

Saturday Morning, May 12, 1866.

Pungent Consideration of the Various Traits and Callings.

From the New York Citizen. A Pungent Consideration of the Various Traits and Callings. BY MILES O'NEILL.

Of all the trades that men may call themselves, the most desirable is that of a farmer. The farmer is the most useful man in the world. He feeds the world. He clothes the world. He builds the world. He is the foundation of all other trades.

The farmer is the most useful man in the world. He feeds the world. He clothes the world. He builds the world. He is the foundation of all other trades. He is the one who makes the world what it is.

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Why do We Plough?

Did any of our readers ever ask this question of himself, and try to answer it? We apprehend not. Some several millions in the United States are in the daily habit of doing the very necessary work, but they, who have asked or can tell why, may be counted by tens. We belong to this little minority. We have often wondered to ourselves, and sought diligently to discover, all the reasons why we plough. Our success in eliciting satisfactory answers, has been very gratifying. Some of these we respectfully offer to the consideration of our readers. 1. We are most commonly told that we plough to stir the soil. Well, why stir the soil? We are told, so that the crop will grow. This is about the substance and the words of most of our answers. Not very lucid, it is true, yet the germ of the philosophy of ploughing is there. We do plough to stir the soil, and the soil may grow. All soils adapted to the growth of farm products contain the natural food of such plants—this food the plants will naturally seek through numberless small rootlets. But it is the natural tendency of all soils, and especially of clay, to stiffen and grow hard, from lying undisturbed under the influence of a burning sun and beating rain. Hence, in a little while, the little rootlets, which are the plant feeders, could not penetrate the hardened soil, were it not for the pulverization of it by the plough.

2. Again, the plough not only helps the soil to collect what food is near and ready made, but manufactures more, by opening the way for those great fertilizers, air and water. By disintegrating the soil, every particle is made loose, and brought into action. While it is hard and stiff, it is impervious to air or water, and whatever stores of plant food it may contain, are hermetically sealed. But let once the bright plough share gleam through it, and all of its wealth is poured out, and the hungry plants suck it up, and transmit it as they please to the various parts of the body. There is a certain cross-bone which connects the lower end of the shoulder blades with the horse's fore-legs which very materially affects the action of the horse. When this bone is too long it throws the fore-legs much back, causing the horse to stand over like a cart horse; and such an animal, besides being unpleasant to ride, is very slow in his action. It is, however, certain that the shoulders of a young horse intended to carry weight can hardly be too thick at any time, and it is very desirable to have them as thick as possible. It is, however, certain that the shoulders of a young horse intended to carry weight can hardly be too thick at any time, and it is very desirable to have them as thick as possible.

3. And yet again, we plough to kill the weeds, to keep down the grass. What is food for the plants, is food also for the weeds, and if left uncurbed, one ploughing were almost worse than none. But if kept up, in this, as in other things, the plough is a blessing. 4. In the fall and winter also, we plough to kill the roots of weeds and grass, and the eggs of insects, by exposing them to the rigors of winter. So too, we open the soil to the disintegrating power of the frost and snow of winter, and in the spring, when seed-time comes, a light and mellow soil, free of weeds and insects, all from fall ploughing.

5. But on land so old as much that is now in cultivation, the plough has another use, scarcely less important, which is in incorporating manure with the soil—where, in time, it becomes digested and assimilated to the wants of the plant. So much for the popular, and what would commonly be called, the practical reasons why we plough. There are other reasons, in our judgment, quite as practical; yet, as they cannot be explained without the use of a few chemical terms, we will call them scientific. Though they are no more entitled so to be called in strict parlance, than those that we have given. Of these, we give only two this morning.

1. Ammonia and carbonic acid are essential elements to the growth of plants. These gases are constituent parts also of the air. It is a property of porous bodies to attract these gases, and other things being equal, this power of attraction is in proportion to the amount of surface exposed to the air. That is to say, the more a soil is pulverized and permeable to the air, the greater will be its power of attraction. 2d. Again, it is established that almost every soil contains matters that has what is termed a chemical affinity for ammonia—that is, naturally attracts and absorbs it. This is especially true of clay of almost every kind, and still more especially of limestone clay. As the soil is stirred, and these substances mobilized, its capacity for absorbing ammonia is increased. The supply of plant food, is increased, the plants flourish, and in turn draw fresh supplies from the air, through its lungs, which are its leaves. It may thus be readily seen how a well ploughed field will drain its neighbor that is but ill tended, of much of its health and strength. In view of these considerations, therefore, we commend to our farmers the laudable and wise advice of one who was successful beyond his day as a farmer. When asked for the secret of his uniformly fine crops, he replied, "PRAY TO GOD, AND KEEP THE PLOUGH GOING."

