

POOR FARMING.

A system of agriculture which has ruined many fertile farms. In going about the country we see many farms where the grass is cut off year after year and no dressing put on the land to keep up its fertility. This is a deliberate attempt to cheat nature. No one has ever yet succeeded and no one ever will succeed by doing this. However, year by year the crop becomes less until in a few years, the land will become so run out as to be hardly worth mowing over. It is a very mistake to attempt such farming. What is worth doing is worth doing well. This maxim is as applicable to the farm as to any other department. If a man can not make money for the necessary dressing, he surely can not by withholding the seed and not better give up the business and seek some other occupation. If by a moderate use of dressing, one can make a profit on every acre cultivated, then by a free use of the same he may make a still larger profit. Why should any man mow over four acres of grass to get four tons of hay, when, by proper methods, he may get the same amount from one acre? Few farmers, except a few market gardeners near the cities, have ever fully tested the capacity of their farms to produce. They hear of large crops, but never attempt to secure them. Most farmers are unwilling to expend the money to bring their farms up to the highest state of cultivation. This is a mistake. What would be thought of a manufacturer who should build or purchase a large and costly mill and never run it up to its fullest capacity, possibly not do more than one half of what it was capable of doing? Most men would think him very foolish. We think it safe to say that not one in a hundred farms are made to produce even one half of what they are capable of doing. Young men could find full and profitable scope for all their enterprise on the farm if they would only take hold of the business in a proper way. If young men who go West would be content to suffer the same hardships at home that they do at the West in order to win success, they would make as much money and secure other advantages. We wish more country boys could be led to see this matter in the right light, and take hold and rejuvenate some of the old and neglected farms and make them as in former days, and even more profitable.

LIFE ON THE FARM.

A HUMOROUS WRITER TELLS WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT IT.

Our bowels melt with mercy towards these Sudras of the soil, whom the high and haughty Brahmins of commerce and coin "sutra with the foot as a stranger car." We know their sorrows and sufferings; the trial of temper in stumpy fields; the vileness of plantain, the wickedness of weeds; the decay of cockle; the "birth-sin" in wild onion. While the average citizen can hardly hold his own against the world, the flesh and t devil, the unhappy prisoner of "land measure"—perch, rod and rood—is tormented by the Apaches of the vegetable, mineral and animal kingdoms.

The farmer has our pity. He is the drudge—the helot of political economy. Everybody rides him, nobody carries him. He is the victim of hog-cholera, high tariff and fraudulent fertilizers. Pastoral poetry may delude him, for the moment, into a dream of rural bliss, but the sheriff rudely wakes him to his wretchedness.

He can't strike for increase of wages or shorter time of toil. The mechanic has his guild, fixes his own pay and hours for work. The cobbler is a "Knight"; the plowman a dumb driven ox. The man of tools follows his trade often in warm factory and always sheltered from the weather. The farmer must rise with the dawn, face the storm, and forsake the field only with the departing day. In city or town, superior schools train the child of the poorest laborer for ten months in the year. Short sessions, and frequently in different instruction and furnished the country patron. And indeed the body can be spared but for a brief period from the farm.

A war tariff in these years of peace floods, by a hundred cunning devices the land-owner. The "robber dragons" of monopoly have him by the throat and their hands

upon his purse. They are more merciful than the floods that sweep away his crop.

The earth is treacherous. Weeds choke the good grain; wire grass strangles the innocent timothy; sassafras flourishes in immortal vigor where wheat pines and perishes. Let the husbandman set out a vine or sprout a seed. It must run the gauntlet of the frost. The mole hunts for the root to destroy. The grub gnaws it. Caterpillar, cut-worm, borer and countless enemies, winged or creeping, with tooth or sting, prey upon it. Mildew, rust and blight fall on it. Potato bug, turnip, bean weevil, tomato worm, leaf slug, cotton maggot, rose haffer, cabbage lice, lead an army of vegetable pests in forays upon the fruits of his toil. Every invader lays eggs by the thousand and hatches a new brood, in the run of a single sun, to ravage the rewards of rural industry. The air is dim with buzzing van'tals and the earth alive with crawling devours.

