptions to every principle, of the subject, in a paper like the present, "Saturday, February 12, 1842 .- and that too, in the few days which cir

necessarily practised and extended with tris, while the horse offered no resistance. the increase of population, should remain, comparatively speaking, stationary; at least that it should be surpassed by every other art or science, in all approaches to the period of transition; at the influence

Of the practice of agriculture in Engand kept nosing W's. back. He next are told by Casar that it had made some

manners, the arts and the vices of Rome. cate as many weeds as possible." Africa, Spain, Gaul and Pannonia, are as For this purpose, the hoe was used liis, attested by Apuleius, Straco and Pa- berally. Crops, when too luxuriant were, men, farmers, trainers, and others, may at terculus, evidences of the manner in as now, depastured for a time. The seed least try so simple a plan, and thus test | which " the nations of the empire insensi- was sown in the ridge, as well as broadand determine its value. Mr. Ellis is of bly melted away into the Roman name cast furow, a practice now termed 'ribopinion, that this is the secret of the cele- and people." And Britain, if we may be bing, and which, with an efficient sys-Windsor, Oxley .- Mr. Catlin, in his work brated Irish horse tamers .- and we re- lieve Tacitus, was not an exception. tem of ploughing, if not superior, is equal on the manners and customs of the North member that in more than one recorded Thus, he tells us that Agricola, " to wean to the drill system. American Indians, gave the following instance of their power, they pretended them from their savage customs, enticed account of the method of taming the wild to whisper to the animal, and played with them with pleasure, and encouraged them draining was esteemed and practised in his head, and thus probably, breathed into to build temples," &c. Also, that, "to es- some degree, if we may judge by the tablish a system of education, and to mention made by the Latin writers, of the give the sons of the leading men a know. ledge of letters, was part of his policy," and that by these and other means, " they who had always disdained the Roman language, began to cultivate its beauties. The Roman apparel was seen without ducks, hens, bees, &c. &c. occupied their prejudice, and the toga became a fashionable part of dress. By degrees the charms breeds were propagated upon principles. its instinct would attach it to the company culture, as a producer of national wealth, of vice gained admission to their hearts; some of which would be well worthy of baths, porticoes and elegant hanquets attention at the present day. grew into vogue, and the new manures, which in fact seemed only to sweeten slavery, were, by the unsuspecting Britons, called the arts of polished humanity." With the other arts of Rome, it is but is, therefore, fair to presume not merely fair, therefore, to presume that her colonists introduced and practiced her agri- system of Agriculture into Britain, as culture. Indeed, it must have been stated by all authorities, but that they both introduced and encouraged, for we introduced the Roman system, and made have it from the Emperor Julian himself, use of Roman experience in practising (Orat, ad S. P. Q. Atheniensum, p. 290.) it. Reason tells us it must have been 600 vessels with corn exacted from the Britons. " And if, says Gibbon, (ch. 19. Decline and Fall of Rom. Empire.) "we tom, not merely in Britain, but wherever compute those vessels at only 70 tons each, they were capable of exporting 120,000

state of agriculture." climate and other differences between the we have no records illustrative of the subject, it is impossible for the fact to be otherwise; for at the period when Rome sent her colonists to Britain, agriculture, was, and continued for ages afterwards, to be the most honorable and esteemed of all professions. Her highest characters, awould praise a deserving man, he was called a farmer and a good husbandman." But not only had it attained this estimation as a profession, but had made no and observation had removed the errors of Virgil, Columella and Pliny had employed their pens in promulgating its principles. Thus, we are told that they cultivated wheat, barley, oats, beans, peas, lupines, kidney beans, tares, turnips, &c.; tells, (Dee, and Fall, c. 2.) that " the use and that the assured supply of wholesome and herds, which, in their turn, contributhat system which has enabled the farmer of the present day, by alternate white and green creas, to double the value of his produce and to increase the fertility of

pits in which to store it, in order to pre- this management. vent the double waste. In this, they liquid from it, is worthy of our imitation. Thus, Tusser says: A still further knowledge of the value of manure is displayed by the Romans in their burning the stubble, collecting ashes and even sowing green crops for the purpose of ploughing in (Varro. 1. c., 3.)

