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THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,
AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

VOL. 2.

HALIFAX, N. S., JUNE 16, 1843.

NO. 24.



THE COLONIAL FARMER.

HALIFAX, N. S., JUNE 16, 1843.

GRASSHOPPERS

It is now past the middle of June, and we still have light rains very frequently; a continuance of this weather through the month is generally sufficient to prevent the Grasshoppers from breeding in any considerable numbers. The grassland that was much injured by them the last season, will be found to produce an extra crop this year if they do not return. We have seen the hay crop considerably reduced in quantity, the after grass devoured, and the leaves stripped from the adjoining trees and bushes by these insects; but as the fall was favorable a short growth sprung up after the Grasshoppers had died of old age; this was not pastured, and the following year there was an extraordinary crop, fully making up for the loss on the preceding season.

WORN OUT LAND.

Col. Taylor, in Virginia, having a large tract of land impoverished by long cultivation, succeeded in his attempt to restore its ancient fertility without bringing any manure from elsewhere. For this purpose he ploughed the poor grassland, throwing it into high and very narrow ridges, with the intention of doubling the depth of the surface soil. Upon this he planted Indian Corn, followed the next year with Wheat and Clover seed manured with little Gypsum. The Clover was neither mowed nor fed-off, no cattle being admitted; the first years crop rotting on the ground, and that of the second year after ripening seed, and turning dry was ploughed in; the Corn was then planted, followed as before with Wheat and Clover—the soil in the meantime improving, and the crops increased, he increased his stock of cattle, thus procuring a quantity of stable manure to add to that formed by the Clover. Thus he had one year a crop of twenty five bushels of Corn to the acre on a field of eighty acres, which had produced but two thirds that quantity the preceding rotation, and a crop of twenty bushels to the acre on another field of two hundred acres which had produced but twenty five bushels the preceding rotation, but the field had some dung spread over it, as well as a clover crop ploughed in.

We have in the Province much exhausted land which might be improved in a similar manner, substituting Potatoes for Indian Corn, and ashes for Gypsum, for ashes are here as favorable to the growth of Clover, as Gypsum is in Virginia. Buckwheat has been much used as a manure by ploughing it in when in blossom. On most soils a grassfield laid down in good order, will

give a crop of hay for a number of years, if only once mowed, and never pastured. Close feeding of aftergrass always greatly diminishes the following crop. When land is naked it is always losing, but when thickly covered with herbage it is gaining. Poor slate gravel when pastured for fifty or sixty years, becomes so barren that even the poverty grass (*Lena spicata*, or animated Oat,) and strawberry disappear, and it is overrun with trailing Juniper, but under the close shelter of the Juniper the soil improves, and after the lapse of a few years becomes capable of supporting a growth of fir, which will finally make the land as good as it was when first cleared, for the roots of trees striking deeper than those of grasses, bring up a portion of fertilising matter carried down by rains while the leaves and dead twigs falling on the ground serve to form a layer of mould or turf on the surface, which being a bad conductor of heat prevents the ground from freezing early, and from being affected by the thaws in winter. We might take a useful hint from this provision of nature for the security of roots. There are many bleak hills on which Clover and Timothy are often winter killed; were the grass top dressed with compost containing a large proportion of swamp soil, or rotten sods, and the after grass left unpastured, this mischance would seldom happen.

FRUIT TREES.

A number of Apple trees have been injured by the past winter, undoubtedly by the great thaw in January. Had the ground about them been covered with straw or fir boughs, this had been prevented.

CABBAGE.

Water Cabbage when planted with pickle of fish or meat mixed with six times as much fresh water—repeat the watering for the two following weeks, and they will be little troubled by the maggot, as the salt will prevent the eggs of the fly from hatching.

VINEGAR.

Many persons have been puzzled to learn the reason why two years are often necessary to make a barrel of Vinegar, while a two gallon keg of the same material changes to vinegar in two or three months. The fact is that the air is too much excluded from the barrel. The cask, if large, should stand on its end, the upper head being filled with holes made of the size of the ordinary bung hole of a barrel; this will greatly hasten the operation. To exclude insects a coarse cloth should be fastened over the head of the cask. In establishments for Vinegar where very large casks are used, it is customary to place leaky tubs over the tops of the casks, containing a quantity of the cheapest kind of raisins; and a bucket full of vinegar is daily drawn from each cask and turned into the tub; this in addition to hastening the process, gives the flavour of wine to the vinegar. No wine vinegar is superior to that made from maple sap, by boiling three barrels to one. Very strong vinegar may be made by adding a pint of good molasses to a gallon of luke, brook, or rain water.

For drawing vinegar, the old-fashioned wooden tap and faucet should always be used; brass or pewter cocks are dangerous, as a considerable portion of the metal is dissolved by the acid.

NEW MANURES.

So many experiments are now making in England upon various substitutes for stable manure, that there is good reason to believe that much useful knowledge on this subject will soon be acquired. These articles all possess the great advantage of being so light of carriage, that it reduces the expense of drawing out manure to a trifle. It is improbable that any of them would like the dung of animals always serve for manure without exhausting the soil, but yet their prudent and judicious application may enrich even poor soils, when they are employed to raise crops to feed animals who will make a more permanent manure. Bone dust applied in small quantities, enables the Scotch farmer to raise crops of Turnips on poor sandy or gravelly soils, and these Turnips being fed to sheep on the field, fit the ground for producing a crop of Grain, followed by Clover, &c. Gypsum has proved very useful in the neighboring states, and many have enriched land by the aid of kelp and rock-wood, while others by applying them too frequently have rendered it barren. It should, however, be remembered that it would be unprofitable here to imitate all the practices that prove profitable in England. Rent of land is there very high; men's wages very low. Duties upon imported provisions have long been very high, so that every article of food has been one third above the common price in other countries.

