

Agriculture.

"Only a Farmer."

Within easy distance of the College lived farmer B., who was accounted well-to-do in his own line. He kept a hospitable board. One side of his table was graced with a long line of good looking, chatty daughters, whom constant practice enabled to be very entertaining. He also, held all learned men in very high estimation. It was, therefore, no wonder that a few students became familiar with the ways about the house, and would, at a great distance, salute Esquire B. whenever he appeared upon the College grounds. But the commencement was over, the students had gone, and the Fall chills had called in the family physician. Conversation turned on the recent graduates, and what professions they would likely choose. In running down the catalogue they came to H. F.

And what, queried Mr. B., will he do? I believe, said the doctor, he intends to become a farmer.

O, bless my life, cried the excited old man, going to be only a farmer! It will never do in the world to throw away so much learning and talents, as Henry has, on an old farm.

The above is no fancy sketch. The old farmer expressed, artlessly enough, the real sentiment of thousands, perhaps millions, that there is no use in educating boys to become farmers. We take this as our text:

"ONLY A FARMER."

Now, if the science of farming has been developed to perfection, and if the term farmer means a bundle of muscles with enough of the monkey to imitate what others have done, the talents and learning of college graduates might be wasted on an old farm. But a farmer is a citizen, generally a husband and a father. He may become a magistrate, elder, class-leader, or deacon. He will be a jurymen, may be a legislator. If it is true that "he is a benefactor who makes two blades of grass grow where but one grew before," then how much more he who may make fifty grow where none grew before. We make a distinction between a farmer and a farm-laborer. The latter requires muscle, but not necessarily much brains. The former requires observation, thinking and care. To take hold of an old worn-out farm (and nearly all between the Blue Ridge and the Atlantic, are that) and make it what it ought to be, requires a versatility of mind not strictly required in any of the learned professions.

Then, he who "is only a farmer," should be able to manipulate earth, air and water, so that the products of the earth would pay all expenses, and so as to raise gradually the fertility of the soil to the highest attainable paying point.

Secondly, he should know something about the nature, wants and diseases of horses, hogs, sheep and cows, so that he may treat them according to their requirements.

Third, he should know enough of human nature to be able to govern it easily, to be able to take labor as it comes to him, to treat it the best, and to make the most out of it.

Fourthly, he should know enough about trade to be able to sell and buy at prices which would be just and equal between himself and those with whom he trades.

Now in these things there is employment sufficient to engage all the talents of any graduate. It is true, all these things are done by many who never entered a college. But any one who is worthy to be a graduate ought to be able after having equal experience, to attend to these things better than an uneducated man. So long as there remains anything to be reasoned out, his college training ought to give him the advantage. If it does not, it is because he was a dull or an idle boy. As an illustration of the first head, years ago, we knew a professional man whose patrons, in a "spell of hard times," took advantage of his forbearance, and were about to starve him out. To feed his hungry little children, he tried farming on a small poor place. He soon discovered that the produce did not pay the cost of producing it; and he could not believe or act on the old adage, "If you count the cost, you will never hitch the plow." Much depressed in spirit he sat one evening in his study, with his eye roving, without purpose, over his library. It rested on the name Botany, a book unopened ever since he had left college. He sprang for it, like a cat on a mouse, and read carefully the chapters on the Philosophy of Vegetation and the Food of Plants. Afterwards he turned over an arm full of congressional documents on agriculture, published under the supervision of that veteran pioneer in agricultural science, Dr. Lee. All these things, however, did not make our man a farmer; but they produced in his mind a deep and lasting conviction that land could be improved, and that he could improve his earlier than rich forest land, even if he owned any. Strong in this faith, he went to work, and slowly, at first, he did improve, but after a start was made, it became like money on compound interest. Afterwards, neighbors, who were at first incredulous, profited by their observations on his experiments. But we feel very sure that without his education the thing would not have been thought of, much less attempted. And there have been hundreds of graduates who, if they had become "only a farmer," and had done so well, would have been much happier and far more useful.

