

Desirable Grasses.

We extract the following from an essay read recently before Bailey Grange, Kentucky:

The varieties which have won our admiration, and, in our judgment, given proof of most utility, as well as adaptation to our soil, may be classed under the following five varieties. I would state in the outset, and before proceeding to a discussion of these five kinds, that it would have afforded me much pleasure to have had the means at hand by which to give at least a short history and the origin of the sorts I wish to present for your consideration. In the absence, however, of such means, I will only direct your attention to what my own experience and observation persuade me in regard to this portion of the task I have undertaken. First, the variety known as bluegrass, which we regard as one of the very best of grasses. There are three prominent characteristics of this grass that especially commend it to our favor.

First—Its capacity to yield an abundant pasture. This characteristic of the variety named is apparent to all whose attention has been directed to this matter, as it will yield rich grazing the year round, and may be almost classed with the evergreen. All this conspires to give it a very high place in our favor for winter grazing. It is a familiar fact that in what is proverbially known as the Blue Grass Region, in our own beloved State, this grass has attained a very high state of cultivation, especially for winter pasturage; while in an adjoining and sister State (Indiana), there are a number of counties in which this grass is fostered with a view to both summer and winter grazing.

Second—Its fattening qualities are conceded by all to be equal, if not superior, to those of any other class, and for cattle it has no equal among all the grasses, giving rise to the most savory of meats. Especially for milk cows does its excellence manifest itself, in the rich flow of sweet and oily cream, from which the choicest butter is made. I once heard a brother Patron remark that he had a large woodland pasture set in bluegrass, which he usually used for summer grazing; but, being advised by a friend to cut the pasture in two and keep one half of it for winter pasture, he was prevailed on to act out this suggestion, and he remarked that he turned about thirty head of cattle on in the early part of winter, and they remained on it during the winter, without having been fed any except only when there was snow or sleet on the ground, so that they could not get to the grass. "And," said he, "they kept in good beef order throughout the winter." I mention the foregoing circumstance, as it is an attestation of the superior fattening qualities of this most excellent variety of the grasses. Much more might be said in this direction, but I will pass on to the next prominent feature of this variety.

Third—Its capacity to hold the soil from washing away is perhaps more than double that of any other grass. Embracing with its network of ten thousand threadly rootlets, it thus clasps almost every atom of the soil, and, when it has thus taken possession of the soil, it admits of no rival, forming a heavy, rich, green sward on the surface, upon which the gushing rains may descend and pass off, almost as crystal-like as when they first fall. Thus it may be seen that our soil is safest from the ravages of the watery elements when in the keeping of this most beautiful variety of the grasses.

The second variety we wish to present to your notice is that known as clover, of which there are several species, all of which we will class under the general term—clover. This variety has two prominent features of merit, which commend it to our hearty approval.

First—Its abundant and luxuriant growth and yield of food for our domestic animals, both as hay and for grazing purposes, for which latter it seems to be peculiarly adapted, while it is also an excellent and nutritious food in almost every stage. It has a very laxative tendency, which, perhaps, makes it the better adapted to swine, whose very constitution seems to be of a more astringent type than the others.

Second—The other prominent feature of merit alluded to, is that it is the best fertilizer of the soil of all the grasses that have ever come under our observation, as it will recuperate the exhausted energies of the soil in a shorter space of time and with more thoroughness than any other grass, which, of course, especially commends it to our favor, and makes it an indispensable necessity in the husbandman's rotation of crops. As there are many and conflicting opinions as to the proper time of sowing this variety, some claiming as early as February, while others as late as April, we can

only say that our experience teaches us that the first of March has been attended with more success than at any other time.

The third variety claiming our attention is that known as timothy. This grass has also two characteristics of merit which commend it to our favor.

First—Its hay-making qualities. This is the use to which it is most generally applied, and for this purpose it is best adapted. It is a thirsty grass, and, hence, peculiarly adapted to low and wet lands, consequently, in some districts of country where the lands are flat and swampy, this variety has received considerable attention, and in such localities has become a principal staple of commerce. This grass is an astringent, and hence, we think, for the health of our domestic animals would be much improved by the mixture of clover with it, which is of the opposite tendency; it is, however, alone, considered an excellent food for our domestic animals, especially for horses and mules.

Second—The second characteristic of this variety is its adaptation for spring and summer grazing. As it is an early grass, it will furnish good grazing in the early part of the season, and so long as the season is favorable. But, as we have said, it is a thirsty grass, consequently it cannot stand drouth; while it is a luxuriant grower when the seasons are propitious, and as we generally have more rain in the early part of spring and latter part of the fall months, hence this variety makes good grazing both early and late in the season. As to the proper time of sowing this variety, we would say that our experience persuades us that from the middle to the last of February is the best time, as we have never known it to fail when sown in the time specified, in this locality.

The fourth variety we have to present to your notice is that denominated orchard grass. We wish to say in the outset of our remarks upon this variety that our experience as well as observation is rather limited with this grass, and hence we will have to draw somewhat of our remarks from the experience of others. This variety is cultivated both for hay and grazing purposes, and is a luxuriant grower; consequently, for making hay it gives a good yield per acreage, but as it is a very coarse grass, it is thought not to be relished by the domestic animals in the form of hay with the same fondness as the varieties we have just had under review. For grazing purposes this grass is commended for two characteristics:

First—Its early appearance; in this respect being ahead of all the varieties in the spring of the year, and thus furnishing pasturage sooner than that of any other.

