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Poetry.

The Old Cottage Clock.

Oh! the old, old clock of the household stock, Was the brightest thing and the nearest; Its hands, though old, had a touch of gold, And its chime rang still the sweetest, 'Twas a monitor, too, though its words were few, Yet they lived, though nations altered; And its voice, still strong, warned old and young, When the voice of friendship faltered; 'Twas, 'tis, it said—quick, quick, to bed— For ten I've given warning; Up, up, and go, or else, you know, You'll never rise soon in the morning, A friendly voice was that old, old clock, As it stood in the corner smiling, And blessed the time with a merry chime, The wintry hours beguiling; But a cross old voice was that tireless clock, As it called at daybreak loudly, When the dawn looked gray o'er the misty way, And the early air blew coldly; 'Twas, 'tis, it said—quick, out of bed, For five I've given warning; You'll never have health, you'll never get wealth, Unless you're up soon in the morning, Still hourly the sound goes round and round, With a tone that ceases never; While tears are shed for the bright days fled, And the old friends lost forever; Its heart beats on—though hours are gone That warmer beat and younger; Its hands still move—though hands we love As clapped an earth no longer; 'Twas, 'tis, it said—to the church-yard bed, The grave hath given warning— Up, up, and rise, and look to the skies, And prepare for a heavenly morning!

Agriculture.

For the "Agriculturist." Early Amber Sugar Cane.

Mr. Editor.—The following interesting addresses were given on the above subject by the Hon. S. H. Kenney and Captain Blakey of Minnesota before a meeting of the State Agricultural Society, on the 4th of February last, and published in the Preston Republican from which paper it is copied. Mr. President and gentlemen of the Minnesota Agricultural Society:—The interest manifested by your members the past year in bringing the sugar industry before the people of this State, has given an impulse to this new industry, which I always believe would in a time be second to none in this State. It is a wrong principle to buy what we can raise so cheaply. One hundred and sixty gallons per acre is an average crop here in Minnesota, and some cases a much larger yield. The number of acres in amber sugar cane the past season far exceeded any former year. Although every mail brings a letter telling of some one that saw the Amber Sugar Cane at the State fair. This shows that State fairs do a large amount of good. I first found the product of the amber cane at the Rice county fair. I pronounce it a safe crop—much safer than wheat, as I have not lost a crop in the last five years that I have planted the amber cane. Can as much be said of wheat? A man known to Col. Taylor, who owns two refineries, who visited Minnesota last fall once tested our amber cane, declared it was richer in saccharine than the Louisiana cane. The report and labors of the chemist at the agricultural department the last season were very favorable and will be known soon. I do not say these things because the enterprise needs any proping up. But to give our farmers light on the subject I shall at this time try to give you my views as plain a way as possible, so that I think any man can with usual intelligence make a good article of syrup or sugar. I shall make my estimate on small machinery and recommend beginning in a small way at first. Prepare the ground about the 15, of May as for corn, mark out light rows three and one-half feet apart each way, plant in check rows and plant not more than one-half inch deep with packed soil and on an even level, about ten seeds in a hill. It is much easier to pull a little than not have a good stand. When the cane is up enough to follow the rows I do not let it be till the weeds get well started but immediately stir the dirt around the hills. This kills the fine weeds and gives the young cane such a start of the weeds as to enable the crop to be plowed with a fine tooth cultivator, and if planted in check rows both ways, leaving but very little work to be done with a hoe. This crop till three and a half feet high requires the same treatment as corn. Leave from five to seven stalks in a hill. It should not be cultivated after it is three and a half feet high, as the roots would then be injured so as to make the cane ripen later. Those planting cane should give their order early for machinery so as not to be too late in boiling the cane juice it should not be pressed out much ahead of your wants, as it is very perishable in warm weather. As the

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ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

"AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH."

ANDREW ARCHER, Editor

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nights become cooler the juice will keep much longer, and here is a very important point that the climate of Minnesota in my opinion is much superior to the States south of us in securing a good granulation, as after the cane ripens the cool nights and days in the fall serve to keep the cane in good condition for weeks, until the crop is secured.

I do not think that it impoverishes the soil to any great extent, as I have raised nine crops in succession on my piece of land. At the end of that period I realize 25 bushels of wheat per acre, and would have had it seed five years to grass, then a crop of corn, and the next season the amber cane, this long cultivated land gives the very best results in granulation.

