

Monday, July 7, 1873.

A Successful Experiment in Teaching Agriculture.

Soon after the close of the war there was formed in Baltimore an association of Friends for the purpose of advising and assisting the colored people in the South. The immediate object was to afford physical relief; but as the continuance of physical want could not be permanent, it was in its causes, the association wisely connected with their beneficence a system of moral, moral, and religious education. Their principal field of labor was in the districts of western North Carolina. In the outset they were met by a difficulty which they overcame, unless indeed we may say overcame, in the way of effectively helping a community, where want of bread and want of intellectual and moral culture extensively prevailed, to rise to a condition where they could support and educate themselves independently of foreign aid. Homes provided with facilities for secular and religious education, taught by adequate means. With a rural population these can be obtained from no source than the soil. But in the section where their advice and skill were most needed, the soil was not the best, nor the most thrifful cultivation, the herds and flocks were of such inferior unremunerative varieties, and the products, notwithstanding all the care and pains taken, did not equal return, but a still further exhaustion of the soil, that, without a change for the better, continued poverty and dependence were inevitable. It was, therefore, in the prevalent notion that the meager products of the land were owing, not to a defective style of farming, but to a worn-out condition of the soil, that the capable and enterprising, especially among the young, emigrated to be restrained only by the want of capital and enterprise, with a view to raise up the disengaging state of things, the association, in 1867, purchased a farm of 200 acres, located at Springfield, on the dividing line between Randolph and Caldwell counties. On this they placed, as their superintendent, an experienced and enterprising farmer, and furnished him with the tools of temperate agriculture, by exemplifying his processes, and by bringing within the reach of the farmers in the region round about the necessary facts and information upon a subject of importance to them. He was expected to conduct his farming operations in such a way as to show to the farmers in the neighborhood the value of improved agricultural machinery and implements and how they are worked; what advantages there are in utilizing all the manure that can be had from the farm, and superadding chemical and other fertilizers, in deep plowing and thorough cultivation in the spring, in the use of manure, in adjusting the fertilizer and crop to each other by rotation and otherwise; in superseding, or at least improving, small, scrubby native cattle, sheep, and hogs, by thoroughbred stock, and in increasing the stock capacity of the farm by the culture of new grasses and other valuable grazing feeders. He was also to be the agent of the association for bringing within the reach of farmers in that locality, and furnishing at cost, or nearly so, selected seeds, improved agricultural implements, and blooded stock, and for organizing agricultural clubs and awakening a spirit of inquiry and enterprise by lectures on farming, and introducing agricultural newspapers, etc. The efforts of this practically benevolent enterprise have equaled the most sanguine anticipations of the association. In the winter following the purchase of the farm, through the agency of its superintendent, many agricultural clubs were organized, nearly four hundred, devoted to agricultural operations, and about two tons of cloverseed were distributed at cost. In 1871 (no reports have come to hand for the intervening years) the superintendent reported not only that the farmers in the individual sections are making rapid strides in agricultural improvement, but that the general heaven is extending from them to the entire country. Among the evidences of this are noted, first, the greatly increased demand for cloverseed. At the time the farm was purchased, throughout the region in want of pasture and hay there was no obstacle in the way of keeping stock to any extent. To meet this want the association made special efforts to procure the introduction of clover. In 1871, in addition to two tons of cloverseed, 100 tons of the best Peruvian guano were forwarded to the superintendent with directions to furnish both the seed and the manure to farmers willing to test them in conjunction. It was found that after once "setting" the clover on established soil with guano there was no necessity for the use of lime. In 1871, as a direct consequence of the example and facilities afforded by the association's farm, over 10,000 acres had been successfully seeded to clover, and the superintendent was confident that the season clover would be largely cultivated on every farm in western North Carolina. A second evidence of a great deal of interest in agricultural improvement was found in the demand for improved agricultural implements. Among those who had furnished well-mown reapers, wheel-rakes, iron and cast-steel plows, observed cultivators, harrows, and other implements, and it was observed that, into whatever neighborhood one of these agricultural materials was introduced, it immediately becomes a silent agent which successfully pleads for the removal of old stone walls and filling ditches, and for the underdraining of too wet fields for horses and machine to pass over. A large amount of underdraining had been done on almost all the farms in miles around. A third evidence was apparent in the increasing numbers who visited the farm for the purpose of seeing what was done, and how it is done. In the spring of 1872, when strangers came in such numbers that it required nearly the whole time of the superintendent to show and explain the improvements they had come to see and learn about.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Organ Contest!

An Account of the Contest of Organs for Mr. C. S. Salsome, Secretary for the Committee:

FIREMAN'S HALL,
Salt Lake City,
June 2d, 1872.

I am authorized by the committee chosen to conduct the contest to inform you that the organ will be in the Fireman's Hall for competition, to inform you that in the recesses following points of ex-

1st—Greatest Volume of Tone.
2d—Purity and Sustained Tone.
3d—Dexterity of Workmanship and its non-liability to get out of order.

After a full and impartial trial, conducted on the most approved plan, it was

Principe Organ carried off at the above point.

And on a final vote being taken of what it was TRAMONTE in FAVOR OF THE PRINCIPE ORGAN, with only one dissenting voice, the organ was awarded to the committee, the whole of them musicians of more or less note, and the instruments used at the trials was a lady piano.

Our goods are kept by Z. C. M. I. at all its branch stores and also by all the Co-operative Stores in the Territory.

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