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By M. MAC LEAN.

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AGRICULTURAL.

BOUGHT MANURE TO BE PLOUGHED UNDER WITH AS LITTLE EXPOSURE AS POSSIBLE?

We find in the American Farmer an article on this subject by Mr. J. M. Garnet of Virginia from which we extract the following paragraphs:

I began penning my cattle late in the spring, and continued it until frost, in pens of the same size, moved at regular intervals of time, and containing the same number of cattle during the whole period.—These pens were alternately ploughed, and left unploughed, until the following spring, when all were planted in corn immediately followed by wheat. The superiority of both crops on all the pens which had remained unploughed for so many months, after the cattle had manured them, was just as distinctly marked as if the dividing fences had continued standing, it was too plain to admit even of the slightest doubt. A near neighbor, a young farmer, had made the same experiment, on a somewhat different soil, the year before, but with results precisely the same. Similar trials I myself have made and seen made by others with dry straw, alternately ploughed in soon as spread, and left on the surface until the next spring. In every case the last method proved best, as far as the following crop would prove it. The same experiment has been made by myself and others of my acquaintance, with manure from the horse stables and winter-farm pens, consisting of much unrotted corn offal; and without a solitary exception, either seen by me, or heard of, the surface application, after the corn was planted, produced most manifestly, the best crop. Upon these numerous, concurrent, and undeniable facts, my opinion has been founded, that it is best to apply manures on the surface of lands; and "I guess," (as brother Jonathan would say,) that it is not likely to change unless indeed, I should hear a still greater number, equally well authenticated, on the opposite side; although I must say, that up to the present time, I have not heard a solitary one. True it is, that I have read many ingenious, fine spun arguments in opposition to the opinion which I hold in common with numerous other agriculturists, but no proofs whatever have accompanied them, and therefore I must remain an infidel, until they are sustained and corroborated, by such facts, as should always be deemed indispensable to establish any practice whatever, in any of the various branches of husbandry. All these results undeniably prove, that the surface application was best; although the kinds of manure differed considerably. And what have we in opposition, any facts whatever? Not one; and only the conjecture, that the evaporation from the surface spread manure must carry off the greater and best portion of the food of plants therein contained. But that such evaporation cannot thus act, seems to me to be unquestionably proved by every fact I have mentioned: for, if it did, then the land of summer cow-pens ploughed up as soon as removed, would, in every case, have produced better crops, than that of the unploughed, instead of doing it in none.—Similar results too must have followed in the other cases I have stated, although I have never seen or heard of their doing it in any.

In connection with these facts we state the following: Two brothers held different opinions on this subject; the one supposing that manure is injured by exposure to the sun, the other the other that it is not. The latter in manuring a field for oats, in 1840, spread the manure from the wagons as it was hauled out. Two or three weeks after this part of the work was commenced another set of hands was employed in sowing the oats and plowing them in with the manure. These overtook the hands engaged in spreading the manure before that operation had been finished. Of course the part of the manure carried out last was plowed in immediately after it was spread, whilst that first carried out lay two or three weeks exposed to sun and wind before it was plowed under. The poorest of the land was that sown and plowed last. Late in the spring the two

brothers were crossing the field together, when the owner perceiving the youngest oats and in the poorest land to be the largest and most flourishing, expressed his surprize at the fact. The other reminded him of the manner in which his manure had been managed, remarking that he observed it at the time, and thought it might test the correctness of their respective opinions. The oat field of course was watched with interest by the brothers through its progress to maturity, and the part on the poorest land, where the manure was turned in as soon as spread, continued to gain upon the other. These facts were related to us by the owner of the field, who is determined henceforth to expose his manure to sun and air as little as possible.

