

From the N. Y. Tribune. WHAT I KNOW OF FARMING.

BY HORACE GREELEY. XVIII. ALKALIS—SALT—ASHES—LIME

I do not know a rood of our country's surface so rich in all the materials which enter into the production of the Grains, Grasses, Fruits and Vegetables, which are the objects and rewards of cultivation, that it could not be improved by the application of fertilizers; if there be such, I heartily congratulate the owners, and advise them not to sell. Nor do I believe that there are many acres so fertile that they would not produce more Indian Corn, more Hemp, more Cotton, and more of whatever may be their appropriate staple, if judiciously fertilized. If there be farms or fields originally so good that manure would not increase their yield, I am confident that the first half-dozen crops will after plowing and harrowing this Spring, then apply another bushel to four square rods adjacent; then make similar applications of ashes to two and four square rods respectively, taking careful note of the boundaries of each patch, and leaving the rest of the field destitute of either application. I will not anticipate the result; more than one year may be required to evolve it; but I am confident that a few such experiments would supply data whereof I am in need; and there are doubtless others whose ignorance is nearly equal to mine.

Whoever has sold a thousand bushels of grain, or its equivalent in meat, from his farm, has thereby impoverished that farm, unless he has applied something that balances its loss. "I perceive that virtue has gone out of me," observed the Saviour, because the hem of his garment had been touched; and every field that had been cropped might make a similar report whenever its annual loss by abstraction has not been balanced by some kind of fertilizer. The farmer who grows the largest crops is the most merciless exhauster of the soil, unless he balances his annual drain (as good farmers rarely fail to do) by at least equal re-enforcements of the productive capacity of his fields.

The good farmer begins by inquiring, "Wherein was my soil originally deficient? and of what has it been exhausted by subsequent crops?" I judge that my gravelly hill-sides would reward the application of two hundred loads (or tons) of pure clay per acre, as I think the clay flats which border Lake Champlain would pay for a like application of sand or fine gravel where that material is found in convenient proximity; and yet I know very well that, on at least three-fourths of our country's area, such application would cost far more than it would be worth. Every farmer must act on his knowledge of his soil and its peculiar needs, and not blindly follow the direction of another. Yet I know few farmers that, were they wiser, I would not consider enhanced in value by a vigorous application of some alkaline substance—Lime, Salt, Ashes, or some one of the cheaper Nitrates. I should be very glad to apply one thousand bushels of good house-made, hard-wood Ashes to my twenty acres of arable upland, if I could buy them, delivered, at twenty-five cents per bushel; but they are not to be had. I don't that there are a hundred acres of warm, dry, gravelly or sandy soil east of the Alleghenies that would not simply reward a similar application. But Ashes in quantity are not to be had, since no good farmer sells them, and Coal is the chief fuel of cities and villages. The Marls of New Jersey I judge fully equal in average value to Ashes which have been nearly deprived of their potash, by leaching; but not quite half equal bushel for bushel, to unleached Ashes. I judge that average Marls in weight 10 cents per bushel where Ashes may be had for 25. But Marls is found in only few localities, and a material worth but 10 cents per bushel will not bear transportation beyond 40 miles by land or 200 by water. Salt is only found or made at a few points and is too dear for general use as a fertilizer. Where the refuse product of Salt works can be cheaply bought, good farmers will eagerly compete for it, if their lands at all resemble mine. I judge the ton of Rutish I ordered fifteen years ago from Syracuse, paying \$50 and transportation was the cheapest fertilizer I ever bought. It was so impregnated with Salt (from the boiling over of the salt-kettles into the ashes) as to be worthless for other than agricultural purposes; but I mixed it with a large pile of Muck that I had recently dug, and, six or eight months thereafter, applied the product to a very poor, gravelly hill-side which I had just broken up, and the immediate result was a noble crop of Corn. That hill-side has not yet forgotten the application.

