

THE FIELD AND FIRESIDE.

Vol. I.

MARIETTA, GEORGIA, JANUARY 1, 1877.

The Field and Fireside.

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Marietta, March 13, 1877.

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March 13, 1877.

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AND

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Marietta, Ga., March 13, 1877.

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House Building and

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Lumber of all kinds, and at the lowest prices, for sale.

Thoughtful for the liberal patronage of the public, the undersigned would state that he is fully prepared to contract for the erection of Buildings, and to execute the contracts in the most satisfactory manner. SHOP, SOUTH SIDE PUBLIC SQUARE.

March 1877. LEMUEL BLACK.

CONTRACTOR

AND

BUILDER.

Agricultural.

The Composition of Soils.

PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

One of the most important subjects presented for discussion at the well attended and interesting meeting of the Farmers' Club of New York, was introduced by Dr. Heath, who read a valuable paper on the "Composition of Soils, Plants and Animals." The following is a synopsis of the points and arguments made touching soils and plants.

Soils are substantially composed of organic matter, of potash, soda, lime, magnesia, oxide of iron, oxide of manganese, sulphuric acid, phosphoric acid, carbonic acid, chlorine, silica and alumina—twelve. The first eleven constitute plants. But if we continually grow crops and sell them all without returning the elements of the crops, we surely and persistently impoverish our soil. The yield this year is not so large as it was a year ago, but the quality is somewhat better, although many bad lots have come to market. Prices are higher than they have been for several years, and stand just about as they did in 1875.

The orchard products of the United States are estimated at a value of \$60,000,000 annually, in which New York leads, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan coming next; but there is no data showing the number of barrels of apples raised in the country, either in a single year or from one decade to another. And yet the apple is the national fruit, and is the only fruit of the orchard that is like the cereal productions, exported to foreign countries. We know pretty nearly how many potatoes are raised in the country every year—some 300,000,000 bushels—and how many pounds of beeswax, but as to apples, we are left in a state of dense ignorance. Mr. Young, who has had charge of the National Bureau of Agriculture for a series of years, ought to be consulted of the fact that the apple crop is an important crop in this country, and of itself constitutes a mine of much wealth.

Over nine hundred varieties of apples are found in the gardens of the Horticultural Society, London, and over fifteen hundred varieties have been tested there. Most of the improved varieties are either the result of accident or of accidental crossing. It is generally considered that apples grown on the fertile lands of the West, though large and fair, Colorado not excepted, with its phenomenal capacity to produce the fruit in nearly all its varieties, are yet inferior in flavor to those that are grown on the rocky, gravelly and sandy loams of this section. Hence, the preference given to the Michigan, New York, Massachusetts and Maine fruit, while the apples grown in the British provinces, of which thousands of barrels are sent to Boston and New York every year, are, in some respects, among the best sold in the Eastern markets. In this connection, and we have the testimony of Col. Wilder, it is a remarkable fact that where culture and protection from insects have been regarded, as in our gardens, the apple is as fine now as it was in its pristine days, going back even as far as the days of the Garden of Eden. It is also a significant fact that the apples originating in New England—for instance the Baldwin, Rhode Island greening, Connecticut and Roxbury russets—are still the great favorites for market, and that from Western New York, annually, there are sent more than 1,000,000 barrels a year.

Winter Ploughing.

The following hints on this timely topic are from the last number of Colman's Rural World: Winter ploughing is a good thing. It upsets the insects, turns them up from their warm quarters below, to cold quarters above. It throws up the clay to be pulverized by the frost and air. It gives much aid to spring work, as, if the soil is dry now, it will not need to be ploughed again in spring—a good barrow pulverizing it for any crop. For oats and clover, timothy, red-top, blue grass, orchard

grass, etc., by all means do winter ploughing. Then in early spring you can sow the seed at once and not wait till the ground is in condition to plough, and then spend several days in doing what could better be done in any open weather in winter. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Apple Product in United States.

VALUE, VARIETIES, ETC.

