Southern Standard

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCES OF TENNESSEE.

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SAMPLE COPIES.

We send copies of the STANDARD this week to many persons who are not subscribers, with the hope that they may be pleased with the paper and send us the subscription price, $1 per annum. The STANDARD is the only weekly agricultural paper published in the State. It is a plain country paper, intended more for usefulness than for show, with clear, easy print that children and old people can read with ease. We think the paper when carefully examined, will recommend itself, and soon become a welcome visitor to every one to whom we may send it for examination. We would be glad to send a few sample copies to any person who may desire to see it, and would thank our friends for the names of such.

Communications.

Oiling Harness, Collars, Bridles, Etc.

To the Standard.

Every farmer desires to make money, and his desire can be realized by attention to details. There is quite as much in saving as in making. Poor Richard's philosophy was correct when he said:

"A penny saved is two pence clear,
And a pin a day is a groat a year."

Farming is a great, honorable and profitable business when pursued with enthusiasm and a confidence of success, and with a willingness to attend to all the little details connected with it, by which money is saved.

The heavy farm work is over. Observation shows us that the ammonia continually given off in stables causes harness and other leather to become week and rotten sooner than other leather. It is said on good authority that the addition of a little glycerine to the oil or fat used in greasing such leather is good, and that such addition will keep it pliant and soft. If glycerine is not convenient, grease without it. Well kept harness and other leather used in the operations of the farm will last many years. If it is neglected and allowed to be dirty, dry and unoiled, it often wears out in two years. This makes it costly to the farmer. It should be washed once a month with castile soap, using a good sponge, and oiled at least twice a year. Take the harness apart, soak it in water only blood warm, for a longer or shorter period according to its dryness and stiffness, wash with castile soap, work till soft and pliant and hang up to dry moderately. When half dry oil the pieces and let them dry a day longer; then rub with a coarse cloth.

The glycerine, oil and soap are cheap and it requires only a little attention to do the thing. If this is supposed to be troublesome it should be remembered that it will probably be more troublesome to get money and buy a new supply every two years, for it will last three times as long. Besides, the work can and ought to be done in wet weather when out-door work can't be done.

In a former article we recommended the painting of farm implements as a measure to save money. We have ours painted and under shelter, and are today cleaning our harness precisely as herein directed. We practice our preaching, because we know that by it we save much money. It does seem that we ought to do ourselves the justice to attend to these little money saving details, and not ruin ourselves by the usual lazy, reckless waste.

E. L. GARDENHIRE.

A Letter from C. W. Callender on the Potato Crop.

J. B. RITCHEY: Dear Sir—Much of our crop is still in the ground, as under existing circumstances we preferred to keep up the general work of the farm rather than let the corn, etc. go to ruin while we hurried potatoes into market at unremunerative prices. We have shipped three car loads to Chicago in barrels. We will commence in a few days to ship in bulk, as the tubers are now well matured, and the exacting prices of coopers takes too much from the narrow margin of profit this year gives us. There is still quite a large amount of potatoes undug. Many inexperienced raisers have lost money, and the amount of swearing off is large and still increasing. Personally, we hope to make "buckle and tongue meet."

We have planted quite a crop of Peach Blows, which have already shown a splendid stand. We bought the seed in Chicago, and propose with this popular variety to meet the Southern table demand. Besides, in a season so wet as this, a dry, droughty fall may cut short the crop of second Rose yet to be planted, and give the Peach Blows of eating quality a better sale.

We are experimenting with a variety sent out from Washington, a late one, called McCormick. It is of Indiana origin. Some were sent to me by a seedsman of Terre Haute, but they did no good. I do not suppose they will avail Tennesseans much, if they are as late as represented. They are a fine looking potato and may do for June planting.

We shall shortly begin to plant the second crop of Early Rose. The weather and soil are both now very favorable to speedy germination. We shall dig, cut, and plant all at once, not waiting to cure in the shade, as must be done with immature culls. It is unnecessary where the tubers are well ripened in the ground. Some of our hands are frequently digging and cutting in one end of a field while others are dropping and covering in the other end. You may find the same dispatch profitable with you.

I expect to leave home in a few weeks to spend a couple of months with relatives in the Shenandoah Valley. I shall watch closely the farming methods of that celebrated valley, and perhaps find something of value to tell you.

We are at a stand-still now on the farm. It has rained every day for a couple of weeks. Much clover is ruined, some wheat sprouted in the shock, and the ground is too wet to dig potatoes. Late corn is not yet laid by; in fact, very little of the early is, and weeds, crab-grass and fox-tail are, as the negroes say, "jist gittin' up and 'hoopin'." I am inclined from this superabundance of rainfall of July to fear fall drouth. Plant your second potato crop as soon as you can and cover nicely and deep. Then drouth or no drouth your chance is good.

