EASTON GAZETTE.

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AGRICULTURAL.

POTATOES.

The potato is unquestionably the most valuable root cultivated by man. It is grown with little care, yields good crops, can be grown in almost every variety of soil, and its nutritive properties are not exceeded by any other root either for man or beast. Though it can be cultivated with little care, and though almost any soil will produce potatoes, there are few crops that in both quantity and quality better repay any extra attention they may receive than this root.

The potato, like most other cultivated plants, delights in a strong rich loam, and other circumstances being equal, such a soil will usually produce one-fourth more than one very tenacious and heavy, or very light and sandy. In new settled districts large crops of potatoes are grown in the soils that contain great supplies of vegetable mould, but experience would seem to justify the opinion that in such soils the quality of the potatoe is rarely first rate. A grass ley—clover is the best—has been found, when properly prepared and manured, to be excellent for this crop; and if the soil is rather moist than otherwise, it is considered as increasing the chances of a good yield. Countries that have naturally a cool moist atmosphere are found to produce far better potatoes than those that have a dry and high temperature.—Thus Ireland, surrounded as it is by the ocean, and necessarily of a low and equable climate, is famous for its potatoes; and of this continent, the part most famed for the quality of this root is New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, which districts are noted for the moisture of the climate. With any part of the northern or middle states, however, the fault of not having good potatoes, or not having them in sufficient quantity, must be traced to the negligence of the farmer, rather than to any deficiencies of soil or climate.

The preparation of a field for the potatoe is simple. If a grass ley sufficiently rich without manuring, a rare case with this crop, the sod may be carefully turned over, rolled down, and then the surface earth loosened with a fine harrow in which the tubers or sets are to be planted. If it requires manuring, let the manure, and this should be long rather than short, be evenly spread over the ground; with the plough make a furrow, and into this let one hand haul the manure to the requisite width, while another drops the seed potatoes on the manure so placed in the furrow. This row is covered by the plough, and the operation is repeated till all are planted. Corn on the ley is generally preferred, and roots well manured after the corn. The first in the rotation may depend on convenience, as the turf is excellent for either.

A multitude of experiments have been made and recorded both in England and the United States, to determine the best method of planting the seed, whether in whole tubers or in roots cut into two or more pieces, called sets. The result of these experiments have been somewhat contradictory, yet they seem to have established the fact that whole tubers will produce rather more potatoes than sets, but not more than sufficient to balance the extra quantity of seed required where whole potatoes are used. There are many farmers who prefer sets altogether, and the probability is, that twenty bushels of large potatoes, cut into sets and planted with a proper number in a hill, would produce more potatoes than the same quantity planted whole, but the space of ground planted would of course be more extensive with the first than the last. Mr. Rhoades of Skaneatles, an observing and very intelligent farmer, says he would not use whole potatoes, could he have them given him, for seed; and his success with sets would seem to justify the preference.

It was once the fashion among farmers to make little mountains of their potatoe hills, but that seems to have been useless labor, and extra hilling is dispensed with. The ground after planting should be kept free from weeds the earth stirred with the cultivator or the hoe, but after the tubers have begun to form, the plough should not be used, as it frequently cuts so deep as to disturb the young plants, breaking off the little tubers, or causing the formation of new roots, processes decidedly injurious to the crop. The general length of the vines must determine the distance at which the rows are to be planted, and this of course varies greatly in the several kinds commonly cultivated. If potatoes are planted in the rows nearer one way than the other, the rows should run north and south, that the sun may produce its proper effect on the leaves of the plant, and on the surface of the earth between the rows: and the same remark will hold good of corn or other plants, the rows of which should always run north and south, when the make of the land will permit.