It is not improbable that many of these new manures may have a more lasting effect than seaweeds or fish. Many barren soils and even rocks contain a large proportion of the materials of a fertile soil, which is rendered useless by a combination with vitriol or some other substance. A manure that should decompose a useless mixture and liberate its fertilizing principles, would be valuable often for more than one crop. A small quantity of wood ashes improves some soils for a number of years. The effect of Oyster shells upon a dry, vitriolic, rusty slate soil, has been very perceptible for six or seven years. Common salt is a very useful manure at a distance from the sea, if applied at long intervals and in small quantities, but if more than what is barely sufficient to produce a good crop be used in spring or summer, it will injure the land for several years; at the commencement of winter a large quantity of salt does not appear to injure the land. The following extract from Lorain, upon the operation of Gypsum, will apply to several of the new manures. "All animal and vegetable substances enrich the soil. No other substances are known to effect this invaluable purpose. Mechanical manures, such as clay, sand, gravel, &c., when properly applied, promote vegetation by altering the texture of the soil, and do not alter the enriching substances found in it. The manures which are generally termed stimulating, also promote vegetation, but in doing this they exhaust the soil; hence it is, that the fertilizing powers of Lime and Gypsum will cease to act when they no longer find a sufficiency of animal or vegetable matter in the soil to act upon, and will resume their action as soon as either of those enriching manures has been applied. It seems to be generally believed that Gypsum assists the decomposition of such animal and vegetable substances, as either from their texture, or from being too thinly scattered through the soil, cannot be decomposed by the less powerful operations of nature or art, with sufficient dispatch to produce luxuriant vegetation; also that this substance excites the plants, and increases their capacity for gathering and digesting nutriment. It is certain that Gypsum produces amazing fertility in old worn out soils, where but few traces of animal or vegetable matter appear; likewise that great debility generally takes place in such soils, in consequence of the exhausting influence of this substance, when proper attention has

not been given to introduce a sufficiency of animal or vegetable matter to counteract the impoverishing effects of this powerful promoter of vegetation. When this substance was first introduced as a manure, its exhausting properties were not known, and many greatly injured their grounds by the improper use of it, especially those who resided where there was a ready market for hay. This caused loud complaints. They have, however, been nearly silenced by the practice of those who were careful to return to the ground a reasonable proportion of its product; and the improvement made in the soil, by the judicious use of this substance, almost exceeds credibility."

From the British American Agriculturist.

NUTRITIVE QUALITIES OF CHARCOAL.

Though the importance of mixing charcoal with the food of animals, particularly that of swine, has been generally acknowledged, and its benefits extensively tested, still it has been supposed that it only acted as a corrective to the acid tendency of food, and facilitated fattening by improving the health of the animal. Some experiments are, however, on record, which would seem to show that charcoal acts a more important part in the matter than has been usually assigned to it.

In 1793, a family being driven from New York by the fever, were absent six or eight weeks before it was deemed prudent to return. A number of fowls confined in a loft to the workshop of the house, were forgotten at the time of leaving, and it was known that there was nothing provided for their subsistence, it was expected on the return that they would be found starved to death. To the astonishment of all, the fowls were found alive and fat, though there was nothing upon which they could have fed, except a quantity of charcoal and shavings, water being supplied from the grindstone trough.

These facts coming to the knowledge of a gentleman in New York, as we learn from the Recorder, he instituted the following experiment. He placed a turkey in a box or enclosure, four feet long, two feet wide, and three feet high, excluded light as much as could be done, and allowed a free circulation of air, and fed the turkey with soft brick, broken fine, pounded charcoal, and six grains of corn per day. The box was kept locked. At the end of a month, the turkey was killed in the presence of several gentlemen, was large and heavy, and on being opened was found filled with fat. Nothing, on dissection, was found in the gizzard and entrails but charcoal and brick. Last winter the experiment was repeated, and with the same success.

Several years since, on fitting out one of the Liverpool traders at New York, a pig on board was missing, and was supposed to have been lost. The cargo was taken on board, stowed and the vessel sailed. It was now discovered that the pig was alive in the coal hole, but as he could not be got at readily, it was concluded to leave him to his fate. He remained in this retreat until the passage was made, when his pigship was found to be not only alive and well, but materially improved in condition, though there was nothing, coal excepted, he could have swallowed.

When it is remembered that wood, sugar, and several other substances, some of which are most nutritive, are compounded of nearly the same original elements, it would seem possible, by animal chemistry, to convert them to saving life; though all experiments with wood or charcoal failed. The German chemists have converted wood into very palatable bread, by roasting and pulverizing; but calcination, it has been supposed, would destroy whatever powers of nutrition wood might originally contain. The chemical

action of vegetables seems to produce the least effect on coal, and not the least particle of it has ever been found in the structure of vegetables, though mixed with the earth and water in which plants were growing in the form of a most impalpable powder. Whether animal chemistry is able to do what vegetable organization cannot, remains to be seen: though if there is no mistake in the statements alluded to, it would seem probable that this intractable substance is, in some way, made subservient to the nutrition of animals.—*Genesee Farmer.*

HOW TO MAKE GOOD COFFEE.

