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By M. MACLEAN.

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AGRICULTURAL.

From the Farmers' Register.

NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.—COTTON INSECTS.

Extract from an Address on Agriculture, delivered before the Alabama State Agricultural Society, on 7th Dec. 1841. By the Rev. Dr. Manly.

Experiments for the improvement of Agriculture, as they require, when conducted to the best advantage, considerable surplus wealth, much time, patience, and accuracy, and the highest qualities of intelligence; and as, when successful, they issue in the most momentous results, are worthy the first efforts genius, and the highest aspirations of patriotism.

No improvements are made without experiments. It is true, they are not absolutely confined to the rich. There is even an advantage, when practical men of limited means, who live by the returns of their labor, can be induced to try them. These will always make them on a plan in which failure will not be injurious, and success will be universally beneficial; because the poorest may copy out the processes and realize the results. But it is a duty specially incumbent on planters of substantial independence. Some experiments, of course, will be failures; and such are able to hazard something. The fear of being thought visionary, may deter men from a course of experimenting.—And what if the imputation should actually be made? This is what has happened to every individual who has devoted himself to the enlargement of the boundaries of knowledge. But even visionary schemes are a more deserving class of men than those who will attempt no improvement. For, from the results which they reach, though useless to themselves, wise and practical men will derive important hints; and thus, incidentally, do good; while, as they never set out to get rich, their failure is the less disappointment to them, and they need not our pity.

I must not be met here, by the insane outcry against "book-farming," and against science as useless to agriculture. I wish not to argue the question on general principles, with this class of objectors. I will advert to facts too stubborn to be overthrown,—to facts, too near the cotton planter's interests and feelings to be disregarded, or overlooked.

Every planter knows something of the deprecations of the "lice"—the little insect that preys upon the cotton when very young, in the spring. Another familiar enemy is the worm that perforates the boll in August. Either of these is sufficiently injurious alone; and sometimes they are both, in their seasons, propagated and carried through their transformations in the same field.

Will any planter present consider for himself what average deduction from the cotton crop of Alabama should be made, arising from these two causes? We know that, in some seasons, the loss amounts to half the crop. And what, in round numbers, is the average market value of the cotton crop of Alabama, unrebated by the deprecations of these insects? The average crop now, is about 300,000 bales; worth at least \$10,500,000. Suppose it diminished one fourth, the average annual loss would then be over \$2,600,000. This year has been much less destructive than many years are, perhaps less than the average years. And yet a single planter of Perry county told me, a few days ago, that in this very year they had destroyed for him, at the least calculation, 400,000 lbs. of seed cotton; worth \$8,000! Science, it is true, may cost something, but ignorance costs much more! We hear much of the burdens of education. But here is a clear annual contribution to ignorance, of \$8,000 from one man; and all the planters in the State have contributed in the like proportion.

Science spares the illiberal, the unwilling; but ignorance is all-comprehending, inexorable, and relentless.

Now, suppose that any foreign enemy sweeping our coast, or any savage for lurking on our frontier, should annually levy a contribution, by open force, or secret violence, equal to the deprecations of the insects, how would this be entertained? Although but few persons comparatively were interested, every man in the State would be ready to fly to arms,—the whole power of the general government would be roused to resistance; and neither land nor sea would furnish hiding-places so remote or obscure, nor fortresses so impregnable, as to shelter the aggressors from merited vengeance. Millions on millions would be lavished, and life profusely devoted, in the patriotic effort to arrest the depredation.

But here is a depredation, that goes on from year to year, "laying taxes without our consent," to an amount not only indefinite, but absolutely incalculable, upon the whole body of southern planters, and through them upon the whole union; and yet the whole body of them, the high-minded and chivalrous, the keen and calculating, the bold, restless, and indomitable together, tamely pocket the affront! The colossal, and almost irresistible power of Great Britain could not collect from our feeble colonies in '76, a paltry tax of three pence a pound on imported tea, levied without their consent! But here is the richest production

on the face, or in the bowels of the earth, cut off sometimes by half; and the richest body of men that ever lived on it, foiled, discomfited, reduced to abject submission, that scarcely thinks of the means of protection, by an insect, a butterfly, a louse, a maggot!

