

The January number and Supplement contained the proceedings in full of the Great National Agricultural Convention, recently held in New-York, including addresses and papers by Hon. J. F. Kinney, Francis D. Moulton, Dr. John A. Warder, Rear-Admiral Ammen, Gen. H. E. Tremain, Hon. N. T. Sprague, X. A. Willard, Seth Greene, and other leading writers and speakers.

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I hear sad tales about the failure of the grass. In many places the frost seems to have destroyed it.

Hungarian grass, sown thickly, say 3 to 4 pecks an acre will, in less than two months, produce a good crop of hay. It should be cut as soon as the blossom begins to show, as it is very hard if allowed to stand too long. The land should be in finest order and good condition. Sow broadcast, and brush in with bush-harrow, rolling afterwards when up. The yield, if the land is in good heart, should be from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 tons per acre. After cutting, if the land be reploughed, a second sowing may be made, which can be cut for green meat; in which case, 1 should use 2 pecks of seed, with 3 pounds of rape, to the acre.

KIND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS.

Among the legends of St. Francis, some of the more interesting are those which place him in relation with the lower animals. He was accustomed to call all living things his brothers and sisters. Hares and rabbits nestled in his bosom, but of all living creatures he seemed to have loved especially birds of every kind, as being the more unearthly in their nature, and among birds he loved best the dove. When he found insects on the ground he was careful not to tread on them, and would remove them from the pathway, lest they should be crushed by others.

Dr. Arnold wrote that the "destinies of the animal creation appeared to him a mystery which he could not approach without awe;" and, in like manner, John Henry Newman—"Can anything be more marvellous or startling, unless we were used to it, than that we should have about us a race of beings whom we do but see, and as little know their state, or can describe their interests or their destiny, as we can tell of the inhabitants of the sun and moon? They have, apparently, passions, habits, and a certain accountableness, but all is mystery about them. We do not know whether they can sin or not, whether they are under punishment, whether they are to live after this life."

Such thoughts as these ought to have weight with us, I am sure, in all our dealings with the dumb creatures of the hand of God.

F. O. MORRIS.

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I beg to call the attention of my readers to the following extract from the "Georgia Crop Reports." I need hardly say

that I agree with the editor's remarks, except that, here, I should omit the cotton-meal, and add 200 lbs. of sulphate of ammonia per acre as a top-dressing. The last sentence is perfect.

A. R. J. F.

Milton County.—"We are using Bradley's compost in this country. In my settlement there is nothing else used. Have discarded guano altogether. Farmers that used it last year say they could not tell the difference between the compost and the best guano. I will give you the formula: One thousand pounds stable manure, 1,000 lbs rich dirt or swamp muck, 5 bushels leached ashes, 8 lbs. of sulphate of ammonia, 8 lbs. sulphuric acid, 1 lb. powdered alum, well mixed, 400 to 500 lbs. to the acre. This compost cost but little over \$1 per ton besides the labor, two hands can mix and put up six tons per day. If 1,000 lbs. per acre is used it will be much cheaper than guano. Some of my neighbors have used 1,000 lbs. per acre on oats and they look well." There is nothing in this formula to recommend it. The stable manure, rich earth, ashes, and sulphate of ammonia, of course, possess virtue. The stable manure, if properly saved, is indeed valuable, and rich earth, if used at the rate of many tons per acre, will produce appreciable results, but in the quantities recommended, can serve only as an absorbent of other valuable ingredients, which in this case are used in very small quantities. For instance, 8 lbs. of sulphate of ammonia will furnish, if pure, only 2.06 lbs. of ammonia or a fraction less than 1-1,000 p. c. This will do no harm. The percentage of phosphoric acid derived from the stable manure and ashes will be hardly appreciable—less than one per cent. The soluble potash is leached from the ashes before used to prevent, it is supposed, the loss of ammonia, while a microscopic homeopathic dose is given in "one pound" of powdered alum. If our correspondent will substitute 1,000 lbs. of cotton seed or half the weight of cotton seed meal for the rich earth, replace the ashes with 300 lbs. of kainit, and add 500 or 600 lbs. of high grade superphosphate, he will have a better compost, which will indeed be equal in agricultural value to the best commercial manures, and one which may be used at the same rate per acre at which commercial fertilizers are usually applied. *The feat of making something out of nothing has not yet been accomplished,* and our correspondent is advised not to undertake it.

Coal-oil Cooking Stoves.

I have used a coal-oil cooking-stove from Mr. Cole's establishment for the last four years. It is no trouble to manage, and its performances are as great as the promises of the advertisement, q. v. Its stewing and broiling are exquisitely perfect. Care is of course required in keeping the flame at a proper height.

A. R. J. F.

Poultry Department.

Mr. Tegetmeier on the Management of Poultry.
(continued.)

Resuming yesterday (Thursday), Mr. Tegetmeier dealt with the first and second heads of his syllabus—(1) the origin of domesticated fowls, and (2) the structure of fowls. As to the former, he said there were only four wild fowls—viz., *Gallus Ferrugineus*, *Gallus Varius*, *Gallus Sonneratii*, and *Gallus La Fayettei*, all of which belonged originally to the East. From one of these our domesticated varieties must have arisen, and to a great extent they no doubt had their origin in the one first-named, which was very much like the black-red Game cock, almost the only difference being that the tail of the wild bird was somewhat drooping. In passing, he might say that the prevalent idea that many of the domestic varieties were the result of a cross between fowl and pheasant