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AND CHERAW ADVERTISER.

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By M. MACLEAN.

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☞ The postage must be paid on letters to the editor on the business of the office.

AGRICULTURAL.

EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL TOUR AND SURVEY.

Several gentlemen interested in the advancement of agricultural science and improvement, and of rural education, have proposed to Mr. Henry Colman, late Commissioner of Agricultural Survey of Massachusetts, to visit Europe for those objects. The plan is for him to spend a year in England, in the examination of the Husbandry and Rural Economy of that country; and a year on the continent, in the examination of French, Flemish, Swiss, and German Husbandry, and especially the Agricultural or Manual Labor Schools and the Experimental Farms.

It is thought that such an examination, as yet never undertaken by an American, might, if well conducted, essentially conduce to the advancement of agricultural knowledge and improvement in this country, and especially serve the cause of rural and practical education, which is now exciting great interest throughout the United States. The general plan of the survey will conform to Mr. Colman's Survey of the Agriculture of Massachusetts.

It is proposed to publish his reports in successive numbers. The first number is expected to appear by the first of January, 1843, and sooner if practicable. The rest of the numbers will follow in convenient succession, at intervals of two or three months.

The whole work will be comprised in eight, or at most ten numbers, of at least 100 pages each, handsomely printed in an octavo form, stitched and covered, and embellished with necessary and useful drawings and engravings, title pages, and index.

The cost will be 50 cents each number, to subscribers. Gentlemen who subscribe, are understood as subscribing for the whole work.

As the enterprise involves of necessity a large expense, it is expected that one dollar per copy will be paid on subscribing; or, otherwise, one dollar on the delivery of the first nnmber; one on the delivery of the second number; one on the delivery of the fifth number; one on the delivery of the seventh number; and one on the delivery of the ninth number, should the work be extended to ten numbers.

Mr. Colman will leave for Europe as soon as the subscription will warrant the undertaking.

An early return is respectfully requested of gentlemen to whom this is sent, addressed to Henry Colman, Rochester, N. Y.; to Little & Brown, Boston, Mass.; or to Luther Tucker, Cultivator Office, Albany, N. Y.

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It will be seen from the above advertisement, that the subscriber contemplates a tour in Europe for agricultural inquiry and observation. This enterprise has been commenced under the encouragement of some of the most distinguished friends and advocates of agricultural improvement in the country; and with a strong conviction on his own part, after giving to it the most mature consideration, that in no manner could he, in his humble sphere, render so essential a service to the great cause which he has so long had at heart, the cause of an improved husbandry, and the enlargement of the comforts and the elevation of the character and condition of the rural classes.

He has had the greatest satisfaction in finding so cheerful and liberal a co-operation in his enterprise, not merely of personal friends, but of gentlemen in various parts of the country, upon whose kindness he had no claim, from an avowed conviction of the great utility of the undertaking if it can be well executed.—The Massachusetts Society for promoting agriculture, with that signal liberality and intelligence by which their measures have always been directed, have subscribed for one hundred copies of the Reports, intending them for distribution in agricultural premiums, or otherwise. The Worcester County Agricultural Society of Massachusetts, which may justly claim the character of a pattern society in its zeal and the practical wisdom of its measures for agricultural improvement, have appropriated two hundred dollars from its funds for the same object. The Essex County Agricultural Society, Mass., have, as in the former case, distinctly and emphatically approved the object by their resolutions, and added the more substantial encouragement of a subscription for twenty-five copies, with the expression of their regret that, on account of recent drafts upon their funds, they were unable to do more. The Berkshire Agricultural Society in Massachusetts, at an informal meeting of the Board of Trustees, have likewise pledged their liberal co-operation, which will be confirmed at their regular meeting. The Ontario Agricultural Society, N. Y., besides passing resolutions highly commendatory of the project, have followed in the footsteps of the Worcester Agricultural Society.—These are all the agricultural societies in the country before which the subject has, as yet, been brought.

A single public spirited individual in the county of Seneca, Judge Sackett, has made himself personally responsible for one hundred copies of the Reports, for that society and county. Another individual, near Boston, whose patronage of every good enterprise is well known, and whom Heaven seems to have blessed with wealth only that he might do good with it, has made a subscription for one hundred copies. Another individual, equally distinguished through a long life for his public spirit, has subscribed for fifty copies. Thirteen individuals have subscribed for twenty-five copies each; five, for ten each; and many for five and lesser numbers. Indeed, the subscription has scarcely been presented to an individual who has refused his aid, or hesitated as to the utility of the project; and embraces many of the best names in the country.

