American Volunteer.

BY JOHN B. BRATTON. "OUR COUNTRY—MAY IT ALWAYS BE RIGHT—BUT RIGHT OR WRONG, OUR COUNTRY." AT $2 00 PER ANNUM.

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ADDRES OF.
Hon. Morris Longstreth,
BEFORE THE JEFFERSONVILLE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Jeffersonville Agricultural Association of Montgomery county, at Jeffersoville, on the 11th day of January, 1847, on motion of Mr. Wm. Hamill, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this society be extended to Judge Longstreth for his excellent and spirited address before this society; and that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication.

ADDRESS.

In rising to address the "*Jeffersonville Agricultural Association*," of Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, you will allow me to express my hearty congratulations, that you have at length followed the example of the intelligent men of other States and countries, by making an united effort in the great cause of agricultural improvement.

"In union there is strength;" and this axiom is especially applicable to Tillers of the Soil, who from the nature of their employment, must habitually live and labor, in a measure isolated—and therefore eminently feel the necessity of stated meetings, to discuss the things appertaining to this greatest of all interests.

In thus associating, you have not only consulted your true advantages, but you have also followed the instinct of the age, in concentrating the lights of many intellects on a given point: and for the benefit of others, it may be suggested that your deliberations in future should be recorded and transmitted for publication to some agricultural Journal. In this facility of preserving facts by printing, lies our great advantage over past generations, and the germ of improvement in all time to come; for no hand can write, no tongue can tell, what sublime discoveries in the science of Agricultural; may have perished with the myriads who have gone before us, from the period when the command went forth, "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." For in the midst of his toils, the Agriculturist may derive new vigor to his nerve, and new strength to his arm, from the reflection, that his occupation, blended with that of the Herdsman, has been especially appointed to man, as the condition of his existence by the fiat of his Creator.

Labor, moreover, has been blessed by Heaven: and the enjoyment of Paradise itself, without the occupation of the faculties bestowed upon him, was totally incompatible with happiness of man. This is proven by the fact, that when he was created, and placed in the Garden of Eden, he was not to eat the fruits of idleness, but he was enjoined "to dress it and keep it." It is therefore an ordinary error to imagine, that the necessity of labor involves also a onerous burden;—whereas, all whose fate is to have no occupation, are among the most miserable of mankind. Idleness on the one hand, and excessive labor on the other, constitutes the extremes; and which is the greater evil of the two, is a problem very difficult of solution. The happy medium is moderate labor, and an adequate reward; and this condition, which incidently includes sufficient leisure for the cultivation of the social relations, literary pursuits and political duties, is attained in this Commonwealth as perfectly as under any system of government with which we are acquainted, ancient or modern.

Labor, being of divine institution, and necessary to the well being of man, is therefore honorable; and as nations emerge from barbarism to the light of civilization, this truth is fully recognized. And while we accord to the manufacturer, the mechanic, and the miner, the award due to their useful pursuits it will not be forgotten, that to the tiller of the soil they owe the very staff of life, and his vocation lies at the root of human existence.

Pre eminently honorable, therefore, because pre eminently useful, is the life of the honest Farmer; and if he ever should be tempted to repine at his lot, and covet the luxuries of city life, let him beware of the thorn that lies concealed under the gaudy exterior of fashion: and the vices that lurk in the precints and purlieus of our cities. Of the vicissitudes of mercantile affairs, I can speak with the advantages of much personal experience in earlier life; and may safely say of my own knowledge, that of every ten individuals, who devote themselves to commerce on the credit system, not more than one is eventually successful. Let him remember on the other hand, that in the refined, but highly artificial state of society in our cities, our most eminent citizens propose to themselves, as the appropriate reward for editorial, legal and medical ability, artistic merit, and mercantile success, an evening of existence, devoted to the innocent, natural and pure enjoyment of life in the country.

Cato says, and we can have no higher pagan authority. "That the countryman has fewer bad thoughts, and as his property binds him to the State, not so much as a pledge, but by the stronger and better ties of feeling; so it is natural that a labor wholesome to the body, whose powers it keeps in exercise, and not performed in gloomy dwellings, but in the unrestricted life of nature, in the sunshine and in the storm, should preserve the mind in perfect soundness, and thereby cherish a sobriety and acuteness of observation, a calm and unbiassed judgment.

The free countrymen, who cultivates and reaps his own field, enjoys in the progress of the seasons, and in the nature of his employments, and every varying and liberal relaxation, without which it is almost impossible that soul and body can be maintained in unbroken soundness."

In the present enlightened state of the public mind, it is requisite that we cultivate the intellect, as well as the soil; to restore to our profession a shadow of its ancient dignity; when prophets, poets and statesmen gloried in an art, which has been trampled upon and despised, only in ages of ignorance and barbarism. There is in fact no better standard, by which to measure the intelligence of a people, than to observe the estimate which is placed on agricultural pursuits. Illustrations from classical literature, as well as sacred history, crowd upon us at this juncture. All the polished heathen nations of antiquity placed agriculture under the special superintendence of some favorite deity.

