

# CHERAW GAZETTE

AND

## PEE DEE FARMER.

VOLUME IV.

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### W. SEALEAN,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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From the American Farmer.  
Dr. MUSE, ON THE CULTIVATION OF CORN.  
CAMBRIDGE, August, 23, 1839.

SIR—I observe in the "American Farmer" of the 21st inst. a request from one of your correspondents, that I would communicate through its columns the mode of culture of my growing crop of corn.

I willingly comply with the request. I think it has several advantages over those in ordinary use; and if it should, on further experience, advance, in any degree, the agricultural interest, in this great staple, it will afford me much gratification.

Allow me, then, to refer you, for this purpose, to the "Farmers' Register," current volume, (vol. 7, Jan. number,) pages 17 & 18, where you will find a full report of the result and mode of culture, and liming, and manuring, &c. of my crop made the last season, upon the same principles, and in the same manner, as that of the present, with the difference of two incidents, worthy of notice, as bearing upon the two experimental cases, to wit: the first was made upon a sward, very recently, yet heavily loaded with grass of the previous autumn; and the year of the growth of the corn, was notoriously and universally remarkable for its drought—whereas the present growing crop was planted upon a three year old sward of blue grass and clover, on which, my friends thought, it could not succeed; and, too, the year is remarkable for repeated and excessive rains, thus presenting a strong comparative view, under varying circumstances.

In the drought of the first, I was fortunate in being enabled thereby to confute the predictions of my neighbors, "that in such event, my crop must perish, by its thick planting"—having about 9000 single stocks to the acre—and it is true, the demand for moisture must have been greater by the greater number of stocks—yet it suffered less than any corn in the neighborhood, as conceded by all—and because: my culture furnished it with the means of obtaining more moisture.

With these few remarks, connected with my paper in the "Register" before referred to, you have all that I am aware would be useful to the purpose.

I hope if you publish any part of my paper alluded to, you will publish the whole, with the certificates, &c. as reports of large crops, should in all cases be verified in the best manner possible. I am, respectfully, yours, &c.

JOSEPH E. MUSE.

N. B. I would prefer 16 inches in the line for planting in place of the 12; my present crop is 16, making about 7000 stocks to the acre.

J. E. M.

From the Farmers' Register.  
STATEMENT OF THE CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION OF A FIELD OF CORN.

Cambridge, Dec. 29, 1838.

Dear Sir—You requested the result of a corn crop which I made this year and my mode of cultivation, with its rationality. Though not original, because the principles on which it was made are well known and settled, yet it was unusual, and I have not, elsewhere, known their application in the same manner, in all respects.

I have, for several years, tried a few acres, under a similar culture; and finding it considerably superior, in all seasons to the ordinary methods, I extended it this year, to forty acres; and though the drought has very much curtailed the product below the promise of the luxuriant stalks, yet it is very respectable for field-culture.

The field in question was cultivated the previous year in the ordinary mode, having been the same year, manured—about 30 loads, and limed, one hundred bushels to the acre. The then ensuing winter and spring, as early as possible, it was ploughed, a moderate depth, about 4 inches, drag-harrowed and rolled, and drill-planted, in lines 4-1-2 feet apart, and 12 inches in the line; single stalks only left in the thinning, which operation was performed by a patent drill-machine, invented by Francis H. Smith, of Baltimore, which I have found useful, in many years' experience. With one man and two horses, this machine will furrow, drop, cover, and roll down 8 or 10 acres per day, and, with nearly a mathematical precision, in point of line and distance. The corn, when up, was worked with ordinary cultivators, succeeded by one dressing with the "scarifier," about 6 inches deep. This latter implement, which I purchased several years ago, of Sinclair & Moore, of Baltimore, has, in my opinion, no equivalent substitute in the culture of our corn-crop: as by it, the earth may be penetrated and pulverized 6 or 8

