Rural Economu.

GRAIN FARMING IN EASTERN PENNSYL-VANIA. IV.

Raising Roots receives very little attention in the grain growing districts. Potatoes are raised for the table, and the yield is quite as generous as in the Eastern States, but we did not see any large fields of carrots, parsnips, beets, mangels, or turnips. Perhaps the climate is not so favorable, but we could not learn that experiments had been tried to test the matter. We think some of the roots would be found to succeed very well, and that they would be found to be a very profitable addition to the stores for the winter feeding of cattle. We suspect room will yet be found in the model barn of this region for a root cellar, and that carrots will become a part of the daily rations of

The Breeding of Horses is a common branch of business upon the grain farm, and generally pays well. They are not of any distinct breed, but are larger than those raised at the East. There is a great demand in the sea-board cities for a large horse, weighing from twelve to fifteen hundred pounds, for truck and heavy wagons, which Pennsylvania, more than any other State, supplies. Almost all the work upon the farm is done by horse-power, and this requires a large force, which, on the Eastern farm, is supplied by oxen. The young horses are kept until of suitable age for service, and then sold for from two to five hundred dol-lars each. Strength and size are qualities sought more than beauty and speed. The horses for exportation are a large item in the wealth of the State.

Farming by Proxy is much more common than at the East. The land-owner, instead of renting his farm for a stipulated price, or upon shares, hires a foreman or farmer to oversee and board the laborers. He is not a resident upon the farm, but visits it as often as suits his convenience, and gives to the foreman such directions as he chooses. The compensation of the foreman varies according to circumstances. We found one who received 360 dollars a year, house rent, fuel, and the use of two cows. He agreed to board laborers at three dollars a week, and the laborers worked for 16 dollars a a month (wet and dry) and board. Another on a somewhat larger tarm received 700 dollars a year with house rent, fuel, and other privileges. He boarded the laborers at a stipulated price, made all the purchases, and sold all the products of the farm and kept the accounts. Land-owners who pursue this course, are generally men of business in the neighboring villages or cities, who see the farm frequently, and keep close watch of the management. They have a farm account, and know the profit and loss of the business. We found one gentleman who farmed in this way, making from 7 to 8 per cent. on his capital, and he could show the figures. He spent money freely and got it

One of the great nuisances in the New England States and in the dairy regions generally, is the small size of the cultivated fields. One, two, and three acre lots are rare. In many cases the cost of fencing has been much greater than the cost of the land, and the keeping up of these fences is a large tax upon the farmer, and the principal labor of repairs comes in the spring, when he is most busy. The fences are always in the way of plowing and cultivation, and of no particular advantage in pasturage, the chief argument for them. We see no reason for any more divisions in the arable part of the farm than there are crops in the rotation. The permanent pasture and woodlands might come under a different rule. In the grain districts recently visited, we were struck with the large size of the fields, even on two and three hundred acre farms. Fields of twenty, thirty, and even fifty acres, are not uncommon. This feature adds beauty to the landscape, as well as facilitates the cultivation. We are coming more and more into the use of machines and horse-power in the cultivation and harvesting of our crops, and this only makes the fences a more intolerable nuisance. We want a clean sweep for the grain drills; the cultivators, the mowers and reapers, the tedders and rakes, that are ready to relieve aching human muscles. The kindest thing that could happen to the average dairy farm, would be to have three-fourths of its fences quietly sink out of sight. Fortunately, most of these farms need draining, and the stones are needed to help carry off the superfluous water.

THE DOG PLAGUE.

GEORGE SNYDER, Rhinebeck, N. Y., writes us bitter complaints against the "dog plague." He has had his flocks four times destroyed by worthless curs; he has received county; that it ought to be raised to three or five dollars per head; there are many the sheep," he must be paid for, as "he has ply moles rather than kill them." three times tested;" he tried to bring up this matter up in the State Agricultural Society meeting last winter, "but the time was all occupied in appointing men to go to England to find cures for the cattle plague, which has not made its appearance among us, while the dog plague has raged fifty

tural Societies and Wool-growers' Associa- very much afraid that he does not find any

published, in various States, of the enormous with a Palmer log. annual destruction of sheep by dogs. The They do not breathe through their mouths, value of the property sacrificed would have but by means of a great number of little more than furnished adequate sanitary supplies which run through them lengthwise, plies for all our armies during the rebellion. It would support the eleemosynary institufor the blind, the deaf and dumb, and the insane, in the extensive wool-growing States. It would form a magnificent pension fund for our disabled soldiers. In many counties it would not unfrequently nearly pay the poor rates.

young lawyers, sleek merchants, city fops dle lovingly together. The Hon. Mr. Shineyboots of the city of New York remembers his fifty sporting constituents with five fancy dogs apiece, and the two or three hundred | their eggs. roughs with a couple of fighting dogs apiece. Should he vote to protect a great national industry by cur-tailing the curs, the sports-men would taboo him as not a "good fellah," and the roughs "pitch into" him at the next ward meeting as a "moral reformer!" The Hon. Mr. Dirtyboots from the country, has, in like manner, his fast and dirty constituents to keep in with. And, unfortunately, some soldier and better men, who have an itching to hold still higher offices, are loath to damage their standing with Shineyboots and Dirtyboots, whose votes would count one each in a State nominating convention,—or, say, in the election of a United States Senator!