But how is the result of this experiment to be reconciled with the result of those made by Mr. Garnett and his neighbors? The reader must judge for himself. Nature is not inconsistent. Her laws and operations are always the same in the same circumstances. Animal manure either is or not injured by exposure. If injured in Virginia it is injured in South Carolina; and if injured at one time, it is at all times. One solution occurs to us of the apparent discrepancy in the cases before us. May it not be that the solid manure in all Mr. Garnett's cowpens, even those which were plowed soonest was materially injured by exposure to the sun before it was turned in, and that the improvement of the land is ascribable chiefly to the liquid manure, or urine? If so, may not the pens which were plowed as soon as the cows were removed, have been injured by turning up and exposing the soil which had absorbed the urine, and thus allowing this fertilizing ingredient to be evaporated by exposure the winds and the heat of a summer's sun? If this supposition be correct, the fact that cowpens are injured by plowing when the cows are removed makes against, and not for, the theory that manure is not injured by exposure. Further experiments are perhaps still needed to settle the question. We suggest the following. 1. That the solid manure be all carefully removed every morning from a cowpen to a compost heap, and that the pen be plowed when the cows are removed. 2. That the same cows with the same treatment, be continued on an adjoining pen, of the same size, for the same length of time; that the manure be carefully removed from this also every morning to a compost heap, and that the pen be not plowed till planting time. 3. Let then the solid manure stand on two pens, and the one be plowed and the other not; which is only a repetition of Mr. Garnett's experiment. 4. Let the manure be gathered from two other pens every morning and thrown into holes, covered to shelter them from sun and rain. Let that gathered from one of the pens be evenly spread on the ground as soon as the cows are removed, and plowed in. Let that from the other be protected as much as possible from both sun and wind till the time of planting and then be spread and plowed in.

If these experiments were carefully conducted they would show the relative value of the solid and liquid manure of cowpens, as well as the effect of exposure upon manure.

TO PREVENT MILK FROM TASTING OF TURNIPS.

A correspondent of the Yankee Farmer states that if cows are not allowed to eat either the roots or tops of the turnip for 6 or 8 hours before the time of milking, the taste of the turnips will not be perceived in the milk.

Another correspondent of the same paper states that if salt petre, dissolved in water is added to the milk, in proportion of one grain to the pint it will prevent unpleasant taste and, at the same time, preserve the milk without souring longer than it would otherwise keep.

From the Farmers' Register. EGYPTIAN COTTON CULTIVATED IN MISSISSIPPI.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Register. Some time since I promised to give you the results of some experiments, I was then making with the Egyptian cotton. I was induced to make this promise from the fact of the appearance in your Register, in November 1838, of some premature remarks upon this subject, extracted from the Rodney Telegraph, calculated to produce, I much feared, in the minds of your readers, erroneous opinions respecting this cotton. I was absent from

home at the time this was written, and Dr. New was urged to do it by the earnest solicitations of the editors of our village paper. I regretted this publication in your Register the more, in consequence of the fear of being charged with attempting to impose another humbug upon the community, and this being but to herald its fame prior to entering the seed into market. Let me assure you, sir, there is scarcely any thing I so much detest, and I hope it may not appear superfluous for me here to add, that I have never sold a single seed of it, and that I have never refused giving them to all who have desired to attempt the same results which I had in view myself, that is, to improve, or at least to revive, the former character of our Mexican cotton. How far I have succeeded in this design is my present object to explain, and to do this it will be necessary to go back to the first year this cotton was introduced upon this place, in order to trace its changes from its original character to its present mixed varieties.

Whilst my father, Dr. Rush Nutt, was making a tour in the East during the year 1834, he procured among other things a handful of cotton seed in Egypt; of these there were two kinds, a small white seed, and smooth black seed. These black seed he represented as having been introduced into Egypt from our Sea Islands. That the stalks from these seed in Egypt only grew three or four feet high; in this particular, and in this only, differing from the character it assumes in our Sea Islands. This change he ascribed to its being cultivated for a succession of years in the extremely dry climate of Egypt.

