

# CHERAW GAZETTE

AND

## PEE DEE FARMER.

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**Dr. MAOLBAN,**  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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From the New England Farmer.

Visit to the Farm of Elias Phinney, Esq., Lexington Mass.

We have in the farm of this gentleman substantial proof of the efficacy of "book farming." He assured us that his interest in agriculture was first awakened by reading the N. E. Farmer. Having received a classical education, he has, to be sure, the advantage of our farmers in general, for whom so little has been done by education,—we were prepared, therefore, in viewing his premises, to witness something a little extra, from what may be seen on well cultivated farms in general: but we found that our expectations had not been raised sufficiently high: we were in fact delighted and astonished to be made acquainted with the wonderful improvements which have been effected on this place since he began to cultivate it fourteen or fifteen years since. It was then a poor worn out farm, covered with rocks, whorlberry bushes, and scrub oaks; while the lowlands were inaccessible quagmires and slder swamps, of the most unpromising description—the whole farm, consisting of 160 acres, not affording more than 8 or 10 tons of hay, and all other crops in the same proportion; the fences out of repair, the fruit of an inferior quality, fit only for cider; and every thing upon the place at sixes and sevens, as the saying is. It does not seem hardly possible that so much could have been achieved in so short a time. It shows what can be done by untiring diligence directed by science. It is a complete triumph of "book farming" over the old course of husbandry, handed down from father to son.—Mr. Phinney has had the boldness to strike out of the old path, and in some instances pursue a course of his own invention. His improvements may be divided as follows:

1st. In planting upon the green sward without disturbing the soil.

2d. In clearing and draining his waste swamps and quagmires, and converting them into the most productive grass and cornfields.

3d. In clearing his uplands of rocks, and laying them into walls of the most durable and massive description—subduing the bushes in the unproductive pastures, and bringing them into fertile fields.

4th. In his orchard of apple trees, which for beauty, thrift, and produce can hardly be excelled.

5th. In his choice collection of fruits of every desirable variety.

6th. In his improved breed of swine.

7th. His barns and accommodations for cattle, swine, poultry, &c.

To which may be added many other improvements of minor importance, but which add to the interest, beauty, and profit of the place.

The idea of planting upon the green sward without disturbing the soil, has been ridiculed by a writer in the N. E. Farmer, vol. 17, page 317—as being impracticable especially in the potato crop. We saw an example of this operation, and one too of a most perfect kind, which we should suppose sufficient to convince the most sceptical. It was in a lot of three acres of potatoes. On the 20th of June there was a heavy crop of grass upon the ground, in addition to which twenty loads of compost to the acre was spread on, and at that time turned over; after ploughing, it was rolled with a heavy roller, (an implement by the way which should be in the possession of every one who calls himself a farmer.) The potatoes were planted in drills—had been hoed but once; yet hardly a weed was to be seen, nor a spear grass daring to show itself, and sufficient earth, about the plants, with every prospect of an abundant harvest. In the spring this ground will be in fine order to lay down again to grass, and that too without disturbing the sod; or if advisable, planted with corn or any other crop.

Allowing the vegetable matter turned in equal to 20 loads of compost per acre, we have with that spread what is equivalent to 40 loads per acre. No wonder then that by following this process continually, he should be able to cut from 2.1.2 to 3.1.2 tons of hay per acre, which he actually does from his grass lands. He has another idea which we think important for a good crop of grass; that is, to sow an abundance of seed. His rule is 20 lbs. of clover seed per acre, together with a liberal allowance of berds grass and red top to boot. This would astonish most of our farmers, who can afford only from 4 to 10 lbs. per acre.

We saw a field of six acres of corn, from which a crop of 80 bushels to the acre is estimated, and provided we have warm weather sufficient to ripen any corn, we

should judge the estimate not too high; the cold weather a few days past, is however against the corn crop. The variety of corn planted is called the Phinney—a fine long eared, twelve rowed variety, and earlier than the Dutton corn, to which it has some resemblance.

