THE HERALD.

AGRICULTURAL.

One Pound of Pork From Four and a Half Pounds of Corn.

Several years ago Prof. J. B. Lawes obtained 100 pound of pork from seven bushels of corn, or one pound of pork from four and a half pounds of corn. The grain was ground and moistened with water before feeding. A reader of the *Herald* always commences fattening in the spring, at which time a bushel of corn is more valuable in its results than in autumn, and continues a regular course of feeding throughout the season. The corn is ground and ninety pounds of hot water poured on every sixteen pounds of meal, and after standing twelve to eighteen hours, the whole mass becomes thick feed. He finds by measured experiment that the value of the corn is fully doubled by this process, as compared with corn fed in the ear, and 50 per cent. better than meal merely mixed with cold water. One bushel of corn thus prepared, after deducting 10 per cent. toll for grinding, and leaving only fifty-four pounds for the bushel, will give twenty pounds of pork, or at the rate of two and two-third pounds of corn for each pound of pork. When pork is five cents per pound he obtains at the rate of $1 per bushel for his corn. The farmer obtains by scalding the meal one pound of pork from two and two-thirds pounds of corn—he gets 50 per cent. less, or at the rate of one pound of pork to the three and three-fourths pounds of meal, when mixed merely with cold water, which is within less than half a pound of the quantity of meal required in Lawes' experiments; when the same kind of feed was used. In his management there was every advantage of sound corn, comfortable quarters, cleanliness, regularity of feeding and quality of breeding. It may be well to state that he has found the best sound corn double the value of a great deal that is used when badly grown or imperfectly ripened, or more or less moldy.

These facts show what may be done by keeping animals growing regularly from the day of their birth until they are ready for the slaughter-house. There is an immense saving in food by cooking it.—*Agricola in N. Y. Herald.*

The Necessity of Grass Culture.

The cultivation of grasses and forage plants is an indispensable attribute of prosperity. Why are the lands of Kentucky and Ohio so much more valuable than those of the cotton states, when we can produce a commercial article of prime necessity worth twice as much per acre as their products? It is because we disregard rotation, exclude every other crop but cotton and base all our chances of success upon a single card. In an agricultural point of view grass is the greatest boon ever donated to man. It grows unceasingly day and night, wet and dry, cold and hot, and furnishes the cheapest stock feed extent. I have had hogs from seven to nine months old, weighing 250 pounds, and yet they have never tasted anything but grass.

The land should be well drained, and if not sufficiently rolling to drain naturally, it must be done artificially. Water must, under no circumstances, be permitted to stand on land devoted to grass culture, else the grasses sown will be destroyed in such places, and "wire grass" will furnish a substitute as unprofitable as it is undesirable.

The proper preparation of the land is of prime importance. I would use a one-horse turning plow, running at a depth of three to four inches, follow with a subsoil as deep as the best double team could draw the same, harrow well and thoroughly pulverize the soil by rolling or dragging as may be necessary in order that the surface may be smooth and adapted to the use of the mower. This preparation is not altogether necessary; in fact, clover sown in the fall or early winter is more certain to catch when sown on stubble, the trash serving to protect it while young, yet this is not neat farming, and should be practiced only in cases of emergency. Occasionally we have wet weather in August and September, and grass can then be sown in corn or cotton, and by Christmas a good pasture may be obtained, provided the ground is not too wet for pasturage at that time. The most preferable method is, however, to thoroughly prepare the land as above described; the exceptions to the general rule should only be used when better preparations cannot be obtained. —*Southern Farmer.*

For the Farmer's Wife.

One of the greatest troubles of the neat and orderly housewife in the country results from muddy boots of those members of the family who have to work in the fields, stables and the barn-yard. The wet boots must be dried, and are generally left under the kitchen stove, where their presence is very disagreeable. Now, to have a neat kitchen, there should be a boot-rack placed behind the stove, in which the damp boots may be placed to dry. Such a contrivance has been found a great convenience. It has three shelves about four feet long, ten inches wide, and placed a foot apart. At one end a boot-jack is fixed by hinges so that, when not in use, it is folded against one end of the rack and secured by a button. There is also a stand for cleaning boots at the front, which also folds up when not in use, and the blacking brushes are placed on the shelves behind the stand, and are out of sight, and when folded they hang down out of the way. The rack should be made of dressed pine boards, and stained some dark, durable color.

Sound Ideas on Farming.

