

THE DEMOCRAT.

MONTROSE, PA., JANUARY 8, 1852.

AGRICULTURAL.

Farming and the Professions.
Our city is fast filling up with young men, mostly from the country, and in many instances the sons of farmers, to enter upon the study of medicine. While we sincerely believe there are no better medical schools in the Union than those in this city, and that nowhere can a medical education be more perfectly or more cheaply obtained than at the Philadelphia colleges, yet we think these young men make a mistaken estimate of the true nobility of profession in abandoning the culture of the soil for the pursuit of any of the "learned professions." All honest toil is honorable and dignified just in proportion as it answers the necessities of man, and adds to human comfort and independence. The tiller of the soil, therefore, ranks first—he is the king of laborers, for the soil provides for the first and greatest necessities, food and raiment. The farmer, standing in his furrow, is more substantially a king than he who sits on a royal throne and depends for his daily bread on the tiller of the soil. The first is independent; he creates for himself. The latter is dependent for all he eats, drinks and wears. Next to the tiller of the soil in essential nobility, are the mechanic and artisan—the men whose brown hands build ships, and furnish the endless appliances of every-day life. Who does most to bless mankind?—the shoemaker, who keeps our feet from the damp and cold; the man who covers our head and fashions our garments, or who, without creating for us a single comfort, calls himself a king and is a tyrant—the consumer of the sweat and blood of nations? Does it need arguing to answer so simple a question? Surely not. We can see at once that he is most noble in his pursuit who most relieves the necessities and advances the comfort of mankind. What man on earth so impudent as the possessor of acres from which his own toil can draw a supply for every need? He is not forced to do homage to any human being, nor to depend upon any chances for a livelihood. The young man who leaves the farm field for the merchant's desk, or the lawyer's or doctor's office, thinking to dignify or enable his toil, makes a sad mistake. He passes by that step from independence to vassalage. He carves a natural for an artificial pursuit, and he must be the slave of the caprice of customers, and chicanery of trade, either to support himself or acquire a fortune. The more artificial a man's pursuit, the more debasing is it, morally and physically. To test it, contrast the merchant's clerk with the plough-boy. The former may have the most exterior polish, but the latter, under his rough outside, is a happier and nobler man. Would that young men might judge of the dignity of labor by its usefulness and manhood, rather than by the superficial. We never see a man's nobility in his kid gloves and toilet adorments but in the stately arm whose outlines, browned by the sun, betoken a hardy, honest toiler, within whose bosom the noblest heart may beat.—*Dollar Newspaper.*

Fattening Pork.

Court Smith writes the Tribune from London, with the following sensible suggestions on the subject of fattening Pork: "Permit me here to say, that after conversing with many provision dealers in London, in reference to American pork and beef, I learn there is one most important objection to its sale or consumption. That distinctly proceeds from the fact, that in extracting our pork, the fatty portions are extracted in an eminent degree from the pieces prepared for the table. In boiling our pork, bacon, and corned beef, the consumers complain of its great shrinkage, by reason of the fat separating from the mass, and falling at the top of the pot. This objection does not arise from pork and beef, the produce of the United Kingdom, and purchased from other countries. Now they tell me, that this difficulty may be overcome, as regards pork, if our people would, whilst fattening the hog, feed him, about one pint of field peas per day. This is said, will bind the fat to the lean, or make the whole more solid. Pork, the produce of some of the Eastern States, is quite firm when cooked, peas being more evenly mixed with it. If our great staple can be greatly advanced in value by such a remedy, it would be well, if our editors would call attention to the subject. No remedy was suggested to render our pork any better, except that the employment of 'salt' or 'salt petre,' was slightly objectionable."

Calves.

Young calves should never be confined in yards with yearlings, or cattle older than themselves. As they are inferior in strength, they are consequently often injured by the pushing and crowding of their more sturdy companions, and often seriously maimed or destroyed outright. If you have a flock of sheep, turn your calves among them. They will partake of their food with the sheep, without quarreling, and at night will be kept more comfortable than if tied up or put in a pen by themselves. In many districts to which cattle are subject, a ten of sheep breeding is the surest remedy that can be given. When running with sheep, the calves generally consume, with avidity, the straw and litter on which these animals repose, and, to a certain extent, become engorged with the peculiar virtues of the "specific," and are thereby prevented from falling sick. Those who have adopted this practice, speak of it in terms of the highest approbation. Convenience for watering, feeding, &c., should be arranged, and the animals provided with salt, as often as decency requires.

It will not do to let a great field for the crops, nor to more twenty acres for five loads of hay. Enrich the land; it will pay you for it. Better farm twenty acres well than fifty acres by halves.

Virginia was so fond of salt, that he seldom went without a boxful in his pocket, which he made use of from time to time, as one of the present day use to tobacco.

Teach your children to love everything that is beautiful, and you will teach them to be useful and good.

Raising Turnips.

