

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

The following are extracts from the Monthly Report of the Department of Agriculture for April—

Our correspondent in Labetta County, Kansas, states: "I have learned from observation that a cow, when well sheltered and watered, can be kept on less than one-half the feed required when left to the exposure of winter storms."

A very large proportion of the new diseases of cattle, sheep and hogs reported by our correspondents is attributed to lack of shelter, food, and cleanliness, while the loss of horses was considerably enhanced by neglect or ill-treatment, especially in compelling animals to perform labor while in a debilitated condition.

One correspondent emphatically remarks that "wool will not grow on poor and poorly fed sheep; our wool growers have learned this, and are practicing the more profitable method of early and continuous feeding." Another observes: "Long experience has convinced me that little or no disease ever troubles a lot of fat sheep."

PROFIT IN FEEDING SHEEP.—At a recent meeting of the Farmers' Club in Batavia, Genesee County, New York, Mr. George Burt presented the following definite statistics relative to the cost and profit of feeding sheep for fattening: He paid for 200 sheep for fattening, \$915; for keep, two months, \$64; 8 tons of hay at \$16 per ton, \$128; 4 loads of corn-stalks, \$16; 148 bushels of corn, 60 cents per bushel, \$88.80; one barrel of salt, \$3; interest on money invested, \$20.75; total \$1,227.55. January 4, he sold 171 sheep, at 8 cents per pound, \$152.40; 28 at 6 1/2 cents per pound, \$181.79; one pelt, \$1.50; total, \$1,705.69; profit on the 200 sheep, \$478.14.

Mr. Burt holds that sheep, in winter, should be kept in small flocks, less rather than more, than 65 in a flock, in yards where they can have free access, at all times, to water; that they should be kept free from all disturbing or exciting causes; that open sheds are better for them than a close barn; and that it is best to feed grain to them whole.

REMEDY FOR LEECHES IN THE LIVER OF SHEEP.—Our correspondent in Clackamas County, Oregon, having read the description of the symptoms of leeches in the liver of sheep, as given by our correspondent in Lane County, and published on page 521 of the monthly reports for 1872, states that, fifteen or eighteen years ago, a disease prevailed among sheep in Clackamas County, of which the symptoms were in all respects the same, and it was ascertained that they originated in the same cause. The local name by which the disease was then known was "swelled jaw." Hundreds upon hundreds of sheep died of it. After many ineffectual experiments for remedies had been tried, a farmer dissected one of the many sheep which had died out of his flock and found its liver filled with leeches. Among other applications to the living leeches, he tried saleratus, and found that it killed them immediately. He then mixed saleratus with the salt given to the diseased sheep. They soon began to recover. In a short time all were well. The news of the discovered remedy spread. Others tried it with equal success. Within a few months there were no sheep in the region affected with the disease, and since that time our correspondent has never heard of another case in the country.

LARGE PROFITS FROM SMALL FARMS.—We have received from the corresponding secretary of the Farmers' Club at Farmingdale, Queens County, New York, a copy of a paper read before it by its president, J. W. DeLee Ree, the design of which is to show "how a living is made on a twenty-acre farm on Long Island." The steps by which the conclusion is reached are here given in a condensed form. It being premised that small farms prevail on the island, thirty acres being considered enough for a farmer to carry on, with the help of one or two boys, and that the larger farms prove to be less profitable than the smaller in proportion to the acreage, it is represented that ordinarily farms of twenty acres, in the central part of the Island, thirty to forty miles from New York, are worked in the manner and with the results following. When practicable, such a farm is divided into

