

Farmers' Gazette,

AND CHERAW ADVERTISER.

VOLUME VI.

CHERAW, SOUTH-CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1841.

NUMBER 28.

By M. MAC LEAN.

TERMS:—Published weekly at three dollars a year; with an addition, when not paid within three months, of twenty per cent per annum. Two new subscribers may take the paper at five dollars in advance; and ten at twenty. Four subscribers, not receiving their papers in town, may pay a year's subscription with ten dollars in advance. A year's subscription always due in advance. Papers not discontinued to solvent subscribers in arrears. Advertisements not exceeding 16 lines inserted at one dollar the first time, and fifty cents each subsequent time. For insertions at intervals of two weeks 75 cents after the first, and a dollar if the intervals are longer. Payment due in advance for advertisements. When the number of insertions is not marked on the copy, the advertisement will be inserted, and charged till ordered out. The postage must be paid on letters to the editor on the business of the office.

AGRICULTURAL.

From the Journal of the American Silk Society.

REELING SILK IN TENNESSEE.

[If the following letters from the Rev. Mr. Ross, do not convince every reader of the practicability of the silk culture in this country, we know not what will.—Those who doubt as to the reeling process may find a good lesson here.]

KINGSFORD, (E. T.) Feb. 22, 1841.

Gideon B. Smith, Esq:
Dear Sir,—I never felt so sanguine of the silk culture as at this moment. There is nothing now in the way of its immediate advance in East Tennessee, unless it may be that slowness which seems inherent in the motion of a farming people to change their habits. I say there is nothing now in the way—because, since I recommenced reeling on the first day of this month, my success is such, that I intend to advertise to buy from 1 to 2,000 bushels of cocoons.

The great bugbear has been the reeling. That question as to quality. I considered settled by my experiments last summer, although at a costly trial. Since I have recommenced reeling, I deem the question of quantity disposed of forever. Presuming I should not be able to obtain cocoons for more than two reels, until the summer, I began with that number on the first day of February. My cocoons were very indifferent, with few exceptions, some not yielding more than 8 oz. to the bushel—none exceeding 14 oz. Part of the time the weather has been very severe, filling my room with condensed steam; nevertheless, I reeled, and two hours after dark. Thus showing, what was not believed, that reeling can be done after night. Under these circumstances my average has been between 9 and 10 oz. for each reel per day. This reeling is better than the best average I saw on the books of the Model Filature in Philadelphia last summer. The best average I saw there, in three weeks work, was 10 1-2 oz. in long summer days too, and having some, if not many, first rate cocoons,—none of which I have. And I saw no cocoons there, so bad as many of mine. I think I will show one lb per day to each reel, even with such cocoons as I have, before the 1st of March. I have reached 14 1-2 oz. Now, my dear sir, do you not say I have some reason to be pleased. Many thanks to you for your encouragement to perseverance. The cost of my reeling is 2 shillings per day to each spinner, who finds herself. The flossing and turning the reel may be, together, I shilling more, if hired, or nothing, if little servants are employed. Before the 1st of March, I will show, that without counting interest on fixture, &c., which will be a thing of nothing, I can exhibit beautifully reeled silk, which cost me 2 shillings per lb. for reeling.

In a short time I think I shall have a very convenient filature, and silk reels enough, if I am sure of cocoons, to turn off sufficient silk to redeem the bold promise I made you last spring. I am making improvements in the saving of time, &c. every day. The double strainer to each pan I find works well.

Very respectfully,

FREDERICK A. ROSS.

[We must apologise to our friend, Mr. Ross, for the publication of both the preceding and following letter. They were not intended for publication, but they will do more public good than private harm.]

Rothwood, April 6, 1841.

