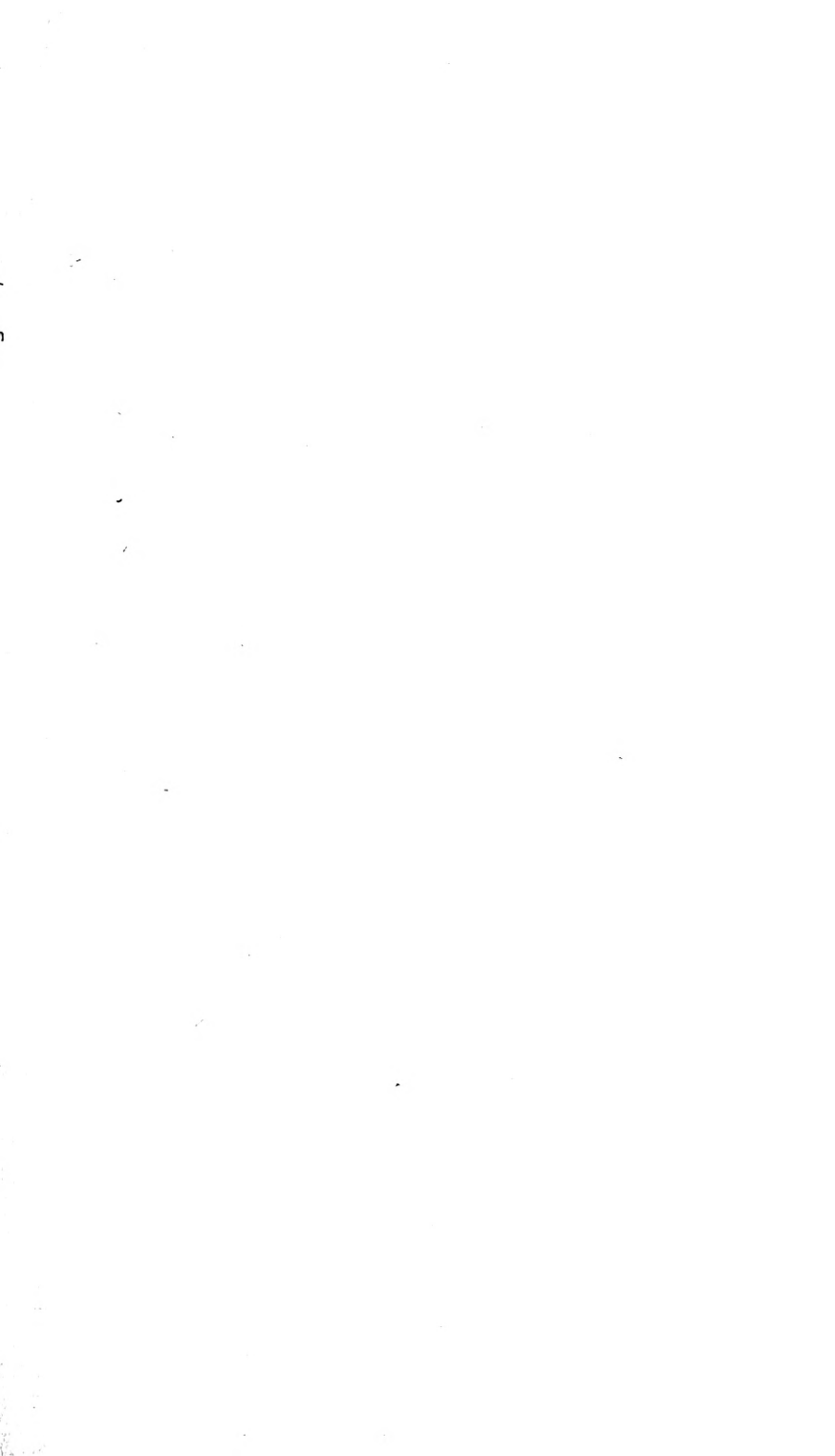


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ADDRESS

OF

JONATHAN ALLEN, ESQ.

PRESIDENT OF THE BERKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

BERKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

FOR THE PROMOTION OF

AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES,

AT PITTSFIELD, OCTOBER 4, 1821.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Reports of the Committees of Departments.



PITTSFIELD :

PRINTED BY PHINEAS ALLEN.....1821

Pittsfield, October 4th, 1821.

JONATHAN ALLEN, ESQUIRE.

DEAR SIR,

AS a Committee in behalf of the *Berkshire Agricultural Society* we have the honor and personal pleasure to tender you their thanks for the correct and useful Address delivered by you before them this day, being their eleventh anniversary, and request the favor of a copy for publication.

Your friends and humble servants,

THOS. A. GOLD,
H. H. CHILDS,
S. M. MCKAY.

Pittsfield, October 4, 1821.

THOMAS A. GOLD, H. H. CHILDS, S. M. MCKAY, ESQ^R.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Address, of which the Society are pleased to express their approbation, I did not intend for publication. If, however, in your opinion, its publication can be of use to the Society, I submit it to your disposal.

Respectfully your friend and humble servant,

JONATHAN ALLEN,

ADDRESS.

HAVING been honoured with the appointment to preside over this society for the year past, I feel it my duty to express a just sense of that honour ; and in conformity to former usage, that the President should address you, although I feel a conviction of my inability to communicate to you any thing calculated to awaken interest, yet I will not shrink from the duty, and will proceed without any pretensions to eloquence, oratory, or science in the art of Agriculture ; but it would give me much pleasure if I could say any thing, that would gratify your curiosity, or give solace to the mind of such of you as feel a great anxiety for the prosperity of the society.

It seems to be a fundamental principle laid down by most writers upon the subject of agriculture, that no more land should be cultivated than can be thoroughly and well done. Experience has proved that this principle is correct, in the application to tillage particularly.—For it is believed that every acre of feasible land, highly cultivated, will afford subsistence for a man, or more, and therefore a field of ten acres, properly divided and properly cultivated, will afford subsistence of bread, meats, and the different kinds of vegetables for a family of ten persons. Of this fact I have no doubt ; but it would require all the labour of that portion of ordinary families of ten, who are capacitated to labour, could bestow. But men, generally, would not be satisfied with a bare subsistence for

themselves and families, they will look about them and see if they cannot extend their cultivation a little farther, with a view to some profit ; and finding, upon this principle, all their strength is employed, and having more lands, they resort to hiring labour with a view to till a few acres more, the result of which is, that the expense absorbs all the profits, and they remain as they were, and perhaps worse ; and this is the grand reason why the New-England farmers cannot get rich. The price of labour is not in proportion to the price of commodities raised by farmers ; and under the existing state of things, I do not perceive any grounds of hope for a change in favor of the farmer, either in the increased price of commodities, or in the reduction of the price of labour. We, then, being in this situation, should be actively engaged in the inventing and improving all instruments of husbandry calculated to save labour, and also to avail ourselves of the experience of other countries. It is true that some of our farmers have been opposed to innovations, either from prejudice, or obstinacy in pursuing the old beaten track of their ancestors ; but, generally, indications are seen of sounder judgment, and an anxiety for experiment, improvement, and investigation. This anxiety ought to be cherished and cultivated, as if engaged in the most important and mysterious of all arts, as agriculture truly is, for that art contains mysteries known only to our God. As improvements of very great importance have been made, it would not be unreasonable in us to expect, nor arrogance to say, that we believe much greater improvements may be made in this age of experiment. If, then, this art is the most mysterious of all arts, and we have made some progress in it, may we not take courage from the improvements that we have made, and occasionally step aside from the beaten

track, and see if we too cannot find a plant yet unknown, of some value, or an instrument of some use. The employment of the agriculturalist is delightful. As the instrument of heaven, he views with wonder and astonishment the germinating principle of seeds, their growth, progress and maturity ; the shooting and growth of plants, and trees, and fruits, all the children of his own hands ; and while felicitating himself in his pursuits, he is not only adding wealth to himself, but he is adding wealth and strength to the nation, and permanency to the government. “ It ought readily to be conceded, that the cultivation of the earth, as the primary and most certain source of natural supply ; as the immediate and chief source of subsistence to man ; as the principal source of those materials which constitute the nutriment of other kinds of labour, as including a state most favourable to the freedom and independence of the human mind ; and one, perhaps, most conducive to the multiplication of the human species, has intrinsically a strong claim to preeminence over every other kind of industry.”

With this view of the importance of agriculture, you will permit me to express an opinion in relation to the policy which the State ought to pursue. Believing it to be the duty of every wise government to protect, defend, and encourage its citizens ; and believing, also, that every active, honest man is of value and importance to the State. I feel it to be the bounden duty of the State to give all such aid and protection as is in her power, inasmuch as the Constitution provides, “ That it shall be the duty of the Legislatures, to encourage private societies and public institutions, rewards and immunities, for the promotion of Agriculture,” &c.

