

Sunday Reading.

Agricultural.

NEARER HEAVEN.

The weary labourer, closing the hours until the sun goes down, rejoices at each sound of the bell that warns him that he can soon return to his home. The little child hurrying from play or from school to the kindly well-known roof is glad when the well-known roof is in sight, and he almost there. The home-sick stranger enters joyfully the vessel whose swift wing shall bear him over the waters to the land he loves. Even so the Christian pilgrim goes through the mists that enshroud his pathway for the first glimpse of the everlasting hills which are crowned with the city of his God. Heart sick and desponding, fainting and weak, there is no surer word of hope that can cheer his drooping faith and arouse his sleeping soul than the melody of "nearer heaven."

If we are toilers in the vineyard at all, every glowing sunset is the token that one day less is to journey over. Every new morning is another milestone, silent telling us that we are approaching the end of the road. Every hour of labour is an earnest of never-ceasing rest. The path we travel may be rugged and wild; it may lead up rough and rugged mountain sides, and into dangerous ravines; storms may break over our heads, and the blinding hail and dripping rain render it almost hopeless; yet in sunshine and in gloom we are ever going onward. At the end of the way is the "house beautiful," where the Master has gone to prepare a place for us.

We know not what lies before us ere we reach our home. joys may be lying in the way, waiting to clasp us in their fragrant arms. Fairer hopes may spring up like flowers where we tread. Happy hearts may be around us, and the genial ministrations of the fireside make earth an Eden. Or darkness may be on the wing, and the creeping shadows already looking over the shoulder of sub-line, yet in the same sweet spirit of submission and gratitude, let us take whatever our Father sends.

"If good await, O let me murmur not,
He passes through furnace-fires tenfold as hot;
And shall the servant share the Master's lot?"

One moment in glory will more than recompence for all the toils and griefs of the way thither. Let us cheer each other by the way with the songs of Zion, and whisper in the ear of every singing one, "Nearer heaven!"

"My days are gliding swiftly by,
And I'm pilgrim stranger,
Would not you let them to thy sky,
These hours of ease are danger."

For O! we stand on Jordan's strand,
Our friends are passing over,
And just below the shining shore,
We may almost discover."

A SCRAP.

Dancing! What do I think of it? I really think just this, that when professors of religion dance, that their religion is all in their feet, and not worth much. I'd rather there was a little in their knees; and they could kneel down during prayer at church; and maybe they would kneel in their closets sometimes. I'd rather it was in their hands; then they could shake hands with a poor body, and give something to the needy, and more for the spread and support of the gospel. Ah, I'd rather it was all in their hearts, and then it would send a healthy pulse throughout the system, and then really dancing would seem a very silly thing for sensible Christian people to spend their time and health at. Oppose drinking! Yes, I do; for when whiskey gets into the stomach, I really think grace gets out of the heart. Some how or other, I've got the idea that grace don't love the smell of whiskey, and gives it a wide birth. This I do know, that whiskey don't help a man in religion. I have n't much use for the religion of the dram-drinker, it's like corn blades at noon, during a drought in summer. You see, I've seen both sorts of professors; I know some such now and really I don't know where to place 'em. Do you?—*Biblical Recorder*.

HOW EVERY ONE MAY PREACH.

All cannot preach from the pulpit; but there is a kind of preaching that is permitted to all men, and oftentimes this kind is most effectual. Offices of kindness to the bodies and souls of those around us; words of encouragement to the weak, instruction to the ignorant, of brotherly-kindness to all; hearty devotion to the service of religion; an entire sacrifice. In a word, earnest, active, self-denying love to our fellow-beings; epitomizing, from love to God, who will form a most impressive sermon, most convincing proof to the world around us, that we have been with Jesus. All Christians are called on in this way to preach the gospel; and woe to them if they neglect the call.

A NEW CREATURE.

