

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

"You Can Tell by a Man's Farm Whether He Reads It or Not."

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## We Guarantee Our Advertisers.

WE will positively make good the loss sustained by any subscriber as a result of fraudulent misrepresentations made in our columns on the part of any advertiser who proves to be a deliberate swindler. This does not mean that we will try to adjust trifling disputes between reliable business houses and their patrons, but in any case of actually fraudulent dealing, we will make good to the subscriber as we have just indicated. The condition of this guarantee is that the claim for loss shall be reported to us within one month after the advertisement appears in our paper, and that the subscriber must say when writing each advertiser: "I am writing you as an advertiser in The Progressive Farmer, which guarantees the reliability of all advertisers that it carries."

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## The Editor's Letter to the Farmer Boy.

**W**HAT ARE YOU going to be, Farmer Boy? You are getting old enough now to decide what line of work you want to follow when you get to be a man, and it is none too soon to begin to fit and train yourself for that particular thing.

No man ever makes a big success in anything, by accident. If somebody has stuffed your head with the idea that men succeed in this world by luck, you may just put it down that that somebody doesn't know what he is talking about. Whether you are going to be a farmer or a college president, you must fit yourself for whatever you are going to be.

No matter what sort of work you are doing, try to do it a little better than the other fellow. Emerson says somewhere that if a man can do anything supremely well, no matter if he live in a wilderness, the world will make a beaten path to his door. And this is very true. I rode the other day to see a farmer who lives not many miles from where I am writing and found that the Governor of the State had just been there to see his corn crop, and a great number of other men had come miles and miles to see this man's farm. And why? Simply because he had done more with an acre than any other man in the county.

Next week we may have something to say about choosing an occupation, but the gist of it will be that unless you have some notable natural gift for something else you can't do better than to stay on the farm.

If your brother wants to go to town to clerk in a store and measure calico as somebody else's hired man, let him go. You stay on the farm where you can be independent, living under your own vine and fig tree, and where you can take part in all these great movements that are going to count for so much in human progress and in the world's development these next fifty years.

We have had too many farmer boys already who have made second-rate merchants and clerks who might have made prominent farmers and men of influence in their counties.

It is a great deal better and more honorable to raise Southern meat than it is to sell Western meat.

It is a great deal better and more useful to be

a leader in showing how to make more cotton per acre than it is to merely measure off a certain number of yards of cotton goods when a buyer wants it.

Don't give up the independence of farm life. In the city shops and stores only a small proportion of the workers own their own homes or have any chance to do work that counts for much in these great progressive movements we have been discussing. The boy who is shut up in a factory in the South has only one chance of usefulness and independence for twenty that you and other farmer boys have.

And not only can you put your muscle and money and any ordinary degree of skill and intelligence to better use in the country than in the town, but there are great opportunities for organization and business enterprise in the country to-day.

Take the matter of stock breeding. As we get rid of the cattle ticks we are going to have more and more stock breeding in the South. And you or some other farm boy in every county in the South must become that county's leading stock farmer. The man who makes the reputation for breeding good animals can make a pile of money and do a lot of good besides.

It is the same way with growing good seeds. There is a bigger and bigger demand every year for improved varieties of corn, cotton, tobacco, wheat, rye, oats, clover, and all kinds of field and garden seeds. So the farmer boy who is willing to give some time and thought to the task of growing the best seeds for other farmers is going to make not a little money.

Trucking, too, offers great opportunities in many sections. I know of an old negro born in slavery who said to the Governor of his State: "I couldn't afford to be Governor: I can make more money raising strawberries." And that old negro was right. The profits on his strawberry crop that year amounted to more than the Governor's salary.

Don't say, then, that there is no chance on the farm. There are chances right under your nose—far bigger chances both for money and honor and for service, as I have said, than there is in your going off to be somebody else's clerk or somebody else's hired man in the store or factory. And unless you have a special gift for the work there is a much bigger chance for you on the farm than there is in the ministry, or in the law, or in medicine.

There is big money in fruit raising, too; and good money in dairying; and good money also in managing a large plantation, if you look after the tenants wisely and get them to use improved methods of farming.