And the Commonwealth have discharged their duty as

far as was consistent with their means, towards the encouragement of Literature ; and we now pay, annually, out of the Treasury, to the University at Cambridge ten thousand dollars, and to Williams College three thousand dollars ; and I believe these grants are permanently fixed. And these sums appear small, when compared with the permanent grants of other States. Yet, considering that our University is immensely rich, and perhaps the most so of any in our country ; and considering, also, that the State has no money in her Treasury, but in fact in debt nearly 200,000 dollars, and obliged to borrow to defray the annual expenses of the government, and that the agriculturalists must be taxed for it, these sums increase in importance. Commerce, also, has the fostering hand of the national government at an expense of nearly three millions of dollars per year, of which expense, we too have to contribute in every pound of coffee, tea, sugar, and in almost every thing else that we purchase. Manufactures, also, have had the protecting hand of the general government in increased duties, and how much farther this protection ought to be extended, is a question yet to be settled, and is of great importance. But agriculture, the parent of all, seems to have been deserted and neglected by all. I did believe that this Commonwealth would have adopted a more enlarged and liberal policy, to have given aid and encouragement to the agriculturalists, and no longer to have considered them as the beasts of burden, a degraded race, but that they would have placed them upon a par with those engaged in commerce and manufactures at least. That they would have granted them rewards and immunities ; that they would have relieved them, in some measure, from the public burdens which seem to oppress them ; that they would have en-

deavored to check the torrent of emigration to the west ; and that they would have so conducted the finances of the State, as to have abandoned the present system of taxation altogether, as being unequal, oppressive, and repugnant to the principles of a republican government. It is too true that our legislators, for a considerable number of years past, have legislated more for the good of party than for the good of the people ; but now that rancor of party, which has been so derogatory to the dignity of our characters, has in some measure subsided, and it is hoped that something will soon be done, which will afford encouragement and protection, and preserve the equal rights of all. Our population is decreasing, our enterprising young men emigrating, and the physical strength of the state diminishing, leaving us a population either too old or too young to labour to advantage. Is it not time that the legislature should be awakened, to investigate the causes of our present situation, and afford a practical remedy. There are sources of revenue to the state untouched, which, in justice and good faith ought to be taxed to raise a sum sufficient to defray the expenses of the state, and which will give aid to our manufactures, which are of such incalculable value to this country. And I should not feel satisfied if the government of this Commonwealth do not do more than merely to relieve the agriculturalists from the present shameful system of taxation. I do most sincerely believe, that every dollar given by the State for the encouragement of Agriculture, will produce an hundred fold in the increased productions of the soil.

Another subject of importance to the agriculturalists, and for them to endeavor to correct, is the inordinate use of spirituous liquors, which is one of the greatest calamities and crimes of our country. It is a source of inex-

pressible misery in families, reducing them sometimes from opulence to want, from respectability and honor to disgrace. It destroys the vigor of body and of mind ; it represses the growing prosperity of our country ; and every patriot, therefore, independently of religious considerations, must set himself against this deadly and enormous evil. It is intemperance which multiplies the number of criminals and paupers, who must be supported by the industry of the State. When we look upon a hard drinking, intemperate labourer, who may soon have a broken constitution, and be dependent on public charity for subsistence ; it will be wise in us to remember, that we must be taxed for his support ; our labour, our industry, our prudence, the produce of our farms, must go to the support of a miserable drunkard. Can there then be any means devised to counteract the progress of intemperance ?—Labourers have the notion, that in warm weather they must use spiritous liquors to keep them from fainting—in cold weather to keep them from freezing. Let these erroneous views be corrected ; and it is in the power of the farmers to correct them, by facts which are undeniable. By shewing, that proper food gives animal vigor, and not spirits. Besides, there is reason to believe, that many drink inordinately, not from confirmed intemperance, but from a notion that they shall bear fatigue the better. What, therefore, can be more important than to have within our own County an instance of the possibility of managing a large farm without the use of spiritous liquors ? Shall we not offer a handsome premium, or premiums, under such modifications as the Executive Committee shall direct, that we may have the benefit of such an instance and example ?

The true strength of our country is moral strength.—

The slave population of the south do but half the work of our northern labourers, because they have no interest in the effect of their labour, and no moral principle.

Let our northern labourers loose all moral feeling, and become the slaves of strong drink, and they will be anxious only to indulge themselves, and care not whether they be faithful and discharge the trust confided to them. But let them be temperate and virtuous, and they will be more able to labour ; will accomplish more work ; will gain more and expend less ; will provide better for their families, and be more useful members of society. Industry, economy, and temperance, should be the motto of farmers. I apprehend that our pauper laws are defective in relation to this description of people. Although I should not be willing to adopt any measures to coerce men to be religious, nor any measures to infringe their liberties, nor any measures to subvert the benevolent principles of our poor laws ; yet, as we are obliged to pay our proportion of 50 or 60,000 dollars paid by the Commonwealth, annually, for the support of the poor, and a much larger sum for the support of our towns poor, who is there among us, even the most benevolent, who does not pay his poor tax with great reluctance, when he knows it is paid for the support of a worthless drunkard. Therefore do not let us, as a Society, be contented with doing good, but let us endeavor to prevent evil.

On the subject of breeding of Cattle, great improvements have been made in this County, and perhaps much greater than we are aware of, or in other words our Cattle are better, in comparing them with those imported into Boston within these two or three years past, all of which I have seen, and I have no hesitation in saying that I give ours the preference, and yet ours are descendants of the same *Holderness* Stock. Their color was originally white and red mixed, and a pretty large proportion of white ;

but this we have changed to a most beautiful cherry red ; and although colour may be said to be arbitrary, yet almost every man would prefer a handsome red coloured pair of Oxen to any other. Farmers have as much taste to be gratified in this, as other gentlemen have in the choice of colour in their spans of horses. Symetry of form is a similar acquisition to that of colour ; and the more substantial and important qualities, are the quantity and quality of milk, and of ease to fatten ; and, also, Oxen for labour. I am inclined to think that we ought to be more particular in breeding our Cattle than heretofore, keeping our breeds distinct. I mean those intended for working Oxen should be a distinct breed from those intended for milk, as I think we now have them. The Oxen from our milk breed are slow in their gait, pot bellied, and large horned. Large horns, however, will be produced in either breed, if you give the calf all the milk of the cow the first year, and force his growth.

On the subject of soiling cattle, much has been written and said, and many experiments have been made ; and the Massachusetts Agricultural Society have offered handsome premiums for the best mode. Yet I do not consider it of much importance to the Agriculturalists of this County. One of the reasons operating on my mind is, that neither the income or profit from the growth of cattle, from the dairy, or from fattening, will be equal to the extra expense of labour alone. To illustrate this, I will state, that the income arising from Cows is, perhaps, ten times as great in the vicinity of Boston, as in this County ; for here the common and ordinary price for the use of a cow, for one year, is five dollars ; and I should be glad to let all that I have at that rate, as giving more profit than I can get by making butter or cheese at the present prices. In the vicinity of Boston, the milk men pay forty dollars a year for their keeping, and make a good profit

over and above the keeping. And there, also, their lands are more valuable, and their vegetables, and consequently their manure ; and there, probably, they may soil their cattle to great advantage ; but not so here. It is clear and settled in my mind, that soiling cattle will depend upon locality altogether.

The present state of the world presents a new era in the affairs of men ; nearly the whole world are at peace, and the millions that have been engaged in war, are now probably most of them engaged in agricultural pursuits. This state of things, with the blessing of heaven, will give to every nation an immense quantity of surplus produce, without a market at home or abroad. “ Every country on the globe furnishes materials of supply for the real wants and necessities of its inhabitants. Wherever God has placed man, he has beneficently provided for his real wants ; and great as has been the increase of the species within half a century, in the same ratio has been the increase of the necessaries of life.” Yet on no spot of this earth does Wheat, and the other plants and vegetables necessary for our subsistence, grow spontaneously without cultivation, labour and application. Every thing around us proclaims the fact, and not only in the natural, but in the moral world. For if the earth were to bring forth wheat, and the other vegetables necessary for the subsistence and comfort of man, without labour, he would sink into that savage state of indolence and ignorance but one remove above the brute creation. Civilization is never seen without agriculture, nor has agriculture ever prevailed where the civilized arts did not make their appearance.

In an old settled country, where so many of the enterprising, active and young have emigrated, that spirit of improvement and enterprise is not expected to be found, as is so apparent in newly settled countries and towns.— Yet much credit is attached to the inhabitants of this

County, for their enterprise and public spirit in establishing this society, and continuing their efforts under circumstances so embarrassing. All now see and feel, and are ready to acknowledge, that the effects resulting therefrom, in the progress which our manufactures have made, in the improvement of our breed of cattle, and in that general improvement in agricultural pursuits and implements, and in that industry and laudable competition, and in the products of our soil, all of which are of incalculable value.— We must and do feel much pride and satisfaction in reflecting, that so much good has resulted from our efforts. With a view of shewing you in what estimation others hold us, I will here introduce a paragraph from an address delivered before the Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Society last year.