inches deep, with two horses, and without turning up the sward, and exposing it to the drying action of the sun and air. The cultivators, or any other harrows, (I prefer the cultivator,) are again used and continued, unceasingly, till the sward is rotten, which will generally be about the last of June, when the plough is, for the first time since the planting, introduced turn up the sward, which, having been so long buried and undisturbed, except by the cutting of the "scarifier,"—and, under the cumulative agency of heat and moisture, is now fully decomposed, and thus incorporated with the soil, which is thereby improved, and adapted to the subsequent wheat or other small grain, which may delight in dainty and well cooked food, when the corn had flourished upon the vapors and gases of the preparatory process. After the plough, I take up again the "cultivator," or any other harrow, under the classic precept, "multum adde, rustrius glebas qui frangit inertes." And the drier the season, the more I use it, to promote the absorption of atmospheric moisture which, at night and in the driest season, is more abundant than generally supposed; as well as to assist, by lighting the surface, soil, the transpiration through it, of the waters of the sub-soil, which being more forcibly acted upon by the greater permeability of the earth in this loose, porous, and lightened condition, to the rays of heat, afford a considerable resource of humidity.

You have then my mode of culture, and the principles on which it is founded. I never cross plough, even in ordinary wide planting, until the sward is rotten. Because, by this process it is turned up, and exposed to the drying and evaporating influence of the sun and air, by which even animal substances, more pure than vegetable, may be, and are especially preserved from putrefaction, as in the ordinary practice of cutting, as it is termed, fish, beef, &c. &c. Because, I have a finer culture, and the soil is better pulverized without it: and though not a thorough going advocate of the doctrine of the well-known Tull, that pulverization, is, in itself, sufficient, yet, I hold it an essential co-operative, and without which, the best crop cannot be produced. And, because, by the operation of early cross-ploughing, unless under a deeper furrow than my experience will justify, the sward is exposed, before decomposition, to the antiseptic agencies which I have named, and becomes indurated; and, if it can then be subdued at all, it will require much cost and labor; and will, when done, have lost much of its pabular constituents.

In consequence of a sweep-stake, which I have taken, upon the crop alluded to—though conceded, and paid over to me, without measurement—yet, I held it proper, requested, to have a subsequent measurement and ascertainment, as accurate as possible, of the product, which I will annex.

The remarkable uniformity of the crop, and the hazard and inconvenience of shelling the whole, so long before a future market, probably of next summer, led me to the following method, viz. "measure one acre; to have its product carefully ascertained; and to obtain a certificate from a disinterested, judicious, and extensively known character," of the uniformity of the growth.

For the latter fact, I wrote to Adam Walde, esq. of Philadelphia, who had recently seen the field in its full growth; and because his well merited eminence, as an editor and publisher of literary and scientific journals, of extensive circulation, would give additional currency and strength to the fact: and he politely favored me with the following reply:

"I well remember the pleasant ride I had with you, through your corn-field. It really required ocular evidence to produce a conviction of the growth of such magnificent corn, in such an unfavorable season. I am really desirous to know the result; to know which, the correct measurement of one acre, I should think sufficient for all practical purposes; for, the difference must have been too small to notice."

The following certificate of the measurement of one acre, was then made by myself with affidavit.

"I hereby certify that I carefully measured and marked one acre of my corn-field of the present year, at my Appleby Farm, and requested the overseer to ascertain the product of said acre in corn. Sworn before, Jno. NEWTON, Justice of the peace for Dorchester county, November, 1838."

The following by the overseer, Mitchell Shore:

"I hereby certify, that I did, at the request of Dr. Muse, carefully ascertain the product of corn on a space in his corn field, at his Appleby farm, the present year, measured and marked by him, for one acre, and that it contained 71 bushels and 3 pecks of shelled corn, the growth of said space. Sworn before, JOHN NEWTON, Justice of the peace for Dorchester county, November, 1838."

It will be seen that the product of my drill-field, viz. forty acres at seventy-one bushels and three pecks per acre, was two thousand eight hundred and seventy bushels of shelled corn, or, "sufficiently near for all practical purposes;" and to this may be fairly added, a part of the immense contribution levied upon all our crops by a fantastical morality and self-willed infatuation, (I will not use an epithet, possibly more appropriate,) which, in disregard of the laws of God and man, preferring idleness and thievry to industry, and honesty, have turned loose upon us, a Vandal swarm

of freed negroes, who work none, and eat none; and of necessity, and most notoriously, live exclusively upon the industry of others; and this year, in evidence of the progressive boldness of accustomed villainy, they have taken, and before removal, shelled my corn in the field to a large extent.