The question is often asked, why it is that good coffee cannot be produced in this country? The reason is simply this: coffee is spoiled in the burning, and sufficient care is not taken in preparing it for the table. To make coffee equal to the French is very simple and very easy, and for the benefit of all good housewives, and all lovers of good coffee, we will state the manner in which it should be done. First, procure the best coffee possible. See that your cook does not burn it, but roast it to the colour of a golden brown, and never allow it to remain in its burnt or roasted state for more than three days, as after that time it will lose its strength. Secondly, in lieu of the ancient method of boiling your coffee for an hour or more over a hot fire, and then being obliged to settle it with such rarities as fish-skins, egg-shells and the like, procure a bigger, as it is termed, and make a distillation or decoction by putting the coffee in the apartment in which the strainer is, and turning thereon boiling hot water. Take care that the nose of the coffee-pot has a stopper to prevent the steam from escaping, and cover the top of your bigger immediately after having turned the water upon the coffee; as it is a most important requisite to have the steam confined. Judgement is also to be used, as to the amount of coffee required, and also to the quantity of water used. The best coffee may be spoiled by too much water being applied to it. The coffee should be made very strong; and, if strong enough, its colour will be quite black.—Lastly, having made your coffee of great strength, do not use hot water to dilute it, in lieu thereof, take boiling hot milk, and weaken the coffee to your taste. By following these directions you will have as fine a cup of coffee as can be made in any country.

The time required for making coffee in this manner, is but a few minutes, the coffee being made as fast as the liquid issues through the strainer.—*Daily Times.*

THE WHEAT CROP.—We regret to state that the appearance of the Wheat crop in Western New York, is very unfavourable. We dislike all croaking, but we speak advisedly when we assert that the Wheat crop of Western New York will not be more than half an average one.—*New Genesee Farmer.*

It is not contended that lime alone is capable of conferring fertility upon a barren sandy plain, or that it will meet every possible use. It will, however, do much more than is generally known, when employed in a proper manner, by skillful hands. Its principal use with the farmer should be as a chemical agent in decomposing his composts, so as to render them fit for immediate use. I have advised the farmers generally in this primary region, so poor in calcareous matter, to mix into their composts of peat or swamp muck and barn yard manure, which have stood one winter, a bushel of recently slacked lime to a waggon load of the compost while digging it over in the spring, preparatory to spreading it on the soil. So far as I have heard, the result of this experiment has been universally favorable, and in all cases where I have personally

directed the operations, it has proved satisfactory. A much larger proportion of lime may be advantageously employed than what I have above mentioned, but even that small quantity produces a very good effect.—*N. E. Farmer*

PLANTS derive their nourishment from the air, from water, and from the soil—and any one who would limit them to but one of these sources of supply, provided by nature, is liable to commit grave errors in reasoning, which, however, he cannot very conveniently carry out in practice --*Id.*

PARRSBORO' AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Bounties and Premiums established by the Parrsborough Agricultural Society in 1843.

- 1d. $\frac{1}{2}$ Load of 20 Bushels, on all compost and burnt clay made and put out before the 1st July, 1844. No member to receive bounty for more than 100 such loads.
- 1s. 3d. $\frac{1}{2}$ Cwt, on all Oatmeal manufactured from oats raised in 1843, by the members applying for it.
- 2s. 6d. $\frac{1}{2}$ Bushel, on all well cleaned and merchantable hayseed sowed this year, and at the same rate for any quantity not less than a peck.
- 3d. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb, on all well cleaned and merchantable clover seed, raised this year.

No applications for the above Bounties will be received after the Third Monday in September, 1844.

- 15s for the best 10 yards home made woollen cloth, not pressed or fulled.
- 10s. for the second best do do
- 5s. for the third best do do

The cloth to be shown and the Premiums awarded at the Meeting on the Third Monday in December next.

N B—The above Bounties and Premiums will only be paid to Members whose subscriptions and all arrearages are either paid or satisfied on or before the Third Monday in December next.

By order of the Committee,
JOHN T. SMITH, Sec'y.

Parrsboro', June, 1843.

HOW TO BE RICH.

The secret is not in earning but in saving. Almost any man can earn money, but few can keep it.—A small sum is disregarded, yet a large one is only several small ones united; unless little sums are laid together, how can there ever be a great one?

Suppose a person saves a cent a day—at the end of the year he has \$3,65—-at the end of 20 years he has about \$100 including interest. How easy it is for a man to save a cent a day; how many can save 10 cents a day—or \$36,50 a year—or about a thousand dollars in 20 years, including interest?

He who spends 7 cents a day upon some idle fancy—for instance in drink, cigars, fruit, &c.,—should at the same time reflect that he throws away the interest of a dollar for a year. Are there not often occasions in the course of a day, when a person spends 1 cent 2 cents, or 3 cents, which he might avoid without feeling the worse for it? Then goes his ten cents a day—his one thousand dollars in 20 years—the very interest of which would afford him and his heirs a clear profit of \$70 a year. Many grow rich by saving, but with little faculty for earning, some old men who have always lived well, are very rich from mere saving, who do not earn so much daily as their poor neighbors.—*N. Y. Farmer*

From the P. I. Island Colonial Herald.

LEICESTER SHEEP.

