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By M. MAC LEAN.

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### AGRICULTURAL.

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

ENGLISH AGRICULTURE—A GLANCE AT ITS PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS.

(Continued from week before last.)

By John Hannam, North Deighton, (Wetherby, Yorkshire, England.—Continued.)

To trace the progress of the practice of agriculture since the period when it was beginning to be considered a branch of natural science, and capable of elucidation by the application of the true rules of philosophy, is not our aim. From the first birth of this principle, as we have already shown, it was some time before it became visible upon the practice. Although in the Elizabethan age, the profession became more fashionable, though Fitzherbert, Tusser and Platt, the three first writers on the subject, collected the well tried axioms of the ancients, and urged many practices which had been neglected; their works show us what an educated amateur considered ought to be done rather than what was done, in the 16th century; and it was not until the middle of the 17th, that in the writings of Bligh and Weston we see the actual operation of the spirit of change. By the former, (in 1652,) we have recommended the cultivation of clover. And by the latter (1684) the turnip as the fodder, the use of which crops have completely revolutionized the state of agriculture. But it was not till the next century, that they came fairly into use, from which the present practice may be said to date its existence; nor till some time after that the triumph of a modern spirit of improvement became fully developed. The bold views of Tull, (1740,) gave at once the finish to the new system of cropping (which arose from the growth of clover and turnips,) and a lasting impulse to the principle which had produced the change. In the practical labors of Bakewell, and the Messrs. Cully, and the endeavors of such men as Lord Kames, to improve agriculture by subjecting it to the test of rational principles, we see the continued influence of the new born spirit of progress, and in the present position of English agriculture, the results of that operation.

The nature of this position will be seen in its elevated standing and high estimation as a science, which have secured to it within the last 15 years, the labors of such men as Davy, Sinclair, Daubeny, Henslowe, Johnston, Loudon, Lowe, Stephens, Johnson, and Maden, and aid of professors at our universities, and the united effort of more than three hundred societies, established for the purpose of elucidating, truth, discerning error, and promulgating the latest improvements in the theory or the practice of agriculture—societies too, patronized by all that have a name or a standing in the country. Thus the Royal Society of England, though but of 3 years standing, possesses not merely the suffrage, or passive patronage of royalty, but the active support of that illustrious individual, who, it is reported, is soon to assume the dignity of King Consort,\* and of more than five thousand other members.

Its position as a practice exhibits an equal advance. The first and chief evidence of this, which we shall notice, is seen in the change from the old infield and outfield system, and the alternate crop and fallow, or two crops and a fallow, to the present system of drill husbandry, and the rotation of barley, clover, wheat and fallow upon stiff land; and of barley, clover, wheat and turnips upon light and dry soils. The first advantage arising from this change, on strong land, is the gain of a crop instead of a fallow, and as this crop is one of fodder or pasturage, the consequent ability to supply the market with a greater weight of stock; the second is an increase of fertility in the soil from the increased quality of manure made upon the farm; the third is a better chance of the wheat crop from its natural liking to follow clover; and the fourth an increase of fertility in every crop from the drill system and from the facility with which weeds may be extirpated, half a fallow made, and the soil at the roots of the plant stirred—a practice which theory and experience prove to be highly beneficial to vegetation.

\* This is the report since the Prince of Wales's birth. It is to prevent a confusion of names and the unpleasant circumstance of the son taking precedence of the son taking precedence of the father. Prince Albert is now a Governor of the Royal Agricultural Society, and has taken into his own hands a farm at Windsor. He was also elected on the 20th of this month. (Dec. 1841,) a member of the Southfield Club.

But this is not all; by the introduction of the mangel wurtzel, the carrot, &c. into cultivation, the farmer is at times able to do without a fallow in the rotation. By judicious and effectual drainage, subsoil ploughing, many farmers can grow turnips on this stiff land; and it is yet a *questio re nata* whether or not the fallow may not be entirely dispensed with. This is certain, however, that many of the best practical men of the day think it possible, and many upon a few fields which are thoroughly drained, do dispense with the fallow and produce a fair turnip crop. And I have no doubt but that either this or some other green crop will, in the course of time extend the system, so that the fallow will become the exception and not the rule, for the old idea that the land wants rests is quite abandoned.

