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By M. MACLEAN.

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AGRICULTURAL.

From the Farm House of the XIXth Century. PROGNOSTICS OF THE WEATHER.

Prognostics furnished by the Heavenly Bodies.

1. Observations of the sun.—Signs of wind.—The sun rises pale and remains red; his disc is very large; he appears with a red sky at the north; he maintains the color of blood; he remains pale, with one or more obscure circles or red rays; he appears concave or hollow. When the sun seems divided or is accompanied by a parhelia, it indicates a great storm.

Signs of rain.—The sun is obscure and as it were bathed in water; he rises red or with black stripes mingled with his rays, or becomes blackish; he is placed above a thick cloud; he rises surrounded with a red sky in the east. Sudden rains are never of long duration; but when the sky is changed gradually, and the sun, moon and stars are obscured by little and little, it rains generally for six hours.

Signs of fair weather.—The sun rises clear and the sky has been so during the night; the clouds which surround him at his rising take their course to the west, or indeed he is invironed by a circle, provided that the circle is at equal distances on all sides; then we may expect weather constantly fair; he sets amidst red clouds, whence this popular saying, that "a red evening and a gray morning are sure signs of a fair day."

2. Observations of the moon.—Signs of wind.—The moon appears very large; she puts on a reddish color; her horns are pointed and blackish; she is surrounded by a distinct reddish circle. If the circle is double or broken it is the sign of a tempest. At the new moon there is often a change of wind.

Signs of rain.—Her disc is pale; the extremities of her crescent are blunted. The circle around the moon attended by a south wind portends rain the next day. When the wind is south and the moon is visible only the fourth night, it portends much rain for the month.

Signs of fair weather.—The spots on the moon are very visible; a brilliant circle surrounds her when full. If her horns are sharp the fourth day, it will be fair till the full moon. Her disc very brilliant three days before the change or the full moon, always denotes fair weather. After each new and full moon there is often rain followed by fair weather.

3. Observations of the stars.—Signs of rain.—They appear large and pale; their twinkling is imperceptible, or they are encircled. In summer when the wind blows from the east and the stars appear larger than usual, then look out for sudden rain.

Signs of fair weather and cold.—The stars appear in great numbers, are brilliant and sparkle with the brightest lustre.

Prognostics furnished by the Atmosphere.

1. Observations of the clouds.—Signs of wind.—When the clouds fly briskly, show themselves suddenly at the south or west, when, as well as the sky, they are red, particularly in the morning. A shower after high wind is a sure sign that the storm is approaching its end, whence the common saying, "A little rain lays a great wind."

Signs of rain.—The most fruitful source of meteorological prognostics has always been the different appearances and changes of aspect of the clouds; being the immediate cause of rain and snow, they have always been regarded as furnishing the surest and most direct signs of the changes of the weather. In spite of their sudden changes and fugitive forms we shall give the principal instruction which can be derived from them. In cloudy weather, when the wind blows rain ought to follow. Clouds are also a sign of rain when they accumulate, and resemble rocks or mountains piled one upon another, when they come from the south, or often change their direction. When they are numerous in the north-west in the evening, when they are black and come from the east, there will be rain in the night; if they come from the west it will be the next day; when they resemble fleeces of wool it will rain after two or three days.

When there has been much rain in a neighboring place, especially in summer, several layers of clouds are formed; we may then expect some rain, but of short duration, because the humidity which was the cause of it was not considerable, we have then what are called *rain-gusts*. The rain is of short duration when the sky is covered with clouds in the morning, and the air being calm, the rays of the sun penetrate the clouds; for the heat by dilating the upper air, renders it capable of containing more moisture, and the weather becomes clear. But if several layers of clouds exist in the air, and moist winds prevail, the rain will be of long duration. It will also be so, but by surges, if the layers move with different degrees of swiftness in such a manner as to leave intervals in passing one over the other. If the rain commences an hour or two before sunrise, there is reason to expect it will be fair at noon; but if it begins to rain an hour or two after sunrise, generally, it will continue to rain during the whole day, and then it will cease. When the rain comes from the south with much wind for two or three hours, if the wind ceases and the rain continues, in this case

the rain will be prolonged during twelve hours or even more, and will then cease. These long rains rarely last more than twenty-four hours.