A Scotch girl was converted under the preaching of Whitefield. When asked if her heart was changed, her true and beautiful answer was—"Something I know is changed; it may be the world, it may be my heart; there is a great change somewhere, I'm sure; for everything is different from what it once was." A very apt commentary on that passage (2 Cor. 5:17). "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold all things are become new."

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.



TRAINING COWS.

A word on training cows. I have found that for the best time to train steers is when they are calves, say the first winter. Oxen that are trained when they are quite young are much more pliable and obedient and this adds much to their value. Steers that run until they are three or four years old are dangerous animals to encounter. They are always running away with the cart or sled whenever there is a chance for them and often serious injury is the result. I would not recommend working steers hard, while young, it prevents their growth; there is a difference between working them and merely training them. I have observed that very little attention is paid by our farmers to train their steers to back, but as they become able to draw a considerable load forward, they are often unmercifully beaten on the head and face because they will not back a cart or sled with as large a load as they can forward, forgetting that much pain has been taken to teach them to draw forward, but none to teach them to push backward. To remedy the occasion of this thumping, as soon as I have taught my steers to be handy, as it is called, and to draw forward, I place them in a cart where the land is a little descending, in this situation they will soon learn to back it. Then I place them on level land, and exercise them. Then I teach them to back a cart up land that is a little rising, the cart having no load in as yet. When I have taught them to stand up to the tongue as they ought, and back an empty cart, I next either put a small load in the cart, or take them to where the land rises a little further, which answers the same purpose, thus in a few days they may be taught to back well, and know how to do it, which, by a little use afterwards, they never forget.

This may appear of little consequence to some, but when it is remembered how frequently we want to back a load, when we are at work with our cattle, and how convenient it is to have our cattle back well, why should we not teach them for the time when we want them thus to lay out their strength? Besides, it often saves blows and vexation, which is considerable when one is in a hurry. I never consider a pair of oxen well broke until they will back well with ease any reasonable load, and I would give a very considerable sum more for a yoke thus trained.—Cor. of N. E. Farmer.

FEEDING HOGS.

The proper way to feed hogs to ensure the neatest bacon, is to feed in a small lot with a comfortable sleeping place of economy, however, to have such an arrangement for feeding as will save from waste the large quantity of very rich manure which is made by the fattening hogs. To do this effectively, they should be put in pens with floors above the ground to such height that every thing might drop through, when it can be mixed with earth or litter for its proper preservation. We wish to call the especial attention of our readers to the enormous waste perpetrated every year both in the careless manner in which this manure is preserved, and in the method of feeding.—

All food should be ground at least and soaked if not boiled. The more imperfect the food is prepared, the more valuable is the manure, and therefore it is the more important that it be carefully saved.

MUTTON.

We mean to repeat a thousand times, or at least till what we say has some effect upon our countrymen, that a pound of lean, tender, juicy mutton can be produced for half the cost of the same quantity of fat pork, especially in the summer season, and those who eat it become more muscular, and can do more work with greater ease to themselves than those who eat fat pork.—We known nothing more delicious than smoked mutton ham, of the South Down breed of sheep. Venison itself is not superior.—*American Agriculturalist*.

RAIL ROAD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BALTIMORE AND NASHVILLE.—On the 1st instant, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad was opened for travel and freight between Baltimore and Cincinnati. This is an important direct railroad communication, which gives more and the capital of Tennessee, and makes easy access to an extensive and wealthy section of the country. Heretofore goods shipped from Baltimore to Nashville, had generally to be sent by a circuitous route via Charleston or Savannah, and occasionally, during a high stage of water, by way of the Cumberland river. We understand that during the last few days the shipments from this city for Tennessee, over the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and thence to Louisville, to be sent the new railroad route to Nashville, have been quite heavy.—*Baltimore Sun*.

Notice.

HENDERSON & AHRENS was dissolved on the 1st of January, by mutual consent. **JAS. P. HENDERSON**, will hereafter be engaged on his own account. All persons indebted will please come forward and settle at once, as the business must be closed up immediately.

F. W. AHRENS, January 1859.

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