I sent a barrel of this sugar to St. Louis, and a barrel of syrup, which the St. Louis refinery are now testing. The cane was not to its richness when cut. In fact, I think it was the most unfavorable season we have had, but we have learned some things from the cane growers of that section that will change our entire proceedings another season. We have learned that we can treat the cane juice so as to coagulate and settle all the impurities and remove all obstruction to drainage, and from samples I here present, it does not show the process in its true light, as syrup reduced five-sixths by water and then reboiled. It is so long over the fire it changes the color; also the taste. But I think I can show you that we have made progress, and re- gret that we were so long finding so valuable aid.

The Despatch says, my hobby is amber cane and "lasses." Now I am very fond of the nag, in these hard times for money; and more as I am able to get a better price than other syrup brings in the market. Dr. Bond brings the charge home that Miller and I are the fathers of business. I will say this: the Minnesota early amber cane is the legitimate offspring of the St. Paul chamber of commerce and Minnesota State fair; and I am proud of the child from the fact it is able to stand on its own merits so young. My consultation never could have sent me to the Minnesota legislature to make laws. But justly recognized that 30,000 gallons of sweet this fall in Rice County alone would, in the failure of the wheat crop, atone for lack of brains.

I have never heard a man say that we had not made a perfect success, but one man at the State fairs. He told us we could not have made the sugar, we must have bought it. Should this man visit my house he would have to give me credit of having considerable money if I bought all I had on hand.

In your next issue I shall endeavor to give you the cost of cultivation, &c. showing probable profits to those cultivating as compared with other crops, expense of machinery, &c.

Mr. Editor.—In my perambulations in York County, N. B., I notice that the present hard times has been the means of improving the country at large, as a good many men who thought they could make money faster by following other pursuits besides farming, on learning their error have gone back to the despised old farm, where, by diligence and economy, they not only can make a comfortable living, but improve and beautify their homes. Among the foremost of those who are now taking quite an interest in farming, is A. W. Coburn, Esq. of Harvey Settlement. A few years ago he did not raise enough to bread himself and family; but now he does and has some to spare. He thought his farm would not produce wheat; but on trial, he found he could raise it without any extra effort, and he now thinks we can raise as good wheat and more per acre than any of the most famous wheat growing sections of the west. Although Mr. Coburn takes so much pride in raising wheat, the reader must not imagine he neglects the other branches of his farming, on the contrary he has gone to considerable expense of time and money in his efforts to improve his stock, and with quite a marked success. He has some fine graded cows, three quarters Durham which he purchased from Benjamin Long, Esq., of Kingslear, who obtained the breed from the celebrated stock farm of John Sipp, Esq. of Hampton, Gloucester County, Va.; he has also some graded Jersey cows which he very highly prizes. He has a pure blooded Durham bull "St. Cross," color, Rian; bred by Charles F. Todd of Milltown, N. B., calved March 14th, 1876; got by King Lear (13,263) vol. 4, page 417, N. B. H. B. dam, Mangold, 3 by Chaffron (5,440), grand dam Mangold by Clifton Duke (3,760)

great grand dam, Mary Ann, 8, by Cossack, junior (377); he is a fine looking animal and took first prize at Provincial Exhibition held in Fredericton last Fall, and has taken first prize at every Agricultural Show at which he has been exhibited. Mr. Coburn has some very fine yearlings which are nearly full blooded Durhams, and has made great improvement in his stock, and in a few years with his facilities and well known judgment and energy, will have a stock, second in quality to none in the Province.

YORK COUNTY RAMBLER.

Cattle Plague and Remedy.

At this time any facts relating to the cattle disease in America are not without interest. It made its first appearance in the United States in the year 184 having been communicated by an imported cow landed at Brooklyn, and it gradually spread through one or two counties in the State of New York. To this day the disease maintains its hold on Jersey Island. In 1841, it raged violently among the valuable stock of Mr. F. Richardson, Jersey Co., and in 1859 it made its appearance in Massachusetts, in both cases the infection was caught from imported cattle. In Massachusetts the disease which was determined to be "epizootic pleuro-pneumonia" spread very rapidly, herd after herd became infected; the stock interests of the State were alarmed; vigorous measures were taken to stop the infection, suspected herds were quarantined, barns were disinfected, cattle were treated, and after reasonable time if no signs of improvement were discovered, slaughtered, but the disease was not completely eradicated until 1867. In 1859, it appeared in Camden County, N. J. and attacked the valuable herds of Eastern Pennsylvania. After the year of secession, the cattle trade with Texas was resumed, and assumed great proportions, and from the over-driven, brutally treated herds the disease spread, and raged with tenfold violence in the stock yards of New York, St. Louis, Cairo, Chicago, Buffalo, Albany and many other places. Vigorous measures were taken to stamp it out, but not with entire success, as the recent outbreak shows.

FARMERS.