Signs of fair weather.—When at sunrise the clouds appear to be gilded or to vanish; when small clouds seem to descend or to go against the wind; when they are white or the sky is what is called *curdled*, the sun being above the horizon. It has been observed that a curdled sky, which denotes fair weather for the day when it appears, is generally followed by rain two or three days after.

2. Observations of fogs.—Signs of rain.—When the fogs seem attached towards the summits of the hills, it will rain in a day or two; if, in a dry time the fogs appear to ascend more than usual, sudden rain.

Signs of fair weather.—If the fogs seem to be dissipated or to descend a little after rain; if, after sunset or before sunrise, there arises from waters or meadows a whitish fog, it indicates heat and fair weather for the day following. The deposition of moisture upon the inner side of the panes of glass is a sign of fair weather for the day.

3. Observations of the wind.—In almost all France, the west or north-west winds give rain or showers; that of the south or south-west prepares the weather for it. The west winds sometimes give light rains, although the barometer may be very high. When the weather is stormy there are many opposite winds in the atmosphere, the movement of clouds in different directions, or in a direction contrary to that indicated by the weather-cocks, is therefore a sign of a storm.

Prognostics furnished by Vegetables.
Signs of rain.—The bind-weed of the fields, the chick-weed of the fields, the rainy marigold, and many other plants, shut their blossoms at the approach of rain; which has indeed procured for the chick-weed the name of *Poor Man's Barometer*.

Prognostics furnished by Animals.
The air almost pervades the bodies of birds, the organs of respiration being continued in their bones, it is not therefore surprising that they should appear more sensible to the variations and influences of the atmosphere than other animals. The navigator, the hunter, and all persons obliged to pass their lives abroad consult them especially; they will furnish us the greatest number of signs.

Signs of wind.—The aquatic birds collect upon the shore and sport there, especially in the morning; the coots and ducks are uneasy and clamorous; the ravens shoot through the air or sport upon the banks. The fishes of the sea and of the fresh water when they leap frequently above the surface, presage a storm.

Signs of a calm.—The return of the halcyon to the sea while the wind still blows; the issue of moles from their holes; the ordinary singing of the small birds; the play of the dolphins upon the water during the storm.

Signs of rain.—The water-fowl quit the sea for the land; the land-birds, and especially the geese and ducks, resort to the water, and there make great splashing and noise; the ravens and crows assemble and then suddenly disappear; the pies and jays collect in flocks and make a great noise; the crows caw in the morning in an interrupted manner or more than usual; the herons and buzzards fly low; the swallows skim the surface of the water; the small birds neglect their food and fly to their nests; the pigeons keep their coots; the fowls and partridges roll themselves in the dust and shake their wings; the cock crows in the evening and morning and bruts his wings; the lark and the sparrow sing very early; the chaffinch is heard very early near the houses; the peacocks and the owls cry louder and oftener than usual during the night, &c. The asses bray more than usual; the oxen distend their nostrils, look toward the south, lie down and lick themselves; the horses neigh violently and gambol; the sheep and goats frisk and butt each other; the cats wash their faces and their ears; the dogs scratch the ground eagerly and a great noise is heard in their bellies; the rats and mice make more noise than usual, &c. The frogs and toads croak in the ditches; worms issue from the ground in abundance; the spiders work little and retire into their corners; the flies are less lively and more biting; the ants make haste to their hillocks, and the bees to their hives; the gnats sing more than usual, &c.

Signs of fair weather.—The kites and bitterns fly with cries; the swallows fly very high (for the insects then keep in the upper regions); the turtles oo slowly; the red-breast rises into the air and sings; the wrens sing till nine or ten o'clock in the forenoon, and in the afternoon till four or five o'clock, &c. The gnats and the flies play in the air after sunset; the hornets and wasps appear in great numbers in the morning; the spiders appear in the air and upon the plants, spin tranquilly, and extend their webs largely.