The subscriber would do great injustice to his own grateful feelings, if he did not acknowledge in these subscriptions, much of personal kindness and confidence, testimonials of regard and good will which he cannot too highly estimate; but at the same time, he is equally happy in knowing that nothing of this sort would have ... , were not the object itself of acknowledged public utility.

It may be said that English or European agriculture cannot be adapted to our condition. A difference in climate, in soil, in the price of, or facility of procuring labor, and in various circumstances which are obvious, must, of course, materially affect the agriculture of each country; but, at the same time, there must be much that is general which is equally applicable to both. In countries where the agricultural art has been carried to so great a degree of perfection as in England and some parts of the continent, there must be a great deal to be learned, which cannot fail to be highly instructive and useful. If it be said that this can be learned from books, we can only reply that it is books upon this subject, which we design to put into the hands of our farmers; and with this difference: The accounts we have had of foreign agriculture have been, in most instances, from foreigners themselves. In such cases, it is to be expected, from their long familiarity with their own course of husbandry, that many things would escape notice or not be deemed worthy of observation, and yet in themselves quite important, which would at once strike the notice of a stranger; and it is our object to enable the American farmer to look at foreign agriculture with American eyes.

But many improvements are now going on, in England in particular, of the highest importance, in some respects vastly reducing the expenses of cultivation; in some, more than doubling the crops.—The process of sub-soil ploughing and under-ground draining, the practice of irrigation, the introduction of a variety of new manures—manures of a portable, concentrated, and most active character, are matters exciting great attention, and of which, besides the information obtained from foreign agricultural periodicals, much more is doubtless to be learnt from personal inquiry and observation. The product of wheat has been in many parts of Great Britain actually doubled by improved modes of culture. What can be more important than to know precisely and fully what these modes can be?

The quality of the dairy products of England, and of some parts of the continent, are universally admitted to be much superior to our own in general, and in most markets in the world, they command a higher price. It must be a great gain, if by any exact information to be obtained abroad, our dairy produce, as most certainly can be done, can be brought into an equal competition with others. The new Tariff laws of England, now proposing to open English ports to many of our agricultural products, especially in the articles of cured provisions, it is obviously of high importance to learn precisely in what form they may be best sent into their markets, since the success of such shipments must materially depend on this circumstance.

The production of silk in this country is destined to be, or is capable of becoming a most important and profitable branch of rural industry. It is obviously of great moment to learn the whole course of treatment of the worms and the management of the filatures in countries where the art has been longest pursued and carried to a high degree of perfection.

Much discussion has been had in our agricultural conventions, on the subject of establishing Experimental Farms and Agricultural or Manual Labor Schools. As yet, no such establishments can be said to exist among us but in a limited or very qualified degree. In Europe they have existed for some time; and under the patronage of the Government in France, and, we believe, in some other States of Europe, they have been established on a liberal scale; and the course of education pursued is highly scientific and enlarged. If for no other object than to ascertain with exactness and detail, the condition and success of these establishments, the subscriber feels that in his mission he may render a most valuable service to the country.

But were nothing else gained than the drawing of public attention to these subjects, and stimulating and encouraging that awakened zeal in the cause of agricultural improvement, which is now rife throughout the country, and consequently quickening our own efforts for our own progress, no small benefit to the individual and public must accrue.

The subscriber might much enlarge upon this subject, but he would not task too severely the indulgence of his readers. The expenses of the enterprise being of necessity very great, it is indispensable that he should procure a large subscription. Sufficient subscriptions have not yet been made perfectly to secure the expenses; but the confident expectation of completing such a number, warrants the subscriber in saying that he designs to leave in the coming spring. In the mean time, he respectfully asks of those personal friends and the friends of agriculture, throughout the country, disposed to favor the project, to transmit their names to him at an early date. Postmasters are at liberty to do this free of expense; and any individual procuring a number of names and becoming responsible for their payment, shall receive a very liberal commission.

The amount of a subscription it is obvious, when it is considered that there will be two or three years to pay it in, is very small. It may be four—it may be five dollars, according to the number of the reports issued in the course of that time. No advance is desired where the undersigned is not known to the individual making a subscription; or where for any reason there is a reluctance in making such advance. The reports will be sent to all the large cities, where there are subscribers, and delivered without charge, unless where ordered to be sent by mail. After the first of March ensuing, the subscriber may be addressed by mail or otherwise at Boston, Massachusetts.