The untaxed cur destroys his flock. The sly fox and slippery weasel revel in his henry. The hawk by day and the owl by night capture the survivors of the gapes, straddles and cholera.

His capital in the farm stock is a precarious investment. Murrain and black tongue slay his cows. The bot-fly is ever intent on fastening its deadly egg to the horse. The scab, the fluke, the rot, ruin the fold.

The elements bridle his hopes. The Sabean's make incursions upon him and levy a "war tariff" on his property. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, with the usual lingual limboes of the small statesmen—darken counsel by words without knowledge, and rather side with Satan and the marauding Chaldeans.

The modern Job, sitting amid his brown-sedge furrows, with the larvae of "infant industries" feeding with festering ulcers upon his life, vexed with the gabble of the Temanite, the Shaluite and the Naamathite—is it a strange thing that he "aggravates his voice," roars against his tormentors and repines at his "terrible lot"—Despair on an ash-heap?—*Richmond Christian Advocate.*

CLOVER.

The experience of the farmers of Catawba of establishing the value of the clover crop and its adaptation to the soil and climate of this section. Volumes have been written on the clover plant and its great value to the farmer. It seems to combine many remarkable advantages. On a stock farm it is indispensable of a cheap food for raising young animals or fattening old ones. As a fertilizer it is very valuable and comes higher than any other plant to solving the problem which gives pause to modern chemistry—the problem how to extract from the atmosphere the invaluable nitrogen which lies around us in an ocean of boundless provision, and which yet refuses to respond to any invitation from any chemical substance to combine with it for the use of plants. Clover assimilates nitrogen from the air and fixes it in its own substance, so that it can be added to the soil by the mere mechanical process of ploughing under the plant. As nitrogen is the most expensive fertilizer, being the most difficult to obtain, it is evident upon mere theory that clover is of a great value as a fertilizer, and the facts more than sustain the theory.

Heretofore it has been the custom of the farmers of this section to seed North for their seed or buy it from dealers supplied from the Northern States. This is now about to be changed. The Messrs. Sigmon, of this county, have a clover huller which is in operation, and the Messrs. Suttlemyre have also a huller attachment to their threshing machine, which they are successfully operating. The seed from an average acre of clover at present prices is worth as much as the wheat from an average acre of that crop, with this immense advantage in favor of the clover, that the first and valuable cutting of clover is saved for feeding the stock of the farm, and the seed allowed to mature on the second crop, which possesses little value as a feed on account of its salivating properties.

With these facts in view it is pretty certain that the clover crop is bound to receive attention from the farmers of the Piedmont country. They cannot afford to neglect

a crop which will fertilize the soil, feed and fatten live stock and put money directly and indirectly in the farmer's purse.—*Hickory Press.*

AN AMERICAN ARMY IN 1777.

Here is a picture of one of the men at Valley Forge: "His bare feet peep through his worn-out shoes, his legs nearly naked from the tattered remains of an only pair of stockings, his breeches not enough to cover his nakedness, his shirt hanging in strings, his hair disheveled, his face wan and thin, his look hungry, his whole appearance that of a man forsaken and neglected." And the snow was falling! This was one of the private. The officers were scarcely better off. One was wrapped "in a sort of dressing-gown made of an old blanket or woolen bed-cover." The uniforms were torn and ragged; the guns were rusty; a few only had bayonets; the soldiers carried their powder in tin boxes and cow-horns.

The horses died of starvation, and the men harnessed themselves to trucks and sleds, hauling wood and provisions from storehouse to hut. At one time there was not a ration in camp. Washington seized the peril with a strong hand and compelled the people in the country about, who had been retreating to the British army at Philadelphia, to give up their stores to the patriots at Valley Forge.—*St. Nicholas.*

THE SECOND TERM.

A SKILFUL REPUBLICAN POLITICIAN THINKS CLEVELAND WON'T GET IT.

From an interview with the Hon. W. W. Dudley, lately Commissioner of Pensions.

"Do you think Cleveland will be re-nominated?"

"No, I do not. I am almost alone among my friends in taking this view, but I have been all over the North during the summer, and have made a careful examination of the possibility of opposition to Mr. Cleveland within his own party. The leaders do not like him, and the people with whom he is popular are not enthusiastic over him. I am confident he will not be re-nominated. The feeling in New York especially I know to be very strong against him."—*N. Y. Sun.*

OFFICE-HOLDERS ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS.

