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Agriculture Among the Romans. The Roman farmers, like ourselves, wore fond of putting on record any extraordinary crop. Pliny says that there
wire sent from Byxintium in Arica, to Augustus, nearly 400 stalks, all from one grian; and to Nero, $3+0$ stalks. The oltained would seem to bave possessed a remarkiable quality, for Hliny sass that when dry, the stoutest oxen camot plow it, but after rain, I have seen it opened
by at share, drawn by a wretched ass on by ashare, drawn by a wretched ass on
thic olle, side and an old woman on the other." A suil that "bakes" so hard as
this in dry weather could not have been phiswed very deep with such a team. In extriardinary though grod, according to Yiawo the yield of wheat was from 21 to Wh bushels per acre.
When Rome was at her greatest height,
in the time of the Cesars, the farmers in the time of the Chesurs, the farmers
ohitamed almost fabulous prices for some of the ir productions. Virron informs us thit with birds," such as thrushes, black
hirls, in, were sold at fifty cents each. anthl sometimess 5000 of them were sold
in :1 your from one farm-[ Farms were
 smurtimes produced as many, of these fine doves were co monly of the same price as a peacock, $\$ 7$. If very pretty,
they were much higher, no less than 850 . A. Anius, a homan knight, refused to sell a pair under \$64. The "chicken fe-
ver" it seems did not orlginate in this ge and country. Whether the Romans hand my Shaghais in "those dates that antil "eat corn of the top of a flour barwithout any exertion," we are not informed.
Wiud
adward, in his "Essiy towards at in 1695, says, those who have written er that combernatoric, reckon up no fewmillins, one thousand and sixty different sorts of earth." Modern science infurms us, indeed, that all agricultural
soils are compnsed of some foutteen elements, but these are so combined ns to furm an almost infinite variety of soils, of whose characteristics at the present
day, we can hardly claim to kuow anyday, we can hardly claim to know any-
thing. The Romans were equally ignothing. The homans were equally ignopuer fice fid stiff wet or dry. The best was gluttinous when wet, and friable when dry; exhaled ind agreeable smell when plowed, imbibed water rendily, retainings a sufficiency, and discharging What was superfluous; not injurious to the plow irons by causing a salt rust; the time of plowing; and when at rest peedily covered with a rich turf. A freedny covered with a rich
free soll was always preferred.
The best situation for lands, according to Columella and Palladius, is "not sj
much oin a level ns to make the water stagnate, nor so low as to be buried in the feet the violence of storms and heats. for in these a inediocrity is always best; but chanpaign land exposed; and whose declivity affords the rains a free passage; a valley not too much confined, and into mountain defended by a hicher top, and thereby secured from the winds that are most peraicious, or if high and rugged, at the same time ooyered with trees and grass. The situation of lands which Ca-
to reckons the best, are at the foot of a mountain with a southern exposure.
Iliny says that the best lands in Italy Pliny says that the best lands in Italy
are so situated. Planting trees to screen the land from
the high winds whaich frequently prevailed, and for frait, was recommended by nearly all the Roman writers. Cato
says: "A land owner should apply himself to the planting of hiss fields carly in befure he builds. He ought not to think about planting; but be ought to do it. When he is about thirty-six years of age, he may build provided his fields are
planted:" Pligy gives the same advice. "Men," he says, "should plant in their youth, and not build itill their fiolds are in a hurry, but take time to oonsider. It is best, according to the proverbj to prulit by the folly of others." Many