Gideon B. Smith, Esq:
Dear Sir,—Your esteemed favor of the 21st of March, is to hand. Mr. Lynn, I presume called on you, returning from Philadelphia. We think exactly alike on the subject of our national independence.—And I have always, before there was any personal interest, been a tariff man; my silk enthusiasm has hardly abated at any time in six years. It is now higher than ever. I delivered a lecture the other day twenty miles from home in a court-house, and exhibited the model of a feeding and spinning frame, which I carried in my saddle-bags. I enclose you an advertisement which I am spreading through this county, and you will see from it that the business is no child's play with me. It is no longer experiment. I want nothing but the certainty of sufficient cocoons to secure the fact of immediately converting multicaulis leaves into Gold. The victory is won. The people have nothing to do but to secure it. Cocoons can be made in this country for \$1.25, and when labor is not hired, thousands will say, as a man said to my inquiry, 'what it

cost to make the five bushels he sold me.' 'Cost?' said he. 'Yes,' said I, 'what did the production of these cocoons cost you?' 'Oh!' said he, with surprise at my question, 'they cost nothing sir, my little brothers and sisters made them, and their labor would have been nothing otherwise.' 'If 20 dollars had fallen from the clouds into that man's hand, he would not have had a clearer gain to his income without additional expense. Thousands will answer in this spirit, ere long, I believe.

My two reels are steadily at work.—The silk reeled since 1st February amounts to about 70 lbs. Some of it is as good as they can reel in Piedmont, to save their lives, (as the boys say), and the worst, many times better than any I have seen from Smyrna, or Bombay.—Up to last Saturday, two girls in 52 days, all sorts of weather and cocoons, had reeled 62 lbs of silk, without their being pushed at all, and idling some of course. They are singing half their time. I hear them now. And are delighted with their work. The profit I am making at present, is greater than I expected it to be. I could make more money at reeling silk, than any cotton plantation, or sugar, or gold mine in the United States. The girls in 52 days have reeled 62 lbs. of silk. The cocoons cost me \$186 00
The 2 girls wages, at 2 shillings each per day, 36 33 1-3
Two reelers, at 1 shilling for the two per day, 8 66 2-3
(two children who turn the spindles) 8 66 2-3
Flossing cocoons, at 12 1-2 cts, to the 1 lb. of silk, 7 75
Price of 62 lbs. of silk, at \$5.50, 341 00
Profit, 102 25

From which must be deducted interest on fixtures, expense of coal, water, &c. After all of which is taken off, some of which would be only nominal, there is left a greater profit than I could expect or desire on a large business.—In my advertisement, you perceive I offer, conditionally, 20 per cent. more than the price now given, which, with the deduction on the cotton yarn (to the farmers as money) from the retail price, will overgo \$4, on a bushel, making a pound of silk. It may be less on the inferior cocoons per ounce. I shall probably pay the equivalent to \$4, per 16 oz., without regard to my condition, since I have read your letter.

I am fitting up my cocoonery to feed with the branches, on the principle of Mr. Morris, of Burlington, modified. I dispense with his spinning frame as he has it horizontal above each feeding frame, and have it perpendicular between the two shelves, which form one row. I have no apron or shelf to catch the litter, that may riddle through to the ground.

We talked about this, and you thought there was no need of any thing to catch the litter. The whole affair is very cheap, and I intend to give it a fair trial; my first crop will be 500,000. I kill the chrysalis (which I forgot to tell you,) in a house, such as is used for drying fruit. It costs but a trifle, and in one night the work is done, and well done. I want nothing else, neither for speed, cheapness, or perfect work.

I have scribbled this in a great hurry. But being on my hobby, I have kept him going. Oh! the best reeler in Philadelphia, wrote to me last mail, she would come to Tennessee if I said so, I will say nay, I will not insult my Hawkins county girls by an instructress, who knows no more than they do, after they have learnt themselves, with my instruction, second-hand from you. Mr. M. of B. says he stopped for the cold weather. I reeled when the thermometer was nearly at zero; and two hours after night besides, every night until 1st March. But I must dismount. Very respectfully,

FREDERICK A. ROSS.

P. S. I forgot to say, I reeled my pound to the reel in the day as I promised you, and I wish I could send you one of the hanks. The cocoons were fine, and the silk is beautiful, like threads of silver, and as even and smooth as glass. That best day's work as to quantity, is not surpassed by any other in quality.—And that day's work can be done any time with such cocoons, and more than that, although the average is nothing like it in quantity. The cocoons are indifferent. F. A. R.

[We must remind the reader that the girls who reeled the silk for Mr. Ross, had never seen a cocoon or a reel, till last fall; that they learned to reel under Mr. Ross' direction, from instructions given in the Silk Journal; and to this day have never seen a foreign reeler or a thread of foreign reeled silk.—E.]

