

TOO MUCH LAND.

During a recent excursion in this, and some of the New England States, I was struck with the comparative sterility of land which might, by proper cultivation, become "the garden of the world." Instead of seeing fields of wheat bearing thirty bushels to the acre, we find scarcely twelve to fifteen is the yield; where two tons of hay should be cut, hardly one is the product; where thriving fruit-trees might be expected, bending beneath the weight of their delicious fruit, our eyes are pained by the sight of gnarled, stunted, and half-dead trees, scarcely able to sustain the life of the few curled up leaves that come forth as if to reproach their owners by the sight of their consumptive appearance. If they had tongues to speak, how latterly would they complain of their treatment. Is it because nature is so miserly that she does not reward man for the labor he bestows on her? or because man will not let her yield a bountiful supply in reward for his labor? What is the cause of this sterility, and the complaints of the farmers that they cannot make a living, though they have hundreds of acres at their command? It is evident the fault is with them selves. They attempt the cultivation of *too much land*.

Our farmers have from 50 to 500 acres under what they call cultivation. Still they are in debt, and in many cases the more they possess the worse they are off. Their land is scattered far and near. Two are here and ten there, instead of being compact together. In this manner, more time is often lost in going from one lot to another, in building the fences of other people, and keeping out their cattle, than the whole income of the land amounts to. I have myself lost more time in this way in a single year, than it would take to keep ten acres in the finest condition.

What is the remedy? Sell half of your land and spend the proceeds of it on the remainder, and thus make what you have yield a liberal income. This may appear to those who have always "followed in the footsteps of their forefathers," of adding field to field to the rarus, as the height of folly, but I am confident it will be their salvation. There is a good old adage, one that should be remembered by farmers as well as others, "Never attempt too much."—Depend upon it, there is no course so successful as that of owning and attempting to cultivate 200 acres, when you can hardly do justice to 100. Suppose, for instance, a man has 50 acres of naturally good land, and he has but a certain amount of manure, time, &c., to use in his cultivation, which is not enough to keep it in heart, or pay that attention to rotation of crops which it requires, is it not evident that the land, the owner, or whoever is connected with it, must suffer? would not all intelligent persons condemn such a course? yet how many such instances are to be seen all around us! I believe it would be for the interest of many farmers, even to give away a portion of their land, rather than to have so much in their care. Self interest tells us, it is the true policy of such a man to sell what he cannot properly use, for he would gain time to devote to the remainder, money to purchase all that it required, his crops would yield in double ratio, his land increase in value as it increased in fertility, and thus he would be in every way benefited.

I have seen acres of the best land, overrun with daisies, burdocks, tithels, mulleins, and other noxious plants, that root out the grass, and eat up the life of the soil, without affording nourishment to man or beast, which might by a little attention yield a rich harvest. But the farmer has no time to attend to it, and the land becomes worse than useless: for it is self evident that land must either increase in fertility, or decrease in value—there is no middle way—it must afford a profit or be an expense.

Look again at the swamp and meadow lands, with which our country abounds, that are now worthless, and causing sickness and death in their vicinity. All these might be reclaimed, and made the most productive land, by a small outlay of time and capital: the owners have neither because they have too much land already calling for their attention. The muck contained in

these places, can be made to pay better interest than bank stock. Yea, if properly used, it may be the farmer's mine of wealth.

This leads me to inquire how are our lands really to be cultivated? I reply, by using the experience and directions of those who have studied the chemical formation of soils, and the effect different manures have on different soils. Man's time is his, and land injured, by the farmer not knowing the relative value of his manure, and the theory of rotation of crops, which might be saved by the expenditure of a little time and money in procuring and reading agricultural papers and books. There is too much of the saving a cent, and losing a dollar economy in this age. When the time shall have arrived that men will be willing to study the theory and practice of farming in all its details, then shall we see agricultural pursuits elevated to a proper standing, and yielding a profit that shall rejoice the hearts of all.

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From the Southern Planter.

PAIN.

In the last number of the *Planter* we expressed the opinion that the cheapest and best pigment for the farmer's use, was white lead, and we promised to give some directions for its use. To say nothing of the preservation of the wood to which it is applied, the gratification the painter's brush affords the eye, is worth ten times more than its cost. Can any thing present a stronger contrast than the dingy, gloomy, and sombre appearance of a mass of unpainted weather-boarding, and the lively, cheerful, animated scene presented by a neatly painted homestead? Nature with her refreshing green of spring, hardly does more for her works, than man with a little bit of white lead, may do for his. We were formerly struck with this lack of paint in a visit we lately made to one of the most splendid estates in Virginia. The situation was high and dry, the dwelling house large, commodious and handsome, the out-houses comfortable and properly disposed, and the fencing capital. But with the exception of the dwelling, there it stood in its original gloom, ignorant of paint; and buildings that probably cost ten thousand dollars, for want of a hundred dollars worth of paint, were suffered to decay and offend the eye. A Northern man, on approaching the house would naturally have exclaimed, Alas! for the proprietor, how long has he been dead. He would have no idea that any thing less than sudden death could have caused him to leave his premises in such an unfinished state. A *roofless* house would be as familiar to his eye as an unpainted one. We saw enough of elegant taste displayed by the lady of the mansion to infer that she is constantly at the gentleman to have the buildings and palings painted, and we saw enough of his deference to her wishes, to infer that he is constantly promising to do so.

