

From the American Agriculturist.
Civilization and Animals.

Mr. Holley, of Hull Co., Nebraska Territory, writes to the Agriculturist that, during the first years of his residence in that Territory, he industriously killed off the wolves and foxes in one year destroying over 170. Later he finds that the hares and rabbits have increased to such an extent as to prove very troublesome to his young trees—having, in the absence of their natural enemies, multiplied without hindrance. The efforts of civilization are constantly tending to destroy the natural condition of things, wherein one tribe of animals holds the other in check, so that neither predominates. By destroying the natural food of animals, they prey upon the crops. We even change the climate by clearing away forests to make room for crops. One generation bares the earth of forests, and the next engages in planting trees. We do not mean to recommend the preservation of wolves and foxes to keep the rabbits and hares in check, but allude to this case for the purpose of calling attention to another in which the natural balance is destroyed, to the serious injury of the farmer and gardener—viz: the promiscuous destruction of the birds. In the older portions of the country especially, the insect-eating birds are disappearing, while the insects, their natural food, are increasing with alarming rapidity. Almost every village contains a number of over-grown boys, who, "old enough, big enough (and ought) to know better," go about with guns, and, under the pretence of hunting, shoot at everything that has feathers. We have no patience with these promiscuous bird-killers, and when we see one of the lazy louts banging away at everything from a sparrow up to a robin, we think that the bird is the nobler animal of the two, for that is fulfilling the object of its creation, while the featherless biped is destroying the farmers' friends. We have laws that certain "game birds" shall be shot only at particular seasons. Why not have a law that other birds shall not be shot at all? At all events let there be such a law of public opinion, that these wanton destroyers of useful birds shall be considered in the light with fruit thieves and other pests.

YIELD OF FLAX PER ACRE.—From 94 acres of the McKee farm in Washington Co., N. Y., sown with flax last year, there were obtained 91 bushels of seed, and 4,228 pounds of lint. The seed was sold for \$2.87 1/2c. per bushel, and the dressed flax at 25 1/2c. per pound, making the product of an acre \$141. The cost for dressing the flax was 24c. per pound, or \$11.13 per acre.

IS OLD SEED WHEAT BEST?—To this question, asked in a previous number of the American Agriculturist, several correspondents have answered "Yes"; none says no. D. Steck, Lycoming Co., Pa., writes thus: "Our experience here is, that after three or four years, wheat begins to degenerate or 'run out,' or rather it becomes more susceptible to injury from insects. The smooth varieties of white wheat having failed, the bearded white chaff Mediterranean was introduced; but in a few years this became subject to the Hessian fly, or to the Midge, equally with the white, previously used; and now the indications are that the 'Lancaster' or Red Mediterranean introduced three years ago, will after the same fate. But of some seed of the white Mediterranean saved the second year after its introduction, and sowed three years later, the crop was equal to the original, while new seed from that grown five years in succession was nearly all destroyed by insects. It is certain that seed wheat will keep good three years (and I know not how much longer), especially if it be kept dry, in the chaff or unthreshed, and free from the attacks of rats and mice."

W. H. Yale, of New Haven Co., Conn., says: "In the Spring of 1851 I tried salt on wheat. The first piece, about an acre, was part of an orchard, marked off into ten paces. I sowed salt on alternate lands using five bushels per acre, and harvested it in with the wheat. On these lands the grain ripened sooner, was larger, and free from rust. The next year the salted part yielded twice as much hay as the other portion. The second piece, of two acres, had been planted with corn the year before on the sod, and was badly infested with

grubs. They had destroyed much corn, and also greatly injured the wheat. On the alternate lands, treated with salt, the wheat headed out a week earlier, and the yield was doubled.

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The Sentinel will continue to represent and stand by the regular organizations of the Democratic party, State and National; sustain the principles and policy they shall avow, and support the candidates they may nominate.

We have no agents. The low prices for subscription will not allow it. We therefore ask our Democratic friends—all who desire the success of sound principles—to aid in the extension of the circulation of the Sentinel, Daily and Weekly, until they shall at least reach every Democratic family in Indiana. The press is a most important agent in directing right the public mind, and all that is needed to give the Democratic party permanent rule is the enlightenment of the people as to its principles and policy. It shall be our aim, with all the ability we possess, to faithfully advocate Democratic sentiments and measures, for we believe that in so doing we best promote the true interests of the country.

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