

AGRICULTURAL

Communicated for the American Farmer, by G. W. Jeffreys.

THE STERCORARY.

Quincy, (Mass.) June 10, 1817. Dear Sir.—I should have earlier acknowledged the letter you did me the honour to address to me in April last, but absence from home, and engagements prevented that attention to it, which it was entitled to receive.

In relation to the particular object of your letter, I do not know how I can better reply than by referring you to the first volume of the Memoirs of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, page 282—which contains all the hints, I deem essential on the subject of a Stercorary. My letter to Judge Peters, to which you refer and which he published, was intended only to counteract the opinion expressed of the effects of a Stercorary under a barn. My experience had shown, that if sufficiently spacious and well ventilated, it had no injurious effects upon the health of the animals above, or upon the quality of the manure. I stated my experience, and to my surprise found myself to be attended to in the construction of a Stercorary, as I think contained in those memoirs. To be covered—to be water-tight—to be drained over the heap—are the most material points of attention. The scale will depend upon the size of farm to be accommodated, or the state of capital employed.

With respect to your inquiries concerning the quantity of water to be applied, &c.—I know no rule on the subject, nor any do I believe exists, which common sense will not dictate—not to admit more than the water-tight receptacle would contain; that secured, I should let as much water enter as the surrounding buildings and declivities would throw in—unless indeed, the quantity was so great as to render working in the Stercorary inconvenient. As to the "time of irrigation," I have been wholly governed by convenience. On a rainy day—if my hands have nothing else to do, they irrigate my cellar—sometimes by the machine, I state in the letter to which you allude—at others by the aid merely of buckets. In doing this I have two objects, one is to produce fermentation, the other to enrich every part of the heap, by the particles contained in drainage.

I have no experience of composts made on the scale and in the manner which you suggest. I use no straw as litter; my horses live upon this cut with oats, barley or Indian meal. Sea-weed is my litter. "Weeds, leaves, earth," I think best treated in a rough way, and thus best composted. Let the yard be made of a size suited to your stock—cast in those substances occasionally, and yard your cattle upon them at night. By treading and manure, &c. they unite and amalgamate the mass. If you choose then to cart it to your Stercorary, there mix, irrigate and let these substances ferment, the better.

I have not these two years past "turned over" my manure in my Stercorary, any more than is sufficient to make good storage of it. Nor do I believe anything is gained by "keeping manure" after it is one year old. As to rough composts out of gross materials, much must depend upon the material, and the advantageous circumstances, in which the heap has been composted. I consider water as the best medium for communicating the riches of the manure heap to the soil. The best mode is to cart the drainage upon the land, and apply it to the ground to the vegetable cultivated. This is not convenient, then, I never allow a loaded cart of manure to start from my Stercorary until it is saturated with the drainage by pumping this on the load.

I shall inclose to you by mail, the last number of our Massachusetts Agricultural Journal, and shall be gratified to hear that it reaches you in safety. The state and scale of Agriculture is so different in N. Carolina,

and Massachusetts, that I scarcely know whether any thing I have written can be serviceable. You will receive it however as the best information I have to give in compliance with your request, and as an evidence of the respect with which

I am, your's, &c. JOSIAH QUINCY. Geo. W. Jeffreys, Esq.

From the Same. ON CURING BACON. Locust Level, Frederick Co., Dec. 30th, 1821.

John S. Skinner, Esq. Sir—I have observed in number 38 and volume 3 of your American Farmer, a treatise on curing bacon, &c. by John Darby, esq. Richmond County, Virginia, whose treatise I consider the best I have ever seen in print, and probably as good as can be offered; nevertheless, as I differ with him as to the mode of applying the same ingredients, (sugar and molasses excepted which I deem an unnecessary expense,) I will inform you of the mode, which I have found the best that I have ever tried, in as concise a manner as I can to be intelligent, without comments, leaving the breed and size of hogs for a future examination. I first strike my pork down on planks laid sloping, (as Mr. Darby does) with fine Liverpool salt—after laying from 8 to 14 days, agreeable to the weather—longest of cold days.—I re-salt it, having the salt well rubbed on the skin, and pack it in tubs made on purpose, being wider at top than bottom holding about one thousand pounds each; having previously prepared a strong brine, by boiling salt, (the alum I now prefer) with about two or three pounds of salt petre, with twenty or thirty pods of red pepper for each tub of meat—while boiling, it requires frequent skimming, and perfectly cold, I fill up the tubs, entirely covering the meat with it—about two weeks after, I have no meat taken out—reboil the brine; add white boiling, about 1-3d lye, made strong from green hickory wood ashes, &c. a few more red peppers; skimming as before—when perfectly cold, it is applied over the meat—gain. In two weeks time, it will be ready for the smoke house when it is taken out of the pickle, wiped clean and hung up, hock downwards. No smoke is applied the first day, unless very cold weather—when commence smoking with green hickory wood. Fearing it might be alleged that it would overheat the meat, I will give a short description of my smoke house. My meat is hung in the upper story of a small building; the lower story intended for servants, the floor being covered with clay mortar to repel the heat downwards and prevent fire above—below is a small ten plate stove, whose pipe ascends one foot above the floor—some bricks are piled round the pipe above, and about one foot higher, on which an old stove plate is laid, to spread the smoke and prevent fire above. The stove keeps the occupants below comfortable, (who seldom neglect the fire in cold weather) and fully answers smoking my meat; there being no aperture in the floor, except where the pipe goes, they have no access, the meat house door being in the wall of the second story. When perfectly smoked the hams and shoulders are packed again in the tubs, with as coarse salt as I can obtain—from whence it is used comes out clean—when packed with ash it is otherwise. I have also cured them with the first brine, with lye in it, but thought the lye penetrated too deep, though they kept remarkably well.

