

THE
NEW ENGLAND FARMER;

A MONTHLY JOURNAL,

DEVOTED TO

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE,

AND THEIR KINDRED

ARTS AND SCIENCES;

EMBELLISHED AND ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS BEAUTIFUL ENGRAVINGS.

"AGRICULTURE IS THE MOTHER WHICH GIVES FOOD, GROWTH, WEALTH, AND MORAL HEALTH TO OUR COUNTRY."

SIMON BROWN, EDITOR.

FREDERICK HOLBROOK AND HENRY F. FRENCH, ASSOCIATE EDITORS.

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plows, or even to the Belgian." "Do you know," retorted Johnson, "that in our country, we have fields, without a fence, or a rock, or a stump, larger than your whole island of Great Britain; and these plows have been found to work well there, as they will work well anywhere. This flour is made from the wheat, you see yonder; and the wheat was grown on land plowed with implements like these; that crop of wheat averaged 62½ bushels to the acre, weighing 63 pounds to the bushel." So with the reapers. The *London Times* paraded an account of the American department, and christened McCormick's machine, "a cross betwixt a flying-machine, a tread-mill, and an Astley's chariot." "That flying machine must be tested on the field," insisted the sturdy Johnson, "and let them laugh that win." The tread-mill was tried. The grain, green and storm-soaked as it was, went down before it, as if it were the shears of Fate; and loud, though late, were the honest congratulations of our discomfited critics. The introduction of the American Reaper, alone, was by common consent, allowed to compensate England for all the gross expenses of the exhibition. In like manner, the plows were found to work well on English land. And, finally, the bitter opponent of all that is American and republican,—that same *London Times*—confessed that the United States, by their contributions for ensuring the good of the many, instead of pandering to the luxuries of the few, had carried off the palm, in this World's Tournament.

Why was it that at the eleventh hour, only, was justice done to one of the competing countries? Why did thousands, whose voices were afterwards loudest in praise,—to their honor be this said,—for so long time speak, but to scoff? PREJUDICE had pre-occupied their minds, and jaundiced their vision.

For the New England Farmer.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

MR. BROWN:—I have been a reader of the *New England Farmer* this last twelvemonth, and like it very much. But I have sometimes felt a little nettled at never seeing the name of New Brunswick mentioned in it, either as regards farming or any thing else. You must be aware that there is such a place as New Brunswick, and that your paper extends its circulation hither; but I suppose you think that "New Brunswick is no good for farming." It is better, however, than you are perhaps aware of; and to convince you of that, I have resolved on writing you some particulars regarding its capabilities. What kind of land we have—how we get along—and what we can raise. I do not feel myself altogether qualified for the undertaking, having only been two years in the country, and not being much used to writing, but it seems there is no one with better qualifications that thinks it worth their trouble.

This place is situated thirty miles from Frederickton the seat of the Provincial government, and thirty-five from the American frontier—Calais, Me. The settlers are a mixture of Scotch and English, the first of which commenced in the forest fifteen years ago. They have stuck to their farms and done well. The soil is a clayey loam, (not very stony) and rests upon a hard pan. The geological formation is grey sandstone and granite. The

growth of wood may be said to be a mixture of spruce and hemlock, birch, beech and maple.

Chopping down, clearing up, and fencing new land, costs £3 10s, or \$14 an acre. When it is sown with oats 3 bushels is allowed to the acre, and the return is 50, more or less; 70 is sometimes obtained. The ground is only harrowed twice over, and raked round the stumps. It ought to get more stirring.

We raise famous potatoes here. We had 300 bushels from the acre last season, good and sound. There was 800 bushels raised on one acre, near Frederickton, last year. The ground was a sandy loam, plowed out of the sward, and had no manure except 50 bushels of leached ashes. I saw some bushels of them at the Provincial Exhibition. We are not very particular in planting our potatoes on new land; we make no hole for the seed—just lay down the cuts (3 to a hill) on the surface, and draw the ashes and dirt round them. A neighbor of mine says, "he thinks they are *grise vel* rigged if he gets a chip on them." We raise grass seed in large quantities, and of superior quality; perhaps you may have heard of the Harvey Timothy, a great part of it is sent to Boston. We sow only 3 pints to 4 quarts on an acre—sometimes a little clover is added. The clover grows very strong; a neighbor of mine tells me that he used to sow some clover, but it grew so strong that he could not cut it, and he quit sowing it.

