

AGRICULTURAL BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Germany and Great Britain are the only countries which afford a market for works on Agriculture.—In France the mass of the people scarcely ever read any thing except light novels. But books on farming, printed in the French language, find a market, because that language prevails throughout Europe, especially in the farming districts of Holland and Flanders. Russia and Hungary scarcely possess a work on the subject,—and Spain and Portugal have never succeeded in supporting any permanent or periodical work on culture, although entirely dependent on vine culture for prosperity. Italian books are circulated in the south of France, and Spain, and in Spanish America,—Scotland finds the Authors and Publishers, and England finds the readers,—England forms the example and model farms, and Scotchmen direct and control them. So with regard to Agricultural Implements, the Scotch are for the most part the inventors, improvers, and modellers, and the English the manufacturers, buyers, and users. In North America, Agriculture engaged the attention of Authors, as early as 1744, and from that time to this, the United States have published continually some of the most useful works, have invented the best labor-saving machines, and reprinted all the best European works on the subject. Scotland has produced the best authors, as Stephens, Loudon, Morton, Lindley, and has become tutor, with England and America for its pupils. Germany has furnished almost all the most eminent Chemists, who have specially devoted their studies to chemical analysis of vegetable matter, soils, and minerals, as Liebig, Voilekner, &c. The result of all research, and chemical analysis has been to elicit the following facts, corroborated by statistics :—

1.—That all soil however rich becomes gradually less and less fertile, so long as it is uncultivated, until it becomes absolute morass, moor or marsh, or impenetrable forest.

2.—That soil covered with forest trees retains its luxuriance for the greatest length of time, and when cleared of the forest, proves the most durable of any for the purposes of cultivation.

3.—That on land uncultivated, Nature maintains to a certain extent a regular rotation of crops, each plant in succession gradually diminishing in size, until the barren moor is all that remains.

4.—That pasture land when neglected, (though of the richest quality), gradually decreases in value, until it produces only the most worthless and valueless grasses.

5.—That the plough, labor, and a scientific use of manure will restore any land, even the most worn-out, to its original staple quality.

6.—That to maintain land in its proper, and original staple condition, manure must be supplied in proportion to the properties exhausted by the crops, and that such replenishment of exhausted properties, can only be contrived, (except under special circumstances), by a judicious rotation of crops, and by the economical use of the various reproductive substances everywhere provided by Nature.

Experimental farming has proved all this, and a great deal more,—without which practical farming could never have been carried on. Scientific books have in times past, been for the most part used only by the experimental, or amateur farmer. But so great have been the advantages derived from the application of science, that practice without science has become almost as profitless, if not as ruinous, as science without practice. It is on the union of practice with science that the success of the farmer must ever depend, so that farming now forms the most interesting, as well as