The Isis of the Egyptians, and the Ceres and Proserpine of the Greeks and Romans, presided over every production of the husbandman: and the beautiful allegory of the retirement of Proserpine to the shades of Pluto, for half the year, typified the dormant condition of nature in winter, and her return, its brilliant revival in spring. Abraham, David and Elisha, the latter of whom was found ploughing in his field, with a yoke of oxen, are sufficient examples of the practice of the Hebrews. Hesiod, the cotemporary of Homer, wrote in his praise, and Xenophon, one of the great names of antiquity, not only was a farmer, but the author of a beautiful account of rural life 2200 years ago. The Romans practised the art of tillage, with a zeal only secondary to their military pursuits, as the example of Cincinatus, and the writings of Cato, Columella and Virgil, sufficiently attest. There cannot be a better illustration of the honor attached by the Persians to the art of agriculture, than the account of the interview between the younger Cyrus and the Greek General Lysander, who being led by Cyrus through his grounds: "All these," said the Persian, "I have myself planned, and even planted many of the trees with my own hands," and when the Spartan General replied, by an incredulous glance at his splendid robes, and chains, and armlets of gold, he swore to him by Mithras as a good servant of Ormuzd, that he never tasted food till he had fatigued himself by labor.

Tradition has rescued from oblivion, and transmitted to us, the rudiments of almost all we yet know and practice, notwithstanding much that must have been lost. The remains of ancient sculpture and pictures, also help to enlighten us, and it is interesting to view the first rude attempts in forming the hoe, spade, reaping hook and plough. The plough, especially, exhibits every grade of improvement, from the wooden beam, with a hard knot for a coulter, down to the efficient and scientific implement manufactured in this village by your friend and neighbor, Seth I. Roberts.

The Tyro in agriculture may also be surprised and enlightened by the discovery, from the few agricultural works that have come down to us, that nearly all ordinary manures were well known to the ancients. This is sufficiently exemplified by a description of a Roman manure heap, that would do no discredit to our own times: "Almost every material capable of decomposition which modern science or experience has suggested, animal, vegetable, or mineral, was carried to the manure heap. Their manure yards were slightly hollowed and paved at the bottom." They were also favorable to ploughing under green crops; drill husbandry was in full operation, and threshing machines were invented more than two thousand years ago. Though we did not find any direct mention of plaster, yet the use of lime was common in various nations. Thus it will be seen, notwithstanding our astonishing strides in other branches of knowledge, which consist, however, chiefly in the combination and application of well known principles—yet, that in the science of agriculture we are still in our infancy.

We are indebted for much that has been handed down, to the monasteries of the middle ages; whose sacred character preserved them from the violence of the feudal barons, in whose libraries were sheltered the ancient books, and on whose lands were carried on almost all the agricultural operations that could be safely practised.

In one important branch of our profession we are indeed far inferior to the Egyptains and Assyrians, and that is "irrigation." It is true, in this region, favored by the late and early rains, we are not under the absolute necessity of following this system; though we know its benefits from the high value of our watered meadows. In Egypt there are yet rude attempts made, to follow in the ancient track, by pumping the water of the Nile into reservoirs and canals. But the system of artificial irrigation was perhaps best understood in Mesopotamia, the land first inhabited by man; a region famous for its early civilization and fertility. That country lying between the Tigris and Euphrates, and which must have been the granary for the stupendous cities of Babylon and Nineveh, is now almost a desert, and its teeming population replaced by tribes of wandering Arabs.—The happy situation of this region, and the circumstance of the bed of the Euphrates lying on a higher level than that of the Tigris, enabled the wise Chaldeans to open a perfect net-work of sluices and canals from the former river, which, after irrigating the country, were absorbed by the soil, or discharged into the Tigris.

Even the use of the artificial grasses, which is sometime claimed as a modern improvement, was familiar to the ancient farmers of Italy and the Provinces, as we are informed by Gibbon particularly the Lucerne, which derived its name and origin from Media. Other descriptions of Clover were no doubt introduced, with the alternate system of husbandry, which must have accompanied the seeding of the artificial grasses.