It is already in the minds of some of this audience to say, "This is a providential infliction, and there is no contending against Providence." So are "briers and thorns" a providential infliction; but that is no reason why we should not cut them out of our fields. So is sickness a providential infliction; but that is no reason why we should not seek to prevent and to cure it.

The present state of man is a state of trial. As there are many facilities opened up by Providence, for the purpose of trial, not to be used, but avoided; so, there are many obstacles interposed from the same source, not to discourage and thwart us, but to test our ingenuity, resolution, and perseverance in overcoming them. And this is one of them: nor could men be placed in circumstances more favorable for contending with such a foe than the body of southern planters. They have wealth, leisure, and intelligence, and have not been thought deficient in energy. The result to be reached is of such magnitude as should provoke the ambition of the most cultivated, or wealthy. The philanthropist, even, could find no field more fit for the exercise of his high powers.

Were any person possessed of the secret by which in an easy, practicable method, these enemies of the cotton plant might certainly be prevented or dislodged; what might Alabama afford to give for such a secret? Millions! millions!! But is it really the case that a remedy for these ills is within the range of science? True science is modest, and does not assume to itself omnipotence, nor even seek favor by boastful pretensions. An answer to that question, however, may be inferred from her achievements in kindred branches of practical knowledge, known and read of all men; and from a view of the nature of the case.

On this subject, as the humble advocate of science, I would content myself with suggesting, that it is possible to capture some of these insects, to keep them supplied, in confinement, with every thing they could find in the fields, to oblige them to carry on all their operations, and pass through all their transformations, under the scrutinizing and unremitted observation of scientific and practical men; who would mark all the phenomena, their periods, their habits, their mode of propagation, their transformations, their winter abodes, and the circumstances which give them influence. I ask now any plain, common-sense, unlettered farmer, if there is not a glaring probability that such investigations, persevered in, might give the planter a hint by which he could adopt means, at least for the mitigation of the evil, so as to render it comparatively harmless?

Who will deny the possibility of success, in the instance of the cotton insects? We are sure that ignorance and inactivity will not find a remedy; perhaps science may. And the whole cost of the experiment for all time will not amount to the tenth part of what ignorance is now levying upon us, year by year!—It may cost the expense of an experimental farm, with suitable buildings, apparatus, and apparatus. It may cost the means of engaging the services of some four or five scientific men, skilled in natural history and chemistry; practical, laborious pains-taking men, who will be exclusively devoted to all inquiries affecting agriculture, joined with a communication of a thorough professional education, manual and intellectual, to all classes of our young men, who intend to be planters. It may cost this; the setting apart, in a permanent investment, of some \$250,000 perhaps, of the people's money, to do what may be styled, if ever any thing on earth could, the people's own business.

Could we even suppose it probable that the experiment would fail as a means of extermination of the insects in question, can any reasonable man doubt for a moment what would be the effect on the general interests of agriculture, of such an establishment? A body of able men professionally and exclusively employed in applying the deductions of science to the actual tillage of the soil, to the development of all its adaptations and resources in every part of the state, to the suggestion and practical trial of every species of improvement in all the productions and arts of husbandry, to the training up, by the union of virtue and personal labor, of a race of hardy, virtuous, enlightened cultivators of the soil,—the foundation and defence, the bone and sinew, the right eye and arm of the commonwealth?

Gentlemen, it is too plain to admit of a doubt, that such an establishment would, in the course of fifty years, repay to the state in one form or over the cost of the investment, one hundred times over.

From the Farmers' Register. LIME.—THE WHEAT CROP, &c.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Register.

I lament, my dear sir, that you should think of giving up your useful labors; believe me when I assure you that the Farmers' Register has been a great public benefit, and I must hope that you will not discontinue it. If you would be contented to take the vote of Virginia as your guide, I am sure you would have an overwhelming vote to go on. Men may differ, and do differ on every subject; from the hour that "darkness dwelt upon the face of the deep," man has dared to differ with his God, how then could you hope for agreement and sympathy? You have been his benefactor; what of that? Is he not in a free country, to take such things as he does, and his neighbor's grounds, and use them according to that barbarian thing called the "enclosing law," or "act of assembly." If a people be legislated into barbarity, why complain of them if they have not the fear of God upon their minds?