They also used top dressings of hot ma. nures, such as pigeon's dung, powdered, which was put in with the hoe. In the practical operations of agriculture, when we take into account the simple mechanism they employed, they were by no means contemptible. Thus, Pliny tells us that they were particularly careful in ploughing, endeavoring to have perfectly straight and even furrows. They ploughed the land three times over, always before sowing; sometimes taking a furrow nine inch deep, and sometimes only three. On heavy soil, nine ploughings neglect of cattle for sheep, had so the

more savage life, living upon the game of appear that the advantage arising to vethe forest and the spontaneous product getation, from the soil being well palvertions of the earth. After the conquest of ised, was well known; for Cato being ask-Britain, a change took place. "Where- ed. "What is good tillage?" answers, soever the Roman conquers. he inhabits," "To plough." "What is the next?" says Senecra, (Consolat, ad Helvatiam c. "To plough." "The third, to manure, 6;) and where he inhabited, he ory assures The remainder, is to sow plentifully. to us he always carried the language, the choose the seed carefully, and to eradi-

Among their permanent improvements, good effects derived from it, and by the particular directions given as to their construction.

Live stock in which we include horses,. oxen, asses, sheep, goats, swine, geese, care and attention. And the various

Indeed, let us look which way we will upon the subject, we find the high estimation in which it was held as a profession, an index of its advance as a practice. It that the Roman colonists introduced a that he at one time freighted a fleet of so; for facts, some of which we have mentioned, show that she did so, with re- .. spect to every other art, science, or cusshe carried her victorious arms.

In the preceding sketch therefore, of quarters, and the country which could the practice of the Ro nans, we obtain a bear this must have attained an improved pretty correct, and indeed the only view of the agriculture of England during the From these facts, then, it will be evi- first five centuries of the Christian era. dent that if we would look at the condition It is true that a difference in the climate. of English agriculture during the first five &c. might cause some sligh variation in centuries. we must turn to that of Rome. the practices of the two countries. But, Indeed, our reason tells us that, practised in the foregoing summary of agricultural by Romans themselves for more than 400 knowledge, as practised by the Romans, years, it must have approximated to that during the time Britain was a part of their of the mother country almost as much as Empire, it will be obvious that we have recorded nothing but what was adopted to two countries would allow. But although | England. It would therefore, be fair to infer that every practice there mentioned was adopted. Assuming this, and look. ing forward for a thousand years, we observe the phenomena which we have before mentioned, as characterising the progress (if it be not an Hibernicism, so to call it,) of agriculture till a late period. mongst whom it will suffice to mention For even if we make the liberal allowance Cincinnatus and Curius Dentatus, em- for a degeneracy in the science, owing to ployed themselves in the pursuit; and the transplanting it from Italian to Eng-Cato himself tells us that "when they lish soil, we cannot, till after the sixteenth century, discover the least improvement developed in the practice.

Thus we can find no advance made in the use of tillages, in the construction mean advance as a practice. Industry of implements, or in permanent improvements. The old Roman system of an ancient custom, and Cato, Varro, Cicero, alternate crop and fallow, or at most, of two crops and a fallow, still held its unquestioned sway. Nor do we discover any traces of those artificial grasses which Gibbon tells us increased the number of herds and the fertility of the soil. also, the vines, olives, &c. Gibbon, too, It is possible, however, that the Romans never did introduce these into England, of artificial grasses become familiar to the or they could scarcely have gone comfarmers both of Italy and the provinces; pletely out of use. Owing to this, we find that the principal part of the land and plentiful food for the cattle during was grazed on open commons; while winter, multiplied the number of flocks those lands nearest their habitations were cultivated for the growth of corn. ted to the fertility of the soil." Thus, in The consequence of this was, that as there fact. they had partly approximated to was no fodder to be had, but such as was grown on natural meadows, the cattlestaryed apon the hungry common during winter, and the enclosed land, owing to no manure being made, grew gradually less productive. Thus we are told that Of manures, they used those animal they experienced the greatest difficulty and vegetable ones which are at the pre- in keeping their cattle alive during winsent day employed. Lime, mad, and ter; that many died and many were various composts were in use. Of the killed (to use an Irishism) to keep them value, too, of liquid manure, and of the from dying. That their oxen, too, were injury done to the dung-heap by being too so badly fed that it required six to plough long exposed to the action of the atmos- half an acre per day; and that four times phere, they were conscious, and dung the seed was reckoned a fair crop, under

Their variety of crops was very limited, made a slight approach to the Flemmings oats, barley, rye, pease, being the staple of the present age, whose careful manage- productions. Wheat, the farmer's payment of their farmyard manure, and the ing crop, was then very little grown,

> " In Suffolk again, where wheat mover grew." Even at the commencement of the 17th century, it was a luxury confined to the tables of the nobility of the

The most important part of the farmer's possessions, was the live stock. And it only wanted a better system of management in the production of, food, to have made him progress in this branch of his profession. Cattle, however, could make but a poor growth on the common. pastures, or indeed, upon any pastures during the winter months, and consequently, they were a scarce stock. Sheep them to be kept in great quantities. The were frequently given. They made a creased that we find it ordained in 180