The Farmers Department.

The Cultivation of Wheat

BY CHARLES E. HEISTER.

When we look at the low average of the wheat crop in the old settled States, and the fast decreasing average in the new, (except in new land,) we must conclude that there is some mismanagement with regard to the crop—and if so, what is it? In the first place, I am convinced that our usual rotation by making wheat follow the oat crop, is wrong and exhausting.

In Europe, two white straw crops are rarely if ever taken in succession. Their average, with attention to the production and collection of manures and their proper application, is constantly increasing, and why should not ours do the same with equally good management? It may be denied by some that the wehat-growing properties of our lands are impaired. Of such I would merely ask, why they do not grow the finer kinds of white wheat as formerly? The answer I think would invariably be, because we cannot. And does not this most conclusively prove that our lands have deteriorated?

I alluded to the proper application of manure. I do not think that wheat is the crop to which barnyard or stable manure should be applied directly. It has a tendency to produce an over-luxurient growth of straw, to the injury of the grain; yet we all know that we can get neither straw nor grain, when wheat is taken after oats, unless we do manure, and that pretty heavily. This goes far to prove that the one should never be made to follow the other. I cannot conceive why this objectionable feature in our rotation should have worked itself into such very general favor, except its conveniences and apparent profitable occupation of the land between the corn and wheat crops. Instead of making oats a preparation for wheat, I would suggest sowing cloverseed with it, or dispensing with the oat crop entirly and taking barley in its place, also to be sown with cloverseed, (with this latter crop clover succeds remarkably well) and then plowing the clover sward for wheat the following year. If the land is in high condition, the first crop of clover might be made into hay or pastured, and the second growth plowed under for the wheat crop: but if the land is not fertile, and it is desired to increase its productiveness, I would advise turning under the growth of the whole season. This would leave the manure to be applied to the corn crop, where I believe it would be more beneficial than to the wheat, as applied under the usual system; or it might be used for top-dressing the grass lands. Clover is an excellent crop to proceed wheat. The heaviest crops of wheat I ever succeeded in raising, were sown on clover sward. In plowing under clover I prefer waiting until it has perfectly matured. Many prefer plowing when it is in full bloom, but this does not coincide with my experience. It is true that there is apparently a greater amount of vegetable matter upon the ground at the time of flowering, but it is too sappy, and disappears very soon after being turned under, in consequence of a too rapid fermentation taking place.

The objection may be raised to plowing down a crop of clover, that it is an expensive mode of manuring, but this I think is incorrect; for the expense should not be counted at a higher figure than the interest on the cost of land with the value of the cloverseed added; and it is impossible to manure as cheaply and at the same time as effectually in any other manner.

Thaer, in his work on the "Principles of Agriculture," after enumerating a number of crops suitable to be grown before wheat, concludes by saying, 'Lastly, the best way of obtaining good crops of wheat, is to sow the grain on broken up clover land;' and he further recommends that the clover should be plowed a month previous to sowing the wheat. This recommendation coincides with the practice of many of the farmers in England, who prefer sowing wheat on a stale furrow, under the impression that land which has become somewhat compact in consequence of having had time to settle, is more congenial to the growth of wheat, than that which has been recently plowed. It is also thought important not to have the ground to finely pulverized, as the grain is snpposed to stand the winter better when the land is somewhat cloddy on the surface. This is also the opinion of many of the most successful wheat-growers in the interior of this State, and it also coincides with my own experience.—The reason for prefering a cloddy suface is, that it does not so readily form a crust after showers, and the clods as they crumble to pieces during the winter and spring, supply fresh, mellow earth to the roots of the plants.

Another important point is the mode of sowing, whether it is better to drill or sow broadcast. Drilling has certainly become very popular, and not without some good reasons, among which the following seem to be most important. The wheat may all be drilled in a short time, at the proper season, the land having been previously prepared—and in case of rain interrupting the work, it is finished after harrowing, which must often be done if sown broadcast, when the land is too wet, or perhaps must be delayed until the grain has sprouted. The seed is also deposited an a regular depth by the drill, and is thought to stand the winter better than when sown broadcast and covered with the harrow. But the greatest advantage to be gained by drilling seems to be entirely overlooked by the farmers of this country. In England and Scotland drilling is only resorted to on account of the increased facility it affords for *hoeing* the crop, and not with any idea that it increases the yield unless it is hoed. A series of experiments made in Scotland, in the vicinity of Edinburgh, to test the relative advantages of drill and broabcast sowing, pretty conclusively established the fact that whenever the drilled wheat was hoed, the yield was greater than the broadcast, (not hoed.) But when the drilled was greater than the broadcast, (not hoed.) But when the drilled was not cultivated, the superiority was on the side of the broadcast, thus showing conclusively that the increased yield of the drilled wheat was attributable to the hoeing and not to its being drilled.

