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POETRY.

From the North of England Magazine.

WOMAN'S SMILE.

BY CHARLES GOWEN CLARKE.

Through every weary stage of life—
Through every care—through every strife,
Kind heaven relief may send;
But nought can beguile
The heart of its toil,
Like the smile of a Woman-friend.

'Tis night-rain to the parched tree;
'Tis honey-dew to the eager bee;
'Tis zephyr to the opening rose;
'Tis Heaven's own light
To him whose night
Has saddened amid the polar snows.

'Tis white cliffs of their native land,
At morning seen by the sailor band
Who long have toiled upon the main,
Or bubbling spring
To him wondering
O'er Zara's wild and scorching plain.

'Tis freedom to the dungeon-bound;
'Tis coolness to the throbbing wound;
Or health to a plague-tainted air;
'Tis morning breaking;
An infant waking;
'Tis every thing that's good and fair.

WINTER.

Mary Howitt has beautifully described the con- [illegible] of the year—

"In rich men's halls, the fire is piled,
And furry robes keep out the weather;
In poor men's huts, the fire is low,
Thro' broken panes the keen winds blow,
And old and young are cold together.

Oh, poverty is disconsolate!
Its pains are many, its foes are strong;
The rich man, in his jovial cheer,
Wishes 'twas winter all the year;
The poor man, 'mid his wants profound,
With all his little children round,
Prays God that winter be not long.

AGRICULTURAL.

INTRODUCTION

TO THE

FARMER'S ENCYCLOPÆDIA,

AND DICTIONARY OF

RURAL AFFAIRS.

"To render Agriculture more productive and beneficial to all, it is necessary that its principles should be better understood, and that we should profit more from the experience of each other, and by the example of other countries which excel us in this great business."
—Buel.

The work upon husbandry now ushered before the American public is the production of an English gentleman of great intelligence, assisted by some of the best authorities upon rural subjects in his country.—By collecting and condensing the most interesting details relative to farming, chiefly derived from living authors, such as Professors Liebig, Lowe, Sir J. E. Smith, Brande, Youatt, Stephens, Thompson, Lindley, I. F. Johnson, etc., etc., he has been enabled to present the very latest information, and furnish a fund of matter which cannot fail to attract all who take an interest in rural affairs, so long studied and so thoroughly understood as these must needs be in Great Britain.

The absence of speculative views, with the very practical and matter-of-fact character of the information given upon all subjects treated of, will perhaps be found to constitute the highest recommendation of 'C. W. Johnson's Farmers' Encyclopædia, and Dictionary of Rural Affairs."

The comparatively limited range of English Agriculture is strongly contrasted with the diversity of culture met with in the United States. A work limited to an account of productions of the soil and climate of England would leave out many of the most important crops, which exact the attention of the American farmer and planter. Hence the necessity of adapting a book of the kind to the new localities into which it is introduced. This, as may be well supposed, presents a task of no small labour.

It has been charged upon agriculturists, that improvements in husbandry encounter great opposition, and generally work their way very slowly, whereas inventions and improvements made in the manufacturing and mechanic arts are seized upon and put to profit almost as quickly as promulgated. The late and justly celebrated Mr. Coke, of Holkam, England the great benefactor of his own country, and, indeed, of every other country where agriculture is cherished, succeeded, by the adoption of an enlightened course of tillage, in converting a sandy and comparatively sterile district into one of very great productiveness. But, though his improvements were on so large a scale, and the results so very striking to observers, such was the general ignorance, apathy, or prejudice prevailing in the neighbouring counties, that he estimated the rate at which his improved process spread around him, at only about three miles a year. A better condition of things would seem to exist at present in the United States, doubtless owing to the extension of education. But a few months have passed since the treatise upon Agricultural Chemistry of the celebrated Dr. Liebig, reached this side of the Atlantic, and though much of it is couched in the abstruse phraseology of science, still has it been eagerly sought after in all directions, and gone through several editions. Can any stronger proof be furnished of the high state of intelligence pervading a large portion of the agricultural population of the United States?