The second head is so frequently discussed that we pass it by—at least for the present, and take up the third, the importance of which but few have begun to appreciate. All men are not qualified to be farmers; their number is greatly disproportionate to that of farm laborers. The cause of this can be best presented by a story, but a true story: Years ago, in a far off State, Tom Gallagher, a pale young man, aged 22, married a heavy-set, healthy, good-looking, brightly girl, of eighteen summers. Twelve years later, found them with nine pretty children, but no home, for Tom had not been thrifty. With difficulty he got into a cabin near

where a company were running a farm and mills and a store. He was able and willing to work, and they needed his labor, but rather dreaded the feeding of all that family. S., the head of the firm, had a few acres of which nearly all the wood had been cut, and wishing to help Tom, told him that if he would take off the remainder of the wood for his own fire, and let his wife and children sprout and clean up the ground, they might the next summer work it in tobacco. They went at it with a will. Everything was favorable. The result was a more extraordinary crop than the oldest citizens had ever seen, and about the last of November it was sold for a higher price than had been obtained for years. It brought a pile of money—several hundred dollars. At the same time there was a small place for sale, very low. The tobacco money would go far towards paying for it, and the terms or the remainder would be easy. Tom's friend had it all arranged. But no. He said, "I have been working hard and living hard all the year, now I have got some money, and I am going to live." The wagons that hauled the tobacco to a town on the Ohio river, and returned, and Tom's cabin, boxes of cheese, and kits of fish and spruce and hams, and everything accounted good to eat. Then the whole family, with some of their hungry kids, set to the business of cooking and eating for six long weeks. Then followed six more weeks of sore sickness, which involved all but two of the children. April saw poor skeletons creeping out into the warm sun, unable to work, and the tobacco money all gone. Ten years afterwards when Mr. S. related to us the story, he could scarcely refrain from crying with vexation at the thought that a family which he had so nearly made comfortable and prosperous had so foolishly spoiled it all. Poor Tom! Evidently, he believed that a "man consisteth in the abundance of good things to eat which he possesseth." And that error in his creed disqualified him for ever becoming a farmer, doer of his own, and his children after him, to be farm laborers, coerced thereto by hunger, and that and similar things hinder tens of thousands from ever rising, and make them virtually slaves to the man who feeds them. But the man who does this may be a kind benefactor, or he may be a cruel lord.

Many of the older readers of this paper will remember how political enemies in Yankeeedom used to harrange about the tendency of slavery to produce large plantations. But if the newspapers are not at fault, there are in California and Illinois as large plantations as ever slavery produced. And two or three years ago, an abolition Michiganian had the impudence to send through the Southern States his circular, in which were pictured not less than forty white women in a gang working a field, and their overseer in a broad-brimmed hat stepping behind them. True, he held no cowhide; but he held the key of the storehouse, and could lash them with hunger. Now the truth of the matter seems to be that wherever poor, thrifless people abound in great numbers, there will be a nuisance to their neighbors, if not a necessity, for large plantations, to give them employment, to direct their labor, and to supply them with food, clothing and housing. This subject, carefully looked into, presents a sad picture. But there is no use in closing our eyes to avoid the pain caused by seeing it. It opens up a wide field for benevolence and enterprise. If we have seen in our country, there will be a great work to be done. The tramps must be localized. Labor must be encouraged and cultivated; for labor needs cultivation almost as much as the soil. These things must be done chiefly by those who are "only farmers"; but they must be farmers, and when enough of them arise, they will have it in their power to squelch communism. In the time of slavery we knew men who rose early, whooped loudly, and fussed and threatened around all day, yet they made almost nothing. The half-fed, half-clothed, shod-colored, stupid negroes, could not do much, but at night they prowled around and stole from neighbors, because there was nothing to steal at home. We knew of plantations being presented to court, by the grand jury as a nuisance to their neighborhoods. But by the side of these, on no better land, were men who quietly and with but little difficulty, made good crops which enabled them to feed and clothe well. Their hands were able to work and did it, were contented and happy, and gave their neighbors no trouble. Now the root of all the trouble with the former class was, they were no farmers, and "out of nothing, nothing could come." The same principle applies to farming with hired labor. If, as has been done, a man rents a large plantation and mules, and hires thirty or forty hands, and butchers the business generally, the mortgage on the crop for rents and supplies, will likely clean up the produce, but the half-paid hands will be greatly benefited. "What's the use of working," they will ask, "when we get nothing for it?" Nor should it surprise any to hear that, before another year is ended, some of them had broken into jail and the penitentiary. The coming farmer must do a great deal better than that. When the bottom of these hard times is reached, if not already, there will be a wide field for those who have the qualifications to build up from the bottom a substantial farming business. In doing so, they may ameliorate the condition of many of the poor; may save the country the costs of many criminal prosecutions, and many poor fellows from the penitentiary, and may make the community in which they live, feel that there would be as much propriety in saying, "he is only a lawyer, only a doctor, or only a preacher," as that he is "only a farmer."