In the Spring of 1836 I planted these seed; from them I succeeded in getting only one stalk of the black seed to grow, the white having rotted in the ground; the latter was also the fate with some others with whom my father had shared the seed. Being in a very rich bottom, this single stalk of the black seed grew about six feet high, with large heavy branches. It was late in blooming, and in September it was covered with young bolls and squares, but among the whole not more than half a dozen matured. The bolls were small, and contained only three chambers, the same as in Egypt, the cotton presented its usual richness of color, and the same length and beauty of staple or fibre.

The following spring I planted the seed from this stalk upon the hills, supposing it would here come to maturity earlier, and contiguous to our Mexican cotton, in order to see if by approximation it would derive any improvement or new properties from the Mexican. I first observed a great variety in the size of the stalks from these seed, and then in the size of the bolls. Some two or three of the stalks grew as high as 10 or 12 feet, bearing much larger bolls, but fewer in number, than the preceding year, and a few only of these bolls contained four compartments or chambers. These stalks produced much the most beautiful cotton of the whole. The remainder, the greater part of the stalks, did not grow more than three and four feet in the same soil, bolls and squares were more numerous but small. I could not account for this difference in any other manner than by supposing that the blossoms of these large plants had received some of the farina from the blossoms of the contiguous Mexican cotton, which amalgamation of fructifying principles had invigorated the plant and caused the product to assume somewhat more of the Mexican character. How this change of product might have taken place I can readily conceive, but by what law of vegetable physiology it caused the plant itself to spring up so much higher, I am at a loss to say, particularly as this growth had generally taken place before it bloomed; and I must leave it to wiser heads than mine to offer an explanation of this phenomenon of nature.

These seeds were carefully saved, and the next spring, that of 1838, I planted from them about an acre of ground, again in the hills. This season I marked no changes from that of the last. Some few stalks grew, as before, very tall, with fewer and larger bolls, whilst the greater part were small, with small bolls, and a great many squares that never came to maturity.

These seeds were also saved; and now having a sufficient quantity to venture experiments in another form, and being pretty well satisfied that we could never succeed in making it a valuable plant in its original unmixed state, I determined in the spring of 1839 to plant the seed with the Mexican, a row of each alternately. This was cultivated carefully, and closely observed during the whole year. You must bear in mind that the season proved to be an exceedingly dry one, and in every respect one of the most propitious ones for every description of the cotton plant that we have ever known. I believe there was nothing particularly to be marked in its growth until September, except the great variety in the size of the stalks. We observed, however, that it suffered less from the drought in May, June and July than our Mexican generally did; always looked more fresh and green, continued to grow, and lost but few of its squares, whilst the rest of our crop lost a great many. These remarks will apply to the Mexican rows as well as the Egyptian. I might here state