On Wednesday last, agreeably to advertisement, the fine Leicester Sheep lately imported from England by the Central Agricultural Society were disposed of by public Auction, and realized, we are happy to say, in several instances, prices far above the most sanguine expectations. The animals were arranged and sold in pairs, and the prices at which they were knocked down to the respective purchasers afford sufficient evidence of the very high estimate formed of their value by practical men. The attendance at the sale was large and respectable; and among those present we were gratified to notice His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, who, during his residence among us, has evinced a most laudable desire to promote the interests of the Agriculturist. For the following statement, we are indebted to P. Macgowan, Esq., the indefatigable Secretary of the Society:—

ACCOUNT SALES OF PURCHASE AND SHIPMENT.

	Sterling.	
14 Rams—1 two years old.....	£5 10 0	
3 one do.....	6 0 0	
1 do do.....	2 10 0	
3 two do.....	12 0 0	
4 one do.....	10 0 0	
2 do do.....	7 10 0	
		43 10 0
16 Ewes—8 head yearlings, at 32s.....	12 10 0	
6 do do.....	10 0 9	
2 do do.....	3 0 0	
		25 16 0
		69 6 0
Pro vender,	16 11 8	
Freight,	30 0 0	
Voted Mr. Cross,	10 0 0	
		56 11 8
	Sterling,	£125 17 8
Add Exchange and Premium,		62 18 10
		£188 19 6

ACCOUNT SALES, 31st MAY.

	Currency.
One Ram and Ewe, Hon. W. W. Irving, Bonshaw,	£5 0 0
Do. Charles Stewart, Rosebank,	9 5 0
Do. John R. Bourke, Seal River,	20 5 0
Do. Henry Longworth,	10 5 0
Do. George Beer, sep.	11 10 0
Do. Hon. D. Macdonald, Glenaladale,	6 10 0
Do. William Hodges, Esq., Rustico,	12 10 8
Do. George Coles, Esq.,	11 10 0
Do. Hon. L. C. Worthy, Hillsborough,	8 0 0
Do. John Shaw, Brackley Point,	6 15 0
Do. Peter Scott, Frenchfort,	7 0 0
Do. Charles Hazard, Bellvue,	12 0 0
Do. James Laird, New Glasgow,	6 10 0
Do. Francis Antoine, Elliot River,	6 15 0
2 Fleeces, Hon. W. W. Irving, off two Ewes which died on the passage,	0 14 0
	£134 9 0
Sum granted by Legislature, in 1842,	50 0 0
Balance sunk,	4 7 6
	£188 16 6

At a Meeting of the Society, held in the forenoon of the same day, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. C Cross, for the very gratifying manner in which he executed the Commission with which he had been intrusted, in the purchase of these excellent animals in England.

Among the importations which have taken place this Spring must not be forgotten one Ram and five Ewe Sheep of the pure Leicester breed, per the *John Bromham*, which have been introduced by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. These seven Sheep are all yearlings of last May, raised by Mr. Elliot of Devonshire, and obtained the prize at the Annual Exhibition at Wellington Salop. His Excellency has also shown his disposition to advance the farming interest by the importation of a superior sort of two-rowed barley, and some *Guano* or *Petuvian manure*, as an experiment.—*P. E. I. Gazette.*

GAPES IN CHICKENS.

A writer in the *Farmer's Cabinet*, says, positively, that the gapes in chickens, which cause so many to die, are occasioned by worms in the windpipe; and that if the poulturer is pleased to take a feather, strip the sides all off except a small tuft at the end, dip this in spirits of turpentine, catch the chicken, open its mouth and just touch this turpentine to the mouth of the windpipe, which may easily be seen at the top of the tongue and near its roots, the worms will instantly die, and the chicken as instantly recover. He says there is no danger to the chicken from this course.—*N. E. Plough Boy.*

We believe with the writer of the above that it is worms which occasion the gapes and think that the application of the spirits of turpentine would prove effectual, but we would deem it proper to add the remedy which we have always found effectual.—Whenever we found our chickens laboring under the disease, we gave them each a teaspoonful of a strong solution of assafoetida, which invariably cured the disease and as we supposed, by dislodging the worms which we took it for granted was the cause of the disease.—*A. Farmer.*

From the *Farmer's Cabinet.*

At page 20 of the 5th volume of the *Cabinet*, there is mentioned a young farmer who never kept a cow that was not a good milker: there is much in this, and I am led to believe that my friend Johnson is right. He keeps a number of cows for the use of the dairy, and in a late correspondence on this subject he thus expressed himself:—"It is true my cows are all superior—I never keep a bad one. Neither have I any that are too young—I never rear a calf, which you will think strange; but I will let you into the secret, and then you will be as wise as I am. My neighbors, knowing that my cows are very great milkers, are anxious to purchase my heifer calves for rearing; they of course are ready to give me about three times their value for the butcher, and take them away two or three days old. I enter every purchaser's name in a book, and never lose sight of those calves, from which I select, at three years old, the best; often at a price far less than it would have cost me to rear them, taking into account the value of the keep of the animal, (as I keep my cows,) for three years labor, trouble, and casualties: and leave them the rest, some of which I would not accept as a gift as dairy cows. My cows are of all colors and breeds, as I have long been convinced that quality for the pasture is not confined to size breed or color; but much indeed to feed and age; so it is true, that 'a good cow cannot be of a bad color.' I am quite amused when I witness my neighbors waiting until they

tain young heifers shall come in, and certain old creatures go out, when they expect to make their full compliment of butter; but this time never comes; for a great proportion of these heifers, as is the case with the young of other animals, will prove quite inferior to their parents, and not worth their keep, let alone the cost of their rearing; but they must be retained, because they are of their own breeding." Now does not this look like common sense and reason, and can we not profit by such a lesson? I, for one, mean to try.