The effect of the turnip and clover husbandry upon the light and thin soils of England is still more marked. Without fodder, it is an old axiom, there is no cattle, without cattle no manure, and without manure no corn. The total abolition of the fallow, and the substitution of two crops of green food, has, therefore, upon the light lands, produced in a greater degree those advantages which we have enumerated as having and its by a partial adoption of the same system upon the heavy lands of England. Moreover the treading of sheep has almost beneficial effect; so that those soils, which formerly would scarcely return the seed, now produce as fine crops of corn [wheat,] as can be met with in England. The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire wolds are startling evidences of the truth of this; and I can look out at the present moment upon 500 acres of thin limestone soil which 50 years ago paid, and with difficulty, 5 shillings per acre, and which now are let at 25 shillings per acre. That the produce has increased in an equal or greater ratio than the rent, is evidenced by the prosperity of the present tenants. I know also a village a few miles from the city of York, the soil on one side of which is strong and deep, and on the other of light texture upon a limestone base. Not many years ago several farms of the heavy land were exchanged for twice the quantity of high land, the latter being considered very bad. At the present time, however, this *quondam* bad land, by the turnip and seed management, and the use of bones and rape dust, is considered the crack land of the district, and is letting at £2 and £2 10s. per acre, while the heavy soils on the other side of the village are not worth more than 15 shillings per acre, as they are not drained, and cannot be managed upon the improved system.

But there are several other rotations of cropping used in particular localities; but as they, for the most part, depend upon the same principle as the one we have noticed, they are but exceptions to the general rule, and space will not allow us to particularise them.

The next evidence of the improved practice of the present time is seen in the variety of crops. Wheat is no longer a partial crop—one produced in the garden soils of England—but is the farmers' *paying* crop. Countless varieties of seed are to be found adapted to almost every variety of soil and climate. In barley, oats, beans, peas, rices, rye, potatoes, turnips, carrots, parsnips, mangel-wurtzel, hops, line, and the artificial grasses, the same endless varieties are used, each variety being selected for some peculiar quality. In this small township, last year, I counted no less than fifteen varieties of turnips. Six sorts I myself introduced from the splendid stock of Mr. Matson, of Wingham, Kent. None of the sorts have been grown here before, and they have answered so well in what is called a bad year, that I have no doubt but in a year or two they will be extensively used in this part of the country, to the equal benefit of the purchaser and the producer of the seed. Now, in every article of produce the same improvement is yearly progressing, because farmers are no longer averse to *rational experiments*, and not so much prejudiced in favor of old plans. It is, consequently, worth the while of such men as Mr. Matson, Mr. Skirving, (of Liverpool) *cum multis aliis*, to devote their time, talents and capital, in raising the best and most pure varieties of seed.

In manures we have manifest the results of the same spirit. Along with a greater skill in the economy of the manure heaps, an increasing use and saving of the liquid from the cattle yard, and a more judicious application of the various composts which have been employed for ages, we have now in use a variety of hand tillages which are of modern date, at least as far as regards their general use, amongst which we may mention bones, rape dust, nitrate of potash, nitrate of soda, gypsum, arate, common salt, soot, Lance's carbon, Poitevin's disinfected manure, Alexander's Chinese manure, rags, graves, soap-ashes, &c. &c.

