

VOL. LXXVIII.

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AGRICULTURAL.

The following address contains... with a little good humour... on the faults and foibles of Massachusetts Farmers... many valuing over our fields; whatever carries happiness to the home, and content to the bosoms of our yeomanry...

Address delivered before the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, at the Brighton Cattle Show, October 12th, 1819.

By Hon. Josiah Quincy.

The Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for promoting Agriculture, have requested that I address you, this day, on the objects connected with the objects of your institution and with the objects of my official duty...

Scope of view, in a general sense, has relation to the wise adaption of means to their final ends. When applied to a farmer, it implies the adaption of all the buildings and parts of a farm to their appropriate purposes...

Our ideas, upon this subject, may be best collected from inspection. If our fellow farmers please we will, therefore, in imagination, adjourn, for a few moments, and take our stand, first, at the door of the farm house. I say "at the door." Far be it from me to enter within it...

Executing this purpose, I shall address myself chiefly to that great body of our countrymen, who are agriculturally called—Farmers. By which, I mean, the great body of Massachusetts yeomanry; men, who are upon the soil and are identified with it; for there rests their own and their families' hopes of their support, their children, who have, for the part, great farms and small property resources; men, who are more for their land, than their money; more for their support than for their land; and for their virtue than for their property...

excitement, or of personal conciliation, but because I think it just and their due, and because, being about to hint concerning errors and defects in our agriculture, I am anxious that such a course of remark should not be attributed to any want of honour, or respect, for the farming interest. On the contrary, it is only from a deep sense of the importance of an art, that a strong desire for its improvement can proceed. Whatever tends to stimulate and direct the industry of our farmers; whatever spreads prosperity over our fields; whatever carries happiness to the home, and content to the bosoms of our yeomanry, tends, more than every thing else, to lay the foundations of our republic deep and strong, and to give the assurance of immortality to our liberties.

The errors and deficiencies of our practical agriculture may be referred, in a general survey, with sufficient accuracy to two sources; the want of scope of view among our farmers, and the want of system in their plans.

Concerning another want, of which farmers are most sensible, and most generally complain, the want of cash in their pockets, I shall say nothing, because it is not a want peculiar to the farmer. It is a general want, and belongs to all other classes and professions. Besides, there is no encouragement to speak of this want, because it is one that increases, by its very supply. All of us must have observed that it almost ever happens, with, however, a few splendid exceptions, that the more any man has of this article, the more he always wants.

The errors and deficiencies, to which I shall allude, will not be such as require any extent of capital to rectify. All that will be requisite is a little more of that industry, of which our farmers have already so much; or that industry a little differently directed. It is not by great and splendid particular improvements, that the interests of agriculture are best subserved, but by a general and gradual amelioration. Most is done for agriculture, when every farmer is excited to small attentions and incidental improvements. Such as proceed, for instance, from the constant application of a few plain and common principles. Such are—that, in farming, nothing should be neglected;—that nothing should be done in its proper place; every thing put in its proper time; every thing put in its proper instrument. These attentions, when viewed in their individual effect, seem small, but they are immense in the aggregate. When they become general, taken in connexion with the dispositions which precede, and the consequences which inevitably follow such a state of improvement, they include, in fact, every thing.

As we proceed to the farm, we will stop one moment at the barn yard. We shall say nothing concerning the arrangements of the barn. They must include comfort, convenience, protection for his stock, his hay, and his fodder; or they are little or nothing. We go thither for the purpose only of looking at what the learned call the stercorary, but which farmers know by the name of the manure heap. Will our friends from the city pardon us, if we detain them one moment at this point? Here we stop the rather, because here, more than any where else, the farmers of Massachusetts are careless and deficient; because on this, more than on any thing else, depends the wealth of the farmer; and because this is the best criterion of his present, & the surest pledge, of his future success. What then is its state? How is it located? Sometimes we see the barn yard on the top of a hill, with two or three fine rocks in the centre; so that whatever is carried or left there, is sure of being chiefly exhaled by the sun, or washed away by the rain. Sometimes it is to be seen in the hollow of some valley, into which all the hills and neighbouring buildings precipitate their waters. Of consequence all its contents are drowned, or water-soaked, or, what is worse, there having been no care about the bottom of the receptacle, its wealth goes off in the under strata, to enrich, possibly, the antipodes. The Chinese, for aught we know, may be the better for it, but it is lost forever to these upper regions.

