EASTON GAZETTE.

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AGRICULTURAL.

From the Farmer's Encyclopædia.

AGRICULTURE OF THE GREEKS.

Revelation has taught us to offer up our prayers and thanksgivings for all benefits to the one omni-beneficent Creator and provider of the universe. The less enlightened ancients, whose religion was mythological, equally convinced with ourselves of the existence of some divine first cause and providence, like us offered up their votive petitions and hymns of praise, though the objects of their worship were as many as the benefits or the evils to which man is subject.

Agriculture was too important and too beneficial an art not to demand, and the Greeks and Romans were nations too polished and discerning not to afford to it, a very plentiful series of presiding deities. They attributed to Ceres—as their progenitors, the Egyptians, did to Isis—the invention of the arts of tilling the soil. Ceres is said to have imparted these to Triptolemus, of Eleusis, and to have sent him as her missionary round the world to teach mankind the best modes of ploughing, sowing, and reaping. In gratitude for this, the Greeks, about 1356 years before the Christian era, established, in honour of Ceres, the Eleusinian mysteries, by far the most celebrated and enduring of all their religious ceremonies; for they were not established at Rome till the close of the fourth century. Superstition is a prolific weakness; and consequently, by degrees, every operation of agriculture, and every period of the growth of crops, obtained its presiding and tutelary deity. The goddess, *Terra*, as the guardian of the soil; *Sterculus* presided over manures; *Volutia* guarded the crops whilst evolving their leaves; *Flora* received the still more watchful duty of sheltering their blossom; they passed to the guardianship of *Lactantia* when swelling with milky juices; *Rubigo* protected them from blight: and they successively became the care of *Hostilina*, as they shot into ears; of *Matura* as they ripened; and of *Tutelina* when they were reaped. Such creations of polytheism are fables; but they are errors that should even now give rise to feelings of gratification rather than of contempt. They must please by their elegance; and much more when we reflect that it is the concurrent testimony of anterior nations, through thousands of years, that they detected and acknowledged a Great First Cause.

Unlike the arts of luxury, Agriculture has never been subject to any retrograde revolutions; being an occupation necessary for the existence of mankind in any degree of comfort, it has always continued to receive their first attention; and no succeeding age has been more imperfect, but in general more expert, in the art than that which has preceded it. The Greeks are not an exception to this rule; for their agriculture appears to have been much the same in the earliest brief notices we have of them, as it was with the nation of which they were an offset.—The early Grecians, like all new nations were divided into but two classes; landed proprietors, and *Helots*, or slaves; and the estates of the former were little larger than were sufficient to supply their respecive households with necessaries. We read of princes among them; and as we dwell upon the splendid details of the Trojan war, associate with such titles, unreflectingly, all the pageantry and luxury of modern potentates, that are distinguished by similar titles. But in this we are decidedly wrong; for there was probably not a leader of the Greeks who did not like the father of Ulysses, assist with his own hands in the farming operations. (*Homer's Odyss.* l. xxiv.) Hesiod is the earliest writer who gives any detail of the Grecian agriculture. He appears to have been the contemporary of Homer; and, in that case, to have flourished about nine centuries before the Christian era. His practical statements, however, are very meager; we have, therefore, preferred taking *Xenophon's Economics* as our text, and introducing the statements of other authors, as they may occur, to supply deficiencies or to afford illustrations.

Xenophon died at the age of ninety, 359 years before the birth of Christ. The following narrative of the Greek agriculture is from his "Essay," if not otherwise specified.

In Xenophon's time the landed proprietor no longer laboured upon his farm, but had a steward as a general superintendent, and numerous labourers, yet he always advises the master to attend to his own affairs. "My servant," he says, needs my horse into the fields, and I walk thither for the sake of exercise and purer air; and when arrived where my workmen are planting trees, tilling the ground, and the like, I observe how every thing is performed, and study whether any of these operations may be improved." After his ride, his servant took his horse, and led him home, "taking with him," he adds, "to my house, such things as are wanted, and I walk home, wash my hands, and dine off whatever is prepared for me moderately." "No man," he says, "can be a farmer, till he is taught by experience, observation and instruction may do much but practice teaches many particulars which no master would ever have thought to remark upon." "Before we commence the cultivation of the soil," he observes, that, "we should notice what crops flourish best upon it; and we may even learn from the weeds it produces, what it will best support."