Second—It will grow and do better in the shade than any other grass, which feature, perhaps, gave rise to its appropriate name, orchard grass.

The fifth and last variety we wish to present to your notice is that known as Hungarian grass. This grass is of so recent introduction in this locality, and consequently to our notice, that we have but little knowledge of its merits; we can say, however, that it has won our admiration for one prominent characteristic, which is its pre-eminent yield of hay per acreage; while it is said to be an excellent food for stock, and that they are very fond of it. It is not a perennial, and, consequently, like oats, has to be sown every year; and as the proper time for sowing this variety is in the summer months, we may calculate with some fair degree of certainty of the success or failure of the other varieties for hay purposes; we can, if need be, avail ourselves of this very prolific grass for purposes of food, and thus have our barns stored with an abundance of hay by the time the winter months shall have set in.

Farm Fragments.

BY ALEXANDER HYDE.

"Gather up the fragments that nothing be lost" is a good maxim for all men, but is especially applicable to the farmer. The income from the farm is not from a large stream, "quick and violent," as Johnson calls it, but from a multitude of little rills, all of which need attention, and if at the same time there is a multitude of little leaks, the farmer's pond may never fill up. It may seem a very small matter to gather up farm fragments, and these fragments may be insignificant, considered individually, but as the Scottish proverb has it, "Many a mickle makes a muckle."

"Little drops of water, little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean and the solid land."

A mill is a small fraction of a dollar, and singly is so insignificant that it is not represented in coin or currency, but mills multiplied make a fortune. Said a broker, who understood the value of fragments, "If I had a sixteenth of one per cent. of all the money that passes through my hands I should have a pile."

WANT OF ECONOMY IN WESTERN FARMING.

Fragments are more valued by the Yankee farmer than by the Hoosier, and well they may be, for everything at the East is on a comparatively small scale. The wife of a thrifty New England farmer calculates to buy all the tinware with the rags she saves. A Westerner, with his hundred acres of corn and hundred head of hogs ridicules rag-saving, but he may be assured that it is by saving these odds and ends that the East is growing rich and is enabled to build railroads to the West. A neighbor, who the past summer has visited the Western world for the first time, came in a few days since to tell us of the wonders he had seen. "I have seen," said he, "corn fields of a thousand acres, and wheat fields so large that the sun seemed to rise and set in the same field, and still the farmers did not seem to have so many comforts of life around them as we have at the East." "And what is the reason?" Why, they waste enough every year to make a Yankee farmer comfortable. They take their threshing machines out by the sides of stacks of wheat, and it was shocking to see how much grain was wasted. Then their hogs harvest their corn, or if it is stacked it is done in so slovenly a manner that corn and stalks must mould. With small barn accommodations their crops, cattle, and tools cannot be housed, and everything is so slipshod that the net income from their large and fertile farms is not equal to what we get from our hundred-acre homesteads." Possibly his picture was a little colored, for he acknowledged that the prairie was tiresome to him from its monotony, and that he never realized how glorious the hills looked till he got back among them. Still, there was too much truth in his criticism upon the slovenly manner in which the average Western farmer conducts his operations.

ECONOMY FOR FARMERS.

In these times of stagnant business, depressed prices, and scarcity of money—not in the banks, but in circulation—it behooves every farmer, both East and West, to husband all his resources and stop all leakages. Economy is the order of the day, and it is a thing hitherto little practiced by the rural population of this country, in comparison with the cultivators of the soil in the Old World. Even the New England farmer has much to learn in this respect from his more frugal German and French brethren. While pleading for the saving of all farm fragments, we must not be understood as advocating parsimony. "There is that withholdeth more that he meet, and it tendeth to poverty." We have full faith in what the old Roman farmer, Columella, calls "The faculty of spending." This faculty is not inconsistent with true economy, which looks sharp that nothing is lost. We must confess some sympathy with the frugal housewife of the olden time, who was accustomed to have all her family take butter from one plate, and was much disgruntled at some fastidious—as she called them—visitors, who persisted in putting a piece of butter on the side of their individual plates. "Well," she said, as she gathered up the pieces, "if they must have a chunk of butter on their own plates, it shan't be wasted. They shall eat what they have left."

A PRACTICAL LESSON ON FRAGMENTS.

So much for the general doctrine of saving the fragments. To make the doctrine practical, we must be more particular and specify some of the fragments, and in doing this we shall confine ourselves to those which demand attention at this season of the year. The first on the list is the leaves. These lie scattered about every farm house, and should be utilized. A single leaf is a very small fragment, but a myriad of leaves make a big pile and are worth saving, for the double purpose of bedding and manure. They may not make so good bedding as rye straw, but when straw brings \$20 per ton, as it does in the vicinity of cities and large villages, no farmer can afford to use it as fodder or bedding. Turn the straw into money, and substitute leaves or sawdust or dry loam for bedding the cattle and horses. So far as manure is concerned, we have never found any bedding equal to leaves. The value of vegetable substances as fertilizers depends greatly on the inorganic matter they contain, and leaves abound in potash, soda, lime, and other salts, which the roots of the trees have brought up from the subsoil, and which are greatly needed on the surface soil. It is by

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