The farmers are a patient generation They vote for their principles (or their par ty) irrespective of private griefs. If half dozen of them, in almost any election district, would go personally to a candidate for a legislative nomination on their own side and ask him, "Will you if nominated and ng friends will combine to defeat you, they would find him limber in the knees and latter, there would be a considerable chance of his keeping them. Out side questions should rarely be permitted to affect important political issues; but where two candi dates in the nominating convention are equal y sound on these, may we not legitimately ly give preference to the one who is also sound on the outside question? We would understand that the water is as deep on one side of the bridge as the other—that in sato fancy men, and fast men and roughs.-Rurgl New Yorker.

DON'T KILL THE MOLES.

A correspondent of the Daylon Daily Journal communicates to that paper the fol lowing, which should be decisive on the question of mole-killing:
Some time since I had the honor of ad-

dressing you a note on the "Mole," which common, and ten acre lots and upward, are you had the kindness to publish in your journal, and which has been very extensivev copied. In many instances the article served as a text for persons who, perhaps, never saw a mole, to record their profound ignorance of natural history in the shape of

The "utility of moles," and the fact that wheat will not turn to "cheat," are two very much discussed subjects, which a few tho- be mathematically satisfied. rough experiments would settle for those who would doubt the facts of truths of natural history for the mole, and botany for the "cheat." I may, therefore, pro bono publico, ask you to publish the following:

UTILITY OF MOLES.

"An interesting experiment, which shows the service rendered to agriculturalists by moles, and the impolicity of destroying these little quadrupeds, has been made. In a commune of a canton of Zurich, in Switzerland, the municipal council were about to proceed to the election of a mole-catcher, when Mr. Webber, a distinguished naturalist, laid before the Board the following facts:

"Mr. Webber had carefully examined the stomachs of fifteen moles, caught in different localities, but failed to discover therein the slightest vestige of plants or roots; whereas they were filled by the remains of ascaris or earth-worms.

"Mr. Webber, not satisfied by this fact, shut up several moles in a box containing sods of earth, on which grass was growing, and a smaller case of grub and earth-worms. In nine days two moles devoured three hundred and ninety-three earth-worms, twentyfive catepillars, and a mouse, skin and bones, which had been inclosed while alive in the

"Mr. Webber next gave them raw meat, "little pay" for them; the dog tax is not cut it up in small pieces, mixed with vege"collected in many cases" in his (Duchess) tables; the moles ate the meat and left the plants. He next gave them nothing but or five dollars per head; there are many vegetables; in twenty-four hours two moles thousand acres in the country that would died of starvation. Another naturalist calbe worth twice as much for sheep as for culated that two moles destroy twenty thouplowing, were it not for this intolerable nui-sand white worms in a single year. Evisance; if a dog is shot when "seen among dently, farmors ought to endeavor to multi-

OREEPING THINGS.

A writer in the Moravian thus naively dis-

courses about insects; All insects have six legs, unless they have met with accidents such as you have often We think the last point pretty well taken. seen when you have caught a grasshopper The dog tax, is not properly enforced, or to see him "make molasses." After a few not enforced at all, in many counties. The struggles away he goes, leaving a quivering same laxity prevails in some other States leg in your fingers, and for the rest of his which pretend to have laws on the subject: short life he hobbles about like one of our Why should not this subject receive the poor crippled soldier laddies; for insects do carnest attention, of all our State Agricul- not grow new legs like lobsters, and I am kind Sanitary Commission to bind up his occurrence of the miracle, viz:

The most astounding statistics have been wounds and give him a fresh start in life

like the gas pipes under the streets, having openings here and there on the side of the | n log. (p-1) > 2 log. (m+2) body, where the fresh air is drawn in. These little openings are very curiously contrived, -in some cases being protected by tiny trap-doors upening on hinges, in others having a strong grating over them of coarse hairs. You will see from this that it is "Dog laws," forsooth, are laughed out of worse than useless to snap an offending in our legislatures They furnish excellent sect in two with a pair of sharp scissors; sport for the witty members-fast men, for as he does not use his mouth for breathing purposes, and as his brain is not confinand demagogues who seek votes from the ed to his head but runs all through his body, slums and dens where men, and dogs, and he will live for many hours in this mutilated fleas, and other insects unmentionable, cud- state. In fact, some insects never eat a mouthful after they are full grown; so that if you cut off their heads you only bother them, because they cannot see where to lay

Scientific.