“ The Massachusetts Society for the promotion of Agriculture, a similar society in Pennsylvania, and a few others, were early organized. But we witnessed little of their effects, and there still continued an extreme apathy among us, until our brethren in Berkshire, few in number, weak in funds, and apparently feeble in means, by their spirited and well adapted measures, became the honorable and proximate cause of the interest which is now felt, and of the efforts which are now making throughout the Union. To that society we are unquestionably deeply indebted, and let the obligation be forever remembered and acknowledged.”

The situation of our society, at this time, presents a more flattering view than ever before ; our funds are respectable, and the number of our members has increased more the last year than for several years previous ; and should the legislature continue to us the annual grant, the society will be placed on a permanent basis. There has not been any very important discoveries or improvements during the past year. The improvements made princi-

pally result from an increased industry of the cultivators. We have received from the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, four little bags of Grano Mazzolo, (which is a species of Wheat, from the straw of which is made the Leghorn hats or bonnets) which I distributed among our members ; but the quantity was so small, that we shall not make another distribution until another year. They have lately presented to us a bushel of Chili Wheat, which is said to be a Spring Wheat, and very valuable. We have not yet received it.

So much has been said by my predecessors and others, upon the manner of cropping, or rotation of crops, and upon the preparation of the soil, seeds and manures, with so much more ability, that I shall not attempt it ; but to restore to the soil the powers drawn from it by artificial crops, constitutes so important a branch of husbandry, that each farmer should keep the subject constantly in mind.

If the nutritive powers of the earth be exhausted, or drawn forth by weeds, or such plants as the soil naturally produces, it is impossible that artificial plants can prosper. All artificial crops reduce land in proportion to the quantity of nutritive powers required to carry them to maturity.

Flax is supposed to be a very profitable crop ; many countries have grown rich by its cultivation. They pull it while in the blow, and the seed soft in the capsule, or before seeding, as the Flax is much finer and softer, and that it did not impoverish the land ; that it required so much of the powers of the earth to mature the seed, that the injury done to the land was greater than the value of the seed. Perhaps there is no country better adapted to the growing of Flax than New-England ; for all our mountains and vallies will give us good crops, and the great difficulty is the amount of labour required. And to this point I wish to call the attention of the ingenious,

and of those who are skilled in machinery and inventions ; for if they wish to obtain a fortune for themselves, and render a great service to the country, a machine to get out flax without rotting will do it.

There are two or three machines of this sort, and for spinning flax, invented already in this country, but no one so perfect as is wished. They have them in England and Ireland, and it is said that we cannot obtain a model of them. The Philadelphia Society have written to us, at considerable length, upon this subject, and with much ability ; and they have offered a large premium for such an invention, and feel a confidence that it will be effected, and less difficult and complicated than the Cotton Gin, which is of such immense value to our southern brethren. And before the invention of that machine (which was invented in this country) they had as much difficulty in growing Cotton as we now have in growing Flax ; but now they export more than forty millions of dollars worth of Cotton annually, and we are obliged to import Flax for our own consumption. I this year pulled a small bundle of Flax when in the blow, but rather too late, and applied steam to it for the purpose of rotting, and satisfied myself that steam will prepare it for dressing, as well or better than rotting, at a very trifling expense.

And on the whole, Gentlemen, we have great cause of gratulation and satisfaction in reflecting on what we have done, upon our present situation, and upon the return of this anniversary under circumstances so propitious.—Heaven has succeeded our efforts, and given us this year abundant crops—do not let us relax in our exertions, or retrograde in our steps ; and as you value life, health, strength and vigor, be industrious—and in the distribution of your earnings be liberal to your flocks and herds, give them plenty of feed, and shelter them from the storms and severities of winter ; be liberal to your families and

friends, to your neighbors, and the poor, and endeavor to make all happy around you. Then you will have the satisfaction of a quiet and peaceful conscience, and also of having employed the talents and means which God has given you to the wisest and best of purposes.

REPORTS.

THE VIEWING COMMITTEE OF CROPS have been called, in the discharge of the duty assigned them, to most of the important agricultural towns within the County. While they would not resist the influence, that warms every heart in attesting the American farmers generous hospitality—in contemplating his political condition—or in admiring that energy of mind and shrewdness of character, which in '76 was the harbinger of our civil Liberty, the Committee have endeavored to preserve an unbiased judgment, and deliberately to decide where shades of difference in many instances were scarcely perceptible.

They trust their endeavours to do impartial justice will be appreciated, even by those, who may deem them unsuccessful; and to such they beg leave to suggest, that the usefulness of the Society depends not on the self-complacency it may create, but on the emulation it may excite, and information it may diffuse.

In the County of Berkshire, and also throughout most of New-England, our naturally excellent lands have, until within a few years, been much exhausted by a system of husbandry, which is uniformly pursued in the first settlement of a new country. Habits of industry, economy, sobriety and study, aided by sentiments of liberality and benevolence, are the great primary sources, to which we must look, for the renovation of our soil. Profits in farming will only result, from unremitting industry, a faithful and benevolent diffusion of experimental knowledge, and the diligent observation and study of the cultivator. The moral motives which sustain the social virtues of a social being, in other departments of life, are, of necessity, predominant in agricultural pursuits.

The sentiment of benevolence, which is manifested in acts of kindness and charity, between man and man, may be traced, in the farmer's pursuits, not only to the diffusion of agricultural knowledge for the benefit of his fellow farmer, but it is manifest, even in

the erection of good shelters and warm barns, which are the source of health, and strength, and comfort to his domestic animals. The principle of liberality that induced the statesmen of ancient Greece and Rome, to erect temples of worship, courts of justice, halls of legislation and monuments of glory, which "towering over nameless heaps of decay, *still*, seem built for eternity," may be traced to the obligation of the agriculturalist, to act for posterity as well as himself, in the fertilization of his lands, the embellishment of his grounds, the improvement and decoration of high ways and public walks, and in short, throughout the minutæ of agricultural economy. "A wise and paternal God, has connected the farmers duty with his happiness;" a knowledge of the science of agriculture, with the noblest intellectual inducement, and even *his daily labor*, with the highest moral motive; for "in relation to the earth and the rest of mankind, he is the instrument of Heaven's bounty, and in relation to the inferior orders of creation, he is the almoner of Providence."

In connexion with these primary sources of agricultural prosperity, the Committee are happy to observe, a material reformation, in our habits of sobriety, industry, and particularly of economy. The loathsome spectacle of the drunkard in the harvest field, is less frequent. Idleness is giving place to a degree of systematic industry, that presages the highest possible cultivation of our farms. That false taste for display, in splendid buildings and elegant equipage and furniture, which a few years since, were the object of selfish and transitory pride, and subsequently too often, the cause of bitter remorse, is superseded by a *true* dignity of character, that proportions our purposes to our means, and our desires, to the condition of life in which Providence has placed us.

The Committee cannot on this occasion, suppress a tribute of respect to many young men, who have found in these half finished palaces, only an inheritance of conspicuous penury; and whose example of retrenchment and economy, is of a most salutary tendency.

It would be impracticable to enumerate items, wherein many are deficient, nor would such enumeration be of much avail. The Committee rely much more on the means of diffusing information, which is afforded, at the end of each agricultural season, by the assemblage of our best informed farmers, an interchange of their opinions, and by a detailed account of the experiments they have made. And here they would declare their honest conviction, that from these means, the farmers of Berkshire have already derived great benefit, and that they would derive still greater, should they give the Society their undivided attention and support.

By the regulations, candidates for premiums are required to furnish the Secretary, with a minute statement of their management, in the crops offered. These will be published for the benefit of members, and will afford more ample information, than could be compressed within the limits of this report.

The committee award the 1st premium on Winter Wheat to
 John Whiston, of Great-Barrington, §12
 For the second best Winter Wheat, to James B. Ward, of
 Pittsfield, 8

The committee observed, on their route, several fine crops of winter wheat, which would have been entitled to consideration, had the countenance of the Society been asked.

For the best Summer Wheat, to Ocran Curtiss, of Stock-
 bridge, §12
 For the second best Summer Wheat, to Silas Smith, of Lanes-
 borough, 8
 For the third best Summer Wheat, to Thomas Gold, of Pitts-
 field, 6

For these premiums there were many crops entered, and it was with the utmost scrutiny, that the committee fixed on the successful competitors. They feel it their duty to particularize those offered, by John Chamberlain, of Dalton; Jonathan Allen, 2d. of Pittsfield, and Vine Branch, of Richmond.

