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WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5.

WE invite the attention of our readers to the following publication of the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia. However *divided* we may be in political opinion, let us *unite* in advancing an art on which we all agree, that our solid and imperishable prosperity depends. It requires no spirit of prophecy to foretell, that whenever a generous spirit of emulation shall be awakened among the cultivators of the earth, the progress of agricultural improvement will be rapid, perhaps beyond parallel. For there is no country on the face of the globe, in which there is so numerous a class of intelligent and enlightened men, whose entire subsistence is drawn from agriculture, as in the United States. Hitherto this respectable class of men has almost exclusively devoted the powers of their minds to political topics; and it is to this circumstance that we are principally to ascribe the low state of agriculture. There is, however, no incompatibility between political and agricultural researches; and we hope that those men, who have signalized themselves by a noble zeal in the cause of Liberty, will increase the gratitude of their country, by devoting their attention to that object on which our independence and liberties will ultimately depend. We are accustomed to consider and denominate certain professions *liberal*. Why not place the agricultural art on the same eminence? Is there any profession on earth more honorable? A profession which confers independence, and ensures tranquility and health—a profession, the zealous cultivation of which offers to the mind a field sufficiently capacious for the exercise of all its powers. It is true that under monarchies, where labor has been considered degrading and independence criminal, it has been despised. But is this a reason why in a Republic it should be held in the same ignoble esteem!

PREMIUMS

PROPOSED BY THE

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

OF PHILADELPHIA:

For the year 1806.

To be continued till any measure, experiment, or practice, now proposed, and commenced in this or the succeeding year, as necessity may require, be brought to sufficient perfection and proof.

1. *Ascertaining the component parts of arable land.*

To the person who shall produce the most satisfactory set of experiments, to ascertain the due proportion of the several component parts of arable land, in one or more of the old counties of this state, by an accurate analysis thereof. A like analysis in detail must also be made of the poorest, medium, and richest soils, in the same county or counties. By a due admixture of these soils or substances, within the reach of common farmers, they are by these experiments, to be enabled to improve by good tillage, and a course of applicable crops, the poorest or most worn land with the materials found on their own farms or those of their neighbours respectively. Lime, or limestone is excluded, its qualities and effects being already well known. But clays, marles, gypsum and sand, or other natural substances, fall within the meaning of this proposal.—The crops, so far as consistent with good husbandry, to be the same after improvement as before, and their relative product to be given. All auxiliary and influencing circumstances to be mentioned; as well as the mode and results of the analysis; and the proportions of the combinations. Artificial manures, after improvement, (lime at this stage may be one) may be used, if the like had been before applied: and all the means and circumstances are to be fairly developed. A piece of plate of the value of 100 dollars.

The object is not only to promote experiments calculated to improve farms, out of the materials found upon them; and thus save or extend the efficacy of artificial manures, but to excite a spirit of exploration for fossils, earths, marle and clays, applicable to agricultural as well as manufacturing purposes. For subterraneous researches, the society have provided a very complete set of boring instruments, with which those who will use them effectually may be accommodated.

2. *Trench Ploughing.*

For the greatest quantity and best trench ploughed worn land, not less than 5 acres. The trenching not less than 10 inches deep.

The following mode of trenching is recommended, as known to be practicable, and easily performed.

1. Provide a light plough, from 12 to 15 inches wide in the hind part of the span or sole, calculated to pare off the sod from 2 to 3 inches deep, according to the depths of the roots of weeds.

2. A strong heavy *Trench Plough*, capable of turning a depth of from 8 to 10 inches of mould or earth. This must be one or two inches narrower than *the Paring Plough*, or it will cut into the unpared sod. The first is to be drawn by a pair of horses or oxen.—The second by two pair of oxen, or strength equivalent. A *Trench* must be first made with the *Trench Plough* as deep as practicable. The *Paring Plough* must then pare the sod off the next intended furrow, and turn it into the trench. The *Trench Plough* follows constantly after the *Paring Plough*. This throws over a body of earth so as to bury all weeds, which are placed too deep for vegetation, and thus, by rotting, become manure. The mould board of the Trench Plough should have a thin plate of flexible iron (an old stone saw the best) screwed on its upper edge, *vertically*, so as to extend the surface and accommodate itself to the curvature of the mould board. With this auxiliary, the loose earth will be completely thrown into the trench. It is otherwise liable to run over and choak the plough. Both Ploughs, (the latter the most) require bridles, or clevasses with notches and curvated regulators, to direct and fix both their depth and lateral course. Such are not uncommon. The East Jersey, or low Dutch plan is the best for the Trench Plough. A coulter is not much required.

