

An Hour at the Old Play Ground.
By HENRY HORNOR.

I sat an hour to-day, John,
Beside the old brook stream,
Where we were school boys in old time,
When merriment was a dream;
The brook is choked with fallen leaves,
The pond is dried away—
I scarce believe you would know
The dear old place to-day.

The school-house is no more, John,
Beneath our loudest trees;
The wild rose by the window side
No more waves in the breeze;
The scattered staves look desolate,
The soil they rested on
Has been plowed up by stranger hands
Since you and I were gone.

The chestnut tree is dead, John,
And what is sadder now—
The broken grape-vine of our swing
Hangs on the withered bough;
I read our names upon the bark
And found the pebbles rare
Laid up beneath the hollow side
As we had piled them there.

Behind the grass-grown bank, John,
I looked for our old spring,
That bubbled down the rocky path,
Three paces from the spring;
The rocks grow upon the brink,
The pool is black and bare,
And not a foot, it many a day,
It seems has trodden there.

I took the old blind road, John,
That wandered up the hill;
'Tis darker than it used to be,
And seems so lone and still!
The birds sing yet among the boughs
Where once the sweet grapes hung,
But not a voice of human kind
Where all our voices rung.

I sit me on the fence, John,
That lies as in old time,
The same half path in the path
I used to go to climb—
And thought how far the bars of life
Our playmates had passed on,
And left me counting on this spot
The faces that are gone.

Farmer's Department.

From the Augusta Constitutionalist.

FERTILIZERS.

Great agricultural changes must necessarily attend the revolution of our ancient system of labor. The lack of reliable workmen will compel planters to economize their force, and the impoverishment of lands direct their energies toward soil recuperation and high culture as the demands. The question narrows itself down to the consideration of reaping something like an average crop from fewer acres and by the employment of a comparatively small number of hands. The lands thus worn out must be diligently and summarily enriched, and further, so enriched as to make up in fertility for the broad acres out of use. For example, a planter who has been accustomed to farm a thousand acres will, in the majority of instances, confine himself to five hundred; and where he sent sixty negroes to the field reduce his maximum one-half. His great aim, under such pressure, would unquestionably be to produce as much from the five hundred acres and thirty hands as ordinarily came from one thousand acres and sixty negroes. At the first blush, this would appear impossible, but a little thought will convince any one that it is not only feasible but indispensable. How then shall the planter accomplish his design? We reply that it can be done with the aid of fertilizers, such as guano and the super phosphates known to all. We have conversed with a number of intelligent tillers of the soil and found their practical experience coincides thoroughly with the theory advanced. Not only had their crops doubled in quantity by a judicious comminution of the fertilizer, but the soils themselves had been permanently benefited by the application. Say that a ton (2,000 lbs.) of some good super-phosphate costs \$125. Distribute this over ten acres there would be a yield of at least 1,000 pounds of lint cotton. It will not be hasty to calculate the price of cotton, next season, at less than 2 cents per pound; we opine that it will reach a higher figure, but this rate will answer our purpose. At 25 cents per pound this will bring \$250. Deduct the cost of the manure and a clear gain is had of \$200 per ten acres. We have, in our estimate, considered only indifferent lands. As a matter of course, the increase will be proportionally greater according to the superior quality of the soil. That which is true of cotton, is equally true of corn and other bread-stuffs.

The planter assuredly must exercise discretion in the purchase of proper food for his land and be careful of its distribution. Observation and experience will guide him in such matters. But no observation and experience can warrant him in anticipating a conspicuous yield from starved land or lands gorged with stimulating nourishment.

There are few manures surpassing that which we formerly had in some abundance, viz: cotton seed. This, at present, we have not available, being so scarce that a bushel readily sells from \$5 to \$10. Such substitutes must be searched for and not answer the requirement so well as the super-phosphates. By the use of these we have shown that even poor lands can become productive and permanently enhanced; that the yield can be doubled and labor greatly reduced. Planters will be guilty of a singular fatuity if they neglect the opportunity afforded them of rehabilitating their fortunes by the display of proper enterprise and tact.

We wonder that no ingenious individual has followed in the tracks of the different armies and gathered up the countless bones of dead animals for the purpose of manufacturing fertilizers. A ton of such bones pulverized is almost as pungent as a ton of guano. At present, all this wealth is useless except as a refuge for tom-tits.

We understand that the eminent firm of Geo. R. Crump & Co., has made ample arrangements to supply planters with the various fertilizers. These gentlemen promise to secure none but the very best and we can cordially recommend them to the patronage of the planting interest. There may be some difficulty in the way, by reason of the scarcity of money. We hope that this obstacle may be removed by granting substantial credits to responsible parties.