If I should try to explain just how and why Lime is a fertilizer, I should probably fail; and I am well assured that liming has in some cases been overdone; yet I think most observers will concur in my statement that any region which has been limed year after year produces crops of noticeable excellence. I cite as examples Chester and Lancaster counties, Pennsylvania, with Stark and adjacent counties of Ohio. Possibly, results equally gratifying might be secured by applying some other substance; I only know that frequently limed lands are generally good lands, as their crops do testify. I heartily wish that the flat clay intervals of Western Vermont could have a fair trial of the virtues of liming. I should expect to see them thereby rendered fertile and arable; no longer changing speedily from the semblance of tar to that of brick, but

readily plowed and tilled, and yielding liberally of Grain as well as Grass. I am confident that most farms in our country will pay for liming to the extent of fifty bushels per acre where the cost of quick lime does not exceed ten cents per bushel; and most farmers, by taking hot from the kiln the refuse lime that is deemed unfit for building purposes, can obtain it cheaper than that.

I wish some farmer who gives constant personal attention to his work—as I can not—would make some careful tests of the practical value of alkalies. For instance: the abundance and tenacity of our common sorrel is supposed to indicate an acid condition of the soil; and all who have tried know that sorrel is hard to kill by cultivation. I suggest that whoever is troubled with it should cover two square rods with one bushel of quick-lime just after plowing and harrowing this Spring, then apply another bushel to four square rods adjacent; then make similar applications of ashes to two and four square rods respectively, taking careful note of the boundaries of each patch, and leaving the rest of the field destitute of either application. I will not anticipate the result; more than one year may be required to evolve it; but I am confident that a few such experiments would supply data whereof I am in need; and there are doubtless others whose ignorance is nearly equal to mine.

BOOKS AND STATIONERY OF ALL KINDS, AT LEWIS' BOOK STORE, HUNTINGDON, PA.

School Books and Stationery, Bibles, Hymn Books, Miscellaneous Books of all kinds, Blank Books, Sunday School Books, etc. Inks of all kinds, Notions, Perfumery, Pocket Books, Pocket Knives, Musical Instruments, Wall Paper, Window Shades and Fixtures, etc., etc., etc. [Small text continues with more details about the store's offerings.]

SPANISH HAR DRESSER. For removing dirt, grease, hair, etc. from the face and neck. It is a most valuable preparation, and is used by all the first-class beauticians in the world. [Small text continues with more details about the product.]

WILD FLOWERS FOR THE YOUTH. All those who are in favor of white teeth and a pleasant and perfumed breath, should at once use McCall's Wild Flowers for the Teeth. [Small text continues with more details about the product.]

THE TRIAL OF BOHNER AND BODENBURG. THE PRISONER MURDERERS. THE CONFESSION OF BODENBURG. THE EXECUTION. FOR SALE AT LEWIS' BOOK STORE.

OIL CLOTH WINDOW SHADES. GILT GOLD SHADES. MUSLIN SHADES. BAILEY'S FIXTURES. TAPE, CORD AND TASSALS. U. S. REVENUE STAMPS FOR SALE AT LEWIS' BOOK STORE. HUNTINGDON, PENNA.

OUR COLUMN FOR THE PEOPLE.

RED FRONT ENTERPRISE STORE. Sugars. All kinds, at very small profits. Not offered low to draw you on on other goods. Our prices to continue low, regularly.

Syrups. The best Silver and Golden Drips, genuine Loring and other Syrups, New Orleans and other Baking Molasses.

Teas. A variety of kinds of best always on hand cheap.

Coffees. Roasted and Green, cheap as the cheapest for the same quality.

Meat. Hams, Shoulders, Sides, Dried Beef, at living prices.

Cheese. The best N. Y. State Goshen and Ohio Cheeses.

Candies. The best stick and other candies, wholesale and retail.

Flour. The best Flour by the barrel, sack or pound. Cheaper for the same quality than elsewhere.

Feed. By the hundred or smaller quantity.

Stone-Ware. 4000 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 gallon crocks, jars, jugs, and churns, selling cheap.

GLASS & QUEENSWARE. A large stock of Ironstone and Common ware, in sets or by the piece—Glassware, Earthenware, Fruit Jars, etc., at Red Front, cheap.

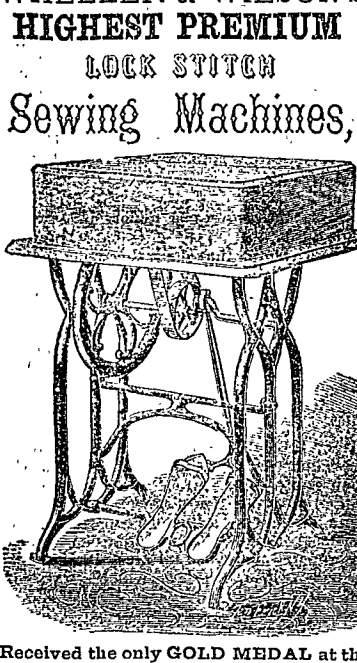
Wood and Willow-Ware. A large assortment of Baskets, Buckets, Churns, Tubs, etc., etc., at Red Front.

