

HAMMONTON!

A Few Facts Concerning It.

Mr. Editor: When I came to this country, being in the winter season, the general aspect of the land had to me such a sandy and barren appearance. It was a long time before I could convince myself that the soil was good for anything; soils of the same general appearance being really good for nothing in the north British Provinces from which I came. After a few months had run their course, however, after the genial spring (which sets in here early in the month of March) had dispersed the chilling frosts of winter which are never very severe in this country, I found that the soil with all its sandy appearance was good for something; that in fact it very readily responded to a moderate share of cultivation and manuring; that everything had a very rapid growth, far beyond what I had witnessed in countries farther north with a heavier soil, and apparently much more fertile.

As already stated the soil here very readily responds to a fair amount of cultivation and fertilizing. It requires a little manure often, but not more in the aggregate than would be required in a clayey, heavy soil, to produce a good crop. And let it be always borne in mind that less than one half the labor necessary in working a heavy soil is sufficient here to make it yield successfully. One horse will till as much land in this place, as could possibly be accomplished in a different kind of soil with a pair of horses.

The land in South Jersey is principally adapted for fruit growing purposes, and in average good years more can be made from the soil in growing fruit than in any other way; yet it is highly adapted for farming purposes. With a considerable degree of culture and fertilizing it can grow very good wheat, a first quality rye, good corn at all seasons, potatoes of all varieties. As for sweet potatoes both in quantity and quality, I should think they were unsurpassed the world over; the nature of the soil being such as to produce them dry and nutritious even as flour itself. In rare instances 300 bushels have been produced to the acre; and from 150 to 200 bushels can generally be obtained.

Clover readily takes root in this soil. Now and in its first year's tillage, by putting upon it from 20 to 30 bushels of lime per acre, will grow good clover with rye or any other grain. And this is the way in which large portions of farms in this place ought to be disposed of; because in the absence of sufficiency of other manures, the land by this method would soon fertilize itself. In this more genial climate vegetable matters ploughed down decompose in far less time than in countries farther north. In our North British Provinces green sod must be ploughed down the year before, in order that the first crop may get the benefit of it, but here decomposition is so quick that it is sufficient to plough soil in at the time of sowing the crop and the full benefit derived therefrom is quite available for that crop.

Hitherto settlers in this region have given their chief attention to the cultivation of fruit but although some years the profits realized in this way are greater than could otherwise be obtained, yet as a permanent thing, taking one year with another, it is thought that by laying out a larger portion of small farms in grass and clover, which would enable the farmer to keep more stock, would in the long run remunerate even better than the method first spoken of. The healthfulness of our climate in South Jersey is scarcely to be excelled anywhere. Having abundance of clear, pure water to drink, and a pure bracing air to breathe, and extremes of temperature being far less than in many other places, the mercury in winter very rarely going down to zero, and not being hotter here in summer than it is in the month of August in more northern countries, all these circumstances conduce largely to make this place healthy. Chills and fever in this central or inland part of South Jersey are scarcely known; and if brought here exist but a short time. Many cases of persons far gone in consumption have been cured here. Very aggravated and long standing cases of asthma have been thoroughly cured. Sufferings from rheumatism have been greatly alleviated. Chronic dyspepsia has been cured times almost without number. For years before I came to this country I suffered considerably from dyspepsia, I had also weak lungs, which caused me to cough almost incessantly during the winter months; but now I can safely and candidly state that I have been cured of both. The improvement brought about in my health has by no means been accomplished by medicine alone, but by pure and bracing air; by using freely the different fruits in their season; by vegetable diet, and other hygienic measures, I conceive my health has been restored. Feeling grateful then to the land of my adoption for the many benefits it has conferred upon me; and desiring that many others whom it might suit to emigrate to this part of the world might be equally benefited, I have adopted this plan of giving publicity to these candid and honest sentiments. Candid and honest I wish to be, for I would be sorry to mislead any person by publishing and holding forth inducements to individuals which they were not likely to realize after coming here. I will therefore briefly state the classes of persons whom I consider would be chiefly benefited by coming to this place.

The class of persons whom I consider would be chiefly benefited by coming here, are: 1st. Those of some means who could bring some money with them, from \$2,000 to \$4,000 in hand, or a yearly income equal to the interest of that. This would be sufficient to purchase a comfortable home for them, and a little industry, knowledge and tact in farming on a small scale would ensure for them comfort and competency. 2d. Persons not enjoying very good health who they live and would wish to improve it. 3d. Persons who would regard their health rather than their wealth. 4th. Persons who would rather live quiet, easy lives with a competency, rather than toilsome, hazardous lives with the chance of breaking ones health or making a fortune. 5th. Those who wish to engage in a manufacturing business; rents and labor being cheap.

Fruit growing and farming on a small scale, although requiring constant attention, have nothing in them of the same toil and labor that is required in newly opened up countries to clear land and farm on a large scale. But I must not forget that it may so happen in this place when fruits turn out favorably, not too plenty nor too scarce, which medium I consider is most likely to realize a good market price, that many persons have made and still may make little fortunes. There are many things to be had in the inland parts of South Jersey which cannot be had in any other place very congenial to the ways and habits of a large number of persons. The climate may be said to be almost temperate all the year round. Not only that the winters are never very severe, but there are other circumstances in connection with this region which ensure dryness of atmosphere, more genial weather and sunshine all the year round, than is to be found in many other countries. The land being of a sandy nature is very absorbent, so that let it rain all night or all day, or even for days and nights together, wet and moisture soon disappear. Mud and muddy roads are unknown in this region, although they often prevail on the outskirts of the State and along the Delaware, which causes chills and fever to prevail at certain seasons of the year in those localities. What a rich boon is this of itself to be free from muddy roads spring and autumn which are so prevalent in other parts of the world.

