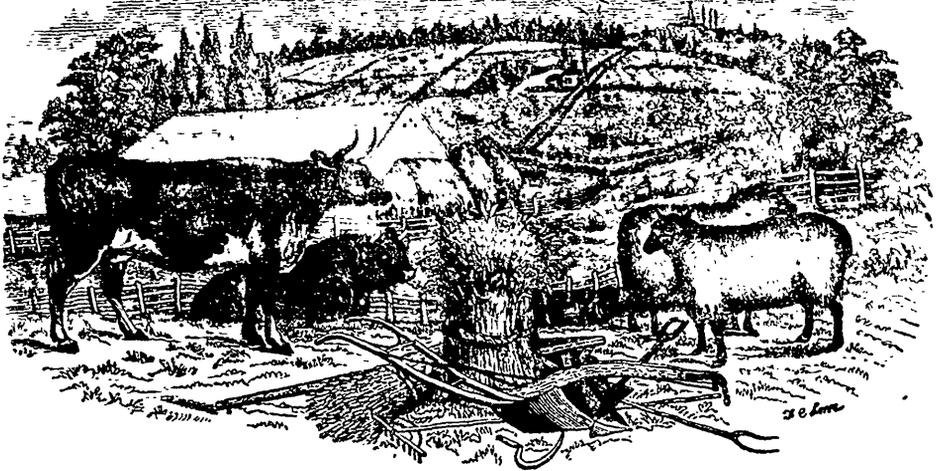


CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST.



"The profit of the earth is for all; the King himself is served by the field."—ECCLES. v. 9.

GEORGE BUCKLAND, }
WILLIAM McDOUGALL, }

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INDIAN CORN—ITS PECULIARITIES.

There have been observed some singular anomalies, in the hybridization or mixing of different varieties of corn, that are difficult to explain.

A field of yellow corn, planted in the neighbourhood of a white variety, which flowers at the same period, at the distance of half a mile, or even more, will, when ripe, exhibit the mixture in a greater or less degree, according to proximity; and these grains are not half bloods, but apparently entire yellows and entire whites. This change is performed by winds alone, as the bee and other insects do not meddle with the silk, which is the pistil or female organ—for this plant is *monocious*, having its male and female organs in distinct and separate flowers, and not in the same receptacle. This fact can

be easily demonstrated, by clipping a part of the silk, or covering it with a piece of fine cloth; every fibre destroyed, or covered, will produce a failure of kernel or grain on the cob.

One of the unexplained circumstances adverted to, is the fact, that an ear of corn, having white kernels mixed with the yellow, when planted promiscuously, the apparently perfect white kernel, does not produce a white ear, nor a hybrid between the two, but yellow corn—generally a little mixed, the white in no case predominating. The same singularity occurs in mixing the Tuscarora and sweet corn, and the red, (or kissing ears of old times), that occasionally occur, do not produce, on planting, the kind from which it was derived.

An other singularity in its tendency to change, is the fact, that any variety of our climate, on being removed to Southern Ohio, Indiana, or more southern States, changes its character and form of kernel—enlongates and shrinks at the crown, and *dentis*—runs into an increase of rows, from eight to twenty-four.

A Mexican variety, in which every kernel is husked, like a common ear of corn, on being grown in this climate, will the first year produce ears one half or more entirely naked; and, on the second or third planting, be changed into a common eight rowed variety, not distinguishable from some of the kinds in common use. There is a slow change and mixture of varieties and colors, we are aware, affected in time; yet the small eight rowed, and the large eight rowed—the Dutton twelve rowed—are still to be found, intact, and pure, which would hardly be expected, where adjoining farms grow often very different varieties. According to the well established doctrine, that all species cross and mix, all strong and peculiarly marked varieties ought to run into one common character, the joint blood of all the races.—*Rural New-Yorker*.