When it is found that potatoes yield large quantities of balls, it is considered by many farmers a proof that the potato has reached its maturity and begun to degenerate; the production of seeds in all plants being indicative of this fact. Mr Knight, the celebrated writer and gardener, maintained the certainty of the arrival at maturity, and consequent degeneration of all varieties of plants, the potatoe among the rest, and the necessity of occasionally renewing them from the seeds, which is the process nature itself employs for preventing the degeneracy or extinction of plants

There are few districts in our country where favorite varieties of the potatoe are not cultivated, and not unfrequently the same kind is known in different places by different names. The Pinkeye, the Sardinia, the Mecca or Chenangoa, the English and the Irish whites, and the several varieties of the red and black potatoe, are the best known. The Rohan potatoe, lately introduced into this country from France, promises to be a great acquisition both for productiveness and quality. But we have yet seen no potatoe, that, for the table, could be compared for excellence with the Pinkeye. It cannot be considered a great bearer, though it yields well; but for flavor, and amount of nutrition, we think it unrivelled.

The production of early potatoes for the markets of our cities and villages, is becoming yearly a matter of more interest to the farmer; by practising the mode adopted in England of selecting the earliest kinds, and then treating them in the following manner, described by Louden, important improvements might doubtless be effected. The cultivators in Lancashire have found that there is a fortnight's difference between the ripening of potatoes grown from opposite ends of the same potatoe, that part to which the root is attached being the latest in ripening while those that spring from the nose end, are found much in advance of the others in vigor, early maturity and in size. Each potatoe is therefore by the gardeners divided into three parts, which are planted by themselves, and thus they ripen and are fit for the market together.

The potatoe being in its native state a poisonous plant, like many others of the tropical climates from which wholesome nutriment may be derived, it should not be cooked until ripe, or becomes mealy. The value of a potatoe depends in a great measure on the starch it contains, and of course the nutritive matter greatly varies in the several varieties, and in the same varieties at different times.—Perhaps there is no method that develops the quality of a potatoe more fully than baking. We have seen a very fine early variety, and also some superior specimens of the Pinkeye, when exposed to the heat of the oven expand and burst like parched corn into a thousand fragments. Such roots contain little else than pure starch; and the experiments of Raspail on the nutritive action of the potatoe, shows that in such plants it is found in the most abundant quantity. Next to baking, steaming is the preferable method of preparing this root, and experience shows that it should never be given to any animal unless in a cooked state, if we would derive from it its full value.

Cellers in which the temperature is but a few degrees above the freezing point, or from 40 deg. to 45 deg., are the best for roots, and particularly for the potatoe; but they keep no where so well as in pits covered with just enough earth to keep out the frost. Light, and exposure to the air, are injurious to roots and in pits these are excluded. To have these roots then in their excellence in the spring, enough should be pitted for use as well as for planting. Some writers in the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, have strenuously recommended that potatoes intended for seed, should be gathered before they are fully ripened, as being less subject to failure, or disease. But we have never known in this country any thing to justify such a course, and besides it is, we think, contrary to the course pointed out by nature herself The average crop of potatoes per acre in the states is not large, owing to the imperfect and careless method of culture. In Susquehanna county, Pa. in 1838, the average of 2400 acres, was 170 bushels per acre, which we presume exceeded the average of many other sections of our country. Now in ordinary seasons, and with decent culture, the average should not be less than 300 bushels per acre; and when we remember that many instances have occurred of from 500 to 1000 bushels per acre, such an average could not be deemed extravagant. More manure and less land, would doubtless increase our potatoe crops, as well as most others.—Genesee Farmer.

From the Germantown Telegraph.

ON THE SUPERIOR ADVANTAGES OF GROWING ORCHARD GRASS WITH RED CLOVER.

Read before the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture, March 4, 1840, by James Mease, M. D., Vice President.

My attention was first called to this subject when reading the late Mr. Bardsley 'Notes on Husbandry,' (1799) in which he states the benefits to be derived from the sowing together the two grasses first mentioned, and his remarks appeared so well founded in reason, that I was disposed to pursue the practice he recommended, but before trying the experiment, I consulted the late Algernon Roberts; of Philadelphia county, one of our best famers, on the subject, and was pleased to hear him approve of the measure.