From the Western Farmer & Gardener.

MT. PLEASANT, MARCH 16, 1841.

To Mr. —: Dear Sir.—Mr. Gill has just handed me yours of the 10th, and I feel unexpressed pleasure in answering you. I am always willing and ready to give that information necessary to the ad-

vancement and final prosperity of the silk business in this country. After being engaged in the silk business for the last 40 years, in London, Economy, Pa., and Mt. Pleasant, in all its various branches, standings and bearings, I flatter myself my remarks may be taken as facts, founded on a long and chequered experience. After the pertinent and judicious remarks made by G. W. Gill upon silk raising, and published in the Western Farmer and Gardener, I should betray weakness were I to add any thing relative to that department. Still, as a pioneer in the silk business, I have many opponents to combat with, and much prejudice to remove, that stand as barriers to its more extended operations. Many good but mistaken gentlemen have said to me, "What is the use of raising silk in this country? we can never get it wove as in France and England." I would invite those gentlemen to come to Mt. Pleasant and see six looms in operation on plain silks, flowered silks, silk velvet, &c., &c. From this place I would entreat them to take a trip to George Rapp's establishment, Economy, Pa., where my son superintends, and behold what an eminence they have arrived at. Neither France nor England can surpass their machinery or silk fabrics. About four years back I put in action for them 2 looms, silk velvet and hat plush; now they have 6; and 18 months back there was not a loom in Mt. Pleasant, and now 6. Surely this must convince the most perverse and obstinate mind, of the practicability of weaving up our own raising. What has been done here and at Economy, can be done almost anywhere in the Union. We have lately purchased a considerable quantity of reeled silk from G. G. Stockly, Esq., of Cleveland, Ohio; his production speaks volumes of praise upon his exertions. We have purchased considerable quantities from various parts, but his exceeds all. For 30 years in England, I have had pass through my hands from 200 to 250 lbs. of silk weekly. (I appeal for the truth of this to Wm. Orange, Esq., of Cincinnati,) from a Bengal single, to a Piedmont; and I do not hesitate in giving the preference to the Cleveland produce. Upon the whole, from what we have raised ourselves and bought of others, I am constrained to give the decided preference to the American silk; and when the worms are fed upon the Italian or Multicaulis mulberries, the silk excels all I have seen from France, China, Italy or Piedmont, in scent and brilliancy. I am aware the loss of scent or fragrance in England, may be accounted for by the length of voyage and the silk oftentimes exposed to the saline air; but the brilliancy I believe is peculiar to America alone. This ought to be a great encouragement to those who have commenced, to persevere, and an inducement to others to begin, knowing ultimately it will be a source of wealth to this country; and if our State Legislatures will give the silk raisers their smiles and encouragement, and Congress will afford its parental protection, we have fought to fear from any foreign competitor, or competitors. Let them try their worst, or do their best, they never can compete with us. I am happy to find you are about commencing this season; I wish you, sir, success and prosperity, and have no doubt of it; for success is sure, if conducted in a proper manner.

We purchase cocoons to any amount, provided the chrysalis is killed by suffocation, either by camphor, carbonated gas from charcoal, or sulphur; the latter I prefer, as sulphur is congenial to silk, and it is done much quicker and cheaper,—great injury has been done to good cocoons by baking them and steaming; the former draws out the staple from the silk—the latter causes it to flake off when reeling. This ought to be universally known.—Cocoons perforated by the miller, doubled and indented, are useless to us,—reeled silk we also buy; but the article we want for satins, velvet, &c., &c., must not exceed from 8 to 10 fibres. All our own silk we reel, we never suffer more than 6 to 8, for one thread: for this kind of silk we give the Phila. price—from \$5. 50 to \$6. 000 per lb, 16 oz. Cocoons, as before named, \$4. 00 per bushel; if flossed, the measure struck off; if not, piled up in the form of a cone. We have not yet concluded as respects having an agent in Cincinnati, but as we think of increasing the number of looms shortly, we shall establish something of the kind you name. But this need not be any hindrance, as we are constantly receiving from all parts, cocoons packed in flour barrels, directed to John Bayne, Esq., Portland, near Warren, Jefferson Co., O., for G. W. Gill, Portland is on the river bank, 7 miles from Mt. Pleasant. Mr. Gill's wagons go to that place every day, and bring home what's there. When you first start, probably you may not be able to reel so fine as I have described. Should the silk be fuller, we will purchase it, say \$4. 50, to \$5. 50, as the silk may turn out,—we have no eggs to spare, as we intend this season to raise 2 million of worms—the single crop worm, will only produce 1 crop, but the 2 crop worms, 2 crops, probably 3; but the latter crop is not of much account.—I strongly recommend Dennis's Silk Manual to your notice; it is the most concise and judicious treatise I have seen: the price is 25 cts. We expect some on for sale shortly. The space for worms is entirely discretionary, as some worms are