Thus we find ourselves foratalled, in the adoption of the artificial grasses and alternate husbandry; and there is reason to believe that we should rather regret our ignorance of the methods of tillage practised by the ancients, than deplore their ignorance of our improvements. Lucerne is yet not fairly domesticated, and there are individuals yet living who have witnessed the introduction of red clover into our system of rotation of crops. This great ameliorator, I was informed by the late James Vaux, was first imported and sown by him, on a farm in this vicinity, (now partly belonging to John Shearer, Esq.,) previous to the American Revolution. From here it rapidly spread throughout the State. Some years ago, I tried the experiment of importing white clover seed from Germany, in some parts of which country it is used instead of red. It added much to the beauties of the pastures, but the excess of it was found too difficult to dry, when making hay. Our country likewise claims to have been the first in which plaster was introduced to stimulate crops. The venerable Gen. Scheetz, now in the 84th year, remembers when he was yet a boy, that a vessel arrived at the wharf in Philadelphia, containing some lumps of plaster among the ballast. A German passenger, having hired with a farmer in Whitemarsh, informed him of its virtues, when applied to grass; whereupon a specimen was procured, reduced to powder, and spread with such benefit, as to insure for the future, a regular and constantly increasing demand.

Farmers have been accused of parsimony; and are perhaps prone to err on the side of extreme caution, not only in reference to novel modes of tillage, but especially do they demur to the adoption of new and untried breeds of animals. This is not surprising, for the farmer has no superfluous cash, to throw away on doubtful experiments. His money comes hard, and is held tight. To succeed in his business he must economise, moreover, experiments in farming are unlike experiments in chemistry or optics, whose results are instantaneous—they are the work of time, and long years may be consumed in doubtful, or disastrous researches. Though every good farmer must possess habits of accurate observation, his attention is nevertheless constantly distracted, by the various duties of the farm. He has seen speculations, that of the Morrus Multicaulus for instance, explode like the south sea bubble. The introduction of Merino Sheep, likewise, was an era of wild and ruinous speculation, which some of you remember. Both of these experiments will probably result in permanent benefit to the interests of the country; but accompanied as they were, by so much individual suffering, it is too much to require us to repeat the dose very often. We are now invited to introduce the Alpacca from South America, on account of its superior wool.—From its history, and an examination of a specimen now in the menagerie in Philadelphia, it would appear to unite the characteristics of the sheep and camel. It has been introduced into Europe, and through the medium of a company formed in Boston, we may ere long add it to our list of domestic animals.

It cannot be expected of individual farmers in this country, to perform a duty, which, if undertaken at all in foreign nations, is the work of Government.—An intelligent friend who travelled last summer through Spain, informs me that so attentive is that government to this object, that it has recently imported from Africa, large hoards of elephants and camels, to inhabit an extensive tract of waste land, on the banks of the Guadalquiver. To these have been added, with more doubtful expediency, a species of tigor, comparatively harmless, for the sake of its brilliant skin; so that our amateurs need only visit the the vicinity of Seville, to witness, as did my informant, the habits of some of these animals in a state of nature.

Closely connected with our subject, I may mention on the same undoubted authority, that throughout Andalusia there is now a general revival of Agriculture. The famous Vegas of Granada and Malaga are once more blooming gardens, as they were in the times of the Moors. The accumulated waters of the hills, are during the day dammed up in reservoirs; and under the superintendence of a public officer, they are distributed through thousands of sluices, to irrigate the fields at night. As natural consequence of the revival of Agriculture, Navigation, Commerce and Manufactures, are again flourishing. This gentleman himself wore a beautiful cloth manufactured at Barcelona. Spain has long been treated as a colony by England, for the production of wool, which England kindly undertook to manufacture, and return to her increased ten fold in value. The expulsion of Espartero, broke this dependence, and if she can succeed in reannexing Portugal, Gibraltar must follow. Then may the noble race, which produced a Gonsalvo de Cordova, and a Ponce de Leon, after ages of oppression and apathy, again commence a career of prosperity, which was extinguished in the avalanche of gold and silver, in the 16th century, from the new world.

The most eligible mode, in our country, for the introduction of whatever is beneficial, would be the formation of a company, in some central position, for the establishmbnt of Botanical and Zoological Gardens; which, located in the vicinity of a great city, would soon pay their own expenses. How animals as well as plants, might be gradually acclimated, and when proved by experience to be valuable, there would be no difficulty in getting them adopted by farmers. I am to be informed, that several liberal minded gentlemen of Philadelphia, have had such a plan in contemplation, to be carried into effect in the vicinity of that city.

The formation of extensive libraries, is not the only method of diffusing knowledge among men; and it is a subject of regret, that the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington, connected as it is with the Government, could not be made subservient to this vital interest.

But, after all gentlemen, it becomes us as intelligent men, whose prosperity depends upon our own efforts, to institue an inquiry as to the best method of obtaining the ways and means. We see ourselves beset with difficulties, but we do not labor like those without hope. Our greatest burden is excessive taxation. This is indeed the burden of the farmer's song, in all ages, and arises from the fact that land can always be found; while money and jewels can always be concealed. Our legislature, aware of the injustice done to the farmer, has made an effort to tax personals; we all know with what success. The interest of our public debt could readily be paid, if taxation was equalized in proportion to value and protection. But the operation is so the more severe upon us; inasmuch as our taxes are entailed upon us to support canals and railroads, whose principle business it is, to transport commodities, which come in competition with, and reduce the price of our own productions. If it be true as the Poet says—that

"Partial evil's universal good."

we must not complain. We do not dream of repudiation; but we demand of our brethren, for whose benefit we suffer, a just and honest equalization of the burden. So much for the present; and as a guarantee for the future, we propose an amendment to the constitution, requiring that the State shall contract no debt, without a special appropriation, for its speedy extinction.