In our spring correspondence on one occasion you asked if a certain shipment was second crop. I then intended to give you the signs or marks by which in the fall the first is distinguished from the second crop, but neglected it. There will always be some "first croppers" among the second crop if both are raised on the same plat. The hands pick them up with the fall grown tubers. They have a rusty appearance outside, and show all the marks of having acted as seed. If ever you have examined the interior of a seed potato after it has made a plant and new tubers, you will understand me. I lack terms to describe. These potatoes, after storing, will shrivel and grow dark and rusty, and towards spring will put out long, slender white shoots. If in your examination of your bulk during winter you see numerous sprouts, don't be alarmed; examine those sprouting and you will find them to be first crop. In spring these will be so shriveled and the sprouts so numerous and so long that your fingers will not need the help of your eyes to detect. Of course throw out those useless first crops. I thought perhaps you intended to buy and store second crop, and so put you on your guard.

C. W. CALLENDER.

Hendersonville, Tenn., July 17th.

Subscribe for the STANDARD, $1.00.

From Sparta.

To the Standard.

I've been traveling over a good portion of White county recently and find the crops good and the people in good spirits over the prospects for good crops and a railroad. They certainly deserve this road.

Jim Smith was killed yesterday evening by his stepson, Mr. Dave Dinges. The cause of the killing was brutal treatment of his wife, who was Dinges' mother.

Farmers are all loud in their praise of the STANDARD. *

Sparta, July 24th.

From Irving College.

To the Standard:

Irving College opened on the 23d under the management of Etter and Clendenen. Prospects are favorable for a good school.

Wm. Mitchell's school on the mountain began today. We wish Billy success in his undertaking.

The following persons have married recently in this vicinity: Mr. Elijah Rodgers to Miss Laura Willis; Mr. Robert Coppinger to Miss Lizzie Myers and Mr. John Thompson to Miss Lizzie Scott. We wish them all happiness.

Irving College, July 24. N.

From Bone Cave.

To the Standard.

Times are flourishing. Plenty rains to make corn, which is looking well.

I attended the closing exercises of Burritt College recently, which was a success. A large crowd attended, the largest I ever saw in Spencer.

G. B. Johnson, of this county, will commence making brick in a few days for the new factory at Caney Fork Falls. He has a contract to make 400,000. J. J. S.

From Short Mountain.

To the Standard.

Everything quiet in this section, Wheat threshed, grass mowed, and all farm work about done.

The people are making preparations to build a two-story brick college here. This is a good location for a school, and the one here has proved a success. The patronage demands a better building than they now have. ROSCOE.

From Viola.

To the Standard.

Corn crops are looking well. Wheat was somewhat short, but enough was made to make bread another year.

Trade with our merchants has been improving for a few weeks. Geo. F. Chidsey is shipping apples South.

T. E. McCulloch showed us three potatoes weighing 3 pounds 11 ounces. Mr. Hubble had better look out.

The teachers Institute met here last Saturday and was a success.

The largest crowd seen in Viola since the war will assemble on August 9th to witness the laying of the cornerstone of Viola Normal College. The Masonic order will conduct the exercises. A grand pic-nic will be given for all. The editor is invited to come out and get a good dinner. Some of the best speakers of the State are invited and have promised to come.

Prof. Z. D. Jones has a school of 80 pupils. He has the largest school in the country, and the country has the largest teacher. VETER.

[We will be there.—ED.]

From Dibrell.

To the Standard.

We are happy to announce to your many readers the marriage of our worthy teacher and fellow countryman, L. P. Evans, which took place at the bride's father at half past 9 o'clock Wednesday morning the 18th. The nuptials were performed by the writer in the presence of the family, a few near relatives and friends. The occasion was a quiet one and indeed very enjoyable. Soon after the performance of the marriage ceremony the parties all repaired to Mr. James Evans, the father of the bridegroom, where they enjoyed a very sumptuous dinner, which we enjoyed very much. I don't think that I ever saw a couple more equally matched in life. May all the blessings that is in common to this life attend them, and may the union of hearts that has begun never be separated, but may they be cemented together in love. May they glide down the pathway of life smoothly, with not so much as a wave of trouble to cross them. Professor will soon open a school at Halcomb. It is to be hoped that he will receive a hearty support by a generous public. Should such be the case success will certainly crown the effort. P. G. P.

From Monteagle.

To the Standard:

After a weeks' sojourn at Monteagle, and after attending closely the exercises for that time, I am prepared to say that its present is a success beyond expectation, and its future will be what the people make it. It is true the grounds are not in perfect order. Had sufficient means been at hand, the short time since the initial effort, would forbid such a result. Neither are the facilities for entertainments unobjectionable, nor the regulations of this department; nor yet would I claim the manipulations of the working forces to be free from mistakes, but considering the work which has been done, the exercises which have been enjoyed, and that the enterprise is just in its infancy, Monteagle is a decided success.

