VOLUME II

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THE STUDY OF AGRICULTURE.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—In that valuable work, "The School and the Schoolmaster," may be found some statements showing that in manufacturing establishments, the productiveness of labor is materially increased by the employment of educated workmen. If this is true in manufactures, the division of labor is carried to a great extent; a single workman has but a few distinct operations to perform, and by frequent repetition, he soon acquires dexterity in the department assigned him, though his mind may be void of culture. In husbandry, the division of labor is more limited; one man performs a large number of operations widely different in their character and hence, there is occasion for a more extensive exercise of the reasoning powers, and more ample room is afforded for the application of diversied intellectual acquirements.

We have been told in this country, only one pupil in twenty goes higher than the common school. It is manifest, therefore, that seminaries established for the special purpose of teaching Agriculture and its kindred sciencies will not confer their direct benefits upon a very large proportion of the farming population; though it must be admitted that the indirect advantages will be felt by the whole community. The great body of our farmers must depend on the common school to obtain the ground work of their education; and the superstructure must then be reared by per severing application during the leisure moments which every one can command, particularly on the winter evenings.

The day has mostly gone by, when the farmer who consulted books for information respecting his employment, was a subject of stupid ridicule. It is now generally admitted that the business of husbandry, may derive valuable assistance from a more faithful application of scientific principles. I believe the mind is sufficiently prepared for the introduction of agricultural science, as a branch of study in the district schools throughout the State. Many years ago, this measure was recommended by De Witt Clinton, whose lengthened views, as in common with great great minds, were in advance of the times in which he lived The general introduction of this study into the schools, will appear to be an object well deserving the efforts of the town and county superintendents, when it is considered that so large a part of our population are farmers. The improved condition of these institutions of learning, which is confidently expected to result from the vigorous system of supervision now adopted, would undoubted make room for the new study, among the larger boys, without detriment to the branches hitherto pursued. In the first place we must have a suitable text book. My acquaintance with agricultural works is not extensive; but of those which I have examined, Gray's "Scientific and Practical Agriculture," seems to be the best adapted to our purpose. As stated in the preface this book was prepared more particularly for academies and seminaries of the higher class and it may not be just the thing needed in our common schools. A work on this subject, for general use in the common schools, should contain only the most important outlines; for if we attempt too much we are in danger of failing entirely. Whether Mr. Gray's book sufficiently answers the above description, I leave to the judgement of others. It is certainly a valuable production and the moral reflections are exceedingly appropriate. If there is any work in the market, better adapted than Mr Gray's for common schools, I should like to have it named

If it should be thought that a text book on agriculture could be prepared, better fitted for the use of common schools, than any of the works now before the public, would it not be a good movement for the State Agricultural Society to offer a premium for such a book? If an extensive effort should be made to bring this branch of learning into the schools, it would be of vast importance, to have a first rate text book to begin with. A work issued under the auspices of the State Society, wou'd be likely to meet with favor; and perhaps the early attention to this subject, by that association, would effectually prevent, in respect to agricultural science, that diversity of text books which is the cause of so much embarrasment in other departments of learning.

A. R. McCORD.

La Grange, Dutchess co. N.Y.

IMPROVEMENT OF CLAY SOILS.

Messrs Editors—What method shall I take to reclaim worn-out land? soil stubborn clay. Will leached ashes or lime effect a cure? If so, what proportion to the acre?

E. H. NORTHRUP.

Shoreham, Vt. April 5, 1844.

The great trouble with a clay soil, is its tenacity. The compactness of its particles, keeps, in wet weather, too much water on the surface; and in dry weather it 'bakes,' as we say—becomes so hard that it absorbs but little moisture, and cannot be penetrated by the roots of plants. Thus, on clay soils, vegetation is very likely to suffer in turns, both from an excess, and a deficiency of moisture.

To guard against these difficulties, the first object should be to break this obstinate tenacity by a thorough loosening. To keep the vegetable matters near the surface, where, especially on such soils, they are most effective in aiding the growth of plants, we would turn a rather thin furrow with the common plow, and follow with a sub-soil plow, running it as deep as the implement and the strength of the team would permit. This would allow the surplus watter to pass readily into the earth—the roots of plants would easily find their way in search of food—while, in time of drouth, the exhalation of moisture from below, as well as its absorption from the atmosphere would be facilitated, and the growing crop would thus be protected from the evils of too much moisture at one time, and too little at another.