A Cabinet Minister was asked today as to what, in his opinion, was the proper interpretation to put on the President's order relative to the political course of Government officials. He said he had never discussed that subject with the President, and therefore he did not feel authorized to undertake to express the meaning of the President. As to his own views, they were decided enough, and he had no objection to giving utterance to them. He did not believe that any power existed to forbid to office-holders the same privileges as pertained to other citizens to express and to advocate their political convictions. If any officer of the Government saw proper to address his fellow citizens in public on current political issues, he did not see that it would be any crime or call for any censure. In his own department he certainly would not venture to call to account any one who should do this. The casting of a ballot was just as much the expression of an opinion as would be advocacy of it by word of mouth, and one was as much an inalienable right as the other. When he entered the Cabinet he did not surrender his rights as a citizen, and had always expressed his political views when the occasion called for it. He had also contributed to campaign funds, as had the President, and he would not take from others the rights which he exercised himself. If Government employees attended faithfully to their duties during office hours, in his opinion jurisdiction over them ceased when they were off duty. It would be thought most strange if the Government should assume to prevent one of its employees from speaking in church or leading at a prayer meeting, and a citizen has as much right to his political as his religious convictions. He thought that it would be safe to leave conduct in such matters to the individual sense of propriety of those concerned.—*From Baltimore Sun.*

In Raleigh—Never.

An article is going the rounds of the papers entitled "When not to drink." A man who was in Raleigh at the circus and was fearfully "dribe" and couldn't get a drink would cry—"In Raleigh—never."—*State Chronicle.*

EXTRACT FROM VANCE'S SPEECH AT RALEIGH AS GIVEN IN CHRONICLE.

"It is, I suppose, generally known to you," said Senator Vance, "that I'm something of a sore-head." He did not approve of everything that Mr. Cleveland had done and did not think that he would object to some honest criticism from his best friends. "If he (the President) did he is not worthy to occupy the position that he holds." "And if I," said the Senator, "for fear of offending the President, should withhold such criticism, I would not be worthy of the position that I occupy." I have disagreed with the President in his silver policy and in his views on the so-called civil service reform. But I'm not going to quit the Democratic party on that account. "But, then," said the Senator, with a merry twinkle in his eye, "I have thought that perhaps the President knows as much about it as I do." He said that Mr. Cleveland was an honest man and was fearless in the performance of what he considered his duty. The departure from Washington of those rascals and thieves who have hung around the Capital in former years is evidence of the character and ability of the Administration. He said that Mr. Cleveland was bull-headed, conceited and obstinate, but he thought he would soon get over that as he had just married.

The Senator closed his speech, which was about one and a quarter hours long, with the advice to stick to the good old Democratic party which had done so much for the people and was about to be in a position to do so much more.

The Sun Burns Cleveland.

President Cleveland in his speech of Thursday at Richmond said: "I congratulate myself that my first introduction to the people of Virginia occurs at a time when they are surrounded by the exhibits of the productive and prosperous of their State." Mr. Cleveland had an opportunity to be introduced to the Virginians in 1862, but he sent a substitute. If he had gone himself at that time would the Virginians have greeted him any less heartily now? Not a bit. There are no truer men going than the Virginians.—*N. Y. Sun.*

Business Methods in Farming.

It is not possible for any new west W. S. Barton, of Rome, Tenn., to the *Nashville American*, to handle money successfully in any business who is lacking in the art of creating capital. Nineteen-twentieths of the young men in our knowledge, who first ventured into business on borrowed capital came to grief. They lacked knowledge of the principles of their business which comes of experience and close, hard thinking. Wm. H. Vanderbilt mortgaged his little island farm for \$5,000 and spent the greater part of the money on it, and came out successful. He was trained in the house of his father, and knew the art of turning the penny. Where we find one come out so successful as he did, fifty others will go to the wall under a mortgage. In our opinion nothing would result so disastrously to our agricultural interests as that of allowing farmers a free run on banks under the mortgage system. A temporary show of prosperity might be made in erecting new buildings and dressing up the farms; but the inevitable result in the majority of the cases would be foreclosures and a transfer of property to the banks. The money-lender, whether he be farmer or other business man, is usually a financial success, while a constant borrower is as certainly a financial failure. So we would say to the farmer, look to your business for money to run it. Create your own capital out of your surplus products. Keep what is not needed to run you invested, loaned or in bank. Spend sparingly and judiciously. Economize closely in everything. Keep alive to your business, and keep your business alive. Shun debt as you would a viper. Compare your own methods of business with that of your successful neighbor. Keep your efforts within the bounds of your mental grasp, for to overreach it is simply to commit financial suicide. Save your lands by careful tillage and improve them by rest and fertilizing.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE DEMOCRAT.