For the best Rye, to Sewell Sargeant, of Stockbridge, §8
 For the second best Rye, to Elias Dyke of Pittsfield, 6

Winter Rye was very great; almost every crop with which the Committee met, was remarkable; and the candidates were so numerous, that it would be impracticable to name all who were deserving.

For the best Flax, to Levi Hinsdale, of Hinsdale, §10
 For the second best Flax, to Zechariah Pierson, of Richmond, 6

Double the quantity of Flax was raised this year, to that in any of the four or five preceding. Attention to the cultivation of this important crop, was much enjoined by the society, the last season; and it is believed the injunction has produced a salutary effect.

For the best Oats, to Levi Goodrich, of Pittsfield, §6
 For the second best Oats, to Vine Branch, of Richmond, 4

The Committee are aware, that their decisions on these premiums, will disappoint many candidates, whose expectations must have been much raised, by the extraordinary merit of the crops they exhibited. The season for oats has been most remarkable, and a mi-

nute examination of many fields was made.

For Peas, to Levi Goodrich, of Pittsfield, §8

But one crop offered which in the opinion of the Committee merited the Society's first premium. They would here express a sentiment, which struck them forcibly on visiting Mr. Goodrich's farm ; his crops, collectively, were the most extensive they met with, his management of them discovered admirable system, industry, neatness, and economy, and it is believed the society are much indebted for the good influence of his example.

For Barley, first premium to Crispen Mennel, for a crop raised on the farm of Samuel D. Colt, of Pittsfield, §8

There were but two fields of Barley entered, one of which was considered of insufficient merit.

For the best Corn to Orange J. Farnum, of Lanesborough, §12

For the second best Corn, to Ashley Williams, of Dalton, 8

For the third best Corn, to Silas Smith, of Lanesborough, 6

For these premiums the competition was so great that the Committee were obliged to have recourse to the most accurate calculation, by measurement, by computation of ears, of stalks, &c. on a given quantity of land, and a comparison of the ears, their size, kernel, and filling. They were the more embarrassed by the experiments in the drill husbandry, made by Messrs. Smith, of Lanesborough ; Foot, of Lee ; and the President, Jonathan Allen, Esq. of Pittsfield. The committee have endeavoured to investigate this method of cultivation to their satisfaction ; but they are not prepared to give an opinion. They only add that great credit attaches to these gentlemen, whose experiments are made at some expense and much trouble, particularly Mr. Smith, whose arrangement of rows and drills, discovered both ingenuity and accuracy.

For the best Potatoes, to Levi Hinsdale, of Hinsdale, §6

For the second best Potatoes to Thomas Gold, of Pittsfield, 4

The remarks before made on Corn are applicable to Potatoes, with the addition, that this crop is usually resorted to, for subduing sward land, where planting in drills would be at extra expense and labour, if not impracticable ; and the Committee would suggest, as it regards the rotationary system of cropping, that it may be better for the farmer, to raise, say 600 bushels of Potatoes, on two acres of sward land, in the ordinary method, than the same quantity on one acre, prepared at an expense of manure and labor, that would well fit it for a wheat crop.

The committee are sensible, that the merits of the President, Jon-

athan Allen, Esq. cannot be enhanced by their commendation ; but they would do injustice to their own feelings, should they neglect this opportunity of giving their testimony to his liberal exertions, during the last year, in experiments for the advancement of agricultural science.

In Alford, the committee were favoured with specimens, supposed to be Gypsum, by Mr. Jacquins, the proprietor of a large quarry, who has been decided in his opinion from a course of experiment, that the flour of this stone, applied as Plaister usually is, produces great effect. An analysis, had in the office of Doct. O. Wright, of Pittsfield, determines these specimens to be the Magnesian Limestone. Sir Humphrey Davy, in his agricultural chemistry, speaks of " Chalks, Calcareous Marles, and Powdered Limestones, as forming, in greater or less quantities, an essential ingredient of all fertile soils ; necessary, perhaps, to their proper texture, and as an ingredient in the organs of plants." The Committee trust, that the next season, experiments may be made in different parts of the county to test the character of this stone, as a manure.

JAMES D. COLT, *Chairman.*



The Committee appointed to view Domestic Animals and award premiums thereon, REPORT :

That they have noticed, with satisfaction, the improvements recently made by the farmers in this vicinity in their stocks of Cattle, especially those of a young growth—and we regret that the premiums which we are authorised to award, are an inadequate reward for so much industry.

When we consider the large prices that are paid for the finest and largest animals—that they meet a ready sale in the market—that little more expense attends raising such than those of an inferior description, we presume no one will doubt that it is for his interest to be careful in selecting his stock—that not the size only, but the shape and colour of the animal make a part of his value.

It is often an error amongst farmers that they keep too much stock ; we believe it will be found true that a few cattle, judiciously selected and well fed, afford the owner more profit than a large number badly selected and sparingly fed.

The subject of managing and feeding Cattle is so well understood by the farmers in Berkshire, that little opportunity remains for the Committee to furnish new and useful instruction on that subject.—

We cannot refrain urging them to increase their flocks of Sheep, and to be careful to preserve those that have the finest fleeces, as we believe that no stock affords so much profit to the owner as stock of that description.

When we view the fertile meadows bordering on the Housatonic, producing hay of the best quality, without any expense than mowing and making it, connected with the rich pastures on the adjacent hills, we are induced to believe that no section of the Country affords more amply the means for raising fine animals, and affords a richer reward for the industrious, enterprising farmer than the County of Berkshire. **NATHAN WILLIS**, *Chairman.*

Pittsfield, October 4th, 1821.

Premiums awarded on Domestic Animals, viz.

| | |
|--|------|
| 1. To Jonathan Allen, Pittsfield, for the best Bull, | \$15 |
| 2. To Jacob Ward, Pittsfield, for the second best do. | 8 |
| 3. To Joseph Shearer, Pittsfield, for the best pair of fat Oxen, | 15 |
| 4. To William Bradley, Lanesborough, for the best pair of Working Oxen, | 12 |
| 5. To Seth Coe, Pittsfield, for the second best do. | 10 |
| 6. To Nathan Beal, of the State of New-York, for the best pair of three-year-old Steers, | 10 |
| 7. To Rossel Root, Pittsfield, for the second best do. | 8 |
| 8. To Aaron Roberts, of Dalton, for the best two-year-old Steers, | 8 |
| 9. To William Weller, Pittsfield, for the second best do. | 6 |
| 10. To Seth Coe, Pittsfield, for the best yearling Steers, | 8 |
| 11. To Ashley Williams, Dalton, for the second best do. | 6 |
| 12. To John Wells, of Cheshire, for the best Cows, | 12 |
| 13. To John Dickinson, Pittsfield, for the second best do. | 10 |
| 14. To Seth Coe, Pittsfield, for the third best do. | 8 |
| 15. To Henry W. Dwight, Stockbridge, for the fourth best do. | 6 |
| 16. To Lemuel Moffit, West-Stockbridge, for the best two-year-old Heifers, | 8 |
| 17. To Jonathan Allen, Pittsfield, for the second best do. | 6 |
| 18. To Samuel D. Colt, Pittsfield, for the best yearling Heifers, | 8 |
| 19. To Jonathan Allen, Pittsfield, for the second best do. | 6 |
| 20. To Joshua West, Lee, for the best Bull Calf, | 8 |
| 21. To Henry W. Dwight, Stockbridge, for the best Heifer Calf, | 6 |

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| 22. To Levi Crittendon, Richmond, for the best Merino Ram, | 10 |
| 23. To Samuel D. Colt, Pittsfield, for the best Merino Ewes, | 10 |
| 24. To Charles E. West, Pittsfield, best Common Ewes, | 6 |
| 25. To Samuel M. McKay, Pittsfield, for the best Swine, | 10 |
| 26. To Samuel Dewey, Richmond, for the best Boar, | 8 |
| 27. To Enos Smith, Stockbridge, for the best Stud Horse, | 12 |

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| The Committee on Domestic Manufactures adjudge the first premium on Woollen Fulled Cloth, to Mrs. Levi Hinsdale, of Hinsdale, | \$10 |
| For the second best Woollen Fulled Cloth, to Mrs. Parthenia Robbins, of Pittsfield, | 8 |
| For the third best Woollen Fulled Cloth, to Mrs. Clarrissa Crittendon, of Richmond, | 6 |
| For the fourth best Woollen Fulled Cloth, to Mrs. Parmela Tyler, | 4 |
| For the best White Flannel, to Mrs. Clarrisa Crittendon, of Richmond, | 6 |
| For the second best White Flannel to Mrs. Elvisa Tracy, of Richmond, | 4 |
| For the best Coloured Flannel, to Mrs. Esther Plummer, of Pittsfield, | 6 |
| For the second best Coloured Flannel, to Mrs. Clarrissa Crittendon, of Richmond, | 4 |

The Committee were gratified to notice an increased competition on woollen fulled cloths and flannels, which they consider as an indication of more correct views on the part of our Farmers, as to their resources of independence and prosperity, than has heretofore prevailed. There were several pieces which bore a close comparison with those of the successful competitors, and many others which, for family uses and domestic comfort, will be found equally valuable.