On the other hand, it must be frankly admitted that our advantages do much predominate. We have one of the best markets in the world, which takes at a fair price, every description of our surplus produce. We have a soil which only requires good husbandry, to be highly productive. We have the means of procuring manure, which is the very life of the land, in abundance.

The duty on salt, an article so essential to the farmer—which was abolished in England 1823, and which we have patiently borne for more than half a century, has recently been reduced. We have plaster at a price which is always reasonable. Above all, we have lime at our doors, cheaper than it can be produced elsewhere. This is an immense advantage of which we have not failed to profit. The high and increasing value placed upon lime, may be estimated, from a passage in a late work on calcarious manures, by an eloquent French author, M. Puvis:

"The Supreme Being," says he, "appears to have placed lime everywhere, at the disposal of the industry of man. He has left him to labor in its employment and sometimes in its preparation; but this is not an unrequitted labor; for the established laws of vegetation almost always recompense him, by excellent results."

You are however practical farmers, and each one of you has, I doubt not, his own peculiar views, about manuring the soil, ploughing the land, seeding wheat, and planting corn. Many a time and oft have you discussed the origin of mildew, smut and cheat.—Amidst such diversity of opinion among farmers, you have perhaps never known a miller, who would admit the dogma, that wheat could turn to cheat. In this the millers are supported by the Botanists; who assert that like produces like, all the world over. If however, wheat will not produce cheat, it will be admitted, that the seed of cheat, like that of some other grasses, must lie dormant for generations; until ploughing or other change of circumstances, produces vegitation. It would be a poor return for your kindness in inviting me this day to address you, were I to take advantage of my position, which by courtesy admits of no reply, to force upon you my crude ideas on these disputes "never ending, still beginning." I have rather endeavored to call your attention to efforts made in your noble calling in by-gone days.

In taking a short review of our principal crops, it will be necessary to refer to my own opinions and practice. I shall do so with due deference to the more matured experience of others; for of all subjects it least becomes a man, to dogmatize on Agriculture. So various are the qualities of land; and the proportions of vegetable and mineral ingredients of soils, even in the same vicinity, that opposite results often occur in contiguous positions. Experience is, therefore, the safest teacher, and will remain to be so, even when our country shall be filled with, Agricultural Societies; and farmers shall carry a portion of their soils to the laboratory of the chemist, to ascertain the kind and quality of manure or stimulus, required for any given crop.

Indian Corn is usually our first crop, after it is considered necessary to plough the sod; and consequently commences our system of rotation. According to the able report of the Commissioner of Patents for 1845, whose statistics I shall hereafter quote, the yield of Pennsylvania, that year was 17,126,000 bushels.

The relaxation of the British Corn Laws and the failure of the potato crop, have made Indian corn an article of immense commercial importance. Though long cultivated in the south of Europe, yet every effort of enlightened and scientific men to introduce it into general use, had failed. Joel Barlow's poem in praise of hasty pudding, or mush, as we call it, and William Cobbett's extraordinary efforts, proved alike unavailing, until the anathema of the latter upon the potatoe, seemed realized by the universal blight.

It is probable that some inferior descriptions of corn were indigenous in both Asia and Africa—though on this disputed point much ink has been shed, without settling the question. It is however certain, from the testimony of the early navigators, that Indian corn was in universal use among the native tribes of this continent from Canada to Panagonia. Botanists have likewise discovered it in a state of nature, especially Humboldt and Bonpland. By the kindness of Peter A. Browne, Esq., of Philadelphia, who has written an interesting essay on Indian corn, I am enabled to exhibit to you an ear of native corn, each grain of which is covered with a husk or glume. There is evidence that this corn was found at the base of the Rocky Mountains; and it is certain that it grows wild in South America. Upon being cultivated, it loses the husk on the grain, and assumes the appearance of several varieties. To the same gentleman am I indebted for the rare specimen of fossil corn from the neighborhood of Wheeling.