I owe much to your correspondents for amusement and instruction, and I would not on any account offend the least of them: let me, in this feeling, give you a few facts. I have used, in the last twelve years, seventy

thousand bushels of lime, with full and complete success. If I say the crops have been doubled, I am within the bounds of truth, save in two previous crops of wheat, which were failures. The present is very great, and I impute it to the difference in cultivation; the failures were after three and four ploughings, the present after one only.—This however is the ninth day since I began my harvest, and I have not, from rain, cut twenty acres. A few days more of such weather must sprout it all in the field.

My corn is fine, and that for twelve years or more has been planted upon one ploughing; it is then coultured twice, and the cultivator finishes. But let me add that 8 cultivators pass over my field in four days, and I am persuaded that I get more from the atmosphere than the corn uses in its growth. For this reason I call it my chameleon crop, and feed it freely.

My oat crop upon limed land is not slow to show the power of lime. My clover, sir, is the food, the meat and drink of all other crops. I save my own seed, and sow in the pug, twenty bushels to the acre, as clean as the hand rake will make it from the thrashing machine, and that is as little as we give. This gives dear old Mother Earth a perfect robe of green; and when the blossoms set, it takes no poet's imagination to see that the dear old lady is in a dignified strut. I never fail to give one or one and a half bushels of plaster in March; and say what you may or please about philosophy, plaster upon limed land is worth six times its weight in fine flour upon your table. I forgot to say that I put a spoonful of plaster to each hill of corn as soon as it is planted, and that I plaster my meadows every spring with full and entire satisfaction as to results. LIME—LIME—LIME. Fairfax county, June 18th, 1842.

From the Farmers' Register.

ON THE DEGENERATING AND NECESSARY CHANGES OF SEED WHEAT.

Shirley Dec. 10th, 1841.

Dear sir,—I observed a call upon some of the James river farmers in the last No. of the Farmers' Register to present their opposite views of preference for each of sundry different kinds of wheat as the supposed best crop, and as I was named among them, I will proceed to give some account of the different kinds of wheat which have been cultivated in this neighborhood, and the run they have had, for the last five and twenty years during which I have been a farmer. When I was a boy, about the year 1809, or 1810, I recollect hearing a good deal about the Baltimore bearded wheat, as it was then called, [or golden-chaff] which I believe had a great run about that time, and in 1810, when I began to farm, I found it yet in vogue, and quite popular, though the white May wheat was then the great rage, particularly for good land. The white May wheat had a run of some 10 or 15 years, and then degenerated so much as to be abandoned, and is now hardly to be met with at all.

The Mountain purple straw wheat next had its run, and a most admirable wheat it was, and the longest in degenerating of any wheat we have ever had; but, alas! it has had its day, for it has now degenerated very much. The next wheat was the turkey wheat, or blue stem, as it is called by some, which is a very superior wheat, and next to the purple straw the best wheat we have ever had, and promises to continue as long a favorite as the mountain purple straw did; but it will degenerate after a while no doubt, as all wheats in our climate do. There have been many other wheats which have been popular for short periods during the same time with the above wheats; for instance, the yellow lammas, the goose wheat, the white flint wheat, the Lawler wheat, the red May wheat, and many others; but they were short-lived. There is one thing I have observed in all new wheats, that they all, or nearly all of them, succeed well for a short period, and frequently better the first year than ever after; which has led me to suppose that our climate and soil have the effect to degenerate the wheat plant, and that we should procure new seed from a distance every five or ten years at least, or resort to selecting our seed from the most perfect and most forward heads every year, and keep up the quality in that way, which was done with the white May wheat formerly, and kept it up no doubt for a longer time than it otherwise would have been; but even that proved ineffectual at last, and nothing but the introduction of new wheats from a distance will, I believe, answer perfectly.

N. B. I omitted to say in the communication above that I have found the turkey wheat for fallow and early sowing, and the red bearded wheat for late sowing, or corn-field, the best. The red bearded wheat, until a few years back, was not sown on my plantation for 15 years, and I think succeeds better in consequence of it.