For the premiums on Worsted Cloth or Bombazette, there were but three pieces offered—two of these were deemed of insufficient merit, and altho' the Committee consider this description of Manufacture well worth the attention of families, and were disposed to make every allowance, for the difficulties which attend first attempts at a new fabric, they have adjudged, for the best piece, the second premium, to Mrs. Elvisa Tracy, of Richmond, \$4

For the best Diaper Table Linen, to Mrs. Amenia Herrick, of Lee, 6

For the second best Diaper Table Linen, to Mrs. Esther Plummer, of Richmond, 4

The claims of a third piece of Diaper Table Linen were so equal, in comparison with the two preceding, that the committee were induced to award a reserve premium to Mrs. Lucy Phelps, of Pittsfield, \$4.

For the best Carpeting, to Mrs. Nancy Pierson, of Richmond, \$2

For the second best Carpeting, to Mrs. Hannah Pierson, of Richmond, 6

For the third best Carpeting, to Mrs. Dolly Williams, of Stockbridge, 4

Many very fine pieces were entered, and those which gained the first and second premiums, were the finest of American manufacture, which the members of the committee ever saw.

For the greatest quantity of useful articles, manufactured from wool, flax, cotton, hemp, or tow, &c. to Mrs. Levi Crittendon, of Richmond, 10

For the second greatest quantity, to Mrs. Hannah Pierson, of Richmond, 6

For the third greatest quantity, to Mrs. Betsey Platt, of Pittsfield, 4

To whom the committee thought proper to award the 4th premium. They would do injustice to Mrs. Crittendon, were they merely to confer on her the first premium, without comment. The quantity, quality and variety, of household manufactures, which she has exhibited, would render, perhaps, the largest family in the county, independent of any external supply; and it is in this light the committee would present the object of the society, in offering these premiums, viz. to induce the farmer to rely solely on his own resources and household industry for the necessaries of life.

To do honor to the occasion, and unsolicited by the offer of any premium, Mr. David Campbell, of Pittsfield, exhibited a piece of Satinett, by Isaac Curtiss, Jun. and Co. which in stock, fabric, colour, and finish, was surpassed by nothing of the kind, with which the members of the Committee have met.

There were also a variety of fancy articles which added much to the interest of the exhibition; and in which great ingenuity, skill and industry were manifest. From these the Committee have selected as proper subjects for premium, the following.

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| For a piece of Linen Pocket-Handkerchiefs, which were beautifully fine, to Mrs. Elvisa Tracy, of Richmond, | \$5 |
| For a Cassimer Shawl, to Mrs. Elizabeth Beard, of Hinsdale, | 5 |
| For a remarkably fine piece of Linen, to Mrs. Betsey Steel, of Lenox, | 5 |

There were several imitations of the Leghorn Bonnets, which the committee examined with the highest gratification. The two finest were received from the extreme northern and southern towns of the County. When the Committee recurred to that absurd extravagance, which in Leghorn Bonnets, has become a ridiculous subject of animadversion, if not a matter of regret, even among the wealthy and fashionable circles, and in many classes of community, a cause of serious pecuniary inconvenience, the importance of this branch of household economy, would have induced them to award premiums on specimens which were much less deserving.

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| For the best imitation of Leghorn Bonnets, to Miss Phebe Saxton, of Sheffield, | \$5 |
| For the best imitation of Leghorn Braid, to Miss Lucy Waters, of Williamstown, | 5 |
| For the second best imitation of Leghorn Bonnets, to Miss Mary P. Porter, of Dalton, | 5 |

Per order of the Committee,

S. M. McKAY, *Chairman.*

The Committee on the Ploughing Match respectfully Report, that in their opinion, all the Teams which were entered for competition the present year, being 13 in number, were excellent in their appearance, and were managed with great skill by the several teamsters. But upon a full examination, taking into view the goodness of the work, and the time in which it was performed, your Committee have unanimously awarded the premiums for the present year as follows, viz.

- 1st Premium of \$15 to Mr. Levi Goodrich, of Pittsfield.
- 2d Premium of \$12 to Capt. John Dickinson, of Pittsfield.
- 3d Premium of \$9 to Ashley Williams, Esq. of Dalton.

All which is submitted,

DAVID CAMPBELL, *Chairman.*

The Committee appointed to examine hired men, Report, that there were but two applicants for these premiums; and while they

regret, that the inattention of many others, who would have merited their consideration, has been the cause of so little competition, they were much pleased, by the unqualified testimony to the merits of these men, given by their respective employe.

They award the first premium to Thomas Bryant, who has been in the employment of Jonathan Allen, Esq.

And the second to John Train, employed by Capt. Hosea Merills.

Per order,

S. M. MCKAY.

An abstract of the modes of raising sundry premium crops.

FOUR years having elapsed since the society established the regulation, that all competitors for premiums on crops should file with the Secretary a detail of their mode of raising crops, and a description of the soil, manures and seeds; the committee for publishing the doings of the society, convinced of the importance and utility of circulating among the members all agricultural information, and desirous to execute the supposed intention of the society in adopting the above regulation, have thought proper to make the following extracts from the communications of sundry of our farmers.

The particular improvement is generally put in *italicks*, in each statement—in the margin the year is stated when each statement was filed—and the crops are arranged in rotation. It is to be regretted that many farmers have neglected to file these statements, as they were required by the regulations of the society; and their brother farmers will, probably, thereby be deprived of much useful information that they were entitled to. As they now find that their names, together with all the useful agricultural information they can furnish, are not only to be left on record, but spread before the public, it is hoped that they will, in future, be stimulated to more promptitude and accuracy in their statements, respecting their modes of agriculture, &c. and to emulate each other in new and useful inventions.

1817.—ON WHEAT.

Nathaniel Reddington, of Richmond, in 1817, took a premium on a piece of Spring Wheat, raised on a yellow loam—planted the previous year and manured in the hill—the ground was first ploughed in the spring, and then 16 “loads” to the acre of horse manure spread

on—the wheat sowed and dragged in. From several years practice he concludes that this mode of ploughing, manuring and sowing, will produce “one quart” more grain than to plough in the manure.

Charles Goodrich Esq. of Pittsfield, raised on a dry loam, that had been alternately planted and sowed for four years, a piece of wheat, on which he sowed *twenty bushels* of good ashes to the acre, about a week after the wheat was up, and found much benefit.

Joel Bradley, of Lanesborough, says he has avoided exhausting his lands by too frequent ploughing. His (summer) wheat was sowed on land that had been pastured several years until the last, it was planted—for his wheat he ploughed and cross-ploughed as early as the season would permit, and sowed it the 19th of April, and harrowed and bushed it in—before sowing, the wheat was *thoroughly limed*, which he considers a preventative of smut—the crop produced 20 shock to the acre.

1818.—*Silas Smith*, of Lanesborough, sowed his spring wheat 17th April—loam soil, excepting some parts gravelly and sandy—1 and $\frac{3}{4}$ th bushel per acre—*brined and limed 24 hours before sowed, and rolled in gypsum—the land was ploughed the autumn previous—dragged down even in the spring, and sowed, and then spread 30 loads of barn yard manure on the acre, and dragged it in with the seed—soon after the seed came up, put on 5 bushels of good ashes to the acre, and when the grain was about five inches high, put on one bushel of gypsum per acre. June 15th, put on 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of gypsum per acre.* The crop was a fine one.

1819.—*Oliver P. Dickinson's* winter wheat was raised on his farm in Pittsfield; the land had been some time a pasture; the soil a strong loam, mixed with white stone, *not manured—it was broken up in June, 1818; the last of August harrowed both ways; then cross-ploughed, and sowed the beginning of September, and the seed was well harrowed in both ways—the seed was prepared by soaking about 24 hours in brine, and rolled in Plaister of Paris. and 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels put on the acre—was harvested August 24, and produced 20 bushels of clean wheat to the acre.*

Silas Smith, of Lanesborough—*spring wheat*, was sown April 21, on a rich loam—had on it the preceding year peas, and the year previous to that grass—2 and $\frac{1}{4}$ bushels to the acre—the seed was soaked in strong lime water and rolled in gypsum, and 12 bushels of house ashes put on to the poorest spots—no other manure. The land was prepared by ploughing first early last fall and into ridges late again; again in the spring, seed sowed broad cast, and cross harrowed in.