My question was, "Which was the best grass to grow with red clover?" He answered at once, "Orchard grass;" by reasen of their blossoming at the same time, and the orchard grass giving early and late pasture, which was a great object with him, as he devoted his attention to the supply of butter for the Philadelphia Market. Joseph Cooper, of New Jersey, to whom I also applied for an opinion on the same point, was equally prompt in favor of the union of the two grasses in question. Thus backed, I had no hesitation in deviating from the usual routine adopted in Delaware; and still continued very generally throughout Pennsylvania, and upon the first field of wheat which I laid down, viz: in 1805, I had sown the following spring, 12 measured pints of clover seed with one bushel and a half of orchard grass seed previously well mixed. After the grain was removed, I saw with very great delight, both grasses thickly covering the ground, and nearly as high as the stubble; and late in the autumn had the satisfaction to see my cows enjoying a luxurious, succulent repast, after the fields, which were sown with timothy and clover in the vicinity, had ceased to supply it. But this gratification was small when compared with that I experienced the following spring by beholding the towering orchard grass in full bloosom at the same time with its companion, and the ground thickly set with both. Reserving a certain space for maturing the seed of the orchard grass, had the crop cut when a few only of the clover blossoms were beginning to turn, being then sure of perfect maturity of the rest, and found that they equally with the leaves retained their connexion with the stalk much better than when the grass was cut after the clover blossoms had assumed a dark hue. Another advantage attending this early cutting is, that the stalks preserve their pliancy and are eaten freely by cattle; whereas they are wasted when they become hard from the mowing having been done at a late period.

My experience of six years of the union of the two grasses, enables me to say that the advantages of sowing orchard grass in preference to timothy, are as follows:—

1. Two crops in place of one.
2. Good pasture late in the autumn instead of none.
3. The curing of both grasses in full perfection, while when timothy is sown, the clover blossoms and leaves are dead, black, and chiefly fall off in the curing of the hay, owing to the ripening of the timothy from 12 to 15 days after the clover. Farmers will never cut their grass until the timothy is fit for the scythe.
4. Early pasture even before the pestiferous, hateful wild garlic makes its appearance, or at least as early as the latter and by its rapid growth, smothers or lessens the crop of this enemy to the products of the dairy. The same remarks apply to the autumnal growth of garlic.

Orchard grass is upon a par with timothy, in point of nutritive quality and of animal partiality, and will command nearly as great a price as timothy. Two crops, and the early and late pasture of the orchard grass make up for the small difference in the price of hay from the two grasses.

From the American Farmer.

A DEFERRED ARTICLE ON THE LAWS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND—THEIR COST, AND THEIR VALUE TO THE TAX-PAYING LAND-HOLDER!

The law-givers of Maryland, to the number of one hundred men, have at last adjourned and gone home, after a session, including mileage, going and coming, of about three months; or one-fourth of the year—A session nearly as long, and about as glorious, and breaking up with as much haste and confusion, as did the short reign of the Bourbons, when they heard the roar of the Nemean Lion, broke loose from the Island of Elba. In about three months more, the laws and votes and proceedings will be published, after a fashion; and in twice three more, one hundred able bodied men will meet again at Annapolis, to mount some fresh party hobby, or old hack, to ride out another quarter of a year of political tournament, for their own pleasure, at—*the expense of the people!*

In the mean time, and before they have seen and examined the proceedings of the last session, these good people, the tax payers, will be in full cry, after some new game, to be started by the hunters—of office—in ignorance, or forgetful, of all that has passed this winter, as of things that happened before the flood.

For a single item of cost to the people it would be curious to calculate how much we have to pay for entertaining questions of *divorces alone*, at the last session!

