John Caton Jr

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AGRICULTURAL.

From 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 teatise, and much practical knowledge. My experience so is 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 lie favourably 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—and, now and 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 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 and 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.

ELECTRICITY.

It is very common for a lecturer upon electricity, after explaining fully to his class the fact, that when a communication is formed between the inside and outside of the jar, the fluid passes from one to the other, to request them to form a line by joining hands and to allow the charge to pass through them all, so as to observe who feels the effect soonest. But when the line is formed, and one extremity is connected with the outside of the jar, and the individual who stands at the other extremity, touches the knob connected with the inside, the start of the whole line is precisely simultaneous. At college this experiment is sometimes tried with some hundreds of students arranged in a long line in the college yard—The one at the extremity most remote from the jar takes hold of a chain which, supported at intervals, returns to the jar, and thus the fluid has to pass through a distance of many hundred feet, but no perceptible difference in time is to be observed.

Another interesting way for exhibiting the instantaneousness of the motion is this:—A wire connected at one end with the outside of the jar, is passed around the room, by fastening it against the wall, so that at last the other end returns near the table. At any remote part there may be a short interruption, across which the electricity will pass by a visible spark, at the precise instant in which the returning end of the wire is connected with the knob of the jar.

Some English philosophers tried this experiment on a still larger scale. The extended wires, supported by silken strings which they fastened to stakes set in the ground, several miles in length. The discharge was effected through these, and not the slightest difference between the entrance of the fluid at one end of the wire, and its return through the other, could be perceived, though in the interval it must have passed six or eight miles. The motion of electricity may, however, be progressive,—it may consume time,—and yet not be perceptible in so short a distance. Light requires time to pass across any space. This time is very perceptible in its crossing the earth's orbit, but in going ten miles, it would occupy only the two millionth part of a second,—a period altogether imperceptible to man.

The following extracts from the Article on Electricity, contained in the English Library of Useful Knowledge, state some interesting particulars in relation to this part of our subject.

"By accurate experiments, it appears that the force of the electric shock is weakened, that is, its effects are diminished, by employing a conductor of great length for making the discharge. But it is difficult to assign a limit to the number of persons through which even a small charge of electricity may be sent, so that all shall experience the shock; or to the distance along which it may be conveyed by good conductors.

At an early period of electrical inquiries, much interest was attached to the determination of these points. The Abbe Nollet passed an electrical shock from a small phial through a hundred and eighty of the French guards in the presence of the king; and at the Carthusian convent in Paris the monks were formed into a line above a mile in length, by means of iron wires held between them; on the discharge of the jar the sensation was felt at the same moment by all the persons composing this vast circuit. Many experiments were made both by the English and French electricians with a view to ascertain the space which a discharge can be made to traverse, and the velocity with which it is transmitted. Of these the most ingenious and satisfactory were the experiments planned and executed by Dr. Watson, with the assistance of the leading members of the Royal Society. A circuit was formed by a wire which extended the whole length of Westminster bridge, at a considerable height above the river; one end of this wire communicated with the outer casting of a charged phial or jar, the other being held by a person on the opposite side of the river, who formed a communication with the water by dipping it into an iron rod held by the other hand. The circuit was completed by another person who stood near the phial, and who likewise dipped an iron rod into the river with one hand, and was enabled by means of a wire held in the other, to effect a contact with the knob of the phial. Whenever the discharges took place, the shocks were felt by both persons: thus proving that the electric fluid must have been in motion along the whole line of the circuit, including both the wire above and the river below.

In another experiment, made on Shooter's hill, at a time when the ground was remarkably dry, the electricity was made to perform a circuit of four miles; being conducted for two miles along wires supported upon baked sticks, and for the remaining distance also of two miles, through the dry ground. As far as could be ascertained, by the most careful observation, the time in which the discharge was transmitted along that immense circuit was perfectly instantaneous: nor has any other trial that has yet been made afforded the least approach to a measurement of the velocity with which electricity moves.