In this field was contained, also, thirty-five acres more, which was planned in the usual manner, at four and a half feet distance, each way; and leaving two salks, upon thinning; when one only at a point, was left in the other: in all other respects, the culture was like the former, except that it was cross harrowed at the close of the cultivation.

It will be observed that the drill had a little more than nine thousand stalks; and the other, about four thousand to the acre. The growth of this was equally good; but the product, though not accurately ascertained, as intended, was unquestionably far short of the drill; but not in the ratio of the respective number of stalks—the ears being larger—yet, I think the difference of product, per acre, at least one-third in favor of the drill.

I have had, under a similar drill culture of five acres, and in a less unfavorable season, one hundred bushels per acre; and my present report may not be interesting, as to quantity, yet under the unfavorable circumstance of an unusual drought; and a field culture too, the result is flattering; and I have, at least, complied with my promise to make the report.

Your politeness will excuse its length, and its blots, when I assure you, the *quod animo* was absent in both offences; and you are at liberty to use it at your discretion, absolute.

I have omitted any notice of the geological and topographical character of the field, and will add it, concisely, for a fair judgment in the case.

The field and the farm, with few exceptions, is a level upland, and by the measurement of our State Engineer, is twenty feet above mid-tide of the Great Choptank river, near which it lies; though poor, and unproductive, when I purchased it some years ago, yet was a well constituted soil, as to "silica" and "alumina;" the latter rather preponderating, and the former chiefly calcareous matter, with which, and nutritive manures, I have largely supplied it; and it is well repaying the cost and labor.

JOSEPH E. MUSE.

P. S. Exception may possibly be taken by some, to the idea of an antiseptic agency of "sun" and "air"—when it is notorious, that the "oxygen of the air, is one of the agents of putrefaction; and that "heat" is another; yet, it must be remembered, that these require to be associated with "moisture" to produce the chemical change; otherwise they exert an energetic agency in resisting it; and, the presence of the moisture, must be fixed, and continued—and, not such, as casual showers, soon evaporated from the surface, would supply. J. E. M.

From the American Farmer.

Tuscany Cattle.

Columbia, S. C., Aug. 20, 1839.

Dear Sir—Having just received the American Farmer of the 14th inst. I have read with pleasure your observations on neat cattle; and as I find you intend to continue them, with a view to permanent improvement, I beg leave to call your attention to "Tuscan Cattle." It is several years since I first became acquainted with them in the hands of a friend; and having been much struck with their apparent hardiness, and peculiar adaptation to our climate, I determined, if I ever owned a farm, to get that stock.

They were imported, I think by Com. Bainbridge, and placed in your hands for sale—were purchased by the late John Middleton, Esq. of Santee, S. C., and have been kept pure ever since. Those which I saw on the farm of John Hunce, Jr., were remarkable for their activity and thriftiness, being always in good order, and the half breed being excellent milkers—the oxen very sprightly and fast. About two years ago I commenced farming, and procured a bull and two heifers from the stock of Mr. Middleton. They were rather small for their age, which may be owing to having been bred in and too long, but were very compact, having heavy bodies, light limbs, and beautifully formed heads and necks—their color white in the summer, and of a slaty or bluish white in winter. I have had them during two very dry summers, when our pastures were very deficient, and consequently our subsequent winter feed also scanty—and in comparison with fifty head of common stock, they were in good beef order during the whole year, while the rest were in very ordinary condition. Last year I had several half bred calves, and this year I have a good many; and I am pleased to say that they are in finer order than any calves I have ever seen with the same treatment. Several of my friends in this neighborhood have Durhams of great beauty, and as fine as are to be found; but they fall off in hot weather in the first pastures, and in the winter require such care as few ordinary farmers are able to give them. I have lately had a good opportunity of comparing the stock, and believe that you are right in relation to the Durhams, for a Southern climate. I have several in the same pasture with the Tuscans, but they are poor, and the former as far as grass fed cattle ever are. I understand that the experience of our lower country planters is much in favor of this stock, and that they are very popular in the neighborhood of Mr. Middleton's plantation. Our people have, as yet, paid but little attention to

stock, and I find nothing published respecting these cattle. I therefore take the liberty of requesting you to let us have your knowledge of them, as I think they are bred in New Jersey also.