Now all this is to the last degree wasteful, absurd, and impoverishing. Too much cannot be said to expose the loss and injury, which the farmer thus sustains. Let the farmer want whatever else he pleases. But let no man call himself a farmer, who suffers himself to want a receptacle for his manure, water tight at the bottom and covered at the top, so that below, nothing shall be lost by drainage, and above, nothing shall be carried away by evaporation. Let every farmer, wanting such protection for his manure, be assured that he loses, by the sun & rain, ten fold as much as will pay all his taxes, state, town, and national, every year. Let not the size of his manure heap be any objection. If it be great, he loses the more, and can afford the expense the better. If it be small, this is the best way to make it become greater. Besides, what is the expense? What is wanted? An excavation, two or three feet deep, well clayed, paved, and "dishing," as it is called, of an area from six to thirty feet square, according to the quantity of manure; over head a roof made of rough boards and refuse lumber, if he pleases. The object being to shut upon it, only for the purpose of making a single observation, and that in relation to the fences.

It is thought to be a great virtue in a farmer to build good fences.—And so it is. None can be greater, so far as relates to external fences; those which bound on the road, or a neighbour. They ought to be perfect and sufficient against every intrusion. But when the remark is applied to interior fences, it is often far otherwise. The making and keeping in repair unnecessary fences, is one of the greatest drawbacks from the profitable employment of the labour of our farmers. Every year new fencing stuff must be bought, or stone walls must be built, and stone walls repaired. Much of that time and capital are expended about these objects, which ought to be employed in collecting manures, in ploughing their land, or in some labour directly conducing to the prosperity of the immediate, or ensuing crop.

ling house, or at least from the front yard? Is there a green plat adjoining, well protected from pigs and poultry, so that the excellent housewife may advantageously spread and bleach the linen and yarn of the family? Is the wood pile well located, so as not to interfere with the passenger; or is it located with especial eye to the benefit of the neighbouring surgeon? Is it covered, so that its work may be done in stormy weather? Is the well convenient, and is it sheltered, so that the females of the family may obtain water without exposure, at all times and at all seasons? Do the subsidiary arrangements indicate such contrivance and management as that nothing useful should be lost, and nothing useless offend? To this end, are there drains, determining what is liquid in filth and offal to the barn yard or pen? Are there receptacles for what is solid, so that bones and broken utensils may be carried away and buried? If all this be done, it is well; and if, in addition to this, a general air of order and care be observable, little more is to be desired. The first proper object of a farmer's attention, his own and his family's comfort and accommodation, is attained. Every thing about him indicates that self-respect, which lies at the foundation of good husbandry, as well as of good morals. But if any of us, on our return home, should find our door barricaded by a mingled mass of chip and dirt; if the pathway to it be an inland pavement of bones and broken bottles, the relics of departed earthen ware, or the fragments of abandoned domestic utensils; if the deposit of the sink settle and stagnate under the windows, and it is neither determined to the barn yard, nor has any thing provided to absorb its riches, and to neutralize its effluvia; if the nettle, the thistle, the milkweed, the elder berry, the barberry bush, the Roman wormwood, the burdock, the dock and the devil's apple, contend for mastery along the fences, or flower up in every corner; if the domestic animals have fair play round the mansion; and the poultry are roosting on the window stools, the geese strutting sentry at the front door, and the pig playing puppy in the entry; the proprietor of such an abode may call himself a farmer, but practically speaking, he is ignorant of the A B C of his art. For the first letters of a farmer's alphabet are neatness, comfort, order.

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The adopting of a single principle, in relation to the management of their farms, would save at once one half of all their interior fences. I allude to the making the distinction between the arable and pasture lands permanent, and adopting it as a principle, that no beasts should be permitted to range upon the soil destined to the plough and the scythe.

I know that this proposition will be received by many with surprise, and by some with a sneer. But consider of it, farmers. Be assured that the practice of grazing your mowing lands is the falsest of all that bears the name of economy. It is impossible, in a discourse so general as this necessarily is, to give all the grounds of this position. I look at the subject now, only in relation to saving the expense of making fences and repairing them. Let any farmer of middle age take his pencil and calculate what it has cost him, and his ancestors, in the course of his and their lives, to make and maintain rail fences, or stone walls, upon their farms. I am mistaken if one half of the farmers do not find the expense far exceed their present conception, and if the other half do not find, that, at a fair estimate of materials, labour, and interest, the cost of these fences or walls has been more than the whole farm would now sell for under the hammer.

plump upon a stone wall. That what a "hawing and jeeing" and the good natured fellow, at the front yoke, must always take time to crack his joke, or to have "a cup of comfort," with the good natured fellow at the plough tail. And all this at the direct and positive loss of the owner of the land, or the employer.