also that the Egyptian cotton, since we first planted it, has always appeared to be less easily injured by frost. These advantages it no doubt partially derived from its becoming a more hardy plant in the dry atmosphere of Egypt, and perhaps also from being invigorated from amalgamation with another variety, that of the Mexican. Cotton generally was much more forward this season than usual; and we commenced picking as early as the 25th of July. The Egyptian cotton, usually so backward, was almost as early in maturing its bolls, but principally such stalks as appeared to be unchanged by mixing with the Mexican. The rest however, was also comparatively early. And now, sir, were exhibited most of the interesting phenomena which I have to relate respecting our Egyptian cotton.—As before mentioned, some few stalks sprung up to a considerable height, produced but few bolls, some of them not even a single form or bloom. The cotton from these stalks was a most beautiful article, soft, fine and silky; fibre very long and strong; but not so rich a cream color as the original Egyptian; invariably contained a large green seed. Other stalks did not grow so large, but had more branches; bore many more bolls, produced a long strong fibre, but not so silky; contained almost every variety of seed; upon some we found the original smooth black seed, upon others, seed a little fuzzy. Others again with a small brown seed, and some with a white seed. Many of the blossoms too changed from the Egyptian buff color to the Mexican white.—Some of these stalks produced remarkably well, but I cannot say positively which variety of seed produced the most; but this was very certain, that the green seed yielded the smallest quantity, and produced decidedly the most lovely cotton, resembling in every respect in seed and cotton the Chinese silk cotton, which has latterly attracted so much attention in this section of the country, and which I am inclined to think will prove the same. Think not that the difference in the height of this green seed cotton was owing to a difference in soil; it was all the same; and generally we would find one single stalk of this 8 or 10 feet high, with others on each side only three feet. The foregoing remarks apply principally to the cotton grown from the Egyptian rows; and which I have termed the Mexico-Egyptian cotton. That in the other alternate rows I have designated, in contradistinction, Egypto-Mexican. Let us now turn to this: although perhaps it did not present so many interesting points to the naturalist, yet it offered more pleasing prospects to the planter. In this we observed an evident and decided general improvement, both as respects the life and vigor of the plant, the quality of the cotton, and the quantity yielded. The bolls grew larger, the fibre somewhat larger, and much stronger. Nor was the plant so liable to disease, consequently less attacked by worms and insects. It grew rapidly and matured early, and, in fine, gratified my highest expectations.

These seeds were carefully saved, that of the Egypto-Mexican, and the next season, in the spring of 1840, I planted from them about twenty acres, which yielded much better than any other part of the plantation, although the soil was rather inferior to some of the rest. The cotton too was so much superior that each bale was selected from our other cotton in New Orleans, and classed at a higher rate. I am so well satisfied of the superiority of the cross, that I have this season planted nearly the whole of my crop with it, and would have planted the whole had I had the seed. I have also planted in such a manner as to produce a little greater mixture of the two cottons, and may, perhaps, at some other time, give you the result of further experience upon this as well as other varieties of the cotton plant, some of which I have already tried without any good results. This is a subject of deep interest to our southern country; and I wish you could draw forth for the public good the experience of many of our practical and intelligent planters, and induce them to take a pride in the matter, as the Kentuckian does with his stock, and the Virginian with agriculture in general. I have perused with much pleasure the remarks of Gov. McDuffie, of South Carolina, contained in the February number of your Register, upon this subject, and subscribe to them most heartily. There is no doubt his advice, if followed by all, would prove of incalculable benefit to the cotton-growing region; adopt a system of general improvement; improve our cotton plant, by crosses, and by such a system of cultivation and manuring of lands as will have the effect of producing a healthy stand of growing plants; gather our crop cleanly, and send it to market in a better condition; make less of it, and thereby enhance its value; attend to other products and improvements, and we would soon find ourselves richly repaid. I can give my testimony to this. We have pursued this course for many years; it always having been the ruling principle with my father whilst living, to do nothing except what he did well; consequently our crop is always sought for, its brand being well known among the manufacturers; and it never fails to bring two cents more per pound than other cottons. There are also one or two other brands that go to New Orleans, that command generally as good a

price, and attributable to the same cause. We do not make as much per hand in bales; but as much in the proceeds after our sales. Our planters themselves should become interested, and no longer trust so entirely to overseers, an irresponsible and uninterested class, whose sole object is either to lounge about in indolence and cheat their employers; or in making as many cotton bales as possible, at the expense of almost every thing else.