Fruit, &c. Dried Peaches and Apples, Raisins, Prunes, Currants, Elderberries, Canned Fruit and Vegetables, etc.

Salt. By the sack or bushel. Also Dairy Salt.

Spices, &c. All kinds of Spices, and a great variety of notions. Soups of all kinds and cheap.

WHEELER & WILSON'S HIGHEST PREMIUM LOCK STITCH Sewing Machines.

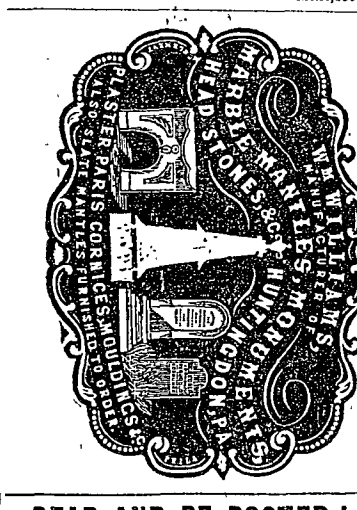


Received the only GOLD MEDAL at the PARIS EXPOSITION, 1867. They are adapted to all kinds of Family Sewing, and to the use of Seamstresses, Dressmakers, Tailors, Milliners, etc. [Small text continues with more details about the machine's features.]

SELF BASTING SEWING MACHINES. A Patent Self Baster has been attached to the collar of GROVER & BAKER SEWING MACHINES. [Small text continues with more details about the machine.]

BARCAINS. I have been requested by the owners of the following Sewing Machines to dispose of them at the lowest prices, as they wish to procure better machines in their stead. [Small text continues with more details about the machines.]

MONUMENTS. MARBLE YARD. J. M. GREEN & F. O. BEAVER. Having entered into partnership, inform the public that they are prepared to execute all styles of Plain and ornamental Marble Work. [Small text continues with more details about the business.]



READ AND BE POSTED! TO THE NEWLY MARRIED AND ALL IN WANT OF New Furniture, &c. THE undersigned would respectfully announce that he manufactures and keeps constantly on hand a large and elegant assortment of DINING AND BREAKFAST TABLES, WARD AND GIBBERLY STAIRS, Windsor and cane seat chairs, sofas, etc. [Small text continues with more details about the furniture.]

FURNITURE! J. M. WISE, Manufacturer and Dealer in FURNITURE, 1111 1/2 St. [Small text continues with more details about the business.]

BUSINESS MEN TAKE NOTICE! If you want your card neatly printed on card paper, call at LEWIS BOOK AND STATIONERY STORE, HUNTINGDON, PA.

WHARTON & MAGUIRE, HILL STREET, HUNTINGDON, PA., WHOLESALE & RETAIL DEALERS IN Foreign and Domestic HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &c.

The attention of MECHANICS, FARMERS, BUILDERS, and buyers generally, is invited to the fact that we are now offering a BETTER ASSORTMENT of HARDWARE, CUTLERY &c. An excellent assortment of TOOLS and MATERIALS used by CARPENTERS, BLACKSMITHS, GARDENERS and WAGON MAKERS. [Small text continues with more details about the hardware.]

Oil and Powder Cans. Fine Cutlery, KNIVES, FORKS, DESSERT TEA AND TABLE SPOONS, SCISSORS, RAZORS, &c. BRITANNIA SILVER PLATED WARE. Household, Horticultural and Farm Implements. [Small text continues with more details about the products.]

BLACKSMITHS. On hand and ready for sale ANVILS, BELLOWS, VICES, SLEDGES, HAMMERS, HORSE AND MOLE SHOES. [Small text continues with more details about the blacksmithing services.]

CARPENTERS. Will do in an establishment a superior stock of PLANES, AUGERS, HATCHETS, HAMMERS, FILES, CHISELS, HINGES, SCREWS, LOCKS, BOLTS, PULLEYS, SASH-LOCKS, &c. [Small text continues with more details about the carpentry services.]

