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# Nebraska Advertiser.

VOL. VII. BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1862. NO. 11.

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Having been appointed agent for the Eagle Works Sugar Cane Mills and Evaporators, Chicago, Ill., I am prepared to fill orders at the manufacturer's prices. Price of Mills, from \$40 to \$300. Evaporators from \$20 to \$150. Address: J. W. FISHER & CO., BROWNVILLE, NEB., March 27, 1862.

### The Honey Bee's Song.

WHAT THE BEE SINGS TO THE CHILDREN.

I am a honey bee, Basting away Over the blossoms The long summer day; Now in the little cup Drinking my fill, Now where the roses bloom Under the hill, Gaily we fly My fellows and I Seeking the honey our lives to supply.

Up in the morning— No legends are we— Skimming the clover-cups Ripe for the bee, Weaving the dowers At dawning of day, Ere the bright sun Kiss the dew-drops away. Merrily stinging, Hastily winging, Back to the hive with the store we're bringing.

No idle moments Have we through the day, No time to squander In sleep or in play; Summer is flying, And we must be sure Food for the winter At once to secure. Down in a hive Busy we are— Lazy folks never can prosper or thrive.

Awake, little mortals, No harvest for those Who waste their best hours In slothful repose; Come out to the morning All bright things bring— And listen awhile To the honey bee's song. Merrily stinging, Hastily winging, Industry ever its own reward bringing.

### Agriculture of the Ancients.

Though from necessity, agriculture and pastoral life were the chief occupation of man in the early as well as later history of the world, and though we are assured by contemporaneous writings that many books were written by Greek and Roman authors, on the subject of improving the soil and the products thereof, yet any authentic history of ancient agriculture has not come down to us, and with the exception of two or three poems and an equal number of prose fragments, we find no information upon the subject except in the allusions in the Bible and the thin scatterings through profane literature, and the mysterious hieroglyphics from disembowelled cities.

Sacred history, is of course the earliest record we have of rural affairs. Hesiod, said by Herodotus to be a contemporary of Homer, but whom modern antiquarians have satisfactorily shown flourished about one hundred years after, and 750 B. C., in his poem of works and days, gives a collection of prospects, many of them economical, and in what we should call "Poor Richard" style, and concludes with a sort of calendar for the agriculturist. This poem is the first of its class didactic, and looking upon personal and practical life, and is the model upon which Virgil framed his Georgics. Zenophon, another Greek, who lived 450 B. C., and besides his great merit as a military commander, as shown in his conducting the celebrated retreat of the ten thousand mercenaries in the service of Cyrus the younger, after the disastrous battle of Cunaxa, recorded by himself, and as a philosopher, and shared with Plato the conversation of Socrates. In the dialogue entitled "Economics," Socrates is represented as one of the characters or interlocutors, and thus gives his sanction to the views of Zenophon, who discourses at large on the science of good husbandry, the cultivation of garden and farm, the regulation of a household, and the relative duties of wife and husband. From this essay we obtain a better knowledge of Greek agriculture than from any other source. Cicero speaks of it as very useful and worthy of study.

Of the agriculture of the early Romans, we know but little, but of its later history and especially during the most prosperous period of that great Empire, we have comparatively full record in the treatise of Cato, who lived in the second century before Christ, in the Georgics of Virgil on the beginning of the Christian era, and in the subsequent writings of Pliny the naturalist.

Pliny says that some of the most famous houses among the ancient Romans, such as the Pisones, Fabii, Lentuli, &c., took their names from their favorite crops and vegetables. They did not believe in large farms half cultivated. On the first division of the lands by Romulus, no one had more than two acres. After the expulsion of the kings seven acres were allowed. Cincinnatus had only four acres, which he cultivated with his own hands, and thus he employed when chosen to be Consul; also afterwards, when summoned to be Dictator and save his country. During the civil wars following the death of Julius Cæsar, agriculture had become much neglected, and so great was the distress during the reign of Augustus, that all classes began to murmur and cast the blame upon the administration. In this state of things Mæcenas, the favorite, or as we should say, the prime minister of the emperor and patron of Virgil, Horace and other

learned men, happily desired Virgil to write a treatise upon agriculture, for the purpose of reviving the agricultural interests of the country, and averting thereby the impending evils. Seven years were spent in the work, and when the "Georgics" appeared, it was almost everywhere well received, and Italy soon assumed a flourishing appearance. By this poem, the most perfect and finished in the Latin language, Virgil conferred a greater blessing upon his country, than if in the field he had obtained splendid victories. Peace has her triumphs as well as war! The rules for the improvement of husbandry, and the advice given to the farmer upon the many subjects connected with it, were not only suited to the climate of Italy, but in a measure to all places where agriculture is held in due estimation.

