

MINNEAPOLIS ADVERTISER
K. G. BARNARD, EDITOR
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1870

The Farm and Home.

Study the Nature of the Soil.

A knowledge of the chemical and geological sciences is of great advantage to a farmer in successfully conserving his labor, and an intelligent observer can secure a good knowledge of the nature of the soil in ten years, and know her little if any of exact science. Without studying anatomy or physiology, the farmer obtains, by observation, a knowledge of the peculiarities of his animal. He learns how to feed his pigs so as to fatten them more rapidly and probably, how to supply nutrients to his cows so as to cause a copious supply of milk, and he learns the temper and habits of his horses and oxen, and accordingly controls them to his advantage. Why should he not learn by observation the nature and capabilities of his fields, and be able to a great extent to feed them to obtain the highest and best crop results from year to year? Any farmer, from ten or even five years' observation, can ascertain the extent to which his different fields are retentive of moisture. He must learn how well they withstand the droughts or the protected wet of summer, but different regions where the rain-fall is annual or copious, in the growing season!

Physically considered, some farms are not adapted to the raising of corn and perhaps some other grains. Corn withstands drouths better than almost any other cereal, but that fact affords no reason why it can be raised to advantage on loose, dry soils. Weak, puny corn can be raised in a sand bank; but foolish indeed would a farmer be to plant his corn in such a locality. Corn requires a good, retentive soil, a good fine loam, in which to grow in perfection, and if the owner of lands has no such, let him not attempt to grow it. His fields are better adapted to melons, beans, rye or perhaps wheat. It is useless to attempt to force corn or any of the noble grains to grow upon naturally wet or low clay bottom lands, without thorough drainage and deep tillage. Such are better adapted to grass farms, if kept in good tilth, are the most profitable of any. Every cultivator of the soil must first become acquainted with the physical character of each parcel he has under his charge, and then he will know what crops are adopted to the several localities.

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Top-Dressing Wheat.

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SNAKE AND FERTILIZER.—H. J. C., in a letter to the Ohio Farmer upon the subject of shade as a fertilizer, makes the following true and very sensible remarks:

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PROBABLY.—Should it rain next week we are likely to have wet weather; but if, on the contrary, it fails or dry weather will probably be the consequence.

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