Builders. Are especially invited to call and examine our stock of BUILDING HARDWARE and compare our prices with others.

Agricultural Implements, comprising the famous Russell Reaper, Mower, and Dropper, combined. [Small text continues with more details about the agricultural implements.]

OHIO PUMP. The celebrated triple roll mill which is used for grinding and getting full quantities of same, and saving yourself of other superior quality. [Small text continues with more details about the pump.]

SCALES. Scales of all sizes and descriptions, including Tea and Counter Scales, Platform Scales, Grocers' and Druggists' Scales, Rolling Mill, Wheelbarrow, Pork, Portable, Hopper, Miners and Transportation, Hay, Cattle and Coal Scales. [Small text continues with more details about the scales.]

READ AND BE POSTED! TO THE NEWLY MARRIED AND ALL IN WANT OF New Furniture, &c. [Small text continues with more details about the furniture.]

WHARTON & MAGUIRE, HUNTINGDON, PA.

Philadelphia Advertisements.

A WORD TO CONSUMPTIVES. Being a short and practical treatise on the nature, cause, and symptoms of Pulmonary Consumption, Pleurisy, and Aneurism; and their prevention, treatment, and cure. [Small text continues with more details about the medical advice.]

ROEM & BILLS, IMPORTERS and WHOLESALE DEALERS IN China, Glass & Queensware, 433 MARKET ST. NORTH SIDE, PHILADELPHIA, PA. [Small text continues with more details about the business.]

ISAAC K. STAUFFER, WATCHES and JEWELRY, No. 148 North 2nd Street, corner of Quincy, PHILADELPHIA. [Small text continues with more details about the business.]

POSTLETHWAITE CO., General Commission Merchants, No. 264 South Front Street, Philadelphia. [Small text continues with more details about the business.]

ARCH ST. CARPET WAREHOUSE, 622 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA. The Old Established Stand! [Small text continues with more details about the business.]

JOSEPH WALTON & CO., CABINET MAKERS, No. 413 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. [Small text continues with more details about the business.]

HUTTON & MCCONNELL, Furniture Warehouses, No. 609 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA. [Small text continues with more details about the business.]

BAUGH'S RAW BONE SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME. TRADE MARK. [Small text continues with more details about the product.]

J. E. CALDWELL & CO., JEWELERS, IMPORTERS, 902 CHESTNUT STREET. [Small text continues with more details about the business.]

PUMPS! PUMPS! PUMPS! BLATCHLEYS' Cucumber Wood Pumps! The Best and Cheapest Pumps made! [Small text continues with more details about the pumps.]

BLATCHLEYS' CUCUMBER WOOD PUMPS. [Small text continues with more details about the pumps.]

GET THE BEST READY ROOFING

THE READY ROOFING. Suitable for all Buildings, Dwellings, Barns, Churches, etc. [Small text continues with more details about the roofing service.]

GRANITE CEMENT. For repairing all kinds of leaky roofs, chimneys, sky lights, etc. [Small text continues with more details about the cement.]

ROOF PAINT. For coating Tin and all kinds of metal and composition roofs. [Small text continues with more details about the paint.]

UNITED STATES AUTHORIZED WAR CLAIM AGENCY, HUNTINGDON, PA. SOLDIERS' HEIRS, ATTENTION! [Small text continues with more details about the agency.]

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS. The act of Congress approved March 2, 1867, provides for the refunding of the 500 Commutation Dollars, where the same were paid for the time the soldier was held prisoner. [Small text continues with more details about the program.]

PENNSYLVANIA RAIL ROAD: TIME OF LEAVING OF TRAINS. SUMMER ARRANGEMENT. [Small text continues with more details about the train schedule.]

HUNTINGDON & BROAD TOP RAILROAD. SUMMER ARRANGEMENT. [Small text continues with more details about the train schedule.]

West Huntingdon Foundry. JAMES SIMPSON, MANUFACTURER. [Small text continues with more details about the foundry.]

HUNTINGDON FOUNDRY. [Small text continues with more details about the foundry.]

IRON and BRASS FOUNDERS. [Small text continues with more details about the foundry.]

W. M. LEWIS, Dealer in Books, Stationery, and Musical Instruments, of all kinds. [Small text continues with more details about the business.]