All things being equal, I incline to the opinion that broadcast generally succeeds better than drilled wheat. In drilling, the grain is closely deposited in narrow rows to allow the roots sufficiedt space to grow without interfering with each other; much of the grass seed is also washed into the drills by rains, so that we often have both grass and grain growing in narrow rows, much to the detriment of each other.

From the above remarks I do not wish to be understood as condemning the use of the drill, although I must acknowledge that I have lost much of the high appreciation I once had for it. My object has been to draw the attention of the Club more particularly to the subject. It is one of much importance, and can be solved only by a close observation anb actual experiment.

On the Square.

"Do you make calls on New Years?"

"Never," said my friend Tom. "I used to, but I am cured."

"How so?" said I, anxious to learn his experience.

"Why, you see," said Tom, feelingly, "as I was making calls, some years back, I fell in love with a beauiful girl—that she was. Well, sir, I courted her like a trump, and tho't I had her sure, when she eloped with a tailor—yes, sir-ee that lovely creature did."

"She showed bad taste," said I, compassionately.

"More than that," remarked tom, nervously, "Downright inhumanity" is the word. I could stand being jilted for a down-town broker, a captain with whiskers, or anything showy, that I could—but to be cut out, like a suit of clothes by the "ninth part" of a man—that was brutality. But I swore vengence—that I did.

"Vengence?" I nervously inquired.

"Yes, sir," said Tom, with earnestness and I took it. I patronized the robber of my happiness, and ordered a full suit of clothes, regardless of expense. He laid himself out on the job, I tell you;—they were stunning you may believe it."

"But your vengence," said I, prompting him.

"I stuck that tailor in the most vital point, that I did—I never paid that bill; no sir-ee, I didn't. But those infernal clothes were the cause of all my misfortunes, that they were."

"How so?" said I, with a smile of compassion.

"Wearing them, I captivated my present wife. She told me so, and I havn't had a happy day since. But I am bound to be square with that wretched tailor, in the long run. I've left him a legacy on condition he marries my widow."

PROMOTION.—General George H Thomas has been appointed Maj. Gen. in the regular army, in place of Fremont, resigned. General Schofield becomes Brigadier General, in place of Sheridan, promotad. General Howard takes Thomas' place as Brigadier General. General Terry becomes Brigadier General, in place of General Meade, promoted. Gen. John A Rawlins is appointed Brigadier General and and Ceief of Staff of the Lieutenant General commanding the Armies of the United States.

—Shenstone, the poet, once divided the readers of newspapers into the following general classes: The ill-natured man looks to the list of bankrupts; the tradesman to the price of bread; the stock jobber to the lie of the day; the old maid to the marriages; the prodigal son to deaths; the monopolist to the hopes of a wet harvest; the boarding-school misses to everything relating to runaway matches.

WOOL IN IOWA.—There is in the city of Des Moines and vicinity about 500,000 pounds of Wool, well handled, and in good condition for market. It was clipped, for the most part, from Spanish merinoes, imported from Michigan and Ohio. A large part of the clip remains in the hands of producers and their agents.

TAKING GROUND.—The Minnesota Democratic State Convention took ground in opposition to Protection, and took the British side of the Tariff question.

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[Extract from the Minutes.]
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Dec. 36 9, 18::tf.

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In conclusion, he begs leave to make the following remark: that he has a little the best articles in his line, that are to be found from the "centre to the circumference" of Pennsylvania, and indeed, he might safely add, the United States of North America, the British Possessions, or the Californias, including the mouth of the Colun bia river, all along the coast of Oregon, up as high as the parallel of "Phifty Phour Phorty." He HUMBLY solicits the custom of all the "*Dear People*" of Butler, or any way faring man who may chance to make his transit across the disc of Butler, or sojourn within her borders for "a season," feeling confident he will give satisfaction, both as regards price and quality. Come and examine for yourselves! Don't put it off!! Procrastination is the thief of time!!!

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Feb. 3, 1864::tf.

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Executor's Notice.