In another lot on his peat meadow, we saw a smaller field, on which the corn was more luxuriant and promising than on the one just named, and if that produces 80 bushels, we should not be surprised if this produced 100 bushels to the acre. Think of this, you that own unreclaimed peat meadows, and are longing for the fertile prairies of the west; before you sacrifice your farms and bid adieu to the institutions and hills of New England make an effort and bring them into subjection: it will prove an antidote to the western fever, or we are much mistaken.

We noticed a fine field of wheat of 8 acres, which the laborers were gathering into the granary. It appeared well filled out: the produce estimated at 20 bushels per acre: it was of the variety called the Black Sea, which we find succeeds best in the vicinity of Boston and most generally cultivated. We were informed that about 30 acres were under the plough the present season. Besides Indian corn, potatoes and English grain, Mr. Phinney cultivates the root crop extensively. His ruta bagas, mangal wurtzels, sugar beets and carrots looked very promising, and will afford an abundance of food for his numerous family of swine, and other stock.

In draining his low lands, Mr. Phinney first cuts off all springs from the surrounding hill by a deep cut at the margin or outer edge of the piece, which is converted into a blind ditch: from this most important cut, the drains are made to the centre ditch.—Where there is an abundance of stones as in this case, all the drains may be filled and covered over, so that the operations of the plough &c., may not be impeded. We were shown one piece over which it was dangerous for his cattle to pass, and in which they sometimes got mired, before he commenced the draining process; here his first essay on draining had been made, in which, through inexperience, he cut only the centre and cross drains; but with all he did, it would produce nothing but skunk's cabbage, hellebore, brakes, &c.; and it seemed that all his labor had been lost, until he learned the importance of the ditch around the margin, which produced the desired effect, and now it ranks among his most productive grass lots, and a loaded team may be driven without difficulty over it.

We were pleased with his system of digging peat, of which he has an ample supply. Where peat is generally dug, the grounds are left in the roughest state, and present an unpleasant and unsightly appearance, and remain an unproductive waste: but it is his rule to have the top spit, a depth of ten inches or a foot, (the portion unfit for the fire,) thrown over and levelled as the work of digging proceeds: in this way it soon becomes covered with grass, which answers very well for stock hay.

One peculiar feature of this farm is the massive stone walls by which it is enclosed and divided. It would seem a Herculean task to build the wall that has been put up under the care of the intelligent proprietor. In the measurement of the length of wall upon the farm, we may safely say there are miles of it,—we know not how much there may be on this subject we are not informed;—one piece of considerable length is 10 or 11 feet thick, seven feet high, and covered with grapes which have been set out on the south side of it; a fine native variety, found on the place. The vines were loaded with fruit, and bring by the quantity from 8 to 10 cents per pound: we should judge their might be a ton of them. All the other walls are double, from 5 to 10 feet thick and 5 to 6 feet high, and must have consumed an enormous quantity of stone. We noticed grapes upon many other portions of wall.

The orchard on this farm is equal if not superior to any we have seen. It contains from 400 to 500 trees, principally Baldwins, Russels, and Rhode Island Greenings. It produced a very abundant crop last year, but there is scarcely an apple upon it. It was planted some where about 14 or 15 years since. The soil is generally a light rich loam, upon a gravelly, and in some places a rocky foundation. The trees were taken from the nursery in autumn, and placed in trenches until the following spring. They were planted near the surface, and in many instances, upon the surface, without digging any holes, and the dirt placed upon the roots. The orchard is situated on a side hill having a south and south-east exposure. Many of the trees were severely injured by the hard winters of 1835 and '36, which caused the destruction of some of them. Their places have since been supplied with young trees. The mice injured some of the trees a number of years since, by gnawing the bark so that in some cases the trees were completely girdled, and to all appearance lost. An ingenious method was devised to save them. Having prepared some large scions, five or six of them were inserted in each tree below the wounds in the bark, and then connected with bark above the common operation of side grafting: in this way the sap was conducted from the roots to the top and the trees saved.