If there is any time when we are inclined to indulge in feelings of envy, it is when we get loose from our confined, inactive and sedentary labors, after ten or twelve hours application, and sally forth to observe what is passing around us. It is often that we compare the healthy looks of the farmer with our own weak and morbid feelings; in autumn follow him to the field, and see the fruits of his industry ripening before us, and observe the look of good nature and happiness shining through every feature as he gazes upon the growth of that which his hand has planted, or in winter take a place beside his family hearth where the voice of health, and joy, and plenty responds to the crackling of the hospitable fire, it is then that a dizzy sickness comes over our whole frame, and we are almost led to believe that the good things of this life are not equally distributed.

A farmer's life is indeed a life of happiness. Could our friends among that class look in upon us during the cheerless season of winter when the rain or sleet is driving against the windows and the wind is piteously howling, and see us as we crouch over our rusty stoves, in which the little fuel we can afford, is sustained by the remains of what was once, in our youthful days, an andiron; and there, upon a brick, or a half burnt knotty stick of wood, an emblem of our hard condition, with not one near and dear friend to cheer us, without any one that is interested in our welfare, or that would be the less happy if we were in our graves, they would go to their own happy homes, and never again repine at any of the crosses which Providence might send upon them.

It is the truth that mankind are not sensible enough of the superiority of the farmer's situation, in regard to happiness, over every other class in the community. While the merchant, or he who is engaged in active business, is harassed with care and anxiety, their minds are as free and clear as the air that meets them as they go to their daily employment. After the labors of the day are over, the husbandman can retire to his home, and enjoy the "luxury of rest." Not so the man of business—he only exchanges perplexing toil for anxious reflection—and while the "lord of the soil" is dreaming of fat oxen and agricultural prizes, his eyes are un- closed, and his mind is upon the stretch in an endeavor to invent means of taking up notes at the bank, or some such equally pleasant cogitations.

Professional men have their numerous troubles also. All the professions are crowded, and those who have neither great impudence, nor superior talents are in a hopeless condition—and those who do possess these requisites are often in despair at the slow and tedious progress in the path of notoriety and eminence, and suffer most excruciatingly at such times for the horrors.

The mechanic, too, superior as is their situation in point of real comfort to either of the above classes, are continually plagued with captious and mean customers, untoward and lazy apprentices, or perhaps want of employment. Agriculture has been justly styled the "natural employment of man;" and happy would it be for the community if more would in this respect, as well as every other, follow nature the "unerring guide to truth." Then instead of the city being crowded with melancholy and disappointed speculators, every part of the country would smile under the hand of industry, and be filled with a happy and healthy population.

used successfully in the treatment of many diseases in animals heretofore regarded as incurable, especially the "glander" in horses inasmuch as the researches of the world renowned Hallier of Jena, have brought to light in the nasal discharges and circulating blood of glandered horses the *contothecium, equinum*, a microscopic parasite of the same genus as the *contothecium atlesinum*, which is the active agent in the Texas cattle disease, and is effectually destroyed by weak solutions of carbolic acid." It is very evident after the excitement of 1867-8 died away, disinfection ceased, care was relaxed and many of the causes that brought about these preceding epidemics now exists.

It is the supreme duty of the State to exercise the same vigilance in the protection of the flocks and herds from contagious disease, that it interposes when humanity is endangered. In view of the conclusions of 1868, it would seem almost incredible that farmers, dairymen and stock dealers should neglect to use a remedial and preventive agent, now to be cheaply obtained in every city, town and village of the United States.

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The late distressing times will be a source of much good, and a means of bringing folks to their senses in this particular, and lead many to leave the crowded and uneven walks of speculation, for a life of usefulness and contentment.—Maine Farmer.

Arithmetic.

The Maine Farmer says that:—Arithmetic is much more necessary to a farmer than to many others, for as his resources are not so many, or so lucrative perhaps, as the tradesman or merchant, so much the more need is there that he should be safe in his calculations. Yet we will ask you how many farmers in Maine practice any thing like strict calculations?

How many potatoes did you raise? Why I don't know exactly, I guess four or five hundred bushels.

How much corn did you raise? Why fifty or sixty bushels.

How much hay did you cut? Why fifteen or twenty jags.

How much milk does your cow give? Why she gives a pailful night and morning. Such are the answers you will, nine times in ten, get from our farmers, if you put the same questions.

Now what exactness, or real definite knowledge is there in such statements?