A MATHEMATICAL REPUTATION OF HUME'S ARGUMENT AGAINST MIRACLES. DETROIT, August 8th, 1867.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN PRESBY-TERIAND were by of relact of Mind or and A.

REV. AND DEAR SIR :- I forward to you, for the columns of your valuable paper, an article that may interest a portion of your readers, and is worthy of preservation and presentation to the public, as well for the merited fame of its loyal and excellent author, as for its intrinsic worth. In conversing with Gen. Silas Casey—then a member of elected, vote for a reasonable law to abate the church I serve, and now transferred to the dog nuisance?-if not, we and our farm- the station at Omaha,-the subject of the claims of Scriptural testimony on our confistiff in his pledges; and, having made the dence occurring, he asked if I had ever seen Hume's objection refuted by mathematical evidence. Replying in the negative, soon after he transmitted the following, which allacquainted with the science of probabilities, and algebraic and logarithmic formulas, will readily understand and appreciate. The coat least like to have legislative trimmers incidence of the conclusion, with the selected number of the apostles, or the public official witnesses of the Saviour's resurrection, will crificing or neglecting an important and honest branch of industry, they will lose not fail to arrest the attention of the quite as much as they will in giving offence thoughtful, and afford a rebuke to the ignorance of many impudent skeptics.

GEO. DUFFIELD. Yours, &c.,

Gen. CASEY'S mathematical refutation of Hume's objection against the credibility of a miracle is as follows:

No argument against the truth of miracles exacted greater attention in its day, nor produced more attempts to refute it, than the celebrated aphorism of Hume, viz:

"No testimony is sufficient to establish a miracle, unless the testimony be of such a kind that its falsehood would be more miraculous than the fact which it endeavors to establish.

Following the method of BABBAGE, it can be shown that Hume's condition of proof can

I will premise that the examination of these conditions depends upon the science of probabilities, the results of which, as explained by La Place, Poisson, De Morgan and others. are universally admitted by the scientific world.

We will suppose the miracle of a man being raised from the dead, and the question will present itself in this form, viz:

Can a sufficient number of witnesses be produced, whose concurrent testimony (without collusion) will, by the principles of the science of probabilities, satisfy the condition of Hume?

I shall not attempt now to discuss the proofs by which the principles of this science are established; but will merely state that the mathematical probability or improbability of an event transpiring is expressed by a fraction, the sum of which fractions is always equal to unity.

Let the probability of an event be expressed by the traction $\frac{1}{p}$. Let *m* represent the number of persons who have died without any one having risen again. The improbability of the (m+1)th rising from the dead will be represented by $\frac{m+1}{m+2}$, and $\frac{1}{m+2}$ will represent (independent of testimony) the probability that the (m+1) person who died arose again.

Now, either the event did happen [the $(m+1)^m$ person who died, arose from the dead. and the witnesses agree in speaking the truth, the probability of their concurrence being represented by $(1 \longrightarrow \frac{1}{n})^n$ that of the hypothesis being 1 ; or, the event did not happen, and the witnesses agree in falsehood, the probability of their concurrence being expressed by $(\frac{1}{n})^n$ that of the hypothesis being $\frac{m+1}{m+2}$.

The probability of the witnesses speaking the truth, and of the event occurring is tuere-

$$\frac{(1-\frac{1}{p})^n\frac{1}{m+1}}{(1-\frac{1}{p})^n\frac{1}{m+1}+(\frac{1}{p})^n\frac{m+1}{m+2}} = \frac{(p^{-}1)^n}{(p-1)^n+m+1}$$
The probability of their falsehood is
$$\frac{(\frac{1}{p})^n\frac{m+1}{m+2}}{(1-\frac{1}{p})^n\frac{1}{m+2}+(\frac{1}{p})^n\frac{m+1}{m+2}} = \frac{m+1}{(p-1)^n+m+1}$$

According to Hume, the falsehood of the witnesses must be more improbable than the

m+1 $\overline{(p-1)^n + m+1} < \overline{m+2}$ $(m+1) (m+2) < (p-1)^n + m+1$ $(p-1)^n > (m+1)(m+2)-(m+1)$ $(p-1)^n > (m+1)^2$ $2 \log (m+1)$

In order to satisfy this logarithmic formula p must be greater than 2, that is, the witnesses must be more liable to tell the truth than a falsehood; for if p was equal to 2, the denominator of the fraction would become 2 zero, and consequently it would require an infinite number of witnesses to satisfy the condition.

Let us suppose that each witness state one falsehood for every ten truths. p=11. M=1,000,000,000,000. One trillion.

 $n > \frac{2 \text{ Log. } (10 + 1)}{\text{Log. } 10} > 24$

Log. (p-1)

or twenty-five witnesses are sufficient. If the witnesses state one falsehood for each one hundred truths, p=101.

 $n > \frac{2 \text{ Log. } (10+1)}{\text{Log. } 100} > 12$ or thirteen witnesses are sufficient.

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