The advances in agricultural improvement have, of late years, been in what mathematicians call a geometrical ratio, the pace increasing with great celerity at every successive step. In proportion as the influences of modern education become diffused, the savage characteristics of man are softened down, and the better feelings of his nature acquire predominance.—Bloody and desolating wars are viewed in their true light, and the useful arts of peace appear the only proper sources of individual pleasure and national prosperity. As, among these arts, none possesses the vital importance of agriculture, from its furnishing the means of immediate subsistence, so it may fairly be said, no other excites at the present day a greater and more pervading interest throughout Europe and America, with all who seek independence or the gratification of the most rational of tastes.

The inhabitants of the United States possess advantages for the prosecution of agricultural pursuits, which, for variety and extent, surpass those enjoyed by any other people on the globe. They occupy the greatest portion of the North American continent, embracing all varieties of soil and surface, with a climate which in the southern parts admits the culture of many of the most valuable productions, while to reach the less favoured regions where too severe and enduring frost entails a scanty vegetation.

Commencing nearest the tropical limits, the chief attention of the planter is directed to the culture of the sugar-cane, rice, tobacco, indigo, and especially cotton, more of which last is raised in the Southern States than in all the rest of the world besides. In the amount of sugar procured from the cane, Louisiana takes the lead, though Florida, Alabama, and others of the extreme southern states produce considerable quantities. South Carolina yields the most rice, which is also raised to a greater or less extent throughout the southern states, and even as high as Tennessee, Kentucky, and southern Virginia. The cotton region is still more extensive, spreading throught the extreme southern and south-western states, from the Atlantic far west of the Mississippi, and rising into middle Virginia, and even the lowest portion of Delaware. In the quantity of tobacco produced, Virginia stands foremost, being followed successively by Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, North Carolina, etc.

The Middle States raise in the greatest abundance, maize or Indian corn, wheat, rye, barley and oats, whilst in a large portion of the Northern States, the wheat, rye, oat, potato, and especially grass crops, are extremely productive and valuable. Although maize is most extensively cultivated in the middle states, it is abundant in almost every section of the country, and from its affording so large an amount of the food of man and animals, is universally regarded as the most valuable cereal crop of the United States. Besides these there are many other rich products of the fields and forests, which enter largely into the aggregate of national wealth.

The first history of American Agriculture differs from that of countries in the old world, where the advances in the arts were slow, and every acquisition marked by rudeness and simplicity. Not so however in America, whose intelligent European settlers came with all the appliances of advanced civilization, prepared to chop down the forests and clear away the thickets which had so long encumbered the ground and furnished a scanty subsistence to the savage hunter. For a time the roots obstructed the plough and prevented the deep turning of the soil: but they afforded no impediment to the raising of grain crops, since the light virgin mould, abounding in the alkalies and all other elements of fertility, required but the slightest stirring of the surface to answer the purposes of the plough and harrow. Here then commenced the career of the American planter and farmer, upon a capital accumulated by nature herself through the most gradual accessions. Rich harvests of grain, crops of tobacco and other products sent to Europe and sold at high prices, stimulated to renewed exertions, and the generous soil was subjected to a scourging course of tillage, by which many of the essential elements of its fertility were finally exhausted without any compensating additions. In Virginia, where the primitive settlements were made, large tracts of many hundreds and even thousands of acres, the once profitable culture of which is shown by the extensive ruins of stately mansions, now lie waste and uncultivated, or are covered with a new growth of the oak and pine, renewing forests to which the deer, once driven away, has returned.