Many of my friends, who own Durhams, and as yet value them very highly, consider the Tuscans as too diminutive, and not good milkers; but Com. Jones speaks of the oxen as of good size, and travelling in July 40 miles a day—and the cow as yielding 13 to 16 quarts of milk. My dairy-woman tells me that my two heifers are much better milkers than any of my common stock, and some of those are very good, and that the milk affords more cream.

My object is to cross the Tuscan on the Durham and thus increase the size of the former, and give thriftiness to the latter. I would mention a fact, which appears to me to favor the stamina of the bull—that every half bred calf, no matter what the color of the mother, is of the same (cream) color, which becomes darker as they get older, most of them remaining of the color of the deer some becoming darker.

There is great demand here for Durham cattle, and the Devons are not much enquired for. The few of the latter that Col. Hampton has, are valued highly by him, and attract much attention from their beauty; but the demand is for the breed that will give 30 quarts of milk.

I have written you a hurried account of the Tuscans, to remind you of them, and hope you will be able to give us some information about them. I am satisfied for our hot suns winter (shuck) treatment, that the Tuscans will get along while others will "fly to pieces." This being the case, they certainly can be improved; and it will be better to have a stock that we can improve, in preference to one that will degenerate.

Respectfully yours,

R. W. GIBBS, M. D.

J. S. Skinner, Esq.

It is nearly seventeen years since we undertook to predict that these cattle, then sold to Mr. Middleton, would prove to be a valuable acquisition to the Southern States; and now we have the satisfaction to read from the highest authority, a confirmation of our prophecy. We can add nothing to what is said by Dr. Gibbs, but on turning back to the 4th volume of the American Farmer, we have concluded to republish a letter from the veteran Commodore Jones, with comments, which may serve to evince the zeal which existed at that time, for the importation of valuable animals from abroad, and to furnish a history of the importation of these Tuscany cattle, just now, it seems, beginning to be estimated as they deserve.

U. S. SHIP CONSTITUTION,

Gibraltar, 16th Sept. 1822.

DEAR SIR:

I have received your's of the 16th and 23d of July, and am pleased at your determination respecting the Andalusian Horses and Mares; not that it would have been the least agreeable to me, to have carried them to you, but from the belief, since the examination I have made of this race of animals, that the best that could be had here, would be but little valued in the U. States. I did not see, from Cadiz to Seville, a horse, which, in our country, would bring \$200; nor a mare which could be sold at \$50. We shall sail soon for Tunis, where I will inform myself of the habits, &c. of the broad-tail sheep, and if any are of finer wool, I will procure a few. I am very sorry at not being able to see the letter of Mr. Jefferson, which you refer to—the papers which you so obligingly sent me, have been searched in vain, for it.

I am informed that the best Jacks, any where on the coast of the Mediterranean, are at the Island of Majorca, from whence I intend to take a Jack and Jenny to our country. Should nothing occur to prevent our going to Malta, I will bring you, from thence, a Jenny, to pair with your Jack. In visiting the farms at Moncorca, with Mr. Lado, our consul, who has several of his own, and bestows much attention to farming, I saw two extraordinarily fine mules, and on asking him if I could see the Jack that was their sire, he pointed to a small Jenny that was in the field with them, and assured me that they were in offspring of her and the horse in the adjoining lot a slender formed animal and not exceeding 15 hands high. He also said that all their best mules are from the horse and Jenny, and that they are more docile than those from the Jack. I am assured by those whose information is most to be trusted, that an Arabian horse is not to be found this side of Egypt, and the best Bays are to be had in Morocco, but the price is from 600 to \$1000, besides a high duty for exportation. I have not seen any of the Mahogany cattle, (g.) such as you mention. The cattle that I see in Spain, appear to be nothing superior to ours; nor have I seen any where on the Mediterranean, any that appear better than those in America; except a race of which cattle at Naples, used for the draught. I was informed by a gentleman, who, in supplying the government with timber, that had used thirty yoke of them for two years, that during that time, they had constantly travelled from twenty to twenty-five miles a day, excepting Sundays and the holidays—the place from whence he drew the timber, being from forty to fifty miles distant from Naples. He said they were the offspring of the Spanish Bull and Hungarian Cow, or the Hungarian Bull and Spanish Cow. They are generally fifteen hands high, their bodies long, a sharp muzzle resembling the deer—colour entirely white, except a black nose, ears, and the tuft of the tail. They are most