If, as is apprehended, such an exhibition should shew that the increasing number of applications of this sort is one of the many bitter fruits of *intemperance*: can the legislature, in the wisdom and counsel of one hundred strong, not devise some means of arresting the spread of that dreadful scourge over the land? without impairing their own popularity, or the chances of *party* success: for it would be idle to expect any measure to be proposed that might perchance involve any risk on these points. One would suppose that any measure, however rigid, that should go to eradicate the most direct source of private disgrace and public evil, that can afflict a community, would be submitted to with pleasure, and hailed with enthusiasm by all the people, of all parties: but the fact is, that they have been so long duped and used as tools and scaffolds—they have so long followed the call of party leaders, with so little exercise of their own understanding, as sheep follow habitually the tinkling of the bell wether, that appeals are now rarely made to the people's intelligence, and the impartial exercise of their better judgment.

Why is it, we may ask, that applications for divorces may not as well be made and determined in the counties where they arise, by some of the local functionaries, such as the judges of the county courts, whose salaries are to be paid by the people at any rate, and who are in no danger of being over-worked. Can it be because some of the members who refuse it, are stimulated by a vicious *penchant* to hear the painful and loathsome details of family feuds disclosed in these cases; and that there are others again who go to Annapolis, as did the old German from Frederick county, who, being asked on his way home, what the legislature had done, answered ingenuously, 'Oh mine got, I don't know—Ise know *I made two hundred dollar!*'—Such men probably guess as how, were they to give up jurisdiction over divorces, the sessions would be shortened by many a *per diem*! Be the cause what it may, we have always observed, that our legislature has held on with obstinate and remarkable tenacity to this fruitful, but one would think very painful subject of legislation; and here it occurs to us that the question may be asked—what has this subject, or any other of the proceedings of the legislature, to do with *agriculture*, and with your readers who look to it, exclusively for a livelihood? and we promise to be prepared with our answer, as soon as the wiseacre who puts the question, is ready to tell us who it is that *pays the bill of costs*!

It is a maxim of justice and of common sense, as old we imagine as the days of King David himself, a great artiste in that way, that *'they who dance must pay the piper.'* Now what we, as their humble advocate, complain of is, that while the people, the owners of the soil have to pay the piper, the dancing is all done at Annapolis—and a most remarkable dance it is—commencing at Christmas holidays, with fifty couple on the floor, and kept up for three long months, to the tune of four dollars a day, out of the public treasury for each chap and his partner, and ending only in spring, when the Indian's 'corn-dance' begins!—The greater portion of the time fooled away in turning their fiddles and wetting their whistles, and at last breaking up in a frolic and a row! leaving the bill of fare to be paid by their masters,* while they withhold from them the means and deny them the right, through us, their organ, to *look into the particulars*, and inquire who did you this—and why did you not do that!! Now we will venture to affirm that when time shall bring forth what the labor of this great body of self-recommended councellors has produced, it will be apparent to every candid mind, that any ten honest and sensible men, with our good Treasurer at their head, could render more substantial service to the State in twelve days, than has been done in as many weeks. That they would devise measures to eradicate more evil, retrench with more discretion, expend with more wise economy, invest with better judgment, and guard more effectually against the misapplication of the public money under pleas of deceptive contracts and other sinister expedients of politi-casts than has been done by our one hundred wise men in the last hundred days!

P. S. Scarcely were the preceding remarks written to deprecate excessive and costly legislation, when it is intimated that we are to have an *extra session of the Legislature to supply the deficiency*!! and the next thing will be to manufacture & send about editorials in favor of it, to all editors who can be prevailed upon to father them, *as indications of the public will*. So easy do the 'trappers' find it to gull and hoodwink the dear people.

