

# MICHIGAN FARMER

VOLUME XIII.

DETROIT, JUNE, 1855.

NUMBER 6.

CHAS. BETTS, } Associate  
S. R. NOBLE, } Editors.

R. F. JOHNSTONE, Editor.  
J. G. HOLMES, Hort. Editor.

R. F. JOHNSTONE, } Proprietors  
W. S. DUNCKLEE, }

## THE MICHIGAN FARMER.

Issued monthly by JOHNSTONE & DUNCKLEE, Detroit, Mich.  
Office on the corner of Shelby St., and Jefferson Avenue.

### Terms.

For any number of copies not exceeding four.....\$1 00 each  
For a club of any number from five to ten..... 80 cts "  
For clubs of any number not less than ten..... 75 cts "

All letters to be addressed to JOHNSTONE & DUNCKLEE, Detroit Mich., (post paid.)

### Advertisements.

All advertisements for the Farmer must be sent forward so as to reach us by the 20th of each month.

### Rates of Advertising.

For a square of ten lines, single insertion.....\$1 25  
For each subsequent insertion..... 1 00

For advertisements making over one square, and for periods of over three months, our terms will be liberal.

The attention of Breeders of Stock, Nursery men, Florists, Seedmen and Agricultural Implement Manufacturers, as well as those who wish either to buy or dispose of farms or farming lands, stocks, &c., is particularly called to the advantages which a circulation of nearly twelve thousand offers to them throughout the State of Michigan. JOHNSTONE & DUNCKLEE.

## CONTENTS.

### Agricultural.

A few more Facts about Wool.....	171
Cleaning Grass Seed.....	163
Use Tar a protection against worms and insects.....	163
Saw Mill.....	166
Palmer & Wilton's Reaping Machine.....	166
A Practical Letter about F. W. S.....	167
Go and Travel the Country, by H. B. Schetterly, Nos. 2 and 3.....	67
Woolen Shearing—A. N. W. Pump.....	169
New York Cattle Market.....	70
The Case Question—two articles.....	172
Mr. Perry's Letter.....	177
A new Kneey, its treatment—A Canadian Egg—Large Eggs.....	173
Corn Hown Broadcast.....	174
Seeding Clover—Randall's Grass—A New Plow.....	17
Lime for the Wool.....	178

### Horticultural.

L. W. F. tal's Seedling Strawberry.....	175
Fruit's General Cultivation.....	175
Seeds from Patent Office—St. Catherine's Plum.....	176
Horticultural Operation for Jun—Grape Vines.....	177
Peach Trees and Peach Crop.....	177

### Ladies' Department.

Commercial Colleges, Progress in the right direction.....	178
Health, Dress and Bloomers.....	179
Poetry, Epitaph—Matrimonial.....	180

### Educational.

Education and Swamp Lands.....	181
Acts of the Legislature relative to agriculture.....	182

### Editorial.

Our Agent—Our designs.....	183
What is a Sheep Shearing Festival.....	183
Dress in the—its prices.....	183
Various Notices.....	184
Michigan Stock Register.....	184
Kent County Agricultural Society.....	185
Agricultural College—Notices.....	185

## A Few More Facts about Wool.

Last month, in connection with some remarks about the importance of the wool-growing interest to the farmers of Michigan, and also about the intimate connection which must necessarily exist between the wool-grower and the wool manufacturer, we published a table concerning the amount now produced in the several counties of this State, as given in the recent State census, with the amount produced in 1850, as given by the United States census taken in that year.

The amount of wool produced in this State is given as two million, six hundred and eighty thousand, seven hundred and forty-seven pounds, which at an average value of 30 cents per pound, amounts to \$804,524.10. We may now proceed to state that the whole amount of wool produced in the United States as given by the census report of 1850, was reported at 52,516,959 pounds, or in round numbers, a little over fifty-two millions and a half. Admitting that there has been an increase in the production equal in ratio to that of the ten preceding years, which has been a little over 46 per cent., we have the whole production of the United States for the present year equal to about 64 millions of pounds of wool. As the United States imports wool, and exports none of any consequence, the whole of this sixty-four millions are to be consumed within her own limits, and by her own people. To this there has to be added some twenty-two millions of pounds, which the Secretary of the United States Treasury says is about the average amount annually imported for the past five years, making in the aggregate about 88 millions of pounds of wool required by the manufacturers to supply the consumption of the country so far as home fabrics are called for. But besides this amount of home manufactured wool, used in the United States, there were imported in 1854 as stated by the Secretary of the Treasury, manufactured woolen fabrics of a weight exceeding one hundred and nineteen millions of pounds, and of the value of over thirty-one millions of dollars. There appears, therefore, to be needed the following amount of wool for

York is a great town, no one need question—great in size, great in wealth, great in poverty, great in influence, great in wickedness, and withal has a great stomach, capable of digesting anything from "Green Turtle" to a whole Hindoo party.