If the proper care is taken in the future to avoid mistakes in the regulation of every department, there is no reason why the enterprise should be a failure. It will be a blessing to the country—not as a summer resort for invalids, nor those who are seeking wild and unrestrained recreation, but for those who are willing and ready to work for their country's good. Here the clergy, the Sunday-school worker, the laymen of the different denominations, together with the every-day educator, meet on the broad platform of christian liberality, interchange thoughts, advance ideas concerning educational and religious work, untramelled save by a genuine christian spirit. As iron sharpeneth iron, so the interchange of thought.

The Sunday-school assembly proper was opened the 17th.

The temperance question occupied two days. I believe eleven different States were represented on this subject. The question was ably and liberally discussed by men who had prepared for the occasion—discussed, too, both from moral and legal standpoints. An interesting lecture on Astronomy, one on every-day schools; also one on old and new fashions in Sunday-school work, and one on the Temples of Italy, contributed largely to the interest of the occasion.

The normal departments compose an interesting feature to those interested in education. Teacher meets teacher, under the instruction of teachers of larger experience, and together work with and for each other, and thus for the good of the country. What I have said concerning this institution has been said without local prejudice, for as I am located in the far west, I can have none in favor of Monteagle; besides we have on the Pacific Coast a similar institution with which I am locally allied. I advocate it because such an institution will contribute to that largeness of soul and liberal qualification which should characterize every one who has felt an emotion of philanthropy.

S. S. PATTERSON.

Improvement of Grain by Selection.

The principle of selection has long been appreciated by stock breeders, and they have largely profited by the application of its teachings. As applied to the growth of cereals it has not found a very wide acceptance, not having time to force itself on the attention of the average farmer. The founder of the practice of selecting grain for seed is Major Hallet, F. L. S., Brighton, England. In 1861 he planted ten grains of wheat, from a variety known there as Bellevue Talavera wheat, which, up to that time, had been sown as a spring wheat, and was declared to be quite incapable of withstanding the frosts of winter. Nine of the ten plants from these grains were killed by the severe frost, but the other plant, although from the same ear, remained as healthy and vigorous as any of the winter varieties of wheat by their side. From the surviving plant seed has been selected and grown year after year as a winter wheat. Close observation shows that in the cereals, as throughout nature, no two plants or grains are exactly alike in productive power, and hence that of any two or greater number of grains or plants, one is always superior to all the others, although the superiority can only be ascertained by actual field tests. It may consist in several particular characteristics, as power to withstand frost; prolificness; size and character of ear; size, form, quality and weight of grain; length and stiffness of straw; powers of tillering; rapidity of growth, and many others.—Popular Science Monthly.

A Starch Factory.

Correspondence of the American:

Some of the gentlemen of the Davidson Fruit Growers' Club on last Saturday were discussing the question of establishing a potato starch factory. The same day I happened to find among some old papers a letter on the subject which I give you below. It was written in reply to one of mine when connected with the New York Tribune in 1870, the information being desired by some old friends in Western North Carolina, who thought of erecting there a potato starch factory. It is dated Bangor, Me., May, 1870, written by W. S. Dickinson, who says: "The cost of a starch mill you speak of would depend much on whether you had a water-power or was obilged to buy an engine. The mill proper, to say nothing of dam or engine, capable of running 300 bushels every twenty-four hours, with dry kiln detached from main building, can be built in this section for from $5,000 to $5,500 all complete. A 15 horse-power engine has sufficient capacity to run one. If your friend was going to build a mill, and is unacquainted with the business, I would advise that he get an experienced millwright from this section, one who has built a good many and would make no mistake. We have such here."

I look upon this as one of the many little industries which the South can engage in. There are dozens of these little starch factories in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. There is not any special secret about the manufacture of ordinary potato starch, and immense quantities of it are used. There is skill required in the manufacture of fine grades of grain starch, and many of the processes are patented or kept secret.

Another small industry which should be introduced is the manufacture of straw paper. Hundreds of tons of straw are annually burned up or allowed to rot in Middle and East Tennessee. The apparatus is comparatively cheap and the manipulation not difficult.

Respectfully,

HENRY E. COLTON.

Wherever Coussen's Honey of Tar has been introduced, in hamlet, city, or country neighborhood, it has won its way to popular favor as a reliable remedy for Coughs, Colds, and diseases of the throat and lungs. It also affords relief when used for Croup, Hoarseness, Bronchitis, etc. Price 50 cts.