Ezekiel Chamberlin, of Dalton, sowed a field of white chaff bearded wheat, on soil of a chocolate coloured loam—raised corn on it the previous year, when it was manured 20 loads to the acre—none put on since—sowed 2 bushels to the acre—prepared by washing clean—4 or 5 quarts of slacked lime put to the bushel and well stirred 6 or 8 days, and if it gets dry moisten it by sprinkling a little water—no water suffered to stand on it—but stirred in. The land was ploughed twice in the spring and harrowed, and the seed harrowed in thoroughly both ways—the seed sowed as early in the season as the state of the land would permit—this was a good crop.

Joseph Shearer, Esq. of Pittsfield, sowed his summer wheat in April, 2 bushels to the acre, on ground planted to corn the previous year, the soil inclining to a marl—once ploughed, then harrowed to a level—then sowed—then ploughed the seed in, a lightish furrow—then harrowed light—a good crop.

1820.—*Doct Thaddeus Pomeroy*, of Stockbridge, sowed his summer wheat on a sandy loam, on the bank of the Housatonuck river—ploughed deep fall and spring—and had corn on it the previous year—always turns in the stubble as soon as the crop is off, and adds, that with this mode of management, he believes wheat and corn may be raised alternately, for several years, on the same land to advantage—the corn being always dunged in the hill. For this crop the hills were split about April 20th, and in a few days the field was well ploughed once—no manure put on—the seed bearded wheat, soaked in brine and rolled in plaister, and 5 pecks put on per acre, and then harrowed twice. This field had corn on it in 1817—wheat in 1818—corn 1819—wheat 1820—“the corn crops good, and the wheat not less than 20 bushels per acre.”

Oliver P. Dickinson, of Pittsfield, raised his winter wheat on land that had been a pasture 6 or 7 years and never manured—the soil is a rich loam, with many white stones in it—in June, 1819, sowed on the pasture about one bushel of gylsum per acre—about 2 weeks after turned over the turf—the latter part of August harrowed it well both ways—then cross ploughed it—then sowed a bushel and a half to the acre, and harrowed it well both ways. The seed was sown the 2d and 3d of September, and prepared by soaking in brine from 12 to 24 hours—some of it rolled in lime and some in plaister—the latter was best—the crop was estimated at 35 bushels per acre.

1821.—*Thomas Gold, Esq.* former President of the Society, raised his summer wheat on a good red loam, mixed with small grav-

el—in May, 1820, it was in grass—had been mowed several years, and manured—it was planted to corn—in April it was ploughed for the wheat, and sown; *the wheat was prepared by washing—then spread on a clean floor and slacked lime raked in and daily moved, until dry—then a little moistened and some plaister strewed over it—* one bushel and three pecks was sowed per acre—then lightly ploughed in—the ground was stocked to clover and herds grass, whereon was sowed one and a half bushels of plaister per acre—then harrowed smooth, and in 5 days rolled.

Gen. John Whiting's, of Great-Barrington, *winter wheat*, was raised on a light soil, with a mixture of gravel, with a considerable number of loose flint stones—had been *much worn by several years ploughing without manuring*—in 1819 it was planted to corn, and gypsum used at the first hoeing—in 1820 sowed with oats, no manure used—the *oat stubble was turned in* and ploughed 3 times; sowed about the 18th September, 1 bushel and four quarts per acre—rolled in gypsum, and dragged in both ways—then sowed with gypsum at the rate of one bushel per acre—one quarter of an acre of this wheat field had been planted in 1820 *to potatoes*, and about the usual quantity of barn yard manure put in the hills—the potatoes were dug October 12th—the ground immediately ploughed *once*, and *one load* of manure from the barn yard spread over this part, where the wheat was decidedly the largest—the wheat of the field was half yellow bald wheat, and the other bearded, and both yielded about an equal crop. *This crop took the first premium.*

Thaddeus Pomeroy, Esq. of Stockbridge, raised his summer wheat on a sandy loam—in 1820 it was planted to corn and well dunged in the hill—in April, 1821, *ploughed and harrowed twice, and ploughed deep and harrowed level again—no manure—the seed was well soaked in brine, and sowed 2 bushels per acre, and ploughed in and harrowed level.*

Ocran Curtiss, of Stockbridge, sowed two acres of spring wheat on a gravelly soil—the previous year *was manured with straw manure from his Distillery*, 15 loads per acre, and planted—this year no manure—the ground was once ploughed and harrowed, the *wheat rolled in plaister*, and ploughed in, and harrowed smooth—there *was two bushels per acre of seed sown, and yielded from the piece 62 shocks and 5 sheaves, and one bushel and three quarts per shock.* The land had been put to crops for many years.

James B. Ward, of Pittsfield, sowed a piece of *winter wheat* on hard gravelly ground—was a pasture the preceding year, not manur-

ed—except the *seed rolled in plaister*—five pecks was sowed to the acre, and *previously soaked 3 or 4 days in brine*. The wheat is called white wheat. The ground was ploughed three times, and harrowed three times.

1817.—*RYE*.

Vine Branch, of Richmond, sowed two acres of *winter rye*, on ground that had been improved *ten years as a sheep pasture*—previous to the fallowing in 1816, it was first ploughed in July, and sowed August 15—a little over 1 bushel per acre; the ground was twice ploughed and well harrowed previous to sowing; no preparation of the seed, and no manure used; the yield was fine.

1818.—*Silas Smith*, of Lanesborough, sowed his *winter rye* on a soil of light coloured loam; it was summer fallowed, and sown 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the acre the 2d week in September. The seed was rolled in plaister, cross ploughed, and dragged in.

1819.—*Joseph Shearer, Esq.* of Pittsfield, began to break up the sward 15th June, *when the grass was well grown*; the last of August harrowed twice; sowed September 1, three bushels per acre; then ploughed the grain in; *in the ploughing and harrowing after the sward was first turned, care was taken not to disturb the grass beneath*. The soil was a loam and gravel, rather a heavy soil.

1820.—*Oliver P. Dickinson*, of Pittsfield, raised his *winter rye* on ground that had been improved as a pasture for 6 or 7 years, and never manured; the soil a rich loam; broke it up in June; let it lay until the last of August; then harrowed it both ways thoroughly; then cross ploughed it and sowed it, 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel per acre; first soaked in brine about 24 hours, and then rolled in plaister; it yielded a little over 30 bushels to the acre.

1821.—*Swell Sargeant*, of Stockbridge, raised his *winter rye* on a field that had been improved *two years for a sheep pasture*, the soil of which is a red sandy loam; no manure was used; the ground was ploughed first in June; then lay until August, when it was harrowed once and ploughed again; then sowed 1 bushel to the acre the 25th of August and harrowed twice.

Elias Dike, of Pittsfield, raised his *winter rye* on land that had been improved for crops many years; ploughed it first the last of July, 1820; in August ploughed *again deep*, and then sowed 35 quarts per acre; no manure or plaister was used; *the land had lain to grass three years*; there was 14 acres in the piece, and a very fine crop.

James B. Ward, of Pittsfield, *winter rye*, was sowed on land that

had been a pasturage, of a yellow loam, mixed with gravel, not manured; was ploughed June 2d, 1820, and 13th September; harrowed 3 times, 1st August and the middle of September, the 2 last times; sowed 15th September the white rye, 1 and $\frac{1}{4}$ bushels per acre.

1817.—CORN.

Samuel Dewey, of Richmond. The soil is a loam; the preceding year was sowed to rye; it was ploughed early in the spring, and frozen after ploughed; ridged and furrowed and planted May 3th; manured in the hill, 1 shovel full in a hill, took 25 loads for 4 and $\frac{1}{2}$ acres; the manure came from *under the barn*; the corn rolled in plaister; after the first hoeing ashed 12 bushels; hoed three times.

Nathaniel Reddington, of Richmond; his corn was raised on land that had been ploughed for many years; a yellowish loam, with limestone; had rye on it the previous year; the manure was put *under the barn the spring before*, and was put in the hill; this mode of preparing manure is considered good.

1818.—*James Barker*, of Pittsfield; his corn was planted in a field that had been mowed 3 years; gravelly loam; in April ploughed it once; May 10th harrowed it, and 18th harrowed it; 22d harrowed it; May 26, planted it in hills; rolled the seed in plaister; hoed it three times, and plaistered it each time.

Charles Goodrich, Esq. of Pittsfield, raised his corn on ground that had been mowed the 3 previous years; manured it in the hole with manure from the horse stable and hogpen, and steeped the seed in a solution of saltpetre a few hours.

LEMUEL POMEROY, of Pittsfield, raised a field of corn on a gravelly loam; used no manure, but *cole dust from the blacksmiths shop, mixed with burnt sea coal*, and the ashes naturally made in the shop, and the crop was very fine.

