MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Annapolis, Thursday, Jan. 18.

[*Translated from the German.*]

For the Maryland Gazette.

SINTRAM & HIS COMPANIONS.

(Continued.)

CHAPTER 4.

Towards the evening Sintram rose again. He saw his dear Rolf sitting near the couch, and smiled with unwonted infantine hilarity, responsive to the friendly greeting of his faithful friend. But soon he drew his brows austerely together, and asked, "How did my father receive thee, Rolf? Did he speak unfriendly to you?"

"Not that precisely, dear sir, he spoke not one word. At first, he glanced angrily upon me; then, with an effort, he ordered one of the servants to refresh me with food and wine, and to conduct me hither to you."

"He might have paid more regard to his word: but he is my father, we must therefore not be over-scrupulous. Now I'll go to supper." He sprung up, and threw his fur cloak round him. But Rolf stepped supplicating in his way, and said: "Dear young master, you would do better to sup to night in your own chamber. With your father there is company, in which I should not like to see you. Therefore stay, I'll relate you some fine story, or sing a merry ballad." "I should be much pleased at that," said Sintram, "but it is not given me to avoid any man on earth. Tell me *who* is with my father?"

"Alas! Sir," said the old menial, "you have seen him in the mountains. Formerly, when I used to travel with Sir Biorn, we met him sometimes: but I never cared to tell you about it. This is the first time he ventured into our castle."

"Then it is the crazed pilgrim!" replied Sintram, and stood a short time in deep thought, as if reflecting. At last he collected himself suddenly and said, "Thou good old friend, I would most willingly remain this evening with thee, and thy tales and songs, nor should all the pilgrims on earth draw me from our comfortable chamber; but there is *one thing* to be considered; I feel a sort of dread of that pale tall man, and the like ought not to exist with the son of a Knight. Be not angry therefore my Rolf, for I *must* go and see the pilgrim, and his strange haggard face." With this he opened the door, and advanced with firm resounding steps towards the hall.

The pilgrim and Sir Biorn set over against each other at the table, upon which the light of many candles spread a bright illumination. It was a strange sight, how among the high panoply of the dead, these two living beings moved and eat and drank.

Whilst the pilgrim was fixing his eyes upon the entering boy, Biorn observed: "You know him already; he is my only son, and your companion of this morning."

The pale man pored with intent look o'er Sintram's shape, but shook his head observing, "Not that I know of."

At this, the boy exclaimed impatiently, "How is this? You pretend to know my father but too well, and me it seems you recognize not at all! Look well at me! Who was it took you behind him upon his horse? Whose horse was it, that, doubtless, in reward, you frightened to madness?"

"Sir Biorn, smiled highly satisfied, as he always did, when his son behaved most wildly; but the pilgrim drew back in sudden dread, as if over-awed by a mighty overgreat power. At last he exclaimed, almost terrified to silly distress, "Oh yes, my young hero, you are perfectly right; you are perfectly right in every thing you wish to say."

The mighty Lord Biorn, laughed aloud, and cried, "How now, thou man of dread! where are now thy noble admonitions and reproofs? Has this weak boy silenced thee at once? Defend thyself, thou prophetic messenger, defend thyself!"

But the pilgrim glanced with such power, and with an expression so portentous at Biorn, as almost extinguished the gleam of his *fire-eye*, and said in a solemn thundering voice, "With us two, my old companion, it's a different case. We have nothing to reproach each other with. And listen attentively, I'll sing thee a song to the lute!" He took down a lute from the wall, which hung there half strung and forgotten, which he refitted with uncommon readiness, and after but few accords, he began his song to the deep sad notes of the instrument.

A flowret opened fresh and mild,
Like summer rose through morning dew,
And nature o'er her fairest child
The bliss of sweetest fragrance threw.

I pressed the flowret to my heart,
I called its fragrance all my own,
Say, was I forced from her to part?
Ah yes—through sin, through sin alone.

But thine she was, forsaken knight!
In all her life's luxuriant bloom—
And sepulchres the maiden's plight
Thy sinful heart in chilling gloom!

