

The Origin of the American Flag.

[From Dr. Tupper's Centennial Play.]
Nathan—Good morning, Brother Franklin.
Do you know?
And will you say why they chose stars and stripes?
FRANKLIN—Yes, Nathan, I proposed it to the Congress.
It was their leaders' old crossing blade.
Washington's coat, his own heraldic shield.
Nathan—Can this be known, and was it not an omission?
A Cromwell come again?
FRANKLIN—Listen, good friends:
It is not known, and it was not ambition.
He never heard of it till fixed and done.
For on the spur, when we met to choose a flag
Symboling independent unity,
We, and not he—his was unknown to him—
Took up his coat of arms, and multiplied
And magnified it every way to this,
Our glorious National banner.
Nathan—Cost of arms?
What was this coat of arms?
FRANKLIN—Till I tell you, friends,
I've searched it out, and know it for myself.
When late in England, there at Herald's College,
And found the Washingtons of Westoning,
In County Durham, and of Salgrave Manor,
County Northampton, bore upon their shield
Three stars atop, three stars below the feet,
Gules—that is red—on white, and for the crest
An eagle's head upspringing to the light.
The architect at Salgrave testifies,
As sundry painted windows in the hall
At Westoning, this was their family coat.
They took it to their new Virginia home;
And at Mount Vernon I myself have noted
An old cast-iron scutcheon chimney-back
Charged with that heraldry.
Tupper—Well, this is strange.
And no one knew it; surely such a relic
Must soon be cared for, if not worshipped.
FRANKLIN—Silly,
Causes are soon forgotten; consequence
Quickly close shadow them as plants their seeds.
I was the first to tell you all
This root and reason for our stars and stripes.
Nathan—Well, I think, brother,
Tupper—Well, Nathan, this is grand about
those stars;
The stars are now thirteen—each star a State,
And may soon be three, that, say thirty-nine.
With "forty stripes save one" to whip the world.
How say you, Quaker friend?
Nathan—Well, I opined
Friend Franklin must have known, and I perceive
That eagle's head had pulled a body out
Full-grown, as mounting to the higher heaven
Trailing a mantle-cloud of stars and stripes.
I am a man of peace; I love not war;
Yet were it well that some should strike with me,
Or touch, unless in love, those stars and stripes.
Tupper—Well said, old Nathan! but we stay
too long.
Come to headquarters; there is all the news.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

The Higher Aim in Farming.

The higher aim of every intelligent tiller of the soil should be the improvement of the productiveness of his land until it reaches the point where maximum crops are produced at the least expense. Wise husbandry regards the farm simply as a machine for turning out crops. The machine is the matter of first importance. This is always to be kept in good running order, and its efficiency is to be increased by all economical methods. The man who farms upon this system will never sacrifice soil for a great crop. His aim is to have every crop taken off, leaving the land in a better condition than he found it. He aims in every working of the soil to increase its depth and to add to it more elements of fertility than he removes in the crops, and to make the crops not only pay for themselves but to pay for the improvement of the acres upon which they are grown. In carrying out this aim, so as to realize these results, a man shows his skill as a cultivator. It is a comparatively easy thing for any one who has money to improve the soil so that it shall produce crops paying for the labor of growing them and the interest on \$300 or \$300 an acre. Stale manure enough well plowed in will do this. But it is altogether another matter to make this improvement pay for itself. Yet it is a possible thing to do this, and there are farmers skillful enough to accomplish this result, and this we hold to be the true aim in the cultivation of the soil. The most judicious improvements—those which finally pay the largest profits—require several years to bring in their full returns. It is a matter of great importance that the farming population should not only be settled, but that they should feel settled and plan all their operations upon the farm as if they expected to spend their days upon it.

The Glory of the Farmer.

Emerson, in one of his essays, portrays in charming style the benefits conferred on mankind by the farmer, and depicts the beauties attaching to his God-given vocation. Let farmers study the picture till they understand and fall in love with its independent beauty.

The glory of the farmer is that, in the division of labor, it is his part to create. All the trades rest upon his primitive authority. He stands close to nature; he obtains from the earth the bread and the meat. The food which was not, he causes to be. The first farmer was the first man, and all historic nobility rests on possession and use of land. Men do not like hard work, but every man has an exceptional respect for tillage, and the feeling that it is the original calling of his race, that he himself is only excused from it by some circumstances which made him delegate it for a time to other hands. If he had not some skill which recommends him to the farmer, some product for which the farmer will give him corn, he must himself return into his due place among the planters. And the profession has in all eyes its ancient charm as standing nearest to God, the First Cause. Then the beauty of nature, the tranquility and innocence of the countryman, his independence and his pleasing arts—the care of the bee, of poultry, of sheep, of cows; the dairy, the care of hay, of fruits, of orchards and forests, and the reaction of these on the workman in giving him a strength and plain dignity, like the face and manners of nature. All men keep the farm in reserve as an asylum, where, in case of mischance, to hide the property, or a solitude if they do not succeed in society. And who knows how many glances of remorse are turned this

way from the bankrupt of trade, from mortified pleaders in courts and Senates, or from the victims of idleness and pleasure. Poisoned by town life and town vices, the sufferer resolves: "Well, my children, whom I have injured, shall go back to the land, to be recruited and cured by that which should have been 'my nursery,' and now shall be their hospital!"

Live Stock for Profit.