Different signs and prognostics.
Signs of rain derived from inanimate bodies.—They are without number. We may mention the swelling of wood; the deposition of moisture upon stones and iron which seem to sweat; we then see the cords of musical instruments snap, the canvas or paper of pictures relax, the salt become moist, a remarkable circle appearing around the lights, the pools or tanks becoming troubled or muddy.

Signs of a storm.—When the weather is sultry and the soil chaps, it is always a presage of a storm at hand. In the summer when the wind has blown from the south two or three days when the thermometer is high, and the clouds form large white piles, like mountains one upon another, accompanied with black clouds underneath; if two clouds of this sort appear in opposite quarters. It has been observed that the south wind brings the most storms and the east wind the fewest.

Signs of hail and snow.—Clouds of a yellowish white, and which move slowly though the wind is high. If before sunrise the sky towards the east is pale, and if refracted rays appear in the thick clouds, then expect great storms with hail. White clouds in summer are signs of hail, but in winter, of snow, especially when the air is somewhat mild; in spring and winter, when the clouds are of a bluish white, and much extended, we may expect rain, which is nothing else than fog congealed.

Signs of cold and frost.—The premature appearance of wild geese and other birds of passage; the collection of the small birds in flocks; the brilliancy of the moon's disc, and the sharp appearance of its horns after the change from full to new; if the stars are brilliant; if small low clouds by toward, the north; if the snow falls fine, while the clouds are piled up like rocks.

From the Southern Planter.

FISH.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been long an attentive reader of the Planter, and have often thought of endeavoring to contribute something amusing or useful to your numerous readers and correspondents, in return for the many useful and amusing pieces which I have received from them. Your paper abounds with essays upon the best mode of raising horses, cows, sheep and hogs, but no one, I believe, has yet thought of saying a word about raising fish. For the present, I will content myself with relating an experiment upon this subject, which may be amusing if not useful to your readers. In the winter of 1840 and 1841, I had occasion to make an ice pond just below a spring and very near my house, in hopes of using it during the winter; but it was so late before I finished it, that it proved of little avail for that purpose; I then thought of using it as a fish pond, and made it a little deeper and put ditches around it, so that it should be fed by none but spring water, that it might be pure, and that it might keep the great floods of water above the spring from coming down in heavy rains to break my dam, which was of dirt. In the spring of the year following, I put a number of roaches and other small fish in the pond as breeders, the former to breed small fish for food for the larger ones, which I intended afterwards to put in—the latter to breed for use; among which were many sun perch and little swamp chubs or horn-fish, as some call them. In breeding the roaches and sun perch, I had succeeded most wonderfully before the end of the summer. About the last of August I could bring thousands of them to any part of the pond by throwing in a few crumbs of bread or a little fat bacon. In September or October following, I put in the pond seven Carolina chub and two pike, some of them twelve or fourteen inches long, others much smaller, and never saw any thing more of them till the first warm weather this spring. I then had the curiosity to examine the pond, when I saw the two pike and four or five of the chub, all apparently much increased in size. I saw at the same time many small fish about four or five inches long, which I took to be young chub, but they might have been sun perch, of which I have discovered a great many in the pond since. Some time after this, I invited a neighbor and his son (from whose pond I obtained the chub) to come over and see his old subjects. He did so and we were fortunate enough to see one of the largest of the old chubs and many young ones, as he and his son both thought. In this, however, we might have been mistaken—they may have been sun perch; but I see no reason why the chub may not have multiplied as fast as the sun perch, which are now very numerous, and big enough for the pan. At almost any hour of the day, when a warm spell of weather immediately follows a cold one, the chub may be seen traversing the pond nearly upon the top of the water, causing the small fry to dart for it in every direction, recollecting no doubt the sad havoc which had been made upon them on former occasions; the sun perch, however, if of any size, seems not to regard this little monster of our deep; but holds his place, disregarding and disregarded, by his dangerous neighbor. These sun perch will take a position in the pond near the shore, and remain there for days, and sometimes for weeks, without changing it, or seeming to seek any food, or to eat any thing except it be a small fish-worm, and that only when it is thrown in contact with its mouth. The chub sometimes will take a similar position, and remain for hours at it; but it is much more easily frightened away. The sun perch, if you scare him away, will come again in very quick time, but the chub will not return so soon, and will not stay so long when he does come. I attend my pond every morning, when I am at home, with cups of bread about half as big as my hand. With this I feed the little fish and it seems amply sufficient to keep an abundant supply of them as food for the large ones. The chub may eat bread, and it is said they have been caught with it on a hook; but it is my opinion, they will only eat bread, when they are half-starved for fish. At any rate I have never seen them notice bread; though I have frequently seen them when it was lying at the bottom of the pond plain in their view.