seven parts, six of which are three-acre-lots for tillage, and the seventh is occupied by the buildings, poultry yard, kitchen-garden, and an orchard of about one hundred and fifty apple and pear trees. Other fruit-trees, such as cherry, are planted by the road-side, and so answer the triple purpose of ornament, shade and fruit. Grass being the great desideratum, a good farmer does not rest satisfied until he makes his fields yield at the rate of two tons to the acre the first year, without much shrinkage for the next two years. With this view rotation is practiced, and usually a six-year course, in the following order: The first year, corn is planted on sod ground, with manure in the hill; the second roots sufficiently manured, to be followed by wheat the third, and by grass the three succeeding. Half the eighteen acres is thus kept in grass, three being broken up each spring, and three seeded down each fall. But, if one acre is planted with (say Early Rose) potatoes, they can be harvested in season to sow the same by the first of August with turnips, yielding four hundred to six hundred bushels. If the farm contains twenty-three acres, another lot and another year is added, corn being planted two years in succession; if twenty-six acres, grass seed is sown when the corn receives its last dressing the second year; the field is grazed one year, then roots, wheat, and grass follow. On a twenty-acre farm, tilled as above described, the crops, well cared for, will average about as follows: three acres of corn, 55 bushels per acre, at 90 cents per bushel, \$148.50; three acres of potatoes (or an equivalent in roots), 200 bushels per acre, at 65 cents per bushel, \$390; three acres of wheat, 25 bushels per acre, at \$1.75 per bushel, \$131.25; nine acres of grass 1 1/2 tons per acre, at \$20 per ton, \$360; profit on two hundred hens kept for eggs, \$1.50 each, \$300; two cows, \$75 each, \$150; on orchard, \$2 per tree, \$300; total, \$1,717.75. Outgoes: for board of team, \$1 per day, \$365; for manure purchased, \$200; interest on farm and buildings, valued at \$3,000, and stock and tools, valued at \$1,000, at 7 per cent., \$280; taxes, 20; total, \$865. This deducted from \$1,717.75 leaves a net profit of \$854.75. Add to this the profits from the garden, the bees, the pigs, &c., and it will give a clear income of about \$18 per week the year round. That is, the judicious and industrious cultivator of a twenty-acre farm receives a salary equal to that of a first-class mechanic, besides the advantages of outdoor instead of indoor labor, of great variety instead of monotonous uniformity in his work, and especially of being his own master, which, to a person of independent, self-reliant spirit, is of no small account. It may be thought that all the hay being reckoned at market value, the profit on the cows is put too high; but the straw and corn fodder, (or their avails,) and what turnips can be raised after a crop of early potatoes, will afford abundant feed for two cows through the winter. There is no cheaper way to keep cows in first-rate order than to raise turnips enough to feed one bushel per day to each through the winter. On some small farms as many as five cows are kept. In that case less hay is cut, and what is chiefly fed out. Consequently more manure is made and less bought. But the more cows the more work in the house, and as the usual aim is to get along without outside help, the sources from which profits are sought on the farm are often regulated by the state of the family in respect to the relative amount of outdoor and indoor help it affords. The fact is not overlooked that all small farms do not yield a profit equal to the above estimate; while some are made to exceed it, others are made only to yield a bare subsistence. But in the latter case the failure can always be traced either to a soil of poorer than average quality, or to a lack of intelligence and aptitude for acquiring it, or a lack of sound judgment, or of industry, or some similar cause.

Polygamy in Massachusetts.

A startling story comes from Boston. A petition has been circulated in Lowell, one of the largest manufacturing towns in Massachusetts, and signed by many of the best married women in the State, for the enactment of a law legalizing polygamic marriages. The petition states in effect that, as the law now

is, many women cannot be married. The census shows that the women now largely outnumber the men, and the inevitable result is that a large number of females are compelled to live single. That prejudice and custom have decided to restrict the husband to a single wife, though, as the petitioners believe, without justice and authority. That the law requiring the husband to have but one wife in cases where the wife does not object, and where the means of the husband are sufficient for the support of more, should be abolished, and that this proposed action will ultimately in the suppression of much of the social evil now so prevalent. This is a strange epoch. Wonders accumulate. To see the descendants of the Puritans petition for polygamy is at least a novelty. And yet this petition is said to be signed by some of the best wives in the State. We wouldn't be so much surprised if the old maids, or even younger ones, who despaired of being wedded, should have united in such a petition, for half a loaf is better than none at all, but we confess ourselves nonplussed when we hear that it is signed by married women.

There is one saving clause in the document, however, which we noted on first reading in it. It is this: The law which they pray may be passed is to provide that the husband shall have more than one wife, provided the wife does not object. This is a very good clause, and if the law should be passed, of which happily there is not the ghost of a chance, its provisions would be appropriated by very few people in Massachusetts.

