

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDNERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

OLD INSCRIPTIONS

Besides giving individual names to farms and places of residence which is a very commendable practice—our remote ancestors were much addicted to putting inscriptions of various kinds in prominent places on their dwellings.

At Alwick is an old inn, now, I believe, dislicensed, which has this quaint inscription in rhyme: That which your Father Old hath purchased and left You to possess, do your duty Hold, to show his worthiness.

In the ancient town of Hexham stands another inn, the Tanners Arms, a very old building with a somewhat defaced inscription over the door, of a strong theological bent—quite unusual for a tavern.

Reason doth wonder, but faith he tell can That a maid was a mother and God was a man.

Let reason look down and faith see the wonder For faith sees above and reason sees under.

Reason doth wonder what by Scripture is meant, Which saith that Christ's body is our Sacrament;

That our bread is his body and our drink is his blood, Which cannot by reason be well understood;

For faith sees above and reason below, For faith can see more than reason doth know.

There is at Shortley Bridge, a village in County Durham an old house with the date 1691 above the door. The house was built by a colony of Germans who set up in the village as sword makers, and bears an inscription in old German.

Und dust was dir befohlen ist. This is translated: "God's blessing maketh rich—without worry or care—if you at the same time are true and industrious in your work and do as you are bidden." A fine motto, even for the present day!

Another old house, whose locality has escaped my mind, proclaimed: "God's Providence Is My Inheritance."

And over the blacksmith's house, at Pickering's Neuk (Nook), was a stone with "Bill Ople, 1841, Erutto Thedne" cut on it. This was a puzzle to the rustic, but reads, by transposition, "true to the end." Although this was comparatively modern, no questioning could elicit the meaning of the phrase.

A great many inscriptions consisted merely of the builders initials and the date, reserving the more exalted flights of imagination for the epitaph on the tombstone. A house, occupied by the writer's great uncle, had "W 16 () 69 H" cut in the stone mantle over the fire place. Tradition had preserved the name as William Harrison, and dividing the date was a central boss-like ornament. This house was noteworthy as being built with finely squared stones, plentifully bespoken with "Masons marks"—triangles, angle-armed crosses, etc.

A bridge over the Devil's Water, about two miles from Hexham, apostrophizes the builder or donor thus: God preserve Winifolds Erection Bellidete This bridge Of Lyme And stone . . . 1581

That is: "God preserve Humphrey Erection (who) builded this bridge of lime and stone, fifteen hundred and eighty one."—a triple rhyme, be it noticed. Builded was a past tense in those days. (Genesis 4-17.)

On the vertical sundial on the south side of Lanchester church is an inscription in Latin Ut Hora Sic Vita: "As an hour, so is life."

It will be noted that the sentiments of these engravings are eminently praiseworthy. It is only when we approach those emblems of mortality, the tombstone, that a ludicrous element creeps in. The second oldest stone in Tanfield (Co. Durham) churchyard, bears the words in very large letters as a sort of

Matter of Comparison New Fruit For The Maritimes

(Experimental Farms Note)

There are large collections of ornamental plants at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, in which the newer varieties are compared with the old. It often is found that a high priced new variety is no better, if as good, as some very old variety. A great many new varieties of irises, for instance, have been introduced in recent years but only a few justify the price charged for them.

From the little churchyard at Shotley Field, a village in the upper reaches of the Derwent, (also in the same county) I cull the following: the epitaph of the village blacksmith (1792): "My anvil and hammer lies declined, My bellows have quite lost their wind, My vice is in the dust all laid, My coals is spent, my iron gone, My nails are drove, my work is done, My mortal part rests nigh this stone, My soul to heaven I hope is gone."

Many of the church bells had inscriptions. One at Bywell on Tyne proclaims in Latin "Vocor Horn"—I am called Horn and I summon the lie-abeds (jackets) that the people may rise."

All too soon this note must be concluded, not however, from want of material. There is just room for another inscription.

A Scottish peer was showing an American millionaire over a Highland estate, which the man of money proposed to buy. When they reached the mansion the American noticed, over the entrance the words: "East, West, Home's Best."

