

The Huntingdon Journal. Farm and Household.

The happiest men who live by toil Are those who cultivate the soil.

How to Breed the Saddle Horse.

Upon the theory—and no truer one exists—that like produces like, we must first select a sound, well-formed good saddle stallion to breed from, for, next to a thoroughbred, a well-bred saddle stallion imparts his action to his colts with more certainty than any other kind of a horse; the mare should be at least half-bred, that is, she should be by a thoroughbred horse and out of a mare strongly-bred for her saddle qualities or vice versa. I lean strongly to the thoroughbred for all purposes, and your trotting horse men are beginning to find out that their best and gamest racers are those who partake most strongly of thoroughbred blood. In color, I would prefer a bay, or brown, or sorrel, 15 to 15½ hands, the size depending entirely upon the weight. He should have an intelligent countenance, carry a moderately high head, but not too high; good, strong, but not heavy shoulders, and sloping back well; his back should be short and strong, with round, hoop like ribs, that extend close up toward his hips, the latter should be broad and deep and strongly muscled in the quarter. Above all things, arid above a coarse, heavy-shouldered horse for saddle purposes. It matters not how well they may move in the morning, they will be stumbling before night; and as they grow older, this abominable and dangerous habit increases to such an extent that it is absolutely dangerous to ride one. In a draft horse a heavy shoulder may be desirable, and they may do for a trotter. I have even seen thoroughbreds that were successful racers with big, coarse shoulders; but I have never yet seen a No. 1 saddle horse with a coarse, heavy shoulder. If there is any coarseness, let it be in the hips. His legs should be clean, strong, and set well under him—don't choose a "leggy" horse for serviceable saddle purposes; his hoofs should be of medium size, rather large than otherwise and of black horn. I think the black horn tougher than the white. In general appearance, the saddle horse should look compactly built—light, smooth, sloping shoulders, deep-chested, round bodied and strong, muscular shoulders.

The Only Way.

Near the church of St. John de Lateran at Rome is the famous Scala Sancta, or Sacred Stair, said to have been brought from Jerusalem and to be the same steps down which our Saviour walked from Pilot's hall of judgment. These steps are twenty-five in number, made of solid marble, and covered with wood to keep them from being worn away by the knees of the climbing pilgrims who come from all parts of the world. Martin Luther, three centuries ago, found the light of the gospel on that same stair. Dressed as a monk, with his shaven head and bare knees, he was creeping up those marble steps, hoping thereby to calm his troubled conscience and work his way to heaven, when all at once the voice of God was heard crying in his soul, "The just shall live by faith." Obedient to the heavenly voice he saw his error of trying to earn his title to salvation by his own pains and works; and leaving the city in disgust, he went home to nail his "Theses" to the church door at Wittenberg, and to kindle the fire of the glorious Reformation.

An Asparagus Bed.

He who lives in the country and has no asparagus bed has at least one heavy sin of omission on his conscience for which he never can give an adequate excuse. If the man who does "not provide for his own house is worse than an infidel," he that will not "bother" with an asparagus bed is anything but orthodox, and yet cannot call himself a rationalist. Some are under the delusion that an asparagus bed is an absurd garden problem and an expensive luxury. Far from it. The plants of Conover's Colossal (the best variety) can be obtained of any seedman at slight cost. I have one large bed that yields almost a daily supply from the middle of April till late in June, and I shall make another bed next spring in this simple way: As early in April as the ground is dry enough—the sooner the better—I shall choose some warm, early, but deep soil, enrich it well, and then on one side of the plot open a furrow or trench eight inches deep. Down this furrow I shall scatter a heavy coat of compost, and then run a plough or pointed hoe through it again. By this process the earth and compost are mingled and the furrow rendered about six inches deep. Along its side, one foot apart, I will place one year-old plants, spreading out the roots, and taking care to keep the crown or top of the plant five inches below the surface when level; then fill the furrow over the plants, and when the young shoots are well up, fill the furrow without any more soil, and water two feet apart, and after planting as much space as I wish, the bed is made for the next fifty years. In my father's garden there was a good bed over fifty years old. The young shoots should not be cut for the first two years, and only sparingly the third year, on the same principle that we do not put young colts to work. The asparagus is a marine plant, and days of salt sufficient to kill the weeds will promote its well-being—E. P. Roe, in Harper's Magazine for April.

That Useful Tuber.

Under the above title the Agricultural Editor of the World gives a commendation of the main points in potato culture, which we copy for the benefit of those who propose trying for full crops this season: "The potato is acknowledged as best adapted to the requirements of the potato plant is a sandy loam, neither too wet nor yet too dry; heavy soils induce a watery insipidity of flavor and render dry mealy product of the tubers; a sandy soil, on the other hand, produces small potatoes, and those that are produced are generally a sure crop, though if there is but little lime present it should be added. Salt, saltpetre and gypsum are excellent fertilizers and have been known to produce on some soils a remarkable result. A dressing of salt and gypsum applied in the growing season acts not only as a fertilizer but is a preventive of the grub prevalent in richly manured lands. Bone dust also greatly benefits a potato soil. Fresh manure should not be used. The tubers are liable to affect the favor of the potatoes and induce a luxuriant growth of tops at the expense of the tubers, which in a severe season become an easy prey to blight. When necessary to apply manure, it is recommended that it be scattered broadcast and ploughed in. The relative merits of whole or cut potatoes for seed agents of the agricultural world each recurring season. Both systems find advocates among successful growers. This fact proves that it is a little consequence which mode is followed other things being equal. The general rule arising from conflicting experience and their respective results is: Select for seed none but the best and, when the tuber is cut, leave bulk enough to insure sufficient sustenance to the young plant. The distance apart of both hills and drills depends on the character of the land and the variety of potatoes planted; some sorts grow much larger tops than others. Thorough cultivation during the early season is imperative. The young tubers require a suitable bed to swell in and become irregular and fail to attain the desired size when they have to struggle with wind and ground. After the vines begin to bloom, when the potatoes are forming and near the surface, cultivation should cease beyond pulling out any weeds that may make appearance.

Around the Fireside. The Old Home.

O little house lost in the heart of linden, What would I not give to behold you once more! To inhale once again the sweet breath of your roses, And the starry clematis that climbed round your door— To see the neat windows thrown wide to the sunshine, The porch where we sat at the close of the day, Where the weary foot traveler was welcome to rest him, And the beggar was never sent empty away; The wainscoted walls, and the low raftered ceilings; To hear the loud tick of the clock on the stair; And to kiss the dear face bending over the Bible, That always was laid by my grandfather's chair! O bright little garden beside the plantation, Where the tall flowers de-lis their blue banners unfurled, And the lawn was alive with thrushes and black birds, I would were all I had known of the world! My sweet pink pea clusters! My rare honey-suckle! My prim polyanthus all of a row! In a garden of dreams I still pass and caress you, But your beautiful selves are forever laid low— For your walls, little house, long ago have been leveled, Alien feet your smooth borders, O garden, have trod; And those whom I loved are at rest from their labors, Reposing in peace on the bosom of God!

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