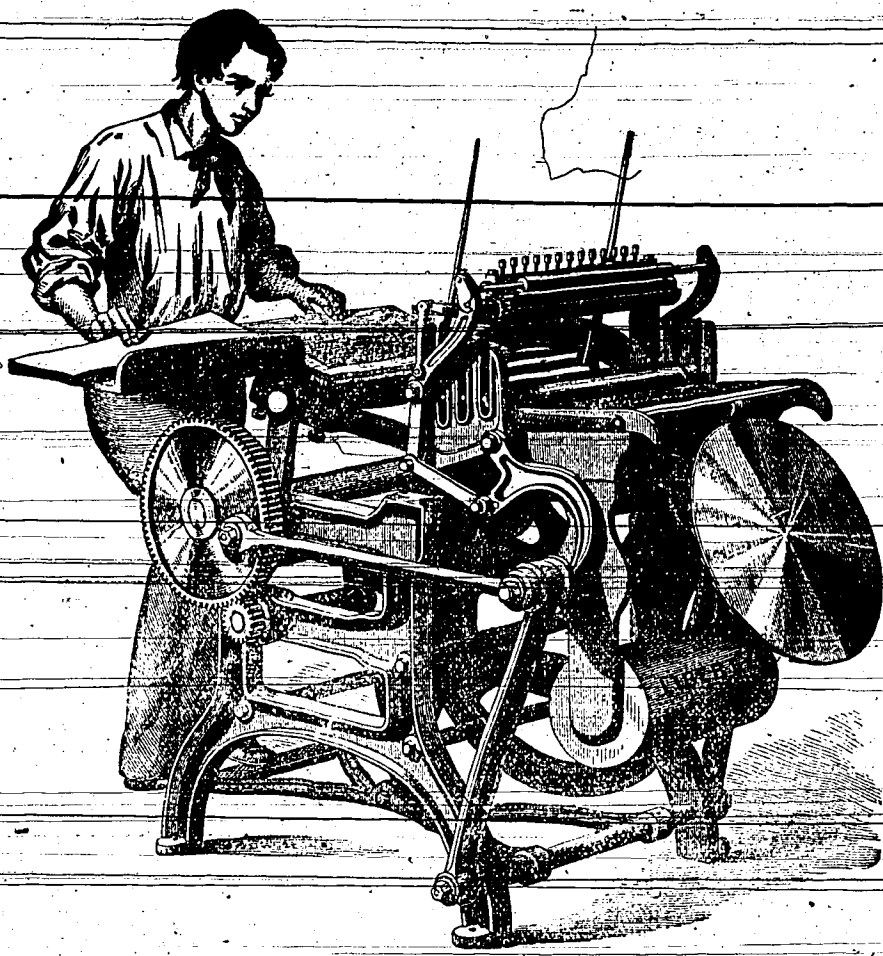
Snow storms are never very severe or of long duration in these parts, and the weather generally is not so cold in winter, but almost every kind of labor can be carried on; not excepting even tilling and ploughing the soil. As a general thing whatever snow falls at night is melted away by the warmth of the sun before mid-day. Of sunshine we have a great deal here even in the winter season, and the rays of the sun falling on the soil which is sandy, soon causes a very genial warmth to arise. How agreeable must all this be to persons who appreciate mild weather in winter. Persons, for instance, fond of gardening. Early as the very beginning of March, they may make their hot beds, not with a view, as in many other places, of the seed lying dormant for a month or more, but with a hope of its almost immediately taking root and growing rapidly; and gardening of every description soon follows. And then persons have a long summer of open weather before them (which although pretty hot at times is not more so than is to be found in more northern latitudes in the month of August). This enables a gardener not only to produce one crop, but two if desirable.

And then of all places in the world this is the quietest and most peaceful. Although persons here, differ considerably both in religion and politics, yet there is in this one thing peculiar, that one man so far recognizes the civil rights of another, that each may quietly sit under his own vine and fig tree, none having the power to make him afraid. Although few persons in this region now fence their farms or even their gardens, it is a rare occurrence that fruit or anything else is carried away. I could identify in many instances pears and peaches on trees along the very pathway, and allowed to come to maturity, than to be safely gathered by their owner.

Hammonton, which is 29 miles south of Philadelphia contains from 3,000 to 4,000 inhabitants in a compact township. This place abounds with neat cottages and well laid out streets, in many places beautifully ornamented with trees along the sidewalks. There are quite a number of elegant residences with small farms of from 10 to 20 acres for sale throughout the Hammonton tract. There could be bought on reasonable terms to suit almost every variety of purchasers. Hammonton, from its healthfulness and nearness to one of the principal cities in the States is destined ere long to become thickly settled. Persons can find good society and churches, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist, are represented.

I am very truly, W. STUART,
Late Minister of the Episcopal Church at Hammonton and Waterford.

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