We top the herds-grass with the sickle, hence the seed is very pure. A good hand is allowed to top an acre a day. Four bushels from the acre is a fair crop. As for plow land farming, I have several times seen oats, barley and wheat raised here, which weighed respectively, 50, 60, and 70 lbs. per bushel. The land would do well, if it was well attended to; but there is great room for improvement. Indeed, I have often been surprised to see the crops which are obtained by the mode of cultivation sometimes practised. I know the farmers in my country would think hard to expect a crop from the same system. I have often thought that the farmers in this country calculate too much, sir. The farmers in Scotland do not calculate so much, and yet they are better farmers; moreover they have been allowed to be the best farmers in the world, and yet it has been said of them, that "they are strong as the ox, and as ignorant as strong."

I shall just state that oats here this winter have sold at 2s. 6d. per bushel, potatoes 2s., Timothy seed 14s., and hay £4 per ton, all on the spot.

A Scotchman in the backwoods of New Brunswick.

JOHN TAYLOR.

*Harvey Settlement, N. B.,
Via Calais, Me., March 2nd, 1853.*

REMARKS.—The New Brunswickers shall have a fair chance with us. They send us the finest grass seed the world can produce, and we suppose the men and women would come under the same comparative degree. A "Scotch backwoodsman" seems to be as glib with the pen as the axe, and if he can impart something to benefit "mankind in general, and farmers in particular," why he can "put it through" our columns.

FRANKINGHAM FARMERS' CLUB.—We had the pleasure of attending a meeting of this Club, at Har-

trees by much. And I sensibly perceive my young trees to enlarge their fruit as they grow greater, both for number and greatness.

"It is good for some purposes to regard the age of your fruit trees, which you may easily know, till they come to accomplish twenty yeeres, by his knots. Reckon from his root up an arme, and so to his top twig, and every yeeres growth is distinguished from others by a knot, except lopping or removing doe hinder."

We think the worthy writer somewhat enthusiastic in his calculations—and fancy he would believe as implicitly in the seven cedars of Lebanon, as Lamartine himself. But there is such a love for trees manifested throughout his little work, that one easily forgives his enthusiasm, and as we travel back two hundred years, we fancy the honest, kind-hearted Yorkshire man living himself almost to the age of Parr, and sitting under his own vines and apple trees. One of his concluding sentences is as follows :

"What shall I say? A thousand pleasant delights are attendant in an orchard; and sooner shall I be weary, than I can reckon the least part of that pleasure, which one that hath and loves an orchard may find therein."

REMARKS.—The above pleasant article is from a lady. It has remained longer in "our pigeon-hole" than it ought, and longer, we promise, than the next one shall, after we get it. There is a beautiful earnestness in her remarks, as well as in the text she speaks from; and we really believe they would excite us a little even if they were not from the hand of a lady! We wish we could hand our correspondent an old volume entitled "Markham's Farewell to Husbandry," some idea of the quaintness and beauty of which she may get by referring to the volume of the *Farmer* for 1852, page 243. But it was a borrowed gem, long ago returned to its owner in Connecticut, so that we cannot please her or gratify ourselves by so doing.

For the New England Farmer.

FRONT-YARD FENCES—ALDERS.