I have above alluded to the Chinese silk cotton, as it is termed, and expressed a doubt of its being any thing more than the green seed variety of the Mexico-Egyptian cotton, although it is represented as a very different article in one important respect, the quantity of its yield. My suspicions may be wrong; but such, I think, will prove to be the case. It is said, by those who grew it last season, that it produces about three times as much per acre as the Mexican. It is this property of it I am disposed to doubt, and upon this ground, that I believe, as a general rule, we will find it to be the case, that, in proportion as we find cotton possessing a long, fine and silky fibre, in an equal proportion will it be found to decrease in the quantity produced; and I think, upon an investigation of the matter, this will be found one of the characteristics of the cotton plant: that those varieties of cotton which are shortest in fibre will yield the most abundantly, and the reverse. I admit, however, this may in some measure be varied, by a judicious system in crossing different varieties, and of cultivation. We all know that cultivation does a great deal towards changing and improving natural properties of vegetation in general; but I cannot believe that such cotton as I have seen exhibited as the Chinese silk cotton can ever be grown in such quantities per acre as our Mexican. I shall, however, be able to test the matter this year, having some of it now growing in our garden.

I have also made some experiments with the *twain* or *Okra* cotton, but abandoned it, as inferior to our Mexican in almost every respect; but the most serious objection was, that it appeared to open all at once, and wasted a great deal before we could be able to pick it; that is, if we had planted it as a crop. This is owing to having so few and so short branches. All the bolls grew at one time, and opened together. It also grows tall, and the bolls at the top bend it over the ground.

I intended explaining more fully my views upon the general system of saving a crop and serving it up for market; to account for our cotton being better in color, fibre, &c., and clearer of trash and waste cotton, in cotton the fibre of which is cut by the saws in ginning, than the most of cotton which goes to New Orleans; and also to hint at some other points in the line of our planters; such as manuring our soils, to prevent the threatened exhaustion of our once highly esteemed Gulf Hills, &c.; but fear I have already extended my remarks to too great a length—I am sure much more than I designed doing when I commenced. But I shall now close, at least until I learn the fate of this, which I leave entirely to yourself. I assure you, sir, it is with great reluctance I send you these remarks, and would feel more than recompensed if they would but serve to call more attention to the subject; and to elicit other contributions from this section of the country to your valuable publication.

Respectfully yours,
HALLER NUTT,
Laurel Hill, Jefferson County, M.
April 25, 1841.

ON MAKING GOOD BACON.—The beginning of the year is generally the time for putting up pork for bacon; as this is a standing dish in the west, I have concluded to give you the result of thirty years experience upon this important subject. The first thing necessary to make good bacon, is to have fat hogs—slaughter them in the beginning of the week, so that you can take care of the offal before Saturday night; otherwise, if a warm day or two intervenes, part of it may be lost. It is highly important that hogs, slaughtered for bacon, should be well bled—the more completely the vessels are emptied of blood, the less disposition there is in the meat to taint or putrify. As soon as the hog is well cleaned and hung up, it should be freely washed with warm water, wiped with a cloth and carefully scraped with a sharp knife, especially the head, ears and feet, if you wish to have good souce or hoghead cheese. These parts are generally neglected, and thrown by 'for a more convenient season,' and then taken up by the cook or some idle chap about the establishment, and the hair singed off, and the skin burned until it becomes black and bitter, thereby imparting its colour and taste to the souce and hogs-head cheese. After gutting the hog, the inside should be carefully and freely washed with cold water, with the mouth open, so that the whole may pass through the throat, and remain in this condition until completely cool, which will generally take place, even in moderate weather, in one night. If the weather should be so mild that it will cool in one night, it had better be cut up, and spread upon brick and stone pavements, previously wet with cold water; if the meat is still soft, dash cold water upon it, and it will soon be ready for salt; but in all cases it should be per-

