

To our Friends and Patrons.

Agricultural and Mechanical Periodicals deserve, and should receive, the support of the whole community, but more especially of the Farmers and Mechanics for whose *profit* and instruction they are established. For their *profit* we have said; and when the extremely small sum for which they are afforded, is taken into consideration, it is a *certainty*, that the instruction given by their means, if put into practical operation, only make a return infinitely more-greater than the like sum employed in *any* other way. This may be *truly said* of even the least ably conducted among them. Where is the farmer or mechanic who could not listen with pleasure and profit to the conversation of his more learned or experienced neighbour; and *what*, we would ask, is the contents of the various publications but the *written* conversations of the authors of the articles inserted. That there is degrees of benefit to be derived from perusal of the different publications none can deny. From the support and encouragement thus far received, we are led to hope that *all* those who have taken our paper are fully satisfied with the manner in which it is conducted. We are determined that its character shall in *no way* suffer by a lack of attention on our part to sustain it. In our present number we give a variety of cuts, and have made arrangements to continue to do so; and from the confidence we have in the means and ability of our editor, do not fear in any respect a *comparison* of our magazine with *any other* published on *this continent*, and more especially when the extremely low rate at what it is afforded is taken into consideration.

As a further inducement to our friends to exert themselves in our behalf, we offer liberal premiums to persons obtaining the greatest number of subscribers to the current volume, to a list of which, on the second page of this number, we would call attention. We shall continue to offer prizes, in proportion to the amount of patronage we receive, for subscribers to our succeeding volumes.

Publishers and Editors of newspapers will please observe our offer on the second page of this number.

SUGAR MAKING.

March 13th, 1849.

To the Editor of the Farmer and Mechanic.

SIR,—Being lately reminded of the approach of the Sugar making season, and having the vanity to suppose that I might perhaps be able to offer a few instructive remarks on the subject, I determined on making the attempt, and here follows the result:—

It may not, perhaps, be generally known, that the finest loaf sugar is prepared nearly, if not quite as easily, from maple sugar as from the common muscovado; but, as this is really the case, a short account of the method of refining the common sugar may interest as well as benefit your readers. I will therefore attempt to give one as brief as possible. I may in the first place remark, that sugar is not generally refined in those countries where the sugar cane is grown, as there is great difficulty in preventing it from fermenting, on account of the great heat of the climate. I will now proceed to describe the process of purifying the brown sugar, so as to produce the loaf. There are three kinds of substances to be removed before the loaf sugar can be obtained, and these are: first, all impurities, second, coloring matter, and third, the uncrystallisable sugar or molasses. First, to remove all impurities, the sugar is thrown into large cisterns of five or six feet in diameter, and water being added, is dissolved by means of steam, all the bad effects of variable temperature being thus prevented. After it has been dissolved, lime water is added to neutralize any free acid that might be in it and then the solution is mixed with the serum of bullock's blood, which by coagulating, entangles as it were all the solid impurities contained in the sugar; after which it is strained through many thicknesses of a close kind of cotton cloth, when it passes through nearly transparent and tinged slightly of a red color. This color is removed by filtering through a charcoal cistern, which consists of a vessel several feet deep, provided with a double bottom, the upper part of which is perforated with numerous small holes on which a cloth is laid; under the cloth is laid animal charcoal three or four feet deep.