On this subject, however, an important distinction should be made between the actual movement of each individual parcel of electric fluid, and the transmission of an impulse along a series of such particles, for the one may bear hardly any proportion to the other, just as we find that sound proceeds with a velocity incomparably greater than that of the particles of air which are concerned in its propagation.—In like manner the portion of blood, which raises the artery of the wrist, where the pulse is felt, is not the identical portion of blood, which is thrown from the heart by the contraction of that organ producing the pulsation; the impulse in all the cases being propagated, like a wave, from one particle to another.—There is, therefore, no reason to suppose that the same particles of electric fluid, which enter at one part, have traversed from one end to the other of the whole line of conducting substances"

From Skinner's American Turf Register, for October.

WILD HORSES—THE GAME AND SPORTS OF THE WEST.

FORT GIBSON, Aug 1, 1833.

Mr. Editor—Although the "blind goddess," in her capricious dispensations has not deemed me worthy a high place among the jovial fraternity ycleped "sportsmen of the turf," an inherent fondness for the horse, and the interest awakened by a recital of his gallant achievements, have made me a regular reader of your excellent work.

I have observed the polite reception given by you, to all sporting notices and papers, contributed by different gentlemen, on the subject of hunting and the various animals with which they have come in contact.

Having very recently visited the Grand Prairie, southwest of us, where the lovers of genuine field sports will find an inexhaustible source of amusement, among game of almost every variety, and of the noblest species, I have employed a leisure hour in embodying a brief relation of the tour, which is submitted to your discretion, as the proper depository of sporting intelligence.

A detachment of infantry and rangers, amounting to about three hundred and eighty men, left this post on the 6th May last, charged with the duty of scouring the Indian country to the southwest, with the double object of preserving the friendly relations existing between the tribes in alliance with the U. States and of preventing the hostile incursions of their enemies, the Pawnees.

On the 7th of May we left the bank of the Arkansas, and advanced on our line of march, in a southest direction, across the northern branches of the Canadian river.

The season of the year was most propitious to the purposes of hunting, as well as of military operation. Nature had fairly unfolded her vernal beauties, and we were traversing a lovely region of undulating prairie, mantled with green, and diversified by "hill and dale, copse, grove and mound;" its deep solitudes occasionally enlivened by herds of deer, whose timid glance and airy bound, as the stirring notes of the bugle fell upon their ear, bespoke a fear and distrust of their civilized visiters.

It was not until we had advanced some ninety or one hundred miles from Fort Gibson that we fairly reached the game country. As we were now on a neutral ground, between the Pawnees and the tribes friendly to the U States, and as the danger of hunting operates in some measure as a check on all parties, in resorting there, it results that the game (particularly the deer) is more plentiful in that section than it would otherwise be. The buffalo was here first encountered—a striking proof of the rapidity with which this animal recedes before the advances of civilization. Ten years since they abounded in the vicinity of Fort Gibson; and in the summer of 1822, the writer of this, with Major Mason of the army, and a keen sportmen, killed a considerable number of them near Fort Smith, about forty miles east of us. They have receded, it would seem, one hundred miles westward in the last ten years; and it may be safely assumed, that thirty or forty years hence, they will not be found nearer to us, than the spurs of the Rocky Mountains, unless the numerous bands of hunters of the Choctaw, Cherokee and Creek tribes, established in this country, should relinquish the chase for the arts of civilized life. On the 9th May we reached the main Canadian river, near the point where it enters the timber, bordering the eastern verge of the Grand Prairie, in its flow from the west.