January 28th, 1843.

ZEBU.

The Montpelier (Vermont) Watchman states that the maple sugar produced in that State, the present season, at the low price of 3 cents per pound will amount to \$1,000,000. This will make the quantity of sugar about 20,000 hhd. In 1840, the quantity was but 3,600 hhd.

From the American Agriculturist.

BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF LIME.

Clinton, N. J., March 17th, 1843.

MR. A. B. ALLEN, DEAR SIR; Mr. Du Russey did not exaggerate the beneficial effects of lime upon the soil here; and I can safely say that the product of the soil for a section, embracing at least one third of the country—the northern part—has been more than doubled in the last 12 or 15 years. Fifteen or twenty years ago our farmers raised little or no wheat; rye bread was used almost exclusively in families, and rye, corn, and oats, our main dependence. Previous to that time lime had not grown into general use; now every farmer here limes, and with hardly an exception, every farm has its lime kiln. At this time many farmers sow no rye at all, and those that do, sow it more for the straw than the grain, the straw being superior to wheat for feed and lying stalks when we cut up our corn.

As to your first inquiry, "the character of the soil," it is extremely diversified, and has but one general characteristic—the substratum being a yellowish clay, and stiff. The country is very uneven and hilly, indented with valleys and streams, tributary to the south branch of the Raritan. Our hills are a gravel, loose, and not unusually, stony. In our valleys, the limestone is found, and here the land is pretty even, and the soil to the surface a yellow clay, and tolerably stiff. We have also the gray shell, and a dark reddish soil much intermixed with round flinty stones, and the black loam common to bottom meadows; the last four are all found on my farm of 200 acres. There is very little sandy land, and it takes less permanent benefit from lime than any other kind. On all the above mentioned varieties of soil, lime is highly fertilizing, and it is difficult to say which variety is most benefited, though I think the effect upon the lime stone lands is least apparent. Wet lands, while they remain so, cannot be brought up by lime.

Our system of tillage is a constant rotation of crops. Our fields of winter grain we always put down with clover in the spring; this we mow the following year, and the next spring plant it with corn. If not sowed with winter grain, as soon as the corn is cut, (a practice on the increase), it is sowed the next spring with oats or barley, and clover seed; this the following year is suffered to grow to be turned under for wheat—open fallows are getting out of date.

The quantity of lime applied at one time varies according to the strength of the soil, from 25 to 50 bushels per acre. The best method of putting it on, is to stack it as it is taken out of the

kiln in a large heap, throwing a few pails of water upon the heap occasionally as you are adding to it; in a few days after the lime will be found puffed up light, and in the proper state for spreading; if it is then put on we think it does most good. Some throw it on the top in the fall, to be ploughed in next spring or summer; but the best method is to put it on after the last ploughing and harrow it in—plowing buries it too deep.

For raising land to a high state of culture, our way here has been to crop pretty freely when the land is in good heart; clovering after every crop of straw, occasionally turning it under green, and often suffering it to fall and rot on the surface; this with a sprinkling of lime every two or three years, until the quantity amounts to about 80 or 100 bushels per acre, has invariably succeeded. I must not forget however, that our farmers bestow a high value on their barnyard manure, and think it indispensable to a heavy crop of wheat.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MILKER.

THE FULL BLOODED DURHAM COW, VICTORIA, 8 years old, was purchased at a fair near Liverpool, in September, 1840, by Capt. Richardson of the ship Brooklyn, and came to the present owner in July 1841. No certain pedigree was obtained, nor can be, as she was purchased for private use, and the name of the person who sold her can not now be ascertained.

Her Milking Quality.—She calved on the 2d September, 1841. The calf was taken away the 6th day thereafter. On the 9th September, she gave 34½ quarts of strained milk; on the 10th, 34½; on the 11th, 34; and for twenty days varied from 34 to 32 quarts per day; for three months in succession she gave not less than 32 quarts per day; and from the 8th of September, 1841, to the 8th of July, 1842, (including the winter months), the average quantity was 27 quarts per day: the milk was strained and measured once a week. As she will come in fresh the first of December, from the middle of July she fell off gradually from 15 to 12 quarts, the quantity she now gives. The quality of milk is excellent.

Her Feed.—Besides grass in its season, and hay, she was fed with ground corn and oats, meal, shipstuff and vegetables, such as carrots, sugar beets and potatoes; changing the kind of feed once a week, as it was found that on any one course of feed, the quantity of milk diminished, and by the change the quantity was sustained.

Treatment.—I had her tail cut once in 6 or 8 weeks, and allowed it to bleed freely, and at the same time put on her loins a spoonful of spirits of turpentine; immediately after each cutting of the tail and use of turpentine, her appetite was stronger and the quantity of milk increased.—Am. Agriculturist.

From the Farmer's Monthly Visitor.

BLINDS TO BRIDLES FOR HORSES, &c.