Why fades thy anger burning eye?
Once there was nought it fear'd to brave.
Despair, forsaken sinner, die—
No tear shall trickle o'er thy grave.

As he concluded, he stormed o'er the resounding strings so powerfully, that they broke with complaining groans, and a volume of dust eddied forth from the bottom of the lute, wrapping the hard as in a cloud.

Sintram had kept his eyes fixed upon the singer, and it began to appear more and more clearly to him, that he could not be the same with his morning companion. This doubt became almost certainty, when the stranger, looked round him with all the signs of alarm, hung up the lute under continued excuses and scraping bows, and then ran as in panic struck out of the hall, a behaviour which formed a singular contrast to his proud demeanour towards Sir Biorn.

To him the boy now directed his eyes, and he saw him sink back in the chair, swooning and motionless, as if palsied by an apoplectic fit. Sintram's calls brought Rolf and other servants to the hall, and it was only, after great exertion, that they recalled their Lord to life, and conducted him to rest.

[To be continued.]

The Agricultural Society of Maryland

Met agreeably to the provisions of their constitution, at the Assembly Room in this city, on the third Wednesday in December last, but in consequence of the inclemency of the weather, adjourned to meet again on the 11th of January 1821, on which day the society met and proceeded to business The same officers as on last year were appointed

On motion of Mr. Mayer the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this society, well edited periodical papers, devoted to agricultural subjects, constitute one of the best means of advancing the interests of agriculture and thereby attaining the objects of this society.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this society, the weekly paper, published at Baltimore, entitled the "American Farmer," is judiciously and ably conducted, has conferred an important benefit upon the country, by diffusing valuable information and by exciting and fostering a spirit of liberal enquiry into the true principles and practice of agriculture, and eminently merits support and encouragement from the friends of agriculture throughout the Union.

Resolved, That editors of newspapers who are friendly to the promotion of agriculture be requested to publish the foregoing resolves.

A number of ploughs of different constructions and other implements of husbandry, and also a Machine for shelling corn were exhibited by Mr. Sinclair of Baltimore which were highly approved of

The society then adjourned to meet at 4 o'clock in the evening to hear an address from the pen of Joseph E. Muse, Esq at which time a number of the gentlemen of the legislature, strangers and citizens attending, the address was read by Mr. John N Watkins. The society then, unanimously Resolved that the president be requested to communicate to Mr. Muse their thanks for his learned and interesting address, and that the editors of the Maryland Gazette, the Maryland Republican and the American Farmer be requested to publish it.

THE ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Agricultural Society of Maryland.

In performing the office, which you have done me the honour to assign me, for the present Anniversary of your Institution, my feelings lead me in the first place, to tender you congratulation, on the flattering success with which your laudable, ardent, and unremitted exertions have been accompanied; the incitement to research, in principle and in fact, which, both in your individual and corporate capacities, you have, by example and precept so highly promoted; and the wealth and happiness which must result to society at large, from a steady perseverance in your meritorious and beneficent labours.

Agriculture, the great pre-eminent cause, the fundamental basis of human enjoyment, viewed with a philosophic eye, is calculated to rouse in the mind of man, gratitude to the Deity, for so kind a benefaction; good will and fellowship for the mutual and universal participation of the boon; and to inspire him with ardour and energy for its most perfect attainment.

The history of agriculture, attests by its antiquity, its usefulness to society; to trace its origin and minute progression would occupy too much of my present narrow limits. The ancient Egyptians had made considerable advances in the field of rural knowledge; and we are informed by Virgil in his Georgics, that the art of agriculture had been considerably systematized by the Romans. A lamentable period of darkness and barbarism obscured for many centuries this, as well as the whole range of useful arts and sciences, which ages had cultivated and improved for the comfort of man. Again, at the first dawn of civilization and of learning, when the human mind had conceived the great work of emancipation from the fetters of ignorance and superstition & their concomitant evils of bloody persecutions, animosities and despotism, among the first fruits of the meliorated condition of man, was exhibited the practice of agriculture, whose benign influence has marked its progress thro' the devious paths of the forest, and diffused its lustre, when admitted at the threshold of the savage hut Shall we withhold adoration from this luminary of benighted man, from this *alma mater* of our well being, and our happiness? Shall we need to be incited to make oblations at the shrine of our tutelary divinity? The strongest motive for human actions must impel us to her holy altar.—The ancients have recorded in their classic archives, their conscious dependance upon this exalted goddess. Ovid has paid her a just and handsome tribute in a few neat and comprehensive lines:

Prima dedit
Fruges, alimentaque mitia terris.
Prima dedit leges. *Cereris sunt omnia munus.*

To pursue this subject farther, to urge its importance before an enlightened community, and more especially, in the presence of a society, whose members have individually attested their fidelity, and evinced their consciousness of its paramount consequence in human affairs; and by their ardent, zealous, and efficient exertions, have contributed to exalt and reflect honour upon, a profession, not long since depressed to subordinate rank of mental occupation, would be an insult to the understanding, and a useless and preposterous waste of time and words

On the relative values of different sorts of labour, political economists have entertained various opinions; the mechanic, the merchant and the farmer have their able advocates and apologists ascribing a fancy or interest might dictate, the wealth of nations to their respective favorite. The acute and discriminating mind of M. Garnier, has placed the claims of agricultural labour, in a point of view, peculiarly plain and forcible in the following judicious remarks:—"The labour of artisans and manufacturers does not alter the quantum of wealth existing in the community; the labour of husbandmen on the contrary, adds to the totality of existing values. As the labour of artisans and manufacturers does not open any new source of wealth, it can prove beneficial only by means of advantageous exchanges, and has a mere relative value; agriculture on the contrary, opens a new source of commodities, which is lasting and permanent, and which, as it furnishes a real supply to consumption, necessarily increases at once population and the national power"

Without entering into a detail of the discussions, definitions, and theories of economists, on the profit of labour, or the cause of wealth; wherein it may consist, or what may be its basis; we are conducted, without the maze of complex reasoning, or subtle speculation, irresistibly to a conviction of the high and essential importance of agriculture to the nation, and to the individual, in regard to wealth, comfort and prosperity.

Whether, as taught by some learned authorities, wealth consist of all the material commodities which man may use, to supply his wants—or whether, as by the doctrine of more modern economists, it consist of a surplus of produce, above consumption, or of income above expenditure—the conclusion appears inevitable, that agriculture must be at least *one* operative and efficient cause; from this cause, it would seem, must be derived the subsistence of the merchant, and the manufacturer; as well as a greater part of the income of the nation, as an accomplished statesman and farmer, (Sir John Sinclair,) has sufficiently proved, was the case in England, notwithstanding her boasted manufactures, during the late long and expensive contests of that nation, as by reference to his code of agriculture, will satisfactorily appear.

When we advert, then, to the peculiar features and physical incidents of our country, its vast extent and variety of soil and of climate, propitious to the whole range of the vegetable kingdom, what may we not fairly anticipate, in the increase of private and public wealth, from the improvement and extension of agricultural knowledge and practice? How much may the ratio of finance, derived to the nation from this source, and safely to be relied on, exceed that of Great Britain from the same, which itself seems incredible, but is undoubtedly established? To what point of wealth and power may not our country attain, should agricultural exertion be extended to the limits of which it is susceptible? Let the state governments lend a fostering hand; establish professorships for the diffusion of agricultural science, and boards of agriculture for the collection of facts, and munificently endow them; the result is incalculable

With this brief view of the inducements to agricultural exertion, I will venture to call your attention, for a few moments, to the theory and practice of agriculture, which are inseparably & essentially conjoined, for the improvement of this magnificent art; and truly wonderful it is, that esteemed and adored from the earliest ages of primitive man, its annals afford us no reason to believe, that an attempt had ever been made to collect from so long and extensive a practice, a set of fixed principles, to govern, instruct and direct the mind by the most sure and easy process, to the summit of improvement, until within a few years, men of learning and talents in Europe and America, have bestowed upon it that attention, which the subject merits; and have, in the acknowledged opinion of the world, elevated it from the character of a rude and grovelling art, to the rank of science, and of a learned profession.