The large sample of gourd seed corn is a specimen of the yield of Oregon; this ear having however been produced from seed, introduced from that country last season. After having tried many varieties, as the Baden, Jackson, White, Gourd seed and Dutton corn, I am convinced the old Pennsylvania 8 rowed yellow, the King Philip corn of New England, is in this latitude safest and most productive. Safest because its hardy habits and early maturity secure it from frost; and most productive from the extraordinary number of ears to the stalk. I have for many years, selected seed from the most fruitful stalks, which sometimes produce 4 perfect ears. Manured in the hill, its yield is, according to the season, from 60 to 70 bushels shelled corn to the acre; not guessed at but measured. When to the advantages is added 10 per cent. additional price, which is usually realized upon this variety of flint corn, and the preference given to it by millers who grind corn and cob together, have we not made a strong case? The cob has been estimated to contain more nourishment than bran; and distillation proves it to produce both oil and spirits. I have fed largely in this way for several years by substituting the cob in place of oats, usually chopped with the corn, which is too concentrated and heating, without some admixture. It must be borne in mind that the capacious stomach of the ox or cow, requires distension as well as strong nourishment. For milch cows, we always add one half of wheat bran to the mess—and to all kinds of feed, a proportion of at least one-eighth of cake meal.

The only author that I know of, who has vilified Indian corn, is the famous Charles Dickens, in his "Notes on America," who declares that our corn bread lay like molten lead upon his stomach, which is the best apology he has yet made for the atrabilarious character of his book.

The oat crop, which usually succeeds that of corn, has important claims upon the good opinion of the farmer. Its yield in Pennsylvania, in 1845, was estimated at 19,826,000 bushels, being greater than that of any other grain.

Though not used in this country, as in North Britain, for the food of man—and in our climate degenerating in weight and value; yet as food for horses on a journey, it is unsurpassed. It does not possess the nutritive properties of corn, but it is exempt from its heating and feverish tendencies. It succeeds well on land rather cold and wet, and perhaps the best oats produced in Pennsylvania, grow upon the table land of the Allegheny mountains. It is indeed from these more inclement and cool regions that we are forced to procure a renewal of our seed. There are several varieties cultivated; called by various local names, as Barley oats, Black oats, and the Tartarian or one-sided oats. This crop has the valuable property by its rapid advance, of overshadowing and discouraging the growth of weeds; and consequently leaves the ground in an admirably clean condition, for the wheat and grass crops which follow it.

WHEAT, the most important of the cerbal grasses, is, and always has been the great object of the farmer. In all countries capable of producing it, the best lands are devoted to its cultivation. So long has it been under the dominion of man, that it is supposed all traces of wheat in its wild or native state have been lost. Mr. Buckingham, however, in his travels in Mesopotamia, near Orfah, the "Ur of the Chaldees," found the plains covered with a plant, which, on comparing it with wheat, he considered to be that grain in its native state.

In very early periods, wheat was a luxury, the use of which was confined to the wealthy. The ancient kings of Persia, who drew from each province of their vast empire, the production for which it was most distinguished, selected Syria, as their granary for wheat; and the most beautiful specimen I have ever met with, was brought from the vicinity of Jerusalem. Thirteen grains were sent to me, and every effort was made to propagate seed from them. Several germinated, throwing up stems and developing heads of extraordinary size. But it was struck by mildew, and after the second season ceased to reproduce. The result of this, and other experiments of the kind, are less to be regretted, as there is reason to believe that any variety of wheat will soon adapt itself to the soil and climate, in which it may be introduced.

You must have observed what a change has come over the Mediterranean wheat so generally adopted by us a few years ago. It has lost its exemption from the fly and mildew, and it is with difficulty a pure sample can any longer be obtained, it being apparently absorbed into our old red chaff bearded wheat; which was doubtless introduced upon the first settlement of the country and found to be well adapted to the soil. Pennsylvania, though producing 12,560,000 bushels of wheat in 1845, was surpassed by Ohio and New York; and as Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa are entering into the arena, it may be wise in us to look to some other crops, in which we shall not be subjected to such dangerous competition.

Though we all know by sad experience, that a season seldom passes, during which this crop is not assailed by some of its legion of enemies, yet perhaps our average produce is nearly as much per acre as in England. The weight of the straw is estimated at about twice that of the grain; and early cutting is found to be both safest for the wheat and best for the straw. We never sow of late years less than two bushels per acre.

RYE, which is sometimes substituted for wheat in the system of rotation, appears to be a particular favorite, as Pennsylvania produced in 1845, 11,929,000 bushels, or nearly four times the amount of any other State. The quality of the grain is admirable in our more northern and hilly regions, but like oats, degenerates south of the 40th degree of latitude.—Rye straw may be considered the most valuable for the production of manure, and the various purposes of the farm.

BUCKWHEAT is extensively cultivated in those parts of our State most distinguished for oats and rye. A large annual exportation of Buckwheat meal, is made to the sea ports, both north and south of Philadelphia. The crop of 1845 produced 3,322,000 bushels.

BARLEY has almost been banished from the list of our staples, and the Philadelphia brewers are forced to depend chiefly upon New York for a supply.—The crop of 1845 was estimated at only 141,000 bushels.