In closing an account of the writers of antiquity who shed light upon the pursuits of the farmer, we should not omit Cicero, who in his treatise on old age, discourses so charmingly upon the pleasures of husbandman, which are not checked by any old age, and appear to make the nearest approach to the life of a wise man. Nothing can be more profitable, nothing more beautiful, than a well cultivated farm. "He also says that he wrote a book respecting rural affairs, in which he treated of the advantages of manuring, concerning which the learned Hesiod had not said a single word."

To return to the practice of husbandry by ancient nations, upon which great light has been recently thrown by paintings and inscriptions upon the ancient tombs, particularly those of the Egyptians, many of which, after the lapse of two or three thousand years, retain the distinctness of outline and brilliancy of color of recent productions, we discern that many things supposed of modern invention, were known to the earliest peoples. Egypt was the granary of the world, in addition to supplying her own immense population; and manyfold were the contrivances of harvesting, as well as preserving her immense yield of corn and other cereals. The Holy Annals tell us of the immense quantity produced during the seven plentiful years in Joseph's time, affording a sufficiency of corn to supply the whole population during seven years of dearth, as well as all countries which sent to Egypt to buy it.

Their granaries appear to have been under ground, and travellers in that country in recent times tell us of very large open dry wells found in dry places on the sides of a sloping hill. Thompson's "Land and the Book," vol. 2, p. 264. In climates free from rain these were probably the most convenient receptacles, particularly when, as in the case of besieged places, provisions had to be preserved for many years. Askalon was besieged 29 years. Wilkinson's Egypt instructs us that there were smaller granaries adjoining the house, and that in fact an Egyptian villa comprised all the conveniences of the present day, gardens, orchards, fish pond and game preserves. And Diodorus says, "Being from their infancy brought up to agricultural pursuits, they far excelled the husbandmen of other countries, and had become acquainted with the capabilities of the land, the mode of irrigation, the exact season for sowing and reaping, as well as all the most useful secrets connected with the cultivation of garden and farm, the regulation of a household, and the relative duties of wife and husband. From this essay we obtain a better knowledge of Greek agriculture than from any other source. Cicero speaks of it as very useful and worthy of study."

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that too much care could not be devoted to it, and for the same reason plowmen among the Greeks were always selected from persons over forty years of age, who having, it was presumed, sown their own wild oats, would give more care to those of their employers. Harrowing, according to Cicero, derives its name *occasio*, from its confining what is hidden within the bosom of the earth, covering the seed having been with the Greek and Romans the only purpose of that instrument.

The Egyptians used hoes, or rather picks, looking like a scythe or letter A, made of wood, and one limb shorter than the other, with which they picked the ground to pieces after the plow had passed. See Isaiah, 7: 25. The modern Egyptians have invented a substitute for the hoe, to be used after plowing, called "hedge-hog," which is a regular clod crusher, not unlike those used in England, and first brought into notice at the great Exhibition of 1851, consisting of a cylinder, studded with projecting iron pins. Wilkinson says they pressed with nitrous soil, which was spread on the soil, (and the custom is continued to the present day,) but this was confined to certain crops, and these reared late in the year.

Of their other manures we know but little, but as from the scarcity of wood, all Eastern nations were in the habit of using dung for fuel, they depended probably principally upon irrigation and following the land, and the necessity of the latter is the reason it was so strongly enjoined by the law givers. Levit. 18: 23; 25: 3; Hosea, 10: 12. This seventh years fallow prevented the exhaustion of the soil, which was further enriched by the burning of the weeds, and spontaneous growth of the sabbatical year. The corn when ripe was cut with either sickle or scythe, and was bound into sheaves, and conveyed with carts at once to the threshing floor or barn. It was never stacked. The threshing floor were as in the East now, level plots of ground in the open air. 2 Sam. 24: 18. Wilkinson's Egypt. The wind there removed the chaff part of the chaff. Thrash, says Hesiod, in a breezy place and on well rounded floors. Oxen generally trawled over the grain, and pigs, asses, goats, &c., according to Herodotus, trod in the seed, after it was sowed. The ox was unmuzzled. (Deut. 25: 4.) and eat as he went his rounds. In later times the Jews appear to have used threshing instruments. 1 Chron. 21: 21; Isaiah, 41: 15, and the modern Egyptians have a machine called "woreg," with iron plates, with which they bruise the ears of corn and extract the grain, at the same time the straw is chopped up. Corn, in all countries except these United States, meaning all the small grained cereals except Indian corn or maize.

Instances of stall-fed oxen are noticeable on the exhumed paintings, and this custom accords with the scriptural account of the preservation of cattle which had been brought home from the field, and explains the apparent contradiction in Exodus 9: 16, 10, &c., all the cattle in the stalls or houses having been preserved.

