

Farmer's Department.

A View of American Agriculture.

By what processes the earth is impoverished.

There are three principal ways in which the natural fruitfulness of the earth may be seriously impaired.

1. By removing its natural products: as when a prairie is annually mown for a series of years, and all the hay removed, and no manure or other fertilizer returned.

2. Soils are impoverished by tillage without cropping, or removing any plant whatever. No fact in agriculture is more important than this: All tillage is purely an artificial and withal a most unnatural operation.

Although all tillage is a mechanical process, yet its effects are both chemical and physical on the soil. So far as the chemical results of tillage are concerned, they are quite independent of all crops and other plants.

Some over wise people have an idea that when a tree gets mossy, and bark-bored, the latter another term for the want of growth and weakness, consequent upon neglected cultivation—it is only necessary to slit the bark up and down the stem with a jack-knife, and it will at once spread out and grow.

FARMERS' CREED.—I believe in small farms and thorough cultivation. I believe that the soil loves to eat, as well as its owner, and ought, therefore, to be manured.

I believe in large crops, which leaves the land better than they found it, making both the farmer and the farm rich at once.

I believe in going to the bottom of things, and, therefore, in deep plowing, and enough of it, all the better if with a subsoil plow.

I believe that every farmer should own a good farm.

I believe that the best fertilizer of any soil is a spirit of industry, enterprise and intelligence. Without this, lime and gypsum, bones and green manure, marl and guano, will be of little use.

I believe in good fences, good barns, good farm houses, good stock, good orchards, and children enough to gather the fruit.

I believe in a clean kitchen, a neat wife in it, a spinning piano, a clean dairy and a clear conscience.

I believe in farmers that will improve their farms, that grow poorer every year, starving cattle, farmers' boys turned into clerks and merchants, and farmers' daughters unwilling to work; and in all farmers that are ashamed of their vocation, or who drink whiskey till all honest men are ashamed of them.

I will also add—I believe in supporting our County and State Agricultural Societies.

I believe in having a well-filled agricultural library.

I believe in supporting the agricultural papers of our State, paying for them, reading them, and circulating them among my neighbors.

Tillage and cropping exhaust land faster than it can be done in any other way short of carting off the surface soil in a mass.

Under certain circumstances, the loss by leaching and solar influences is very large. In producing small crops of corn, cotton, wheat, and other plants, the waste of raw material is greater in proportion to the harvest, than in large crops whose roots and foliage cover the surface both in and above the soil universally.

with peculiar and remarkable affinity. When well drained and thoroughly tilled, they yield up their nutritive constituents as fast as is profitable. When one has but a small surface to operate on, the application of clay to sandy soils is very useful. The deeper and more thoroughly one cultivates his land, removes all that it produces, and makes no adequate restitution, the faster will he impair the natural capabilities of his soil.

It is impossible to say, with any approximation to the truth, in the present infancy of agricultural science, how much of the inorganic food of plants may be safely removed from year to year in grass, milk, meat, or grain, in cotton or tobacco, from an acre of common fair land, without detriment.

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Further Information.—We have just published, with James V. Fox, Jr., Publisher of the Horticulturist, which enables us to furnish one copy of that elegant work and one copy of the Farm Journal for two Dollars and fifty cents, and two copies of the Horticulturist and two of the Farm Journal for four Dollars, and larger numbers at the later rates.

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Miscellaneous.

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