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By M. MAC LEAN.

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AGRICULTURAL.

From the Boston Cultivator.
ASHES ON PLOUGHED LANDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CULTIVATOR:

Sir,—I have read with much pleasure your paper for several months past, and I think from the hints I have received that I can make my farm much more profitable than I have ever done. I know that manure is the main thing on any farm, but I do not recollect that you have given your opinion of the value of ashes. I hear very different accounts from those who have tried them, and I should like to know on what soils they operate best. I have land which is heavy with clay, and I have gravelly and sandy lands.

Yours, WALPOLE.

Jan. 22, 1840.

We have often spoken in the early numbers of our paper of the value of ashes on certain soils. From the numerous trials which we have made we are inclined to think as beneficial on all dry soils; but on wet and heavy grounds they are decidedly bad—they tend to make the soil still more heavy and retentive of moisture, and consequently they introduce moss. When sown on the surface, on heavy, clayey grounds, they will often increase the grass harvest at first, but as their tendency is to render soils more heavy and clammy, they should be applied to those only which are light.
We have heard some farmers object to putting ashes on their dry sandy soils, lest they should thus render them still more dry and light, but a very little reflection or experience may teach any one that the tendency of ashes is to render light soils more compact; and to make them retain moisture through the whole season.

Farmers on Long Island, N. Y., have often purchased leached ashes in Maine, and used them to good advantage. Much of the soil of that island is sandy, and those ashes have always there operated well.—But why will the farmers on the Kennebec river sell these ashes—or why will they suffer the soap boilers to send them to a distance? It is because much of the land on the Kennebec is clayey, and a great majority of the farmers there think they are good for nothing as a manure. There is much land however on the banks of the Kennebec that would be greatly improved by the use of ashes, but we would not advise to put them in large quantities on any clayey soil. On green-sward land small quantities of unleached ashes may often be used to advantage to give vegetation a start. These are full of life, and they effect a very rapid decomposition of all the vegetable matter within their reach—therefore there can be no objection to putting small quantities of these unleached ashes into hills of corn or potatoes—the lyé would work well to rot all the decomposable matter in the green-sward, while the quantity used could not much affect the soil, after the first season.

Leached ashes may be purchased in many parts of Massachusetts for five or six cents per bushel—a cart load for a yoke of oxen might cost one dollar and a half—on any gravelly or sandy soils twenty loads of these to an acre would be a good dressing for any crop—and their beneficial effects will prove much more lasting than any kind of stable manure—they will alter in some degree the nature of the soil.

When ashes are used on corn hills, they should be applied as soon as the corn is planted—it is then less labor, and they operate quicker on the vegetable matter in the soil—but strong ashes must not be put in the hill with the corn—the lyé will eat off the tender roots of the corn, and will often destroy the stalk.

Ed.

DISEASES OF SWINE.—BLIND STAGGERS.

The swinish race are subject to some severe disorders, and one which very often proves fatal, is the blind staggers, so called. The animal begins to be stupid, declines eating, grates his teeth occasionally soon after this he begins to travel round in a circle—then falls down in convulsions, kicking and twitching violently—then lies quietly a little while, after which he will sometimes jump up and run top speed against the fence, or walls of

the sty, or whatever else lies in his path. He also froths at the mouth.

We had a young Berkshire boar—five or six months old, taken with this disorder very violently. We found him on his side, making his feet fly like drumsticks. Our first course was to cut a deep gash on the top of his neck and fill it with fine salt. From observation which we have before made, we had come to the conclusion that it was caused by some derangement in the stomach and bowels. We therefore, as soon as we had salted his neck thoroughly, according to rule, procured a large syringe and plied him freely with injections made of warm water, sweetened with molasses, and salted a little. This was in the evening. He appeared to experience relief immediately. In the morning repeated the injection, and next day discharged him from the pig hospital, cured.

We would advise those who have swine attacked with this complaint, to be prompt in their application, and by no means, sparing in the quantity of injection. It is a rapid disorder, and requires immediate attention.—Maine Farmer.

CURIOSITY APPLE.