The lands bordering on the Atlantic have thus been worn out by successive years of culture without adequate help, the thinnest soils first, and next the deeper moulds. But let not those whose lots are cast in other and more prosperous parts of the Union sympathize over the decayed fortunes of once flourishing districts, and overlook their own gradual decline. It is in vain for the farmers of the western valleys and prairies to boast of the depth and inexhaustible productive powers of their lands. With every crop, some of the elements of fertility must of necessity be removed, and the greater the crops the speedier the exhaustion, unless some adequate compensation be made. The following fact, [illegible] the fifth volume of that American periodical, "The Cultivator," shows the progress of deterioration in one of the great wheat districts in the whole country, viz. of Genesee County, [illegible]

"Thomas Burrall, Esq. has [illegible] excellent wheat farm in the neighborhood of Geneva, (New York,) which he began to clear and improve twenty-one or twenty-two years ago, *and on which he has made and applied much manure.* Mr. Burrall informed us, in the summer of 1836, that he had noted down the average product of his wheat crop every year; that dividing the twenty years into three periods, he found that his wheat had averaged twenty-nine bushels per acre during the first of these periods; twenty-five bushels the acre during the second; and but twenty bushels the acre during the third period—thus showing a diminished fertility of nearly one third, under what may there be denominated a good system of husbandry."

All, then, who are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and even those now luxuriating upon the most fertile soils, must, sooner or later, be reduced to the necessity of adding to their fields some of the agents of fertility, and of adopting new means by which they can obtain crops that may be compensating and profitable.

The late Judge Buel, in referring to a picture drawn by the Hon. James M. Garnett, of the deteriorated condition of Virginia agriculture, says:—"Let not the Northerners take credit to themselves, from this outline of old Virginia husbandry, or from the ingenuous detail of the causes which brought it to so low a condition. Though not exactly the like causes have operated, the same deteriorating system of husbandry has prevailed with us, though perhaps to a more limited extent. Though we have personally attended more to the art—to the practice—yet we have been equally deficient in the science with our brethren in Virginia—equally indifferent to the study and application of the principles upon which good husbandry begun earlier in the business [illegible] whether from necessity or from choice we will not say, we are still too defective in practice to boast of our trivial acquirments. The truth is, we have regarded the soil as a kind mother, expecting her always to give, without regarding her ability to give. We have expected a continuance of her bounties, though we have abused her kindness, and disregarded her maternal admonitions. We have managed the culture of the soil as a business requiring mere animal power, rather than as one in which the intellectual could be brought largely to co-operate."

"But," continues the Judge, in the full fervour of his zeal for the promotion of agriculture, "there is a redeeming spirit abroad. The lights of science are beaming upon the agricultural world, and dissipating the clouds of superstitious ignorance which have so long shrouded it in darkness. The causes which have for some time been actively operating to improve the condition of the other arts, and to elevate the character of those who conduct them, are extending their influence to agriculture."

The course of tillage followed in America since its first settlement, and with such exhausting and disastrous effects upon the soil, has been of late aptly styled the *old system*, to distinguish it from the *New Husbandry*, which last consists in the employment of means calculated not only to arrest and prevent the exhaustion of soils, but to increase their productiveness. It is indeed gratifying to know that in many parts of our country which have suffered from the impoverishment of the land, agriculture has for many years shown signs of progressive improvement, reduced farms having been brought into increased value, and the products of many of them being raised even above the amount afforded in the days of their first exuberant culture. This has [illegible] in New England, in the Valley of the Hudson, in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the upper portion of the Peninsula including Delaware and Eastern Maryland, in several parts of Western Maryland, Older Eastern Virginia, etc.

It is the chief object of the numerous and many admirable agricultural publications so extensively circulated at the present day, as well as of the active societies everywhere instituted, to set forth the principles and practical details of the *new system* of husbandry, and to demonstrate the advantages resulting from the judicious application of manures and all sorts of fertilizing agents;—from good tillage;—from proper rotation of crops;—from the assistance to be derived from root-culture;—from the substitution for naked fallows, of clover and other good fallow crops. All these means are to be adopted in conjunction with ample draining; with or without the additional advantages derived from sub-soil ploughing.

Many of the processes which may be resorted to in carrying out the *new* system are in a great degree mysteries to thousands in the United States, although familiarly known and long employed in other countries, where with not half the natural advantages the labour of the husbandman is far better rewarded.—Such has been the agricultural improvement effected in Flanders, that the whole country may almost be styled a garden, each acre being capable of supporting its man. Scotland, in little more than half a century, has changed from comparative unproductiveness, into one of the richest agricultural districts in Europe. In Great Britain, the products of the grain harvests have increased within sixty years, from one hundred and seventy to three hundred and forty millions of bushels. The system inculcated by the new principles, has even in some districts of our own country, where they have been well followed up, increased the value of farms, two, three, and four hundred per cent.—from twenty and thirty dollars to one hundred dollars per acre.—"It has," says Buel, "made every acre of arable land, upon which it has been practised ten years, and lying contiguous to navigable waters, or a good market, worth, at least, one hundred dollars, for agricultural purposes."