"*Following* or frequent ploughing in spring or summer," he observes, "is of great advantage," and Hesiod advises the farmer (Works and Days, 50) always to be provided with a spare plough, that no accident may interrupt the operation. The same author directs the ploughman to be very careful in his work—"Let him," he says, "attend to his employment, and trace the furrows carefully in straight lines, not looking around him, having his mind intent upon what he is doing." Ibid. 441—443.

Theophratus evidently thought that the soil could not be ploughed and stirred about too much, or unseasonably; for the object is to let the earth feel the cold of winter and the sun of summer, to invert the soil, and render it free, light, and clear of all weeds so that it can most easily afford nourishment. (De Causis Plant. lib. iii cap 2 6)

Xenophon recommends green plants to be ploughed in, and even crops to be raised for the purpose; 'for such,' he says 'enrich the soil as much as dung." He also recommends earth that has been long under water to be put upon land to enrich it, upon a scientific principle which we shall explain under IRRIGATION.—Theophrastus, who flourished in the 4th century B C is still more particular upon the subject of manures. He states his conviction that a proper mixture of soils, as clay with sand, and the contrary, would effect the same purpose as manure as could be effected by the agency of manures.—He describes the properties that render dungs beneficial to vegetation, and dwells upon composts. (Hist. of Plants, ii. cap 8) Xenophon recommends the stubble at reaping time to be left long, if the straw is abundant, "and this, if burned, will enrich the soil very much, or it may be cut and mixed with dung" "The time of sowing," says Xenophon, "must be regulated by the season; and it is best to allow seed enough"

Weeds were carefully eradicated from among their crops; "for, besides the hindrance they are to corn, or other profitable plants, they keep the ground from receiving the benefit of a free exposure to the sun and air." Homer describes Laertes as hoeing, when found by his son Ulysses (Odyss. xxiv. 226.)

Water courses and ditches were made to drain away "the wet which is apt to do great damage to corn."

Homer describes the mode of threshing corn by the trampling of oxen. (Iliad xx. lin. 495. &c.); and to get the grain clear from the straw Xenophon observes, "the men who have the care of the work take care to shake up the straw as they see occasion, flinging into the way of the cattle's feet such corn as they observe to remain in the straw." From Theophrastus and Xenophon combined, we can also very particularly make out that the Greeks separated the grain from the chaff by throwing it with a shovel against the wind.

ON RAISING POTATOES.

The following method of raising potatoes, was adopted in 1803, at the Rock land farm, Brandywine (Del.) For early use they were put in so soon as the frost was gone, and raised in ridges to receive the benefit of the sun. It is presumed, however, it would have been better to plant late in the fall, and cover over with straw and brush, when they will take the first advantage of the following season to vegetate.

The crop for winter use was planted from the middle of June to middle of July, and even to the 15th August; but in the last case, the skin of the bulbs was so tender, as not to admit of being carried to market with safety, but their flavour was excellent.

The field was prepared as early as possible, the sward or grass was richly covered with a compost of stable manure, lime and gypsum, to promote a powerful vegetation; hence that ploughed in would have given a full crop of hay. The plough was not suffered to enter the ground until the crop was ready to put in. The potato sets were prepared a short time before, & strewed over with lime or gypsum. When the planting commenced, the plough was loaded with a chain, extending from the double tree, and of such a weight as to lay the grass or weeds in the bottom of the furrow over the sets of the potato. It was found that drills of the plants in every fourth furrow were the most advantageous; accordingly, two broad lands were laid off, giving four furrows, so arranged, that one furrow was always in course ready for the dropper to put down the sets, while the plough was preparing another. When the field was finished, or in dry weather, when two or more ridges were finished, the harrow was used to fill the seams or laps of the furrows; if any grass appeared, it was covered with the hand hoe, or the weeds were removed, which would have deprived the plants of their nutrition.