1819.—*TIMOTHY WAINWRIGHT*, of Great-Barrington, raised a fine crop of corn on a sandy soil, some loam; it had been mowed 10 or 12 years and nearly run out; the 2 years previous it had been ploughed; this spring it was ploughed once, and eight waggon loads of barn yard manure put in the hill to the acre, and planted with eight rowed yellow and white corn mixed, the hills 3 feet each way, 4 stalks in a hill; harrowed it each way carefully the first hoeing; the 2d hoeing slight, after ploughing it each way.

Thomas Gold, Esq. of Pittsfield, had 5 acres of corn on a loam soil, with a mixture of gravel, had been mowed 5 years preceding:

it was broken up in May, *deep* and well turned over ; then harrowed in *the course of the furrows* until fine and level ; then well covered with barn yard manure ; *spread* and harrowed in ; then furrowed for planting, in parallel lines a little short of 3 feet ; planted 26th May ; the seed *steeped one night in warm brine*, then rolled in plaister ; the first hoeing preceded with a corn harrow, the second by the plough, the 3d by the hoe only, and slight ; the crop was very fine, and in the opinion of the cultivator this is the best and cheapest mode of raising corn.

Jonathan Allen, Esq. of Pittsfield, raised 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of fine corn on old orchard ground, *by covering the ground completely with coarse barn yard manure, of straw, &c. and ploughed in*, and the corn plaistered ; the soil a loam, mixed with gravel.

Thomas Melville, Esq. of Pittsfield, formerly President, raised his corn on a loam, mixed with gravel ; it was green sward in 1818 ; ploughed *deep* in the fall ; harrowed early in the spring ; ploughed in May, and harrowed June 8th, furrowed deep, at 3 feet distance ; *filled the furrows with straw manure*, 20 loads per acre.

James Green, of Lanesborough, planted on gravelly warm ground, had been partly sward and partly a corn crop ; put on 15 loads of barn yard manure to the acre, *after ploughed twice and harrowed once and ploughed in a part and harrowed a part* ; likes the harrowing best ; planted the 8 rowed yellow corn ; soaked the seed 6 days in buttermilk and rolled it in plaister ; and planted the hills 2 feet 8 inches apart ; the principal use of the buttermilk, he says, is to cause the plaister to adhere ; he put on half a bushel of plaister to the acre on the hills ; hoed it three times ; the two first was preceded by the harrow, and the last by the plough ; planted May 16th.

Asahel Foot, of Lee, planted 2 acres ; previous to ploughing spread 60 cart loads of manure on it ; the soil is a gravelly loam ; it was ploughed well, then ridged for planting ; the corn rolled in plaister and planted in rows (distance omitted) hoed twice and plaistered each time, and yielded a great crop.

Silas Smith, of Lanesborough, planted 2 acres on gravelly loam ground ; had spring wheat on it the previous year ; ploughed the last fall ; this spring 33 waggon loads of compost manure put on the acre *after it was cross dragged, the manure was laid in a furrow and 2 furrows turned together* ; about one third more seed was planted on the acre than common, and was dropped by small boys 8 inches apart ; covered it with the hoe ; first hoeing ploughed between the rows ; 4 furrows from and 4 towards the corn ; 2d hoe

ing turned 2 furrows from and 2 towards the corn ; 3d time ploughed as usual ; 4th time hoed without ploughing ; the corn was planted 21st May, *and the rows 5 feet apart.*

1821.—*ORANGE J. FARNUM*, of Lanesborough, planted 2 acres on high ground, had been mowed 6 years preceding without manuring ; in October last, 15 loads of barn yard manure were put on one acre *and spread before winter* ; in May the 2 acres were ploughed, and 15 loads of barn manure put on the other acre, *and spread* ; May 20th, harrowed the field 3 times and the same way that it was ploughed ; 25th planted ; at weeding used the little harrow ; the 2d and 3d hoeing the plough ; the last hoeing was July 10th ; the seed was the 12 rowed yellow corn ; the soil a black loam, mixed with gravel ; the subsoil 2 feet below a hard pan of clay ; put on 6 quarts of seed per acre, in hills 3 feet apart, from 4 to 6 kernels in a hill ; and was plaistered, 10 quarts per acre, immediately after the first hoeing ; *the acre manured in October produced the largest crop* ; it was the first premium piece.

ASHLEY WILLIAMS, Esq. of Dalton, states, that a part of the soil is a deep brown mould, and a part sandy ; it has been mowed for near ten years past, and sparingly manured ; the last year the sandy part had clover on it. In the fall of 1820, I put on from 15 to 20 loads of barn yard manure (supposed per acre) and early in the spring of 1821 spread it ; early in May ploughed it, a part *deep* and a part *light* ; has observed no material difference from the modes of ploughing ; then harrowed ; furrowed one way ; the rows 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$ feet each way ; the corn is a mixture of the 8 and 12 rowed kinds, yellow ; rolled in plaister and an excess put in the hills to accommodate worms and birds, or to be extracted, if necessary ; then hewed it three times, the last early in July ; the worms made great havock, and at the second hoeing *were stoped* by a small quantity of *dry ashes* ; at the hoeings the common horse plough was used.

Silas Smith, of Lanesborough, *two acres* of corn, planted on gravelly land, that was planted to potatoes the two previous years, and manured in the hill ; this year the manure, *viz. 60 loads of rotten manure from an old building and hog pen, was spread on, and the land then ridged four furrows to the ridge* ; planted May 30th ; hoed three times, and plaister put on at each, and 12 bushels of ashes on *the poorest hills* ; the hills were 18 inches by 4 feet apart, which method gave 48 hills to the square rod ; the first hoeing towards the hill, the second from, and the third towards.

1817.—OATS.

JOEL BRADLEY, of Lanesborough, observes that he has ever avoided exhausting his lands by too much ploughing. His oats were on a field that had been twelve years a pasture, previous to 1816; then ploughed and planted to corn, and slightly manured; sowed the oats the 24th of April; the ground was ploughed and cross-ploughed as early in the spring as possible; the yield of oats was estimated at 50 bushels per acre; the piece contained 7 acres, and was appropriated in equal quantities to oats, summer wheat and rye, and all fine crops. Mr. Bradley was presented by the society, in 1815, with one pint of *Irish Oats*, and then sowed them; last year sowed the product, and this year again, and has now 15 shock; and in his opinion are preferable to any other oats raised in Berkshire.

1818.—JAMES BARKER, of Pittsfield, sowed his oats on ground that the last year was sowed to rye; the stubble turned in last fall, and on account of the cold and backward spring, he determined on a new mode, and sowed after harrowing, without ploughing; put 11 bushels to 5 acres; sowed the last week in April, harrowed them in twice, and as soon as up sowed on half a bushel of plaister per acre.

1819 and 1820, the applicants omitted to file their account of cultivation, &c.

1821.—LEVI GOODRICH, of Pittsfield, manured his land the previous season, at the rate of 15 loads per acre; this spring ploughed the land twice; last year the field was planted to corn; sowed two bushels and a half per acre, and dragged them in; the soil a redish loam.

VINE BRANCH, of Richmond, sowed his oats on a soil of black colour and light nature, it had corn on it the last year, and was manured in the hill; sowed 2 and $\frac{3}{4}$ bushels per acre, April 28th; prepared the ground by splitting the corn hills, one furrow in a row; ploughed it cross ways, then sowed and harrowed (in the seed) each way.

1819.—POTATOES.

By THOMAS GOLD, Esq. The land is a dark loam, and the two preceding years had on it wheat and rye; it was ploughed in the fall of 1818, in May, 1819, it was cross ploughed very deep, and left in the furrow very loose and fine; then pretty deep marked into parallel lines, and planted the first week in June, in hills a little under 3 feet apart; the plough was chiefly used in weeding and hoeing; the land turned towards the hills of moderate depth, and then

slightly dressed with the hoe ; the second hoeing was done in like manner, only deeper ploughed ; the potatoes were fit for eating the 25th Sept. After the first hoeing a suitable quantity of gypsum was put on the hills ; the crop was abundant, and the potatoes large and fine. In 1820. Mr. Gold gave a similar account of his mode of raising potatoes, and it was highly approved by the viewing committee.

1821.—*LEVI HINSDALE* planted his premium potatoes on ground that had been occupied for a sheep pasture, and ploughed early in the spring, before the frost was entirely out ; then let it lay until May 25th, when he harrowed it thoroughly with the furrows, when drills were made with the plough, *not so deep as to disturb the old furrow*, three and one third feet apart ; planted the potatoes *in hills* at the distance of three feet, and at the rate of 18 bushels per acre, and planted without cutting ; covered with a hoe ; were ploughed betwixt the first of July, and *hoed once*.