There are in all the most Eastern States large numbers of women who have no opportunities of marriage. Two things conspire to produce this result; first, the numerical superiority of the women, and second, and greatest, the extravagance of the present day. Few young men can afford to marry. The style of dress and living is so expensive that few have sufficient income to support the establishment required by society people, and young men who unmarried can upon moderate salaries dress well, live well, have a pew in church and mingle in the best society, shrink from the prospect of being deprived of these by marriage. When the cost of living shall be lessened, the extravagance of the present be succeeded by a period when to live within one's income will be popular, there will be more marriages and happier ones.—*Gold Hill News.*

Correspondence.

HOTEL DES ETRANGERS,
Athens, Greece, April 10, 1873.

President Brigham Young.

Dear Brother—Our short stay of four days at Constantinople gave us but little time to form an acquaintance with a people so reserved and exclusive in their domestic affairs as are the Turks. The more we examined the city, the more we appreciated its fine situation. The quarters called Galata and Pera, between the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus, are being built up much in the European style. Many parts of Constantinople proper, called Stamboul, have been burned at different periods; and much of the remainder would be improved by clearing off the old rickety wooden buildings, widening and straightening the streets and erecting more slightly and substantial buildings. Its population, including immediate suburbs, is stated to be 1,078,000, and under a liberal government, it would become one of the largest commercial cities in the world.

Its possession has been fiercely contested within the period of history, it being recorded to have been besieged twenty-four times, and taken six times. The Latin Crusaders under Dandolo, the blind Doge of Venice, in 1203, conquered and pillaged this city, not even sparing the tombs of the Emperors. The sacred ornaments of the Church of St. Sophia were carried to Venice. Its final conquest, by Sultan Mahmood 2nd, was in 1451. The Mosque of St. Sophia, stripped of its images, its crosses and paintings mutilated, remains in good presentation to this day, four stately minarets having been erected to give it the character and appearance of a Mosque. To build that church Justinian had plundered the temples of Asia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. It measures 235 feet north and south, by 350 east and west, and was built in the Byzantine style. When it was taken by the Turks it was filled with a worshipping congregation of frightened men, women, and children, who hoped they would be protected and their lives preserved in the church; history states they were massacred in the building by the soldiers. Our guide told us that a clergyman was performing service at the time, and was but half through; that the marble opened when the Turks entered, and enclosed the minister and his boy assistant; and that when the Christians again take the building, the marble will open, and the priest and boy

come out and finish the service. The guide did not seem to credit the legend, but said it was believed by many.

A considerable portion of the inhabitants of Constantinople are Greeks. Gen. Baker, the American Minister, with whom we had a pleasant interview, stated that the Turks at the present were far more tolerant towards the Christians than the Christians are towards each other. He expected to soon receive instructions to sign a protocol which will authorize American citizens to purchase and hold real estate, and enjoy the rights and protection of citizens.

We called on the German Minister, and were courteously entertained.

We witnessed the procession of the Sultan going to the Mosque on Friday, the Turkish Sunday, accompanied by his son. A magnificent boat richly gilt, with a highly ornamented throne under a canopy, rowed by 26 oarsmen, a smaller boat with the son, rowed past seven steamships of war, formed in line, with their masts and rigging covered with men; during the time 21 guns were fired by the ships; he was received, at the mosque, by some 1200 infantry, and a large number of officers in gay uniform; he stepped from the boat to the platform, and walked up the steps into the mosque. On his return the firing was omitted.

Constantinople is somewhat remarkable for a large number of very fine horses, well fed and cared for.

On our visit to the Sweet Waters we saw hundreds of carriages, a large number of which contained Turkish ladies, only their eyes unveiled, though most of the veils were thin. The turn-outs were most of them first class, the sexes of the natives riding separately.

On the morning of the 5th we went on board the steamship *Mars*, and arrived at Syra on the evening of the 6th, where brother and sister Snow, bro. Carrington and myself reshipped on the steamship *Wien*, while brother Little and daughter, and brother Jennings, not wishing to visit Greece, stayed on the *Mars* on their way to Trieste and Venice, expecting to stop a day or two at Venice, from which place brother Little and daughter purpose proceeding to England.