The Virginia Legislature with more than one hundred counties, with her various markets for her sea board & transmontane population, has just adjourned after passing 199 laws. The Maryland Legislature with our twenty counties the half of which would do well without any new law for this seven years to come, have hatched out a brood of 311 after a nine weeks incubation! scolding and hissing all the time like so many geese.—What particularly commends the extra session too is, that its object is to enter the State into a new engagement, for only $1,300 000 more to complete' (always to 'complete') an improvement which when done is to lead an immense proportion of the produce of the State beyond its limits, into the lap of a rival community; leaving impassible barriers, between the commercial emporium of our own State, and the outlet of the canal at Georgetown—To be sure we are told that 'a proper time' the canal is to be continued and brought again through the State to Baltimore: but who does not know that when the purposes of rival interests shall have been accomplished by the assistance of Baltimore and its friends, that 'proper time' may be indefinitely postponed? One hundred wise men are again to be assembled, and fed, and paid their mileage, their POSTAGE, &c. &c., probably for another month—In the meantime, their work is to be prepared, ready, cut and dry, to their hands—they are to receive and obey orders, without daring to ask any questions; but for the planter & farmer, we demand who is to foot the bill?—How many bushels of wheat & corn, & how many pounds of tobacco will it take to pay the expenses incidental to this EXTRA session, to say nothing of the new mortgages to be executed, binding on the land of the State, for millions. We had thought that the people of the State had got enough of these extra sessions, and the extra-ordinary influences that were then and there brought into operation! but it seems that they must prepare themselves to swallow another dose! the last feather has not yet been added to the weight—the horse's back is not yet *quite broken*! Well! it is to be hoped that the serjeant-at-arms will be ordered to have in readiness, the knout and the bow-string for such as prove refractory, and refuse to carry out whatever may be cut out for them to do. To what further exactions may not the farmer and the planter submit—at the present prices? Ah! but you forget, says the political huckster, that a large proportion of the VOTERS—those who are to decide the question at the polls,—are neither farmers nor planters—have neither houses nor lands—but have a direct interest to promote such measures and works as require large expenditures of public money, to be raised by taxes on the landed interest—and there, Mr. Demagogue, you have us 'on the hip'—we cry *peccavi*—we surrender our *flock into* your merciful hands—take an *extra* clip even before the regular shearing season—Only one thing then we ask if when you cut thro' the skin, they should kick and struggle, pray don't add curses to laceration: and say d—n you, why don't you lie still, as the old woman said when she was skinning the eel! Let us have the extra session—with all its extras!!!

N. B. We conclude with the observation in our last number of one who takes pride in the agriculture of his native State, and who has a right to feel a deep solicitude in regard to all measures affecting the landholde:

'I have witnessed with high gratification the progressive improvement of our agriculture; and if the enormous debt which now hangs upon us, (the handy work of internal improvers,) does not bring ruin & desolation upon the State; the day is not far distant, when the increased production of our lands will establish their real value.'

*The house of Delegates of Maryland exhibits in full relief the pride of men "dressed in a little brief authority"—There the members *wear their hats* during the whole session; and require the people in the lobbies, their Masters, doff their beaver the moment they enter the august presence of their "hirelings"—reserving the true order of respect and authority.

From the Maryland Republican.

LOTTERIES, &c.