And from the same paper of a later date we find this additional paragraph on the subject of fertilizers:

FERTILIZERS—ONE WORD MORE.—Lest there should be a mistake as to the drift of a recent article on the above subject, we make additional statements. We based our calculation of the cotton yield of ten acres upon the most impoverished land, trusting that a process of induction would lead up from the lowest to the highest estimate, demonstrating that what

was palpable as to poor soils would more forcibly apply, in exact progression, to fertile tracts. It was shown that even the most wasted land would bring three bags to the ten acres, stimulated by super-phosphates, leaving a balance of \$200 clear profit. Let us ascend from this calculation to another, founded upon the superior qualities of the soil. We will take, therefore, a high ratio; say, one bale to the acre. Here we have ten commercial bales from as many acres, or 4,000 pounds of raw material. At 25 cents per pound we get \$1,000. Deducting the cost of the manure, \$125, there remain \$875 profit. We mean to infer that a considerably greater amount of cotton or corn could be garnered with the use of fertilizers than without; and that lands worth any culture were worth the application of phosphates, inasmuch as the augmented crop doubly repaid the planter for the expense incurred.

Our facts are mainly derived from individuals who claim to have the guide of practical experience. Planters, like men of all vocations, disagree. We make no claim to agricultural infallibility; we simply present what appears to be a fair view of such subjects, and would be pleased to hear from any friends on this question, involving, as it does, a vital problem for the South.

Unprofitable Farming.

The Field and Turf thus wisely sermonize upon unprofitable farming. There is need of this preaching:

1. Purchasing poor lands at a low price, instead of the best at a higher one.
2. Want of underdraining in all places where work is retarded, growth lessened and manure lost by a surplus of water.
3. Inefficient fencing, admitting depredators to destroy crops, and deranging farm order generally.
4. Building poor barns and stables, and allowing them to become dilapidated.
5. Wintering cattle, sheep and colts at stalls in open fields.
6. Plowing badly, on the shallow cut and cover principle, instead of throwing up the soil into a fine, deep, even, mellowed, soil.
7. Covering seed imperfectly in consequence of such bad plowing, and thus allowing weeds and grass a joint occupancy of the land.
8. Planting and sowing too late, thus diminishing the crop to an amount equal to what would be the whole net profit; that is, throwing away the entire year's work.
9. Allowing corn-fields to be filled with a dense undergrowth of weeds, and potatoes and turnips with a dense overgrowth of the same.
10. Procuring cheap implements, and using many times the cost of good ones by the slow and imperfect work they perform.
11. Leaving implements exposed to the weather, to crack, warp and decay, scattering them in fields, about the barnyard, or along the side of the public highway.
12. Throwing brush, rubbish, etc., along fences and highways, thus promoting the rapid growth of nettles, thistles, sorrel, and other weeds, instead of destroying such brush by fire, and leaving neat and clean borders to your fields.
13. Planting the same crop year after year in the same field, thus diminishing the product and filling the land with weeds.
14. Omitting to spread the manure at the right time, and then selling or giving it away to get rid of it.
15. Raising humpback cattle and lank-like hogs, that will consume monthly their entire value in feed, instead of the best animals, that fatten easily on little, and sell quicker for cash at high prices.
16. Feeding animals irregularly, causing them to fret for their food an hour one day, and to receive it before they are ready for it the next.
17. An entire omission to keep accounts of the cost and profits of each field, and of the whole farm, annually.

How to Foretell Weather.

In a manual of the barometer, compiled by Rear Admiral Fitzroy, and just published by the Board of Trade, the following useful observations occur:

Whether clear or cloudy, a rosy sky at sunset denotes fair weather, a red sky at the morning, bad weather of much kind, perhaps rain; a high dawn, wind, and a low dawn, fair weather. Soft looking or delicate clouds foretell fine weather, with moderate or light breezes; hard edged, oily looking clouds, wind. A lark, gloomy blue sky, is windy; but a light, bright blue sky, indicates fine weather. Generally, the softer clouds look, the less wind; but perhaps more rain may be expected; and the harder, more grayish, rolled, tufted or ragged, the stronger the coming wind will prove. Also, a bright yellow sky at sunset, presages wind; a pale, yellow, wet; and thus, by the prevalence of red, yellow, or gray tints, the coming weather may be told very nearly; indeed, if aided by instruments, almost exactly. Small, inky looking clouds foretell rain; light sand clouds driving across masses, show rain and wind; but if alone, may indicate wind only.

High upper clouds, crossing the sun, moon or stars, in a direction different from the lower clouds of the wind then felt below, foretell a change of wind. When sun birds fly out early and far to seaward, moderate wind and fair weather may be expected. When they hang about the land or over it, sometimes flying inland, expect a strong wind with stormy weather.

There are other signs of a coming change in the weather known less generally than may be desirable, and are, therefore, worthy of notice; such as, when birds of long flight—rooks, swallows and others—hang about home and fly up and down, or low, rain and wind may be expected. Also, when animals seek sheltered places, instead of spreading over their usual range; when pigs carry straw in their styes; when smoke from chimneys does not ascend readily, or straight upward during a calm, an unfavorable change is probable.

Dew is an indication of fine weather; so is fog. Neither of these formations occur under an overcast sky, or when there is much wind. One sees for occasionally rolled away as it were, by wind, but seldom or never formed while it is blowing.

MODEL FARMS.