Of the change in agricultural implements, it is unnecessary to say that it has been wonderful. The transition from the state of things under which the hammer and the axe were the alpha and the omega of the farmer's stock of implements, (when it was a *qua non* amongst the ploughman's qualifications to be able to make his own plough,) is evident to all. If, however, we look at the advance in

the mechanism of implements within the last few years, and take into account the time in which the several changes, have taken place, we shall at once allow the part to be more astonishing than the whole; that the improvements made in the least dozen years are far more marked than all that were made previously. The fact is that the exhibitions and rewards of our agricultural societies have given an impetus to the spirit of experimental research in the bosom of the mechanic, and the result is an advance in knowledge equal to that in any other branch of the practice of agriculture, by the adoption and agency of the same spirit. A practical commentary upon these remarks is offered by the fact that the one maker (*Ransome, Ipswich*.) exhibited no less than thirty-six varieties of ploughs at the last meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

In the live stock of the farm the working and the results of the same spirit are apparent. About ten years after Tull launched boldly the barque of theoretical agriculture, and set open forever the door of improvement, Mr. Bakewell commended those experiments upon breeding, which as he based them upon rational principles, and upon a deep and observing knowledge of the nature of the animals he wished to improve, were attended with the most decided success. Thus the sheep which he introduced, and the Messrs. Cully carried to perfection, possessed the quality of being fatted at little more than two years old, while the old breed were scarcely ever fit for the shambles till they were twice that age. This advantage was appreciated, for we know that one of his rams was let for the season for 800 guineas, and that the produce of one ewe and one birth (three rams) were let for 1200 guineas. His bulls, too, fetched 108 and 150 guineas each. Since this time, breeding has continued to be a branch of agricultural science by no means attained without time and study and capital. Yet it is still growing more and more popular; and although the gradual diffusion of the sheep and cattle descended from Mr. Bakewell's stock has reduced the prices, a good animal of any pure breed is yet sought after with avidity, and purchased at a sum far above his intrinsic value for any other purpose than breeding. Thus we read that Mr. Jonas Webb, of Babraham, Sussex, let a South-down ram for 100 guineas, to the Duke of Richmond, at his last show; and, (I take the first case which comes to my hand,) Mr. Smith, of Burley, let fifty-one rams at an average of £10 4s. each, and twelve at an average of £18 10s. The following statement of the prices fetched by animals of the Short Horn, Hereford, Sussex and Devon breeds, at the latest sales of each sort which we can meet with, will show in what estimation well bred cattle are held. Thus,

SHORT HORNS.		Guineas.
"Buchan Hero," (prize bull at Berkshire) sold to Messrs Whittaker & Tempest, Yorkshire, for Messrs. Higginson & Wilson's "Sir Thomas Fairfax," for Mr. Jacques' (Richmond, Yorkshire)		200
"Clement,"		155
Mr. Wilson's [Yorkshire] "Young Sir Walkin,"		100
<b>Cows.</b>		
Mr. Jacques' "Merrmaid,"		165
do "Golden Drop,"		160
do "Lady Ann,"		135
do "Rachel,"		100
Mr. Higginson's (Yorkshire), "Amazon,"		135
do do "Alexandrina,"		240
Mr. Wilson's "Brawith Bub,"		216
<b>Calves.</b>		
Mr. Jacques' bull calf, "Dulcimer,"		105
do heifer calf, "Hippodamia,"		60
do do "Purity,"		51
Mr. Wilson's do "Snowdrop,"		60
do do "White Rose,"		42
<b>HEREFORDS.</b>		
<b>Bulls.</b>		
Mr. Price's "Tramp,"		100
do "Trueboy,"		140
do "Washington,"		168
do "Murphy Delany,"		110
do "The Rejected,"		110
do "Victory,"		100
<b>Cows.</b>		
Mr. Price's "Wood Pigeon,"		150
do "Ceres,"		115
do "Tuberosa,"		100
<b>Calves.</b>		
Mr. Price's 12 bull calves at average price of £42 10s. each.		do 10 heifers calves do do 27 5s. 4d. and
<b>Sussex.</b>		
<b>Bulls.</b>		
Mr. Putland's old bull,		52
<b>Cows.</b>		
do one at		60
do do		50
<b>DEVONS.</b>		
<b>Bulls.</b>		
One of Mr. Quartley's (Molland) 18 months,		97
<b>Cows.</b>		
do do "Comely,"		53
<b>Calves.</b>		
One at		21-12
do		181-2
At Mr. Parkinson's sale last year, (1840) the "Adelaide" sold for 220 guineas, and a bull calf, "Collard," for 200.		
To pigs, it is possible, greater attention is		