When the plants appeared above ground it was harrowed over to open the soil, & eradicate the grass or weeds, but at same time careful to avoid harrowing so deep as to reach the mass of vegetable matter laid over the sets in the furrow or drill.

When it was no longer practicable to harrow over the drills, a single horse shovel harrow was employed between the drills, so often as the soil became hard, or when weeds appeared, until the plants approximated each other so much that the path of the horse was obstructed.—The shade of the plants prevented the general growth of weeds, and at the same time prevented the soil from becoming hard; in general the field was so covered, that the drills were not thereafter discovered, until the season when vegetation fails and the leaf begins to drop.—When the vegetation of the leaves decayed, the potatoes were observed in the opening of the soil, created by the growth of the bulbs. The crops were so abundant, that it appeared impracticable that they could have been more productive; the skin was not of the usual thickness, the flavour excellent and none of the useless small bulbs, which arise out of the usual process of laying up furrow after furrow to the drills, each of which cause the plants to send forth a new stock of bulbs, thereby depriving the first or second stock of their nutriment, and rendering the whole crop comparatively small and less palatable.

There are several circumstances which must be attended to. The ground is not to be ploughed, but remain in grass, until the planting commences. The mass of grass or vegetable matter is to be laid in the bottom of the furrow, over the sets of the plants. If the season is dry, the decomposed vegetable matter furnishes that supply of moisture requisite; if [illegible] retains the moisture; hence great care is required, lest the harrow raise any of it to the top of the soil, and expose the nutriment of the plant to the sun, and render the whole unproductive.

If the manure used is not completely decomposed, it will vitiate the flavor of the crop. The furrows must be handsomely laid down, and the seams or joining laps well covered else the grass will grow up to the injury of the crop, or the whole will be rendered abortive by the droughts common at that season. If the crop is put in more early, it will not have that mass of vegetable matter to defend it against the heat and drought, and the crop will be liable to what is called the second growth produced by the rains after the harvest, by which the crop, if planted early, is rendered less palatable.

The furrows must be made of a regular depth, and at least so deep as the plant is known to set its bulbs. This is of the utmost importance, to place the nutriment in that depth where the plant is known to set its bulbs, and that the soil shall be wrought without raising into ridge drills in the usual way, for the reason already stated. If the ground is in good heart, and the compost abundant, the crop may be taken up in season for sowing the following crop of wheat. In fact the whole process is preparatory as a fallow for a wheat crop. Wheat raised in this way commands an extra price for seed, as it is entirely free from rye, oats, cockle, and extraneous matter. The potato crop will yield nearly the same amount as the wheat crop. If, therefore, the field shall be more fully manured than fallow for wheat, the extra expense will be abundantly recompensed by the crop.

The above mode of putting in potato crops was continued from 1803 to 1816, and the seed for the last seven years was never changed. The stock then introduced were known in the country under the name of the Sligo buck-; they commanded a better price than the common market rate, and in 1815, when the crop had generally failed elsewhere, they were no less abundant than usual, and the person who had purchased the surplus seed, sold them in 1816 at two dollars per bushel. Although the product by cropping in the above stated method gave no supply of those considered too small for the table, yet the full or large size were always put aside for seed.

Several experiments were made during a course of twelve years, such as ploughing early in the spring, and putting a few lands in a soil well pulverised, the same seed and manure yield a greater number of bulbs, but far short in the measure or weight; the same lands were occasionally ridged in the drills, which produced an excess in number as already stated, but not so valuable in market.

A FITTING PRAYER.—A clergyman recently, after exhausting all his zeal and eloquence upon his auditors, and finding them still continuing obdurate, concluded his prayer as follows:—"And, O Lord! make the hearts of these sinners as soft as their heads."

THE OLD WORLD.

THE CORN LAW QUESTION—SPEECH BY O'CONNELL—FRANCE AND HER MINISTRY.