The Dutch have a proverb that he who keeps books seldom fails. That is, he who keeps his accounts correctly, and is arithmetically certain what his income and his outlays are—who knows the cost of his property, whatever it may be—the expenses attending the feeding and rearing many kinds of stock are large, it is absolutely necessary that they should know the exact cost, in order to shape their course, and set their prices. Attempting to do business without this precaution, is like navigating the ocean without a compass. You may creep along, by the shore and the help of the stars,—a lucky wind may wait you to the desired port; but there is no certainty about it, and if a cloud hides the planets, you are lost, and perhaps wrecked. Let those who have been in the practice of applying arithmetic to their agricultural pursuits continue the practice; and let those who never have, begin immediately.

Poor Cows and Good Cows.

"Cut off the losses" is one of the best rules in farming. Many losses are hidden from the farmer, and among the chief of those hidden losses is the loss from keeping poor cows. I know of no surer course for a dairyman to better his condition than to find out his poor cows, make beef of them, and then get good ones in their stead.

First find the losses. In a herd of cows some give the average yield in milk or butter of the entire herd, some exceed it and some fall short of it. At present the average yield of dairy cows barely pays for keeping them. It may be safely assumed that keeping those cows which fall much below the average, makes a loss to the keeper. It may be safely assumed also that there are a great many such cows wherever cows are kept—losses to their owners. If this average yield, as shown by the factory account, is a good one, the dairymen generally takes no thought of the cows that fall short of the average; and the fact that some of his cows make a loss is hidden from him. If by reason of an average of his herd, a dairyman suspects that he has a number of poor cows, yet only in marked cases can he single out the poor ones. On the same feed some cows give much more milk than others. Certain cows give a big flow at flush of feed; certain cows hold to their flow better than others; some cows look more milky, and have more and stronger marks of a milkier or butter cow than others. These traits are indications of the quality of a cow. In marked cases such traits may be a sufficient indication. Commonly the very good cow or the very poor cow is soon known. The owner of but two or three cows may learn the quality of his cows by observation; but in general the dairyman needs a farther and more certain indication of the quality of his cows than these traits afford. Especially is this the case as to cows kept for making butter.

The best and easiest way we know of to find out the poor cows is as follows:—Weigh the milk of each cow once a month on about the same day in each month. Call that weight the average yield for the month in which it is given. For the first month reckon only the number of days the cow is milked, for other months reckon thirty days. This simple

weighing will be a sufficient test for a cow kept for butter making, an additional test need to be made. Once in the flush of feed, and once about seven months after calving, set one day's milk of the cow by itself, churn it and find how many pounds of milk are required for a pound of butter. Dividing the pounds of milk yielded in a year by the average number of pounds needed for a pound of butter will give the annual butter yield of the cow. The practical purpose of these tests is to find out as to each cow whether she is a poor, a good, or a very good cow. For this purpose are not these tests sufficiently accurate? We know the exact yield in milk or butter cannot be ascertained in this way; yet we fancy it is a roughly accurate way.

Ornamental Trees.

Do our farmers reflect how easily and cheaply they can add to the beauty, and enhance the value of their farms, and at the same time do a great service to the community, by setting out ornamental trees along the roads which intersect them? There are a number of varieties in our forest which are well worth the care and attention of every farmer. The stately elm—the shady maple—the noble ash—and the towering basswood will grow in almost any situation where they can get root, and will stand affording shelter and shade to generation after generation, for centuries. We never pass a tree which has been planted and nurtured by man, but we feel gratitude and respect towards the hand that did it. How interesting and delightful might our State be made if every farmer would take the trouble to transplant from the thicket to the road sides, such trees as would grow large, and yield a goodly shade. It would afford pleasure and satisfaction to him and to his flocks. It would gratify the weary traveller, to shelter himself beneath their branches. It would please the man of taste and the lover of nature, to look upon them in their strength and beauty. The stranger, as he passed, would be delighted, and report well of us to others, and property will not suffer in value when it has that belonging to it, which will afford either pleasure or gratification. Every village should have its streets lined with trees, both for the purposes of health and ornament.

They will afford a decoration which the art of man can never rival nor imitate. No matter how splendid may be the structures which may be reared, they will appear cold and stiff without the decorations which nature so liberally and freely bestows in the countless and beautiful specimens which fill the forests of our country. It will soon be time to transplant them, if you cannot do it next autumn, or have not done it the last.

Grape Culture.

A horticulturist who has given great attention to grape culture, states that he has found great advantage from the protection afforded by wide boards over some of his vines in keeping off the rains during the period of blooming. In this way he has in some cases secured fine crops. But the best protection from insects and disease has been obtained by covering each bunch with a bag made of cheap mosquito netting. The cost of this netting was 45 cents for each piece eight yards long by two yards wide. Each bag requires a square foot. Consequently one piece would make 140 bags. These are slipped over the bunch and tied tight with a string around the stem. Insects are thus entirely excluded, and a partial protection is afforded from the rot. This protection has been tested fifteen years; without it the insects would have entirely destroyed the grapes he says. He has had ripe sweet grapes to eat long after the time that his neighbors had been compelled to eat their sour green grapes to save them from the depredators. Another grape culturist had employed paper for bags but these prevented the full coloring of the fruit, which was insipid and watery.