POULTRY NOTES.

Those who can get plenty of milk will find it a most valuable adjunct in feeding young stock.

Plaster of Paris scattered over the floors of the fowl-houses is a powerful absorbent, preventing the smell which arises from the droppings.

The nests must occasionally be renewed and kept clean. Straw is better than hay. Tobacco stems covered with straw are an excellent prevention of insect breeding, especially when hens are setting.

I tried rice for young chicks this year, says a correspondent, and think it is the best food found for them. Did not have one to die that was hatched out. I shall thoroughly test its merits and adaptability next season. It is a cheap article, too.

Variety of Feed.

Young calves, especially those intended to be kept for cows, should be taught at an early age to eat a great variety of food. Cows worth anything as milkers are voracious feeders and not dainty. This is one reason why the much petted single cow of the poor man is commonly superior for milking qualities to the best in a large herd receiving only ordinary care. Variety of food is as conducive to health and appetite for stock as it is for people. It is necessary from the fact that no one kind of food is a full ration, and when one alone is fed the appetite palls because the food offered does not meet the requirements of the system.

A Short Biography Of The Oyster.

Baltimore American.

The oysters is again in our midst. The oyster is a good thing to have in our midst. It creates a feeling of comfort and content, and answers completely the old question as to whether or not life is worth living. There may be better aquatic things than the oyster, but their names are not known. The gentle bivalve is the very essence of goodness.

The oyster is mankind's friend. It is as modest as it is useful. In its youthful days it affixes itself to an object and stays there until compelled to leave. It does not visit or gad about, or go on excursions. It sticks closer to its perch than a politician does to a sinecure. All it does is to be there and get fat. As the tides pass by it opens its mouth and takes in whatever of nutriment the current brings it. It is the picture of *otium cum dignitate*. For months and months it stores away the succulence of the salted seas. Then some frosty morning it jumps into a dredge and leaves its watery home. It comes to the city, takes up its residence in the raw box, and when the sable gentleman with a knife threatens to cut its throat, it comes out of the shell, crawls upon the prongs of a fork, and after passing through a yawning cavern, takes a last, long dive into some human depth from which no traveller returns. Its little life is gone, but the man who takes it utters a benediction, and calls for another half dozen.

Chicken Cholera.

The symptoms of cholera are great thirst, a nervous anxious expression, greenish droppings, and rapid prostration. Its work is done quickly, usually killing the birds in twenty-four hours or less. When it attacks a flock the sick birds must be separated from the others, and a thorough cleaning and disinfection of the whole premises—yards, coops, and even the roosts and nests—must be made by sprinkling with water, to every gallon of which an ounce of carbolic acid is added. Although hundreds of remedies have been proposed, it is doubtful if a sure cure has as yet been discovered for this terrible scourge of the poultry yards. The best mode of treating a large flock of fowls is to allow them no drinking water at all, but add a teaspoonful of strong liquid carbolic acid to a quart of water, and use this water for mixing the soft food, which should consist of two pounds of corn meal, one pound of parched flour, half a pound of fenugreek and an ounce of bread soda. Boil a pound of the inner bark of thered oak tree in half a gallon of water down to a quart. Take a pound of the mixture, pour in a gill

of red oak bark decoction, stir it well, and then add the carbolic water until the whole is of the consistency of dough, but do not have it too stiff. Give them all they will eat of it. In fact, keep it before them all the time. Those that do not eat should be forced by cramming with a tablespoonful of the mixture twice a day. This will be absolutely necessary with turkeys. Give no water until the birds begin to recover. Then add twenty drops of carbolic acid and a tablespoonful of red oak bark solution to each pint of the drinking water. Keep the sick birds dry and warm, disinfect all droppings as soon as they accumulate, and bury or burn all dead birds.—*American Agriculturist.*

OVERFEEDING HORSES.