Mr. Skinner—I hope that our agricultural society will award premiums for the best cured hams, which shall be exhibited at our future cattle shows—believing it as essentially beneficial as for good hogs, (for then the members might have the pleasure of feasting on them;) and I'll venture to assert, they would be treated with as good hams of bacon, as ever came from Burlington, Westphalia, or any other part of this globe, from Your friend, and very humble servant, JOHN HUGHES.

MORE BACON. Mr. Skinner, Having had considerable experience, say nearly half a century, in all "the manipulations," (as Dr. M would probably call them) usually exercised upon that most delectable viand denominated "Bacon" from the killing, cleaning, cutting out, salting, pickling, curing, and what is better than all, masticating it, I believe myself tolerably well qualified—although there may be some vanity in the declaration, to speak "understandingly," on the subject. Knows'een, my good Sir, that your correspondent, Mr. John Darby, runs the highly culpable risk of spoiling, or rather causing others to spoil, a quantity of that article which constitutes the staple dish of the Ancient Dominion. He is the less excusable in this particular, because he writes so feelingly on this subject, that I am confident he must be not only an amateur, but one of the cognoscenti both in making and eating Bacon.

The neglect for which I now arraign him before all the lovers of Bacon in the United States, is his failing to caution you that if it is packed "in hickory ashes, they must be drawn ashes, or as sure as you expect to have Bacon for your Christmas Dinner, these ashes will "eat up" (as the old ladies call it) a great portion of the fat in every piece and extract, at least a part of that precious essence which titillates so exquisitely the papillæ of the tongue; and is far superior to all the oils that ever were discovered. In other respects, Mr. Darby's receipt is very good, but unnecessarily troublesome; for among all the varieties of Bacon, Burlington and Westphalia inclusive, which my grinders have ever aided in discussing, the best I ever tasted, was packed in what the old Virginia ladies called "meat tubs," and suffered to remain in the first brine until taken out to smoke, I have eat it more than two years old, as good as it could be, and the management has been what I have just stated. The best salt-beef also, which I have ever seen, was put into the aforesaid brine, as soon as the pork was taken out.

Virginiansis Philoporus. December 21st, 1821.

From the same. RECIPES FOR THE DYSENTERY. An Indian Remedy. Take the root of Cuttail, (a flag) bruise and boil it in sweet milk; let the person affected, sup it warm or cold.

It is a harmless medicine, and a sucking child may use it without injury. It is best to let the disease continue a few days before the root is used, or else a purge must be taken. If the person is far gone, one spoonful will be enough every hour the first day, and more the next. No meat ought to be used, but ripe fruit is beneficial.

An Indian Recipe. Of the roots of the low running Blackberry, or Dewberry, make a strong decoction of tea, and let the patient drink three tea cups full, milk warm, and during the operation, drink plentifully of water. It operates as a gentle purge.

A COACH FOR BALTIMORE (Five times a Week.) In addition to the regular line of three times a week, viz. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, a PRIVATE Coach will run every Monday and Friday throughout the winter, starting from Mrs. Robinson's and Mrs. Daley's at 8 o'clock, and arriving at Barnum's Hotel the same afternoon. Fare and allowance of baggage same as in mail line. For seats please apply at Mr. George Shaw's Store, Church street, Annapolis, Jan. 31, 1822.

State of Maryland, ss. Anne-Arundel county, Orphans Court, January 1st, 1822. On application by petition of Rebecca Watts, administratrix of Philip K. Watts, late of Anne-Arundel county deceased, it is ordered that she give notice required by law for creditors to exhibit their claims against the said deceased, and that the same be published once in each week, for the space of six successive weeks, in the Maryland Gazette, Thomas H. Hall, Reg. of Will A. A. County.

Notice is hereby given, That the subscriber of Anne-Arundel county, hath obtained from the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, in Md. letters of administration on the personal estate of Philip K. Watts, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, on or before the 1st day of July next, in any otherwise by law excluded, if on behalf of the said estate, or on behalf of my heirs, 1st day of January 1822. REBECCA WATTS, Adm'x.

NOTICE. The Committee of Claims will sit every day during the present session, from 9 o'clock A. M. until 3 o'clock P. M. By order, Sam. S. Hodgkin, clk. Dec. 13, 1821.