Some few are yet to be found, who treat with scorn the aspiring claims of agriculture, and boast of successful results, without order, method, or principle; allow to such their infatuated notions, but suffer them not to contaminate your own; such doctrine is the legitimate issue of folly and of ignorance.

The science of agriculture affords an intellectual banquet, at which the rational mind may be regaled with ecstacy and delight; plans projected upon principles established; causes known, effects foreseen; it exults in its superior existence; let those who are content with the fragments of the feast, most fully enjoy them; science yields its fruits, and the feast its fragments, but the mendicant should not decry the source of his sustenance.

I mean not to advance that the science of agriculture is in a state of perfection, or at once tangible, and ready for the acceptance of any man who may choose to possess it; it is yet, in point of time and progress, in its infancy, and if its growth be not repressed by deadly enemies, promises, at a reasonable period, to attain the vigour of maturity; *and on this crisis, hangs the destinies of agriculture.* Crops may still be grown; the farmer may survive; but, without science, without a set of fixed elementary principles, from which to deduce a theory and system of regular management, causes unknown, anticipated effects will be precarious, and the farmer will delve in the dark, to endless eternity, as he *has* done from primæval time.

I mean not by theory, wild and subtle speculation, designed to exhibit to the admiring world the fancy and talent of its author, rather than the improvement of rural practice; I mean a theory, founded upon such elementary principles as shall have evolved out of time, and experience, and which, by a steady perseverance in their collection, might rapidly accumulate, and bring us to a knowledge of agriculture, at present incredible.

A knowledge of chemistry is essentially useful to the scientific agriculturist, as well as to the operative farmer, and as Sir Humphrey Davy has well expressed it, has for its objects, "all those changes in the arrangements of matter, connected with the growth and nourishment of plants; the comparative values of their produce, as food; the constitution of soils; the manner in which lands are enriched by manures, or rendered fertile by the different processes of cultivation. The advantages of such knowledge need no demonstration.

The narrow limits of an anniversary address cannot admit of very particular discussions, and I must beg permission to direct your attention to a few subjects only, which I have held most worthy of consideration

The first is, tillage, which of all the operations of the farmer, is the most extensive, the most important, and the most defectively executed. Without good tillage, the best manures are inoperative, the best soils are comparatively sterile.

Duhamel du Monceau, who has handed down the opinions of the celebrated Tull, makes the following quotation: "If you take a certain quantity of even the most barren earth, reduce it to a fine powder, and expose it for a year to the vicissitudes of the seasons, it will acquire such a genuine pregnancy, as to be able to receive an exotic plant from the farthest Indies, and to cause all vegetables to prosper in the most exalted degree, which is to be ascribed, he continues, to the great division of the particles of the earth: By this toil, (pulverising the earth,) he adds, 'it is found that a soil may be so strangely altered from its former nature, as to render the harsh and most uncivil clays obsequious to the husbandman, and to bring forth roots and plants, which otherwise require the lightest and hollowest moulds." This quotation I have made at length, as the result of long experience, and as a proof furnished from one of the most learned and successful agriculturs in Europe, about the middle of the last century, that *fine-tillage* is perhaps the most important branch of agricultural operations, and that at least it may be said, that more depends on it than is generally admitted The more the particles of the earth are divided, the more the earth is enabled to furnish the food of plants, by being rendered more pervious to the tender radical fibres and consequently becoming more capable of production

With a view to fine tillage, I have long since adopted the following practice with great success: I should first state, that the lands on which I have practised, consist generally of a brown loam, with a clayey sub-soil: A deep winter fallow, say eight inches, is the first process; in the spring, when the earth is sufficiently dry, all the manure to be commanded is spread and immediately ploughed in, with a light furrow; the harrow and roller succeed as soon after, as the drying of the earth will admit of them; a single light furrow marks the ground for the planting of the corn, which requires thereafter but little work comparatively with the usual method By this cultivation, my corn sustained the unusual drought of 1819, without much or any injury; the blades when stripped, were green, and succulent, whereas my neighbours will bear evidence of the fact, that theirs were scorched and worthless, and the grain necessarily injured; the effect, I ascribe to the deep and perfect pulverising of the earth, whereby the delicate fibres were enabled to penetrate into a moist stratum, beyond the reach of the scorching rays of the sun.