But our lands are full of stone, what shall we do with them? Certainly there is no absolute necessity of building them up in the shape of a stone wall. If there be, then thicken, or heighten, your external walls. But this is done already.—Well, then, have you never a pond-hole to fill up? Is there no useless hollow, into which they may be thrown? If nothing of this kind can be done with them, better pile them up pyramidally, and cover them with grape vines, than go to the expense of building walls worse than useless.

Let me not be understood to intend, that good farming requires that farmers should level, or remove the walls, or fences, which they, or their ancestors labour have already provided. The condition of every man's farm is in this respect, a particular fact, by which the calculations of his business should be made, and his conduct, in relation to it govern'd. The only object of these remarks is to invite farmers, who are contemplating building new walls, or purchasing new materials for interior fences, to consider, whether their own and oxen's labour may not be better employed; and whether grazing the land, intended to be fenced, be in fact a compensation for the great expenditure, they are about to incur, of the only capital, they have, generally, at their command.

Farmers should never, one moment forget that their and their oxen's labour constitute their capital, and that they should be wasted in no object, which does not add something to the present, or future, year's actual product. It is not too much to say, that the capital expended in rail fences and stone walls, which are useless in Massachusetts, would, if it had been applied in collecting manures, & in deepening the soil, have added, at this day, a third part of the income to every farmer in the country.

Let every farmer divide his pasture ground as he pleases. Let the fence between his arable and pasture land, be as strong as an external fence. But, if possible, let all his arable ground, though it be a hundred acres, be in one lot. Then his plough runs clear, in a long furrow. His tillage is divided only by the different species of grain and vegetables, he cultivates. There are no fences; of consequence no inconvenient and worthless headlands; no apology for thistles and nettles. The scene is beautiful to the eye. The whole has the appearance of a garden; and begets in the farmer a sort of horticultural neatness.

Before passing to treat, very briefly, the remaining topic of discourse, may I be permitted to say a word on the style of our buildings? It will be worth the time, if it make only one man, about to build, consider.

The fault is not peculiar to farmers, it is true of men, in almost every rank and condition of life, that, when about to build, they often exceed their means, and almost always, go beyond the real wants of their families, and the actual requisition of their other relations in life. But let not the sound, practical, good sense of the country, be misled by the false taste and false pride of the city; where wealth, fermenting by reason of the greatness of its heaps, is ever fuming away in palaces; the objects of present transitory pride; and too often, of future, long continued, repentance.

Now, what do we sometimes see, in the country? Why a thriving farmer touched with this false taste, will throw up a building thirty or forty feet square, two, or two and a half stories high, four rooms on a floor, with an immeasurable length of out buildings behind. And what is the consequence of all this greatness? Why, often, for years, the house will not be wholly glazed; or if glazed, not clappedboarded; or, if clappedboarded, not finished; the

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PROPOSALS, for publishing in the City of Annapolis, A Periodical Paper, to be entitled, RELIGIOUS AND LITERARY REPOSITORY. Edited by a Society of Laymen, members of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The leading views of the Editors are stated in the following note, by one of the persons who will be actively employed in the prosecution of the matter for publication. The Religious Magazine which has heretofore been published by members of the Church, are, some of them, very useful as they go. My objection to them is, they do not attempt to give information of which the laity, and indeed clergymen, are in much need, and which is with difficulty to be obtained. In this country the laity have a considerable participation in the affairs of the church, and it is to possess an intimate knowledge of its history, constitution and laws. As such wardens, and trustees or vestrymen, as well as delegates to the convention, they have important and very solemn duties to perform, and with a knowledge of these duties, it ought to be the business of these magazines to furnish them. The subjects fully discussed in them have already been explained and enforced by pious and learned divines, with as much ability as could be expected from more modern writers, and a knowledge of what we are to believe and do, in order to be saved, may be communicated to our readers as well by sermons, as by any original matter which might be able to offer them. From writings of approved divines, not always to be met with, even in possession of clergy, we shall most frequently collect at it is deemed necessary to give on Christian doctrine and duty. The magazine I aim to be useful, and desires no other object.

