EASTON GAZETTE.

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Agricultural.

For the Easton Gazette.

A paper read before the Agricultural Board by a member in reply to a part of the interrogatories heretofore published by the Board, which paper is now presented for publication.

The questions submitted to the members of the Agricultural Board for the Eastern Shore of Maryland in relation to manures, rotation of crops, modes of cultivation, breeding, treatment of stock &c. are highly important: to answer them fully would require a treatise, and much practical knowledge. My experience is so limited that I fear I shall incur the charge of presumption in attempting to answer them; and my first decision, after reading them, was to remain silent. Under the impression, however, that each member should contribute as much as he can to the stock of agricultural information, I have resolved to throw in my mite, not doubting its favorable reception.

1st Natural sources of Manures.—Salt Marsh, heads of Creeks, Bank shells, Pine leaves and swamp earth are all the natural sources of manure I have discovered on my farm. The River gives me now and then, a few loads of sea-ware. My shores do not le favorably for collecting that valuable material of which the quantity is yearly diminishing; but in marsh I have a good substitute—requiring, however much more labor to apply it. I cannot state the number of loads proper for an acre—we generally, in hauling out any of the above mentioned manures drop them on every fifth corn land, tilting when the heads of the oxen reach the load previously deposited. It is best first to give a dressing at this rate by shells, and then, as soon after as convenient, with marsh or swamp earth. I have never used Pine leaves until they have gone through the stables or farm yard, and do not believe they would be of much use.

2nd Means and method of making manures.—My principal reliance, for making manure, is on the farm yard, stables and hog-pen. I have two yards for cattle, one of them a treading yard. The other is well calculated for retaining the urine &c. of cattle which are penned on it all summer. I have it littered frequently with leaves and dressed over with rich earth, rotten straw, &c. My treading yard is occupied by them in the depth of winter Both yards have sheds which the cattle use at pleasure. With plenty of rough provender—corn shucks first, then straw and corn tops, cattle do well in this mode. I begin to pen about the first of December and continue, night and day, until April. My calves get milk three times a day, about half, night and morning, and at 12 o'clock all they can draw. I adopted this mode without precedent, and am well satisfied with it. In the winter I keep them separate from the grown cattle, giving them nearly the same fare, except in hard weather, when they get a small allowance of blades or hay—&, now & then corn, split by driving a spike into the ear. I consider it highly important to keep them well the first winter—after which they require no particular favour.

I stable my horses at night, summer and winter, and in winter, night and day—they do well on wheat straw with a few ears of corn night and morning, my sheep are driven into the cattle yard every night in summer, and into their house in winter, where they are safe from dogs and aid in the accumulation of manure. By a steady adherence to this plan, with attention to litter of all kinds, a vast quantity of manure can be made at small expense. The winter manure is used on the corn field—the summer manure on the Wheat field, or is kept over, in heaps for corn.

I have never made regular compost-beds, considering the labour too great. If a piece of land requires different kinds of manure, *I* endeavour to drop it in suitable portions on the land at once. I generally, every winter burn shells in kilns, and spread them, where wanted, from the cart tail. I consider lime, in in some shape, all important, the proper beginning of a system of improvement In the use of manures, I have not been able to adhere to system,—my rule is to use it where most wanted, and I believe it good economy to use it, as far as it goes so liberally as that clover will grow well after it. This I sow on my wheat every spring, and generally graze it as soon as it begins to blossom. I say, *generally* for I am not so wedded to system as to deny my cattle food when I see them suffering from hunger. The consequence is that *I* sometimes turn them in too early, which should be avoided if possible. I have never had any of my cattle *hoven*. To avoid this I turn them on the clover, for the first time, from pasture, about mid day when they are not ravenously hungry.

I turn my hogs on the clover at the same time with my cattle, where they do well with a small allowance of corn.

4th. Modes of planting and cultivating corn.—I have tried several modes of raising corn, and, all things considered, prefer the old fashion, both as to cultivation, and gathering, and securing blades and fodder. The ridge cultivation on our flat stiff lands is decidedly better than the mode practiced in Pennsylvania, which I tried with considerable loss.

5th. Of third crops, I know but little, never having tried any but oats, which did not pay well, owing, perhaps, to the stiffness of my soil. I have never tried root crops—my main push is for wheat and corn—they give *bread* and *meat* which will purchase any thing; and I thus have leisure to get out manure. A variety of crops takes up too much time, and makes the business of the labourers more complicated than is desirable. They should be kept, as much as possible at some steady business, without interruption. It appears to me that a standing truck-patch, or kitchen garden, of about four acres, in which might be raised various articles for the table, and for cows and hogs, would answer a valuable purpose. But I object to the practice of enclosing, yearly, a pen for the cultivation of such articles.