The Grand Prairie extends to the Rocky Mountains, and presents to the eye a boundless extent of rolling champaign country, occasionally intersected by small streams, thinly bordered by dwarfish timber. A formidable herd of about one hundred buffaloes was here discovered, and, as the command needed fresh meat, a halt was ordered, and forty horseman detached to attack them. They gaily moved off in a gallop, armed with rifles. As they neared the herd they quickened their pace to half speed, when they were discovered by the graceless buffaloes, who started off as fast as they could scamper, with their peculiar hobbling, bounding gait.—The hunters now pressed them closely, and penetrated the moving mass at full speed; when each man selected his victim. The sharp, quick report of the rifle was now heard in rapid succession:—while the rush of the horses and buffaloes, the shouts of the party on the heights, and flashes and smoke of the guns, presented altogether one of the most animated spectacles I had ever witnessed.

The whole chase was visible for a long distance to the command, halted on the eminence; and so great was the interest it excited, that numbers were unable to resist it, and dashed off at full speed, to join in the work of destruction. The pursuit terminated in the death of a large number of the buffaloes, whose huge unwieldy carcases lay strewed over the plain, like heroes on the battle field.

The buffalo is; when wounded and excited, a very dangerous animal; and there are many instances related of hunters, who, relying too far on their seeming stupidity and unwieldiness, have fallen victims to their ferocity. On one occasion, during our trip, two rangers, in the impetuosity of pursuit, drove a buffalo into a narrow pass; where, finding himself closely pressed, he made battle, goring one of the horses in the thigh and overturning him and his rider. The horse of the other ranger stumbled during the conflict, and threw his rider on the back of the buffalo; which becoming alarmed at this new mode of attack, now set off at full speed, carrying the ranger with him about twenty yards; until the latter finding the gate not very easy, and likely to continue some time, rolled off the buffalo into the dust—each party mutually willing to dissolve the connection.

This reminds me of the anecdote related to me by Col. A. S. C. of St. Louis, a gentleman of veracity. While on a trading expedition to Mexico, he had in his employ a motley, but daring set of fellows, consisting of Frenchmen, Spaniards, half breeds and Indians, who were in the habit of bantering each other and boasting of their individual feats of prowess. On one occasion a Spaniard boldly wagered that he would *ride a buffalo;* which being taken up by one of the party, a suitable place for mounting was accordingly found, on an old trail that had been recently worn by the buffalo; the Spaniard secreted himself, and when the "gentle men" was encircled and driven into this passage; and as he passed slowly through the defile, the Don made a spring and lit on his hump clinging with both hands to the hair of the shoulders, and pressing his knees to the sides in true jockey style The old bull soon got into open ground, and commenced a series of curvets and caracoles, such as man never saw before, to the great edification of the spectators and trepidation of the rider.—The Don a little while kept his seat like a knight of the olden time; but finding that bully possessed both wind and bottom, and that he was getting *a little "tired of the sport,"* called out to his tickled companions to shoot the buffalo. They replied, they were afraid of breaking his leg. "Break the leg and be d——d," cried the impatient Don, when a volley brought down bully and his rider together; the latter resolving that it should be his last attempt to ride a buffalo.

Progressing southwest from the Canadian river, we reached the head waters of the Blue water river—a beautiful limestone region of elevated prairie, abounding in game of all kinds. Buffaloes were astonishingly numerous here; and I shall not fear contradiction in saying that I saw, in one view, as many as two thousand head. The country lying between the head of the Blue Water and False Onachita, rivers is particularly noted for the abundance and excellence of the wild horses which roam in its fertile prairies.

In one drove I estimated as many as one hundred and twenty head, most of them large and well formed. What struck me as peculiarly remarkable was the predominance of the grey color; by which I mean to say, there were more, as I thought, of that color than of any other single color. The same observation has been made, by oriental travellers, of the far famed stock of Arabia. Several horses were caught by the rangers; but they were not of course of the best class, which is seldom if ever overtaken; it being a natural impossibility that jaded horses, on a journey, can carry one hundred and sixty or one hundred and eighty pounds weight, and outstrip a naked and untired animal of the same species of itself.