The zeal for the promotion of good husbandry which pervades the country at large, is displayed in the geological surveys which have been finished, [illegible] in the agricultural surveys in several others, together with the liberal premiums appropriated by legislative authority, and innumerable societies, for the encouragement of every thing tending to improve and advance the agricultural interests. It is also shown by the extensive circulation of the many periodicals devoted in whole or in part to agricultural topics. Every section of our extensive country has more or less of these invaluable aids for the dissemination of useful information.

Book-farmers have long suffered under general discredit, and been exposed to abundance of taunt and ridicule, even from their own agricultural brethren. Doubtless the imperfection of much of the scientific data furnished and practised upon has often given occasion to unsatisfactory results. But the rapid progress of science has developed new facts, and furnished much more accurate information. Under the direction of Davy, agricultural chemistry made vigorous advances. His many splendid discoveries, and especially his demonstration that the common alkalies, potash and soda, and the alkaline earths, magnesia, lime, and alumine, were not simple elementary substances, but the oxides of metals, seemed to give a new impulse to those who sought to make chemistry subservient to agriculture. But even with the brilliant achievements of Davy and the subsequent valuable researches of Count Captal in France, agricultural chemistry remained very imperfect.—Too exclusive attention had been devoted to the mineral constituents of soils. Most gratifying and important results have been since obtained through the able investigations of several eminent French chemists, Braconnot, and Boussingault, all of whom have devoted special attention to ascertaining the nature and properties of organic substances entering into the composition of soils. What England commenced by Davy, and France followed up so ably by her distinguished chemists just named, Germany seems to have the honor of almost perfecting through the brilliant achievements of her chemist, Dr. Liebig, the highly important results obtained by whom have been quite recently placed before the world in a treatise entitled 'Organic Chemistry.' The interesting developements made in this work of the chemical agencies operating in the various stages and conditions of growth, maturity, and subsequent decomposition of vegetable and animal substances, and the mutual relations subsisting between these and the earth and atmosphere, have drawn upon Liebig the admiration of all Europe and America.

It must, nevertheless, be owned that though generally adopted, the accuracy of some of Liebig's results has been more than questioned by distinguished chemists in Europe and the United States. The particulars of these and the effects of the several agencies acting upon the life of vegetables and animals, will be found in the Encyclopædia of Agriculture, arranged under various heads such as, Soils, Humus, Carbon, Oxygen, Azote or Nitrogen, Hydrogen, Ammonia, etc.

Whilst agriculture has, within the last few years, been thus receiving such rich tributes from abroad, many scientific investigators of the highest merit have been zealously and successfully engaged in the United States, in experimental researches which have added greatly to the stock of useful knowledge. Among these, it would be signal injustice to pass unnoticed the names of Professors Jackson and Dana of Massachusetts, who have devoted great attention to the analyses of soils, the chemical composition and properties of humus as found in ordinary mould, and in peats and bog-mud, the results of which have been published in the reports of the Agricultural and Geological Surveys of Massachusetts, and in separate essays. Professors Rogers and Booth of Philadelphia, the former in his Geological Report of New Jersey, and the latter of Delaware, have furnished numerous and highly accurate analyses of the valuable calcareous marls and green-sand deposits found so abundantly in the states named, as well as in others of the middle and southern regions, together with much information relative to the application of these inexhaustible agents of fertility;—Nor can we omit the name of Dr. Harris of Massachusetts, whose highly interesting and useful treatise upon destructive insects, is a most valuable acquisition to the stores of agricultural knowledge.