One of the most interesting questions to the farmer, just now, is how he may make the most out of his stock. The common native stock of the country is not sufficiently profitable. It produces too little beef, butter, wool, mutton, pork, and lard, and it takes too long to produce what it does, to be profitable in this rapidly moving age. Farmers must float with the stream of improvement, or they will find themselves cast high and dry upon the banks. Feed the farmer's raw material and his stock the machinery from which he manufactures his wares. No matter how skillfully he feeds, if his machines are imperfect or slow in action, his wares must necessarily cost too much. To improve his machinery, that is, the stock which he feeds, is as needful as to study how to feed. All the investigations and experiments he, and others for him, can make go for nothing, if the animals he feeds cannot digest and assimilate the food in sufficient quantity to turn it into salable material fast enough. In order that this may be done more rapidly, breeders have, for years, been improving their stock. Cattle, sheep, and pigs of improved breeds, come to maturity and reach double their weight at half the age of the unimproved breeds. Unfortunately we are bewildered when we hear and read of the marvelous prices at which some of these animals are sold. Clearly they are out of the farmer's reach. But it would be wrong to suppose that he is therefore debarred from improving his stock by the use of improved animals. The past month over 1,000 head of Short Horn cattle have been sold at various public sales. Many of these have been of the fancy sort, valued at very high prices for their pedigrees. No complaint can be made if a wealthy man choose to give \$10,000 for one of these animals, any more than if he gave the same amount for a diamond. He injures no one, and does, at least some good with his surplus money. But, fortunately, he has no monopoly of the really good cattle. A good judge of stock would be equally well, or better satisfied with an animal that at the same sale brings but \$200 or \$500, simply because its family is not so fashionable, or it has not "so sweet a head." Hundreds of valuable bulls are sold every year at prices that any prosperous farmer can afford to give, and which will bring him a handsome profit. The prize milk cow at the New York State Fair, this year, was a grade Short Horn, sired by a bull that was not valued at more than \$150, if so much. The fattest steer was of the same kind. There were two-year-old sheep weighing 280 pounds, and yearling pigs that weighed over 300 pounds, and the sires of these animals could have been purchased for \$50 each. To use such animals as these would in a short time double the value of our farm stock. Let no one then be deterred from investigating this matter of improved stock, because some rich men choose to make a fancy of a certain class of it, and give what some may think ridiculous prices for it. We gave \$5 (a ridiculous price it was thought) for our first pound of early rose potatoes, and the second year we gave away more than \$5 worth of tubers, and sold \$125 worth at \$1 a bushel from the produce of that pound. Improved stock ought to be a better thing to have than an improved potato, and it is, provided it is used with judgment and well cared for.—American Agriculturist.

Gnano in Iowa.

A correspondent inquires if gnano can be profitably employed as a fertilizer in Iowa. We think not. It is costly, and can only be used where nothing else can be had cheaper, and where the products of the farm are dear. The deep, rich and fertile soils of this State can be kept profitably productive by rotation of crops, by clover, and by raising less exhaustive grains (and more cattle, sheep and hogs). With gnano for a fertilizer corn cannot be raised for \$1.00 per bushel, and with grain at this price we cannot raise either hogs or cattle to compete with other markets. And that farmer should know when he is starving his farm to sterility, that he cannot fall back successfully on guano and superphosphates to retain its fertility. If the Iowa farmer would succeed for years to come, he must farm with wisdom, and preserve unimpaired the productiveness of the soil. Restoring a ruined farm is like repairing a squandered fortune. Rich prairie land should be kept up to its original productiveness by using all available stable and other manures—by rotation of crops—by clover and by more stock. No, sir, guano cannot be profitably introduced to the broad plains of Iowa. The native deposits on the islands of the sea are too limited for Iowa's thousand acre fields. Nor can the mills manufacture bonedust or phosphates to restore our wastes, if we undue practice of our farmers once reduce our soil to poverty. Iowa's capital—the wealth of our soil—is being rapidly carried away at high tariffs, in our cereals, and must stop, or our crops will gradually decrease as population increases. We do not expect to enforce the importance of this lesson upon breeders and farmers, and as a consequence their descendants will become

On the 6th of December, the President sent the following Iowa nominations, with others, to the Senate:

Christian Wullweber, minister resident to Ecuador; John R. Clark, Surveyor General of Nebraska and Iowa; Thomas C. Woodward, one of the examiners-in-chief of the Patent office; Joseph Knotts, cosset at Chihuahua; Charles H. Toll, Postmaster at Clinton, and N. P. Sunderland, Postmaster at Burlington.
Aaa W. Kennedy, a well known stock drover, arrived at Adrian, Mich., from Buffalo, on the night of December 8th, with \$4,000, the proceeds of cattle sold, and was robbed of the entire amount on his way home, two miles west of the town, and was seriously injured by highwaymen.
Peter R. English, a quarryman, was found murdered near Sangeres, N. Y., December 4th.

Industrial.

IOWA PATENT OFFICE, Des Moines, Dec. 6, 1875.
The West is represented in the list of U. S. Patents issued Nov. 16, by the following:
Reverable Steam Boilers. S. S. Vail, Keokuk, Iowa. The boiler is suspended within an inclosed frame upon trunnions, by which the ends are reversed. The lower part of said frame forms a feed-water heater. The boiler and heater are connected by means of detachable pipes, which hold the boiler in position when in use.
Wagon-Jacks. J. C. Crawford, Fayette, Iowa.
T. G. ORWIG, Solicitor of Patents.

THE MARKETS.

Table with columns for Market (NEW YORK, CHICAGO, ST. LOUIS, CINCINNATI, MILWAUKEE, DES MOINES) and various commodities like Beef, Pork, Lard, etc., with prices.

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