With the same view in the management of my wheat, I have been in the practice of gathering my corn, removing the stalks, then ploughing the field to the depth it had been the previous winter turned down, (eight inches,) harrowing in the wheat, and passing over it the roller, if the earth be dry, if not the roller is deferred until it become so; for this practice I can only say that it has been peculiarly successful; and I refer it to the same cause, the unusual friability of the earth, occasioned by deep and fine tillage.

Yet, though *fine* tillage is universally correct, *deep* tillage may in some soils be injurious; every substance in nature varies in its capacity to contain heat; and upon the combination of any two, a new capacity is created different from that of either of the constituents; if the capacity be increased by the union, cold is produced, and if it be diminished, heat is disengaged in a sensible state; hence may be understood, (I am inclined to believe,) a forcible reason why deep ploughing may be injurious to some soils, and beneficial to others; soils, whose capacity for heat is too small, or, which are great conductors of heat, readily imbibe and as readily part with it; those whose capacities are greater, more slowly imbibe, and more slowly disengage it; the effect of too small a capacity in a soil to contain heat, is, that in summer, plants are scorched by the too rapid disengagement of it; and by the arrival of winter, there is but little, if any, remaining to counteract the excessive cold; when it happens that this capacity for heat is increased by the new combination, the accumulation and retention of the rays of the summer's sun, will furnish through winter, a source and supply of general warmth to the tender plant, and prove beneficial; and *e converso*, when a new combination diminishes the capacity to contain heat, the operation will be pernicious; hence the necessity of small experiments, which are easily made, previous to an extensive adoption of either practice, to ascertain the nature of the combinations with the sub-soils of different depths and qualities; because, though stones and silicious earths are conductors, and argils the reverse, yet from the infinitely diversified constitutions of soils, it cannot be distinctly known, without experiment, what may be the result of the respective combinations, yet for this doctrine I have no authority but the application of known principles to the case in question, and I have presumed to submit to the view of the board my practice, because by means of it I have improved a fifty acre field, so as to obtain the last season twenty bushels of wheat to the acre, when four only was the product six years past.

The question of the state in which manures shall be applied with the most profit, (*rotted* or *unrotted*.) I believe is nearly put to rest; Dr. Darwin and Dr. Davy, by the aid of science, and the author of Arator by science and practice, with many other able agricultors, have silenced the advocates of the former irrational doctrine.—"Vegetable and animal substances are consumed in vegetation, and they [illegible] plant, by affording [illegible] being dissolved by water or [illegible] stances capable of being absorbed by [illegible] leaves of vegetables; but such parts of [illegible] are rendered gaseous, or that pass [illegible] the atmosphere, must produce a [illegible] tively small effect, for gases soon become diffused through the mass of surrounding air." Now, allow them to rot before application, and the bitters dissolved by water must be chiefly wasted, because no plan conceivable, can be adopted, to preserve a majority of the water from absorption, in the vessel that will contain it, or from evaporation, and the other source of nutriment, the gases, escape into the atmosphere, and be carried by the winds. But apply those substances in the incipient stage of putrefaction, sufficiently *far* to ensure the process, the fixed products yielded in presence of the roots, will be absorbed with the least possible waste; and the evaporable gases, though not so beneficial, because from their lightness and buoyancy they are soon lost in the clouds, will be considerably more preserved by the presence of the leaf, which is capable of holding what may come within the sphere of its vegetative influence.