MR. EDITOR:—Your correspondent "S. G. B." inquires the best way to build a front-yard fence. I would advise him to set stone posts in holes two and one-half feet in depth, and the same in diameter, and to fill the space around them with small stones well packed down with a crow-bar and nothing else; and then drill two holes in the face of the stone about 4 inches deep, but not very large, with a space of 3 feet between the holes for the purpose of securing the joist on which the pickets are to be nailed. Take some large bolts, (square) and put them through the joist and drive them securely into the stone holes. The joist should be about 3½ by 5 inches, or thereabouts. Pickets 4 feet long and 3 inches wide, with the same space between, and then draw a line on the top of them and saw them true, and then you want a rave on the top with a groove in its under side, in width the thickness of the pickets; and that laid on the top, nailed occasionally, makes the whole firm and strong.

The best time to cut alders is in June, and the

best way is by having one to pull the tops over, while another cuts them up; but if they are very large cut them down snug to the ground, and when sufficiently dry, pile and burn them on the ground. It is of no use to cut them only in the summer thinking to kill them; such is my experience. In the future I may ask a few questions.

W. N. S.

Kensington, N. H., 1853.

For the New England Farmer.

PLEASANT WORDS FROM "DOWN EAST."

MR. EDITOR:—I imported six bushels of seed oats and two bushels of barley last fall from Scotland, which I sowed this spring, and for the information of those who may have an idea of importing seed from the old country or elsewhere, I purpose giving you some statements connected therewith. There is a prevalent idea that oats or other grain from the mother country never do well here the first season, but judging from the present appearance of mine, I am inclined to believe that if the seed be good, and is properly taken care of, and gets a fair chance, it will do as well the first year as it will the second. They have now fairly commenced to grow, both the oats and barley, and I have no doubt but they will turn out well. The oats are the early kind. They were raised near Forfar by one of the best farmers in that county. They are as clean and pure as any oats I ever remember having seen; the barley also is very pure and clean. They were sent out last fall and lay all winter at St. Johns. When they came to hand this spring, I found they had been very carefully done up in two barrels, which had been well smoked or fumigated, and made perfectly tight, so that the grain smelt as fresh as when it had been put in. They were shipped at Dundee, and the freight to St. Johns was 3s., the duty 1s. 6d., entries 9d., cartage 1s. 3d., (I was charged nothing for storage,) so that the freight and charges, exclusive of inland cartage amounted to 6s. 6d.

The soil and climate of this province is well adapted for oats, and I think it would be well for the country if their cultivation received more attention. Oats in a general way are raised for horse feed, and little pains is taken to improve them in quality; the seed is seldom changed, and is often of inferior description, being light and mixed with foul seed and other grain. If the farmer is asked why he does not sow better and cleaner oats, he will say, "O its no use being very particular with them, I can get just as good a price for poor oats as I can for the best." Oats ought never to be sowed more than twice or three times without being changed. The seed should always be the best—well cleansed, and free from other grain so that it might be fit for being made into oat-meal for family use. Good oat-meal when properly cooked, is quite palatable, and ought to be used in every family; as an article of diet, it is one of the most wholesome aliments that can be set on the table. I shall venture to assert that if the people in this country, generally, were to use more oat-meal and less superfine flour, that sickness and consumption would be much less prevalent in it.

I should like to inquire of you, or any of your

correspondents, something about the harvesting and management of seed clover. It has been tried here on a small scale, and the seed is found to be of a very superior quality, but the greatest difficulty seems to be in getting it thrashed and cleansed—some information therefore on that subject would be very acceptable in this quarter.

In reference to the remarks which you made on my previous communication, I must observe that you gave us quite a compliment. My inference is that you seem to be quite satisfied respecting the abilities of our soil, and the superiority of her productions, but that you would like to know something respecting the quality of our men and women. I shall endeavor to gratify your curiosity a little in that particular, but you must excuse me if I do not notice anything about the smartness of our own sex; suffice it, to give a word or two about the other. I think, sir, if you were to come through here and see our *lasses* at work about the farm, you would say that they are better stuff than your New England girls. They can plant a bushel of potatoes a day, (in good shape,) dig 25, top an acre of timothy, and reap 24 dozen oats. They can pitch hay, pick stones, pile brush, rake round the stumps, team a horse, and milk the cows. They can wash and dress, and bake and brew, and knit and sew, card, spin and cook, and clean in style, and catch the horse that beat the boys, and drive the sheep to pasture. The girls are very scarce here, people come a long way after them for wives.