In these statistics, we are suprised to find the very large amount of 1,600,000 lbs of Sugar, 535,000 lbs of Tobacco, and 41,370 lbs of Silk cocoons, credited to Pennsylvania.

The POTATO crop has been failing gradually for several years, and in 1845 was estimated at 5,497,000 bushels.

The potato had exhibited a gradual deterioration in constitutional stamina, long before it was overtaken by the fatal rot; which is now producing such disastrous effects in the old world. The importance of agriculture in the eyes of statesmen, has never been more strongly developed, than now, when kingdoms are convulsed, and empires may be overthrown, by the failure of a crop of potatoes.

It may be perhaps laid down as a principle, that any plant propagated only from roots, or layers, for a long period, that is capable of reproduction from the seed, will degenerate and finally fail. And the seed from these emasculated plants, will naturally partake of the weakness of the parent stem. We shall therefore, be under the necessity of renewing our seed from the Andes; or some other region where the potato can be found in a state of nature. In the mean time, as the blight has not visited us with any thing like the destructive effect, it has had in other countries; we may, by the choice of light and dry soils, succeed in raising a sufficiency for our domestic consumption; for without the potato, the dinner table would be a desert.

Though the laws of vegetation require a certain variation and succession in the cultivation of all crops, that are not natural to the soil, yet the skill of man can so modify, these laws, as to bend them to his necessities.

There is living in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, on the banks of the Lehigh, a very aged man, whose success in falling upon a system of rotation, by which he could obtain the greatest possible yield of wheat, on a given term of years, has caused it to be generally adopted in that region. It is called Sheimer's system, after the discoverer, Jacob Sheimer, whom I had the curiosity to visit at his most substantial homestead, some years ago; and from whom I obtained the following account:

When a young man with a large family of children growing up around him, and dependent on him for support, he plainly perceived that under the rude practice then existing, he would not be able to maintain them. He often thought over his difficulties, while following the plough, and at length determined upon his plan, which followed up without faltering, has conducted him in the decline of life, to ease and affluence.

When I saw him he had resigned the active duties of his farm to a son; who was following in his footsteps; after having himself practised his system of rotation for 35 years, with a constant improvement in the quality of his land; which indeed had the unmistakeable stamp of fertility upon it.

The farm contained 100 acres, which was divided as nearly as possible into eight fields of 12½ acres; each of which was carried through an eight year's rotation.

Commencing with a Fallow Field, he

1st. Manured and limed; ploughed three times, in May, June and August; harrowed and seeded 1 bushel and 3 pecks per acre, of wheat, which was ploughed under.
2nd. Clover seed sown on wheat in the spring, six quarts to the acre, which was pastured after harvest.
3. Plastered clover in the spring, one bushel per acre; cut in June, and ploughed under second crop, and and seeded again with wheat.
4th. Wheat—same as No. 2.
5th. Pastured early in the season, ploughed under second crop in August, and sowed wheat.
6th. Wheat again.
7th. Ploughed stubble, sowed rye; sowed clover seed in spring on rye.
8th. Ploughed under clover sod and planted corn; and next season recommended.

It will be observed that there were every year three fields in with wheat, one with rye, one with corn, two with clover, and one fallow. The produce had one season reached as high as 1400 bushels of wheat, 600 bushels of corn, and 300 bushels of rye.

It is only of late years, that science has discovered and applied the animal and vegetable refuse of the manufactories in Philadelphia to the use of the farmer. A commencement has now been fairly made; and the glue boilers, skin dressers, color manufacturers, wool combers, and sugar refiners, now contribute to the fertility of the soil what but recently was a public nuisance. Poudrette, Guano and bone dust are also considerably used. All these manures I have seen applied, with manifest, but various advantage. My own experience has been in favor of a compost of marsh mud, plaster, lime and stable manure.

Bone dust has not on our heavy, rich soils, produced any thing like the effects described in England,—and the consequence is, that bone gatherers are constantly travelling far into the interior, collecting bones, which are ground in Philadelphia and shipped to Liverpool. From this we may infer that the field of Waterloo is exhausted.

He who uses or consumes upon his own land the straw or hay of his fields, selling only a portion of his grain, his fat cattle and butter, may keep his land in an improving condition; and aided by lime and plaster, need look no further for manures. The process of returning to the soil, the culm or straw it has produced, is recuperative and reproductive, and is a wise provision of nature, to save land from a tendency of sterility. Whoever sells hay or straw, should replace every ton sold with an equal weight of manure. For actual experiment has proved, that each ton consumed, or littered in stables, produces more than its original weight in manure.

After all that has been said about composting, candor obliges me to confess, that long research, enquiry and some practice, incline me to the opinion, that the most economical method of applying manure, is direct from the stable to the soil. I have thus applied raw manure to corn ground and ploughed it under, and as a top dressing for grass sod at all seasons, except the depth of winter and in mid-summer, with results that were not only satisfactory but surprising. Shakespeare, from whom even farmers may gather instruction, says:—"Do not spread the compost on the weeds to make them ranker;" which proves the practice of top-dressing in his time.