6th. As to laying off farms it is difficult to answer this question satisfactorily. Every one must be governed, as to enclosing, by the form of his farm and various circumstances. He should be as sparing of fences as possible, as they are expensive & require annual repairs at a season when labour, for other purposes, is demanded. I think four fields, with one well set in orchard grass, for permanent grazing, sufficient. Less than four fields precludes the advantageous use of clover. A few acres of the corn field, to receive all the summer dung of the farm yard, should, I think, be left out every year for fallow.

7th. As to threshing out I do not feel myself competent to answer this question. A common stock of horses will soon tread out a crop. I think it probable that we shall, however, before long be able to get machines at a moderate price to supersede this mode.

8th. As to diseases of stock. The health of stock is best preserved by keeping them in good plight, and I am of opinion that it is not good economy to keep any portion of it otherwise. To enable us to do this, attention must be paid to them—a proper quantity of provender must be provided, and not too many kept. None should be kept but those of the most hardy and thrifty kinds.

9th, 10th, 11th. Treatment of colts, calves, hogs. I have no particular mode of treating my colts, calves and hogs different from the usual practice, unless that respecting calves be so. My care is to dispose of them in such a way as to give the least trouble and to keep them in growing order. My colts are stabled in winter. My calves have a shed to use at will, and my hogs some kind of shelter in winter—they all run together, large and small. They would do better if separated; but the trouble would be too great.

12th. Kinds of sheep. The Merino and common sheep, mixed, are excellent for general purposes, so are the Bakewell and Merino. No one in this part of the country can keep large flocks exclusively for gain from wool. In that case, Merinos would certainly be preferable to any other kind.

13th Milch cows in winter *I* pass over this question, having no particular knowledge on the subject.

14th. Use of oxen, mode of breaking and feeding them. I prefer oxen to all other animals for the cart. The best essay on breaking and using them, I have ever seen, is to be found in the American Farmer, vol. 1. page 314. When at work I give them corn in the ear, in addition to the straw and fodder. No people understand the use of these valuable animals so well as our New England brethren. A first rate yoke of oxen, with them, will command from 100 to 120 dollars.

15th. Drenches for horses. I am not able to answer this question; and have seldom had occasion for medicine.

16th, 17th. System of farming and its effects. *My* opinions on these subjects may be gathered from the preceding remarks: the best system of farming is that which gives good crops and at the same time admits of the improvement of the Land. The four-field system, with clover, and strict attention to manuring from all possible sources, ought to effect all that can reasonably be expected. A system of farming, the execution of which is left to unskilful agents, to *be good* must be *simple*. *It* is therefore, that I exclude a variety of small matters, because of the interruption they occasion, and because the system would be too complicated. When not engaged in the cultivation of the principal crops, *I* employ my labour as much as possible in manuring.

I cannot think that the present modes of farming impoverish our lands as much as those used formerly. On the contrary, we see them generally improving, and we all know that the old modes has generally brought them to the lowest state of degradation.

[From the Manlius Repository.]

IMPROVED STOCK—*Horses*—Mr. Miller:—Although it is now late in the season, I beg leave, in addition to my article on the subject of horned cattle, to offer to my neighbors a few suggestions in relation to horses.

The horse is an animal of incalculable importance to us. His intrinsic value consists in his power, speed, and endurance; and he is, to a great extent, the subject of taste and fancy, his highest value is attained when he unites beauty of form with these three requisites. But every farmer knows he is not to expect pears from the thorn bush, nor figs from the thistle. He is not to expect a pippen from the bramblebush, nor the greening from the wild Indian crab-apple.—But then these stocks will sustain the pippin and the greening, if such scions are introduced. Since, then the same expense of care, culture, feed and time, is needed to sustain and rear a four year old horse worth $60 and one worth $100 it is really astonishing that farmers, who spare no pains to procure the best quality of seed for grains, grass and roots, could still employ, as sires, the low-bred dung-hill, worth $1,50, instead of the brave and noble blood-horse, worth $20. The result, in such case, as a general rule, must necessarily be, the colt will be a twenty shilling colt, instead of a twenty dollar colt, if nature proves true to her principles.