Though, as we learn from the sculptures, the Egyptians had houses and other fit appliances, yet among most of the eastern nations as among modern farmers, especially the Dutch, the barns were more important, and until the land was well cultivated, and the necessary receptacles for its yield prepared, the accommodations for the owner were not much attended to. "Prepare the work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thy house," says the wisest of men. Prov. 24: 27.

Hesiod's advice, on the contrary, was "first of all get a house and a woman, and a plowing ox, and all fitting implements, lest you should ask of another and he refuse, and you be in want of them, so the season shall pass by and your labor's fruit be lessened." Is not the latter part of this advice of the old Greek, delivered over two thousand years since, fully applicable to the present age of moving machines, horse rakes, and other indispensable?

H. C.

There is a curious passage in Isaiah, 34: 12. "The people shall be as the burning of thorn; as thorn cut up shall they be burned in the fire." And Mr. Thompson, L. & B., vol. ii, page 81, says that in the Holy land he saw the people cutting up thorns for the line kite. And the Israelites use lime for manure? It was in very early use in England according to "Talpa."

In carving a partridge—says Sydney Smith—I splashed Mr. Markham with gravy from head to foot; and though I saw three distinct rills of the brown liquid trickling down her cheek, she had the complacency to declare that not a drop had reached her! Such circumstances are the triumphs of civilized life.

General Banks is appointed to the left wing of General M. C. Smith's army corps. This is understood to give him the command of the troops in Washington and vicinity the fortifications around the Capital.

### The Benefit of Trenching.

So much has already been written on the advantages resulting from trenching, deep plowing, and other cognate means of raising and bringing into action the latent powers of the subsoil, that it would be superfluous to say a single word in commendation of the practice. We are aware, however, that there is still considerable difference of opinion regarding the ultimate benefit derived from the practice on different kinds of soil. In this, as in other matters, the intelligent agriculturist will be guided more by the peculiar circumstances of the soil than by any general rules. It is only by studying carefully the nature of the ground he cultivates, and its peculiar wants, that he will be able to turn its capabilities to the best advantage. When this is intelligently done, there will be little fear of a successful result. As illustrative of the value of deep trenching, we shall briefly state our experience of trenching a plot of ground about a quarter of an acre in extent.

For a number of years, potatoes had been grown successively upon the plot, and, as it had got little or no manure, the ground was much worn out. Last year we endeavored to take another crop of potatoes off it, but with very indifferent success. Owing to particular circumstances, the crop was somewhat late in being put into the ground, and when it came away the stems had from the first that exhausted "spiry" appearance which betokened a weakly plant, and a miserable return. The result was little better than a failure, two and three, and not unfrequently only one being found at a shaw. The potatoes themselves were watery and waxy, and quite unfit for human food. We mentioned the circumstances to a high agricultural authority, and he immediately suggested deep trenching. Acting upon the advice the plot was trenched in the end of the season to a depth of about two feet. It was then allowed to lie in a rough state throughout the winter until the usual season for cropping, when it was manured with dung from the pig-sty, mixed with the refuse of the dust-bin, and again planted with potatoes. The result of the experiment has been such as to be scarcely credible. As soon as the potatoes began to appear above ground this year, it was evident that the labor had not been in vain. They came away with a strength of stem and a breadth of leaf quite remarkable.

Notwithstanding the somewhat backward season, they grew apace, and have continued growing until some of them are at the present time three feet in height, and the average about two feet and a half. The stems, or rather some of the principal branches—as they have more the appearance of a bush than a potato shaw—are two inches and a half in diameter. Of course, it is impossible to say what the yield may be, but when we see a good shaw we expect something good at the root.

It may be supposed that a greater stress has been laid upon the trenching than is its due, and that the manure had as much to do in the production of the extraordinary crop as the turning up of the subsoil. This, however, is not the case, and the proof is to be found in the ground itself. The borders were not trenched, and they got the same quantity of manure as the plot, but the size of the shaws are not more than one-third of those of the middle plot. Another peculiarity may be mentioned as tending still further to show the benefit of deep trenching. One side of the ground was not so deeply trenched as the other, and towards that side the size and exuberance of the shaws gradually decrease. As one fact is worth a whole cartload of theories, however specious, we leave the above simple statement to speak for itself, without adding a single word of comment, feeling that it will commend itself to all whom it may concern.—*Scottish Farmer.*

### Extracts for Young Men.

Give a young man a taste for reading, and in that single disposition you have furnished him with a great safeguard. He has found at home that which others have to seek abroad, namely, pleasure and excitement. He has learned to think even when his book is no longer in his hand, and it is for want of thinking that youth go to ruin.