paid than to any other animals. The pig is the poor man's stock, and of course is his study, so that a knowledge of his "points" and qualities is more generally diffused than of any other animal. The poor man loves his pig; he looks upon him as his winter food, and it is rare that we find him ignorant of what sort of an animal will turn out well. Rare too, is it, to find the badly kept. The "pig first, pig family next," is the motto of many. "We had better be pinched in summer than in winter," was the expression of one who practised this principle. Still more rare, therefore, is it to find that the cottager's judgment and care are thrown away. The individual alluded to above, is an instance: This pig, though of the short eared breed, at 12 months old took the first premium, at the Wetherby meeting, as "the best fair pig," and at 15 months, produced 440 lbs. of bacon.

At the last pig sale in this neighborhood, four young sows of the Rev. Mr. Higginson, fetched £75; and three, at 3 months old, sold for £45.

Of the value, however, of our various breeds of swine, the American farmer appears to be aware; hence the large importation of each sort into the new world, and Mr. Allen's tour will not, I presume, diminish the demand.

In breeding and training the horse, the English farmer has attained the highest possible standing. The English race horse and hunters, carriage horses, and cart horses, are the admiration of the whole world. The extent of the stock of English horses may be judged from the fact that one English dealer, (Mr. Elmore, has engaged to supply the French government with 2500 cavalry horses in three months: and the quality from the circumstances that though the agreement is now nearly completed, our own stock is so far from being injured, absolutely relieved, (the horses sent, being those hybrids, between the hunter and the chapman, which are the breeders' "weeds;") and that even the horses rejected by the inspecting officer, are readily sold at a much higher price than the government gives. Vid. Nimrod's Foreign Sporting New-Monthly Mag. No. 250, page 250.)

The pure bred animals of each class are kept at home at superior prices: The race horse varying in price from hundreds to thousands; the hunter from £50 to £200; the carriage horse from £30 to £100, and the cart horse from 5l to 40l.

Of the permanent improvement in the soils of England, which have been made within the last century, but light mention can be made here. Amongst the most important of the means used, are draining, subsoil ploughing, irrigation and warping. Draining, irrigation, and even subsoil ploughing were no doubt known in the olden time; their extensive adoption, however, as a means of fertilizing the soil, is a modern improvement. Thus though English farmers have known for ages how to convey water from one place to another by a drain, we do not find that it was ever employed to thoroughly alter the constitutional and general temperature of soil. It was not, then, till the general reactions in the spirit of agriculture took place, till Tull, by fanning the spark into a sudden flame, set others to think as well as himself, and till Bakewell had applied the principle to breeding, that it began to be understood fully. The labors of Dr. Anderson and Mr. Elkington, [1761] showed at once that it was an agent which if properly used would be of an immense benefit to and how it should be used. Since that time, it has assumed the shape of progressive system dependent on scientific principles, and as such has improved in its practical details and in its results.

The advantageous effect of draining upon heavy soils must be just as great as the injurious effect of too much water. What these evil effects are, Professor Johnston in his Lectures at the Durham University, has shown; and Dr. Madden, in an elaborate paper in the "Quarterly Journal of Agriculture," for this month, (Dec. 1841,) shows most beautifully the mechanical as well as the chemical action by which too much moisture injures the vegetative process. To quote from either of these authorities in this hasty sketch, is not in our power.