If we could conveniently get our manure from the stable, spread upon the field, where it was wanted, and ploughed under, the field itself would be the great compost heap or laboratory, saving to the soil an immense amount of gaseous evaporation. This practice has been introduced into England on a large scale; and some of its advocates go so far as to attribute to it, a saving of one-half of the manure. The experiment is worth trying, because it could not result in any loss; but as the question is important, and our time too limited to go fully into it, I beg leave to refer you to an article on the subject in vol. 7, p. 585, of the "Quarterly Journal of Agriculture"—which can be obtained in the Philadelphia Library, and perhaps in that of Norristown.

In approaching the conclusion of this long, and I fear tedious discourse, I am also approaching a branch of our subject upon which it is probable I shall have the misfortune to differ from many for whose judgment I have great respect.

In advocating the careful preservation of old pastures, and even recommending a large increase of permanent natural grasses, it will be understood that I confine my views to a marketable distance from Philadelphia. This area is, however, constantly extending with the annual increase of that great city; and a consequently augmented consumption of the products of the dairy. The fine taste displayed in favor of ice cream, its recommendation by the physicians in many cases of illness, and above all the submission of the patient in swallowing it, indicate a tremendous increase in its consumption. To supply this demand many milk and butter farms are already appropriated; and the production of butter will necessarily be from a greater distance. When to this is added an acquaintance with the famous clotted cream of Devonshire, which requires only to be tasted to be perhaps more popular than ice cream, you will perceive the necessity of a vast addition to our pasture lands, of fine natural grass, for which this vicinity is so celebrated.

The abundance and sweetness of our pastures, and the peculiar variety of grasses of which they are composed, seem to indicate, that nature intended to afford us every aid, in the adoption of a system, which has the additional and indispensible merit, of being also the most profitable.

Many farmers may be deterred by the apprehension, that there is not a field on their plantations, that could be made to retain grass. They imagine it would run out. Let them try the experiment, at one-half the labor and expense bestowed upon land devoted to tillage, and in due season they may find their pastures the most profitable, and least expensive parts of the estate.

It is difficult to introduce new systems, and when in pursuance of a conviction that this was the true plan, I commenced top dressing all timothy sod, instead of ploughing it for corn, I was told that our land was not natural to grass and that top dressing would never answer. The result has been however so encouraging, in producing green grass, that at this time we plough but one field a year, and hope ere long to be able to sustain a cow on every two acres of sod, with a pasture in summer and hay in winter.

Isaac W. Roberts, Esq., of Lower Merion, well known as an eminent farmer, has a field in grass, which has not been ploughed for nearly a quarter of a century, and which he considers the most profitable on his place; and there are examples in England, of pastures being preserved for a century.

It must be a source of high gratification to the German population of Pennsylvania, that in the career of experimental and scientific agriculture, their fatherland is in advance of the other nations of the world. Ignorance and egotism have too long withheld from Germany, the homage due to the highest order of intellect; and a persevering industry, unparalleled by any other people; and in addressing an audience, many of whom claim that country for their fatherland, it may be pardonable to advert to her titles to respect:

In Agriculture; Liebig, Thaer, and Burger:
In Poetry; Goethe, Schiller and Klopstock:
In History and Antiquities; Niebuhr, Hurter, Heeren, and the brothers Schlegel:
And that model of travellers, Baron Humboldt:

With a host of authors, whose annual literary labors equal those of France and England combined, all vindicate her title to the respect and gratitude of mankind.

She also from remote periods of antiquity, by her conquests and emigration, scattered far and wide the seeds of liberty, and it is equally to Germany, that Franks, Goths, Lombards, and the Saxons of England, owe the spirit and substance of free institutions. And though Germany dwells at present in apparent apathy, yet we have reason to believe that the intelligence of that land is silently preparing for a bloodless revolution. The emigrants from no other country slide with more alacrity and ease, into their duties as citizens of this republic.

In military exploits, we need look no further for glory, than to a people, who in a remote age, extorted the praises of Cæsar, as they have in our own times, those of Napoleon.

But it is as Farmers, that we desire to speak of the German population of Pennsylvania; and surely no man who has travelled and observed, can doubt that in the particular line of farming, which seems most congenial to their habits, viz: the production of wheat they are surpassed by none. It may be remarked that they follow this up by their skill as millers, and persevering to the end, we find them established in our towns and cities, as bakers to the exclusion of all competition.