The farmer does not reflect sufficiently, nor judge correctly, on this subject. He seems to think a half-blood sire, derived from a blood horse and common dam, may produce as fine stock as the full blood horse himself; whereas, he cannot, half so good. Being only a half-blood himself, he can infuse into his progeny only one fourth of the good qualities of his sire. His stock is only quarter bloods. No farmer, desirous of making the greatest gain in perfecting his stock, will use any horse as a sire who cannot claim to inherit in the line of his dam, as well as of his sire, power, speed, and endurance, the three items which give value to the horse Hence it is that the pedigree of our blood horses is given in the line of the dam, instead of the sire. It is to show, that the valuable blood of the horse, derived from his sire, is not reduced and depreciated by any impure, low blood, derived from the mother. A little reflection, therefore, will satisfy the farmer not to breed from a horse, (although his sire may have been good,) in the hope or expectation of greatly improving or perfecting his stock, or if he cannot, at the same time, claim excellence and value, also, from the blood of his dam. In this respect, old Eclipse excels any horse of the present day; and to this source, does he owe, in a good degree, his matchless powers. His dam was got by Messenger, whose stock, for power and endurance equals, if not excels that of any horse brought to this country. Her dam, by a son of English Eclipse, next to Childers, the fleetest horse ever known His sire, Duroc, was by Diomed, the best horse of his day—deriving his excellence from judicious crosses, blending the best strains of English & Arabian blood. *It* is perfectly idle for a farmer, who has a mare of good size, and of fine quality and blood, to raise a colt from a common horse, worth only $65 to $80 at four years old; when he can with the same labor, and expense of feed and care, raise one worth $120 to 150, by resorting to a better sire, at a cost of $5, $6 or $8 more. And even if his mare is in some respects inferior, he should still resort to horses of high and celebrated blood, of large size, just proportions and fine speed—horses superior in those very particulars in which his mare is deficient.—A half blood filley from such a cross would probably make, hereafter, a stock mare, that always will produce colts worth $100, if sired by horses of the best size and best blood. In this way, the farmer who is unable or unwilling to be at the expense of purchasing a costly mare to commence with, is to obtain valuable brood mares hereafter.

Every farmer ought to have one or two good brood mares. We have the experience and testimony of intelligent men, that brood mares may be steadily and safely used until within a few days of foaling; and very soon after. They should not be improperly used and abused, by extreme, sudden violent efforts.—But it will not injure them, nor their foals, to do constant reasonable labor. In addition, therefore, to accomplishing the ordinary labor of a span of horses on the farm, they may produce the farmer annually a span of colts. *It* ought here to be remarked that much of the value of our colts depend on the care and keeping we give them. We err much on this point. Colts generally are neglected the first winter. Their growth is retarded, and their forms are injured thereby. They should be kept in the best manner the first year; should be kept constantly thriving. Their forms will then be properly sustained, and their points and proportions be finely developed; nor should they be fed on the ground, but in racks so poised as to require them to extend and elevate the neck and head.

Dutchess county has derived a great revenue for many years, from the annual sale of her valuable horses. Spans of horses, bred there, have been sold in New York, at from $500 to $1000; and multitudes of single horses from fifty to one hundred pounds. They secured these results by improving their stock of brood mares, in the use of such imported horses as Messenger, Hylander, Dromo, Badajzette, and others—not hesitating to pay $20 to $25 to horses of such blood. The consequence has been; their brood mares were so much improved in quality, as to produce, when blended with sires of his character, a stock of horses for market worth from $100 to $250 each.

I have said a horse for a sire, was valuable as he posessed size, power, speed and endurance. As, "like produces like," he is expected to impart these properties to his progeny. To decide whether he has power, speed & endurance, he is put to trial on the race course. In a greater or less degree, his courage, resolution, temper, and constitution, are imparted to his stock. The farmer, who would make gain by breeding colts should look to these things.—His colts will always sell if they have size and speed, even if less perfect and beautiful in form By blending the Arabian blood with that of the English race horse, the product is considered as perfected.

It unites the size and bone of the English race horse, the round, smooth, beautiful form of the Arabian, together with his hardiness, fleetness, and ability to endure fatigue. By such crosses the fleetest and best horses have been produced, that have been ever known.—Sires of fine size, and of such quality and blood, are here offered to the farmer at the present day. But they are neglected by most breeders on account of price, and a resort is had to the low-bred horse, because of his reduced terms. While such is the fact; we can never perfect our stock of horses.—While such is the practice, this splendid section of country, which ought to be first and foremost, will ever, in this respect be second to Long Island and Dutchess. Our object should be to obtain in the shortest possible time a race of brood mares that can produce sixty pound colts, instead of $60 dollar colts. This can be speedily done, by a resort to high bred horses, of the Eclipse, Messenger, and Diomed blood.—But it cannot be done by low bred horses, who have no blood on the side of the dam, and who are removed to the third and fourth and fifth cross from the pure blood sire.