much larger than others; but there is nothing lost by giving plenty of room: keep them clean, well ventilated, and never touch them with the hand if possible. I recommend the Burlington feeding frame above all others. Thus, sir, I have endeavored to answer your inquiries; any further information you need, don't be backward to write. I have upon the average 8 letters to answer every week, from Nashville to Maryland. Every state almost, seems alive to the silk business. Any remarks you may see calculated to encourage and stimulate, or the whole if you please, is at your disposal to publish in the Western Farmer; my respects to those gentlemen the editors. Yours,

JOHN FOX.

On Ventral Hernia in the Horse.

BY JOHN TOMBS, ESQ., V. S., LATE BENGAL ARTILLERY.

On perusing "The Veterinarian" for December last, I observed a case of Hernia, unsuccessfully operated upon by Mr. Rush. I deeply regret that the operation was a complete failure, as it was undoubtedly performed in a surgeon like and scientific manner: but the impression on my mind is, that this method of reducing ventral or umbilical hernia is attended with imminent danger. Those deep sutures unquestionably cause a great degree of inflammation in the surrounding parts, and the peritoneal lining of the abdomen must sometimes necessarily become involved in the inflammatory action caused by them, which invariably terminates in death. If the peritoneum escapes, the muscular parts and integuments may frequently become gangrenous, the result of which is well known: and lastly, extensive sloughing may take place, so as to admit a protrusion of the intestines, which equally endangers the life of the patient.

I am not aware of any case doing well after this kind of operation has been performed, with the exception of the "old black mare," so cautiously and skillfully operated upon by Mr. Simonds, which redounds greatly to his well-earned fame in the veterinary world, and that of Mr. Hickman. I have met with many cases of punctured wounds of the abdomen, where the intestine has protruded. After replacing the portion of gut, I brought the lips of the wound in contact by means of superficial sutures, never introducing the needle deeper than the first layer of muscular fibres. Peritonitis and gangrene took place in some; but by far the greater number recovered.

After condemning one method of operating, it becomes me to point out a safer. A more scientific one I cannot; but I think I can a less dangerous one, and that is an object of great consideration to the practitioner who has reputation at stake, and to the owner of the animal likewise. The operation I allude to is, I believe, attended with invariable success. It was practised by the farriers of old, and is so to the present day by many skillful veterinary surgeons, and very many sow-gelders. My late lamented father and uncle, and Mr. Rawlins, the well-known cattle practitioner of Milton, in Oxfordshire, also my brother, and myself have operated upon vast numbers of colts annually; and I unhesitatingly assert, that nineteen out of twenty do well after it. I only know one case of tetanus occasioned by the operation, which I am about to describe.

The animal seldom undergoes any preparation, being only fed sparingly for a day or two previous. He is cast on his back; the operator returns the bowel, and gathers in his hand all the loose integument over and for a considerable distance round the hernia. He then pushes three or four iron skewers, about six inches long, transversely through the skin, and one or two longitudinally, over the hernia, and a strong cobbler's end is tied under the skewers, and drawn very tight. The skewers are next twisted round with a pair of pincers, otherwise the points would penetrate the skin of the adjacent parts of the abdomen when the animal lies down. The patient is then liberated, and kept short of food and water for a few days.

Active inflammation is set up in the parts, and the aperture is very soon filled up with granulation. In about ten days or a fortnight the integument, skewers, and ligature all slough off together, a formation of new skin takes place over the granulated surface, and the animal has then unrestrained freedom.