Among the many disparaging stories current with a class who measure all by their own puny standard, was one some years ago, which attributed to Pennsylvania a tendency to Agrarianism. An eminent jurist, of a neighboring State, who yet survives to do honor to his country, listened to these charges, and at length decided to become personally acquainted with a people from whom such evils were expected. I met him on his return from a tour through one of the richest agricultural district of the State, perfectly relieved from his apprehensions, and amused at his own credulity. "Sir," said he, "I fear no political danger from a population with such wives and children; with such barns, houses, lands, and with the habits of persevering industry, peculiar to your German population."

For the attention and kindness with which you have this day honored me, you will accept my hearty thanks. It is however but an additional instance of your readiness to welcome to hospitality and *freundschaft*, all who with honest views and fair intentions, desire to enlist themselves in the ranks of the Montgomery County Farmers.

CHARLES LANGFELD.—We paid a visit to this doomed man, in his cell, in the County Prison yesterday morning. He looks well. The bloom of health is on his cheek, and his keen eye bright as ever. He has a full flow of spirits, and buoys himself up with remarkable fortitude. He enters familiarly into conversation with those who are permitted to see him—is cheerful, and his conversation quite interesting. He was born on the boundary line of France, and says that he is not a German by birth, as has been stated in the papers at large throughout the country. His father had learned several trades, and his mother has been dead some years. In 1841, Langfeldt arrived in New Orleans, and since that time has resided at St. Louis, Mo., and Memphis, Tenn. At the latter place he had a grocery store, but finally resumed his trade of shoemaker, and taking up his line of march, first arrived in this city. He says that the money in his possession, for which he was charged with the crime of stealing, was purchased at an auction store in New Orleans, and which he had obtained from the purchaser by making him some boots. This velvet he gave into the possession of a tailor subsequently in Spruce St. Philadelphia, and had a vest cut of it. The tailor stole about five yards and a half of it and fled to Philadelphia, and not wishing to have a red coat, had it died, and then he took it to a tailor in Second street, from whom he had previously received a pair of pantaloons upon an order given him by Mr. Cassels, for work done at the time he lived in the same house subsequently occupied by Mr. Rademacher. He says that when he was tried he could not understand English. He says the witnesses on the late trial swore falsely, and complains very much that a German paper printed in this city has made so many false statements concerning him. It was stated by some of the papers that he was branded on the back of his neck as a galley slave, but the brand, cannot be found. This, he says, is one of the greatest lies told about him.—He says he believes in a Supreme Being, to whom all men are accountable, and that hereafter the good of earth will receive their reward, and the wicked their punishment. He does not appear the least daunted as to his fate—he says he is not afraid to die, but wishes to establish his innocence before his death. He passes most of his time in reading and writing. He may buoy himself up with the hope of a pardon from the Governor, but to us, it seems like hoping against hope. There appears to be no chance of escape for him. His days are now numbered to fifty-one.—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

GREAT CORN FIELD AND GREAT COUNTRY.—A traveller writes to the Toledo Blade, from the Wabash Valley: "I viewed the 1,000 acre field of corn (on Wea Prairie) of the Hon. H. L. Elsworth, late Commissioner of Patents, where this year 60,000 bushels will probably be raised without hoeing, simply ploughing the corn two or three times. I may say, too, that I saw 5,000 acres, all adjoining."

Corn is raised by contract, from 4 to 6 cents per bushel, taken in the field. Hogs are raised on clover, oats, and corn; and it is not unfrequent to find farms with 1,500 of these grunters. On the Grand Prairie, no less than 10,000 cattle, from one to four years old, were feeding in different herds, for the eastern market—one herdsman taking care of two to four hundred, for a compensation of ten cents per head per month.—*Detroit Free Press.*

THE HIGHEST AND BROADEST SOUTHERN GROUNDS.—A writer in the *Charleston News*, in an article urging the South to support Gen. Taylor, on strictly party ground, says:

"Not only a political, but a vital, social, and civil necessity urges us (the South) to support Gen. Taylor, and we have ample satisfaction of his soundness as to slavery."

Again—

"He has it from the best private authority, as coming from the lips of Gen. Taylor himself, that Gen. Taylor, in speaking freely of slavery, took the highest and broadest Southern ground, and said he would never give up his slaves; and we know he never surrenders."

The above is Taylorism in the South, where the Gen. lives and is known. Taylorism in the North is quite a different thing.

A Little More Grape.

Here's another gun from New England—a little more aid and comfort for our Federal friends in this section. It is a resolution adopted by the Federalists of Natick, Mass.; and exhibits that great, glorious, tremendous harmony of which their papers boast:

Resolved, That we, the Whigs of Natick, are not so far degraded as to give the lie to all our past professions, to acknowledge ourselves knaves, hypocrite, slaves and fools, for the sake of a whig victory; and we do therefore repudiate the nomination of Zachary Taylor, and will do our utmost to defeat his election.

☞ Lord Byron says: "There is no man however thick headed, or heartless, who would not smart under the knowledge that he was held up to ridicule, in even fifty copies of a newspaper; there is however, no