We saw some of the trees thus operated upon: the scions had increased to the diameter of 3 or 4 inches, and had nearly come in contact with each other: we should doubt, however, whether the trees would be long lived, as the old wood must be unsound, and an early decay must be the conse-

quence. The trees appeared now as vigorous as any of their neighbors. The orchard has never been laid down to grass, but kept in constant cultivation. The trees are finely shaped, having been pruned with a skillful hand, and just high enough from the ground to work under without inconvenience: the trees are about two rods apart: in some places they nearly cover the ground. We do not remember how many barrels were gathered for the market last year, but the quantity was great. Besides this orchard, there is another that has been set out only 2 or 3 years, of 2 or 300 trees, all of which are sweet apples, designed expressly for the swine. All the refuse apples are fed to the hogs, and considered much more valuable for that use than for cider.

The farm is abundantly stocked with pears, plums, peaches, grapes, &c. There are more than 2000 fruit trees of various sorts upon the place, and all have been reared and pruned by the hand of the proprietor himself.

One of the most pleasant sights is a trellis, 30 rods in length, covered with the Isabella grape, from which was gathered last year two tons of grapes, which found a ready sale in Boston market at 10 to 12 cents per pound. The crop was said not to be so heavy this year, but to us it appeared very great. There is also a small house where the more delicious foreign grapes are grown.

The plums had suffered severely from the curculio, and most of the trees had lost their fruit. There is a disease upon the currant bush, which we have noticed in many other places as well as on this. The bush loses its leaves prematurely, and the fruit becomes withered and worthless. We have in vain sought for the cause. Can any of our readers inform us, and prescribe a remedy?—The vegetable garden is large, and well stocked with every variety: what is not consumed in the family is marketed or fed to the swine.

Mr. Phinney has taken great pains to improve his breed of swine, and probably there are none superior in the state. As we have a promise from him of a description of his pigs and piggy for the 'N. E. Farmer,' we shall not enlarge upon this subject. He prefers a cross of the Berkshire and Mackey to any other, and most of his pigs for slaughter are of this description. He has the full blooded Berkshire, Mackey and other breeds, and mixes to suit himself. We noticed a sow lately imported from England, called the Essex half black: the hinder part of the animal is jet black and the fore half white. There are some good points about her, and she may prove a valuable acquisition to his stock: not having recovered from her sea voyage, she does not appear now as she will after a few weeks of good keeping. There is an old sow near which an object of curiosity, (we do not recollect the breed,) that weighs 900 lbs., a monstrous overgrown animal: she had been turned out of her pen to enjoy her liberty a little, which she did not however, seem to appreciate much, as all the room she wanted appeared to be enough to turn round and lie down upon. She looks as though she might be the parent of a most numerous offspring, but we understood she was without issue, having apparently no inclination to form an intimacy with the other sex. The number of swine is about 140. The care of which employs one man constantly.

The barns and other buildings for the accommodation of stock are convenient and comfortable, with sufficient room for the hay and grain produced on the farm. About 100 tons of hay are cut annually, part of which is sold. For every ton of hay sold, one cord of manure is purchased. To improve the land keep it in high fith, it is necessary of course to manufacture a large amount of manure. This is done first by the hogs. The man who has the care of them is constantly employed at odd hours in furnishing them materials, such as meadow mud, peat, weed, &c.: second, by sheep: in autumn 150 or 200 wethers are purchased from the droves, and fed through the winter: by March they are in good flesh, and bring a high price, and pay well for their keeping; their yards being furnished with a plenty of mud and litter, when mixed by their excrements makes a rich compost: third—by the other stock and the manure purchased, which is carefully mixed with twice the quantity of meadow manure. One cord of this composition is considered about equal to one cord of stable manure alone.

In making our observations upon this place, we feel as if it was not in our power to do it justice, as we spent but a few hours upon it. Every part of it shows, that science, industry and skill, it has been rendered worthy of being ranked among the first of well cultivated farms in New England, and its proprietor worthy of all praise for the laudable examples he has set for the imitation of his agricultural brethren.

From the New England Farmer.