Another thing you don't want to forget is that these chances are right here in the South. Don't think that you must go West or North, or that you must leave your home State. The chance is right here at your own door, and very soon the boys from the North and West are going to begin coming South. Land is cheaper here than anywhere else in America and the opportunities are greater.

These are some of the things that the Editor has felt that he must say to you, Farmer Boy. He was a farmer boy himself, and knows how you feel about things, and we have tried to give you the counsel we think you need.

All together, don't you think you had better stay on the farm? And if you do think so, then as we said at the outset, it is high time to begin fitting yourself to be a good farmer. Read the farm papers every week.

Get you a text-book on agriculture and study it at school.

Join the boys' club if there is one near you.

Go with your father to the farmers' institute the next time it is near you.

Ask your father questions about anything you wish to know on the farm.

And more than this; write to us, The Progressive Farmer. We shall be glad to hear from you, and we shall be glad to help you in any way we can.

If you are going to be a farmer, we want you to be one of the best farmers in the whole State, and if you set out to be, why, you can be.

Let's try it.

## "For If They Do These Things in a Green Tree--"

**C**OTTON IS STILL going up—and those who took The Progressive Farmer's advice a month ago and held their cotton have profited enough, if the money came to us, to keep The Progressive Farmer running a generation.

And even now, in spite of the great flood of November "distressed" cotton, the price is advancing rather than declining.

All the evidence indicates that the shutting down of cotton mills is a shrewd game. Justified perhaps by the low price of goods, it is none the less the shrewdest of all moves for this most excellent reason:

**THE CROP IS SO SHORT THAT MANY MILLS WILL HAVE TO CURTAIL PRODUCTION BEFORE THE NEXT CROP IS MADE ANYHOW, SO IT IS BETTER TO CURTAIL NOW AND PULL DOWN PRICES SO AS TO BUY LINT BEFORE IT REACHES THE RECORD-BREAKING FIGURES IT MAY SOON ATTAIN.**

If 15 cents is in sight now with distressed cotton coming in and the mills shutting down, what may we expect with mills on full time and the farmer marketing slowly?

## Editorial Notes.

**T**HAT SUGGESTION of Mrs. Barron's on page 7 is worth the heed of every boy and girl. If you would get the most out of life you simply must learn to read and to love to read. The best thought of all the ages is treasured in books, and the love of reading is the key which unlocks this wonderful store-house of knowledge and pleasure to even the humblest and poorest.

Our campaign against fraudulent and indecent advertising seems to be bringing results already. We shall have something else to say on the subject next week; and in the meantime, if any of your papers are guilty, let them hear from you.

North Carolina is pushing right ahead in the matter of investigating the Torrens System of registering land titles. The committee appointed by the last Legislature held its first session last week, and the matter will doubtless be prominently before the public when members of the next Legislature are chosen. Some exhaustive articles on the subject will appear in early issues of The Progressive Farmer.

When it comes to reading for boys and girls, there is probably no other publication in the world at once so delightful and so helpful as The Youth's Companion, Boston, Mass. Send a postal at once to the above address and get free sample copies, saying you read this notice in The Progressive Farmer, and when you subscribe do not fail also to use the coupon in our last issue, or at least mention The Progressive Farmer.

Our series of reports last fall on "My Best Crop and How I Made It" was one of decided interest and, we believe, of great value. We are going to ask for similar reports again this fall, and trust that every one of our readers who has made a good crop of any kind will write and tell us just how he did it, how much he made, what it cost, etc. We shall give a prize of five dollars for the best article and four prizes of \$2.50 each for the four next best. The best letters will be those that tell plainly, briefly, and clearly of the making of a good crop of some kind—the sort of letters that will at once inspire other farmers to raise better crops and help them to do it. All letters must be in our hands by December 15th, and we will be glad to have a hundred short, clear, concise statements of good crops and how they were made. Let us hear from you.

## A Thought For the Week.

**I**T IS RIGHT TO BE ambitious to excel in whatever you do. Slighted work and half-done tasks are sins. "I am as good as they are"; "I do my tasks as well as they"; are cowardly maxims. Not what others have done, but perfection, is the only true aim.—From "The True Citizen."