Mr. J. LADD of this town handed us an apple the other day, raised by Mr. Elisha Rice of Unity. It appeared to be made up of two kinds—sweet and sour. First, say one quarter, was light yellow in color and sweet of taste—the next quarter was of a greenish color and somewhat sour in taste—then a quarter like the first then a quarter like the second. Mr. Rice stated that it was done by splitting or quartering sections and binding them together and setting them. After many trials he succeeded in uniting them by growth.

The apple which we saw had begun to decay, and the sour parts were more decayed than the sweet.—Such apples may be more curious than useful, but they serve to elucidate some of the laws of vegetable physiology.—Same.

PRIME WHEAT.

Mr. Ladd also left a sample of Red Chaffed wheat, the seed of which he obtained last year, in New Hampshire. Mr. L. stated that he sowed one bushel of this on a piece of land on the 20th of May last, and gathered twelve bushels of seed. He also sowed on another piece one and a half bushel of the same kind and obtained 33 1/2 bushels first rate wheat, while by the side of the first sowed piece, he sowed four bushels of the common kind, which suffered so severely by the rust, that it was not worth thrashing.

FR. in the Southern Cabinet. OF SUCKERS ON CORN.

Mr. Editor:—In the last number of the Cabinet, is your article on the "Agricultural Survey" of the country about Peedec, you seem to regard the fact, of Suckers on corn bearing ears at their proper places, as before unknown to you; and you ask, if it is not one of the peculiarities of the Corn cultivated by Col. Williams, in producing suckers bearing ears? I can easily answer that question by observing that it is not peculiar to Col. Williams, species of Corn, unless his and mine are the same, which I think scarcely probable; and it has been my settled conviction from several years' observation, that Indian Corn, when there is a superfluity of strength in the soil for its own wants, will send out suckers, which if suffered to remain, will not only do no injury to the parent stalk, but will, in corn and blades, produce more than the normal stalk without them. That this is a newly formed opinion of mine, you can, by referring to the June number of the Southern Agriculturist for 1835, and in an article on this subject, see that I came to the same conclusion from my first year's observation.

Corn highly manured, when not planted too thick, will begin to send out suckers when about from six inches to knee high, and if those early suckers are suffered to remain, and if the field is well cultivated, they will grow rapidly, detach roots of their own, though they adhere still to the parent stalk; tassels, shoot, and ripen, at the same time; and if the suckers appear very early on the Corn, there is often some difficulty in discovering which is the parent and which the offspring.

In 1838, I made the fairest experiment that could be with suckers. It was a dry Spring and a great many appeared on my manured Corn. In a field of thirty five acres, I left eight rows longwise throughout the field with the suckers on; from the rest of the field I had them taken away; and I was so fully satisfied with the result of that trial, that I have never taken them away from my Corn since. The quantity of fodder was so much greater than upon the adjoining rows, that there could be no doubt of the propriety of leaving suckers to produce a large yield of fodder, and that nothing was lost in the produce of grain, the following extracts from my Agricultural Journal of that year will show. The Corn was planted four and a half feet each way, one stalk in each hill, and well manured with Cotton seed, stable and yard manure, in nearly equal proportions, and was carefully cultivated.

"August 15.—I counted nineteen ears of Corn upon eight hills in ———'s field, in one place; upon which the suckers had been left. On the same row adjoining, I counted sixteen ears, upon eight hills, from which the suckers had been taken away.

"In another place, I counted upon eight hills nineteen ears upon the stalks with suckers, and thirteen ears on the same row on eight hills upon the stalks without.

"In another place fifteen ears upon the stalks with suckers, and twelve on those without. "The fodder on the eight rows throughout the field must have been treble as much as upon any other eight rows in the field."

"November 17.—Measured the Corn taken from thirty-two hills (four rows of eight hills each) upon which the suckers had been left, and thirty-two hills adjoining (four rows, of eight hills) from which the suckers had been taken away, and the result was as follows:—The stalks with suckers made sixteen quarts and half-pint (of shell-d Corn,) and the stalks without suckers made even sixteen quarts."