Strawberry Culture.

In our Southern climate where this fruit grows to perfection when properly cultivated, it is a singular fact that the fewest number of farmers or town people enjoy the luxury of having it on their tables during the spring months when its use is essential both as luxury and necessity. If one traveling will only peep into the garden where an attempt has been made to grow this fruit, he will find one of the reasons for failure. Behold the weeds and grass on the ground where the plants had been set. In some instances a two-year old mule might hide himself, ears and all, right in the garden where the berry plants were intended to grow. This luxuriant growth of course robs the tiny plant of all food and leaves it to wit and die.

No lazy man or "mule" head can expect a crop of fruit under such circumstances. Yet there are people who advise that weeds be permitted to grow in order to protect the plants from the burning suns of summer, the very opposite of what the God of nature intended. Sunshine is not only essential to the healthfulness and vigor of the vegetable kingdom, but man must have air, light and heat to impart vigor to his constitution. A proper amount of sunshine is necessary to the existence of all animal and vegetable life.

You may read of a plan for growing berries in what is called a "lazy bed," which is made by covering the earth with straw or leaves, and which commends itself to all lazy people, but you will never find a way that will be as successful as thorough culture kept up until the seared leaves of the oak are seen in autumn, preparing to tumble to mother earth. It is important also that plants be selected that have been grown with each variety kept separate. If you select plants from your neighbor's garden, where they have been neglected for a number of years, you need not expect to realize fruit, for the reason that other different sorts have been grown together and a mixed or worthless hybrid is the result; besides, you are liable to get two or three years plants which having grown without culture, and started and past the age for successful fruiting.

Another reason of failure is that sharpers come around with beautiful pictures painted to order, magnified to a mammoth size, to which they give a monstrous name, and beguile with sily, lying words the unsuspecting into paying an enormous sum for the plants, that purport to bear these monstrous mammoth berries. The imagination is lifted to heights unmeasured, and the poor man learns in a year or two that he is duped, when he finds either no fruit at all, or if any, an inferior quality, totally unadapted to his country.—Fruit Grower and Record.

Not Respectable

A young gentleman with a big ring on his finger, a fancy white necktie around his throat and a neat little cane in his hand, remarked to others standing with him at the postoffice yesterday, that farming was not respectable. Great minds will differ. Washington thought it was. Cincinnati entertained the same opinion. Old Cato, the Roman Senator, was a farmer and wrote a book on the subject. He had sensible ideas on the subject, too. Hear him: "Our ancestors regarded it as a grand point of husbandry not to have too much land in one farm, for they considered that more benefit came by holding little and tilling it well. Virgil entertained a high opinion of farming, and was correct when he said: 'The farmer may graze large estates, but let him cultivate a small one.' Curius, the Roman orator, thought well of farming, and thought 'he was not a good citizen who could not content himself with seven acres of land.'"

Barley Culture.

The Boston Journal of Chemistry says: "Hot alum water is the best insect destroyer known. Put the alum into hot water and let it boil till it is all dissolved; then apply the solution hot with a brush to all cracks, closets, bedsteads, and other places where they are found. Ants, bed bugs, cockroaches and creeping things are killed by it; while there is no danger of poisoning the family or injuring property."

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FACTS AND FUN.

A man must ask his wife if he may be rich. How to acquire shorthand—fool around a buzz saw. No other girl's nose itches so much as that of the one who wears a diamond ring. Many beautiful ladies are angry if they are gazed at, and indignant if they are not. "Here is your writ of attachment," said a town clerk as he handed a lover a marriage license. Minnesota has a man so pious that he will not engage in sheep raising because the lambs gambol on the green. Four hundred women enter the University of London this fall. So America is not the only place woman is "unsexing herself."

In a discussion on cremation at a London club a member is credited with the argument: "We earn our living; why should we not urn our dead?" "Do not marry a widow," said the old lady. "A ready-made family is like a plate of cold potatoes." "Oh, I'll soon warm them over," replied the dame, and she did.