The following views on farming were thrown out by Mr. Greeley in his speech in Baltimore, and they so effectually cover the ground of successful culture that we give them a place for the benefit of our readers;

1. That the area under cultivation should be within the limits of the capital and labor employed: or in other words that on impoverished soils no one should cultivate more land than he can enrich with manure and fertilizers, be it one acre or twenty.

2. That there should be a law compelling every man to prevent his stock from depredating on his neighbor's fields.

3. That deep soil is more economical than loose pasturage.

4. That deep tillage is essential to good farming.

5. That the muck heap is the farmer's bank, and that everything should be added to it that will enlarge it, and increase at the same time its fertilizing qualities.

6. That no farmer or planter should depend upon one staple alone but should seek to secure himself against serious loss in bad seasons by diversity of products.—[*Exchange.*

Renovation of Worn Soil.

We all have lands not worn out, but tired down by continual cropping, and we always have lands that may be said to be worn out, since they are no longer productive. We now want the best and cheapest plan of renovating these lands, so as to grow remunerative crops. To do this, we must have our lands charged with a good supply of vegetable matter to make the land lively and productive. This can be obtained by the turning under of green crops and afterwards a judicious rotation of crops; in doing this, we can only cultivate what lands we can manure well, or such as have not been exhausted. Let us take the lands in the fall, break through and subsoil: in the spring, plow and sow peas about the first of June, and harrow them in.

Turn under the peas in September and sow to rye, and pasture through the winter with sheep; the second spring turn under rye at proper time and again sow to peas; these in turn to be plowed in September; then in October, by sowing one bushel of wheat or oats and thirty bushels of cotton seed per acre, and harrowing in well with clover seed lightly harrowed in the spring, you are ready for a judicious system of rotation of crops—say cotton, corn, wheat and clover. If lime can be procured at reasonable prices, it should be used where green crops are turned under.—*American Farmer.*

"Neither Cold nor Hot."

There is a class of farmers in every section of the country, who wish the Grange movement well, but will not connect themselves with it. Indecisive, cautious, conservative in their nature; they stand aloof, and can never be induced to join any reform movement until the current of popular opinion becomes too strong to be resisted. They call themselves friends of the Grange, and flatter themselves that they are really aiding it, or at least doing it no injury, and are slow to avail themselves of any advantage that the efforts and labors of others may afford them. They doubt the feasibility of the movement, perhaps, think it may not be successful, they will wait and see. And while their neighbors and friends are laboring with heart and hand for the common good, they look calmly on, or watch suspiciously from a safe distance, ready when the moment of victory comes, to seize a fair share of the spoils. Such men, while not open enemies, do the order infinitely more harm. Opposition is expected from certain classes, but not from farmers themselves—the very men the order was organized to assist and protect. An intelligent farmer said to me not long since that he should not join the Grange, for it could not be successful—farmers could not co-operate like men of other occupations, and the movement would therefore be ephemeral. He admitted that the objects were praiseworthy, that it ought to succeed, but nevertheless, because he thought success very doubtful, he stood aloof. If it does fail, such men will cause it, and if all men acted upon this principle, no reform would ever be inaugurated. Such men are not true to themselves—they are moral cowards. Every man is morally bound to aid every movement that he thinks is right, and he will be held responsible if he fails to do so. I am not speaking of those whose conscientious scruples prevent them from joining. There are many good men who do not like the secret feature, and will not join on that account. Others may find other things in the way. This is all right. Let no man violate his conscience. But he who believes and acknowledges the movement to be a commendable one, and will not aid it because it may fail, must take the responsibility of that failure, should it come, for he, and such as he, are only to blame.

The Dignity of Farming.

Agriculture has been the chosen occupation of the great and good of every age. Warriors, philosophers, orators, and statesmen—King David, Cato, Cincinnatus, Kossuth, Garibaldi Prince Albert, Lafayette and Washington, all have made her their favorite employment. Poets have sung her praises from Herod to Virgil, and down to our own Whittier. The cultivation of the earth was the first, the "heaven-appointed, employment of mankind." "Agriculture is the mother of all wealth."

Benjamin Franklin says: "There are three ways for a nation to acquire wealth: First, by war—this is robbery; second, by commerce—this is, frequently, cheating; then by agriculture—this is the only honest way whereby a man receives a real increase of seed thrown into the ground, in a continual miracle, wrought by the hand of God in his favor, as a reward for his innocent life and his virtuous industry." Washington says: "Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment of man."