In the same field that year, I remarked a stalk that had two suckers, and there were six good sized ears to the hill—two on the parent stalk and two on each sucker. I showed it to several of my neighbors, and they thought the produce not only of that hill, but of the whole eight rows upon which suckers had been left so remarkable, that some of them thought it was a peculiarity of my Corn, as they said they had never observed more than the worthless efforts to produce a few grains among the tassels in their own Corn. I was able, however, to satisfy them that was owing to their having taken away the first suckers, and the second growth was too late to produce any thing more.

In the following year, 1831, a great many suckers appeared on the Corn in the same field, which was manured and cultivated in the same manner as the year before, all of which were suffered to remain, and I made a large crop than ever upon that field.

"This year, 1840, but few suckers appeared on any of my Corn. I have attributed it to the unfavorable nature of the Spring for Corn, which has confirmed my previous impressions, that the appearance of suckers is an effort of nature to relieve the plant of any superabundance of nutriment.

In conclusion, I would remark, that I have yet to see Corn that has been well cultivated of all injured, by the early suckers being left upon them.

COTTON.

Orange Parish, Oct. 22, 1840.

From the Farmer's Monthly Visitor.

EXTRACTS FROM AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE CHESAIRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION, SEPT. 29, 1840. BY JOHNATHAN K. SMITH, ESQ., OF DUBLIN.

In every civilized country Agriculture must be the paramount interest,—the parent art, whence the others draw their nourishment and support—the great wheel which moves the machinery of the community. And, generally, in proportion as this industry, or is prosperous, will a nation retrograde or advance in comfort, wealth and virtue. Commerce and manufactures may in some localities, and for a limited time, give consequence and wealth to a community; but it is only when they are well sustained by Agriculture, that they can be considered as fixed on a firm basis. It follows, then, that not agriculturists merely, but every member of society has a deep interest in promoting it. Would that all might feel this interest and be induced to make an effort for its improvement. That it is abundantly susceptible of improvement is too plain a case for argument. The following plain statement of facts by Dr. Humphreys, in relation to the agriculture of Great Britain will set the matter at rest especially when it is considered that in that country agricultural improvements are far in advance of those in the United States.

"It is the opinion of competent judges," says Dr. Humphreys, "that the advances made in the agriculture of Great Britain, during the last seventy or eighty years, are scarcely exceeded by the improvement and exertion of its manufactures, within the same period; and that to these advances, no other old settled country furnishes any parallel. That they have been very rapid indeed, the following figures and comparisons abundantly show. In 1760, the total growth of all kinds of grain in the island of Great Britain, including England, Scotland and Wales, was estimated at 170 millions of bushels. In 1835, the quantity could not have been less than 340 millions of bushels. In 1755, the population of the whole island did not exceed 7,000,000. It now (1835) probably is between 17 and 18 millions, being an increase of 10 millions or more than 130 per cent. Now the improvements in agriculture have more than kept pace with this prodigious increase of demand for its various productions, for it is agreed on all hands that the population now is much fuller fed, and that the population now is much better clothed, than provisions of a much better quality, than that of 1755. Nor is Great Britain indebted at all at present to foreign markets for her supplies. Since 1832, she has imported no grain worth mentioning; and till within the last six months prices have been so depressed as to call forth loud complaints from the whole agricultural interest of the country. England is at this moment, (1837) so far from wanting any of our bread stuffs if we had them to export, that she has been supplying us liberally, all the winter, from her own granaries. And yet it is the opinion of men of the first respectability in England, that the raw produce of the island might be well nigh doubled without being dependent on foreign countries for a supply. That is to say, 35 millions of people might draw their subsistence from that one little speck in the ocean! Now we have a territory more than fifteen times as large as the island of Great Britain. And what should hinder it, when it comes to be brought under no higher cultivation than some parts of England and Scotland from sustaining a population of five or six hundred millions of people! Something like thirty millions; to New York near twenty-five millions, and so on in proportion to the other States." "I am aware," continues Dr. Humphreys, "that this estimate will be regarded as extremely visionary and incredible by many of your readers, but not more so than it would have been thought in the middle of the last century that England, Scotland and Wales could ever be made to sustain thirty-five or even thirty millions."

I have spoken of England, but the remarks will apply to some other districts in Europe with equal force. "The soil of Flanders is generally light and moist, and much of it was absolutely incapable of growing farm crops in its natural state. Yet the skill and industry of the Flemings has rendered it the most productive agricultural district in Europe, and its fertility is still increasing."

