

# Village Herald.

TRUTH WITHOUT RESERVE—JUSTICE WITHOUT PARTIALITY.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING, BY JOHN S. ZIEBIE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

VOL. IV.

PRINCESS-ANNE, MD. TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1830.

NO. 7.

## THE CORNUCOPIE.

"Bleeding the useful with the sweet."

From the Essex Gazette.

The following beautiful lines are by Park Benjamin, Esq.—late Editor of the Norwich Spectator, which, while under his supervision, was certainly one of the best papers in the list of our exchanges.

TO A LADY.

The star that glides life's morning sky  
Smiles sweetly over thee now,  
And flowers around thy pathway lie,  
And roses crown thy brow;  
Which cheer thy wealth of rich perfume  
And ringlets trembling, like a plume,  
And a deep wither, soft and bright,  
Is floating in thine eyes of light.

The soul is music—not a tone  
That charms the ether air;  
When Heaven is bending calm and lone,  
And night winds wander far;  
Through spirit-chords that unseen thrill,  
Can, with such magic sweeten all,  
My heart with rapture, or unsual  
The bliss that only Love can feel.

Holy and pure, thy angel smile  
Is mirrored in thy stream;  
As evening first, golden gleams  
Sleeps on her shadowed stream;  
And o'er my thoughts the vision floats,  
Like melody of spring bird notes,  
When the glad halcyon zealously  
Her plumage in the bright, blue waves.

I cannot gaze on aught that wears  
The beauty of the skies;  
Or grieve that in life's valley shares  
The close of Paradise;  
I cannot look upon a star,  
Or cloud that seems a dream's ear,  
Or form of purity,  
Unclouded with a wreath of thair.

When evening's stars rest beautiful  
Upon the dew's cheek,  
And the mild, weary zephyr lull,  
Or softest cadence fall,  
Thine own low heart, that loves to sing  
His song upon the evening wind,  
Of faded love and opening flower,  
Where silence weaves her mystic power.

And thou, to those, my heart's own rose!  
I pour my love of life;  
Wide thy sweet memory round me flows,  
And skies are bright above;  
With countless stars that seem to bloom,  
Like heavenly blossoms on the dawn,  
Which, in unbroken brightness, seem  
Has hung around thy throne of light.

From London's Encyclopedia of Agriculture.

## The Cultivation of Flax.

(Continued.)

The flaxseed is separated of the fibre from the bark, it is necessary to accelerate the process of decay or putrefaction. This may be done in different ways, but the chief are those of bleaching alone, or of steeping and bleaching. Bleaching is a tedious and laborious operation when it is intended as a substitute for steeping, but it is the most certain for not injuring the fibre, and may be adopted on a small scale when steeping places are not at hand. In Dorsetshire, and some other places, flax, instead of being steeped, is what is called dew-ratted; that is, the stalks are allowed to arrive at that state in which the bark or woody part, separate most easily from the boon, reed or fibre, by the action and influence of the dew. This is nothing more than exposing the flax to the influence of the weather for a longer period than is necessary, when steeping or watering has been previously performed. Steeping, however, is the most universal practice both in Britain and on the continent. Of late, an innovation has been made by Lee of Malton, by which with the aid of sulphuric acid and machinery, the fibre is more completely separated than by steeping, and unimpaired by that process. When flax is to be separated by this new process, the cultivator has only to pull it in handfuls, dry it in stacks like corn, till wanted by the manufacturer.

Steeping or watering, however, it will be the general practice till flax dressing machines come into universal use. In performing this operation, the flax, whether it has been dried and ratted, or pulled green, is to be laid on small bundles, the smaller the better, because it is then most equally watered. These sheaves ought to be built in the yard in a reclining upright posture, so that the weight placed above may keep the whole firmly down. The weights made use of are commonly stones placed on planks, or directly on the flax.

The Flemish mode of steeping flax, as described by Haxell, is said to improve the quality of the flax, and greatly increase its whiteness. This mode differs from the common practice, in placing the bundles in the steep vats, instead of horizontally, in immersing the flax by means of transverse sticks, with that degree of weight annexed which shall not push it down to the bottom, but leave it the power to descend spontaneously towards the conclusion of the steeping, and in leaving a trust a space of air beneath a foot between the bottom and the roots of the flax. The spontaneous descent of the flax is an indication of its being sufficiently steeped; and the strength and quality of the fibre are said to be much better preserved by this mode, in which the temperature of the atmosphere acts with most force on the upper part of the plant, which needs it most.