### Profits of Farming

Much discussion and conversation have been had upon this subject. We do not mean to enter fully or much at large upon a subject which requires to be examined in various aspects and relations, in order that an enlightened and well founded judgment may be made up; and especially in order that we may not lead to any false inferences of its unprofitableness, nor encourage any fallacious expectations as to any advantages, (we mean pecuniary advantages,) to be derived from it. The erroneous opinions and calculations which have been formed in this matter, have led to most painful results to serious losses, and to bitter and vexatious

disappointments. We know a gentleman who tried farming on an extensive and experimental scale, whose authority is often quoted as asserting that "in agriculture two and two do not make four." We understand it to be implied in this, that calculations respecting the profitable results of agriculture, or a fair return for the expenditure of labor and the investment of capital, are not likely to be verified as in the other business pursuits of life. We do not admit the axiom in any fair sense. We do not believe that it does justice to agriculture; and no small experience and some observation satisfy us, that circumstances being equal, farming would furnish as fair a compensation for labor, and as ample a dividend upon the capital invested, as the common trades which men engage in, and even the pursuits of mercantile and commercial life. Of course we except all extraordinary cases of good fortune, and all matters of gambling and speculation.

The returns of most crops strike one sometimes with astonishment; and would, if taken as a test, lead to the most delusive expectations. A grain of seed sometimes returns a hundred fold; and this being sown a second year, would perhaps give ten thousand fold, and so on in a geometrical ratio. Twenty bushels of potatoes planted will frequently yield four hundred bushels, that is twenty for one. A bushel of wheat sown sometimes returns thirty bushels. A peck of Indian corn planted will often produce sixty bushels, that is two hundred and forty for one. A pound of carrot seed or ruta baga, which costs a dollar, will produce six or nine hundred bushels of roots worth one hundred dollars. The proceeds in this case seem enormous and yet they are constantly realized, and often, it must be admitted, at a comparatively small expense. But no confident conclusions on the profits of farming are to be drawn from such results as these. So many circumstances of abatement enter into the case, that if these are the only elements given in the case, the solution of the problem would give the most egregiously erroneous and deceptive results.

We are not to look to agriculture for any extraordinary or sudden gains, as for example, like drawing the capital prize in a lottery where there are two blanks to a prize; like some successful East India voyage, where the sale of the cargo yields a net profit of one hundred per cent; or like some sudden rise in the stocks, or some monopolized article of produce, where a shrewd operation draws in thousands or tens of thousands into our pockets. But that skill, experience, assiduity, and industry will, in agriculture, yield a fair, and to a reasonable mind an ample compensation, there are too many and reiterated proofs to admit even of a doubt.

As we said in the beginning, we do not design at this time to go largely into this subject, and we refer to it in particular at this time, for the sake of relating some parts of a conversation which we once had with a respectable and independent but complaining farmer in our own despised State. This man then had a farm which was fully valued at four thousand dollars. The father, who had given the farm to the son, had begun life without a dollar, had run into debt for a large part of the purchase money, but had sometime since, while he supported his family, earned from the proceeds of the farm, sufficient to pay for it. Without any incumbrance he had then put in his son's possession, and now lived with him under the same roof.

Said the son, farming is a miserable business!

But why so? Let us look into this matter. What is the estimated value of your farm?

Four thousand dollars.

Is it increasing in value?

Yes; by its favorable location, and by every improvement that is made upon it.

Do you get all the produce from it which it can be made to yield?

No, not one-third. It consists of one hundred and twenty acres. At least fifty acres of it are in wood, and a considerable portion in pasture. Besides that, I have several acres of peat bog, which might be redeemed and brought into English grasses.

What is the value of the wood land?

We supply our family with fuel, and besides this the growth of the wood and the hoop poles which we obtain from it, pays a large interest upon the current value of the land, so that we consider this as one of the most profitable parts of the farm.

Have you done any thing to improve your pasture lands?

No—I suppose I ought to. I tried one hundred weight of plaster spread upon a part of it, and the effects were visible as far as the land could be seen; but then after that, plaster rose half a dollar on a ton, and I thought I would not get any more. Then the buckleberry bushes and sweet fern, and the brakes and alders have come in so that I cannot keep as much stock as I could formerly.

Have you attempted any improvement upon your bog meadows?