Indeed we frequently find the actual production of the soil in an inverse proportion to its natural fertility. "Necessity is the mother," not only "of invention" but of industry, and hence in poor districts where nature has done least, we find men doing most; and hence also rich lands are suffered to deteriorate while art and industry are augmenting the fertility of poor ones. The agriculture of the United States, as a whole, will not compare with that of several countries of Europe. Various causes have operated to produce the difference.—Among the most prominent of these may be mentioned the low price and great abundance of new lands. By this cause the farmer is tempted to crop his lands to the utmost without due care to replenish them, and when they become exhausted, to sell them for what he can, and purchase a new farm, on which to inflict the same exhausting process. Until the great West is filled up this cause must operate to retard, in some measure, the improvement of agriculture. The same reason also stimulates to the cultivation (or rather the carrying on, as it is called,) of too large farms. By seemingly trifling difference in the mode of cultivation, one acre may be made to pay the annual interest of an hundred dollars, or it may produce less than sufficient to pay the expense of cultivation. But notwithstanding the operation of this and other causes, agriculture in the Northern and Middle States is advancing. Some districts are highly cultivated.

The county of Dutchess, in New York, ranks amongst the best cultivated districts in the country. "Entire farms in that county have netted the owners an annual profit of fifteen and seventeen dollars an acre. And forty years ago some of these very farms were mostly old fields, exhausted of fertility and lying in commons." The late Judge Buel says of his own farm lying west of Albany: "It was considered a barren sand; and I became the butt of ridicule to some of my acquaintances for attempting to bring it under profitable culture. It was a lean sand abounding in springs, swamps and low wet grounds. In twenty years, however, it has assumed quite a different appearance. It is now worth \$200 an acre for farming purposes, that is, it nets me more than the interest of \$200 per acre. My acreable crop in corn is 80 bushels, in grass nearly or quite three tons, in potatoes in favorable seasons, 300 bushels, and my other crops are in proportion. These improvements, it is true, have required a considerable outlay of capital in draining, clearing, manuring, &c. in some portions to the extent probably of fifty dollars to the acre. Without the outlay, these reclaimed lands were valueless; with it they are highly productive, and give me a liberal per cent. on the money expended, and I have no doubt I could readily sell for cost and charge."

These instances show what can be done in this country, by an enlightened and scientific people in applying capital to the cultivation of their fields. But how few, alas, the number that can apply so skillfully and judiciously as the talented and improved East, the great principles of science to the nature of the soil! I have myself visited and examined his farm, and can bear testimony to the truth of his description of it. But he has advantages which few comparatively can enjoy. Situated within the rules of the city of Albany, he could have a full supply of the best of manure at a trifling cost of transportation, which no man could apply more judiciously than he.—Then, his vicinity to the city made a good market for many products, which would have been of no value to one at greater distance.

But, gentlemen, how is agriculture to be improved, and the benefits diffused generally over the country? I answer first by convincing our farmers that the method pursued by many of our farmers is bad, and by setting before them, both by means of reading and examples, the best mode of renovating their exhausted lands. Here comes up the prejudice against "Book Farming." But this is last wearing away, as the recent increase of agricultural publications clearly demonstrates. Farmers are learning the value of the many suggestions contained in well conducted agricultural papers, and much more generally than formerly they subscribe for them. One dollar paid out in this way will probably benefit each farmer who reads it a tentatively five dollars at least. Of course judgment and discrimination are necessary in adapting the information to our own case.—The soil, the climate, the manure, &c. may each and all have an influence in producing different results at different trials; but the skillful cultivator will be at no loss in detecting the cause of difference, and will lay his plans accordingly.

SPEECH

OF MR. CALHOUN OF S. CAROLINA, ON The Prospective Pre-emption Bill.

TUESDAY, January 12, 1841.

The bill to establish a permanent prospective pre-emption system, in favor of settlers on the public lands, who shall inhabit and cultivate the same, and raise a log cabin thereon, being the special order of the day, was taken up, the question being on the proposition by Mr. CRITTENDEN to recommit the bill, with instructions to report a bill to distribute the proceeds of the sales of the public lands among the States, which Mr. CALHOUN offered to amend, by substituting a bill to cede the public lands to the States in which they lie, upon certain conditions.