If the agricultural board could induce the general government to import seed of various kinds from foreign countries in our national ships, and distribute them about the country, it would be one of the best means of aiding agriculture they could adopt; for it is impossible for private individuals to do it effectually. I myself a few years ago got a friend to bring me in a couple of bushels of seed wheat from England, and not a grain of it came up; but if it had been brought in by a fine, dry, airy national ship, and proper precaution taken to secure it from the damp of the ship, it might have succeeded. Change of seed in plants is as necessary as a change or cross in animals; and as

to preferring one kind of wheat over all others for any length of time, it will be found not to answer, at least that is the experience of your friend and obedient servant,

H. CARTER.

P. S. By-the-by, talking of a change of seed, reminds me of changing my seed oats. Can you tell me how I can get some seed oats from a great distance, either west or north, as my own seed has run out entirely?

[The view taken by Mr. Carter, and which is entertained also by other good farmers, is an additional and important item in the list of comparative advantages of different kinds of wheat. According to this view, the wheat which is best at one time may be inferior and objectionable at a later time—and thus there is need for continual vigilance and unceasing experiments of the farmer, to know when as well as how to change his seed. We doubt, but do not deny, the entire correctness of the opinion. But it is entitled to high respect—and we would be glad to have it discussed more fully.]

In answer to the inquiry in the postscript we have no particular information to offer; but presume that an order for a few bushels of the best esteemed oats, sent through a seedsman of good reputation, would be successful. Mr. William Palmer, of Richmond, has connections in Maine, and we have no doubt can be as honestly supplied by others, as he may be perfectly relied on for his own part of the agency.—Ed. F. R.]

From the London Farmers' Magazine for June, 1842.

ON THE ABOLITION OF THE FIXED BRIDLE OR BEARING REIN.

There is much mismanagement and consequent misery inflicted on horses through the force and continuance of custom, habit, and prejudice; particularly evinced by the use of the bearing-rein.

The editor is impelled by a wish to do good, promoted by attachment to the horse, and compassion for that much abused and most cruelly-treated animal; influenced too, as he hopes, by a sincere desire to serve and benefit the owners. It is his object, by what he trusts will be found sound reasoning, to bring into disrepute, and (as soon as may be) into disuse, that tormenting part of the harness, the fixed bridle or bearing-rein.

It is a principle in mechanics, that whenever agent or instrument suffers the least resistance from restraint, friction, or other wear or tear, it will do its office with the most care, with the greatest economy of time, and with the least expenditure of strength and money; and thus whether the agent or instrument be an animal or a machine. Hence, to ensure the full exercise of an animal's power in the safest and most easy way to itself, we should be careful not permanently to disturb its natural posture. The question to be decided is, whether or not it is most judicious and proper to give a horse the free use of his head, or prevent him from having that use.

It must be admitted that whenever a horse trips or stumbles, nature prompts him to try to save himself, and he instantly extends his neck and head for the purpose as a man would his arms: this natural effort increases the animal's danger if his head be at all confined by the bearing-rein, because the tug which he gives with his mouth is communicated to the harness upon his back to which the rein is hooked, and the effect is the same as if a man were with both his hands to lay hold of the collar of his coat to save himself. To render the bearing-rein or bridle of any utility in saving an animal from falling, it should be of great strength and substance, and fastened behind and above, or it will be useless.

The dorsal muscles or sinews of the back in all quadrupeds run longitudinally or horizontally from the head and tail, and those extremities are main working powers—what the arms are to a walker or laborer, the head and tail are to the animal; tie a man's arms to his side, and even a gentle push or trip will throw him down. This is the effect produced by the bearing rein. The horse's head being fixed, he is unable to use it as nature intended, and therefore if he trips or slides his head is of no use. When horses stumble, they often break the bearing-rein, and thus getting the head free are enabled to save themselves. We all know that when a horse is down, the first thing he is to "give him his head" that he may get up. We do not mean to say that a horse will never stumble if worked without a bearing rein, because we know that they sometimes fall whilst loose in the field; but we assert without fear of contradiction, that the surest way to keep a horse on his legs is at all times to give him free use of his head. The more he is crippled the more he needs his head. The bearing-rein may probably be

of some use in "breaking" a colt, and may, perhaps, help to "get up his head" until he has been "taught his paces," but afterwards it can answer no end, except souring his temper, making him jib, deadening his mouth, wasting his strength, hurting his wind, injuring his sight, lessening his speed, abridging his services, shortening his days, throwing him down, and breaking his knees: all these, it is fearlessly asserted, proceed daily from the use of this cruel appendage.