The foreign journals received by the steamers furnish us with articles on many topics of interest. We propose, as we run our eye over a few of the leading London journals, to give a bird's eye glance of the existing condition of affairs in the Old World at our last advices.

THE CORN LAWS.

Throughout Great Britain, the popular mind was comparatively quiet, although the Corn Law excitement was still kept up. An immense meeting was recently held at the Royal Amphitheatre, Liverpool, for the purpose of expressing gratitude to the members of the House of Commons, who had supported the cause of the immediate repeal of the Corn Laws. The display was brilliant. Among those present were 800 of the most respectable merchants, factors, traders and professional gentlemen, and several hundred ladies occupied the galleries.—A splendid banquet was served up, at which there were plates for 980 persons. The Amphitheatre was also embellished with numerous paintings. Among the speakers were Mr. Villiers, Mr. John Bright, Dr. Bowring and Mr. O Connell. In the course of the remarks by Mr. O'Connell he said:

'He was the representative of the largest agricultural county in Ireland; he represented those whose only article of commerce was agricultural produce, yet he came before them a decided advocate for free trade, nor was he contradicted in this respect by his constituents. They agreed with him; and the meeting would give them credit for knowledge and shrewdness enough to know, that if the consumers be poor, the producers cannot be rich—(Applause) If the buyers have but little money, the sellers cannot make any great fortunes—(applause and laughter)—and of course, therefore, they distinctly understood, that the more money England has to spend upon provisions, the higher the price of Irish provisions will be. But, having spoken of Ireland and the Irish people, said Mr. O'Connell let me add that I [illegible] were uttered from the pulpit that stood there, (pointing to the raised platform from which Messrs. Villiers and Bright had spoken) I really was afraid that they would ask me to go into it—(great laughter)—and that some of you might have mistaken me for. I will not say a celebrated, but a loud talking Irish preacher, and therefore I disclaim the pulpit. The manly sentiments uttered by Mr. Bright would be re-echoed throughout Ireland, and in the moral struggle which England was about to make against the despots who treat her food as their own prerogative, in that struggle, peaceable, legal, and constitutional, England would have the hearty support and cordial cooperation of the people of Ireland. Sir Robert Peel had done what he conceived sufficient, and the country was still in distress; and what was he to do now?—The people of England were oppressed by the weight of taxation: was there any relief from their burdens? Oh, there was an income tax.—(Applause.) Was there any extention of their commerce? There was a sliding scale. (Applause) The people asked for bread, and they got a serpent.—(Cheers.) Sir Robert had a strong Ministry, and was potent for evil, but powerless for good, and his party would prevent him from doing the only good that would benefit the country, the only good worth having, that of totally abolishing the Corn-laws. But are matters, said Mr. O'Connell, to remain as they are at present? Are you to continue, week after week, with diminishing manufactures, with lessening commerce, with falling wages, with more manufactories closed, with shorter hours of business, are you to continue in that position? I tell the aristocracy it is not a safe position to be in; I tell the minister that it is not a safe position to be in. The spirit of England is roused, and the Anti-Corn-law League is only a symptom of what is fermenting in the public mind."

Again, he said:

"I belong to a land that laughs in the midst of misery, but my countrymen mingle with their mirth a determination that the evil shall be redressed and the wrong set to rights.—(Cheers.) Untalented and ungifted as I am, I therefore come amongst you to join you heartily in that sentiment; to redress the wrongs and promote the rights of the poor.—Many and many an unhappy man is pining in his solitary garret or miserable cellar: many and many a wretched mother is passing the food from her own lips though she longs for it, in order that she may give a little more to her offspring:—(Hear, hear,) many an unhappy child, now famishing, looks with anxious eyes and with a wolf-like look at the morsel which its parent spares to herself: many a scene of this kind is being enacted around you, and hundreds of thousands of your fellow creatures, are in situations equally, if not more, deplorable: and yet, in the midst of all this, your Dukes of Buckingham, and Earls of Orkney, and a parcel of other monopolists, come forward to declare that all this misery must go on; that they will allow the mother to starve, the father to faint, and the infant to perish; for all this they do when they insist upon the maintenance of the Corn-laws. (Loud and long-continued cheering.)