Mr. Calhoun said: I regard the question of the public lands, next to that of the currency, the most dangerous and difficult of all which demand the attention of the country and the Government at this important juncture of our affairs. I do not except a protective tariff, for I cannot believe, after what we have experienced, that a measure can again be adopted, which has done more to corrupt the morals of the country, public and private, to disorder its currency, derange its business, and to weaken and endanger its free institutions, than any other, except the paper system, with which it is so intimately allied.

In offering the amendment I propose, I do not intend to controvert the justice of the eulogium which has been so often pronounced on our land system, in the course of this discussion. On the contrary, I believe that it was admirably adjusted to effect its object, when first adopted; but it must be borne in mind that a measure, to be perfect, must be adapted to circumstances, and that great changes have taken place, in the lapse of fifty years, since the adoption of our land system. At that time, the vast region now covered by the new States, which have grown up on the public domain, belonged to foreign powers, or was occupied by numerous Indian tribes, with the exception of a few sparse settlements, on the inconsiderable tracts to which the title of the Indians was at that time extinguished. Since then, a mighty change has taken place. Nine States have sprung up as if by magic, with a population not less, probably, than two-fifths of the old States, and destined to surpass them in a few years in numbers, power, and influence. That a change so mighty should so derange a system intended for an entirely different condition of things as to render important changes necessary to adapt it to present circumstances, is no more than might have been anticipated. It would, indeed, have been a miracle had it been otherwise; and we ought, not, therefore, to be surprised, that the operation of the system should afford daily evidence that it is not only deranged, but deeply deranged, and that its derangement is followed by a train of evils that threaten disaster, unless a timely and efficient remedy should be applied. I would ask those who think differently, and who believe the system still continued to work well, was it no evil, that session, after session, for the last ten or twelve years, Congress should be engaged in angry and deeply agitating discussions, growing out of the public lands, in which one side should be denounced as the friends and the other as the enemies of the new States? Was the increasing violence of this agitation, from year to year, and increasing ultimately, not only the loss of the public domain, but the tranquility and peace of the country, no evil? Is it well that one-third of the time of Congress is consumed in legislating on subjects directly or indirectly connected with the public lands, thereby prolonging the sessions proportionately, and adding to the expense upwards of \$200,000 annually? Is it no evil that the Government should own half the lands within the limits of nine members of this Union, and over which they can exercise no authority or control? Is it nothing that the domain of so many States should be under the exclusive legislation and guardianship of this Government, contrary to the genius of the Constitution, which, intending to leave to each State the regulation of its local and peculiar concerns, delegated to the Union those only in which all had a common interest. If to all these be added the vast amount of patronage exercised by this Government through the medium of the public lands, over the new States, and through them, over the whole Union, and the pernicious influence thereby brought to bear on all other subjects of legislation, can it be denied that many and great evils result from the system as it now operates, which call aloud for some speedy and efficient remedy?

But why should I look beyond the question before us to prove, by the confession of all, that there is some deep disorder in the system? There are now three measures before the Senate, each proposing important changes, and the one, or the receiving the support of every member of the body; even of those who cry out against changes. It is too late, then, to deny the disordered state of the system. The disease is admitted, and the only question, is, what remedy shall be applied.

I object both to the bill, and the amendment proposed by the Senator from Kentucky, [Mr. CRITTENDEN] because, regarded as remedial measures, they are both inappropriate and inadequate. Neither pre-emption, nor distribution of the revenue, received from the public lands, can have any possible effect in correcting the disordered action of the system. I put the question, would one or the other contribute in the smallest degree to diminish the patronage of the Government, or the time consumed on questions growing out of the public lands, or shorten the duration of the sessions, or withdraw the action of the Government over so large a part of the domain of the new States, and place them and their representatives here, on the same independent footing with the old States and their representatives, or arrest the angry and agitating discussions which year after year distract our councils and threaten so much mischief to the country? Far otherwise would be the effect. It would but increase the evil, by bringing into more decided conflict, the interests of the new and old States. Of all the ills that could befall them, the former would regard the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands as the greatest, while the latter would look on the pre-emption system, proposed by the bill, as little short of an open system of plunder, if we may judge from the declarations which we have heard in the course of the debate.