Yet, notwithstanding the encomiums of poets, the praise of philosophers, the example of the illustrious and the fact that agriculture is the foundation of all civilization, it is still an undeniable fact that in many sections of our country, the average farmer is shiftless and ignorant, his farm neglected, and unattractive, fences rotten, wagons and tools rickety and rusty, cattle and horses ribby, and, as might be expected, bartering the best meats, choicest fruits and grains for greenbacks, and keeping the offal of his farm for his family to consume. Heaven never appointed man to live and work in this manner.

One of the most disheartening facts connected with agriculture, has been the unwillingness on the part of too many of our farmers to adopt the improvements of the day. It is said that when Jethro Wood introduced the iron plow-share, the majority of farmers said, "the old plow is best after all, it is not so heavy, there is not so much iron about it to break, and, besides, the wooden mould board won't rust." To show what aversion and unreasoning prejudices exist in many stagnant agricultural districts against every new improvement, it is reported that there are back neighborhoods in our Southern States, where the plowman still fastens the tails of his cattle to the plow, unwilling to own that any other method has equal advantages.

All this is reproach—is a wrong upon the highest industry in existence.

We are glad to know that a new era is dawning in the agricultural world. Thought—trained, sharp, incisive thought is becoming the farmer's tutelary saint; books phamphlets, and papers are now being read and studied, and literary and intellectual culture is throwing around his home comforts and elegance that by right belong to his noble labor.

For The Hartford Herald.

CULTURE OF THE GRAPE.

NUMBER III.

Trellis vs. Stakes.

We presume profit is the object the grape-grower has in view, and the way he can make the most with the least expense—honestly—is the right why with him. Net profit is a potent argument, and it should be. Now let us investigate the matter, and see where the profit is to be found. We will take one acre of vines trained to stakes, counting cost and profit. As a stake is required for each vine, and as we can't grow the vine to any length, they are planted closer together, requiring at least one-fourth more vines, and thrice as many stakes, as to plant and trellis an acre. Of necessity, the vines and fruit grow in a dense mass, excluding air and sunshine to such an extent as to materially affect the perfect maturity of the fruit, and making it impossible to practice any system of training and pruning. To train to stakes, we are compelled to cut back so short that the loss in fruit thus sustained is greater than the additional outlay for the trellis. Now for the facts and the figures. It will take 1,210 vines, 6 feet apart each way, and as many stakes to the acre. Vines, at 10 cents each, amount to $121; stakes, at 5 cents each, $60; total, $181. Those 5 cents stakes will last but few years, and we will say nothing of the inconvenience of tying and training to stakes, but will pass on to the trellis. We will erect the trellis by setting cedar posts, 3 or 4 inches in diameter, 6½ feet long, 20 inches deep, 14 feet apart, in rows 6 feet apart. Run a No. 14 wire (annealed) 2½ feet from the ground, and make fast to each post by means of a small staple or nail. Run a second wire on the top of the posts, make fast in like manner as the first, and the trellis is complete. Cost of trellis per acre: 260 posts at 10 cents each, $56; No. 14 wire (54 feet to the pound) 280 lbs. at 12½ cents, $35; vines, 8 feet, in rows 6 feet apart, 910, at 10 cents each, $91, total, $182. Now, on the trellis, we can grow 6 pounds of better fruit per vine, and with more certainty, than we can 3 pounds on a stake. Now for results: 1,210 vines, 3 pounds each, 3,630 pounds, 910 vines on trellis, 6 pounds each, 5,460 pounds. In favor of trellis, 1,830 pounds, or, at 5 cents per pound, $91,50, just the cost of the trellis. As to the durability of the two, there is no comparison.

We could say something in reference to the beauty, pleasure and convenience of the trellis over the stake system, but forbear, have just made the strongest argument known to mankind. Diseases of the grape next week.

J. B. C.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Cake Without Eggs.—Take one cup of sugar, one-fourth cup of butter, one cup of milk, two tablespoonsful of baking powder rubbed in the flour dry. Flour enough to thicken as other cake. This quantity will make eight layers baked in pie-pans. Flour, water and sugar, boiled together and flavored with lemon, spread between the layers.

Better than anything else, and easily obtained and applied, and a sure cure for chilblains, is to soak the frozen feet in strong warm lime water. Mix it nearly to the consistency of white wash. It will stop the itching in five minutes, and will permanently cure in a few applications. Let the feet remain in until the dead skin will freely rub off. Apply every evening until a cure is effected.