J. T.

Harvey, N. B., via Calais, Me. }
June 8th, 1853. }

REMARKS.—Thank you, "John Taylor." Where persons make a business of raising clover-seed, they have a machine, moved by horse power, which they take into the field and gather the clover heads merely, leaving the stubble on the ground. These heads are generally on the "rowen," or second crop. After being gathered, they are threshed and cleaned up much as other seeds are.

Your account of the ladies in "the Harvey Settlement," smacks of olden times. As a wife, we don't want one, having *the best* in "the States" already—but as "a help," gracious, how things would shine at River Cottage, if we had one of your girls! But then, should we feel safe! "Team a horse! top an acre of timothy! reap 24 dozen of oats!" and probably *bind* 24 men if they were to steal a kiss unfairly, from one of these Amazons!

But we are glad to hear from them, and may make more particular inquiries, in person, some future day.

SPECIAL MANURE FOR GRAPES.—The wine committee, at the exhibition of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society, reported that of two specimens of wine, one from grapes to which a special manuring of potash had been given, the wine from the manure grapes was "bright, clear, and mellow, like an old wine." The other was declared to be less matured in all its qualities, nor was it clear. The grapes themselves, from the two portions of ground, were also presented to the committee. "Both were delicious and well ripened,

but it was considered that those from the manured land were sweeter, and that the pulp was softer."

For the New England Farmer.

INDIGENOUS FRUITS AND SHRUBS.

MR. BROWN:—I desire information on the rearing of our indigenous fruit trees and shrubs from seed. All our cultivated varieties of fruit have sprung from wild types, generally of little value. Careful culture, and successive reproduction from seed, have greatly increased their size, and improved their flavor. Our wild fruits are equally promising. Their size and flavor are quite equal, and in many instances superior, I believe, to exotics of the same genus. Besides, by their hardiness or other peculiarities, they are perfectly adapted to our climate.

The sweet scented crab-apple, (*Pyrus coronaria*) figured in the March number of the *Farmer*, doubtless might be ameliorated, and become a splendid fruit, possessing many valuable characteristics. The choke cherry (*C. Virginia* of Gray) differ wonderfully in their varieties in size, and flavor; and I have seen varieties of each growing about the fields, which almost equalled the May Duke in size. I might go on, but these will suffice for examples. It may be objected that the ameliorating process is the work of an age,—very true; but we are enjoying the fruit of our ancestors' labor. Let us repay to posterity. However the time requisite for the amelioration of many fruits, is perhaps less than is generally believed. My experience is that the *Amygdalæ*, or almond family, will fruit in four years from gathering the stones; the bramble in three years, and the grape in four to five. I have been unsuccessful in producing the *Vaccinææ* or whortleberry family from the seed. Perhaps yourself or correspondents can instruct me. I find no information on the subject in the books.

J. GRIFFITHS.

REMARKS.—Perhaps Mr. HYDE, of Newton Centre, can throw light on the subject.

ERGOT IN GRAIN.

Some time since, while looking over the files of the *National Intelligencer*, our attention was arrested by a communication from a Parisian correspondent, in which were detailed some of the proceedings of the Academy of Science, the celebrity of which is too well and generally known to require any remark. The writer, evidently himself a man of science, says:—

"A paper was received from Mr. VALOT, of Dixon, on the larvæ of various insects destructive to plants, such as the *conineæ* *maculata*, *cimex circulator*, &c., and on the existence of ergot as a disease peculiar to rye, but Mr. VALOT announces that he has seen the same disease in barley. After the reading of this paper M. A. JUSSICA said that he had recently seen several ears of wheat which had been attacked by the ergot, and that the disease in rye had made great ravages."

We are not aware that the disease called "ergot" has ever been really destructive in this country.