We arrived at Piræus, the port of Athens, and having a beautiful landlocked harbor, on the morning of the 7th.

On the 8th visited the temple of Jupiter Olympus; sixteen of the original 120 columns are standing; a fallen one shows the mode of their construction; also the arch of Hadrian near by, which formerly was on the line between the city of Theseus and the city of Hadrian, who reigned in Rome A. D. 118. Then drove to the monument of Lysicrates, said to be the most ancient monument in the Corinthian style, B. C. 335. Then to the Dionysiac theatre, on the east corner of the south-east slope of the Acropolis, built B. C. 340. Then to the odeum of Herodes; from there the guide pointed out the so-called museum hill, the prison of Socrates, the Pnyx, and Mars Hill, all near by. Then to the propylean entrance to the temples on the Acropolis; on the left was the pedestal of the statue of Agrippa; to the right the ruins of the temple of Nike Apteros, or victory without wings, erected in honor of the Greek victory at Marathon; from thence the guide pointed out the island of Salamis, and the straits of Salamis where the Greeks defeated the Persians in a naval battle. We then went into the Parthenon, or temple of the Virgin; then to a point where we had a fine view over Athens, and much of the surrounding country. Then to the Erechtheum, a temple just north of the Parthenon, and near the north wall of the Acropolis. Then we drove to the Pnyx, and stood on the stone platform, from which it is said Demosthenes and others used to address the people assembled in the open air. Then we drove to the temple of Theseus, in which are many specimens of statuary more or less injured, and many other antiques. Then to an old cemetery recently laid bare in part, where are some fine specimens of burial monuments. Then we were shown one side of the magazine of Hadrian, which had some fine columns. Then an ancient market-gate, near which was a stone column on which was chiseled an ancient price list. Then the temple of Eolus, or the winds, and from thence to the hotel, after an interesting and instructive out of nearly four hours.

Last evening, agreeable to invitation, we took tea at the American Minister's, and spent some two and a half hours very agreeably.

This city is said to contain 45,000 inhabitants, and Piræus 11,000, the two connected by a five mile railroad, the only one in Greece. There are two other good, small harbors near the Piræus.

Christian religions are tolerated, but no proselyting is allowed, except to the established oriental Greek Church. The king, though a Lutheran, has his children baptized by immersion by the Greek Patriarch, constituting them members of the Greek Church, as is their Russian mother.

The orange trees are loaded with ripening fruit, and are both useful and ornamental. What our guide called pepper trees are much used for shade, and are very handsome.

Only a small part of Greece can be cultivated; the residue being mountainous and swampy. Barley is headed out, and looks very luxuriant. The beef is excellent, also the butter and honey. One thinks of these things after being some weeks in Turkey. It is asserted that there is no brigandage in Greece now; as an evidence, we are told if we were to visit the field of Marathon, or take a drive in the regions adjacent to this city, we must give a day's notice, and a guard of soldiers will be sent with us at the expense of the government, which at least shows a determination to protect travelers.

I have not seen an American flag in the Mediterranean, but yesterday I met the admiral of the U. S. Mediterranean fleet, and the Captain of the *Wabash* and several other officers of the U. S. navy. They told me there were six U. S. ships of war in the Mediterranean, but for some time past they

had been off the coast of Spain, watching American interests there. The *Wabash* and another ship are now in Greek waters.

When Athens contained 500,000 inhabitants, with the temples on the Acropolis in their splendor, it was probably worth visiting, especially if men spent their time as St. Paul describes in Acts, chapter 17. The ruins show an extensive knowledge of architecture and the mechanic arts. An immense Venetian tower somewhat disfigures the outlines of the Acropolis. There are marks on the columns of the Parthenon of the cannonade during the war of Greek independence, and there is a pile of shells and cannon balls near the propylea or entrance to the temples.

Though not with you in person at the Conference, we were with you in spirit; and while traveling to acquire general information and improve health, we exercise our faith by constant prayer to our Father in Heaven, that a double portion of the Holy Spirit may rest upon you and President Wells, and all the Priesthood of Zion, and feel confident that Zion's cause is daily strengthening, while Satan's kingdom is growing more rotten and divided.