The good effects of irrigation and warping; both merely systems of applying weak liquid manure in immense quantities, and of the subsoil plough as an instrument by which the water is permitted to diffuse itself more generally through, and the atmosphere to act upon the tenacious subsoil, so as to make a change as it were in the general character of the component parts of the soil, may also be philosophically demonstrated. But it is in each case unnecessary. We have the proof positive in millions of acres. Thus the fens of Lincolnshire, Huntingdonshire, and Cambridgeshire, which 50 years ago were stagnant marshes, and are now luxuriant pastures. Chat Moss (Lancashire,) in 1820 a yaw-

\* 300,000 acres of the Lincolnshire fens have been reclaimed. In other countries many acres have been similarly reclaimed. 25,000 acres of Deeping fen are drained by two steam engines of 60 and 40 horse power.

ning morass, and now a golden cornfield, studied with *incipient villas*, and the statements of Mr. Denison of Kilwich Percy, (Transactions of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society,) of the Rev. Mr. Craft, Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, vol. 2 p. 32, of Sir Jas Graham (Journal of the Royal English Agricultural Society, vol. 1, p. 32,) and of the author of the British Husbandry, [vide Pamphlet on land draining, &c.] exhibiting as they do a change from comparative sterility to fertility, from a nominal to a fair rent, are practical evidences of the value of the permanent improvements produced by draining, warping, irrigation, and subsoil ploughing. They are evidences too, which, while they profess to record what the system has done for individuals, are really illustrations of what it is doing for all.

Such, then, is a brief sketch of the advance made in the several departments of English agriculture, up to the present period. Of the whole progress, the one county of Lincoln is a lucid epitome. Divided into three natural portions, the fens, the heaths, and the wolds, the former of which, fifty years ago, was an unprofitable marsh, and the latter barren sheep walks or miserable outlands; yet now, by the aid of draining, 200,000 acres of the fens are luxuriant pastures, which bear a heavy stock of as fine cattle as can be met with in England; while the wolds, and the heaths, by the adoption of the turnip and clover culture, and the use of bones and rape dust, send to the market countless flocks of sheep, and as fine samples of wheat as can be found anywhere.

Thus we learn from the evidence of Mr. R. J. Atkinson, Mr. Francis Isles, and Mr. John Houghton, [vide "Commons, 1837,"] that on the whole of the lands from Louth to Barton, where thirty or forty years ago wheat was scarcely known, and the land was generally speaking, uncultivated, much improvement has been made, even within ten years; that 25 to 30 bushels of wheat is an average crop; that it is of a fine quality, and can compete in the markets with that grown on strong lands; also, that when clay land has been drained, in some districts, it will bear green crops.

### REMARKS OF MR. CAMPBELL, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, In the House of Representatives July 6, 1842.

A motion to "refer to the select committee appointed on that subject, an authenticated copy of the reasons filed in the State Department by the President of the United States for approving the apportionment bill," being under consideration—

Mr. Campbell said that, in advocating the reference proposed, he was confident he was influenced by no feeling of hostility to the President. So far from it, he thought the whole country owed to that eminent individual a debt of gratitude—not only for having, with the self-devotion of the Roman Curtius, twice saved it from the yoke of a United States Bank; but for having recently prevented the spirit of the Constitution, which contemplates the unbiased exercise of the opinion of the Executive in the approval of bills, being violated in his person, through the attempt that was made to enforce his approval of measures which he was known to be opposed to, by incorporating those measures in a revenue bill, which it was supposed that the urgent necessities of the treasury would compel him to sanction.

However much the majority here might differ from the President in relation to these acts, it appeared to him that, when the excitement of party had subsided, all, in a calm review of these transactions, would be compelled to award to him the praise of an uncompromising adherence to principle in the midst of no ordinary trials, a firmness of resolve, and a conscientious discharge of duty in the administration of the Government, that entitled him to respect.

Mr. C. had made these remarks to show that he was influenced by no personal or political prejudice in disapproving the course which the President had adopted in approving the apportionment bill—a course which he conceived to be not only unauthorized by the Constitution, but was a dangerous (though he did not doubt an unintentional) encroachment on the privileges of the House.

The language of the Constitution is, that— "That every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approve, he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large upon their journal, and proceed to reconsider it."

