

CURIOUS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT.—The following interesting experiment has lately been successfully made by Mr. A. Palmer, of Cream Surrey: In July 1842, he put one grain of wheat in a common garden pot. In August the same was divided into 4 plants which in three weeks were again divided into 12 plants. In September these 12 plants were divided into 32, which in November were divided into 50 plants, and then placed in open ground. In July, 1843, 12 of the plants failed, but the remainder 33 were healthy. On the 16th of August they were cut down, and counted 1972 stems, with an average of 50 grains on a stem, giving an increase of 88,600. Now if this be a practicable measure of planting wheat, it follows that the most of the grain now used for seed may be saved, and will infinitely more than cover the extra expense of sowing, as the wheat plants can be raised by the labourer in his garden, his wife and children being employed in dividing and transplanting them.

TABLE OF CALCULATION OF CROPS OF SWEDISH TURNIPS ON THE IMPERIAL ACRE.—By Mr. Blaikie, bailiff to Lord Leinster, at Holkham.—First, suppose the rows to be 27 inches apart, and the turnips to be set at 12 inches intervals in the row, each turnip will then occupy 324 square inches of surface, or four turnips in a square yard, consequently there will be 19,360 turnips upon an acre. Suppose the turnips to weigh one pound each upon an average, the weight per acre would be 8 tons 12½ cwt.

	tons.	cwts.
1½ lbs. each, the weight per acre would be	12	19½
2 lbs.	17	5½
2½ lbs.	21	12
3 lbs.	25	18½
3½ lbs.	30	4½
4 lbs.	34	11

Second, suppose the turnips to be set out at only 10 inches intervals in the row, each turnip will then occupy 270 square inches of surface, or about 4½ turnips in a square yard, consequently there will be 23,232 on an acre. And suppose them to weigh one pound each upon an average, the weight per acre would be 10 tons 17½ cwt.

	tons.	cwts.
1½ lbs. each, the weight per acre would be	15	11
2 lbs.	20	15
2½ lbs.	25	18½
3 lbs.	31	2½
3½ lbs.	36	6½
4 lbs.	41	10

Mr. Whitley, a writer on the application of geology to agriculture, states that a carcase of a horse is equal to at least ten times its weight of farm-yard manure, and would prove much more valuable to the farmers if converted into a compost, than if sold for the kennel.

MANURE AMONG THE CHINESE.—In arranging the various classes of the people, the Chinese place the literati in the foremost rank, as learning is with them the stepping-stone to honour; but immediately after the learned the husbandman takes the precedence of all others, because being engaged in raising the necessaries of life, he is abundantly more important than the mechanic, who merely changes the form of matter—and the merchant who originates nothing, and only barter and exchanges commodities for the sake of gain. This honour put upon agricultural employments is evidently the result of design, and shews that the country, being overstocked with inhabitants, needs cultivating to its utmost extent, in order to provide the people with sustenance. The industry and skill of the Chinese, striving to produce as many of the necessaries of life as possible, would also argue a dense population, ever struggling against threatening want, and compelled to exert themselves for their daily bread.

In tropical climates, where the ground is fertile and the population scanty, the natives find that, by a few months' labour, they can produce sufficient for a whole year's consumption, and are therefore indisposed to exert themselves further. But in China, the inhabitants are incessantly employed, and every individual is obliged to be busy in contributing his quota to a common weal.

Every one, in the least acquainted with Chinese manners, knows that they are untiring in their exertions to maintain themselves and their family. In the business of agriculture they are more particularly active, raising two crops from the ground every year, extending their cultivation in every possible direction, and bringing the most unpromising spots into use, in order that nothing may be lost. Their skill in effecting these objects is not, considering their few advantages, contemptible. They thoroughly understand the importance of varying their crops; they know perfectly well the seasons and soils adapted for certain productions; and they are very sensible of the importance of manuring the ground, in order to maintain its fertility.

A stranger is struck with this on first setting his foot on the shores of China. Almost every individual met with in the paths and fields is provided with a basket and a rake; and every evening the cottager brings home a certain quantity to add to the dung heap, which is a most important appendage to every dwelling. Having but a few sheep and cattle, they are obliged to make the most of the stercoraceous stock of men and swine. This is carefully collected, and actually sold at so much per pound; while whole strings of city scavengers may be seen cheerily posting into the country every successive morning with their envied acquisitions, little heeding the olfactory nerves of the less interested passengers.

Every other substance likely to answer the end is anxiously collected and carefully disposed so as to provide for future exigencies; such as decayed animal and vegetable matter, the sweepings of streets, the mud of canals, burnt bones, lime, and what is not a little singular, the short stumpy human hair, shaven from millions of heads every ten days, is industriously gathered up and sold throughout the empire. In the high importance placed on stercoraria in China, we see an illustration of that passage in 2 Kings, vi. 25, that when there was a great famine in Samaria, "the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung was sold for five pieces of silver."—*Madras Almanack.*

THE VISIT OF A STRANGER.—See in any house where virtue and self-respect abide, the palpitation which the approach of a stranger causes. A commended stranger is expected and announced, and an uneasiness betwixt pleasure and pain invades all the hearts of a household. His arrival almost brings us fear to the good hearts that would welcome him. The house is dusted, all things fly into their places, the old coat is exchanged for the new, and they must get up a dinner if they can. Of a commended stranger, only the good report is told by others, only the good and new is heard by us. He stands to us for humanity. He is, what we wish. Having imagined and invested him, we ask how we should stand related in conversation and action with such a man, and are uneasy with fear. The same idea exalts conversation with him. We talk better than we are wont. We have the nimblest fancy, a richer memory, and our dumb devil has taken leave for the time. For long hours we can continue a series of sincere, graceful, rich communications, drawn from the oldest, secretest experience, so that they who sit by, of our own kinfolk and acquaintances, shall feel a lively surprise at our unusual powers.—*R. W. Emerson.*

THE VALLEY OF ARGELEZ IN THE PYRENEES.—The veil was now quite removed; everything was distinct to the eye, even the foaming of the torrents and the flight of the birds; the air was perfectly pure, only some clouds which happened to be in the direction of the waters, or the currents of air, which are generally colder, still hovered over the middle of the basin, slowly proceeded along the mountains, ascended into the sinuities, and at length rested on their most elevated summits, where they floated lightly. But the valley, like a rose just expanded, showed me its woods, its hills, its plains, green with the rising corn, or black with the recent labours of the plough, its numerous terraces covered with hamlets and pastures, its autumnal groves still retaining their autumnal yellow tinted foliage; lastly, the ice and the threatening rocks. But what is quite impossible to describe, is the varied movements of the birds