As to the kinds of manure to be used, we should endeavour to apply such as would tend to correct, as much as possible the defects of the soil From our own experience, we should not expect much better from the use of ashes—their effects are more favourable on sandy soils. We would try both lime and gypsum, and if their effects proved to be such as would render their application profitable, should use such quantities as seemed expedient. We should endeavour to induce the growth of clover, and if that crop could be made to flourish, it would be found a certain and great improver of the soil; and should gypsum operate well, a high degree of fertility might be gained by the use of that substance in connexion with clover. Animal manures of all kinds, if they can be had, should of course be applied, as they are valuable on soils; and if there was a chance, to obtain saw-dust conveniently, and at small expense, we would use it liberally, having witnessed its effects in improving tenacious soils.

It is proper to observe, that if draining should be necessary, that should be the first object of attention. The loosening of the soil as above mentioned, will operate as a considerable drainage, but actual observation only can determine whether it will be sufficient.

Commercial and Business Affairs.—We perceive by several of our Colonial papers, that the business prospects of the coming season are represented as very encouraging, and that labourers and some descriptions of mechanics are receiving very good employment, particularly in Canada, where the public works are being carried on

So far as our own Province is concerned, we have every prognostic of a sound and healthy trade this year, although, comparatively speaking, little business has yet been done, which is owing to the delay of the Spring fleet—very few ships with merchandize having yet arrived, although a large number of vessels are daily expected from Great Britain, as will be seen by reference to the list which we publish to-day This circumstance has caused less animation among our Merchants than is usually the case at this season of the year. Our prospects are, however, very flattering. The news by the last steamer is highly encouraging to those engaged in lumbering operations, and the large quantity of excellent timber which is now coming down the River from the Upper St. John, will no doubt produce remunerating prices in the Home Market. In addition to this, a large amount of money will be set afloat this Summer in the City The Bank of British North America having taken the Provincial Loan, between £70,000 and £80,000 will be distributed about the country, which will invigorate every department of business.

The only drawback to the prosperity of the country, is to be found in the impolitic and unwise restrictions placed by our Legislature upon our intercolonial trade We are indepted to commerce for every thing; and when we see enactments passed by the Legislature that will destroy so important a branch of trade as that which has existed between this Province and Nova Scotia, it is high time that the subject was brought under the notice of the Home Government, and the evil nipped in the bud.—*New Brunswicker.*

Vocal Music conduces to Health.—It was the opinion of Dr. Rush, that singing by young ladies whom the customs of society debar from many other kinds of healthy exercise, is to be cultivated not only as an accomplishment, but as means of preserving health. He particularly insists, that vocal music should never be neglected in the education of a young lady; and states, that besides its salutary operation in soothing the cares of domestic life, it has a still more direct and important effect. "I here introduce a fact," says the doctor, 'which has been suggested to me by my profession,' that is, the exercise of the organs of the breast by singing, contributes very much to defend them from those diseases, to which the climate and other causes expose them. The Germans are seldom afflicted with consumption; nor have I ever known more than one instance of the spitting of blood amongst them. This, I believe, is in part occasioned by the strength which their lungs acquire by exercising them frequently in vocal music, which constitutes an essential branch of education. 'The music master of our academy,' says Jardiner, has furnished me with an observat on still more in favour of this opinion. He informs me that he had known several instances of persons strongly disposed to consumption restored to health by the exercise of the lungs in singing In the new establishment of infant schools for children of three and four years of age, every thing is taught by the aid of song. Their little lessons, their recitations, their arithmetical countings, are all enchanted; and as they feel the importance of their own voices when joined together, they emulate each other in the power of vociferating. This exercise is found to be very beneficial to their health. Many instances have occurred of weakly children of two or three years of age that could scarcely support themselves, having become robust and healthy by this constant exercise of the lungs. These results are perfectly philosophical. Singing tends to expand the chest, and thus increases the activity and powers of the vital organs.