This operation should be performed in the autumn, and the field lay through the winter, to attract from the air whatever is the food of plants; and to receive the benefits of frequent frosts and thaws. The subsequent ploughing need be no deeper than usual in good tillage. If *limed* the first spring for *Indian Corn*, the better it will produce. A fallow crop *only* should succeed the trenching the first year; and *corn* admits and requires frequent stirring and exposure of the soil. For the best experiment *a gold*, and for the second best, *a silver* medal.

3. *A course on Trenched Ploughed ground.*

For the best and cleanest course of crops, on not less than 5 acres of land *trench ploughed*. The course may be —1. Indian corn. 2. Legumes. If beans or peas, of a species least subject to the bug; and sown on the fallow of the second year, so as to be off in time for a winter crop of wheat or rye.—Broad cast of the legumes as a cover, will be preferable, tho' drilling will be highly useful. Potatoes may occupy a part, and so off in time for wheat.—3. Clover sown in the winter grain. 4. Clover. This course will be preferred in a competition, unless the society shall be convinced, by the results of another course, that, in practice, turns out better. Manure admitted; but the best products with the least artificial manure, will be preferred. A gold medal for the best—and one of silver for the second best experiment.

The object of both the above premiums is to introduce a practice, found very beneficial where it has been fairly tried; and to place the experiments in the hands of spirited and intelligent agriculturalists, who will do complete justice to themselves, and the subject recommended to their exertions.

4. *Cover of Leguminous crops.*

For the best and greatest crops of beans, peas, or other *legumes*, of the kind before mentioned, sown broad cast, as covering on fallows, preparatory to winter grain—Not less than 5 acres, and left clean and fit for wheat. These crops ameliorate, and do not exhaust, like all calmiferous plants, and those whose seeds produce oil. Oats—the worst and most ruinous to succeeding winter crops.

The object is, to introduce the practice of valuable and improving covering crops, in preference to naked fallows, or exhausting covers. A silver medal, or 50 dollars.

5. *Destruction of perennial weeds.*

For the best set of experiments calculated for the destruction of perennial weeds. The dairy or May weed, ransted, garlick, and St. John's wort, to be particularly aimed at and noticed. A botanical account of the weeds commonly infesting our fields, will highly recommend these experiments; and communications relative to all or any of those enumerated, will be gratefully received. This account should specially mark the stages of their growth; and periods when they are the most easily destroyed, by the means employed. Botanizing for the destruction of weeds, is as necessary and laudable, as it is for the propagation and culture of useful plants. Nothing promotes the health, increase, and value of the latter, more than expelling the former. Trench ploughing is excluded. This has been found to be the surest mode of destroying weeds; especially those with fibrous or bulbous roots. A gold medal.

6. *Dairy.*

To the persons who shall exhibit to the society an account of the profits of the best dairy, applied to butter or cheese. Not less than 20 cows. The greatest proportion of cows kept the longest in profit, and the best. Winter feed (economy considered) for carrying the cows productively through the season, enters into the account. The greatest product from an equal number, kept without change (except by substitutions of well bred heifers raised on the farm) through the year, will have the preference. It is to be understood that changing cows is not to be admitted, unless full proof, on the annual balance of accounts, that such practice is comparatively the most productive and profitable, when in competition with one predicated on keeping the same set of cows through the year. The same profits from the permanent dairy (unavoidable casualties allowed) will be preferred. It will be recommendatory of the pretensions of the claimant, if the account be accompanied with experiments, of practical knowledge of the best sizes, description, breed, and ages of dairy cows.

The object is, to induce an attention to the breed and selection of dairy cows. Their points and qualities differ from those proper for breeding beef cattle, or for venders of milk. Much depends even with the best stock, on regularity and attention in the dairy women. Unless great care in stripping, and regular periods of milking, are practised, as well as cleanliness in keeping, the best cow will soon cease to be in profit. The quality, and not the quantity of milk, is the most important. Nor are the largest the best for the dairy; especially where there are short bites and irregular seasons.—A silver medal or fifty dollars.

7. *Live Fences.*

For the best experiment on, or practical application of, any species of shrub or tree proper for live fences; and the most economical and practicable mode of securing them, in their early stages of growth, from injury by cattle or other enemies.

The general idea of European agriculturalists has been confined on this subject, to thorn or quick set enclosures. But these may not be found exclusively the best here. On Long island, before the revolution, a very able and spirited proprietor of a large estate there, went very extensively into enclosures with quick set, procured not only in this country, but from Europe and elsewhere. He found the thorn, of every description, subject to many casualties and diseases; some of them unknown in Europe. Blights injured a great proportion, after they were in sufficient growth for enclosure without protection. It was not frequent that a sound crop of Haws was produced; these being subject to the worm, and other impediments to their perfection. Although it is still desirable, that every attention should be paid to the hawthorn, it is not improbable that some other of our native shrubs or trees, may thrive as well, if not better; and equal the thorn in utility. The object therefore is; to promote enquiries and experiments that shall determine this point. The walnut, the apple, the honey, the white flowering, and the thorn locust, have been tried, on a small scale. Each has its peculiar disadvantages. The white mulberry has also been recommended.