frequently worked in the thills of a cart, and are spirited and walk as quick as a horse, and appear not to suffer from heat, more than a horse, (h.) I would have bought a bull and a cow, had we been returning down the Mediterranean, but to have taken them to Smyrna and the Archipelago would have caused too much trouble and expense I have inquired, whenever opportunities of obtaining correct information have occurred, the quantity of milk given by their cows, and have, no where, heard of so much as in our country except at Genoa, where a good cow gives about fourteen quarts per day, and in Tuscany from fourteen to sixteen. (i.) I intend to carry home several of the Spanish hogs, and some of the sweet acorns, which they are principally fed. I believe the tree will grow well in Maryland and Virginia. They are a small oak about the size of a large peach tree, and bear very abundantly every year. I have seen no domestic fowls equal to those we have, though I have often been at Malta, I never saw or heard that their geese and ducks were better than those elsewhere, (k.) but should I return there, which I hope to do, I will ascertain the truth. There is promised me some hares and red bill partridges; the large pigeon of Barbary we have on board. Of grass seeds I shall get none—clover only is sowed where I have been.

Respectfully yours, JACOB JONES.

(g.) Pursr Hamilton had mentioned to the Editor, a beautiful race of milk cattle in Italy, of mahogany colour.

(h.) This is the valuable breed of a bull and cow imported by Com. Bainbridge, and now the property of John Middleton, Esq. of S. Carolina, where we hope they will be properly estimated, as they undoubtedly constitute one of the most valuable acquisitions ever made in the Southern States. These cattle were some time in the possession of the Editor, who became convinced by personal observation that for activity and adaptation to all kinds of farm labour, and for capacity to withstand the heat of a Southern climate, they fully justify the character here given by Com. Jones—the colour, form and texture of their skin, all indicate these capacities—we repeat the hope that they may be duly appreciated and fully tested.

(i.) With respect to cows for milk, we have nothing to gain from abroad—except, perhaps the Ayrshire cow of Scotland, mentioned by Sir John Sinclair.

(k.) We had been told they were of superior quality at Trieste, by Major W. B. Barney.

IMPORTANT FACTS IN REGARD TO KEEPING APPLES SOUND FOR A LONG TIME.

QUEEN ANN'S CO., E. S., MD. }  
June 2d, 1837 }

I had this day on my table the first strawberries from my garden, and, at the same time, a dish of fine sound Newton pippins from my orchard. They were no kept for the occasion; they have been used in profusion, in my family, since the first of January, and presents made of them to some esteemed friends. The apples were preserved by drying them in the sun for two or three days when first gathered, and put away in dry sand, so as not to touch each other. To ite fruit throughout the year is desirable—it is a cheap luxury, and I think conducive to health. I have heretofore paid some attention to storing my apples, but have not before succeeded in preserving pippins till the ripening of the summer fruits. The sand ought to be perfectly dry, and clear of clay, which would give them an earthy taste.

I do not claim as an original discovery the means of preserving apples. Packing them in sand is common in this part of the country. The drying them I took from the New York Cultivator. I am satisfied that the combination is preferable to either of the means separately used. This is a small matter, but being within the scope of agricultural economy, I have supposed you would give it a place in the Register.

WM. CARMICHAEL,

American Farmer.

Color of the Horse.

As almost every man has some favorite color for his horses, and tastes are as various as individuals, the color of this animal would be of comparatively little consequence, were it not indicative of the breeding and blood, and of course, in a great measure, of constitution and temper. It has been said that a good horse could not be of a bad color; and in many respects the position is true; still, for the reasons given, there are some colors which experience shows should be preferred. Fashions, however, are mutable, and in no respect are they less permanent than in that of the color of horses. The color of the hair, and that of the skin, is depending on the mucous tissue or network immediately beneath the cuticle, the outer of scarf skin being colorless, and only serving to protect the true skin and its appendages from friction or injury.

The pure white horse is a very rare animal, the majority of those that appear so having once been grey, and growing white after reaching the age of four or five years. Among the Arabians, a pure white mare is considered almost priceless; as in that case the purity of her blood, and her direct descent from the celebrated steed of the prophet cannot be doubted. Those of the best blood are not large, but beautiful in the extreme, and as gentle and docile as lambs. Introduced into Europe, they have proved of good constitutions, little subject to disease, not of the fleetest kind or the greatest en-

durance, but excellent for light carriages or the saddle.