Shameful Proceedings of a Military Inquisition in Cuba.—The subjoined statement (says the Philadelphia U. S. Gazette) comes to us from a highly respectable source, and we think it a duty to give it an early insertion. The wrongs of any man to be proclaimed, if proclamation can promote redress. But injuries inflicted on an American citizen, almost within sight of our own country, should be noticed promptly, and redress be at once demanded by the government.

O'Donnell, the Governor General, has established Military Commission with all the powers of the Inquisition, viz: to put to torture, judge, sentence, and execute all persons of color found to have joined the plot of the insurrection, lately discovered. Seven hundred and fourteen slaves and free persons of color found to have joined the plot of the insurrection, lately discovered: Seven hundred and fourteen slaves and free persons of color have been arrested, and are now in confinement in Matanzas, and in an apartment so small that not one half the number can lie down. The wretches are examined seperately by the solicitor, in the following cruel and barbarous manner.—To a ladder lying on the ground, the accused is tied hands and feet, with his face downward. He is then called upon to confess—he hesitates—the whip, such as is used by the draymen of the United States, with a piece of wire affixed to the snap, is then applied to the small of the back laid bare, every lash removing more or less of the flesh, until he confesses, what perhaps he does not know, or until he faints.

On reviving, from fifty to one hundred more are inflicted; and if these do not extort confession, he is remanded to prison, where he writhes in agony till morning, when he is taken out, and the whip again applied to his already horrible lacerated back! This barbarous method of exorting confession has been practised in Matanzas every day during the last fifty, and for more than ninety days, by the Inquisitision now travelling between Matanzas and Cardenas. Many have expired under the lash protesting their innocence to the last, and more than twenty poor wretches have been sent from public jail in Matanzas to the Hospital, without a particle of skin upon their backs The proceedings of the Inquisition towards the whites would put to the blush the negro tribunals of Hayti.—Five persons of respectability, four of whom are planters, were arrested and confined fifty-one days on charges founded on the testimony of a worthless negro. Three of these five persons are French residents, and we doubt not their Government will procure them redress for all their sufferings.

From St, Domingo.—Capt. Treat of the schooner Robert Treat, which arrived from the city of St. Domingo last evening, says the New York Express, informs us that it was reported when he left, that there had been two engagements with the President's troops, who endeavoured to get possession of a fort a short distance in the interior, in which he sustained a loss of 600 men. A truce of 24 hours duration took place between the combatants, in order to bury their dead, at the expiration of which time the French forces retreated.

Business was very dull.. The market was stocked with American produce, which was extremely low. The inhabitants being constantly under arms, there was no mahogany coming in. Great numbers of the inhabitants had left, and were daily leaving, for other Islands.

A Ceylon Love Quarrel.—Campbell, in his Adventures in Ceylon, says:—I saw at Covegodde, what the people called water fight, between as they told me, two competitors for a dark-eyed maid, one of the lovers, the challenger, being highly exasperated by the pangs which the green-eyed monster, jealousy, generated in his heart, both stood up to their knees in the lake, opposite to each other; and with their hands constantly dashed the water in a curious and expert manner into each other's faces, I saw the combatants thus, I can scarcely say, hotly engaged, about nine in the morning, and at three in the afternoon they were still at work, and the battle was then doubtful—for according to established rules, whichever of the two warriors, no matter what may be the pretence or cause, stops first, if it be only for a moment dashing water at his adversary, is considered to be vanquished. Hundreds of people were looking on, apparently deeply interested in the result; as he who is thus overcome, they assured me, is never known again to aspire to the hand of the lady, who has caused the antilebrilile combat.

A HOME THRUST.—'Mr. Timothy,' said a learned lady, who had been showing off her wit at the expense of a dangler, 'You remind me of a barometer, that is filled with nothing in the upper story.' 'Divine Almira,' meekly replied her adorer, 'in thanking you for this flattering compliment, let me remind you that you occupy my upper story entirely.'