At our encampment on the Canadian, an incident occurred which very fairly tested the enduring qualities of the wild horse, and will enable us to form a pretty correct estimate of his general powers. There was a fine looking animal discovered near the camp by a party of rangers, and several of them gave pursuit. They run him alternately a distance of about two miles, when they relinquished the pursuit. A third horseman then gave chase on a fresh horse, noted for speed and bottom in a company of one hundred men. The issue proved the vast superiority of the prairie horse, which at first ran before his pursuer at his ease; but, being at length pushed for the distance of a quarter of a mile, evinced such prodigious speed and wind, that, in the words of the ranger, he "just stood still and looked at him!"

The wild horses and mares taken by the rangers, though small, were remarkable for the deep, hard, black hoofs, flat sinewey limbs, full, fine eyes, and large nostrils—four of the cardinal attributes of the courser.

Of all the varieties of sporting in which I have participated, I have certainly found none so animating as the chase of the wild horse. There are two modes of taking them; one by throwing a running noose around the neck, from a coil held in the hand, and the other by fastening one end of the cord to the pommel of the saddle, and the other to a stick about eight feet long, in such a manner that the noose is always open and ready to put over the horse's head. The first mode requires great practice and address. It is employed by the Spaniards of Mexico and South America, who can, it is said, catch a horse by any foot which may be named.

On the head of Blue Water, a party of four of us determined to take a run after wild horses. Having equipped ourselves with a noose and stick, tightened our girths, and tied up our heads, we rode forth into the prarie; and soon discovered a large herd of about one hundred head, quietly grazing and unaware of our approach. As soon as we approached near enough to be seen by them, and were gradually recognized, the whole body began to nicker, and was soon in commotion, stamping the ground with their fore feet; while a few of the bolder spirits moved up towards us, slowly and doubtingly, eager to ascertain our character. Each rider now stooped on his horse laying his head close to his horse's neck; and in this manner we silently advanced, watching closely the movements of the herd, and making each a selection of such an animal as pleased his fancy. This part of the sport was very fine; and, in the present instance, so many elegant forms of both sexes, and all colors and sizes, presented themselves, that it required not a little promptitude to form a decision. We had not long to deliberate; for, by the time we were within one hundred yards, the increased nickering and confusion showed they had winded us; and the whole herd suddenly wheeled round and dashed off over the plain, closely pressed by their eager pursuers. We ran them about two miles; but the rocky nature of the country and the number of deep ravines crossing our track in every direction, prevented our coming up with such as were desirable. Could we have had a clear run the whole distance, we should doubtless have secured some fine animals; as their numbers prevented their running to advantage—caused them to crowd and impede the progress of each other, by which the disparity as to weight, previously referred to would have been neutralized. On our return towards the main body of the troops, we saw a large stallion whose fore leg had been broken in the chase; yet, in spite of this he managed to hobble off on the remaining three very cleverly.

Nothing in natural scenery can surpass the beauty of the prairie when we visited it, and it may be imagined with what delight we stood on a mound, on one occasion, and took into one view the wild horse, the buffalo, the elk, the deer and the antelope, in their native strength and beauty, roving free and untrammelled as the air they inhaled. Of each of these different species, with the exception of the elk, a number were killed and taken by the party; in addition to bears, wild turkeys, one wild hare, and numbers of prairie dogs.

From this point we made a short detour southwest and thence turned northeast, on our return route, as our provisions of every kind were nearly exhausted; and we were, a short time afterwards, compelled to subsist on wild meats,—part of the time without salt,—for the period of thirty five days.

With what a prurient fancy did we conjure up in our minds the delicate viands, rich sauces and Nectars. In our reveries by day, and dreams by night, we invoked the spirit of the immortal Ude, to gift us with the art of transmuting the odious buffalo jerk into something palatable and digestable.

Long privation had, by the time we reached the point of departure, sensibly affected our rotundity. Our clothes hung in graceless folds on our gaunt and famished limbs, and we were nearly circumstanced like Falstaff's troop—almost without a shirt among us; the "cankers of a calm world and a long peace!"