☞ The subscriber has already the promise from many friends, of letters of introduction to their friends in England or on the continent; and he begs leave to say, that he shall feel himself particularly honored and obliged by any letters of introduction to any gentleman who would welcome his mission or in any way assist its objects, or otherwise render him any office of civility or kindness. His objects being wholly public, he will anxiously avail himself of every advantage and facility of intercourse and observation with intelligent and respectable persons abroad.

HENRY COLMAN.

Rochester, Jan. 2, 1843.

VALUE OF PLASTER.

The subjoined extract from a communication, which appeared in the last Massachusetts Ploughman, speaks in just terms of the value of Plaster as a manure, and as the experience of the writer accords in results with our own, we give it insertion.—*Am. Farmer.*

"In passing through Pennsylvania, which I frequently did, I heard much said of the benefits of Plaster of Paris; a great many of the farmers, I was told, would come fifty miles to Philadelphia, in the time of last war, and give twenty dollars per ton for Plaster, and let their manure go down the stream rather than to be at the trouble to cart it on their lands. I do not speak of this as approving of it, for I think every farmer ought to make as much manure us possible. I was told the way the Dutch farmers used it there was to sow clover and put one or two bushels of plaster to the acre and plough in the crop and sow wheat. I was informed in Baltimore that a great deal of land on the eastern shore of Maryland which had been worn out by raising tobacco and corn had been reclaimed by the use of plaster. Having got my ideas so raised, the first thing I did after I got a piece of land was to try it, and in three weeks after I applied it. On examination I thought as the Queen of Sheba did when she visited King Solomon, "the half had not been told me;" it was applied to a piece of loamy soil which had recently been laid down and one crop of hay cut from it, say half a ton to the acre. On the first examination after the plaster was applied there was three times as much as where there was none. A part of this piece of land has been kept for a pasture ever since and never has been ploughed, and I think I can safely say there is not another piece of land in town that produces more feed, it has frequently been plastered since, and occasionally ashes have been applied as a top-dressing.—The manure the cattle have dropped has every year been gathered up and put into the manure heap, so that it has no other dressing but plaster and ashes except the urine from the cattle.

Well, being so well pleased with the result of this small experiment I tried it a large scale on my farm with as favorable results. On many places three bushels of plaster would make more grass grow than twenty loads of manure. I fenced off nine acres that had been fed very close by sheep for a number of years; this was the highest part where the sheep had generally lain through the nights; this was plastered at the rate of three bushels to the acre; the next season it pastured from May to September twelve cows, at the rate of three-fourths of an acre to a cow, and they had as much feed as they could eat, and on a great part of it we could have mowed a good crop in hay time.

From this time people began to use plaster considerably, and found a very great benefit from it; many of the old pastures which were covered over with moss were converted into beautiful fields of clover; but strange to tell, just on the eve when our pastures began to be clothed with a beautiful verdure and our farms bid fair to produce double what they were wont to do, there was a story got up by some gossip which spread like wild-fire, that this plaster which had produced such wonderful effects was not what it was cracked up to be; that it would ruin the land if we continued to use it; if it did not happen in our day it would in our childrens'; that it would run our land all out and our children would become beggars. Now as this story, like other bugbears, has had its day, I find they are beginning very moderately to use it again. I hope that no farmer will rest satisfied until he has given it a fair trial; the expense is very trifling; at present I believe it can be bought for two dollars per ton; that it won't cost more than twenty-five cents per bushel, three bushels per acre, which is a great plenty; that the expense of manuring an acre is seventy-five cents, which will pay but a small part of the expense of carting on any other kind of manure if you had it given to you. Wherever the plaster will do any good it ought to be applied; and the only way I know of is to try it. On some land it will do no good I am confident. I had a large piece of plain on my farm, on which I could not see the least benefit from it; this was a deep black loam and rather moist; as soon as I went from this plain, over all the hills it worked wonders.

Yours with respect,

BENJ. WHEELER.

Farmingham, Jan. 2d, 1843.

From the Southern Planter.

RUTA BAGA.

Messrs. Editors,—In my communication on the culture of the white carrot, I promised to give you my method of cultivating, and the product of my field of Ruta Bagas.