Some of those who have been most eminent in learning and science made their first attainment in snatches of time stolen from manual employment. Hans Sachs, the poet of the Reformation, and the Burns of Germany, began life as did Burns, a poor boy; he was a tailor's son and served an apprenticeship, first to a shoemaker and afterwards to a weaver, and continued to work at the loom as long as he lived. The great dramatist, Ben. Johnson, was a working bricklayer, and afterwards a soldier. Linnæus, the father of modern botany, was once on the shoemaker's bench. Our immortal Franklin, it need scarcely be said, was a printer. Herschel, whose name is inscribed on the heavens, was the son of a poor musician, and at the age of fourteen years was placed in a band attached to the Hanoverian guards. After going to England he undertook to teach music, and then became an organist. But while he was supporting himself in this way he was learning Italian, Latin, and even Greek. From music he was naturally led to mathematics, and thence to

optics and astronomy. John Dolland, the inventor of the achromatic telescope, spent his early years at the silk loom; and continued in his original business even for some years after his eldest son came to an age to join in it. Few cases are more celebrated than that of Gifford, the founder and editor of the *Quarterly Review*. He was an orphan, and barely escaped the poorhouse. He became a ship boy of the most menial sort on board of a coasting vessel. He was afterwards for six years apprenticed to a shoemaker. In this last employment he stole time from the last for arithmetic and algebra, and for the lack of other conveniences, used to work out his problems on leather with a blunt awl. Few names are more noted in modern literature.

### Moral Effects of a Taste for Flowers.

A correspondent sends the *Farmer and Gardener* the following extract from an address delivered before the British Association, "on some practical reports derivable from the study of botany:"

"Mr. Ward proceeded to urge the importance of cultivating a taste for legitimate horticultural pursuits among the members of the labouring population, as it was a well established fact that, wherever a pink or a carnation or a rose was seen outside a cottage, there was a potato or a cabbage for the pot within; that if there was not happiness, there was the nearest approach to it in this world, content."

Yes, in a poor man's garden grow For more than herbs or flowers— Kind thoughts, contentment, peace of mind, A joy for weary hours."

And a recent communication from the bishop of Ripon was to this effect: "The parish of Arcliffe, near Skipton, in Yorkshire, situated in a very wild part of the country, and inhabited by a wild and lawless tenantry, had been for many years without a resident clergyman, the living being a very poor one—not above £30 a year. The present incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Boyd, determined, however to set himself down amongst them, and to use his utmost exertions in bettering their wretched condition. To this end he surrounded his house with a fine garden well stocked with lovely flowers, and induced his peasantry—but with great reluctance—to come in one by one to see and admire his flowers, and to take them home and cultivate them. Now, for the first time, they had light in their dwellings; ultimately, through the kind and constant personal care which was bestowed upon them, they have become the most contented and happy set of villagers in all Yorkshire."

### Influence of Sensible Women.

It is a wondrous advantage to a man, in every pursuit or avocation to secure an adviser in a sensible woman. In woman there is at once a subtle delicacy of tact, and a plain soundness of judgment, which is rarely combined to an equal degree in man. A woman, if she be really your friend, will have a sensitive regard for your character, honor, and reputation. She will seldom counsel you to do a shabby thing, for a woman friend always desires to be proud of you. At the same time, her constitutional timidity makes her more cautious than your male friend. She, therefore, seldom counsels you to do an imprudent thing. By female friendships I mean pure friendships—those in which there is no admixture of the passion of love, except in the married state.

A man's best female friend is a wife of good sense and good heart, whom he loves and who loves him. If he have that, he need not seek elsewhere. But supposing the man to be without such a helpmate, female friendship he must still have, or his intellect will be without a garden, and there will be many an unneeded gap even in the strongest fence. Better and safer of course, such friendships were disparities of years or circumstances part the idea of love out of the question. Middle life has rarely this advantage; youth and old age have. We may have female friendships with those much older, and those much younger than ourselves. Moliere's old house-keeper was a great help to his genius; and Montaigne's philosophy takes both a gentler and loftier character of wisdom from the date in which he finds, in Marie de Gournay, an adopted daughter, "certainly beloved by me," says the Horace of essayists, "with more than paternal love, and involved by my solitude and retirement, as one of the best parts of my being." Female friendship, indeed, is to man "presidium et dulcis decus"—bulwark, sweetener, ornament of his existence. To his mental culture it is invaluable; without it all his knowledge of books will never give him knowledge of the world.—*Bulwer.*

Superior Dextline.—To one pint of sour milk with carbonate of soda, add one quart of meal and a large spoonful of flour; roll out with flour and put in one apple, and cook as usual.

The incendiary shell which set on fire the "Great Hall" at Brownville, was an invention of Commodore Perry who has just been commended as Commodore.