When running loose, the horse's neck is usually extended as straight as his back; in this manner horses would generally work. It is the natural position, and the nearer we approach to it the better for the animal, for he is then at ease; and (though little remembered) his pulmonary action, or breathing unimpeded. It is absurd to make a bend or an angle, (if it all acute or sharp) in a water-pipe, or hose; so it is absurd and cruel too to bend back out of its natural line the wind-pipe of the horse by the use of the bearing-rein. In the former case a full volume of water cannot be obtained; in the latter the free breathing of the animal (so essential to its comfort, and even to its life) is hindered. Denied this may be; disproved it cannot. The effect of restraining a horse by the bearing-rein, is to prevent him from getting up to the collar. If the bit is in the least degree affected by the bearing-rein; in other words, if it is not entirely loose in the mouth, the horse is checked, and besides being kept from the full free exercise of his strength, he is prevented from leaning the weight of his body into the collar. We are aware that many who admit that bearing reins are not safe, use them because they like to see a horse look well, like to see him hold his head up, &c.; but a kind and humane man would not have such foolish desires; the care and comfort of his horse would be his only object. The mischievous effects before stated are often overlooked by many to whom the use of the bearing-rein is as natural as the saddle or any part of the harness. The editor has often found very kind and respectable men, wholly ignorant of the pain and agony which their horses have endured.

There is one infallible proof constantly to be obtained of the cruelty of the use of the bearing-rein, and of its injurious effects, though we believe very few persons are aware of it. Whenever a horse has been worked with a tight bearing-rein, the corners of his mouth become raw, inflame, fester, and eventually the mouth becomes enlarged on each side; in some cases to the extent of two inches. Even before the bit has produced these visible effects, if the corner of the mouth, under the bit, be touched, the animal will flinch as if from hot iron. Let this be the sign with every master and servant.

To what are these enlargements attributable? what causes them? Nothing but the friction of the bit in the efforts of the horse to get up to his work. How dreadful to see a horse heavy laden—his neck bent to a perfect curve—his mouth open—his eyes ready to start out of their sockets. The ignorant, though perhaps not cruelly disposed driver, looks on with admiration to see how "handsome" his horse appears, and imagines that the tossing head, open mouth, and gnashing teeth are signs of game and strength, whilst on the contrary, they are the most unequivocal evidence of distress and agony. Let any one test the truth of this by losing the bearing-rein, and he will immediately find the horse go faster, keep his mouth shut, and his head in one steady horizontal position. A short time since the editor stopped a wagon to look at the mouth of the shaft horse—he found the mouth actually cut open by the bit at least two inches on each side: the waggoner said "he know'd it sure, 'twas the fair wear of the bit!" The man was open to conviction, and upon the cause of this dreadful punishment being shown he altered the rein.

The propensity to jib, if not actually caused, is much increased by the bearing-rein. In ascending a hill the freest horse may be compelled to stop and refuse to exert himself, knowing that he can put no more strength till the head is loose. A short time since, in Southampton-street, Covent Garden, the editor of this pamphlet saw a crowd collected looking at a scavenger's cart, fully loaded, drawn by an immense horse. The street is a moderate ascent, and the horse had stopped just below the top of the hill: the driver turned the horse round down the hill, then up.

It would be well if there were more colt breakers—the tempers of horses are not studied by the generality of colt breakers; horses' tempers vary as much as men's.

It is the opinion of many eminent veterinary surgeons, that "roaring and blindness are produced in carriage-horses, and wagon-horses, by the bearing-reins."

The dray horses in London exhibit the most painful examples of the cruelty of using a tight bearing-rein. Whether at work or standing they will be found in continual torment—tossing their heads, or resting the weight of them on the bit, and so drawing back the corners of their mouths, as nearly to split the ligatures;—at work, instead of going on steadily, they "bob" their heads, feeling the check at every step they take.