Turning to the owner, he remarked "Well, my lord, I like the place, and I think I'll buy it; but there's one stipulation I must make."—pointing to the motto—"That fellow Hame has got to take down his advertisement!"

Divination For Water

Last year the Water Diviners held a Congress at Verona, in Italy, and whatever others think of them and their art, they certainly took themselves very seriously, and put forward a number of theories to account for their ability to "douse." Dr. Arnold, a Swiss, told of the radio-active effect of certain underground waters and their effect on the health of animals and human beings.

Dr. Beyer, a German, considered that the water finder acted as a human electro-magnetic receiving apparatus, influenced by the course of the hidden streams. The Italian professor Cazzamelli that the human brain was vitally concerned in the phenomenon, and Dr. Cusi of Verona maintained that anything "radiating electro-magnetic energy" produced contradictions of the muscles which resulted in the movement of the divining rod.

Rhabdromancy (to give the scientific title) or "dousing," the art of discovering subterranean waters by the indications given by a rod or twig carried in the hand, is a very ancient practice. Notices of it crop up now and again for the last two hundred years, and in my own time I have read of a native of the British Isles who was an adept in water-finding and whose services were engaged by one of the larger municipalities in Spain. Their engineers had bored several wells without result; but on sinking a shaft as directed by the "douser"—it is spelt both ways—a copious supply of water was tapped.

This effort was so well received that the douser was invited to other towns to exercise his art, and it may be assumed had a very profitable trip.

All this looks convincing; but we must not overlook the fact that a considerable section of the public are incredulous as to the practicability of the art. They just cannot see what connection there is between water under the ground and a twig above it.

On the old principle of "trying anything once," I myself had a try at "rhabdromancy," that is to say, I armed myself with a hazel twig, forked and held as required by all true dousers—you must not hold it any old way—and so equipped, traversed ground of all descriptions. The twig gave no twist, even when it was carried over a well. But that proves nothing; maybe I hadn't the right kind of twig, or wasn't holding it right, or hadn't the right kind of electro-magnetic receptivity, or something! So I put "dousing" on a mental shelf, along with phrenology, telepathy, hypnotism and several others isms, there to rest till I know more about them.

A stormy Time On Sunday night, February 12th.

Matter of Comparison New Fruit For The Maritimes

(Special To The Guardian)

ST. JOHN, Feb. 23—Canadians are going to have an opportunity of trying out a new fruit "Litchi" a consignment of which is on its way to Saint John from South Africa, according to Canadian National officials here. The fruit is rounded about one and one half inches in diameter with a thin brittle red shell having rough protuberances. The Litchi or Lee Chee by which name the fruit is known in the Orient is a native of Southern China and one of the most important indigenous fruits. It is also cultivated in India and an organization has been formed in South Africa to develop the fruit in the Union. The tree bears large compound leaves with two to four pairs of leathery, lanceolate leaflets about three inches in length and panicles of small flowers without petals. This is the first time the fruit will have ever made its appearance on the North American continent. It is frequently made into preserves. Considerable curiosity has been aroused locally in the new addition to fruit edibles and when the Litchis are placed on the market not a few will be on hand to try it.

The prices of peonies drop more slowly than those of irises and some of the good ones can scarcely be called of newer introduction nevertheless a few of the best double varieties have come down considerably in price in recent years are: Le Cygne, Solange, Madame Jules Dessert, Therese, Tourangelle, Walter Faxon, Sarah Bernhardt, Longfellow and Kelway's Glorious.

Great advances have been made in Delphiniums in recent years. The most economical plan is to sow seed from the best named varieties and among the seedlings will usually be found some outstanding sorts.