A READER.

Old clothes converted into Sugar.—Some of the newspapers say, it is a fact well known to Chemists that by means of a cheap acid, old clothes, rags, &c. may be converted into elegant sugar, weighing even more than the very stuffs out of which they were made!" We have no doubt of it; for far be it from us to distrust the authority of any thing that appears in the newspapers, but at the same time, we confess to our own ignorance of this modern wonderment in chemistry. However, the truth is, that discovery and improvement now-a days march to a tune of such treble quick time movement, that it is out of the question to keep up with it. A man must wear seven league boots to travel within hailing distance of modern "improvement." The discovery now announced is exceedingly important, and we intend to look into it a little. If chemistry can extract one substance from another at this rate, it were worth attending to. Any man who can get a pound and a half of lead out of an ounce, for instance, is a benefactor to mankind, and his discovery ought to be patronized. *Majus et se continet minus,* is a good axiom enough, but he who can make the minor quantity yield the major, will come within one or two points of being a wizzard. We will employ him hereafter in selecting a battalion of three hundred able bodied men from a plantoon of twenty four broken winded ragamuffins. The classic distictch of the three weights who *all* fell through the ice, while the rest of the same number run away, is nothing to the present achievment. But aside from this mathematical marvel of getting more weight out of a thing than its own specific gravity, there is something exceedingly interesting in the idea of extracting sugar from a bundle of old clothes. It surpasses the Alchymy of the honey bee. Only think of sweetening a man's coffee with a pair of old pantaloons! Who before ever heard of any thing saccharine in a discarded waistcoat; or supposed it possible to frost a plumb cake with a superanuated pocket handkerchief? How delightful the idea that an old maid we wot of will be obliged to drink up all her old night caps by way of sweetening her Bohea. A man now a days can transmute his underjacket into "kissing comfits" and offer his worn out dickies to his sweetheart in the "form and pressure" of sugar plumbs. Your ladies fond of lozenges can have them manufactured on shares out of cast off shawls. They can eat up a whole rag bag of confectionary in one evening! When the process becomes a little improved, as we dare say it will, we intend to have some "double refined" made out of a lot of old boots on hand. Nothing will be more comfortable and nothing more economical among our thrifty housewifes, than this same metemsychosis of old clothing; it will be absolutely delicious to sip souchong sweetened as it will be by the fragments of a dilapidated morning dress.—There are various portions of a dismissed wardrobe, that would make exquisite sugas, but it being a delicate subject, we of course shall not allude to them; "*sweet* is the memory of the past" but there are certain particulars in "this philosophy which we touch not." It is matter of gratulation enough for us, that such a magnificent discovery has been made, and it becomes not us who are mere novices in it to descend into particulars. The old clothsman is abroad! and his mission is for ought we know, as much to be regarded as that of the "school master." At any rate we advise all persons having "linen in ruins," worn out Waterloos, soiled slippers, antiquated inexpressibles, and other corded indiscribables of a "certain age" to lose no time in carrying them to him who "*sweetens* all the ills of this life"—the manufacturer of lump sugar from old clothes.—*N. Y. Courier.*

PULPIT ELOQUENCE.

Extract from Dr. Channing's sermon on the Immortality of the Soul.

"I have thus my hearers, endeavored to show that our nature, the more it is inquired into, discovers more clearly the impress of immortality. I do not mean that this evidence supersedes all other From its very nature, it can only be understood thoroughly by improved and purified minds. The proof of immortality which is suited to all understandings, is found in the Gospel, sealed by the blood, and confirmed by the resurrection of Christ. But this, I think, is made more expressive by a demonstration of its harmony with the teachings of nature. To me, nature and revelation speak with one voice, on the great theme of man's future being. Let not their joint witness be unheard.

