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## Agriculture, &c.

### TOWNSHIP OF YORK FARMERS' CLUB.

#### VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY.

The following well-written essay was read before the York Township Farmers' Club, by Robert Davis, Esq. The Club is fortunate in being able to number among its members a gentleman of so much intelligence as the author of this essay:—

It is not necessary for me to remark how limited is still the knowledge acquired by the most learned in regard to agricultural chemistry; it is enough for us, as farmers, to know that while others are devoting much time, energy, and skilful research, with little or no pecuniary profit as a stimulus, we, whose business and interest should have prompted enquiry, have been content to remain utterly indifferent to the midnight darkness that envelopes every operation of our calling. The fact may be, perhaps really is, that the chemist has yet done little or practically nothing for the farmer, as a tiller of the soil;—some first principles, however, have certainly been propounded,—analyses have proved constituents, and information most valuable, in a scientific view, arrived at;—but it must be admitted that, for general practical application, chemistry has hitherto placed nothing within the reach of the every-day farmer, by which his ordinary labors are lightened, nor has it reduced the uncertainty by which agricultural results are so invariably characterised. This may not be spoken, however, in disparagement of chemistry as applied to agriculture;—many sound theories are difficult of practical application;—the scientific enquirer is rarely, in this case, a practical

operator; while the farmer is quite as unfrequently inquisitive or scientific;—so that the principle demonstrated in the laboratory is lost to all useful purpose by want of intelligent application in the field. Unscientific men are too prone to discredit all innovations upon long-established practices, and little short of an instantaneous miracle is necessary to convince them of the absurdity of a usage, which prejudice and custom have familiarized. However desirable, it cannot be expected, that the chemist, whose avocations leave him so little leisure, should become familiar with the details of field labor; while “*au contraire*,” from the nature of his business, the farmer has much leisure for the acquirement of that knowledge immediately identical with his interest which chemistry is able to afford. It would seem, therefore, that, if it be essential to combine some scientific knowledge with practical skill in the culture of those products in which the farmer finds a profitable account, at his door must lie all blame for lack of those results, to which a more skilful management and improved practice would certainly contribute.

All life is a forced state, springing from those inscrutable laws of nature which a divine omnipotence has created, and controls in providential benevolence to all his creatures. Of all the grand divisions of nature, whether animal, mineral, or vegetable, the most merciful, the most beautiful, the most obvious to our every-day senses, as well as the most indispensable to the sustentation of animal life, is the earth's glorious carpet of vegetation; without which man, and all the varied family of animated nature, would perish—yea, the great globe itself would have