A Hot-Bed for the Farm.

A great many of our readers have an idea that a hot bed is an expensive luxury only fit to be in the gardens of city folks. Any man that can use a hammer and saw can make a hot-bed good enough to raise young plants of the vegetables that will be ready to set out in the open ground by ploughing time and which will be ready for use fully a month earlier than is usual when he has to wait till the frost is out of the ground before he can make garden.

Now, at the beginning of February we ought to make preparations for the work. He can easily save and hill up at some sheltered corner or at the south side of some building where the

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hot-bed is to be placed a few loads of horse dung from the stables, loosely, and see that it does not heat much till he is ready to use it. He can secure some nice top soil, even if it is frozen, and put it in his cellar to thaw out, mixing it with some sand if it is too heavy and turn it over two or three times to get it well mixed, and sifting it through a coarse wire sieve till it is mellow and fit for a seed bed. He can get his glass ready with a few boards and make a good cover that will close it up tight during the nights when the frost is hard. For the young plants are tender and must not be checked in their growth. All this can be done, or ought to be done, now or during the next two weeks. In this way, if done in time, ample preparation can be made for a hot-bed that will not only supply his own wants, but the wants of his neighbors have not had the foresight to do those little things which add to the comfort of the house and which will provide food that will save the use of medicines and the payment of doctor's bills in the summer."

Early Planting of Potatoes.

Planting potatoes will soon begin. Sandy soil, with sufficient clay to prevent leaching, is beyond doubt the best, because the drainage is perfect and there is less disposition to rot. This last is of the first importance. Clay soil has an advantage over sand in that it is cool; but this can be remedied in a sandy soil by putting the seed in deep, and it will bear putting in deeper from the porous condition of the ground. Seven inches is about the depth. With frequent culture, followed by mulching when the plant is too large for cultivation, a severe drought can be defied. If the ground will bear increased fertility, coarse manure makes the best mulch; otherwise use straw—if somewhat rotten, all the better. The mulch will keep the soil moist and keep weeds, putting the ground in the best condition for the succeeding crop. The labor of applying will not be much, always paying well by preventing weeds (which usually grow large) from abstracting strength from the soil, and by increasing the size of the tubers.

Plant 12 to 15 inches apart in the row, and about two eyes to the hill. In all cases the seed should be sound unexhausted by sprouting, and put in as early as the ground will admit. No fear of frost at the depth at which the seed is put. Were it even reached, the gradual drawing out of the frost at that depth would leave it sound. At the time the plant appears above ground, the season will have so much advanced as to put it out of danger, unless in cases of exceptional late frost, to which the usual later and shallow planting is equally subject. Planting early is recommended both for the early and the late sorts; the early to mature them before the mid-summer heats set in, the late to get the benefit of the entire season if required. Among the early sorts there is none, all things considered, that I think so well of as the Early Rose; but it is one of the most abused of all the sorts. It is what its name indicates, early, not only in ripening, but it wants the cool, moist weather of early spring. It thrives under it when other tubers are tardy and come uneven. To make sure of the moisture, the seed must be put out early and at the depth prescribed. With all this, one thing more is required, and that is indispensable with this sort. It is high manuring. The ground is not only to be rich, but a fertilizer is to be used in a hill, or in the furrow at planting. This fertilizer is to be in the main composed of wood ashes, which is a special manure for the potatoe. Thus treated, the early superiority for which this sort was noted can be regained.

Mr. S. L. Boardman, who has been connected with the Maine Farmer as its agricultural editor for the last sixteen years, and has the reputation of being one of the best writers on agricultural topics in New England, ceased with the last issue, to have any connection with the paper. He is succeeded by Dr. William P. Lippam, who has for the last seven years been its general editor, liberally educated, of an inquiring mind, a close student, a strong thinker, a forcible, vigorous writer, he unites the qualities requisite to fill the editorial chair of a paper founded by Dr. Ezekiel Holmes.

The making of condensed milk in Switzerland is very profitable. The Anglo-Swiss company last year cleared \$300,000, and after setting aside half of this as a reserve fund, declared a dividend of eighteen per cent.

The Arkansas wild grapevine is gathered and shipped to France to be used for grafting stock.

Board of Books