

the work which remains to be done shall be done. Then he should go into the money account, the corn account; examine what has been bought in the way of food. Next he should see what wine and oil have come into store, and what have been consumed, what is left, and how much can be sold. If a good account can be given of these things, let it be taken as settled. All other articles should be looked into, that if any thing is wanting for the year's consumption, it may be bought; if there is any surplus it may be sold; and that any matters which want arrangement may be arranged. He should give orders about any work to be done, and leave them in writing. He should look over his cattle with a view to a sale. He should sell any spare wine, oil, and corn, if the price suits. He should sell old work oxen, and culls, both cattle and sheep; wool and hides, old carts and old iron implements; *any old and diseased slave*; and any thing else which he can spare. A proprietor should be seeking to sell rather than to buy."

The above advice, given on the banks of the Tiber, near 2000 years ago, could at present be judiciously followed on the banks of the Patuxent or Potomac.

The names of the prominent Agricultural writers of ancient times have no rivals amongst the moderns up to the beginning of the present century—we may look, and look in vain, for their equals. Hesiod, Theophrastus, Xenophon, Cato, Varro, Virgil, Columella, Pliny, Palladius, and Mago the Carthaginian, have no equals at the present day. These were writers not of one age nor of one country, they were men scattered through a series of years, some being Greeks, some Romans, others of the barbarous nations.

These writers, though of the highest literary skill and excellence, yet are valuable practical teachers. A writer in one of the late English reviews truthfully observes: "That we might take up almost any of the old agricultural writers, and begin with him the year—prepare the field, sow the crop, weed it, reap it, harvest it, thresh and winnow it, ascertain the weight per bushel, and the yield in flour or meal, market it; buy, feed, clothe and lodge the agricultural slaves; purchase, rear and sell the cattle and fowls; collect and prepare the manure; and make out at the end of the year a more accurate balance sheet than could be furnished by half the farmers in Great Britain."

Finally, on almost every subject that could be improved by practical experience they had attained very high skill, yet their Agriculture was not at its perfection, nor has mere practice and experiment made it any more so in our day. Its true principles not being understood in ancient times, the most correct practice could not be followed. Chemistry had not then pointed out the connection between the plant and the soil. It had not then, as