MR. HILL.—In the Visitor for the last month, I noticed a short article recommending bridles without blinds, as having a tendency to prevent horses from shying and taking fright. I agree with the writer upon this subject, and since my attention was drawn to it, which was some years ago, I have remarked that horses, especially young ones, are more liable to take fright with the blind bridle than without. Some may suppose that the waggon or carriage has its influence in this, but I think it is more attributable to the blinds. Some years ago, I read in an account of an English traveller in Germany, that the horses in their carriages had no blinds to their bridles, and that in travelling, or with loads, their heads were not reined up, but left at full liberty. This mode was approved by the traveller for the reasons assigned by the Germans,

that horses are not apt to be frightened when they can see—that their eye-sight is injured by blinds excluding air and light, and compelling the animal to a constrained and unnatural exertion of that organ;—those were the reasons assigned. For the other peculiarity of leaving the horse's head free, especially when on the roads with heavy loads, the reasons are that he works easier when he can swing his head and adapt it to his exertions, than when restrained; that in rising a hill with a heavy load, a horse will bend his neck low towards the ground, and that he will pull a load of greater weight than he can do if his head is reined up high, &c. Every man is aware how skilful the Germans are in managing cattle, and especially horses, and every labouring man proves the very great importance of having the limbs in a proper position for the exertion of muscular power. Those people who pull against horses, or rather let the horses pull against them, have not so great a superiority in strength as may be imagined from these exhibitions of strength. It is simply by placing themselves in a position for resistance, by which their muscular powers are brought most successfully to operate to counteract the exertions of the horses. This is well known to anatomists and those versed in the art of performing these feats. Does not the same reasoning hold good in horses in putting forth their strength? It may answer the purpose of a gay appearance for carriage horses of those who ride for health or pleasure; but I feel persuaded that if our farmers would use bridles without blinds, and give horses a free use of their heads for a short time, we should not see the present practice again recur.

We have in this State a good breed of horses, which, everything considered, cannot perhaps be improved by a different race, though much may be done by attention in crossing for points. But we have in many cases much room for improvement in the accommodations and treatment of this noble, high-spirited, hard-tempered animal.

There is great, and it is believed, often unnecessary cruelty practised in what is termed breaking colts. Horses appear grateful for kind treatment—they show evident signs of affection to those who treat them kindly. The Arabs, who possess, perhaps, the most courageous and fiery breed of horses known, have at the same time the most docile and best trained. They sleep with them in the same tent; their children lie down and climb upon their horses without fear and without injury. I once knew a man in our sister State of Massachusetts, who reared and broke to harness, a great number of colts. He was a practical man, of the old three-cornered school, and the last man in my native town who wore, as he did to the last, the revolutionary hat. He had great fondness for horses, and used to say that although he had broken hundreds of colts, he had never struck one with the weight of a lash. His practice was first to put a bridle only upon a colt, and fasten him to the haimes of an old steady horse before the oxen about the farm, and let him lead in this way for a day or two. He then put on a collar and haimes, and let him lead about for a day or so more as convenient. Any horse would answer, but the best was the mother of the colt. Next he put the traces in addition, but fastened them up between the haimes, and merely let them jingle about the sides of the animal, and this answered for one or two days more, or at a number of times when convenient. By this time the young animal became accustomed to the feel and rattle of harness, and also to go slow, which is an important object. To finish, he is hitched before the oxen by the side of another horse, with an empty cart.

In this way, without the least severity, his young horses would

readily go in harness, and as my old friend said, they would pull soon enough. When once learned to go slow, they would readily learn to go fast, and after a few days of use by the side of another horse, they would quietly go without such company. We all know how important it is to form good habits in horses, that when young if they become frightened or discouraged, it is rare that they ever forget it, and we also know that when a horse is what is termed obstinate, they will die under the lash before they will move forward. This is generally, if not always owing to mismanagement at first—and whatever is done, a colt should never be brought into use by a timid man, for the animal will most certainly find it out.

Have we not, many of us, much room for improvement in the treatment of this animal, which kind Providence has bestowed for our use? After a hard day's toil, we require a wholesome meal and a comfortable repose; does not the animal that has toiled with us, require as much? My old three-cornered friend was ever kind to his horses; it was a rule with him never to let a horse stand upon any other than a dirt or clay floor, and this should be level, or very nearly so. A horse when standing, if left to himself will never stand on sloping ground. He takes a level spot, and almost every one has remarked the horses in a livery stable, that if not in the act of eating, they stand back at the halter's length because this brings their hinder feet upon the raised part, or rather brings the animals upon a level. If our stables are as they should be, on dry ground, a very little clay or dirt twice a year, will suffice to fill up the inequalities produced by the wear of the feet, and keep the horse's feet in better condition and their joints less liable to swell than when on a plank or paved floor.

As a general truth, do we not drive our horses too fast? All horses have a natural gait, and when pushed beyond that, it wears upon them and makes them permanently old. Nine times out of ten it would be difficult to assign any good cause for fast driving. If the surgeon is wanted to take up an artery, and, which, if not done promptly, the man must die, why then put the horse to the test, and if he is well used at other times, he will be enabled to do it so much the quicker; but these cases and similar ones are rare, and we lose more than a little by fast driving. All teamsters accustomed to take heavy loads, are aware of the fact that, with good keeping, their horses are easily kept in good condition, but they move slowly. By fast driving, we lose in the wear and breakage of the carriage: we lose in the expense of keeping our horses in creditable condition: they are made permanently old by the heat and cold from the violent exercise; and to the man of good heart who is tender of the mute animals given us for our use, and not abuse, is there not also a loss in our humane feelings.

A FARMER.

REMEDY FOR HARD TIMES

We have been repeatedly asked to give our views at length upon the present state of the country, but we have thought proper, the far to forbear. We fear that we might be accused of a political bias, foreign to the object of this paper. Still we think it legitimate within the scope of an agricultural journal, to give our views from time to time of the state of the nation as will tend especially to promote the interests of the farmers, and if we could depend upon our readers looking upon these subjects in the broad national view in which it should be our aim to place them, we should henceforward feel less hesitation in entering upon the discussion.