Go into Washington Market and you would think New York must be supplied for weeks. Endless rows of stalls filled with beef, mutton and pork—game of different kinds tastefully arranged—butter and cheese exhibited in tempting morsels—oysters and clams *ad infinitum*—vegetables and fruits in quantities, and prices absolutely shocking to a "green'un" from the country, and yet all these last but for a day. But it is my intention to write principally of the cattle and sheep market, as Western farmers are more particularly interested in this class of farm productions. The principal cattle market in New York is at ALBERTON'S drove yards, situated on 43d-st., about four miles from the Battery. About 1,500 head of cattle are sold weekly, averaging this winter \$70 each, making a weekly exchange or property equal to \$105,000; and this, recollect, all at one yard. Cattle are also sold in small quantities at BROWNING'S, on Sixth street, and at CHAMBERLAIN'S, on Robinson street. Western drovers almost universally consign their droves to cattle brokers who stand between the grazier and butcher as a sort of necessary evil, and who must be well paid for selling your stock or allowing you to sell it. Two and a half per cent. is usually paid for selling, making a very nice business for those engaged in it. Suppose I consign 100 head of cattle, which are sold at \$70 per head. The broker retains as his commission for selling \$175. Pretty good day's work that.

While upon the subject, let me say one word in regard to quotations of stock as published by the *Tribune* and other papers, I speak of the *Tribune* particularly, because it is absolute authority with the farmers. GREELY did a very nice thing when he commenced those full and particular reports of stock sales. But even Mr. GREELY'S quotations cannot always be depended upon excepting by those in the secrets of the trade; and many a green youngster you will find in the yards with ten or a dozen head of cattle, expecting one shilling per pound, but realizing only eight or ten cents. The market reporters are not altogether to blame in this matter. Mr. ROBINSON, the reporter of the *Tribune*, asks the broker for his sales. He reports one drove of 100 at \$80 per head, when in fact he had sold but 50 at \$60 per head. Do you ask why this mis-statement. Simply because the report of his sales in the *Tribune* is the very best advertisement of his success in selling, and others feel willing to consign to so good a salesman. But why does not the drover report the facts as they are? Because often he cannot be found on the ground; and if he could, he feels a sort of pride in making large sales, even if it be only in the papers. There is another thing that may be of interest to the uninitiated. Beef is sold at so much per pound for the four quarters, weight almost universally estimated. If there is a surplus those estimates are always low—if a scarcity, then high, so that in two weeks you may find different arrivals of the same weight estimated first at 600 and another at 700 lbs. As a general rule, cattle weighed at home from feed, will be estimated in New York at very near one half such weight.

J. W. DICKINSON.

Hilldale, March, 1855.

2,500,000 bushels of wheat were raised in California last year.

### Queries on the Chess Question.

EDITORS FARMER:—In reading the December number of your valuable periodical, I discovered something more in relation to wheat turning to chess. Now I am quite a hand for improvement, consequently, be it perfectly understood that I am in for a share of that kind of chess seed which friend A. B. Markham has advertised for,—though the price is high—and also for sorrel seed that turns to white clover. In the country it would be valuable, as many are raising bee and the kind we have is worthless, never turning.

Now permit me, with all candor to ask a few questions for the candid consideration of the readers of the *Michigan Farmer*. Volumes have been written, and days and months spent in arguing that wheat will turn to chess. In this year of our Lord, eight hundred and fifty five, it is high time for us farmers to know whether we harvest such as we sow or plant its natural product or not; or whether it is sometime so. I used to believe that wheat would produce chess; my father believed it as sincerely as he did his own existence; but did that make or prove it so?

Permit me to ask a few questions for any one feeling so disposed, to answer.

Will winter wheat when winter killed, or almost killed, sometimes turn to chess? Will spring wheat grow chess too? Will rye produce chess? Will barley? Will oats? and sometimes timothy? Some argue all the above true. If so, how many kinds of chess are there? There are many kinds of winter wheat, red chaff bald, red chaff bearded, white chaff bald and bearded; there are velvet, Mediterranean, &c. What is the difference in the chess produced by these different kinds of grain. Will chess seed produce chess naturally, if no way interfered with? What relation is chess to wheat, and which kind of wheat is nearest related to chess? Which is the nearest akin wheat, rye, oats, barley, &c.? Does not wheat sometimes turn to pigweeds, redroot, or fat-weed, pigeon grass, milk weed, &c.? Part of my wheat had a good many of these in last harvest, in a small piece when Charlie's hens picked up some of the seed. Does not wheat in some countries turn to Canada thistle, and to many other wild plants as well as chess? What resemblance is there between a head of chess and a head of wheat? chess chaff and wheat chaff? and last but not least, is chess a wild or a tame plant? Least weary your patience, I close.

With much respect,

ASHBEL BEACH.