Controlling Swine Parasites

(Experimental Farms Note)

All classes of domesticated animals harbour numerous kinds of parasites and swine in particular are liable to infestation with very large numbers of these pests. The chief and most harmful parasite affecting swine is the round intestinal worm. These worms interfere materially with the absorption of food, irritate the lungs and stunt the growth. In the early stages of their development they travel through the blood stream to the lungs, are coughed up, then swallowed and pass to the intestines. Infection with worms causes coughing, pneumonia, or other lung congestions, which are fatal in many cases, and the pigs which survive are apt to be stunted and prove unprofitable fanners. Pigs heavily infested with worms become paunchy, have rough coats, may snuffle and run at the nose and eyes, and show signs of general unthriftiness. The losses from worms are great enough to make it advisable for the pig raiser to spend considerable time and effort in avoiding them.

Small pigs get the worm eggs from the udder of the sow or from the floor or walls of the pen, probably within a few days after birth. Preventive measures will go a long way in eliminating the trouble and cleanliness cannot be too strongly recommended. This should start at the time the sow is prepared for farrowing. At the Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe, Alberta, before the sows are put into their farrowing house, the house is thoroughly washed with a strong hot lye solution (1 pound of lye to 30 gallons of water), scrubbing the floors, troughs and walls well. The lye solution is best for the removal of worm eggs. Needless to say the work must be well done. If cracks and corners are neglected, bad results are almost sure to follow. Three weeks previous to farrowing the sow is well starved and given a reliable worm remedy in order to rid the intestinal tract of worms. Just previous to putting the sow in the clean farrowing pen she is washed off with warm soap suds and a stiff brush to remove any worm eggs which may be adhering to the skin or hair. These measures protect the pigs to weaning age. At weaning time the pigs are given access to a clean lot or pasture which is known to be uncontaminated.

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Horse Memoirs

(C. E. MacKenzie)

CLYDESDALES C. E. MacKenzie The writer of memoirs in the article on our drafters confined himself to imported horses and in this article it is thought that it might be of interest to our older readers to give a brief account of the Sons of Barrister and Crown Rights as these horses were perhaps longer in the stud here than any other two draft horses brought out in recent years.

Of course when Barrister came to Prince Edward Island we did not have very many pure bred draft horses here hence we had many of this horse's sons standing for service. Honest Tom was one of Barrister's later and oldest sons. He was if I am correctly informed, bred by Robert Longworth and owned by Mr. Neil Stewart, Harrington. Tom was a nice blocky horse, weighing about sixteen hundred pounds and his stock while, perhaps they might be considered uneven, that is to say, some were large, others were on the small side but considering the class of mares then in the country one could not expect an even lot of colts from any horse. Bay Tom, bred by Mr. Duncan Martin, Brackley Point Road and afterwards owned by R. A. MacKenzie, Cavendish, while not as large as Honest Tom, was a nice turned low down fellow that proved a splendid stock horse. He was from a Stockman and Saldin mother that could show a three minute clip. Diamond Barrister was a low set horse that bred back to the shire blood, having the shire feet and legs. He was owned by the late John Diamond, Winslow.

French Barrister, who was bred and owned by W. H. Hogan, Hope River, had as his name implies, a Flying Frenchman mother. He was a trappy general purpose horse, weighing about thirteen hundred and fifty pounds and his stock made very good farm horses. Steads Barrister was a horse very like his sire, only much smaller and his stock were much sought after by horse dealers in the Maritimes. They had plenty of stamina, were low set and suited our inter-Maritime trade. This horse one can be safe in saying, sired more stock than did any other son of Barrister.

Young Barrister, whose dam was Myosotis, a daughter of the famed McGregor in fact, if I mistake not by the late Franklin Boyer, Bunbury. This horse showed more Clyde than did many other sons of Barrister. He did good service in many parts of Queens County and today anyone having a drafter breeding back to Young Barrister has a real drafter. Admiral Dewey, a grey son of Barrister from a Fitzburgis Stockman, Trainers grey bred dam proved a good horse, whose stock made real drafters.