Best and Cheapest Method of Manuring a Farm. The Mark Lane Express contains an article upon this subject by Mr. Mechi, from which we extract the following: "I am often amused at the various unadvised charges laid at my door, seeing that they originate in the brain of erroneous conclusions, which are well as they are. I should think that your correspondent, 'Kent,' had convinced himself by his own experiment that making meat is a cheap way of obtaining manure; but as he still seems doubtful, I would recommend him to read Mr. Lawe's paper on that subject, in the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal, which ought to convince him, identically. A farmer will seldom fail to have an abundant crop of corn on one-half his farm, if he makes, as I do, ten tons of manure per acre on every acre of his farm. The laborer makes thirty-two score per acre. How the meat is made is dependent on circumstances. Nothing pays me better than giving sheep on a pound of rape cake per day; as they get fat they will eat nearly one and a half pounds per day. Rape cake cost £20 per ton; as manure it is worth £25 per ton, and I believe that seven pounds of rape cake will make one pound of mutton. Fat-tending hogs entails a loss of about ten cents, as an acre of fat, but at it is much cheaper than guano, fifty-six lbs of barley meal is generally sufficient to produce eight pounds of pork. Fattening calves, on the principle laid down by Mr. Horsfall, is also a cheap way of obtaining manure. When you have made your manure, take care not to waste an ounce of it. This has been my custom for the last fifteen years, and as a consequence my farm teems with fertility. The sheep and excreta from the house should all go on the farm. Guano pays too for a distant field, or when you are too busy to cart manure; it is also a good addition to the farm manure for a greeny root crop. The manure of the land in this direction is neither well measured nor sufficiently cultivated. If I know how many acres per acre of manure I should be able to give a general estimate.

City vs. Country Life—Cory O'Leary, of the Brooklyn Eagle, gives his experience of the felicitous of country life at this season. The locality is somewhere in New Jersey: "The place is a lonely spot, but not improving. The sidewalks are not flagged, and there are no street lamps. There is a picture of a village, composed of a tavern and two blacksmith shops. Being situated on the banks of a canal, it may be regarded as a watering place. The gravel canals are full of gilding at the rate of two miles a week, reminds you of Venice and gondolas. It much resembles Venice before the war."

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EVANS, FITE & CO. No. 4, Inn Block, Nashville, Tenn. January 11, 1866.

Legal.

CHANCERY NOTICES. WILLIAMS & CATES ET AL VS. ROBERT SMITH & JARED E. PATTERSON. The ordinary process of law cannot be served on them; it is therefore ordered by the Court that the ordinary process of law be served on them by the publication of this notice in the County Herald.

WILLIAM M. IRWIN, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN HUNTER. I have the honor to inform you that the ordinary process of law cannot be served on them; it is therefore ordered by the Court that the ordinary process of law be served on them by the publication of this notice in the County Herald.

SAMUEL J. INGRAM VS HEIRS OF JOHN HUNTER. I have the honor to inform you that the ordinary process of law cannot be served on them; it is therefore ordered by the Court that the ordinary process of law be served on them by the publication of this notice in the County Herald.

JAMES ANDREWS USE OF W. R. C. P. I have the honor to inform you that the ordinary process of law cannot be served on them; it is therefore ordered by the Court that the ordinary process of law be served on them by the publication of this notice in the County Herald.

INSOLVENT NOTICE. I have this day suggested to the Clerk of the County Court of Maury County, the insolvency of the estate of Isaac T. Lawless, deceased.

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Election Notice.

On Thursday, the 24th day of May 1866, I will proceed to open and hold an election in the several Districts of Maury County, Tennessee, for the purpose of electing a County General of the 11th Judicial Circuit, on the 14th day of June, 1866.

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