I have frequently heard of whistling up fish from the deep, and leading them up and down the pond by certain calls; but I was always inclined to believe these tales fabulous. I however, am now inclined to think from my late experience that the thing is practicable; though I do not pretend to say that I have trained mine to any such whistles or calls yet. If any one of your readers have turned their attention to this subject, a few lines from them, would, I think, be read with pleasure and profit. A fresh dish of fish is a great delicacy, when they are caught in great abundance every day; how much more highly would they be valued, when they can only be had in nearly a putrid condition.

I may be too sanguine, Mr. Editor, but it is clearly my opinion that it will cost no more to raise fish than it does to raise chickens; and that the time is not distant, when I shall be able to get a mess of fresh fish with as little, or perhaps less labor, than those who live on the tide water banks of the James and Potomac rivers.

CHAS. S. JONES.

[At the paper mill in this city, they require a constant supply of pure water, which is obtained from a pond supplied by a spring branch. The intelligent manager of the establishment, Mr. Richards, some months since, called our attention to the myriads of fish that swarmed in this pond, and informed us that they were the product of a few that he had placed in it a year or two ago, by way of experiment. He had procured a general assortment of the fish common to our waters, and

let go their hold on the stomach, when, coming in contact with the tar, they will be immediately killed, and afterwards they are carried off by the purgative medicine. Mr. Mason remarks that tar is the only thing that can be safely introduced into the stomach of a horse that will effectually destroy the Bots.

CURE FOR THE BOTS OR GRUBS.

Give one quart of warm sweet sage tea; half an hour after give another quart; half an hour after give one gill of lard mixed with one gill of tar, warmed sufficiently to pour down the throat; half an hour after give a purgative, and the Bots will be passed off dead.

G. H. GRAY.

Vicksburg, Sept. 19.

SUGAR AS A MANURE.

A London paper states, that a merchant of Liverpool, engaged in the Brazil trade, has memorialized the board of trade to permit the importation into that country of sugar from Brazil, to be used as manure. The memorial states: It is rumored, that, whereas the new manure guano, cannot be imported for less than £15 per ton, coarse Brazil sugar can be imported at £14 per ton.

BUTTER.

At a late agricultural meeting in Maine, it was stated that the great reason why the butter made by Quakers in Fairfield had so great reputation, and sold for so high a price, was that they were careful to procure the best description of *coarse salt*, and cleaned and pulverized it for the manufacture of their butter.

From the S. W. Farmer.

MORE BRAG PICKING.

We learn, from the Vicksburg Sentinel, that six hands on the plantation of Dr. Peck, under the management of Mr. Porter, picked in one day 1921 pounds of cotton, as follows:

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Ranney, | 365 |
| Cud, | 335 |
| Port, | 320 |
| Jim, | 310 |
| Bill, | 301 |
| Martha, | 290 |

1921

The average to each hand was 320 1-6 lb.