The success with which science has developed the agencies concerned in the various stages and processes of vegetation, and the certainty with which deficiences of soil can now be detected and remedied, have suddenly elevated agriculture from the condition of an art under the guidance of common observation and empirical experiment, to a science regulated by recognised principles of induction. We are indeed much mistaken if the day has not arrived when the successes of the book-farmer shall cause his incredulous brother farmer of the old routine system, to cease his taunts and spend some of his leisure hours in searching into books containing modern information in regard to matters of husbandry.

In preparing the work for the American farmer, the editor has had several objects to fulfil. Of these, one of the principal was the reduction of the price the cost of the imported copy being so great as to prevent any extensive circulation of it in the United States. Much of the irrelevant and less important materials in the original have been omitted, their place being supplied by the addition of information connected with the interests of American husbandry. In the selection of such information, the editor has to acknowledge his great indebtedness to distinguished writers at home and abroad, who have contributed, by elaborate works, separate treatises and communications in periodicals, to promote the cause of agriculture.

The American edition will contain a far greater number of plates and figures illustrating the various subjects; notwithstanding which, its cost will be only about one-fourth that of the imported work.

THE DEGRADING HABIT OF SWEARING.

It is not easy to perceive what honour or credit is connected with swearing? Does any man receive promotion because he is a notable blusterer? Or does any man advance to dignity because he is expert at profane swearing? No! Low must be the character which such impertinence will exalt; high must be the character, which such impertinence will not degrade. Inexcusable, therefore, must be the practise which has neither reason nor passion to support it The drunkard has his cups, the lecher, his mistress; the satirist, his revenge; the ambitious man, his preferments; the miser, his gold, but the common swearer has nothing; he is a fool at large, all his [illegible] is void of all plea. It is not the native offspring of the soul, nor interwoven with the texture of the body, nor anyhow allied to our frame. For, as a great man (Tillotson) expresses it, "though some men pour out oaths as if it were natural, yet no man was ever born of a swearing constitution.' But it is a custom, a low and paltry custom, picked up by low and paltry spirits, who have no sense of honour, no regard to decency; but are forced to substitute some raphsody of nonsense to supply the vacancy of good sense. Hence the silliness of the practice can only be equalled by the silliness of those that adopt it.—*Sermons by the late Dr. David Lymont.*

THE SULTANS' WIVES.

The Constantinople correspondent of the N. York Knickerbocker, in the course of some interesting sketches says, that in the Ottomon history there are found instances of the marriage of Sultans, either with the daughters of their own most distinguished subjects or with foreign princesses. Some of the earliest sultans married the daughters of Greek princes, of the emperors of Constantinople, of Byzantium, Servin, and Caramania. But of late years, the sultans have found their favourites among the fair Circassians of their harems, and when they are so fortunate as to bear them a prince or princess, they raise them to the rank of kadin. Ordinarily their number is fixed at four, sometimes at six, and the present sultan's grandfather had seven; the odaliks, or female slaves attendant upon the sultan, and partakers of his favors, are unlimited in number, and some of the Ottoman sovereigns' families have been very numerous; for instance Murad III. left at his death one hundred and thirty sons and daughters. Latterly the sultans have been more limited in the number of their family, or their progeny is not permitted to live. Sultan Mohammed II. left only six children; his son however bids fair to sustain the character of Eastern princes for fecundity. It is a remarkable fact that the daughters of the late sultan, of whom three have been married to pachas, have no children, the probable result of a policy, which has for its object the limitation of the number of the imperial family.

Will some kind friend tell us how to please every body?—*Forum.*

By fancying you are, yourself, every body.

A French Bull.—The Journal of Commerce publishes the following extract from M. Jacqueminot's address to the electors of Paris—"Gentlemen, I have shed *all* my blood for my country, and I am ready to shed it *again.*"

What ancient Greek was a murderer of comfort? Achilles—(*A kill ease.*)

☞The poets are not all dead yet, witness the following, perpetrated by the genius who presides over the "Hagerstown News"—

"For winter's hoary head appears again,
And Boreas sweeps across the smiling plain,"
The Bees and Ladies to their homes repair,
While we remain in our office, hard at work, in
the corner of the Public Square.

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