Hood winked.—On the facetious Thomas Hood coming to town one day, he called on an equally facetious friend, well known in the literary world with the intention of dining with him. The friend, however, happened to have an engagement: but, as he had no reasons for not treating Hood with any want of hospitality, and knowing that he must return to Enfield early, he asked Hood to accompany him to a veterinary surgeons, where he was compelled to go on business. The friend, knowing Hood's state of stomach, took him *to see a horse's tail cut off!* an operation which positively induced Hood to decline any idea of eating a dinner.

The Lilac.—This fragrant flower, so common in the gardens of people of taste in New England, will soon be in full bloom. The lilac is very easily cultivated, and presents a beautiful appearance before our doors. And it lives to a great age.—There is a lilac tree in Finsbury, England, which is about one hundred and twenty years old, and flowers every year. Its girth is 16 inches, and its height about 18 feet.

Imputed Gluttony.—At a table d'hote at Cologne, a manufacturer from Sheffield, who spoke nothing but English, was seated next to a German lady who did not speak it at all Handing her a plate of peaches. "Have a peach marm?" said he—"*Nein*" (no,) replied the lady, "*Nine!*" exclaimed he, starting with astonishment first at her and then at the other guests at table. "Why, marm, there's only six in the dish, but there they are for you," at the same time rolling them upon her plate.

A Hard Law.—At Saparta, a man was liable to an action for not marrying at all, for marrying too late, and for marrying improperly.—*Plutarch.*

A man is now living at Montmartre, near Paris, who has completed his 116th year;—another died a few days ago, aged 114, from apoplexy, leaving a son aged 87, who has not yet a single gray hair.

The city of New York has within its gift about 1,000 offices of different kinds, and the disembursement of at least a million of dollars.

The Earthquake of St. Thomas, 17th April, was felt throughout the Island of Cuba, without disastrous consequences.

Notice in Bankruptcy.

COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE,
IN THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK,
In the matter of Thomas Algar, a Bankrupt.

WHEREAS under the Provisions of the Acts of the General Assembly of this Province of New Brunswick, made and in force relating to Bankruptcy in this Province, Thomas Algar, of Saint Andrews, in the County of Charlotte, Tailor, hath been duly declared a Bankrupt, and hath accordingly surrendered himself to me.

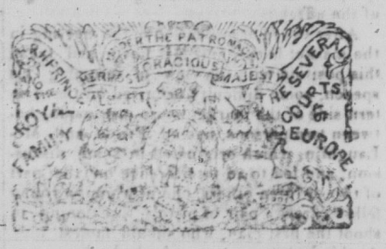
Now, therefore, I do hereby give Public Notice, that by virtue of the power and authority to me given in and by the said Acts, I have appointed Samuel H. Whitlock of Saint Andrews in the County of Charlotte, Esquire, Provisional Assignee, of the Estate and Effects of the said Bankrupt. And I do hereby require all persons indebted to the said Bankrupt to pay to the said Assignee, on or before the 9th day of May next, all such sum or sums of money, debts or duties as they may owe to the said Bankrupt, to deliver the same to the said Assignee, on or before the said 9th day of May next, and I do further require all the Creditors of the said Bankrupt resident in the said Province, or in any other of Her Majesty's North American Provinces, or in the West Indies, or in the United States of America, within three months from the day of the date hereof, to deliver unto the said Assignee, an to prove to my satisfaction their respective claims and demands, whether the same be actually due or are to become due against the said Bankrupt.

And I do hereby appoint a General Meeting of the creditors of the above named Bankrupt to be held at my office in St. Andrews on Tuesday the 11th day of June next, at noon of that day, at my said office, for the purpose of receiving proof of, or contesting any claim presented against the said Estate, at which meeting or at any adjournment thereof the said Bankrupt will be examined on oath touching the said Estate and each other business relating to the said Estate, will be transacted as may be deemed necessary.

Given under my hand at St. Andrews the 9th day of April 1844.

H. HATCH.

Commissioner of the Estate and Effects of Bankrupts, for the County of Charlotte.



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CAUTION.—Numerous *pernicious* compounds are universally sold as "MACASSAR OIL." To ensure the real article, see that the bottle is enclosed in a wrapper (a steel engraving of exquisite workmanship) on which are engraved "ROWLANDS MACASSAR OIL" in two lines.

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