Live fences are of such high importance, in our old settlements, where the timber is daily decreasing, and the expence of enclosure becoming so very serious, that the society cannot sufficiently express their wishes, that some spirited and extensive measures may, without loss of time, be commenced on this momentous subject. The present generation may receive incalculable advantages from successful experiment and practice, in a desideratum so eminently interesting to them. But posterity will bless the memory of those, of whose genius and labors they enjoy the fruits. They will gratefully feel the benefits of durable enclosures, commenced, if even not entirely perfected, in our day: and while they inherit these safe-guards to their property, they will perceive the insurmountable difficulties to which they would have been exposed, by a neglect on our part, to establish and provide them.

A gold or silver medal—according to the merit and extent of the experiment or practice.

8. *Clearing and cropping new lands.*

For the best essay, practical and theoretical, founded on experience and facts, as well as calculation and investigation, of the most approved and beneficial mode of clearing and cultivating new settlements, in an unseated, and heretofore uninhabited part of this state, or one in its neighborhood.—A gold medal.

The practice heretofore used of girdling trees, can only be justified by the necessity of doing it, through want of laborers, by those who first enter a wilderness. But if lands are inviting, population soon encreases, and yet the practice of girdling the timber continues. One part is girdled after another, without foresight or precaution. Timber is wantonly, because lavishly and unnecessarily destroyed; and becomes in a few years scarce, where its abundance was at first accounted a burthen. Culmiferous crops [plants composed of straw and chaffy husks from the grain] follow one another in uninterrupted succession, the worst of all bad husbandry. These are "stubbled in" (the phrase of new setlers) till the land is exhausted, and produces nothing but sorrel and other execrable vegetation. The timber rots and falls, sometimes dangerously to men and cattle. It is burnt and destroyed, when the field, after a useless waste of time, is cropped again. Fencing, fuel, building, implements, &c. call for timber—but it is distant or gone. The field is choaked with briars, worthless shrubs, and other pests, and its cultivation is generally more expensive than if well cleared originally, and occupied by wholesome and productive crops, either of grain or grass.

Many of us are interested in new lands—and all of us, from public motives, wish to introduce a better stile of clearing and cropping into our new countries. Information from several new settlements (particularly some in the state of N. York) is favorable to a far better plan, of both clearing and cropping. It is, to till less ground, cleared perfectly; and crop, according to circumstances, as near as practicably to the rules of good husbandry. Labourers are not there in greater plenty, than elsewhere, in such settlements; and yet the settlers succeed and thrive.

Our object is therefore, to obtain and promulgate every species of information; and thereby be enabled to recommend and encourage better modes of clearing, and a more advantageous, as well as reputable stile of husbandry, in our new countries.

There are in these countries, many intelligent citizens, who may, and it is hoped will assist in both example and investigation. But some of these have not correct ideas on this subject. They conceive that the art of husbandry, for the most part, consists in restoring, or creating fertility, which in new lands is the gift of nature. But the fact is, that fertility without good management, like a savage in power and subject to no civilized regulation, as often exerts itself mischievously as profitably. It frequently ruins by desultory and misapplied operations. Weeds, and other worthless products, are its offspring. These, in many cases, might be prevented, destroyed or converted into benefits, with well directed systems. To instance only the sorrel; apparently the most mischievous and forbidding. It has been found that with lime, it may be made a powerful and efficient auxilliary to profitable crops, and when judiciously applied, is known in Europe to be so valuable, that the sorrel is propagated for its uses in husbandry. Limestone is found abundantly in most of our new lands, or, at least, in very extensive districts. Careful experiments may point out the mode of liming lands over-run by this apparent pest, so as to destroy its bad qualities, and convert it to salutary and profitable purposes. If this be not now deemed eligible in parts where land is less valuable than labor, it will nevertheless be an object e'er long, when the products of land are unattainable, without combinations of labor with ingenuity, good management and appropriate systems of husbandry.