If one were to measure a horse's usefulness by the number of prize winners and high priced stock the crown of Barrister's sons would go to Lord Aberdeen, owned by Mr. William Auld, Kingston. This horse whose dam was sired by Trojan, grand dam by Stockman and great grand dam by Columbus was a beautiful dark bay horse weighing over seventeen hundred. Aberdeen was a prize winner on many occasions as was his dam and his colts for many years brought honors to Kingston and surrounding districts as a look over the prize list of our provincial exhibitions will verify. There were not only provincial winners but when imported to the other Maritime Provinces took the lion's share of the prize money wherever shown. Kingston and vicinity is noted for its good farm and draft horses and a great deal of this may be credited to Lord Aberdeen Barrister Champion was another worthy son of a worthy sire. He was bred by MacKinley Brothers, North River, and had two crosses of Barrister, his great grandmother also sired by Barrister. This horse was sold when two years old

and if I mistake not went to one of the Maritimes. Crown Rights, while not so successful in the show ring as Barrister, was a successful horse in the stud. Having an advantage over the earlier importations, Crown Rights was used on a number of imported Clyde mares whose colts were kept for breeding purposes. He also had the advantage of having the daughters of Barrister and his sons as well as daughters of other pure bred sires to breed from, hence one would look for a more distinctive class of Clydesdales.

Crown Rights sons during service on Prince Edward Island were Prince of the Crown, Crown Jewel, Crown Gem, Gowan Prince, Orphan Jack and others that I am unable to name at the present time.

All these sires did much to improve the cart horse blood of the province and today we have a class of pure bred mares either from imported dams or having been graded up as well as a class of grade mares that are second to none in Canada. An instance being the winning over all comers of Mr. W. J. Gibson's filly at Maritime fairs during the season of 1931.

In fact from Columbus down to our present sires, Prince Edward Island has been fortunate indeed in her importations of draft horses. Additional information has been handed the writer regarding earlier draft horses. Ekham Waggoner was another good Shire horse that made good. The writer's informant stated that the best pair of horses he ever bred were by this horse; he was owned by Mr. McGregor, Montague, and good for service in the earlier years of the present century.

Another reminder or rather a correction was in regard to the ownership of the Suffolk Punch stallion Challenger. This horse was owned by the late Montague Gardiner in place of Mr. Huestis as stated in the article on Suffolk Punch horses.

While Challenger was a splendid type of cart horse, he developed a vicious temper and at times was extremely hard to handle—in fact Mr. Gardiner was about the only man for the job. Having owned him so long and knowing his peculiarities he could foretell when Challenger would "act up" and on many occasions when exhibiting him he would turn one of these tantrums into an exhibition of what one would call horse sense. When Challenger would show indications of temper, Mr. Gardiner would say: "Now Challenger, that's the boy, kick up your heels and show your paces," and bystanders would applaud and remark what an intelligent animal Challenger was and Mr. Gardiner was considered a master hand as an animal instructor. I am also credibly informed that Mr. Gardiner's grandson is the proud owner of a photo of this noted horse.

Still another reader has given me additional facts regarding Barrister which I am pleased to pass on to Guardian readers.

In speaking of Honest Tom, the sire of Bounce, the dam of Barrister, this horse was considered one of the best Shires ever owned in England, an evidence of this the price paid for him when he was fourteen years old, was five hundred guineas, which would amount to two thousand six hundred and twenty five dollars in Canadian money.

Barrister was shown four times in 1880 in the Old Country, winning prizes every time and at Halifax in 1881 and St. John 1883 as well as at Charlottetown he repeated his Old Country record by being placed first.

From the above it would only be reasonable to suppose that many sons of this noted horse would be kept for breeding purposes and as my informant says, where the pedigrees of an exceptionally good team of horses is looked up, one

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can in almost every case trace it direct, or through one of his colts to Barrister.

In fact as a matter of course we can look for this and as for his great worth to the country one can in duty say, as is often said, of great men, "Those who build their monuments are those of a later generation."

Thus we have a general consensus of opinion of this great horse and no doubt Barristers and his sons stock have brought more money to this province than those of any other sire or family.

A Suggestion Colonel (in crowded train): "I say, porter, we're packed like sardines here. Can you not do anything to relieve us?" Porter: "Try numbering off from the right, and let the odd numbers breathe in while the even numbers breathe out."—Northern Daily Telegram.

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By George McManus

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