Mr. Villiers argued that "the modification which the law had undergone had not improved the condition of the people. If a bad harvest were to ensue, if the same causes were to be again brought in to operation, similar and even greater distresses than heretofore would be felt by the community. A learned divine had asserted, at the Buckingham festival, that there was an abundance of food in the country, but there was more abundant proof of the misery, destitution, and suffering amongst the people. The President of the United States recently attributed the commercial depression of that land to the inability of the country to find vent for the surplus produce of its soil, and this surplus was the very food which the people of England wanted—What a spectacle, then, is this? said Mr. Villiers. Is this Christendom? is this civilization?—(Applause.) Here are ten millions of people, according to an authority that we must admit, wanting that very food of which there is a superabundance elsewhere."

General De Lacy Evans, in concluding his remarks said "he would compare for a moment, the land tax of this and other countries with their respective revenues. The general amount of the revenue in Russia was about £8 000 000, and of this the land paid £1 000 000. Austria had a revenue of £16 000 000 of which the land tax was above half. In France the whole revenue amounted to about £11,-000 000, while the land taxes are above £25 000 000. The same might be said of most of the other countries of Europe. But was it so in England? In this free country, with a revenue of £50 000,000, we have a land tax of £250,000."

The affair passed off in a very happy manner.

FRANCE AND HER MINISTRY.

The discussion in the French Chamber of Deputies on the Right of Search, terminated on the 31 of February, by the adoption of the paragraph in the address indirectly censuring the Treaties of 1831 and 1833, and sustaining the Ministry, [illegible] graph in question. He gave at length his reasons for refusing to ratify the Treaty of 1841, and affirmed that notwithstanding all that had been said of his inclination to yield to England, during the two years that he had held the portfolio of foreign affairs, he had not given to that country many proofs of his complaisance. He affirmed further, that England and her government were anxious not only to live peaceably with France, but on good terms, urged the necessity of repose for France, and thus alluded to the feeling of England:

"If there is a country in the world, messieurs, where the name of our King is pronounced with a profound respect—where the remembrance of our glorious revolution still excites a sentiment of real sympathy—that country is the most conservative nation in existence—it is England. (Great sensation.) I say, then, that we ought not for any unimportant cause to separate ourselves from England. France ought, undoubtedly, to support her rights whenever her policy differs from that of her neighbour, but, in doing so, there is no necessity for our breaking the peace which now unites us. Our first interest is, therefore, I repeat it, to constantly endeavour to maintain a good understanding with England, keeping up at the same time an independent and national system of policy. We have had this principle in view, in endeavoring to arrange all the questions of difficulty that have arisen between the two countries.—In the several negotiations that I have had with England, I can only praise the conduct of her government." (The honorable minister was loudly cheered at the termination of this speech, and the sitting remained suspended for several minutes.)

Marshal Soult said:

"In the course of this discussion frequent allusions have been made to the English alliance. I declare that I am a warm partisan of that alliance. I already made a similar statement on my return from London some years back.—But long before that period I had learned on the battle field to esteem the English nation. I fought against the English until the battle of Toulouse—

A VOICE—And Waterloo.

MARSHAL SOULT—Yes, and at Waterloo, for I was standing by the side of Cambronne when he cried—'The guard dies, but never surrenders!' (Interruption and ironical cheers from the left.) I fought, I say, against the English up to the battle of Toulouse, when I was defending the independence of my country, and I fired for it the last cannon-shot.—(Cheers.) I was sent to London, and France knows the reception that I met with. Can it be supposed, though I announce myself a partisan of the English alliance, that I—the president of the council, whether a marshal of France or a private soldier—shall ever be unmindful of the honor and independence of my country! (Loud and continued cheering) No, messieurs notwithstanding the friendly feeling that I have just expressed to you if the destinies of France should force her to a war with England or any other nation she should always find me ready, as long as a breath of life remained, to march where my duty called me; or should I find it necessary, I should follow the example of Marshal de Saxe at Fontenoy, and get myself carried to the field of battle. (Loud cheers.) They talk of the independence of our flag and of the national honor!—Is it supposed that any member of the cabinet is capable of failing in his duty in so noble a cause.—(Cries of 'No, no.') I shall not enter on the question of the right of search—the subject is worn out. (Assent.) I shall merely repeat, that the cabinet accepts the position in which the paragraph of the address places us—(approbation)—and I am of opinion that no person in this assembly will raise the slightest doubt as to the sincerity of this declaration. (Cheers.)