From an article on the "Up and Downs of the Apple Trade," given in a recent number of the American Cultivator (Boston) the following facts of interest are taken:

The crop of apples of 1876, it will be remembered, was the largest ever grown in the United States, and prices were lower than for at least twenty years. In some sections the fruit was so plenty, that farmers could not give it away, while the cider makers were overrun with a surplus of stock. The yield this year is not so large as it was a year ago, but the quality is somewhat better, although many bad lots have come to market. Prices are higher than they have been for several years, and stand just about as they did in 1875.

The orchard products of the United States are estimated at a value of \$60,000,000 annually, in which New York leads, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan coming next; but there is no data showing the number of barrels of apples raised in the country, either in a single year or from one decade to another. And yet the apple is the national fruit, and is the only fruit of the orchard that is like the cereal productions, exported to foreign countries. We know pretty nearly how many potatoes are raised in the country every year—some 300,000,000 bushels—and how many pounds of beeswax, but as to apples, we are left in a state of dense ignorance. Mr. Young, who has had charge of the National Bureau of Agriculture for a series of years, ought to be consulted of the fact that the apple crop is an important crop in this country, and of itself constitutes a mine of much wealth.

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Preserving Fence Posts.

The American Chemist says: "Wood can be made to last longer than iron in the ground. Posts can be prepared for less than two cents apiece. This is the recipe: Take boiled linseed oil and stir it in pulverized charcoal to the consistency of paint. Put a coat of this over the timber, and there is not a man who will live to see it rot." Like many other sayings and recipes, this statement was made by a man who evidently has never had proofs of what he says; yet I am sure that two or

three good coats of it on the parts of posts in the ground, will preserve them for them; but a single coat will not suffice. The charcoal should be finely ground or pulverized, and the first coat should contain much charcoal, as the posts should be free to fill up the outer pores of the wood, when the charcoal may be freely applied. But let no one expect to thus preserve parts made of wood that soon decay naturally, but use oak, chestnut, cedar, and apply three coats of this paint, and your children, probably, will see them in a state of decay—not you, unless you live to be very old.—T. B. MINER.

A Cheap Greenhouse.

Persons who want a greenhouse but think they cannot afford to have one are referred to the cheap mode of building thus described by the Maryland Farmer:

The cheapest plan of erecting a greenhouse that we have any knowledge of—and we used one successfully for many years—is to dig out a pit in a side hill, where the upper end will be just above ground, and the lower end will be two or three feet above ground, where the door must be, with two or three steps down for an entrance. Wall up the hill, and cover the whole with sash as in hot beds, the sash having more fall, say three feet in a width of two, the house being 15 by 10.—Erect in this the stand shelves, and when it is time to take up a summer flowers, bulbs, etc., store them here. The glass should be covered with thick straw mats, which can be removed, even when the weather is the coldest, in clear weather for an hour or two at midday to get the warmth and influence of the sun. At such times, ventilation should be attended to by slightly opening a sash or two. No fire is needed. Nearly all the readily flowering plants will bloom, and there will scarcely be a week during the winter that a bouquet may not be gathered if the house is properly managed.

Wheat Growing.

The farmers will find more than a suggestion in the item from the New Hampshire Mirror and Farmer:

At one of the county fairs during the past season, two farmers, one of whom was the exhibitor of the wheat, raised of wheat, held this little dialogue: Exhibitor—I raised ninety two bushels of wheat like that on four and one-half acres of land. Neighbor—Well, if I had read that in a paper I would not have believed it, and if you say it is so, it is so, of course, and I'm an infernal fool to be buying my flour as I have done for ten years, and must do this winter, for my land is just as good for wheat as yours.

There is a whole agricultural sermon in that little dialogue and it is one which has been preached a hundred times and made hundreds of converts this fall. Scores of farmers, who last spring could not believe that wheat could be profitably raised in New Hampshire, believe it now.

Keeping Apples.