The Detroit Free Press is informed that kissing the baby may result in deforming its nose and bringing on nearsightedness. The safest plan is not to kiss a baby for the feminine persuasion until it attains the age of sixteen years. The cartilage of the nose is much stronger then, and besides the kissing tastes better—we've been told.—Herald and Presbyter.

Domestic love—how divine a thing it is—heaven stepping out from among the burning stars to brighten the fireside—Eden refreshed in home's beatific circle to ravish the soul. But oh, how strangely it vanishes into the black shadows, when the husband, on a Sabbath morn, tries to fasten his paper collar to an open-backed shirt, from which the buttons have been washed!

Two negro girls joined together at the hips were exhibited in Atlanta several years ago. They were called Millie and Christine. They were taken to Europe and exhibited in many countries, attracting much attention. They are now shown in Boston as "Millie Christine, the Two-headed Girls." Singing and dancing are accomplishments they have acquired abroad.

A colored Georgia minister preaches the following practical theology: "Bredden, my experience is dat it ain't de profession of 'ligion, but de 'cessional practice of it dat makes a man 'ceptable up yonder. Wen yer gits to de golden gate an' Peter looks yer right in de eye and yer shows him yer long creed and says, pompous like, dat yer 'longed ter a big church, de 'postle 'll shake his head an' say, 'Dat ain't nuff ter get yer through.' But if yer takes all yer bills under yer arm, yer grocer bills an' yer rent bill, an' he looks 'em over an' finds 'em all receipted, he'll say 'Yer tithe's clear,' an' unhook de gate an' let yer pitch yer voice for de angels' song. But 'tain't no use ter trouble along dat narrer path 'less yer can carry, folded up in yer creed, a good rec'ommendation from yer creditors. Hebben ain't no place fer a man who has dodged round a corner fer fear ob meetin' some one who 'll ask fer dat little bill dat nebber was paid."

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THE FARM.

Orchard grass is growing in favor. America is exporting wind mills to Australia. America is becoming the butcher's shop of the world. The value of the fruit crop of the United States is \$138,216,700. The largest corn field in Rhode Island contains twenty acres. London Omnibus horses are fed exclusively on corn and hay. The rice crop of this country is the largest in for ten or twelve years. Hints to Farmers.—In their early life, cows should be fed on oats. Manure highly every crop that is benefited by it. Drain and irrigate. Plow deep and loosen the subsoil. Cooked wheat bran is less laxative for feeding cattle. Cultivate good paying crops and select the best seed for these. The best way to secure sowed corn, is to bind it and set it up in shocks. Wheat does not require heavy manuring, but what it does have it wants near the surface. Salt the sheep on the barren spots of the farm, and they will drop the best fertilizer just where it is most needed. Sheep manure is more fertilizing in its nature than any other animal, nor does it waste by exposure. The United States convert annually 70,000,000 bushels of grain into spirituous liquors. Since the improvement in machinery, 1,650,000 men now do as much as 9,000,000 men did in former times. Industry is now required in picking, ginning and baling cotton. Get out the crop as soon as possible, send it to market, and sell. The corn crop should be housed before bad, cold weather sets in. Everything growing about the farm that can possibly be used for food for stock should be gathered and put away. Determine now to turn over a new leaf in farming next season. Resolve to breed, raise and grow everything you possibly can at home. Make your own milk and butter, and to do this, have good cows and take care of them. Resolve to have nice hams and pure lard. This can be done by having hogs of the right kind and then looking after and caring for them. Get a small flock of sheep that the family may have mutton, lamb and wool. In part let your orchards, gardens, pastures and fields supply your home wants, and then raise cotton if you will to sell.

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Strawberry Culture.

In our Southern climate where this fruit grows to perfection when properly cultivated, it is a singular fact that the fewest number of farmers or town people enjoy the luxury of having it on their tables during the spring months when its use is essential both as luxury and necessity. If one traveling will only peep into the garden where an attempt has been made to grow this fruit, he will find one of the reasons for failure. Behold the weeds and grass on the ground where the plants had been set. In some instances a two-year old mule might hide himself, ears and all, right in the garden where the berry plants were intended to grow. This luxuriant growth of course robs the tiny plant of all food and leaves it to wit and die.