Thornapple, March, 1855.

### The Chess Question Continued.

MR. EDITOR:—I have but little desire to enter the lists against any one on this very trite subject. It is fortunately not a very grave one; and if farmers find themselves occupying about the same position they

did fifty years ago, they have but little to regret; for by a judicious selection of seed, and a proper preparation of the soil—free from solicitude, they can sleep quietly as ever; undisturbed by perplexing dreams about chess. But by perusing “the three letters” on this question in the December number of your journal, I was led to the reflection that it would facilitate inquiry very much to observe certain preliminaries. We ought to be able to anticipate the nature of the arguments to be submitted—allowing but little weight to such as do not add to our limited stock of knowledge. We may honestly and pertinaciously adhere to the notion that wheat is never transmuted to chess, and still admit of no mode of investigation except by experiment.

A resort to analogies may be continued *ad infinitum* without helping us on in the least;—such a resource failed us long since; it is barely allowable in country debating clubs as a starting point for novices. It may serve as a temporary safety in order to take breath when one is hardly pressed; a fortress presenting so bold a front cannot but be imposing at first view—and it is possible some may console themselves with the vain notion of doing a great service to the interests of agriculture, presuming upon the safety of such a retreat, by challenging the enemy to repeated hostilities by an idle parade of words without sense. Such a course becomes less excusable assumed by minds of the present generation, and claiming a high civilization; and the gravest aspect in which this matter can be viewed, consists perhaps in the fact that we are so far behind the spirit of the age. With Rip Vanwinkle we continue to bless good king George, long after our peace and independence have been achieved.

The only sure method of advancement in knowledge was taught by Lord Bacon more than three centuries ago, to consist of experiment and the observation of nature, instead of resting on mere theory and conjecture. It is a propensity of the mind to trace analogies, and it is right—their use is obvious; but to say that sheep do not produce pigs—nor swine puppies—therefore wheat does not produce chess—as A. B. Markham would have it, is to compromise the modesty of his theme. It were better perhaps not to overstep the limits of the vegetable world—latitude of debate becomes too indefinite—analogies so distant almost or wholly lose their affinity. A New Zealander, for example, can justify the practice of eating the *genus-homo*, because forsooth, obeying a law of nature, the finny tribes prey indiscriminately upon their brethren. By the intense brilliancy of such deductions if my sight is dazzled, I must be excused—I cannot perceive their legitimacy. That dame Nature in many of her operations is freaky and capricious is generally admitted, and there are circumstances so often met with by farmers to induce the belief that wheat sometimes is turned to chess, that we can no

longer justify ourselves to be mere lookers-on, without the courage or curiosity at least to take a step beyond the narrow limits of speculation. Had lawyers to investigate this matter, the proper preliminaries would have been settled long ago—and why should farmers content themselves in a position so far behind their scientific neighbors? Experiments must be appealed to in order to arrive at facts, or this inherited ignorance and uncertainty will be entailed to the last generation. To throw this labor entirely upon others betrays a want of generosity—especially if we invest ourselves in a mere tissue of inferences—and look out through its meshes only to laugh at their efforts and opinions. The few simple facts stated by S. H. Corbin in one of the letters referred to, are worth more than all the arguments that can be deduced from analogies.

The experience of Aaron Shaw corresponds with my own, and I doubt not with that of many others—but I presume he does not claim that the question can be settled alone in that way. His testimony is strongly circumstantial—and circumstances sometimes go far to convict a man—his deductions are fair and plausible, and nothing more. To close these remarks, which are already become too tedious—I would say to A. B. M.'s proposition, any one could publish a challenge as an ample set off to his, incurring just as little danger to his reputation or purse. But as a change of circumstances sometimes sharpens our perceptions, I am quite sure he would not christen it “a very fair chance for the curious.”

WM. B. SPRAGUE.

Coldwater, Jan. 10, 1865.

#### From our Agent—Mr. Perry's Letter.

[MR. JOHNSTONE:—Calling on Mr. R. B. Perry, of Grand Blanc, I was much pleased with some of his efforts in improving his farm, among the most prominent of which is draining. Mr. Perry gave me the following communication for your paper. D.]

I will offer some of my brother farmers a hint that will do them good if they will take it; and that is, on the subject of manure-saving, and draining the holes and puddles around their yards, barns and dwellings. I have frequently seen barn yards from a half acre to an acre in extent, with a low rail fence, and that often half thrown down, with nothing to protect the stock from the sweeping winds but to shift from side to side of the yard, and not always allowed to do that, but obliged to take the windward side; and this too, often within a day's drive from where farmers can get good pine lumber at from five to six dollars per thousand. I do not say that such has not been the case with my own premises. I have lain awake many an hour in a stormy night thinking of my suffering stock, and of the manure scattered from thick to thin, so that it could not have been collected if there had been a disposition to do it; thus spoiling some parts of