In the autumn of 1839 I operated upon a filly, by Safeguard, out of a half bred mare, three and a half years old. It was an unusually large umbilical hernia, the length of which was five inches, breadth in the middle two inches, and at each end one inch. The portion of protruded gut would have filled a half pint cup. She was kept on brans and slops for a week. Very little swelling ensued. She was neither bled, physicked, nor lotioned. Sloughing took place in ten days, and she was turned out in a fortnight after the operation, cured.

The Worcestershire fox-hounds threw off in the beginning of last December at Lord Coventry's seat, Seven Bank, and found a fox in a piece of gorse near the far-famed Perton Pool. They had a tremendous burst for about three miles. I was with them, and had the gratification of seeking this same filly, ridden by Mr. Williams, jun., trainer, who was up at the

check, during which time he rode over three or four stiff found cut hedges, and she cleared them in good style. She was recognised by several old sportsmen, who were deterred from buying her when she had hernia, thinking she would be useless to hunt or breed from. They congratulated me on my success in reducing the hernia, at the same time stating they had thought that it was morally impossible to do so. No person can now see that she has ever had hernia. Her owner was offered fifteen pounds for her previous to the hernia being reduced, and since that time he has been offered forty-five guineas. I think in another year she will prove an out-and-out, or, in other words, a star of the first magnitude in the chase.

I omitted to mention before, that the rupture was observed when she was six weeks old.

I must now bring this rambling letter to a conclusion thinking that I have written sufficient to convince any incredulous person that the mode of operation which I advocate is preferable to that of Messrs. Simonds and Rush, inasmuch as it is attended with less dangers: nevertheless, I shall be most happy to hear of success at all times attending the modes of operating pursued by them or by others.

BY MR. JOHN KENT, V. S., BRISTOL.

Having read Mr. Rush's report of the fatal results of operating for hernia, and having, in the course of my practice, treated a considerable number of cases with uniform success, I am induced to report my plan of treatment.

Prior to my becoming a pupil at the Veterinary College, I had seen hernia cured by passing a strong pin through a portion of skin over the part, and tying a string round it so tight as to cause it to slough, inferring from this that the hernia was reduced by the pressure produced, and the lesion healed by the adhesive inflammation excited. When I commenced practice on my own account, I applied a blister over the part, and when the inflammation produced by the blister was sufficiently subsided, I put on a pich plaster, and over that a slight bandage, and have ever since adopted the same plan. Colts at grass I have let remain out during the whole time; but with horses in the stable, I first purge the animal, and keep it on corn alone.

I have recently had a case of hernia in the linea alba, about an inch from the prepuce, and in length about four inches. The animal left my stable in December last, and is now well.

In cases where the opening was small, I have succeeded by repeated blisters, without further treatment. A few years ago another practitioner was applied to in a case of scrotal hernia in a sucking colt; but, he expressing fear of meddling with it, I was sent for by the owner to castrate it. On my arrival, I found that the testicles were not descended into the scrotum, which was very much distended. I directed the colt to be weaned and kept badly, in order to make it pot-bellied, with the view that the centre of the belly should be lower than the opening leading to the scrotum, and blistered the scrotum with tinct. lyttae once a fortnight. Without any other treatment it got well.

The Veterinarian.

NEW TOMATO.—The botanists of the exploring expedition have discovered a new species of Tomato at the *Figia* which is said to be much superior to the kinds formerly known, in flavor, and luxuriantness of growth. We should like to have some of the seed, as we esteem this one of the finest vegetables of the garden.—*Ag.*

HARD TO BEAT.—Mr. Christopher Brooks, of Nashville, owns a cow which brought forth a fine healthy calf on the 5th of March, 1841, and on the 17th of the same month another equally vigorous. Both these calves, dropped by the same cow in twelve days of each other, at the last account, were healthy and thriving well. If any body's cow can excel this in bringing calves in quick succession we would be pleased to know it.—*Id.*

TO CURE GAPS IN CHICKENS.—Maj. Chandler, of Davidson, who is one of the most successful chicken growers of all the country, and who is a gentleman of very superior acquirements on most subjects, says the gaps can be prevented in young chickens by the following simple precaution:—Keep iron standing in vinegar, and put a little of the liquid in the food every few days. From the confidence we have in the Major's experience we are free to recommend the remedy.—*Id.*

ORCHARD GRASS.—Z. Cone says, in the New Genesee Farmer, that a moist rich loam is the best for this grass; that the best time for sowing the seed is the middle of July to first of August. He succeeds in sowing it in the spring with oats not sown thick. He obtains 13 or 20 bushels of this grass seed from an acre, cradling the grass the same as wheat.