To clean jewelry rub a brush—a tooth brush is best—first on a piece of common chalk, then on the jewelry, dampening the latter by breathing upon it.

When powder gets into the flesh, by explosion or otherwise, it can be removed by a mixture of sweet oil and cider vinegar, in equal quantities, applied to the surface.

An intimate mixture of one part of Paris rouge (oxide of iron) with six parts of carbonate of magnesia is one of the best polishing powders, not only for silver, but for iron, steel, copper, or gold. It is best used with a rag dipped in a little water or alcohol, and then rubbed until nearly dry, when the object is cleaned with soft leather. This powder has a pink color, and was first suggested by the German chemist Thomas Wegler.

Orange Cake.—Three cups sugar, one cup of butter, one-half cup milk, one teaspoonful salaratus, three-quarters pound raisins chopped fine, one grated orange, four eggs, four cups flour.

Silver Cake.—White of six eggs beaten to a froth, one cup butter, two cups sugar, three cups flour, one-half cup of sweet milk, teaspoonful of cream of tartar, one teaspoonful of soda.

Cheap, Nice Pudding.—Boil one quart milk then add three tablespoonsful of flour, four eggs, six tablespoonsful of sugar, nutmeg. Bake half an hour. If wanted richer add raisins.

Corn Cake.—Take one quart of cornmeal, half a teaspoon of salt, and half a teacup of molasses; pour boiling water upon the meal until a thick batter is formed; then bake in a very hot oven.

To Clean Lime Out of the Tea Kettle.—Boil in the kettle Irish potatoes with the skins on. This softens the lime, which is easily washed out.

Puff Cake.—Two cups flour, two cups sugar, one cup sweet milk, two eggs, two tablespoonsful of baking powder; add the milk last.

To Cook a Cheek or Jowl.—Having separated it from the head and cut off the fore part, take the cheek only, clean it thoroughly, let it lie in cold water twenty-four hours to draw out the blood, put into a weak brine, and let it remain one, two, or three weeks. Now parboil it—score and season it for baking. Have ready a dish of beans (if you are fond of the article), place the cheek thereon and bake thoroughly, and if the operation has been well performed, you have a "good dinner." It may be eaten warm, but is best when cold, even to freezing.

Cheap Vinegar.—Take a quantity of common Irish potatoes, wash them until they are thoroughly clean, place them in a large vessel, and boil them until done. Drain off carefully the water they were cooked in, strain it, if necessary, in order to remove every particle of the potato. Then put this potato water into a jug or keg, which set near the stove, or in some place where it will be kept warm, and add one pound of sugar to about two and one-half gallons of water, and some hop yeast. Let it stand three or four weeks, and you will have excellent vinegar, at a cost of six or seven cents per gallon.—*Journal of Chemistry.*

The Kind of Pork to Buy.—Pork differs much in the quality according to the mode of feeding, and it is always desirable to know who fed the pig, if possible, before you buy the meat. Butchers are sometime in the habit of keeping pigs and feeding them on the nauseous and decaying offal of the shambles. It is never safe to buy your pork from a butcher that feeds pigs himself. The farm-house or the miller's pigs are generally fed wholesomely, and kept clean; and you may depend on pork or bacon bought directly from them. Pork should not be fat, the meat should be close in the grain, and fat and lean should be of a pinkish white. It is not a very wholesome or economical meat for a family when eaten fresh, though when salted it is the prime dish of the poor laborer and the most useful meat to every rank of society.

The Care of Oil Cloths.—An oil cloth requires careful treatment, and should never be scrubbed with a brush, but after being swept with the long handled hair brushes that are made for the purpose, it should be carefully washed with a large, soft cloth dipped into milk and water—half-and-half; or, if the milk is not obtainable, tepid water without soap. The latter ruins oil cloth by taking off the brightness of the paint, and it should never be applied to it. Hot water is also very injurious to it; either of them—soap or hot water—being sure to injure the oil cloth more than the wear of it. When washed over, wipe it off with a soft, dry cloth, and it will retain a bright look. In purchasing an oil cloth, it is very desirable to obtain one that has been made several years, as the longer it has lain unwashed the better it will wear—the point becoming harder and more durable. An oil cloth made within the year is hardly worth buying, as the paint will be defaced in a short time.

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