Grey horses can be found of every shade from the lightest mixture, or silver grey, to the dark iron grey. The lightest greys show the most clearly their blood of the Arab or barb; are rarely heavy horses, but well built, round bodied, and like those from which they originated, better for the saddle than the harness. The mixture of blood does not, however, appear to have improved their temper, though it certainly has rendered them more hardy. The iron greys have still more endurance than the light greys, and more than their general appearance would indicate, as there is in their build usually quite a departure from the round carcass and close, but some of the preceding ones. The most common defect in the iron grey is found in the liability of the feet to contraction, which sometimes, though not always, renders them subject to lameness. The dappled grey is usually one of the most beautiful and valuable of the grey horses, being better built than the iron grey, and capable of more endurance than the lighter kinds. For any purpose; for the saddle or the carriage, the farm or the road, there are few better horses than can be found among the dappled greys, and much pains has been taken to improve their blood. A dark dappled grey usually retains his color to old age; the lighter ones grow lighter as they become older. The grey requires to be thoroughly broken, and will bear less trifling with than most other horses; appearing to have a tinge of viciousness in his disposition, which, unless checked when young, is apt to become troublesome with age.

Road horses are such as have their hair composed of the white, bay, or red, and the black; and it, of course, admits of a great variety of shades. In some road horses the mixture appears to be a natural one, the hairs of the different colors intermixed, while in other cases the bay or the black appears to have been sprinkled over the others. In such the roans the individual hairs are frequently of more than one color. Roans are generally pretty horses, good tempered, but are not remarkable for endurance. The strawberry roan is a mixture of sorrel with white, sometimes handsome, but not calculated for hard labor or severe fatigue. Pied horses are not so well liked as greys or roans, but when well matched, they sometimes appear well as carriage horses. Their value, of course, depends on their breed. The cream colored, or Hanoverian horse, is remarkable for the white iris and red pupil of his eye, and is appropriated to the use of the royal family in England. He has a heavy, yet perfectly formed body, and is a superb animal; but there is no experience to show whether he would be valuable for any other than the light service assigned him.

The dun horse, especially of the larger size, is much esteemed in England as a good farm or miller's horse constitution and temper good, feeding well, somewhat of a drone in his movements, of tolerable strength, and on the whole a useful horse. Some duns are shaded or dappled with spots of a darker color; and these having better blood, and more action and life, are much sought after as ladies' horses, being both beautiful and manageable. The chestnut horses are divided into these varieties; three lightest, or the sorrel, usually having more or less white on their face or legs, and generally slenderly made. They have, as a whole, little breeding, and are deficient in hardiness. The next variety has less red and more bay or brown, and is preferred to the former; but though pleasant to ride, is in the harness inclined to be fretful, and of slight endurance, compared with some other horses. The dark chestnut, is as different from the foregoing as possible; fine in the leg, round built, powerful in the harness, of an excellent constitution and endurance, little troubled with disease, unless about the feet, sometimes having a fiery and intractable temper. This kind of horse is much esteemed as a carriage horse, and when well broken, is one of the best of horses on the farm.

Of all colors, however the bay horse is the most generally and deservedly esteemed, and in their several varieties they include our very best horses of every kind, carriage, road, farm, or turf. Of bays, the lightest colored are considered the least valuable, showing less breeding, and being less hardy. The proper bay horse, with no white about him black from the knee and the hocks to the feet, the hoofs of a shining black, is the favorite color, has generally a good constitution, rarely is affected with bad or tender hoofs, and if not faulty in other respects, will turn out a valuable horse for almost every purpose. As the bay approaches the brown, there is usually less show and action, but increased strength and hardiness; and for hard farm work, perhaps more usefulness. This class has usually more substance than the lighter bays, and were the same pains taken in breeding, might be as handsome a horse, and for ordinary purposes, more valuable.

Brown is not a fashionable color, and no horses, as a body, have so little breeding as these. Owing to this, they are comparatively coarse animals; and though there are some excellent horses among the browns, as a whole they are only calculated for slow work. The black brown has been more neglected than the common brown, and in making choice of them they require to be examined closely. Some of them have the constitution and good qualities of the bay brown, and where this blood is found, few horses are to be preferred.