"How full, how bright, are the evidences of this grand truth! How weak are the common arguments which scepticism arrays against it! To me, there is but one objection against immortality, if objection it may be called; and this arises from the very greatness of the truth. My mind sometimes sinks under its weight—is lost in its immensity. I scarce dare believe that such a good is placed within my reach.

When I think of myself as existing through all future ages, as surviving this earth and that sky, as exempted from every imperfection & error of my present being, as clothed with an angel's glory, as comprehending with my intellect, and embracing with my affections, an extent of creation, compared with the earth which is a point, when I think of myself as looking on the outward universe with an organ of vision that will reveal to me a beauty and harmony, and order, not now imagined, and as having an access to the minds of the wise and good, which will make them, in a sense, my own; when, I think of myself as forming friendships with innumerable beings of rich and various intellect, and of the noblest virtue, as introduced to the society of heaven, as meeting there the great and excellent of whom I have read in history, as joined with "the just made perfect," in an everlasting ministry of benevolence, as conversing with Jesus Christ, with the familiarity of friendship, and especially as having immediate intercourse with God, such as the closest intimacies of earth shadow forth—when this thought of my future being comes to me, whilst I hope, I also fear; the blessedness seems too great; the consciousness of present weakness and unworthiness is almost too strong for hope. But when in this frame of the wonderful marks of an Omnipotent goodness, to which nothing is impossible, and from which every thing may be hoped—when I see around me proofs of an infinite Father, who must desire the perpetual progress of his intellectual offspring—when I look next at at the human mind, and see what powers a few years have unfolded, and discern in it the capacity of everlasting improvement; and especially when I look at Jesus, the conqueror of death, the heir of immortality, who has gone as the preserver of mankind, into the mansions of light and purity, I can and do admit the almost overpowering thought of the everlasting life, growth, and felicity of the human soul."

THE CULTURE OF DOMESTIC AFFECTIONS.

The editor of the National Gazette, during the recent protracted rain storm, remarked:

"Such persons as cannot usefully employ themselves within doors during very inclement spells, are now indeed to be pitied; such as can cheerfully work at home, or find gratification in books for any length of time, or improve a period particularly favorable for moral reflection and the culture of the domestic affections, may make the worst weather an occasion of the richest harvest and the purest pleasure."

There is much excellent philosophy in the above quotation, and deep would be the obligations under which society would rest to editors, if they would use their influence to promote "the culture of *domestic affections*" It has appeared to us, that of all the shipwrecks of fame, fortune and social and domestic happiness, nine out of ten are referable to the neglect of the principles of affections. Those means of pleasure and profit are open to *all*, but which, like all of earthly and of heavenly growth, are mainly dependent upon culture. Where true affection—(we are not meddling with the novelist's passion of love)—where true affection has been brought into operation in a family, the vicissitudes of fortune are of little account. Sympathy for distress will of course be expected, but distress itself will be trivial. The power of affection once attained, is never lost; and its value is enhanced by the extent of its operation. The delights of the domestic circles are of course the dearest and most to be coveted; but the effect of their operation is to be marked beyond the "hearth"—the intercourse of society is touched with its influence, and the circle of benefits is widely extended. If the culture could be made general, we might look for its immediate and important influence upon society, an object greatly to be desired; but at *home*, the growth may be certain. The wish will produce the *means*, and perseverance will ensure perfection to "the culture of domestic affections."

From the Springfield Whig.

It is stated that the keeper of the Tigers belonging to the extensive Menagerie which was exhibited in this town a few months since, was torn to pieces and literally eaten up by them, a few days since in a town near New Haven, Conn. He had been in the habit of entering their cage and did so several times while they were here—at the evident hazard of his life. The day before he was killed, having entered their cage as usual, the Tigers prevented his getting out for several hours, and he was only rescued by administering to them stupifying articles in their food. The following day, this fool hardy individual again entered their cage, when they fell upon him and instantly tore him in pieces.

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