It will be recollected, there are two purposes for which we rear colts. One is for the plough, and one for the road.—For the plough, stout, heavy, compact built horses are needed, with no special regard to the fleetness. For the road, as for stages, pleasure carriages, and the saddle, in addition to size, power, & form, high courage, & fleetness or speed are indispensable. If the farmer, therefore, designs to rear a colt for market, he must resort to a sire either celebrated himself, or in the line of his immediate ancestry, for fine action, and great speed as roadsters, in the hope that he will impart these properties to the stock. If for the plough, he will look for a sire possessing a kind, docile, gentle temper, of good size, large bone, and great muscular powers. As the stock will be in a great measure, characterized by the sire, the farmer will look for such qualities in the sire as are especially adapted to the uses and purpose he has in view. If these few hints should influence the farmer to reflect on this subject, and be the means of inducing correct impressions, my purpose will have been answered.

A FARMER.

Pompy, July 20th, 1833

From the New York Farmer.

SUPERIOR COMPOSITION FOR TREES.

Extract of a letter from the Hon. J. K Guernsey, of Pittsford, to William Prince & Sons.

I avail myself of this opportunity to send you the following statement, respecting the Composition for Trees.

Many inoculated trees are greatly injured, and finally lost, in consequence of the length of time necessary to heal over the stock, where it is cut off, when no means are used to secure it from exposure to the air and wet.

The wood dies down to some distance, and although, after a time, bark and new wood may grow over, it finally rots, and destroys the tree. The same is true of large limbs cut off, and of bark knocked off by accident. To prevent this the following cheap and easily applied composition is the best remedy I have found I have used it for more than 20 years, with almost uniform and perfect success.

RECEIPE.—One part, say one quart, common tar. Two parts, say two quarts, chalk, finely pulverized, and sifted. Put the tar into an iron kettle; heat it, and whilst hot, stir in the chalk. Care should be taken not to boil it too much, either when first made or when using it as that will make it too hard and brittle. Should it by accident become so, add tar, till sufficiently soft. When to be used, heat it over either an earthen or iron portable furnace, or fire made on the ground on or near the place where wanted, so as to boil, or to be sufficiently soft, which a little experience will show, and apply it with a small woofen or iron spatula, covering the wood entirely with a thin coat, and leaving no place for the water to get under the composition. It will remain on for years, but may be taken off whenever the bark shall have grown over the wood. It will be found upon examining that there is no dead wood under it. Any one who delights in seeing fine healthy trees, after having once fairly tried the experiment, will never abandon its use. It is particularly valuable for covering the stumps when old trees are headed down. This composition was invented, and an account of it published by some gentleman, either of England or of Scotland, I think Sir Arthur St. Clair soon after Forsyth first published the account of his composition for healing wounds in fruit trees, which is very troublesome to make, and still more so to use. It is, probably, known to many horticulturists, but ought to be known to all who cultivate fruit trees; and if you think the publication of these remarks will be useful, they are at your service.

To the editors of the Richmond Enquirer

Having been a subscriber and reader of your Enquirer for the last ten years and always a lover of the curiosities both natural and artificial, that are to be found generally published in our Journals I was forcibly struck with one of those wonders in the vegetable creation published in your paper of 24th inst. taken from the Frankfort (Ky.) Commonwealth under the head of "An Extraordinary Natural Production," said by the extract to have been raised by a Mr. Carrico, living in Gallatin county, Kentucky.—To this wonder in the vegetable world, reared by Mr. Carrico, I heartily respond—and can, with Mr. Carrico bring forward an account of another of Natures freaks in the vegetable creation to the credulous world would seem to be an impossibility. In the year 1823, one of my neighbors having planted a crop of that valuable grain indian corn in a piece of rich swamp land in the county of Culpepper now Rappahannock, Virginia near the edge of the corn grew some oak trees and during the growth of the corn, the boughs of said trees overspread a few of the corn hills. The corn communicated its generating properties to the oak trees and grew upon the tender boughs of the trees grains of corn, with the silk issuing from the heart of the grains like those that grow on the ear of the indian corn. I did not as Mr. Carrico did preserve them for planting again having fully gratified my own curiosity for that time upon that branch of the vegetable creation. Should the above, though apparently impossible production, be worthy a place in your paper its correctness can be substantially backed by 6 or 8 witnesses of strict veracity.