fectly cool if practicable. In one or two instances I have made as good bacon as I have ever made, out of meat frozen so hard that it had to be cut up entirely with an axe. As to the mode of salting and the quantity of salt necessary to cure pork so as to make good bacon, every man thinks he knows better than his neighbor. I have experimented for the purpose of ascertaining the best method of salting down pork, as also the proper quantity of salt and other materials, such as sugar, molasses, red pepper and saltpetre, all of which have their advocates, and have settled down and pursued the following practice for the last twenty years. I measure a bushel of salt—spread it upon a table—weigh a pound of saltpetre, pulverize it carefully and mix it thoroughly with the salt. This mixture is sufficient for a thousand weight of small meat, or eight hundred of large, to be well rubbed upon every piece, and more especially upon the fleshy surface, taking care to pack your joints at the bottom, and fill the little interstices with jowls, chine and round. The latter piece is made by cutting the neck off at the shoulder and jowl. The length of time necessary to keep pork in salt to make bacon, depends upon the weather and the size of the meat. If the weather be mild and the meat small, four weeks will be long enough; but if the weather is cold and the meat large, it should remain in salt six or eight weeks, and should be taken up at the end of four weeks, and well rubbed and sprinkled with salt in case the first has dissolved. It is then to be hung up in a dark smoke-house, and the darker the better, for the purpose of excluding flies—you will never find flies in a room where the light is entirely excluded. The higher the smoke-house the better, so that you may hang your meat out of the influence of the heat—every joint and jowl should be hung by the thick end and every middling by the thick edge, or that part of the middling that was cut from the back bone; this I know to be a matter of the first consideration in making good bacon—by attending strictly to this rule you will retain all the juices of the meat, as well as the salt that has been absorbed—or in other words, your meat will not drip;—whereas, if you reverse the position and hang it by the thin end, it will drip, become dry and hard and lose in weight, and what I consider to be of more importance, its fine flavour. Some who make good bacon, think it is important to smoke your meat with some particular kind of wood, but I imagine the only secret about this matter, is the bitterness imparted to the meat, thereby rendering the taste unpleasant to the fly, and by keeping up a continual smoke, you create an atmosphere that the fly cannot live in viewing the matter thus, I have every day or two thrown a few pods of red pepper upon the smoke wood—this produces an atmosphere very unfit for the respiration of man, and I apprehend so to the fly. Our meat continues suspended in the smoke-house during the year, is slightly smoked every morning and plentifully smoked every damp day. If our readers will observe these rules, I will almost venture to insure you such bacon as would make an epicure smack his chops.

Tennessee Agriculturist.

JOHN SHELBY.

BLOSSOM, THE FAMOUS MILCH COW.

DEAR SIR:—My father has just shown me your letter requesting an account of my Durham cow Blossom, her milking, &c. Below is the statement for one week, by which you will perceive she exceeds last year's trial both in milk and butter, particularly the latter; as during the trial last year, the weather was much warmer than this, and as we have, for want of a spring house, to keep our milk in a cellar, every one conversant with the business will know it cannot yield as much in hot weather. Indeed, I have not a doubt, that with a good spring house, she would have made 19 or 20 lbs. of butter this season. Last year, one month from calving, Blossom gave for the week 247 1-2 quarts, being over 35 quarts per day, which made 13 1-2 lbs. of well worked butter; this summer, near two months after calving, she gave in one week 253 1-2 quarts, being over 36 quarts per day, which yielded 17 1-4 lbs. of superior butter, which was well worked before weighing; the milk also was never measured until after the froth settled.

It may be as well to state, that there was not the slightest change made in Blossom's keep during the trial; she run in the pasture with the other cows, and was fed precisely as she had been before, and will be all the season. She had her first calf in April, 1838, and her sixth on the 12th of last April, (having twins twice,) and during that time we have never been able to get her dry, as she has always given from 12 to 16 quarts per day up to calving.

Very respectfully,
SAML. CANBY.
Blossom's yield of Milk for one week.

	Morning.	Noon.	Evening.	Total.
June 24	13 1/2 qts	13 qts	10 1/2 qts	36 3/4 qts
25	13 1/2	13	11	37 1/2
26	13 1/2	13 1/2	10 1/2	36 3/4
27	13 1/2	12	11	36 1/2
28	13 1/2	12	10 1/2	36
29	13 1/2	13	10 1/2	36 3/4
30	13 1/2	12	10 1/2	36
Total				253 1/2 qts

Being on an average over 36 quarts per day.