Our party all unite with me in a hearty God bless you and all Israel.

GEORGE A. SMITH.

The following is a portion of a letter from President Geo. A. Smith to a member of his family—

HOTEL AU GRAND PARIS, VERONA,
Italy, April 20th, 1873.

We were five days on the water between Athens and Trieste; we spent all day Sunday on the steamer in the harbor of Syra, waiting for the arrival of the *Jupiter* from Constantinople, and changed to it late in the evening; it was dark and the water somewhat rough, and the process of changing steamers in a small boat was somewhat difficult, but was made without accident.

We have had exceeding fine weather at sea, being altogether some fifteen days since we left Brindisi en route for Egypt, and I feel to speak well of the Austrian Lloyd steamers, slow and poking as they go, paddle, paddle, they carry us safely around. For about fourteen hours after I left Syra I was sea-sick, after which my disposition to cast up accounts ceased; this was caused by a fresh breeze ahead. We spent our day at Trieste, partly rainy, in visiting the wonders of that commercial port of the Austrian empire. A number of steamers and a great number of sailing vessels are constantly there. The Austrian government is building an immense ship of war, the largest of her navy, which looks like a floating palace, and seems to be a heavy drain on the Imperial treasury for very little purpose. The streets are well paved, mostly with good square stone blocks, which contrast finely with the rough, narrow, ill paved streets of Turkish cities. Our hotel de ville was good, but we had to go up five flights of marble steps to the last floor, they saying they had to put us there because they had 300 guests. We visited an old cathedral very richly furnished and decorated, the columns being clothed in red velvet jackets. We also visited an old Roman tower, a collection of marbles recently dug out of the ground, the dock-yard of the Austrian Lloyd's Co., where was the iron frame of a large steamer in course of construction. This company are said to have 80 steamships afloat, and purpose increasing to 100.

On the morning of the 19th we took car for Verona, passed through a very delightful country in a high state of cultivation, producing a great variety of choice things. It seemed a pleasant change to again get on a railroad; we had to change cars twice during the day, and at one station had our baggage examined by the custom officers of Victor Emanuel; they were very polite and gave us as little trouble as possible consistent with their duties. We have had no occasion to find fault with the treatment of customs officers during our journey, and I have only once been asked to show my passport, which was on landing in Egypt.

Ever since I landed in Palestine I have been exceedingly free from colds, affections of the throat, and rheumatic affection in my shoulder and arm, of which I complained last winter, in Utah; the affection of the throat that I complained of at Corfu soon passed away. Sight-seeing is hard work, and I am heavy, and tire out without being able to accomplish as much as I would like to. It takes considerable time to form acquaintance with the people and institutions of any country we visit, and on that account our acquaintance is necessarily limited.

This place is one of the four which were at the angles of what was termed the "quadrilateral"; it was anciently fortified by the Roman emperors; portions of their walls and gates remain to the present. In 1815 it was in possession of the Austrians who fortified it with the greatest care and skill they possessed. From a hill in a highly cultivated garden we had a view of the positions of these forts, which seem to have done them very little good in maintaining their supremacy in Italy. In plain sight from the hill was the field of Solferino, where Napoleon 3rd and Francis Joseph of Austria contested in a great battle, engaging some 400,000 men on both sides; the result ceded this region to Victor Emanuel, and it now belongs to the kingdom of Italy. We also had a view of another great battle field of 1866, between the Austrians and Italians, and, though the Austrians were victorious, the Italians, being the allies of Prussia, secured, as the result of this campaign, the cession of Venetia, and Italian unity. We visited the old Roman Amphitheatre, a large portion of which is still preserved; the marble seats now remaining would seat over 20,000 people, and when perfect it was said to accommodate, sitting and standing, some 75,000; it is said to have been built somewhere between A. D. 80 and 284. We have also visited several fine gardens, in one of them was said to be the tomb of Romeo, the fabled hero of one of Shakespeare's plays.

We take rail at 5 in the morning, and cross the Alps at the Brenner pass, going through twenty-three tunnels between here and Innspruch, and will arrive in Munich, Bavaria, about 10 p. m. We expect to meet Sister Schettler there, and receive more news from home. We are all well. Expect to go to Vienna about the 1st of May.