No lazy man or "mule" head can expect a crop of fruit under such circumstances. Yet there are people who advise that weeds be permitted to grow in order to protect the plants from the burning suns of summer, the very opposite of what the God of nature intended. Sunshine is not only essential to the healthfulness and vigor of the vegetable kingdom, but man must have air, light and heat to impart vigor to his constitution. A proper amount of sunshine is necessary to the existence of all animal and vegetable life.

You may read of a plan for growing berries in what is called a "lazy bed," which is made by covering the earth with straw or leaves, and which commends itself to all lazy people, but you will never find a way that will be as successful as thorough culture kept up until the seared leaves of the oak are seen in autumn, preparing to tumble to mother earth. It is important also that plants be selected that have been grown with each variety kept separate. If you select plants from your neighbor's garden, where they have been neglected for a number of years, you need not expect to realize fruit, for the reason that other different sorts have been grown together and a mixed or worthless hybrid is the result; besides, you are liable to get two or three years plants which having grown without culture, and started and past the age for successful fruiting.

Another reason of failure is that sharpers come around with beautiful pictures painted to order, magnified to a mammoth size, to which they give a monstrous name, and beguile with sily, lying words the unsuspecting into paying an enormous sum for the plants, that purport to bear these monstrous mammoth berries. The imagination is lifted to heights unmeasured, and the poor man learns in a year or two that he is duped, when he finds either no fruit at all, or if any, an inferior quality, totally unadapted to his country.—Fruit Grower and Record.

HOUSE AND FARM.

The Boston Journal of Chemistry says: "Hot alum water is the best insect destroyer known. Put the alum into hot water and let it boil till it is all dissolved; then apply the solution hot with a brush to all cracks, closets, bedsteads, and other places where they are found. Ants, bed bugs, cockroaches and creeping things are killed by it; while there is no danger of poisoning the family or injuring property."

FACTS AND FUN.

A man must ask his wife if he may be rich. How to acquire shorthand—fool around a buzz saw. No other girl's nose itches so much as that of the one who wears a diamond ring. Many beautiful ladies are angry if they are gazed at, and indignant if they are not. "Here is your writ of attachment," said a town clerk as he handed a lover a marriage license. Minnesota has a man so pious that he will not engage in sheep raising because the lambs gambol on the green. Four hundred women enter the University of London this fall. So America is not the only place woman is "unsexing herself."

In a discussion on cremation at a London club a member is credited with the argument: "We earn our living; why should we not urn our dead?" "Do not marry a widow," said the old lady. "A ready-made family is like a plate of cold potatoes." "Oh, I'll soon warm them over," replied the dame, and she did.

The Detroit Free Press is informed that kissing the baby may result in deforming its nose and bringing on nearsightedness. The safest plan is not to kiss a baby for the feminine persuasion until it attains the age of sixteen years. The cartilage of the nose is much stronger then, and besides the kissing tastes better—we've been told.—Herald and Presbyter.

Domestic love—how divine a thing it is—heaven stepping out from among the burning stars to brighten the fireside—Eden refreshed in home's beatific circle to ravish the soul. But oh, how strangely it vanishes into the black shadows, when the husband, on a Sabbath morn, tries to fasten his paper collar to an open-backed shirt, from which the buttons have been washed!

Two negro girls joined together at the hips were exhibited in Atlanta several years ago. They were called Millie and Christine. They were taken to Europe and exhibited in many countries, attracting much attention. They are now shown in Boston as "Millie Christine, the Two-headed Girls." Singing and dancing are accomplishments they have acquired abroad.

A colored Georgia minister preaches the following practical theology: "Bredden, my experience is dat it ain't de profession of 'ligion, but de 'cessional practice of it dat makes a man 'ceptable up yonder. Wen yer gits to de golden gate an' Peter looks yer right in de eye and yer shows him yer long creed and says, pompous like, dat yer 'longed ter a big church, de 'postle 'll shake his head an' say, 'Dat ain't nuff ter get yer through.' But if yer takes all yer bills under yer arm, yer grocer bills an' yer rent bill, an' he looks 'em over an' finds 'em all receipted, he'll say 'Yer tithe's clear,' an' unhook de gate an' let yer pitch yer voice for de angels' song. But 'tain't no use ter trouble along dat narrer path 'less yer can carry, folded up in yer creed, a good rec'ommendation from yer creditors. Hebben ain't no place fer a man who has dodged round a corner fer fear ob meetin' some one who 'll ask fer dat little bill dat nebber was paid."

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