The main reason of the nakedness of our buildings is an exaggerated estimate of the difficulty of mixing and applying paint. This operation is, in fact, extremely simple, and for all plain purposes may be performed by any smart boy on the plantation. The white lead comes ground in oil, and may be had of any of the painters or apothecaries. (Our friend Du Val across the way will furnish it as good and as cheap as any body.) This lead is of two qualities, the No. 1, and *Extra*. The first can be purchased for about eight, and the latter, which from its superior quality is actually the cheapest, can be had for nine dollars the hundred weight. To every twenty-five pounds of lead about a gallon of linseed oil (which can be had for a dollar a gallon by the quantity), should be added. The whole should be strained through a wire sifter, or piece of coarse muslin, to free it from the particles of dry skin that have formed in the keg. Incorporate intimately into this mixture about a table-spoonful of yellow litharge. For every gallon and a half of paint, and you save *white paint*, ready for use. All kinds of work should be three coats—the first, or *priming* as it is called, should perhaps be made a little thinner by the addition of a little more oil

than here directed, and care should be taken that it is applied to every part of the wood. When this is perfectly dry, the second coat of a little thicker consistence, may be applied. This should be laid on smoothly, with long, even strokes of the brush, and the third coat should be applied about as thin as the first, with a light hand, and with particular attention to evanescence and smoothness.

For colored paints, a flag and stone, worth about three dollars, are necessary, to rub down the pigment used. For a lead color, admirably adapted to house tops, ploughs, and other implements, dissolve lampblack in a little spirits of turpentine, and add to your white paint until you shade it to your fancy. A beautiful blue may be obtained by mixing the Prussian blue of commerce with oil and rubbing it down on the stone until you reduce it to an impalpable powder. Other colors may be obtained in a similar manner, by a resort to other pigments.

Paint brushes should be cleaned with spirits of turpentine when the job is finished, and between the intervals of using them they should be kept immersed in water, to prevent the paint on them from becoming dry and stiff.

Midsummer is considered an unpropitious time for painting, as it is supposed that the heat of the sun has a tendency to evaporate the oil before it sinks into the wood. In this climate, painted work will require a new coat at least once in three years. But if the pores of the wood are well filled at first, this renewal is a small matter, requiring comparatively little labor or material.

SCARLET FEVER.

In the *Gazette* page 267, we gave from the *Baltimore American* a communication over the signature "Medicus" recommending the extract of Bullardonna as a preventive where this fearful epidemic is apprehended. If that preventive and the following remedy are what the writers claim for them, by proper attention the disease may be easily overcome:—

To the Editor of the Democratic Gazette.

SIR,—I wish to call the attention of my professional brethren, and of the public generally to the following mode of treating the scarlet fever, a disease that has so severely afflicted several families in our city, and about which there exists so many fearful apprehensions.

In every case in which I have used it, I have found the disease yield readily to the *Colchicum Autumnale*, no matter what may be the degree of malignity. I believe this to be the best remedy that has been found. I have used this alone in several cases, and always with the happiest effect. The disease, in any stage of its progress, yields under its influence in a very few days.

Mode of administering the *Colchicum* is the following:—1. To a child one year old five drops of the *Uinum Colchici* every three hours, increasing the dose one drop for every additional year of the patient's age.

JAMES GUILD, M.D.

Early Rising.—A correspondent of the *Exeter News Letter* gives the following reasons for early rising, which are conclusive. It is to be regretted, however, that with many, fashion and idleness are of superior influence to sound reason. The writer says:—

The practice of early rising should be adopted—1st. Because nature does not require but a few hours sleep. 2d. The morning air is the most healthy and invigorating to the system of any in the course of the day. 3d. The body and mind are better prepared for the necessary business of the in the early part of the day than any other. 4th. By avoiding the habit of sleeping in the morning, there are more hours of consciousness and activity, so that life is made to appear longer than it otherwise would.

Sick Headache.—Two tea-spoons full of finely powdered charcoal, drunk in a half tumbler of water, will in less than fifteen minutes give relief to the sick headache, when caused, as in most cases it is, by superabundance of acid on the stomach.—*N. Y. Herald.*