Archimedes said, "Give me a place to stand on and I will move the world."

and with his help-mate very humbly assisted by pushing. The horse, without being flogged or spoken to, went on steadily with his very heavy load to about the place he before stopped at, and again "gave up;" he was sweating much, and appeared to be a game good horse. The editor went up to the driver and advised him to unhook the bearing-rein; the man said, "it's nau use, I have turned him around three times"—the editor said, "he must be a good horse to take to the load three times," and pressed him to unhook the rein; the man replied, "the horse 'll fall down." The editor coaxed him to try, the rein was unhooked, and immediately the horse took the load from the spot where he stood: the man said, "he never saud it done afore." It is not uncommon for considerate drivers to unhook their horses at the foot of a hill, which is a very strong proof of the folly of using the rein at all. It has been and may again be advanced as a plea for its retention, that a horse after having been used to the rein will miss it, and so be liable to fall if he trips after it is taken off. A trial will prove that this is not the result.

It is a common opinion that when a horse trips or stumbles, it is the rider or driver who pulls him up, by the sudden jerk or shortening his reins, and prevents an actual fall; hence the moment a horse takes a false step, the rider or driver to the rein with all his might. We frequently hear it said, "the horse was going to fall, but I pulled him up! I kept him on his legs!" As well might a fly resting on a coach-wheel boast of its kicking up a dust; as well might a waggoner seated on the shafts, think to pull up a wagon which had lost its fore wheel. Such expressions are proofs of the ignorance of those who make them, because when they become aware of the fact that the horse has stumbled the danger is over—the animal has recovered himself, and their tug is useless. To help an animal effectually there must be "where" to stand on, and both an arm and a rein strong enough. A bearing-rein is fixed to the falling horse and falls with him—it cannot save him; it keeps a horse from seeing and avoiding stones and other impediments, it is a hindrance not a help, an injury, and not a benefit. If he fall with a bearing-rein he must break his knees or the rein, or its hook, or the crupper; if he trips without one, and the driver "gives him his head," by instantly slackening the reins (what few inexperienced Englishmen will either do, or believe to be judicious) the creature is set a liberty, and will probably quickly recover himself, unless receiving, as he is almost sure to do, many heavy lashes. It cannot be supposed that a horse stumbles willingly, therefore to punish him for it is unjust, and only adds to his fear.

It must not, however, be inferred that all who use the bearing-rein approve of it. Servants, when men of humanity, experience, skill, and character, are often found to admit its fully and uselessness, but dare not lay it aside. It is said that the ladies powerfully obstruct the removal of this useless and injurious instrument. It is hoped that the few who drive and the many who keep their own horses, will give the best and strongest denial to this scandalous imputation, by immediately reprobating the use of the rein. Could their poor horses answer the questions—Why do you continually toss your heads when standing in harness? Why do you stretch open mouths, shake your heads, and gnash your teeth? Why do you turn your heads back towards your sides, as if looking at the carriage? they would answer—all, all this is done to get relief from the agony we are enduring by having our heads kept erect, and our necks bent by tight bridles.

To ladies the editor would appeal with earnestness. His heart has ached when passing the horses of the nobility and others at the doors of houses in London, to see the unceasing motion of the heads of the poor creatures, the coachmen sitting at their ease, perfectly unconcerned, and often doubtless unconscious of the agonizing pain of the muscles and sinews of the neck the horses are enduring. No humane person could knowingly suffer such cruelty to be practised. It is true that to the eyes of ignorant people, horses tortured with the bearing-rein look "very fine," but the true connoisseur will never be pleased at such distortions.

England, where the best horses and the best drivers are to be found, England (it is said) is the only country in which that base of the horse, the bearing-rein, is used! In France it is not used, and, as the natural consequence, horses in that country seldom fall to the ground, or so as to hurt themselves. At the very instant a horse stumbles the French coachmen slackens the rein, that the horse may save himself. It is sincerely hoped that the entire removal of this punishing bridle will be speedily effected by the powerful aid of veterinary surgeons, by the owners and drivers of private carriages, noble and gentle, at once abolishing this useless, torturing appendage; by the society for the prevention of cruelty to animals lending to this good object their aid unitedly as a body, and individually as members; by giving circulation in newspapers and

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