The debate was terminated by M. Berryer, after which the Chambers divided, when there appeared, ayes, 278; noes, 101, majority for ministers, 177—a strange winding up of a struggle, in the course of which M. Guizot was left in a minority of three!—Phila. Enquirer

From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

INTERESTING RELIC.

At a meeting of a literary Society a few evenings since, Gen. Tallmadge exhibited a silver ball, consisting of two hollow hemispheres joined together by a single screw at the edges, which had once contained an interesting and important document addressed by Sir Henry Clinton to Gen. Burgoyne, which if it had not been providentially intercepted, might have saved Burgoyne's army, and produced a change in the fortunes of the war most disastrous to our countrymen.

After Gen. Burgoyne had reached Lake George, at the head of the forces that had been concentrated at Quebec and Montreal, with a view to the capture of Albany and the occupation of the surrounding country, his progress was extremely dilatory.—to an extent, indeed, that seems to those who are not fully acquainted with the exact state of the country at the time, and the whole circumstances of the case, entirely irreconcilable with the exalted military reputation of that officer, and his fidelity to the Royal cause. Between Montreal and a [illegible] Saratoga, the country was an almost pathless wilderness. The settlements along the Mohawk and Hudson cherished a deadly hostility to the invading army.—The support of the British fleet, by advancing up the Hudson, was absolutely essential for the furnishing of Burgoyne's army with the necessary supplies, as well as desirable for military co-operation—And it was in expectation of its advance that the General resolved on a delay which admitted the assembling of such reinforcements in support of the American General Gates, as were fatal to the enemy's plans. This delay on the part of Burgoyne was however unnecessarily protracted. For Sir Henry Clinton, by the capture of Fort Montgomery, through the instrumentality of a thousand men who had been detached from his force at Haverstraw Bay, and the successful demolition of the several obstacles interposed by the Americans to the assent of the river,—(a heavy ship, armed with huge timbers at the bow, advancing with all her canvass spread before a strong south wind, several on a second trial, the chain extended across the Hudson at West Point) had effected the passage of the fleet up the river, and had transmitted by a sure and safe conveyance, as he believed, information of this fact to General Burgoyne. This was contained in the document described above as inclosed in a silver bullet. The messenger intrusted with it, somewhere in the northern part of Dutchess county fell in with some countrymen who were good patriots, and who insisted on searching him for secret correspondence. They discovered on his person three musket balls, in all respects alike save that one seemed to weigh much lighter than the rest. On his captors observing this, the spy instantly seized the ball and swallowed it. The circumstance was communicated to George Clinton, by whose command emetics at first, and afterwards cathartics were administered, the operation of which was supervised by a file of soldiers, and resulted in the recovery of the ball and the interception and disclosure of its contents. The spy was hung at Hurley, and for want of the information which he carried, Burgoyne and his army were captured at Saratoga.

The following is a copy of the letter inclosed in the bullet:

"Fort Montgomery, Oct. 8, 1777.

"*Nous voici*, and nothing between us but *Gates*. I sincerely hope this little success of his may facilitate your operations. In answer to your letter of 28th September, by C. C., I shall only say that I can not presume to order, or even advise, for reasons obvious. I heartily wish you success.

"Faithfully yours,

H. CLINTON.

"To General Burgoyne." [illegible]

☞During the year 1842, there were 20,000 accessions to the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian & Episcopa. churches in Virginia.

People begin to think that if "money is the root of all evil," they ought to be moral now-a-days, since there is so little of the "root."

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