The editor of the Maine Cultivator has received a pair of "Large hens," from Russia—said to be prolific layers, and excellent poultry.—Chanticleer can stand by the side of a flour barrel and eat corn with ease from the top.

From the Baltimore Cultivator.

Pigs.

FRANKLIN, April 23d, 1841.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CULTIVATOR:

Sir: in your paper of the 18th of April I read an account of a lot of remarkably fine pigs raised in Wattertown, which put me in mind of my pigs which I raised last season. I had a sow which brought me eight pigs the sixth day of March 1840. The sow was my common breed crossed with the Berkshire which made what we called half bred Berkshire pigs. By the time they were six months it was reported by one and another that I had got the handsomest litter of pigs that could be produced in the county of Norfolk. A great many persons from various parts of the country called to see them in the Autumn, partly I suppose on account of the breed as they had been lately introduced into the vicinity. They all agreed on one point that they were the finest litter of pigs they ever saw, and some offered to buy them; but there could not be produced so many handsome pigs in one pen in the county of Norfolk. I killed seven of them when they were nine months and one day old, and the average weight was 282 lbs. I kept the remaining one till it was eleven months and two days old, and it weighed 330 lbs. We thought the one we kept was a little heavier than the other would average, but as near as we could calculate it gained about 1 1-2 lb per day after we killed the others. My mother always told me when I used to raise poultry, not to reckon chickens before they were hatched; you may say I have forgotten that precept, but I have something to make my calculations from, and I shall show you that my pigs on a very moderate calculation, if I had killed a little less than a year old, would have far outstripped the famous Wattertown pigs as to weight; and as to beauty it was thought by good judges they equalled any that could be produced. Now at nine months old they weighed 282 and if they had gained but one pound a day, and not a pound and a half as the other did they would have weighed at less than a year old 319 or 15 lbs. apiece but supposing I had kept them all and they had gained equal to the one I did keep, they would have weighed 350 or 60 pounds apiece at less than a year old.

The Wattertown pigs averaged about 309 pounds and probably they were a selected lot and not all of one litter.

You will perceive that part of my communication is stated on facts and part on supposition, and you can publish a part of the whole, or throw it under the table.

Yours respectfully,
WHITING METCALF.

P. S. I have a sow which brought me eight pigs three fourths Berkshire the 29th of Feb., I think as handsome as those were last year, and it is possible you may hear more about them next winter.

W. M.

Legislators sometimes lay bills "on the table" and some ought to go under the table, but such bills as the above should never be treated in that manner.

We find many hogs at a year and a half old weighing less than four hundred weight, and a pig of nine months old weighing 282 lbs., must have been well tended and of a good stock.

We have long thought it a vicious practice to depend on droves from the country for shoats. If we would raise our own, we could improve the breed and save our cash. We have never made so much money by fattening purchased shoats as we have by raising shoats for sale or for breeders.

There are various opinions respecting the Berkshire breed of hogs—but there can be but little doubt that they may be improved by judicious crossing. We shall expect to hear from Mr. Metcalf again when his handsome young pigs are grown.

SOAP.

I have always taken pleasure in superintending some of the chemical operations of the kitchen: by this means I have acquired some practical, in addition to my theoretical knowledge of the art of making soap. I shall give below, the result of my experience in making this detergent article.

The bottom of the hopper of barrel intended for the ashes, should be covered with hay or straw: the ashes are then to be thrown in, and pressed down, as the hopper is filled. Leave room at the top for a bucket full of water. If quick lime can conveniently be had, put in a gallon or more with the ashes; it is not important where, whether at the bottom, in the middle, or at the top of the barrel; or whether intermixed throughout the ashes.

Boiling water is now to be poured on the ashes until the lye pass out at the bottom. Cold water may then be used. Rain water in both cases is preferable to hard water. Four buckets full of strong lye may be thus procured from a barrel of ashes. This quantity of lye, with the requisite proportion of fat will make half a barrel of prime soap.