9. *Veterinary Essay and Plan.*

For the best *essay and plan* for promoting veterinary knowledge and instruction, both scientifically and practically, under the circumstances of our country. Aid to schools and establishments for this, among other agricultural purposes, ought to be given by the national and state legislatures. But agriculture, and the subjects connected with it, have not heretofore been cherished by their patronage. Her younger sister, commerce, has fortunately fascinated with contributions to revenue, & thereby secured protection and encouragement. But private and individual exertions, for the accomplishment of agricultural objects, must, from necessity, be resorted to, for public benefits derived from this primary source of all the wealth and prosperity we enjoy. Some of the most worthy and truely respectable governments, and many of the most eminent men in Europe, have deemed the object here recommended, honorable, politic, and promotive of the public interest and prosperity. While agriculturalists are employed in the production of plants, their stocks of useful animals are abandoned, when diseased, to all the calamities attendant on ignorance of their maladies, or cure. Pretenders and empirics, of the most contemptible characters, prey on the necessities and credulity of those who are compelled to apply to them on this subject.

The essay proposed, should among other requisites, be calculated to rouse the attention of medical professors, to this important branch of neglected knowledge. It should convince them, that they cannot employ themselves, in any part of their studies, in a manner more conducive to real respectability of character, than in gaining and promulgating information, so intimately connected with the wealth and political economy of their country. This society pledge themselves to distinguish, with some testimony of their gratitude, any medical professor who will assist them in calling the attention of students to this very interesting subject.

Investigations into anatomy, diseases and remedies, for the preservation and improvement of animals, on which our subsistence and comforts so materially depend, must assuredly be considered worthy the most patient enquiry, intelligent observation, and professional talents, of the most celebrated among those, who have devoted themselves to medical pursuits. As patriots it should stimulate their public spirit. As professional men, nothing can more entitle them to the rewards due to their labors. Who is there among the most respectable of our own citizens, or in the highest grades of society in the old world, who has not deemed it meritorious to promote the interests of agriculture? And is there any branch of that occupation so important, as that now recommended to the notice and enquiry of medical men? If it has held an inferior rank in the classification of science and knowledge, it is entirely owing to the unmerited neglect with which it has been unaccountably treated. It is time it should be rescued from obscurity, and placed among the most commendable and necessary branches of medical education. A gold medal.

10. *Domestic or Household Manufactures.*

For the best and greatest quantity & quality of woolen, cotton or linen fabrics, made in any family, by the members thereof. Weaving, fulling, and dressing, may be done as usual, in the accustomed modes of performing these operations. The object is, to encourage industry in the families of farmers and others, at times when leisure from other occupations permits. Such intervals are too often filled up with dissipation, or suffered to pass away in indolent waste or inattention. The materials being raised or produced on the farm, will entitle to preference in a competition. The breed of sheep, and quality of wool, will be peculiarly recommendatory. A silver medal.

Although the society have principally confined their premiums to honorary distinctions, they will always be ready to commute them for, or aid pecuniary reward to assist in expensive or difficult experiments. Our funds are far below our zeal—But the former are not of so much moment, as energies excited by emulation, among those who have strong propensities to benefit their country while they are laboring for themselves. Without the co-operation of our intelligent citizens of this description, all our well meant endeavors are vain!

Rules respecting claims.

All claims of all prizes shall be sent in writing; and when read, the society shall determine which of the claims, relative to each prize, shall be selected for their definitive judgement, on a future comparison. This judgment is to be given at the stated meeting on the second Tuesday in February.—If it happen, in any case, that there be no competition, for a prize, but only a single claim, the society will consider such claim; and if the claim or claims be supported answerably to the views and just expectations of the society, the prize proposed shall be decreed. Premiums and prizes are equally due to persons residing in any of the U. S. according to the merit of their respective exhibitions.

RICHARD PETERS,
President.
JAMES MEASE, M.D.
Secretary.
No. 192 Chesnut Street—
To whom communications may be sent.

We have translated the following piece from a late French print, under the assurance that it will impart the same pleasure to the reader that it has afforded us—The hints too, which it suggests, are entitled to the consideration of those whose duty it may be to lay out Grave Yards.

(From a French paper.)

REMARKS ON PLACES OF INTERMENT.

The places set apart for the interment of the dead, are too generally objects of terror and disgust. One would imagine that feelings of this kind, were inconsistent with the respect and affection which united us to our friends while living; that they do exist is unfortunate since they deprive us of those affecting lessons, which arise from a contemplation of this silent assemblage of the tombs of persons of all ages and all conditions. The regard to salubrity, which requires that this last asylum of man should be without the circle of cities will perfectly coincide with the moral end, which the magistrate should pursue in all his establishments; and since a vigorous vegetation is necessary to purify the air vitiated by putrid exhalations, it will be at the same time useful and agreeable to decorate the places, with the most agreeable objects which agriculture can produce, and unite to shade, verdure and flowers, sheets and currents of water.

Let this sacred inclosure, be divided into compartments, each containing