LETTERS of Administration on the estate of Frederick Pisor, late of Worth Tp., Butler county, dec'd have been duly granted to the undersigned, therefore, all persons knowing themselves indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate settlement, and those having claims against the same, will present them properly authenticated for settlement.

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Butler, April 5, 1865. Butler Pa

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Butler, May 31, 1865.

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Edited by T. S. Arthur an Virginia F. Townsend

The HOME MAGAZINE for 1865 will be enlarged and improved, and made still more worthy of the eminent favor with which it has been received. Its character as a HIGH-TONED PERIODICAL, claiming public favor on the ground of real merit, will be carefully maintained; while for variety of interest, usefulness, and all the attractions of literature and art essential to a true HOME MAGAZINE, the publishers will aim to make it SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHERS.

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Nov. 30, 1864.

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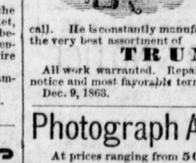

ARE prepared to insert artificial dentures on the latest improvement from one to an entire set on Vulcanite, Coralite, Gold, Silver Platina. Those desirous to avail themselves of the latest improvements in dentistry, should not fail to examine their new styles of Vulcanite and Coralite work. Filling, cleaning, extracting and adjusting the teeth done with the best materials and in the best manner. Particular attention paid to children's teeth. As mechanics, they defy competition; as operators they rank among the best. Charges moderate. Advice free of charge. Office—In Boyds Building Jefferson Street, Butler Pa.

Dec. 9, 1863.:tf.

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Corner of Main and Jefferson treets,
Butler, Pa.

March 16, 1864.

WALL PAPER,

AT

March, 22, 1865, HEINEMAN'

Public Sale of Real Estate.

ESTATE OF SAMUEL MCCANDLESS dec'd.

I will expose to public sale on the premises, on Friday the 14th day of July, an undivided interest in two hundred acres of land, situated in Centre tp., Butler Co. Bounded North by W. D. McCandless, East by Wm. Allison, South by Thomas Richards, and others and West by John Weitzel. The interest to be sold at public sale is about one hundred acres of the above described real estate, but the balance of the tract will be offered for sale at the same time and place. There is about one hundred and twenty acres cleared and in a good state of cultivation. Log house and large frame bank barn, one hundred bearing apple trees, a good vein of coal under the whole tract.

TERMS.—One third in hand, balance in two equal annual payments with interest from date of sale

JEMIMA MCCANDLESS,
Butler, June 21, 1865::3t. Administrator.

Administrator's Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given, that letters of Administration have been granted to the undersigned on the estate of James W. Cornelius, late of Worth township, dec'd. All persons therefore knowing themselves indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the same are requested to present them properly probated for settlement.

ROBERT F. GLENN,
Butler, June 28, 1865::6t. Administrator.

Administrator's Notice.

ESTATE OF JACOB WIMER DEC'D.

LETTERS of Administration, on the estate of Jacob J. Wimer, late of Muddycreek Tp., dec'd have this day been duly granted to the undersigned, therefore, all persons indebted to said estate are respectfully notified to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the same, will present them properly authenticated for settlement. W. W. ROBERTS Ad'm.

The New York Tribune.

NOTWITHSTANDING the enormously increased expenses attending the publication of THE TRIBUNE occasioned by the employment of numerous army correspondents and other liberal expenditures, as well as by the advance in the price of paper and other materials, we have resolved, for the present at least, not to increase the subscription prices of either Weekly or Semi-Weekly papers, but to continue to furnish them at $2 and $3, respectively, per annum—being the same prices which were established more than twenty years ago, when the cost was only about one-third of what it is at the present time. Our Terms will be found below, and we wish it to be distinctly understood that ☞ these Terms will be strictly and literally adhered to, and no other abatements or discounts than those mentioned will be allowed in any case whatever.

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☞ Persons at the trouble of procuring subscribers and remitting us $20 for ten copies of the Weekly, will be entitled to one copy gratis. For $40 for twenty copies, one copy of the Semi-Weekly gratis.

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Dec. 7, 1864.

The American Citizen,

IS published every Wednesday in the borough of Butler, by THOMAS ROBINSON & C. E. ANDERSON on Main street opposite to Jack's Hotel—office up stairs in the brick formerly occupied by Eli Yetter, as a store

TERMS:—$1 50 a year, if paid in advance, or within the first six months; or $2 if not paid until after the expiration of the first six months.

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