The Michigan Farmer says that apples should not be put in the cellar until after freezing arrives, and adds: They should be packed in clean new barrels and stored in some shed or covered with boards, exposed to the atmosphere, for several weeks after picking, then removed to the cellar, and allowed to remain of stables, and allowed to remain there as long as possible and not be frozen. We throw stalks and straw over the barrels, and often defer placing them in the cellar until late in December. The fruit cellar should be darkened and kept as cool as possible, and not freeze. Place the barrels on their sides, with strips of wood between them and the cellar bottom, and do not open or move until wanted for the season of vegetables when the barrels are opened, a rich and tempting perfume will arise.—Most cellars are too warm for the storing of fruit.

France produces 531 pounds of sugar beets for every head of her population.

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Rhode Island produces 40,000 bushels of potatoes.

Seventy-nine per cent of the productive area of Rhode Island is devoted to grass and forage.

This year's corn crop in Kansas is pronounced the largest raised in the State.

At Denison, Texas, a bushel has been made for the first time of 40,000 bushels of corn at two cents per bushel.

Two millions and a half of worth of American dried apples has been sold in Europe during the last twelve months.

Half the eggs hatched in France, the great poultry growing nation of the world, are hatched by means of incubators.

Working oxen, in wet weather, are apt to have sore necks. To prevent this, rub a little tallow on the yoke and bows.

Farms, like steamships, have carrying capacity, and it is an adroit farmer who knows how to load with the best.

Oregon, with a population of but 135,000, this year produced a surplus of 8,000,000 bushels of grain and 4,000,000 pounds of wool.

The rice crop of this country coming to the front again. South Carolina has an estimated yield of 44,000,000 bushels last year, and Georgia 25,000,000.

One Kentucky farmer appropriates the yearly product of one acre of his farm to the purchase of reading matter for himself and family. Wise.

It is hunters are all the rage in Greene county, Ohio, and the people want the Legislature to authorize the payment of ten cents for each rat slaughtered.

Gov. Vance, of North Carolina, attributes the destruction of the pure agricultural fair system to horse-racing, three card monte and prize candy.

Poor land is a poor investment, so is poor stock, poor feed, poor anything. Have the best if you have to take much less of it. It will pay best in the end.

In every house, however humble, flowers should be cultivated, for their sunny light, their cheerful teaching, and for their insensibly ennobling influence.

Texas is so anxious to insure immigration that she is virtually giving away her public lands. The head of the family can get 160 acres for the expense of the survey and patent, which is altogether about \$15.

The best stock you can invest in is farm stock; the best shares, plough shares; the best banks, the fertile banks of rural streams, since the more the latter are broken the better dividends they pay on the investment.

Mr. Joseph Willoughby, near Eatonton, N. C., is raising large quantities of the very best green peas. The quality of the peas has been tested by numbers; in fact, the difference cannot be told from imported peas when placed in cups beside each other.

Wild turkeys have not for a long time been more numerous in Virginia than they have this year.—A flock entered the city of Lynchburg in Shenandoah county a few days ago weighed thirty five lbs.

Keep no worthless animals, unless they are growing in fat or are paying their board in service. According to the Department of Agriculture, the cotton crop is as large as last year.

Texas bids fair to be the great center among the grain-growing States, the yield to the acre in wheat being much larger than in California, which is regarded as the finest wheat growing country in the world.

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N NELL.

THE WHITE LADY.

[illegible]

Shaker Dietetics. Their diet is simple, but sufficient. Pork is never eaten, and only a part of the Shaker people eat any meat at all. Many use no food produced by animals, denying themselves even butter, milk and eggs. At Mount Lebanon, and in some of the other settlements, the diet is more liberal.

The best of Vehicles, the safest of Drivers, and the fastest of Horses, are always ready, night and day, for hire. No man, woman or child has given me a call in the last 10 years nor shall any ever in the future, be dissatisfied with my teams or the men in my employ. Every instance and everybody about me are a S.O. G.S.K.

I have charged my charges proportionate to the value of the things.— For reference to the truth of what I say as to the turn-outs and charges, go to my friends, which means the public generally.— Parties hiring are strictly responsible for the safety of themselves, vehicles and drivers.

graphy that has appeared
the war

