

time in Maryland. “*Filix urenda crepitantibus flammis,*” is as accurate in practice as it is beautiful in description. In recommendations for the preservation and collection of manures, at the beginning of the Christian era, as precise and good practical advice was given as that which is recommended at the present day, viz: to collect weeds, earth from the woods, &c., for compost heaps, to cover over manure heaps with dirt, that nothing be lost, and that in giving abundance of food to stock we obtain some compensation in the increased value of the manure,—a fact proven by the most careful scientific experiments of modern times. To change the mechanical texture of lands, the practice was followed which is good at the present day, to mix the light with stiff, clayey with sandy soils, and vice versa. In the details of husbandry good practical principles were urged, economy is always advised, expensive outlays are always reprobated, and an unanimous verdict is given, against what is now called “farming on the high pressure principle.” The greater profits of small than of large farms was insisted on, and the advice given to purchase a small though we might praise a large farm. The advice given by Cato is so correct that I need no apology for inserting it here:

“When the proprietor arrives at the villa, and has paid his respects to the household gods, he should, if he possibly can, go round his farm on that day; if he cannot do that, certainly on the next. When he has completed his own inspection, on the morrow he should have up his bailiff, and inquire of him what work has been done, and what remains to be done—whether the work is sufficiently forward, and whether what remains can be got through in due season—what has been done about the wine, corn, and all other matters. When he has made himself acquainted with these things, he should then compare the work done with the number of days. If work enough does not seem to have been done, the bailiff will say that he has been very diligent—that the slaves could not do any more—that the weather has been bad—that slaves skulked—that they have been taken off to public work. When the bailiff has given these and many other reasons, bring him back to the actual details of work done. If he reports rainy weather, ascertain for how many days it lasted, and inquire what they were all about during the rain. Casks might be washed and pitched, the farm-house cleaned, corn turned, the cattle-sheds cleaned out, and a dung-heap made, seed dressed, old ropes mended, and new ones made; the family might mend their cloaks and hoods. On public holidays old ditches might have been scoured, the highway repaired, briers cut, the garden dug, twigs kidded, the meadow cleared, thistles pulled, grain (far) pounded, and every thing made tidy. When the slaves have been sick they ought not to have had so much food. When these matters are pretty well cleared up, let him take effectual care that