



The Farm and the Fireside.

The Pennsylvania State Fair.

Our State Agricultural Exhibition and Fair Show, which is to be held in Pittsburgh on the 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th days of September next, should not be lost sight of by the farmers, horticulturalists, mechanics, manufacturers and artisans of Pennsylvania. The time is already at hand when exhibitors should be making those preparations which they cannot in justice to themselves dispense with, prior to bringing before the public gaze those articles and animals which they wish to enter in competition with the many competitors on occasions of this kind. There is, however plenty of time yet left to enable every one who wishes to get up something for the fair. The premium list, which is very extensive, and which offers more and higher premiums than was offered by the Society last year will soon be ready for publication.

Premiums will be offered to competitors without the State, and encouragement given by handsome rewards for prize articles in all branches of industry, with the hope that they may be all represented.

I desire to say to the farmers and others of the western counties of the state, to not hesitate making preparations for competing at this exhibition because it is to be held in their midst. It is expected that those who are convenient will have the most to exhibit. Do not think that because it is a State exhibition that you, who have been in the habit of competing in county fairs, will be outdone, and that there is no chance for you to succeed. Let me assure you—it will be of no use for me to come as an exhibitor, and that the prizes will all be borne off by those who come from afar. Let me say to you that the citizens of Dauphin County, at the first exhibition, and the citizens of Lancaster county at the second, fell into the same error, and did not contribute as they could have done. After the fairs were over I heard farmers of those counties regret their want of confidence in what they had to exhibit—one said he could have taken such a premium, and another that he could have beaten such a production, and another that he could have beaten such an animal, if he had only known what was on exhibition before he left home.

Let no one for a moment suppose that he or she cannot be benefited by preparing something for the Fair, but conclude that it is the aggregate result of all, that gives life, and energy, and spirit to the honorable and valuable competition of an agricultural exhibition. There is no man in the community, who deserves the name of a farmer, and no woman who esteems the important place she holds in her husband's house, who does not, or may not possess something of which she may be justly proud; and even if they should be mistaken in this, they will at all events be entitled to the credit of having afforded a good example of thus testifying their approbation of an institution which they must be convinced is calculated to spread abroad information of the most valuable character, and introduce improvements of the highest value to us all.

The only way that a fair representation of the products of the farms of our country can be had is, for each farmer on an occasion of a State Fair like the present, to bring what he has got, and a part of everything, for there is no one so poor a farmer but what can excel in something. One of the best ways to promote agriculture, is the frequent meeting of the tillers of the soil—a frequent comparing of notes, and a social converse with one another upon the different modes of farming, and upon the results of certain experiments, as tried by each other in different soils—a bringing together of their yearly products in competition, and an exchange of seeds and breeds.

Should the opportunity of the coming exhibition be duly appreciated by the farmers, and others of our country, we may confidently expect to see together at that time, the largest concourse of people ever assembled in Pennsylvania. That the different branches of industry will be represented in almost endless variety, no one can doubt, and that our sister States will contribute largely and compete strongly with us for our prizes, we may confidently anticipate.

Every effort will be made by the Society to promote the interest of exhibitors, and to encourage a laudable competition in all the industrial pursuits.

The Society anticipates that this, their third annual exhibition, will be much larger than either the first or second, and situated as it will be, where all communication may be had to it from the East and the West that it will possess every attraction and advantage that contribute to the success of an Agricultural exhibition.

ROBERT C. WALKER.
Secretary, Penna. Agricultural Society,
Erie, May 6, 1853.

To Extract Sorrel.

The presence of sorrel indicates an acid soil. It is a sour plant and thrives only on such lands as are destitute of calcareous matter; consequently the application of lime in sufficient quantities to correct the acidity suggests itself as the most effectual method of getting rid of it, and rendering the soil fit for profitable cultivation in other and more desirable soils. Yet the quantity of sorrel on which this plant is naturally produced precludes the hope that it will ever be entirely eradicated and hence it becomes a part of farming, how in what manner it can be most successfully economized, and rendered valuable as a staple of animal sustenance or food.

There are indeed, a few vegetables, however mean or valuable they may be considered, which do not possess some quality capable of redeeming them from the harsh yet common charge of being utterly worthless, and of this we regard sorrel. As food for horses and sheep, it not only possesses considerable value if cleaned and mixed with meat, it will fatten them as readily perhaps, as English hay prepared in the same manner. Fed to these animals in its natural state, and without any accompaniment, it is found to retain their health and heart, and the seed, ground and made into mush, is said by those who have had experience in feeding it to be equal to Indian corn. Yet no farmer will ever cultivate sorrel as a farm product. It is exhausting itself in the extreme, and it is only when it obtuses itself on him spontaneously that he should endeavor to render it of any account.

The only effectual method of exterminating it is to sweep the soil by hand to increase the drainage to a degree that will pro-

mote the development of a more valuable herbage, and cleanse the soil thoroughly by a succession of manured crops, such as corn, potatoes or some other vegetable which is cultivated exclusively with the hoe. The seed of this sorrel is not abundant, but it is invested in an integument of horny involucres which possesses the power of preserving the vital power unimpaired for years, when placed by circumstances so deep in the soil, as to be beyond the influence of those vitalizing principles upon which germination is found mainly to depend.

This peculiarity of the seed explains why sorrel so often appears after long pastures and the disappearance of the plant from the surface of the soil where it has been previously grown.

A LADY OF FASHION.—A day or two ago, says the Philadelphia Sunday Mercury, while strolling along Chestnut street, we saw a lady so superbly dressed that the very sight of her suggested the thought of empty pockets. Just as we paused for a moment before the window of a picture store, this lady gay stopped also and entered into a conversation with some of her fashionable acquaintances, who were nearly as richly dressed as herself. At this instant—horrible to relate—two children with unkempt hair begrimed faces and apparel of the most miserable description, rushed up and flung their arms around the richly dressed lady, exclaiming, "Oh! I'm穷! Pap says come home right away and nuss the baby, while he goes after three cents worth of coal to bille the titter with!" Reader, perhaps you have seen people horrified and astonished—but you cannot imagine the anguish which was depicted in the lady's countenance. Well did poor Richard observe—"Sils, satins, scarlets, and velvets put out the kitchen fire."

THE DUTCHMAN'S SABRE.—A certain Dutch Justice of the Peace, having issued a summons returnable on the Sabbath day, the constable into whose hands it was put to be served, being a fellow of humor, returned the summons agreeable to date. The Justice expecting it to be of another nature, perused it, but finding what it was said in a great passion:

"What you brings, di-to-day vor?"
"Avy," replied the constable, "see whet er it is not returnable on this day; I should have ligged my ditz you would no doubt with great propriety report to the grand jury, and in all probability have me severely fined."

Upon this the justice with a loud voice proclaimed, "I adjourn dis court till next Wednesday, and called to his son, saying—"Laws, look of the Almanac, and see if da'll be de Sabbath's day."

We adduce these to those presents, do agree to pay to those constituted by any infringement on our appointment, and to this we set our respective names and seals in the presence of Carl Pierre, M. Dival, P. Hough, Dated in Switzerland this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

J. A. REED, DUPLEX, [LS.]
C. H. SCHMIDT, [LS.]
H. R. FRITZ, [LS.]

HENRY COOPER, [LS.]

W. H. JESSUP, [LS