MORE STILL.—A correspondent of the Southern states, that four hands belonging to Isaac R. Bass, of Madison, picked in one day, as follows, respectively: 503, 496, 485, 420—in all 1094 lb., being an average of 476 lb. to the hand, each hand emptying his own sack.—*Ibid.*

From the N. Y. Herald.

LONDON, Sept. 9, 1842.

To the Hon. John C. Calhoun—

My Dear Sir:—If I have addressed this letter to you, it is not alone from the justification which I find in the recollections of an old and cherished friendship, but from the fact, that I desire to attract the public attention to its object, through the instrumentality of a name far more influential than my own. Be not surprised, if you see it first in the newspapers. I wish not only "to think aloud," but to speak aloud.

My purpose in writing to you, is to put you in possession of a knowledge of the condition of American credit in Europe, with a suggestion of the indispensable necessity of our doing something at home, to meet the truly alarming crisis, which this state of things presents.

I am far from defending the profuse confidence with which European capitalists lent their money during a period of six years from 1834 to 1840, to our countrymen, even on the faith of a variety of schemes, exceedingly visionary and unsound. They did this, however, out of the excess of a virtue, which may have been pushed to the extent of rather an amiable than criminal weakness; for they generally made these loans at a less rate of interest than they could be effected, if at all at home, and apparently for objects of great public utility. But the loans to the States stand on a different footing,—at least in reference to the public sanctions, with which they are invested.—They were made according to your reading and mine of the Constitution, to sovereigns under the obligations of a high public faith; many of them were contracted on terms greatly advantageous under the agency of houses of the first respectability, whose liberality and confidence knew no bounds.

This confidence was given to our young country, because our resources (in no degree exaggerated) were considered immense, and because it was thought as we are of the Saxon family, we were essentially a debt paying people. Indeed, from an observation, which a larger residence for the last five years in Europe than in America, enables me to make, it is quite obvious, if we had paid the interest on our foreign debt, that the rate of that interest would have fallen gradually to the level of that paid by some of the oldest and best established States in Europe, and that for objects of well founded public utility, and even of private enterprise, our industry at home might have been almost indefinitely invigorated out of the large surplus of this country. You will say, I am sure, that this facility of borrowing, has been a great curse to our own. This I admit, is true to a certain extent; but it was converted into a curse by the action of our Government on the currency of the United States. Under judicious regulations and prudential guards, a state of things more propitious to the development of the resources of a young country like ours, borrowing of an old one like this, its capital

CURIOUS ART.

Thousands have admired the perfection of the figures produced by the looking-glass and picture frame manufacturers on the corners and other parts of the elegant gilt frames; but the art has been kept so close a secret among the craft, that not even the apprentices of the trade have been allowed to know the secret of this peculiar art, till near the expiration of their term of apprenticeship. We shall here describe the whole process as practiced by the best burnish gilders at the present time. The composition becomes nearly as hard as stone, and the art will furnish an agreeable amusement to many, who are not connected with that branch of business.

Process.—Dissolve one pound of glue in one gallon of water; in another kettle boil together two pounds of rosin, one gill of Venice turpentine, and one pint of linseed oil. Mix altogether in one kettle, and continue the boiling, stirring them altogether till the water has evaporated with the other ingredients. Then add finely pulverized whiting till the mass is brought to the consistency of soft putty. This composition will be hard when cold; but being warmed it may be moulded to any shape by curved stamps or prints; and the moulded figures will soon become dry and hard, and will retain their shape and form more permanently than carvings of wood. They may be fastened with common glue on either plain surface or mouldings.—*Mechanic.*

From the S. W. Farmer.

MR. NORTH:—I send you for insertion a remedy for the Bots in Horses, which was used with success and highly recommended by Mr. Thos. Mason, of Surry county, Va., who was experienced in the treatment of diseases in horses, as one which never failed, if applied before the stomach was destroyed. The sage tea being a powerful astringent, will cause the grubs to shrink up

to invigorate its labor, at a low rate of interest, cannot well be conceived. If the profits of labor transcended the rate of interest, it was to create capital at home. From what other sources have sprung those miracles of enterprise and wealth, that are to be found in our country in the midst of a population of eighteen millions, but this conjoint action of our labor on the capital of others. The Pilgrims found no Bank of England planted on the rock of Plymouth, or the Huguenots of South Carolina, the gems of Samarcand on its thirty plains.