Though out of season, I take occasion to furnish you with the result of some experiments on the very interesting subject of "Root Husbandry." I will commence with that much neglected branch, the raising of turnips; though in England, I suppose, the potato excepted, there is no root more cultivated, or any held in higher estimation for feeding stock. As I said, though out of season now for sowing, I have had such good results for three years, I thought it right, if any benefit may accrue to others, from my success, that the manner of planting should be known, and your widely calculated sheet will, I am sure, furnish me the means.

Mostly plant from two to three acres in early potatoes, in season for ripening by the 10th or 12th of seventh month (July), and after digging them, the ground, having been well manured in the spring, is in a good state for the fall crop. I take my 1000 ft. and break the earth to the depth of six or seven inches, and harrow well, pulverizing the soil thoroughly, and then with one horse and a small plough, I throw two furrows together, forming ridges about three feet apart, and those ridges are again gone over with a common hoe, and chopped down into hills, or holes about ten inches apart, and into them I put a tablespoonful of ashes and plaster, in proportion to two parts of the former to one of the latter, mixed thoroughly and applied by a large batter spoon, or ladle, as the composition will injure the hands. I then drop my seed, and take good care not to exceed two in a place, or the thinning, when they come up, will be troublesome. In adopting this mode of planting in hills, great care should be taken to have the seed of the same year's growth, or they will not come up well. They should not be covered over in their depth, even in a dry time, or they will not come up to any certainty. If they do well, they will appear above ground in five or six days, if not over dry, as was the case the past summer; in about two weeks they will want one good hoing and thinning, and after that, a good working, with the common hoe harrow, with the two side teeth taken out, leaving only three middle ones, and that is all the thinning they require; and I do not dig them until very late, as they will continue to grow until hard frost or snow.

I last year had them to weigh seven pounds, from the White-Dutch variety, and yielding four or five hundred bushels per acre. The great advantage in this plan is, that they require less thinning, less seed, and grow to an enormous size, covering the whole earth with their immense foliage, which is excellent forage for match cows. Woodstock, N. J., 1851. J. D. S.

Onions.

Onions were originally found in Egypt, and so highly were they esteemed in ancient times, that the chosen people of God, when on their way to the promised land, murmured at God's providence, and sighed for the leeks and onions of Egypt again. There are three varieties of onions cultivated—the red, white and yellow. The white is the mildest, but is not as easily kept through the season as the other two, being more inclined to rot. These are all made from seed. They may be planted in the fall, or in January, February or March. I prefer February to any other month for putting in the seed, but I have made fine bulbs by planting as late as April. There is no greater seed planted that is more sure of coming to perfection in this climate, than the onion, if it is properly planted. The soil must be highly enriched with well decomposed manure. It is well to soak the seed twenty-four hours before planting. Plant in drills, fourteen inches apart, in the drill. Cover the seed about half an inch, and press the earth solid upon them. If the seed come up well, thin out every one. The onion seed must be kept free from grass and seed, and frequently stirred with the hoe. A top dressing of ashes will be highly beneficial in the earlier stages of their growth. Salt is also an excellent manure for onions. The bulb will be fit for the table in July and August, and from their late maturity, can be kept throughout the winter. For an early crop of onions, plant the seed or the bottom. These may be put in the ground any time from October to March. Plant them in drills, and the seed, but put them two inches farther apart in the drill. Onion sets planted in January or February will make fine bulbs for the table in May or June. The bottom will make a great quantity of bulbs, but they are not as delicate or as solid as the seed sets. Buttons planted in the fall, in good ground, will make the buttons again. In planting the small onion set or bottom, do not cover them deep. Just cover the bulb; the finest bulbs are made above the ground.

Agriculture in France.

A letter writer for the Republic says—"A trip of six hundred and fifty miles, from the northern to the southern extremity of France, justifies me in the expression of my opinion that God's sun does not shed its rays on so fair a land, or one so thoroughly cultivated. The whole country is literally a garden. Every square foot, from the mountain down to the lowest ravine, is made to produce something; if it is susceptible of it. Their mode of planting, or sowing their crops, whether on plain or hill side, produces the finest effect on the appearance of the landscape; the space allotted for each crop is laid out in squares or parallelograms, with mathematical precision, and, whether large or small, a garden could not be divided with greater accuracy. As there are no fences and hedges, and as the different crops are in various stages of growth, you can imagine the variety of hues that meet the eye, and the magnificence of their panoramas that stretches out in every direction as far as the vision can penetrate. I am sorry to add, in this connection, that seven-eights of the agricultural labor is performed by females; while two or three hundred thousand men in uniform are idling away their time in the barracks of the cities and villages. In the absence of fences, cattle, secured by ropes, are driven about their pasture by females, and sheep are confined within the required limits by boys assisted by a shepherd dog. Speaking of cattle reminds me that notwithstanding fresh pork is abundant in market, both in England and France, I have not seen a live porker in either country. Most respects, F. R. B. Washington, D. C., 1851.

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