The piece you saw when at my farm, contained about three and a half acres, and had lain in pasture a number of years; it was carefully turned over in the fall of 1840; and in the spring following, cross-ploughed and harrowed, and laid out in furrows two and a half feet apart, and planted with potatoes. The knolls, which incline more to sand, were manured with horn-shavings and hogs' bristles, one handful to each set. Twelve rows through the middle were manured with salt mackerel, which were spoiled, half a fish to every set. It was an unfavorable season for potatoes, a severe drought in the summer having injured their growth. The rows manured with the salt fish, I noticed, stood the drought much better than any other part of the field; vines large and of a dark healthy color, when the others were brown and shrivelled, and on digging we found them of a large and even size, and of excellent quality, and the yield far better than any other part of the field.

Last winter, I purchased twenty-six two horse loads of the refuse of a glue factory, consisting of lime, bones, wool, hair, and pieces of pelt, some of which had lain for two or three years. To twenty loads of this I added forty loads of yard manure, and had it well mixed. In the spring it was ploughed seven inches deep, and left until the middle of June, when the manure was hauled on and evenly spread, which covered all except about three-quarters of an acre, on which was put six loads of the factory refuse, without any yard manure. The piece was then ploughed and harrowed, thoroughly mixing the soil and manure. It was then thrown into ridges twenty-seven inches apart, the same as for the carrots; tops flattened with the roller, and seed deposited with the drill, (Bement's,) on the 18th of June.

On that part of the field where the yard manure was applied, the plants made their appearance on the fourth day after sowing, while on that part where the refuse of the glue factory was put, they showed very few plants until the tenth day, and then they were sickly in appearance, and grew so tardily that the flea devoured them about as fast as they made their appearance. In fact, we were obliged to transplant to fill up vacancies, on the whole three-quarters of an acre—showing most conclusively that the ruta bagas require a quick and active manure to give them an early start to get them out of the way of their greatest enemy, the turnip flea or beetle.

On the 18th of July, the cultivator was run between the rows, and they were thinned with the hoe in the same manner as the carrots, leaving the plants from eight to ten inches apart in the drills. In August, the cultivator was again run through them, and they were hoed at intervals when convenient. Nothing more was done to them until we commenced pulling in November. The crop measured 2,355 bushels. I will here remark, that when the salt fish was used the year previous, it was strikingly visible, at some distance; the tops being of a darker hue, higher, and more vigorous, and they continued so through the summer, and on raising we found them thicker and longer in the neck and smaller in the bulb, showing that salt will increase the top at the expense of the bottom.

The greater part of the crop was stowed in a cellar—the remainder was put in heaps, in the field, for feeding my ewes when they have lambs in the spring. The heaps are made in the following manner, which I never knew to fail, when they were properly attended to. A trench six feet wide, of any length required, and one foot deep, is dug in a dry situation, generally on a knoll; the roots are thrown into this trench and piled up in the form of a roof. A coat of straight straw of from eight to ten inches in thickness, is put on in such a position as to conduct the water off, if any should reach it.—Earth is now thrown on by digging a trench around the heap, beginning at the bottom and going around until the whole is covered. The earth will press the straw which prevents its running through to the roots. A coat of ten or twelve inches, in this climate is sufficient for our common winters. The trench will prevent the water from getting into the heap. There is more danger of getting the covering too thick than too thin. I have suffered more from heat than frost. After the earth is put on, it should be carefully clapped down with the spade, to make it more effectually shed the rains. After a few days I take a crowbar and thrust it in the top along the ridge down into the heap, no matter if it breaks some of the roots, and open holes about three feet apart, to let the gas or vapor off, which is generated by a partial fermentation. A flat stone, raised a little, on one edge set up an inch or two, or a wisp of straw may be put into the holes to prevent the rain from getting in, which completes the work for the winter.

With me the ruta baga is a valuable crop.—They afford the greatest quantity of food, for my stock, from an acre, while they seem to exhaust the land less and less and leave it in the best possible condition for a succeeding crop. It is too rich for oats, but well calculated for barley, and clover seed always "takes" well, sown with it. I feed them to my cattle, sheep, hogs, (boiled,) and occasionally to my horses. For calves the first winter, they are very valuable, keeping their bowels open and loose; they will grow and thrive without running too much to fat; their coats smooth and glossy, and continue to grow through the winter, and "go to grass" in fine condition, by which they gain at least six months in their growth over those wintered in the too common and ordinary way. Heifers wintered in the above manner will answer to come in at two years old. I have one now in my yard that will not be two years old until January next; she had a calf last March, and has been milked ever since, and I cannot perceive that her growth has been retarded in consequence, and she is now as large as common three year olds.