The water must proper for steeping flax, should be clear, soft, and in standing pools. Compound it with running water, pools occasion the flax to have a better color, to be softer ready for the grass, and even to be of superior quality in every respect. When soft, clear stagnating water cannot be obtained without art, a pit or canal is commonly formed, adjoining to a river or stream, whence water can be easily brought. This pit or canal is filled with water for some time (a week or two) before it be proposed to pull the flax, by this means the water acquires a greater degree of warmth than river water possesses, and which contributes greatly to facilitate the object farmers have in view in immersing green flax in water, namely, to make the bark or flax substance partially and completely from the boon or reed.

The period that flax ought to remain in the water, depends on various circumstances; as the state of ripeness in which it was put, the quality and temperature of the water, &c. The most certain rule by which to judge when flax is sufficiently watered, is when the boon becomes brittle, and the bark separates easily from it. In warm weather, ten days of the watering process is sufficient; but it is proper to examine the pools regularly after the seventh day, lest the flax should putrefy or rot, which sometimes happens in very warm weather. Twelve days will answer in any sort of weather; though it may be remarked, that it is better, to give too little of the water, than too much, as a deficiency may be easily made up by suffering it to lie longer on the grass, whereas an excess of water admits of no remedy. Creating or bleeding flax is the next operation, the intention of which is to rectify any defect in the watering process, and carry on the putrefactive process to that point when the fibre will separate from the bark, boon, reed or hart, (as the woody part of the stem is called) with the greatest ease. In performing this operation, the flax is spread very thin on the ground, and in regular rows, the one being made to overlap the other a few inches, with a view of preventing, as much as possible, its being torn up and scattered by gales of wind. Old grass-ground, where the herbage does not grow to any great height, is the best for the purpose, as when the grass and weeds spring up, or cover the flax it is frequently rotted, or at least greatly injured thereby.

The time allowed for grassing is regulated by the state of the flax, and seldom exceeds ten or twelve days. During this time it is repeatedly examined, and when it is found that the boon has become very brittle; so that, on being broken and rubbed between the hands, it easily and freely parts from the hart, it is then taken up, a day being chosen for the purpose, and, being bound in sheaves, is either sent directly to the mill, steeped, or what is called dew-ratted; that is, the stalks are allowed to arrive at that state in which the bark or woody part, separate most easily from the boon, reed or fibre, by the action and influence of the dew. This is nothing more than exposing the flax to the influence of the weather for a longer period than is necessary, when steeping or watering has been previously performed. Steeping, however, is the most universal practice both in Britain and on the continent. Of late, an innovation has been made by Lee of Malton, by which with the aid of sulphuric acid and machinery, the fibre is more completely separated than by steeping, and unimpaired by that process. When flax is to be separated by this new process, the cultivator has only to pull it in handfuls, dry it in stacks like corn, till wanted by the manufacturer.

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As a common cotton, and pressed be-tween two boards for forty-eight hours. It is now fully prepared and fit for use. However, it is abundantly compensated by the process near one-half its weight, which, however, is abundantly compensated by the improvement made in its quality.

Let's method of breaking flax and hemming done rotting, was invented in 1810, and was the first step towards a great improvement, brought nearer perfection by the new patent machines of Messrs. Hill and Bondy.

Hill and Bondy's machines are portable, and may be done by hand or any kind of out-haul; they are also well calculated for parish work-houses and charitable institutions; and such is the construction and simplicity of the machines, that no previous instruction or practice is required; their introduction, therefore, into those asylums, would be the means of effecting a considerable reduction of the poor's rate. The woody part is removed by a very simple machine; and, by passing through a machine equally simple, the flax may be brought to any degree of fineness, equal to the best in France and the Netherlands, for the finest linen and cambric.

The original length of the fibre, as well as the strength, remains previous to the expiration of the term subscribed for sale, by the public sale, the highest and best bidder for cash, at the public house door, on Wednesday the 12th of May next, at the hour of 2 o'clock P. M. to satisfy the above claims.

BY virtue of a writ of Venditioni Expositum issued out of Somerset county court and to me directed, at the suit of Stephen Drury, against John H. Anderson, Esq., I have taken in execution the following property, to-wit: 1. A small parcel of land, situate in the parish of St. Andrew, containing 10 acres, more or less, the lands and tenements of said John H. Anderson, Esq., which I shall offer to the highest and best bidder for cash, at the public house door, on Wednesday the 12th of May next, at the hour of 2 o'clock P. M. to satisfy the above claims.

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