

States, for the purpose of introducing the culture of this article into the South-Western States. Any information from such a source may be relied upon, and, we doubt not, will be duly appreciated by such of the readers of this Journal as have made up their minds to engage in the culture of this new and valuable production to the Canadian farmer.

From the various sources that we have received information from the Western States of the Union, we are led to suppose that the farmers in that quarter are about turning their attention largely to the culture of hemp. Their soil and climate are peculiarly adapted to the successful growth of this plant,—so also are their navigable rivers suited for a cheap and expeditious transit, but the genius of the people is quite unsuited to the peculiar kind of work that is absolutely requisite for this crop. Although the subject has been agitated, through the medium of the press, and a premium of forty dollars per ton awarded for the domestic article by the government, still the advance made in its cultivation is so trifling, that it is scarcely worthy of being mentioned. In a recent statistical account of the products of the United States, it is stated that Kentucky produces the most hemp of any State of the Union, yet the annual growth of that State is only 16 000 lbs. If this account be correct, which we can scarcely credit, one would suppose that there is quite as good a prospect of the Canadas supplying the British navy with hemp as the United States. We should suppose that the above figures must have been intended for tons, instead of pounds, as it would not require a very great effort on the part of a single farmer to grow that number of pounds.

We admire the style of Mr. M's composition, because it is admirably well calculated to attract the attention of its readers to the intrinsic merits of the subject. The course which he has pointed out to the American farmer in the west we would zealously press upon the notice of our Canadian friends, for their adoption. The Canadas is, emphatically, the country that should supply the British navy and nation with all the hemp and flax that is required from abroad; and, in our humble opinion, the period has arrived in which a successful attempt will be made in the culture and preparation of these plants for market. All that can be grown for a few years to come will be required for home consumption, but we trust the period is not far

distant when vessels of hundreds of tons burden will be heavily freighted with Canadian hemp for the British market. It is a gratifying circumstance to know, that this long-anticipated subject is about being placed in a position that the Canadian farmers may know the exact amount of the profits attached to the cultivation of this plant for domestic manufactures, and whether it can be profitably cultivated for exportation to Britain or not. The writer has sown a fraction less than an acre this year, and will probably sow five or six acres the ensuing year. These experiments will be duly and properly reported, so that the public may form their own opinion of its profitability. The crop now upon the ground will yield about ten cwt. of fibre per acre, and about thirty bushels of seed. This amount of produce is considered a full average crop, and we are of opinion will remunerate the grower in the same ratio as a crop of wheat would which will yield an average of forty bushels per acre. The profits, however, will be much larger when the culture of this plant is well understood, and also when proper machinery is employed in preparing it for market. We are of opinion that hemp may be successfully grown as a preparation crop for wheat, and that by this practice the produce in wheat would be much larger and much more certain, and less liable to rust, than if the land were managed for the wheat crop in the ordinary manner. As the Treatise will occupy a considerable space, and as we intend to continue our suggestions on this subject from time to time, we shall for the present draw our remarks to a close, by recommending the following article to our subscribers, for their careful perusal:

Nashville 14th June, 1814.

To the Editors of the Tennessee State Agriculturist.

On a late visit to Missouri, the great hemp region of the West, I had the pleasure to meet with David Myerle, Esq., the author of the enclosed treatise on the Culture and Water-rotting of Hemp. His attention, for some years, as a government agent, and with a view to its use by our own navy, has been directed to this subject, and by inserting his treatise in your paper, you will no doubt render a service to many of your readers.

Very respectfully, JNO M. BASS.

Washington City, Jan. 8, 1814.

Sir—The following Treatise on the Culture of Hemp and Water-rotting, is submitted to the Farmers of Missouri and the adjoining States:—

The land best adapted to the culture of hemp, is that which has been sown with black walnut, buckeye hickory, and a reasonable portion of white oak; or rich bottom land, answer well. The land should be ploughed deep, and well harrowed before seeding. If sod land, it should be ploughed down in the Fall to receive the Winter

frosts; and when time for seeding, (which is from the 1st of April to the 10th of May,) it should be well ploughed, harrowed, levelled, and sowed.

The seed should be sown broadcast, one bushel and a half to the acre. When the blossoms begin to fall (which is from the middle of July to 1st of August,) it should then be cut. Hemp left standing too long, injures the staple, and produces a harshness and weakness. It should be cut before it ripens, which is before the blossoms begin to fall. By attending to this particularly, you would find the lint heavier, as it will retain its oily substance, (what is termed essential oil,) which, by being left standing until ripe, the action of the atmosphere, as it ripens, causes to leave it, in a certain degree, of its elasticity; consequently, when the hemp is applied to the hatchel, the staple breaks into small fibres, which are converted into tow, and when the tar is applied to it, and converted into cordage it becomes stubborn and brittle in frosty weather, and consequently not so durable. Any chemical process, or any other mode to produce a rapid solution of the gum, extracts the oil, weakens the staple, and reduces the former injurious effects.

The instrument for cutting is similar to the point of any-ordinary scythe; it is about two feet long from the point, with a socket standing at right angles with the face of the blade, and angling to the edge to prevent the person when cutting from bending too much, as it is necessary for him to stand upright as possible, to keep the hemp from tangling. The hemp should be cut as close to the ground as possible, and, for watering, it should have the top cut off as far as the seed ends, and thrown into the shade, or kiln dried. The drying in the shade retains its natural color, and causes the essential oil to be retained. The kiln drying has the same effect, but a more rapid process. The sun produces a harshness when rotten, and the dew dis-colors it, and produces less weight. Putting hemp is not recommendable; it injures the soil as well as the quality of the hemp—more particularly that of the water-rotted. When cutting, all the large hemp should be laid by itself; it should be bound up into bundles with two bands on them, about the size of 6 or eight inches through in the butts. When two large, they are awkward to handle, which wastes the hemp. Also, place sticks in the centre of each bundle, about one inch in thickness, or more; it prevents the hemp from breaking and tangling, when rotten, and will assist to facilitate the workman in handling it—the same sticks will answer for a whole crop. If your pools are prepared, commence filling them, and be particular in selecting the size of hemp, placing the large in a pool by itself, and the small also in a pool by itself, as the large undergoes a more rapid solution when immersed. The hemp placed in the pools should be carefully packed down with narrow plank laid on the points and butts; and with rock or timber to weigh it down; rock is preferable.

No hemp less than 5 feet should be water-rotted. Sizes under this may be dew-rotted. It depends upon the temperature of the weather in what length of time it produces maceration. In the month of August it takes 4 or 5 days; September, 6 to 8; October, 10 to 12; December, 3 or 4 weeks. After the 4th or 5th day in August and September, the 6th or 8th day in October and November, and the 3d week in December, or less time, it should be carefully examined, to ascertain when it has fully come to its solution. You will discover that the stalk has a roughness on the surface previous to its being placed in the pools. When the solution has arrived to its extent, by drawing a few stalks out of the bundles in the centre, promiscuously, and passing your hand along the stalk, you will find the roughness has left it, and that it is smooth to the touch. The hemp is then finished, take it out immediately; spread upon the ground, and when perfectly dry on one side, turn it over on the other—dry for two or three times until you find that the tops has