1818.—*PEASE.*

SILAS SMITH's were sowed on green sward, which had been mowed 5 years, turned over in the spring, on a warm, loamy soil ; sowed two bushels per acre on the 8th of May, and first rolled the seed in plaister ; June 20th, sowed one bushel of plaister on the *poorest parts* ; this made the piece even, and it was stout.

1819 —*SILAS SMITH* sowed 2 acres, a part loamy and a part gravelly soil, on land that was sowed the preceding year to spring wheat, and manured the gravelly part at the rate of 20 waggon loads per acre, from the barn yard that was thoroughly rotten ; this year no manure, except the seed was rolled in gypsum ; put two bushels of seed to the acre, of the *green kind* ; ploughed the land last autumn, and cross harrowed it this spring ; sowed the seed broad cast 21st April, and ploughed in with a light fine furrow.

1821 —*LEVI GOODRICH* raised his pease on a field that was planted last year to corn, and 15 cart loads of manure from the barn yard put on per acre ; no manure this year ; the soil is a redish loam ; ploughed it twice ; put on 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of seed per acre, and dragged them in.

FLAX.

The society did not encourage the growth of flax until 1820, and it had nearly run out ; but this year, 1821, this important crop was very frequent and abundant.

1820.—*THOMAS MERRILL, Esq.* of Boston, on his farm in Pittsfield, sowed a piece on a loam soil, green sward, in 1819 ; ploughed

deep in the fall ; harrowed 20th of April ; ploughed and harrowed again April 30th ; sowed the next day 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of seed per acre, and harrowed in the seed, once with a small harrow, and then with a bush.

A 2d piece on a gravelly loam ; manured in 1818 from the hog pen ; in 1818, and in 1819 for corn ; April 29, 1820, carried on (one acre supposed) 10 loads of hog manure, spread and ploughed it in and harrowed with light harrows ; next day sowed the seed, and with it 8 bushels of ashes, and harrowed twice with light harrows.

1821.—LEVI HINSDALE sowed on land that, in the spring of 1820, was part of a sheep pasture ; ploughed about the middle of May, and planted 10 potatoes, no manure ; *this spring*, about the first of May, ploughed it, and in 10 days ploughed it again, sowed 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of seed per acre, and harrowed it in well twice.

LEVI GOODRICH raised his flax on ground that was last year put to potatoes, of a redish loam—ploughed it *twice* in May—sowed 2 bushels of seed on an acre and a quarter, and dragged it well.

ORCHARDS.

The following abstract is from a letter of the Hon. CALEB HYDE, in answer to the Agricultural Committee of 1821, on that subject.—It is regretted there is not room for the letter, verbatim. Doct. HYDE states, that having observed the (old) orchards in Berkshire to be failing, he was led to reflect on the cause ; and from the best observations he could make, the lands appropriated to orcharding had been either cropped to excess, without manuring, or neglected and suffered to run over to a tough sward—the trees in a very bad state, with dead limbs, their bodies covered with moss and rough bark ; the fruit poor—small in size and quantity—consequently he was led to make experiments with his own trees *in similar condition*, and which succeeded much beyond his expectations, viz. Previous to 1816, the orchard had been mowed, and very little attention to trimming the trees, or enriching the soil—ploughed the ground in the fall—manured it well—put two bushels of yard manure around the body of each tree—the next spring planted the field to corn—had all the turf hoed from around the trees and supplied the place with manure and light earth—in the fall repeated the manure around the tree, observing not to put it so near the trunk of the tree as to make a harbor for mice—in 1818 sowed the land to oats, and herds-grass seed—clover he considers unfriendly to orchards—since that his ground has yielded large crops of grass. He manured around the

trees in the spring *in a heap*, so as to check the grass *there*—sometimes used chip manure. This process has rendered the soil very light under the trees. He scraped the bodies after a rainy season with a hoc—cut off the dead branches and eradicated the sprouts at the roots ; and, as far as was practicable, cut off the perpendicular limbs and such as rub, leaving only those horizontal. Worms are a great injury to the tree and fruit, and should be destroyed by removing the nest and killing such as stick to the limbs, early in the spring—this course practised faithfully will, in two or three seasons, entirely destroy them.

“ The plumb tree, in this quarter, has been nearly destroyed by a fungus on the limbs. I have recovered some of my old trees by cutting off the diseased limbs, digging around the roots, and applying ashes.”

CLOVER.

DAVID CHAPIN, of Richmond, sowed 3 acres of red clover from *imported seed*, that yielded this and the last year exceeding five tons per acre—his particular mode of cultivation is omitted—but the kind of seed it is supposed is worthy of a more general cultivation.

FARMING TOOLS.

1818.—Maj. THOMAS MELVILLE, jr. agent for Thomas Melville, Esq. this year offered for premium several improved tools, of a new description, worthy of the attention of our farmers, viz. *three Harrows*, constructed so as to be worked together, or separately—also, a species of *Chain Plough*. A particular description of these articles, and their use, can be obtained of Maj. Melville.

The following gentlemen have been Presidents of this Society, viz.

1811. SAMUEL H. WHEELER, by the act of incorporation.
 1811. ELKANAH WATSON, Esq.
 1812. SAME.
 1813. SAME.
 1814. SAME.
 1815. Maj. THOMAS MELVILLE, jr.—THOMAS GOLD, Esq.
 1816. THOMAS GOLD, Esq.
 1817. SAME.
 1818. Maj. THOMAS MELVILLE, jr.
 1819. Hon. WILLIAM WALKER.
 1820. JONATHAN ALLEN, Esq.
 1821. SAME.

*Officers of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, elected
 October 4, 1821.*

Jonathan Allen, Esq of Pittsfield, *President*.
 Hon. Henry W. Dwight, of Stockbridge, *1st Vice-President*.
 Hon. Henry Shaw, of Lanesborough, *2d Vice-President*.
 Thomas A. Gold, Esq of Pittsfield, *Cor. and Rec. Secretary*.
 Mr. Samuel D. Colt, of Pittsfield, *Treasurer*.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Mr. James D. Colt, Mr. Oliver P. Dickinson, Charles Goodrich, Esq. | } Committee on Agriculture. |
| Maj. Samuel M. McKay, Capt Jonathan Allen, 2d. Mr. James Buel, | } Committee on Manufactures. |
| Hon. Nathan Willis, Joseph Shearer, Esq. John Dickinson, Esq. | } Committee on Domestic Animals. |

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 Hon. De Witt Clinton, *New-York.*
 Geo. W. P. Custiss, Esq. *Arlington, Vir.*
 Hon. Samuel Dexter, (deceased) *Boston.*
 Maj. Gen. Henry Dearborn, *do.*
 Henry A. S. Dearborn, Esq. *do.*
 Aaron Dexter, Esq. *do.*
 His Excellency Christopher Gore, *Waltham, Mass.*
 Hon. John Holmes, *do.*
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 Samuel G. Jarvis, Esq. *Claremont, N. H.*
 William Jarvis, Esq. *Weathersfield, Ver.*
 Doct. Leonard Jarvis, *do.*
 Hon. James Lloyd, *Boston.*
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 Hon. Robert L. Livingston, (deceased) *Clermont, N. Y.*
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 Hon. Harrison G. Otis, *Boston.*
 Hon. Richard Peters, *Philadelphia.*
 James Prince, Esq. (deceased) *Boston, Mass.*
 Hon. Josiah Quincy, *do.*
 Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer, *Albany, N. Y.*
 His Excellency Caleb Strong, (deceased) *Northampton, Mass.*
 Hon. Richard Sullivan, *Boston.*
 Hon. John Taylor, *Albany, N. Y.*
 Jeremiah Stebbins, Esq. *Springfield, Mass.*
 Lemuel Shaw, Esq. *Boston.*
 Thomas L. Winthrop, Esq. *do.*
 Simeon De Witt, Esq. *Albany.*
 Hon. Benjamin Russell, *Boston.*
 Hon. Dudley A. Tyng, *do.*
 Samuel Appleton, Esq. *do.*
 Hon. Silas Stow, *Lowville, N. Y.*
 Hon. John Lowell, *Boston.*

Hon. Samuel M. Hopkins, *New-York State.*

Col. Samuel Hawkins.

Thomas Melville, jun. Esq. Pittsfield.

Zechariah Pierson, Esq. Richmond.

Capt. Joel Stevens, Pittsfield.

Gen. John Armstrong, *Red-Hook, N. Y.*

Gen. Arthur Livermore, *New-Hampshire State.*

Hon. John Savage, *Washington Co. N. Y.*

Hon. William Patterson, *Baltimore.*

Those in *italicks* were made honorary members by a regulation of the Society, for exhibiting the best regulated farm, &c.

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 John Chamberlin,
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 Israel Jones,
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 Jabez Peck,
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 Daniel B. Bush,
 Royal Millard,
 Levi Goodrich,
 Ashley Williams,
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