Yes, I have. I have a bog hole where I suppose I could get two hundred loads a year, but then I should have to go more than a mile for it, and it is wet work.

Have you plenty of manure?

No; this is a great want. I have a bog hole where I suppose I could get two hundred loads a year, but then I should have to go more than a mile for it, and it is wet work.

Do you know what these farmers have to pay for manure in Boston?

Why, yes! I have been told they have to give sometimes from three to five dollars a cord at the stables. Sometimes our tavern keeper sells a few loads, but he asks five dollars a cord.

Have you a barn cellar?

No. I have often thought it would be a very good thing, and my barn is well situated for one; but then it would cost, besides what work I should do with my own team, full fifty dollars to make one.

Do you keep cows?

Yes, I keep some just to eat up our coarse fodder; but our women folks do not like dairy work, so we buy our butter and sell our milk to the milk-man for eleven cents a gallon.

Do you keep swine?

Only one or two for our own pork. We do not have any skim-milk or butter milk for them. Besides there is no great profit in fattening hogs. They will not much more than pay for what feed they will eat. I know they will make a large quantity, of manure, but then you must cart in a great deal of stuff into their pens or else they can't make any. But come I must show you a sow I have got; she is only fifteen months old, and I sold her pigs for more than forty dollars. I suppose I shall make her weigh four hundred in the fall.

Do you raise your own grain and potatoes?

Not all. I raise about three acres of corn and about as much rye, and about six hundred bushels of potatoes. We sell hay and buy Genesee flour. We have tried wheat, but sometimes it is blasted; and it doesn't make white flour; and our women folks say they cannot make handsome pie-crust or white bread with it.

How many have you in your family?

I have a wife and eight children, and my father lives with me.

Have you any trade?

No; I have nothing but a farm.

Does your farm support your family and pay your labor?

Why, yes! I have nothing else, excepting a little interest that comes from some money which I received for the sale of wood from the farm, sometime ago, which came to about five hundred dollars, and which I put out at interest. We sell enough produce from the farm to pay our hired labor, which costs about a hundred dollars per year, and our store bills and taxes.

We have very much abridged this conversation, we shall leave it without farther comment. But here is a husbandman on a farm valued at four thousand dollars, not producing more than one-third of what it might be made to produce, yet supporting a family of eleven persons and paying all expenses, excepting the labor and superintendence of one man, and the farm gradually increasing in value by every expenditure, however small, for its improvement; this man too, not working half the time, and his family living in the enjoyment of all the luxuries, if they choose to have them, which they can reasonably ask. Let such a man if he will, take his two hundred and forty dollars income and labor no more hours than he does in the country, and go into Boston and try to support his family there. The end of the year would show him a result which would make him ashamed to complain of his present condition. His whole money income of two hundred and forty dollars would scarcely pay for his fuel, his taxes, and the rent of a ten-footer.—What an evil it is that our farmers do not know their blessings!

### Hogs.

From the days of Varro and Columella down to the present times, there seems to have been but little difference of opinion among intelligent agriculturists as to the standard qualities which constitute a good hog. These old writers agree in considering the marks to be a small head, short legs, long body, broad back, and large hams and shoulders. If to these points we add early maturity and aptitude to fatten, we have, pretty nearly, the modern beau ideal of a perfect porker. There is, however, another modern breed of hogs, possessing none of these qualities, which, nevertheless, seems, heretofore, to have been vastly popular.—This is the "razor-backed" family, as it is called, with long snouts and legs, thin bodies, sharp backs, wonderful agility, and an obstinate aversion to taking on fat. This amiable race has been in vogue for a great while, and is still to be found on many of our farms; but we think is now gradually disappearing before the more portly breeds, which have, from time to time, been introduced. Among the earliest of these valuable importations, was the Chinese, which, although generally considered too small in its pure blood, for market pork, yet has furnished an excellent cross for our native stock; and is perhaps the most delicate and beautiful meat of the pork kind for domestic use. Various other valuable breeds have been since imported, which are a great im-

provement upon our scrub races. Among these may be mentioned the Russia, Berkshire, and Irish Grazer. The two latter are now in greatest repute; but have not yet been introduced into this region. We have the Russia, however, which in comparison with our scrub hog, is a vastly fine animal; possessing many of the qualities of the China pig, with the additional advantages of large size and heavy weight.