The following suggestive paragraph concerning model farming, from the New Bedford Mercury, might be true, if it isn't. "A retired New York merchant, who had bought a farm on Long Island, was visited one day by an old friend, who wished to see the marvellous improvements and the splendid stock of which he had heard so much boasting. After a fatiguing walk over the premises, the city farmer invited the weary friend into the house. 'There,' he said, 'you have seen the best farmland in the State; now sit down and rest, and take something. I have milk and champagne. Take your choice; they cost the same.'

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SALT FOR THE GARDEN.

Latterly some practical men have recommended the application of salt to gardens, either in autumn after the crops have been removed, or in the spring before or after digging for their crops; and we have no doubt from our own limited experience in its use, that it will effect all that is claimed for it. For years it has been established that salt hay from the marshes overflowed by sea water, was far to be preferred as a mulch to any other substance. The application of urine, also, to fruit trees, especially the plum, where it has been most generally used, is well known to have a very beneficial effect. The fruit growers of New England and New York claim for salt many advantages by sowing it under pear trees. They say it gives the blush to this fruit. It will have the effect in a garden, also, of destroying noxious insects which have their winter habitations in the ground.

A GOOD REMEDY AGAINST INSECTS.

We found it next to impossible last year to protect the young cantaloupe vines against the persistent attacks of the black gnat and the striped bug. Young radishes planted close around the hill, repeated applications of ashes in the morning when the dew was on, strong aloe water, &c., had little or no effect. Eventually, soap-suds was applied, which seemed to do the business, both in driving them away and in keeping them away. It should be applied several times, and always after a rain has washed off the effects of the previous sprinkling. Whale oil soap is the best for this purpose, using about one pound to four gallons of water. This soap can be obtained at the agricultural stores generally, as well as some of the drug and grocery stores.

HORSE RADISH.

Growing horse-radish is generally considered a matter of very little consequence, in regard to the manner of cultivation; and the result is, in most cases, small roots, which are inferior in flavor, or raised.

It is very easy to grow this plant with roots as large as a man's wrist. Select a rich, warm piece of ground, fully exposed to the rays of the sun, and early in the season dig it deep; mark it off for rows three feet apart, and haul the earth out of the rows, so as to receive a heavy manuring; then cover the manure with the dirt taken from the rows, and set the roots about eight inches apart, and keep them free of weeds as you would every other crop, and the result will be a growth of horse-radish that is worth growing.

CHEAP SOAP.

A correspondent of the Southern Banner gives the following recipe for soap making, and adds that it would be worth thousands in the hands of a selfish person—but here it is gratis: Six pounds of potash, four pounds of lard, fourth of a pound of rosin—beat up the rosin—mix up all together well, and set aside for five days, then put the whole into a ten gallon cask of warm water, and stir twice a day for ten days; at the expiration of which time you will have one hundred pounds of excellent soap.

HOW TO PREVENT SORE SHOULDERS IN WORKING HORSES.

An exchange says: The plan we have tried and never found to fail, is to get a piece of leather and hang it cut into such a shape as to lie snugly between the shoulders of the horse and the collar. This fends off all the frictions, as the collar slips and moves on the leather, and not on the shoulders of the horse. Chafing is caused by friction, hence this remedy is quite a plausible one, and is much better than tying slips of leather and pads of sheep skin under the collar.

HOUSE KEEPERS, ATTENTION!

D. L. FULLERTON,
AT HIS SALES ROOM,
Cor. Broad and Washington Streets,
Augusta, Ga.

Respectfully invites your attention to his splendid assortment of

COOKING STOVES,

RANGES AND HEATING STOVES

Also, all kinds of

Cooking Utensils,

And a General Assortment of

TIN WARE, BAKE OVENS

Skillets and Odd Lids,
Always on hand.
TIN WARE made to order, and REPAIRING done on short notice.
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PAINTS, OILS, GLASSWARE,
&c., &c.,

To be found in the South, to which he would invite the attention of Merchants, Physicians and Planters.

His purchases are made direct from Importers, in original packages, which enables him to sell at New York Jobbers prices, with the addition of freight.

An examination of our Stock and prices is respectfully solicited.

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Augusta, Ga.,

HAS JUST RECEIVED ANOTHER

LARGE SUPPLY

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UNSURPASSED IN AUGUSTA

FOR BEAUTY & QUALITY.

The attention of the ladies is most respectfully solicited to examine this stock, consisting of

- Rich figured silks, black and colored;
- laid poplins;
- Striped poplins;
- Plain poplins;
- White alpaca for evening dresses and skirts,
- Grassie cloth.
- Mohair crepe.
- Figured and plain French merino;
- Balmoral skirts and hoop skirts;
- Breakfast shawls;
- Cloaks and sashes;
- Prints and figured de laines;
- Cassimeres, satinetts and jeans;
- And a great variety of other goods too numerous to mention.

THOSE IN WANT OF

DRY GOODS

Will lose nothing by examining this stock before purchasing elsewhere. He will sell at

Wholesale and Retail.

—ALSO—

DUTCH BOLTING CLOTH.

Augusta, Nov 20 3m 47

JAMES MILLER,

Augusta, Ga.,

HAS JUST RECEIVED ANOTHER

LARGE SUPPLY

OF STAPLE AND FANCY

DRY GOODS

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