I am induced to hope that, besides furnishing the laity with useful information in regard to the duties which are imposed upon them, some hints, worthy of their attention, may occasionally be given to the clergy. While they act up to their ordination vows; endeavour to frame and fashion their lives according to the doctrine of Christ; to make themselves wholesome examples of the flock of Christ, and reverently obey their Bishops, following with a glad mind and will, their godly admonitions, they deserve, and there is in the laity of the church Maryland generally, every disposition to honour and support them. If, however, at any time, any of them forget to pay due regard to their own solemn engagements, instead of loving to dwell together in unity, a design should be manifested to reduce disorder and misrule into the church, to oppose its legitimate authority, to assume powers which do not belong to them, then it is not only the right, but becomes the imperative duty of the laity, animadvert upon such conduct with unflinching severity.

Approving entirely of the forms prescribed, and of the doctrines agreed to by our church, it will be no part of the business of the Magazine to recommend or even to notice any new intentions, whether in tenets, or discipline or worship.

TERMS. The Repository shall be published twice monthly, each number to contain sixteen pages royal 8vo.—Price two dollars per annum, one half payable in advance, and the other half upon the delivery of the 12th number. The first number shall appear on the third Saturday in January next, should a sufficient number of subscribers be obtained to justify the expense.

Subscriptions received at the office of the Maryland Gazette and at George Shaw's Store.

Anne Arundel County. On application to me, the Clerk of the Court, I have caused to be published, a schedule of his property and a list of his creditors on oath, as he can ascertain them, being subject to his petition, and the said Act of G. Hammond having satisfied the competent testimony, that he has resided two years in the State of Maryland, immediately preceding the date of his application; and the said Act of G. Hammond, having taken an oath by said act prescribed for debtors, and adjudged that the said Abraham G. Hammond be discharged from his creditors, by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in some newspaper printed in the city of Annapolis, one week for three months before the third Monday in April next, to appear before the said county court, at the court house of said county, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, for the purpose of recommending a trustee for their benefit, and to show cause if they have, why the said Abraham Hammond should not have the benefit of said act as prayed. Given under my hand this 9th day of October, 1819.

Jeremiah Towlesly Clerk. Test, JAM S. GREEN, Clerk.

CENTRAL TAVERN. That well known establishment, Central Tavern, formerly kept by Thomas in the City of Annapolis, has lately been purchased and put in complete repair, and is now occupied by

JOSEPH DALEY. Who has opened a large and commodious TAVERN, where Boarders and Travellers receive the most unerring attention and the best of every thing which the seasons afford. Gentlemen attend the Legislature, and the public generally will find it to their advantage to give him a call, as he pleases himself nothing will be left done to render every satisfaction to his customers. The best Liquors of every kind that can be procured shall be offered to his customers and the greatest attention and care taken of their Horses. He therefore solicits a share of public patronage.

BLANKS. For Sale at this Office. Declarations on Promissory Notes, Bills of exchange against Drawers, first, second, and third Endorsers, assumpsit generally. Debt on Bond and Single Bill, Common Bonds, Appeal do. Tobacco Notes, &c. &c.

ENTERTAINMENT. CEPHAS W. BENSON. Having purchased that commodious Building, in Annapolis, formerly occupied by Mrs. Anderson, and which is situated in a very healthy and agreeable situation, I have opened a TAVERN, and will use every exertion to give satisfaction to all who may favour him with their patronage. He will board Ladies and Gentlemen, and will also accommodate Parties at a short notice, with all the conveniences and comforts which the situation affords. November 11, 1819.

NOTICE. The subscriber having obtained the testamentary on the personal estate of Lewis Griffith, late of Anne Arundel county, deceased, requests all persons having claims against said estate, to bring them in, legally authenticated, and those in any way indebted to said estate, to pay the same, to the undersigned, immediately, to the

GASSAWAY BOWELL, Esq. Nov. 11.

Sheriff's Sale. By virtue of two writs of fieri facias, directed to the Court of Appeals, and returnable on Monday the 6th day of March, the premises, one negro girl named Mary, one negro boy named Philip, one negro girl named Elizabeth, and one negro girl named Henry Darnall, and will be sold to satisfy a debt due Saml. Mead, and choleas Brewer and Dennis Clark. Extra of Barnay Curran, deceased. Sale to commence at 11 o'clock, for cash.

Levy Court. The Levy Court of Anne Arundel county will meet on the third Monday of March next, for the purpose of laying the County Levy for the year 1819.

By order, WM. S. GREEN, Clk. Feb. 10.

By order, BENJ. GAITHER, Sheriff. Feb. 17.

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