From a letter recently received from Thomas B. Stevens

late Editor of the Kentucky Farmer, and now of the Commonwealth, we quote a paragraph. Here is the best remedy for all times that we know of, and if all states will go and do likewise, there will soon be an end of them.

The people of Kentucky are fighting up in pecuniary matters daily. The crisis is past. We are buying nothing and selling good deal, though at low rates. Exchange on the east is in our favor.

Not only have we stopped buying foreign goods, but our people are returning to the old time honoured practice of manufacturing domestics by household industry. The wheel has lain idle for some years, but it is buzzing away now. Hemp, flax, jeans, linseys, woollens, &c., the product of family looms, substituted for foreign goods."

Am. Agriculturist.

EXHAUSTION OF SOIL BY INDIAN CORN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

Dear Sir,—Your last paper contains some remarks on the exhaustion of soil by Indian Corn. The actual amount of earth, withdrawn by 2000 lbs. of green stalks, is about 78 lbs. The results of Sprengel, (to whom I am chiefly indebted for earthy ingredients of the analyses I lately sent you,) I deduce the following proportion of each element in a ton of stalks:—

Potash,	3.78 lbs.
Soda,	.08 "
Lime,	13.04 "
Magnesia,	4.72 "
Alumina,	12 "
Iron,	0.08 "
Manganese,	.40 "
Silex,	54.16 "
Sulphuric acid,	2.12 "
Phosphoric acid,	1.08 "
Chlorine,	0.12 "

If corn takes so great an amount of lime, what becomes of the lime that wheat fails in New England, because its soil wants that element?

The April No. of the London Annals of Chemistry, which I have just received, contains the following extract from a letter of Hermann, published in Erdmann's Journal of Pharmacy. Perhaps you may like it for your paper. Hermann is an acute chemist at Moscow.

Your ob't servant,
SAM'L L. DANA.

Acadell, Ms., April 29, '43.

I have just made a discovery (says Hermann,) which will probably prove to be of great importance in many respects, viz: the chief part of the extractive components of the juices of plants, likewise, consists of the principles of mould; and I distinguished in these juices the following in particular:

- Humic acids—[termed in this country, geoic acids;]
- Mould deposit acid;
- Apoerenic acid;
- Crenic acids; and
- Extractive humus.

This discovery will, I hope, decide the question, so much debated, on the nourishment of plants—as it is highly improbable that these mouldy substances contained in the juices of plants, could not have been absorbed from the mould earth (humus,) formed from carbonic acid, ammonia, and water."

Hermann promises soon, a more detailed account.

FARM ACCOUNTS AND LABOUR BOOK.

EDITED BY C. N. Y. FARMER.

Gentlemen—It is of great importance that farmers should keep accurate accounts of the labour bestowed on each and all their different crops, that they may know the actual cost per bushel, or pound of the various products of the farm, and this may be so easily done that there seems to be no reasonable excuse for neglecting it. Yet suppose you were to start from home, and travel east, west, north or south, and call on every farmer you come to until you counted one hundred and were to ask each one of them this question, viz. how many cents per bushel did your last year's crop of corn cost you? How many do you think out of that hundred could answer the question? I know not what your answer will be, but I guess not over five. Manufacturers and mechanics know precisely the cost of their article, and why should not the farmer? It would not only be a source of peculiar satisfaction to each individual farmer, to be able at the close of the year, to sit down and ascertain the actual cost of each article he had raised, and consequently either know or be able to estimate very nearly his profit or loss on each—but by comparing notes with his neighbours, provided the practice were to become general, he could learn who had been the most successful in their operations. Each man would be able to say my wheat cost me so much—my corn so much—my potatoes so much—and so of all his crops, and this would soon show the general average at which the various articles are produced through the country. And of those who were enabled to produce at the lowest rates, the enquiry would be made—how have you done this?—by what management have you been able to produce at those rates—such enquiries could not but result in improvement.

Now as I have undertaken to show the why and the wherefore I propose also to show something of the how, hoping that some may be induced to commence a practice, which if persevered in, I am sure will prove both pleasant and profitable.

Attached hereto is the plan of a Labor Book which I have used and found convenient—very probably it may be improved, and in that respect, every one can exercise his own ingenuity. A few sheets more or less as occasion may require, of common ruled paper stitched into a good pasteboard cover, makes the book—unless you choose to patronize the bookseller and get a little more expensive one. One page for each person is required for each month. There will be however a few lines left at the bottom, which may be used for making any memorandum or remarks which the business of the month may suggest. Or the name of a man who happens to work for a few days at a time, may be entered there. At the end of the month, the column of days will be added up and the footing put down, there to remain till the man has done work, or the close of the season—the footing of each month will then be carried to the place when he quits work, and all added together—then the amount of wages calculated and carried out in the column of dollars and cents. If you settle with the man write settled underneath, if not it will stand there as a record of the work till you do. The entries should be made every night without fail, that the transactions of one day be not mixed up on the memory with those of another. It will soon become familiar, and you will as soon forget your supper as your Labor Book. The posting can be done rainy days or evenings. This will require some care, that each day, and part of day, be carried to its proper place on the Ledger, and some little mark must be made to show which are posted. Sometimes in posting a division like the following, it will be necessary. Suppose you plough up a