The reason of the difference thus prescribed in relation to the duties of the President, when he approves and when he does not approve a bill, must be manifest to every gentleman on the slightest consideration. His declining to approve

a bill, is not the absolute negative of the Roman tribune; it is only a qualified negative, wisely provided as a safeguard against inconsiderate legislation, and produces the necessity of a re-consideration, in which, if the bill receives the approbation of two-thirds of both Houses of Congress, it becomes a law, notwithstanding his objections. In this re-consideration, made necessary by the express command of the Constitution, it is certainly proper that the objections of the President should be in our possession, in order that they may be fully examined. But there is no language in the Constitution which justifies him, in approving a bill, either to assign his reasons for so doing on the bill itself, or to file them in the archives of the Government; and, notwithstanding the ingenious arguments of the gentleman [Mr. Cushing] who has just taken his seat, there is nothing in its spirit which justifies him for so doing. The gentleman argued that the "President is possessed, in part, of legislative power; because his co-operation is necessary to the creation of a law, unless, after his veto, it is passed by a majority of two thirds of both branches of Congress; that the members of either House assigned their reasons for approving a bill;" and inquires "why the President should not be allowed the same privilege?" Without altogether concurring in, or altogether objecting to, the position given by the gentleman of the nature of the powers vested in the President, it was sufficient for him to say that the members of neither House of Congress claimed or exercised the right to file their reasons in the public archives for approving or opposing a bill. He did not object that the President should assign his reasons for approving a bill, either in communications to his friends, or through the public press, to the country. The press was as open to him as it was to any citizen. He had indeed been told, the moment before he rose to address the House, that Gen. Jackson had imitated, through the columns of the Globe, in 1836, that he intended to assign his reasons to the country, through the press, for approving the distribution act of that year.

The gentleman [Mr. Cushing] had also argued that the President might be considered as "possessing judicial power," which he illustrated by his right to approve or disapprove the sentences of courts-martial. That power, however, if judicial it may be called, Mr. Campbell contended, must be confined, within the limits of the Constitution, to the approval or disapproval of sentences of courts-martial; and does not authorize the President, clothed with authority and patronage, at the moment of approving a law, to file an exposition of his reasons for so doing—giving, perhaps, a construction to the law, by which the courts and juries of the country may be overawed, or intimidated, or in some other manner influenced, in the independent discharge of their duties.

To show conclusively the impropriety of the course adopted by the President, let us suppose that, in the moment of approving a criminal law, he should file an exposition of his reasons for so doing in the Department of State, giving a construction to it different from the construction afterwards given by the court. An individual is indicted under this law, tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death. He applies to the President for pardon. He says to him: "Sir, according to the construction which you placed upon the law, and filed in the archives of the country at the moment of signing it, I would not have been found guilty; but the courts have construed it differently, and I am sentenced to die. To you is confided the pardoning power; and had it not been for the prospect of impunity held out to me by your act, I would never have committed the deed for which I am condemned." No matter what change may have taken place in the President's opinion in relation to the proper construction of the law, he would be bound in honor, in religion, and in humanity, to pardon the individual, who, perhaps, without this unauthorized act of his, would never have been guilty of the crime for which he was condemned. Thus you see that, by this course, the President might not only exercise an indirect influence over the courts, but destroy his own independence in the administration of the laws.

But why should we suppose cases of aggravation, when there is not one in the whole catalogue of laws, in which such an act on the part of the President could be so alarming as in the present? The apportionment law, for approving which he has filed his reasons in the State Department, is an election law, intended exclusively to regulate the elections of the members of this House. Under the Constitution, each House is the exclusive judge of the "qualifications, returns, and elections of its members." Here, however, is an interpretation put upon the law by the President, expressing a strong law by the President, expressing a strong doubt of its constitutionality, which is calculated to influence the judgment of members, in deciding upon elections held under it. With such jealous watchfulness has this House heretofore guarded its privileges, that, rather than allow the other branch of the Legislature to participate so far as even to give its sanction to rules of evidence to govern cases of contested elections, it has submitted for