JUST PUBLISHED And For Sale at Geo. Shaw's Store, THE FIRST VOLUME OF HARRIS & JOHNSON'S REPORTS Of Cases Argued and Determined in the GENERAL COURT AND COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND From the year 1800 to 1805, Inclusive. PRICE—\$6 50. Sept. 27.

Ducks, Oysters, &c. &c. The Subscriber informs the public that he has made arrangements to furnish DINNERS & SUPPERS, of Wild Fowl, Oysters, &c. at the shortest notice, and on moderate terms, and respectfully solicits a share of public patronage. They can be supplied with Liquors of the best quality, and he flatters himself, from his long experience in the above line, that every satisfaction will be afforded those who may be disposed to favour him with a call. P. S. He expects in a few days a large supply of Pepper from Philadelphia Beer. December 6, 1821.

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Flour, Wheat, &c. H. H. WOOD, Flour and Commission Merchant, No 148, Market st. Baltimore, is daily receiving from Frederick and Washington counties large supplies of Flour, clear of garlick, and warranted good, which he will sell to Families, Bakers and Shippers, by wholesale or retail, as cheap as can be got in the city. Likewise respectfully informs the Farmers in general, that he will sell at the highest cash prices any quantities of Wheat, Rye, Corn of Oats, for one quarter per cent commission, and Pork for 2 per cent commission. Farmers that send large quantities of grain to the Baltimore market will find it much to their advantage by sending it to the subscriber, who will pay punctual attention to their business. H. H. W. Im. Sept. 13.

Just Published And for sale at this Office and at Mr. George Shaw's Store—price 25cts The Constitution of Maryland, To which is prefixed, The Declaration of Rights—With the amendments ingrafted therein Oct. 25.

ATTENTION! A valuable lot of NEGROES to sell, unusually low for cash. For farther particulars inquire at this office. Jan 17.

The Saturday Magazine, Containing Miscellaneous Selections from Foreign Magazines. Literary Intelligence, Scientific Notices; Record, Agricultural papers read before the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia, Variety, Poetry.—Being a continuation of the National Recorder. Published by Littel and Henry, No. 74, S. Second-st. Philadelphia—Price \$5 per annum.

No. 27, of the Saturday's Magazine contains Confessions of an English Opium Eater or Stories of Crocodiles American Medals From the Memoir of Gaudentia de Luca Mr. Belson's Egyptian Antiquities Fatal Wedding Menzokoff A Strolling Company The good Story Teller The honour of Mograh Monoghan, a story Provincial Dialect Origin of Tea being used New Publications, &c. Published Every Saturday at 5 dollars per annum—subscriptions received at this Office, and G. Shaw's store. Jan. 31.

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Andrew Nicholls, Respectfully informs the voters of Anne-Arundel county, and the city of Annapolis, that he is a Candidate for the Sheriffalty of said county at the election of October 1822.

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MARYLAND GAZETTE

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JONAS GREEN, CHURCH-STREET, ANNAPOLIS. Price—Three Dollars per Annum.

FOREIGN. LATE NEWS FROM EUROPE. Norfolk, Feb. 2. Capt Adams of the brig Alcege from the Ark Intelligence of the 25th December, containing London Advertis to the 20th—more than a month later than last accounts.

The public are informed, that this Packet will run as usual. Merchants and others, who send Goods, &c. are requested to designate particularly the names of the persons for whom they are intended, and the places where to be sent. They will not be responsible for letters sent in the packets, but every attention will be paid to their delivery. They have an Extra SCHOONER, which will take and carry Freight to and from any port in the Chesapeake Bay.

The editors of the Federal Gazette and American, Baltimore, are requested to insert the above once a week for six weeks, and forward their accounts to this office. May 17.

INSURRECTIONS IN SPAIN. We have selected and annexed the leading contents of the London Journals of Wednesday and Thursday, received since our last, which with copious reports of the proceedings under the special commission at Limevik, and other important provincial intelligence, include the story which corresponds, will be read with interest.

A COACH FOR BALTIMORE. Commenced running on Tuesday first January, and will continue through the winter on Tuesdays and Saturdays, starting from Mrs. Robinson's and Mrs. Daley's at 9 o'clock in the morning, and arriving at Barnum's Hotel the same afternoons. Fare and allowance of baggage same as in mail line.

ROBERT WELCH, of Oak. Respectfully informs the voters of Anne-Arundel county, and the city of Annapolis, that he is a Candidate for the office of Sheriff of said county, at the sheriffalty election to be held in 1824. Annapolis, Oct. 25.

Dissolution of Partnership. The partnership heretofore existing between George and John Barber, & Co. has been mutually dissolved. All persons indebted to the said firm are requested to settle either by bond or note on or before 1st December next, and those who have claims against said firm are requested to present them for payment to John Miller, jun. who is authorized to adjust and settle the concerns of said firm. In Mr. Miller's absence, either of the aforesaid firm will be duly authorized to adjust and settle accounts.

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