As, then, neither can correct the disease, the question is, what remedy can I have given to this question the most de-

liberate and careful examination, and have come to the conclusion that there is, and can be, no remedy short of cession—cession to the States respectively within which the lands are situated. The disease lies in ownership and administration; and nothing short of paring with both can reach it. Part with them, and you will at once take away one-third of the business of Congress; shorten its sessions in the same proportion, with a corresponding saving of expense; lop off a large and most dangerous portion of the patronage of the Government; arrest those angry and agitating discussions, which do so much to alienate the good feelings of the different portions of the Union, and disturb the general course of legislation, and endanger ultimately the loss of the public domain. Retain them, and they must continue, almost without mitigation apply what palliatives you may. It is the all-sufficient and only remedy.

Thus far would seem clear. I do not see how it is possible for any one to doubt that cession would reach the evil, and that it is the only remedy that would. If, then, there should be any objection, it can only be to the terms or conditions of the cession. If these can be so adjusted as to give assurance that the lands shall be as faithfully managed by the States as by this Government, and that all the interests involved shall be as well, or better secured than under the existing system, all that could be desired would be effected, and all objections removed to the final and quiet settlement of this great, vexed, and dangerous question. In saying all objections, I hold that the right of disposing of them as proposed, especially when demanded by high considerations of policy, and when it can be done without pecuniary loss to the Government as I shall hereafter show, cannot be fairly denied. The Constitution gives to Congress the unlimited right of disposing of the public domain and of course, without any other restrictions than what the nature of that trust and terms of cession may impose, neither of which forbid their cession in the manner proposed.

That the conditions can be so adjusted, I cannot doubt. I have carefully examined the whole ground, and can perceive no difficulty that cannot be surmounted. I feel assured that all which is wanting is to attract the attention of the Senate to the vast importance of doing something that will effectually arrest the great and growing evil, resulting from the application of the system, as it exists, to that portion of the public domain lying in the new States. That done, the intelligence and wisdom of the body will be at no loss to adjust the details in such manner as will effectually guard every interest, and secure its steady and faithful management.

In the mean time, I have adopted the provisions of the bill introduced originally by myself, and twice reported on favorably by the Committee on Public Lands, as the amendment I intend to offer to the amendment of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. CRITTENDEN] as containing the general outlines of the conditions and provisions on which the lands may be disposed of to the States with safety and advantage to the interest of the Government and the Union, and great benefit to those States. The details may, no doubt, be greatly improved; for which I rely on the intelligence of the body, and critical examination of the committee, should the amendment be adopted and referred. At the present stage, I regard nothing but the great principles on which it rests, and outlines, to be at issue; and I do hope, that all who may concur with me on principle, whatever imperfection they may suppose to exist in its modifications. A measure relating to a question so vast and complicated, can be perfected in its details, however sound the principles on which it rests, or correct its general outlines, only by the joint consultation and counsel. With these remarks, it will not be necessary for me, at this stage, to give more than a general summary of the provisions of the proposed amendment.

Its object is to instruct the committee so to amend the bill, as to dispose of all the public lands, lying in the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, with the exception of sites for forts, navy and dock yards, arsenals, and magazines, and other public buildings; the cession not to take place till after the 30th June, 1842, and then only on the States respectively agreeing to the conditions prescribed in the amendment; that is, to pass acts irrevocable to adhere to those conditions, the most prominent of which is to pay annually, on a day fixed, to the United States, 65 per cent. of the gross proceeds of the sales of the lands; that the land laws, as they now stand, and as proposed to be modified by the amendment, shall remain unchanged, except with the consent of Congress; that the cession shall be in full of the 5 per cent. fund thereafter to accrue to those States; that they shall be exclusively liable for the cost of surveys, sales, extinction of Indian titles, and management generally; that the States may, within certain prescribed limits, gradually reduce the price of the lands that may remain unsold after having been offered for sale ten years or upwards; may grant, for a limited period, the right of pre-emption for ninety days to the actual settlers, at each step in the