It is great folly, in the farmer, to feed the "razor-back" at no profit, or a dead loss, when he can procure at a reasonable expense, the improved breeds of swine, which pay so much better for their keep. The difference must be immense, as we have no doubt a fair experiment would fully exemplify. The possession of a good stock of swine, too, generally, involves the additional advantage of better attention and keep than the scrub animal is apt to receive. The farmer takes a pride and pleasure in his care of a good pig, which is not extraordinary should be altogether wanting in the rearing an inferior one.

In relation to the management and feeding of a stock of hogs, it is altogether easier to prescribe directions than to reduce them to practice. Crushing, grinding, boiling steaming and fermenting food for hogs, can be easily demonstrated to be by far the most profitable method; and where the stock is small, it ought always to be adopted. But we despair of persuading the large farmer to enter upon it. It certainly does make a great deal of trouble, and consumes no little time; and, his time and labor cannot always be spared from other necessary operations on the farm, although there would, doubtless, be a fair remuneration in the economy accomplished in the use of the food thus consumed. An English gentleman, for instance (Mr. Saunders of Stroud Gloucestershire,) entered upon and carried out an experiment, than which we cannot conceive of any thing much more troublesome and laborious, and at its termination considered himself to have accomplished a piece of great and successful economy. He daily made five hogheads of hay tea, thickened with milk and sugar, but with bran, meal or boiled vegetables, and fed it to upwards of 400 pigs, keeping them in excellent order, and many of them fit for the butcher. In the course of his experiment he used nearly 1500 hogheads of the tea; the pigs took on sleek and glossy coats, seemed highly gratified with their fare, and drank themselves into a particularly rich and delicate meat, either for pork or bacon. Incredible as it may appear, the entire charges of bed, board, washing and lodging for these 400 pigs, were at the rate of one penny a head per day.

Now, brilliant as was the success of this experiment with these interesting pigs we can hardly hope to persuade any of our readers to repeat it, and therefore we do not attempt it, although it is our firm conviction that there is but little, if any, labor, time, or expense incurred on the farm, which would be better compensated than that spent in a judicious preparation of food by cooking or fermentation, for swine particularly. This trouble, owing to a different organization of the digestive functions in the horse and cow, would not be so well remunerated when incurred for them.

We like the Kentucky system of making pork. The hogs here go into clover in the spring, are turned upon the rye fields as they ripen, when these are consumed subsist on hills in the wheat and oats stubble, and fatten themselves in the fields of standing corn. This system involves two particularly important, among other advantages. The hogs require little or no attention; and returning to the soil what they take from it the land is in a constant routine of improvement, although growing exhausting crops the greater part of the time. This method is adapted to a large business; and although it wears the aspect of waste and slovenliness, it may be questioned whether it is not, upon the whole, the most economical that can be devised.

Crops of oats consumed while standing, some early, and others to come in about the middle of August and first of September, would aid greatly in the rearing of hogs, and lots of fields of artichokes for Fall, Winter and early Spring rooting, would without doubt, be found convenient and profitable. The orchard, in its season, will also prove a great help.

Tennessee Farmer.

### GREAT FIELD OF MILK.

MR. TUCKER:—Having noticed some statements of extraordinary cows in your paper. I have taken the liberty to send you the following for publication. I have a cow, although laboring under great disadvantage in consequence of short feed and extreme warm weather, gave the last week in July, the following quantity of milk:

	lbs.
Sunday,	49
Monday,	45 3-4
Tuesday,	45
Wednesday,	49
Thursday,	50
Friday,	48
Saturday,	47 1/2

Total 330 1/2  
The cream from the milk of the two last days was churned by itself and made 44 pounds of butter, being an average of two pounds six ounces per day, or sixteen pound ten ounces per week.

This cow last season, whilst in good feed, gave about sixty pounds or thirty quarts of milk per day.

Bowditch Hill.

Victor, Ontario Co. Aug. 8, 1839.