C. N. BEMENT.

There is a simplicity, perspicuity, minuteness, and exactness in Mr. Bement's reports of agricultural experiments, worthy the imitation of all those who would assist in the collection and dissemination of agricultural facts.

OXFORD SAUSAGES.

The following recipe for making ... celebrated Oxford Sausages, so much ... siderated by the lovers of good eating ... England, is from a late Engl... tion:

Ingredients.—One ... pig meat cut from the grisk... any skin, and a half a pound of veal. ... pound and a half of beef suet, the y... and whites of five eggs. A dessert spoonful of sifted sage, after being well dried. Pepper and salt to taste.

To make the above into Sausages.—Chop the meat into small pieces and then pound it together in a marble mortar till it is short and tender.

Chop the suet very fine, and when the eggs are well beaten together, after the white specks are taken out, pour the liquid over the pounded meat and chopped suet, well kneading it together with a clean hand, throwing in the sifted sage, and pepper and salt from a coarsish pepper box during the operation, so as to let them impregnate the whole mass without being predominant in any part of it.

Press the whole when well mixed together into a wide mouthed jar, and keep it from the air in a cold place.

Roll the sausages on a flour board and use very little grease in frying them, as they will be fat enough to fry themselves with the aid of a frying pan.

So. Planter.

LIME AND MARSH MUD.

From the American Farmer.

A gentleman distinguished for good and great qualities, tells us, that on a sandy soil, he has found lime a powerful fertilizer. A poor field put in corn—yield 10 bushels—followed by oats—crop light—succeeded by wheat—yield not more than the seed—limed, and next crop gave 40 bushels to the acre. Experience has taught him the great value of *marsh mud*, especially when used in combination with a small quantity of lime. Keeps a small force especially assigned to the collection of marsh mud, weeds, leaves, mould from the woods, &c., and is amply compensated for it—cannot too highly recommend the use of marsh mud—has covered several acres with *brushwood*. The fertilizing effect very obvious, and thinks poor land may be reclaimed by a covering of brushwood, very speedily, and with great economy as to the labor and the results—is very careful to have all brush not large enough for fire wood, even the pruning of his orchards, reserved to be spread upon the most exhausted portions of his land.

From Miss Leslie's Magazine.

FEMALE HEALTH AND BEAUTY.

By Mrs. A. Walker.

COSMETICS AND CLEANLINESS.

Acids and Spirituous Compositions

Many of the pretended cosmetics sold by general perfumers, and by a great number of ignorant persons who call themselves chemists, are composed of acids and spirits; and very frequently they are nothing but vinegar or spirits of wine scented. Even eau de Cologne, so much vaunted and so much used, is nothing else than spirits of wine distilled through a few unimportant aromatic herbs: honey water, Hungary water, &c., are made in the same way.

Vinegar and spirits do certainly clean the skin; but the frequent use of them dries and contracts it. The delicate tissue of the cuticle requires the imperceptible unctuous moisture that nature exhales; and this the application of acids and spirits destroys.

Astringent vinegars, especially those that have been so much praised of late, derive their property from a certain quantity of alum, in a state of solution. Now alum possesses an astringent property which produces great tensions of the skin; at first, it appears brilliant and polished, but it soon loses its elasticity, and premature or deeper wrinkles are the infallible result of the use of this saline substance.

Even soap, on account of the uncombined alkali, which it contains, should ... be used to the skin, except when water is not sufficient. The alkali dries and ch... the hands. How wrong then is it to ... the following recipe for improving ... beauty:—"after the bands have ... soaped and rinsed, it is best, before d... them, to cover them again well with ... to rub the hands till a lather is made ... then to dry them without putting ... again in the water: by this means ... skin becomes very white and ext... soft." It is needless to say that the ... on the skin is but temporary; the ... permanent.

Metallic and Poisonous Composi...

These injuries are trifling co... with those which are produced by ... of metallic compositions. It is a f... the most deleterious substances ... to the composition of all cream... pastes, and essences. "All ... ever seen," says Hufeland, ... ther mercury or lead, which ... powerful poisons." The ... which some persons have ... hood to employ for the purpose ... the marks of the small-po... ... tains corrosive sublimate.

We are told indeed that ... and even white lead, may be ... danger, if the plaster in which ... mixed be sufficiently well ... decomposed upon coming in c... the skin," and that "plasters ... there is a mixture of oxide ... metalic ox...

... stomach.

In our days, happily, fo... bitually use these compositi... many females, who ... oily or scaly skin, ...