pieces of five acres for corn, potatoes, &c., you have not settled in your mind how you will divide it—in putting down the labor you will say *ploughing such a piece*. You finally plant three acres with corn, one with potatoes, and sow one with oats—then in posting you will carry three fifths of the labour to the account of corn, which will be three days, provided you ploughed just an acre a day. I have never thought it necessary to notice smaller portions of time than one fourth of a day—but it that should be thought not sufficiently accurate, when there are frequent changes of work, hours might be introduced. The Ledger may be of almost any form or size, and in posting when there are several successive days at one kind of work, they may be all posted together. There must be an account opened on the ledger, not only for each different crop, but for each kind of work done, viz: One for improvements which may include clearing up land, ditching, making and mending fence, &c. And also one for chores to take up the odds and ends—and this account if not narrowly watched, will swell to a pretty large one.—But I am aware, there is one serious objection which may be urged to this whole business of keeping a labour book. There might perhaps be one rather disagreeable evening's work towards the close of the year, and a man might probably feel more like going about it some evening when his wife is away from home. I mean the reckoning up his own labor to sit down and add up the number of days he has actually worked in each month during the season. There is a bare possibility that this might exhibit a result which even he himself might think contained more truth than poetry. But I hope that every one who should have a had case of this kind, will reflect that the most effective medicines go down hard—and be not discouraged but go ahead—and try and keep in mind hereafter that a labor book has a wonderful memory. When a man employs several hands I see not how a book of this kind can be well dispensed with—merely for keeping the time accurately. The amount of each man's labor can be ascertained in a moment, and beyond all manner of dispute.

Perhaps many men somewhat advanced in life and unaccustomed to keeping accounts of any kind, feel unwilling to undertake a thing of this kind; in such a case I would say—if you have a boy that can write a readable hand, set him at it; it will be a valuable exercise for him—aside from the utility of the thing itself.

LABOR BOOK.

Jan. 1842.	EDWARD EVERGREEN.
1	1 Making compost heap, with team
2	1 do do
3	½ Ploughing corn, ½ went to Usica
4	0 Unwell, [P. M.]
6	1 Hoing corn
7	1 do ½ chores, ½ rainy P. M.

4½ days
 26 " in May.
 25½ " in April.
 56 days—2 months, 4 days— @ \$10 21 54

LEDGER.

1842.	Corn.	(2 acres)	
A 10	2 days ploughing, self and team,	10s.	2 50
M 12	1½ " do Edward & team,	5s.	1 68
" 15	2 " planting, Edward	5s.	1 25
" "	2 " do self.	5s.	1 25

From the above examples, I presume the method of keeping the accounts will be readily understood. And the 1st of April is precisely the time for commencing a Labor Book.

P. S. When your crop is harvested and measured, foot up the account—and enter underneath the number of bushels (or pounds) and the cost per bushel—there to stand as a record of the cost of raising corn, potatoes or whatever crop it may be, for that year.

CYRUS INGALLIA.

Blaikie's Portable Threshing Machine.

Worked with two, three, or four horses at pleasure.

THE SUBSCRIBER begs to intimate to the Agricultural community throughout Nova Scotia, and the adjoining Colonies, that he is prepared to receive orders for making *Threshing Machines*, either portable or stationary. He believes that he is justified in stating that his machines are equal in speed, if not superior to any now in use in the Colonies, or in the United States. With two horses, his machine will thresh 25 bushels of wheat per hour, and a fourth more for every additional horse, when the machine is in fair working condition. With two horses it will thresh 10 bushels of oats per hour, and a fourth more for every additional horse. The horses move in a circle of 25 feet in diameter, at the rate of 2½ to 3 miles per hour, and can work during the full day without fatigue. The portable machines can be removed from one barn to another with ease,—are easily erected and put in operation, and are rarely subject to get out of order. From the low price at which they are made, and the rapid sale they have already received, wherever they have been tried, he has reason to believe that they only require to be known to come into extensive use.

Letters addressed (post paid or free) to the manufacturer, or the editor of the *Mechanic & Farmer*, will receive every attention.

THOMAS BLAIKIE.

Green Hill, West River, February 1.

CERTIFICATES.

This is to certify that in December, 1841, I purchased one of Mr. Thomas Blaikie's *Stationary Threshing Machines*, and since that time by the great saving of time and labour resulting from the use of it, it has amply repaid me for the use of it. I therefore confidently recommend these machines to every farmer who may require such an article, and will venture to assure a person that if they purchase one they will never have reason to regret it, as an unprofitable investment of capital.

GEORGE McDONALD.

West River, January, 1843.

Having worked for some time with one of Mr Blaikie's *Threshing Machines*, with moving horse power, would recommend it as a superior article, and are certain, that no farmer could make a better investment than to supply himself with a machine of this kind.

SAMUEL FRASER,
 JOHN FRASER.

New Glasgow, January 3, 1843.

I have had Messrs. Frasers' *Threshing Machine*, made by Mr. Thomas Blaikie, threshing for me two or three days, and found to surpass my expectations. It does the work well, and threshes clean; and I would recommend it as a very superior article, as regards saving of labour and grain.

B. L. KIRKPATRICK.

New Glasgow, January 3, 1843.

Having witnessed the *Threshing Apparatus*, made by Mr. Thomas Blaikie, in full operation, I give it as my decided opinion that it far exceeds, in usefulness, and saving of labour, any other of a similar nature which has come under my observation, and it is preferable to any other kind used in the Province.

JAMES CARMICHAEL.

New Glasgow, January 3, 1843.

"THE COLONIAL FARMER,"

TITUS SMITH, EDITOR; R. NUGENT, PROPRIETOR.

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