I am yours respectfully,
WM. SLAUGHTER.

Wonderful power of the Turkey Buzzard.—A statement is made in the Turf Register, attested by the deposition of Major Pillers, of Kaskaskia, Illinois, which confirms the impression long entertained by some, that the Turkey Buzzard has *the power of reproducing its own eyes* The experiment made was this. A buzzard was deprived of its eyes, by ripping them open, so that no part of the ball remained. The head of the bird was then placed under one of its wings; in which position it remained a few minutes, when raising its head, both eyes where produced, perfectly sound, free from blemish, and possessing in every degree the power of vision." This comparatively cruel experiment was repeated at least fifty times, uniformly with the same result. The writer also being incredulous as to these facts, not having witnessed them, made the experiment himself upon another buzzard, with similar effect. It is ascribed to the healing powers of the *down* from the inside of the buzzards wing; which is said to have cured several cases of approaching blindness in men and horses.

Boston Traveller.

NEW YORK, Oct. 30.

Union Course Races.—Yesterday was the first day for the proprietor's purse—two miles heats. Nine horses were entered of which number eight started.—*Ironette* having been withdrawn for the purpose of being entered for to-day's purse.

Ripley was the favorite, & with *Alert*, was freely offered against the field;—betting brisk but not heavy.

The first heat was won by *Alert*, in consequence of *Ripley* and Masanello laying for the second heat—time 3 m. 50. The second heat was won with ease by *Ripley* in 3 m. 54 s. and the third also by Ripley—time 3m.

The sport was good—better than was anticipated, and the result proved Ripley a first rate horse.

NEW YORK, Oct. 31.

The Races—Second day.—Seven horses came to the mark, and a finer field could hardly be made; two of them were unknown, but the rest were tried ones. The favorite was backed so boldly, that the friends of the field were daunted; but the event produced a vote nem. con. that favorites can never win. It was Ironette against the field, ten to seven and even six, before the start, and when she won the second heat, hard in hand, it was dollars to sixpences and no takers. Celeste had the first without much trouble though Ironette tried for it in the 2nd mile, resigning them until a little of the fight should be taken out of her "footy" companions; Sir Charles indeed led for the first mile with much clatter and boasting, but Miss Mattie soon took the shine off of him, and come out second after a spirited contest with the winner. In the second heat Ironette got the poles in the first quarter and kept the lead throughout, the rider looking back constantly and waiting for Celeste, who made the running though Medoc now came forward and placed himself third with a good interval; he tried them once, but it was not his time yet. Both heats very quick—5m. 51s. and—3m 52s.—Medoc's running, thus far, had won him no confidence, and poor Celeste's case was now hopeless; she had clearly not the slightest chance.—But the sons of Eclipse retrieve lost fights, and the blood of the old one told here. The son like his sire, saved the honor of the North. The best *third* heat ever run on this course, however, was necessary, and nobly he made it: it was done in the unprecedented time of 5m. 47s. The gray had the poles at the start, but he passed her in the first quarter, and kept his lead then to the end, their places never varying more than a length, though she made the most desperate and determined efforts at every period of the heat; all was unavailing—the victory was for the strongest, and he of the hundred fights had left a son worthy of his fame.

This savage heat had distanced all that were left, and the two champions came alone to the post, Ironette resolved to the last, though appearing much wearied, and bent on winning, if she could, the laurel. Medoc seemed cold & haughty as ever, with a plenty of work still in him; he went up to the mark with orders to run no faster than was just necessary to keep the lead. It was a good heat though, 5m. 59s. and coming after three such heats had preceded, may be called excellent. She lapped him several times but could not win; he seemed to be held in a great deal, but it is said a hard pull is necessary for him.

	1h.	2h.	3h.	4h.
J. C. Stevens' s. h. Medoc, 4 yrs. old,	3	3	1	1
W. R. Johnson's g. m. Ironette, 4 yrs. old,	4	1	2	2
R. L. Stevens's s. m. Celeste, 6 yrs. old	1	2	dis.	0
R. F. Stockton's b. m. Miss Mattie, 5 years old,	2	dis.	0	0
C. Gibbons' s. h. Sir Charles, aged	5	dis.	0	0
S. Land's b. h. Henry Archy, 4 years,	6	dis.	0	0
C. Vanderbil's b. h. John Henry, 4 years	dis.	0	0	0

Time—1st heat, 5m. 51s.; 2d heat,

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