There are some people who would ask us to believe that there has been in the course of the two last sessions of our Legislature, a great deal of legislation which cost much more than it will ever be worth. In the session of 1838, much time was spent, in the passage of laws (*special and general*) to incorporate companies to raise mulberry trees,—when this was done, we were given to understand, that every body who engaged in them were immediately to become as rich as Jews. The mulberry fever however has been quite subdued, and so it was for the last legislature to be affected with some other *mania*. Years ago, the horrid evils of the lottery system, had been clearly proved, and every sober-minded man, especially if he had a particle of religion, considered it his duty to use whatever influence he possessed, to put a stop to this demoralizing system. Every body became convinced, that it was the very worst species of gambling, and that it would destroy the nation, if the nation did not destroy the lottery system. Proofs abounded, in all our large towns, in which lotteries were drawn, or lottery tickets were sold; that these self-same things were *peopling* our penitentiaries, and that our youth especially were utterly corrupted by them. Every little gentleman, who was employed to stand behind a counter, was tempted to make a fortune at once, by stealing a small sum out of the money drawer of his employer. So clearly demonstrated were all these things, that in Maryland, a (State not very rapid in its movements towards moral reform,) an article it is believed almost with one consent, was introduced into the constitution to deprive the legislature of the power to authorise the drawing of lotteries. It was deemed necessary however, not to take away vested rights, and so all that were granted were to be drawn. Bad as this was, the community acquiesces in it, taking it for granted that after the amendment of the constitution—the legislature would not again pretend to claim the power of conferring lottery grants. But then the constitution said, that no more lotteries should be drawn, after those already authorized were finished, and some among us, persuaded themselves, that before they were drawn, the legislature might contrive to authorise lotteries. Things however went on quite well, until the last session, when the feelings of a very distinguished and influential member of the Senate, became very much interested in a plan for building up a female school in St. Mary's, and as he could devise no plan for raising the money, save only by a lottery, he persuaded himself and ultimately persuaded others, to vote for the lottery bill introduced for that purpose. This being passed, (a few others indeed had been carried through in a *quiet privats way*) and this one for an object in which every citizen of Maryland must feel a deep interest, it became quite the fashion to pass them; a very large portion of the Senate however, resisting their passage as well because of their demoralizing tendency, as upon the ground that the constitution forbade them. But when the work of mischief once commences, it is difficult for them to arrest it. Those who engage in it, verify the old saying—*"In for a penny, in for a pound."*

Some too there were, who thought that they could get a little undeserved popularity by passing a lottery bill, and little gentlemen when they are furnished with a form, by which to draw a law, think they prove themselves legislators, by copying the form and getting it passed, after making a few changes to suit their purposes. The Senate was the more willing to indulge in the legislation, because it had given leave to the Allegany Senator to bring in a bill to repeal all the lottery laws which had been, or might be passed during the session.—No wonder, then, that members of the other house, who thought that a lottery bill would secure them some votes next fall, could get Senators who were not hostile to the system, to pass their laws. The wonder is that any man of the House of Delegates, who really wished his bill to pass, should not be able to prevail upon *his political friends*, who had voted for others, to vote also for his bill. But such is understood to be the fact, *in one solitary case*.—The Senate passed a law, to repeal all the lottery grants, but the house was afraid to do likewise, although of the absurdity and indeed, iniquity, of such a system, all ought long before this to have been convinced.

But there will be fools upon this as well as all other subjects. Some are idiots enough to believe, that a lottery, if drawn, will produce money, and even forgot that before a lottery can be drawn, there must be found fools enough to buy the tickets, and lose their own money. Some talk, as if a lottery grant, was a grant of so much money, and this too, although scarcely twelve months since, a trial was had in the Court of Appeals, to recover the money, *lost* by drawing two or three lotteries, and on that trial, a witness of much experience in these matters, undertook to prove that although the scheme produced loss instead of gain, no body could be blamed, for that this is almost inevitable, if the lottery is drawn in Maryland, and if be a lottery in which the city of Baltimore takes no interest—one would suppose that those who are out of their *teens*, ought to have sense enough to know, that the only way in which a lottery can be made profitable to those who draw it, is by cheating, by securing the high prizes, so that those who buy the tickets, must be content with a chance of drawing a small prize. Who ever hears of an individual drawing the high prize?

He then is but a poor creature of a legislator, who does not know, that a lottery, is almost as certain to be unprofitable, as it is to be ruinous to the morals of those who engage in it. He is worse than a simpleton, who does not dread lotteries quite as much as he aught to dread the yellow fever, or Asiatic cholera.

A. B.

DISGUSTING.—For some time past there have been exhibited, or advertised for exhibition, in Chatham street near Chambers, in the city of New York, two children with hands and feet, resembling "eagle's claws." These children were said to be from the Sandwich Islands.—The Courier of Tuesday morning, in a police report, throws some light on this sickening humbug:

Yesterday afternoon a crowd of persons collected near this exhibition, and the officers on enquiry found the cause to be an old man who was sitting on the walk, and crying and complaining that his children had been taken from him.

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