The most eligible rotation of crops, which is best calculated to yield profit and improvement; is a question dependent on so endless a variety of casualties and incidents, that it may be pronounced a problem which in the nature of things cannot be immutably settled, but must vary with the soil and other circumstances; yet some obvious rule should govern the farmer in his choice, viz. to alternate leguminous and culmiferous crops as much as practicable, their difference of growth would lead us to believe, that they have a difference of food, but their mechanical effects alone, upon the earth, the one binding, the other loosening its texture, is sufficient to justify the practice of alternation; and the modern agriculture is considerably predicated upon the idea of different *genera* feeding upon different *pabula*, or at least, upon different proportions of the same elements. How much this idea be rejected, when we see one genus flourish on the bottom of the river another on the summit of the mountain transposes them and they both inevitably perish The practice of irrigation, which has been extolled in Europe for many centuries, is highly worthy of attention; in this country it has been but little noticed, but might probably, under the auspices and encouragement of this society be introduced and tend greatly to the improvement of agriculture; when water can be drawn with convenience from muddy rivers, swamps, &c. Black loam, or calcareous becs, it cannot be doubted that the solution of animal, vegetable, and calcareous matters in the waters, must impart to the lands upon which they are drawn and lodged for a time, a rich deposit of vapor and fertility.

Another benefit I have myself witnessed in the irrigation of a timothy meadow, during the last winter; that of defending the roots of the young grass from the frosts of the winter previous. my timothy which had been seeded in September, was nearly destroyed by frost in this meadow then perfectly drained; it was again well prepared and reseeded at the same season of the succeeding year; in both instances it was equally flourishing at the accession of the frost by a small bank, I dammed up the water which covered all, except about one third of an acre, which was rather higher, but as rich as the rest; in the spring the part irrigated and under a sheet of *ice* nearly the whole winter, was fine, and yielded a luxuriant crop; the half acre not covered was nearly destroyed by frost. So marked a difference I confess, I did not anticipate; indeed, from the young and tender state of the grass when covered with water and ice, and the length of time it remained, (the frost preventing its removal,) I feared a fatal result notwithstanding I had, among other, the excellent authorities of Davy and Duhamel to quiet my apprehensions. The latter in his Phitologia remarks, "water is of great specific gravity at 42o of Fahrenheit, and at 32o the freezing point, and hence a meadow, irrigated in winter, the water immediately in contact with the grass is not below 40o. a degree of temperature not at all prejudicial to the living organs of plants."

The subject of manures is too large for discussion in a short address, but in a most desultory manner, yet there is a source so excellent, and so abundant in the vicinity of most of the farmers of this state, that I cannot pass it by without notice, viz. the rich black loam found in swamps, morasses and bottoms, consisting of carbonaceous matter, sand and clay, the upper stratum of this earth, more especially, last formed from the decomposition of vegetable and animal bodies, readily absorbs oxigen, and forms carbonic acid, one of the most powerful agents in vegetable nourishment The most profitable method of managing this earth, will be to make a composite heap of it, with the fermenting offal of the farm yard, because of its more ordinary capacity to absorb putrid effluvia, whereby the fertilizing powers, not only itself, but of its adjunct, are preserved and improved; and should sulphuric acid, which is poison to vegetation, exist, which frequently the case in morasses, this combination of saline offal, becomes quite requisite to neutralize the acid, and render it innocuous.

A considerable source of manure may be found in wood shavings, and branches of trees; but in either shape it is difficult of fermentation, and requires the generating power of dung, or green vegetable matter in a state of fermentation, combined with it, to promote the process, or, of course, lime, which latter will much sooner effect a decomposition of the woody fibre, by its ternate layers of each, in a pit; for its *application* of a known principle, Mr. Brown of England was honoured with a medal, as an acknowledgment of the service rendered to agriculture.

The effects of caustic lime in accelerating the decomposition of moist, fibrous vegetable matter, may be highly useful on grounds lately brought into cultivation and full of hard roots; but it must be kept in view, that though lime be useful as a solvent of green wood, yet it is detrimental in a dung heap, tending to render the attractive matter insoluble; with only a moderate portion, it forms an insoluble compound, yet in composts, made chiefly of leaves or other animal matter, it becomes essential to health, that the heap be covered with it, to correct the excessive and noxious effluvia.

With regard to mild lime, or lime combined with carbonic acid, which has a strong affinity for, and readily absorbs from the atmosphere, The best, and simple indication of its utility, is the effervescence of the soil with acids.