But if you consider this faculty of borrowing abroad, my Dear Sir, as an evil, you may certainly console yourself with the conviction that it no longer exists, although I am equally convinced that you will regret the cause which has produced this want of confidence in the good faith of the people of the United States, and the consequences which have followed in fixing so severe a stigma on the character of our country.

It is absurd for us to talk in America that we do not want the capital of Europe, at the very moment when the Government of the United States has sent an Agent abroad to borrow for its daily bread. We do want their money and they want the results of our labor. And greatly then is it to be deplored that this beneficial interchange has been suspended under circumstances so disastrous to both countries.

Let me now give you a brief statement of the present condition of American credit in Europe, and without presuming to suggest a remedy, to enquire of you whether the force of public opinion, (if Congress has not the constitutional competency to do any thing,) acting through the Legislatures of the defaulting States cannot be made sufficiently potent to convince them of the truth and force of the old adage that, after all, in the long run, "honesty is the best policy."

The first branch of my subject I can discuss in a very few words. As our old friend Randolph used to say, American credit is killed "stone dead." John Jacob Astor might obtain an uncovered credit for a reasonable amount (where he was known,) and Mr. Bates, of the house of Barings, by wearing out a pair of shoes in walking from the Mansion House to the Minories, might sell fifteen hundred pounds worth of Massachusetts stock, with large concessions to the buyer. The fact is not the less to be concealed that we begin to be regarded as a nation of sharpers and swindlers, with whom, if the day of judgment should happen to be on Monday, our pay day will not be until the Tuesday following. This revulsion of confidence does not arise so much from a discredit, which attaches to our resources; or, in other words, our ability to pay, as our seeming indisposition to pay. The former is still considered in many cases as undoubted, whilst a sickening distrust has fallen upon the latter. Hence it is, that whilst the rate of interest has fallen this day to two and a half per cent in the London market, it is not probable that if the Commissioner of the United States six per cent loan, were to offer a price which would secure an interest of ten per cent, ten pounds of the stock could be sold, without, from considerations of policy, under the advice of Lord Ashburton, on his return to England, the Barings should be induced to take the loan.

When we contrast this credit of our own country, teeming with gigantic resources, with the palmy credit of other States that have little else but good faith and high taxation to offer, it is impossible to refer to it to any other cause but a deep moral distrust in us—the most ignominious curse that can fall on a people who aspire to be civilized and free. Of the truth of this fact, I cannot give you a better proof than that which no one will look to, and capitalists turn with aversion from, the United States loan, the comparatively insignificant town of Hamburg, with its population of 200,000 inhabitants to enable it to rise out of its ashes, has borrowed at 3 1-2 per cent precisely double the amount of our proposed loan, one farthing of which the U. S. Commissioner will probably not be able to negotiate. Denmark and Belgium, neither of which would be scarcely a breakfast for the hungry stomach of Brother Jonathan on a frosty morning, can borrow at four per cent what they want, and England and Holland, with the principal of a public debt, the payment of which is likely to be contemporaneous with the discovery of perpetual motion, can borrow just what they want, at and under 3 per cent, because they pay their interest, and tax themselves to pay their interest.

As a Statesman and Patriot, I am sure, my dear sir, you will say that this state of things must not be permitted to last. No country can continue in the worst species of insolvency, a bankruptcy in its repute, without losing that self respect which is the salient spring of all that gives vigor, and renown to national character. It may be said that as a nation we are in no degree responsible, for this decadence in the credit of the States. This may be true to a certain extent. Our national and political aggregation, however, if I may so speak, is made up of this family of States, and you may depend upon it that other nations and posterity will hold the government of the Union morally responsible for the character of its members