Horses, especially those at hard work, suffer more from overfeeding than from almost any other cause. They may not eat too much; in fact, overfeeding is often a cause for a horse not eating enough. It is much easier to put too much hay or grain before a horse and let him eat what he will and mow and soil the remainder, than it is to give just the right amount and see that all is eaten cleanly. No animal is more delicate in its food than a horse. If the manger is half filled with some hay or other food the order from this takes away his appetite for what is freshly placed before him. Disregard of this fact is one reason why horses often grow poor on cut feed moistened and fed to them in warm weather. It sours very quickly at this season, and a very little left in the feed box will soon destroy a horse's appetite.—*Country Homes.*

THE SLANDERER.

There is no more cowardly assassin that walks the earth than the character-murderer—the slimy and slanderous-tongued gossip who delight it is to repeat every idle word that is whispered in their ear—to spew out and enlarge upon to the first listening friend they meet the latest "what they say," the venomous and viperous-heated scandal-monger whose business it is to tarnish the good name and traduce the character of their fellow-men, whether by direct charge or insinuation. With a knowing wink and a significant shake of the head, they are ever ready to peddle the "news" about but always with a soft reminder not to say I told you so and so. These pious hypocrites infect every community, and ply their nefarious practice of character-mirching wherever they go. Heaven pity such miserable wretches as these, and while this sort of character calls for condemnation of the severest kind let us rather pity them and leave them alone in the hands of a Higher Power before whose judgment bar their blackened and puny souls must some day be called to account. He who undertakes to run down a slanderer shows himself waiting in good judgment; but he who lives it down proves a character invulnerable to the attacks of the thoughtless and malicious.—*Wilson Mirror.*

Doesn't Like Grover the Great.

The following is a letter from an old Democrat to Pomeroy's *Democrat*:

"I have been for nearly thirty years an active, earnest and consistent Democrat—a personal friend of President Pierce, Thomas H. Seymour, McClellan, Tilden, Hendricks and Hancock. I wrote the 'Inauguration Hymn,' which Cleveland accepted by letter, and the Inauguration Committee published in their official programme. But I must say, after a careful survey of his Administration, that if Grover Cleveland and Democracy be synonymous terms, then may the good Lord in His infinite mercy deliver me from all future Democracy!"

Fortunately, I am not driven to such a conclusion. David B. Hill lives, and I can say with him, "I am a Democrat."

JOHN ANKETELL, A. M.
NEW YORK CITY.

TO TAKE BRUISES OUT OF FURNITURE.

Wet the part with warm water, double a piece of brown paper five or six times, soak it in warm water and lay it on the place; apply on that a warm, but not hot, flat iron, till the moisture is evaporated. If the bruise be not gone, repeat the process. After two or three applications the dent or bruise will be raised to the surface. If with warm be small, merely soak it with warm water, and hold a red-hot iron near the surface, keeping the surface continually wet. The bruise will soon disappear.—*Progressive Farmer.*

WISE WORDS.

Improve opportunities.
Ill doers are ill thinkers.
All men can't be masters.
Agree, for the law is costly.
Care and diligence bring luck.
Hatred is blind as well as love.
Idleness always envies industry.
Heaven is worth the whole world.
A great fortune is a great slavery.
Idle men are dead all their life-long.
Honors come by diligence; riches spring from economy.

No man is more severely punished than he who is subject to the whip of his own remorse.

When the forenoons of life are wasted there is not much hope of a peaceful and fruitful evening.
How noiselessly the snow comes down! You may see it, feel it, but never hear it. Such is true charity.

'Tis an ill thing to be ashamed of one's poverty, but much worse not to make use of lawful measures to avoid it.

To excite is so infinitely more agreeable than to offend, that it is worth some sacrifice of individual will.

It is often said that second thoughts are best. So they are in matters of judgment, but not in matters of conscience.

An old sheep raiser of Massachusetts, says: "I have kept sheep on one of them about seven years in ten, and the other three in ten. The one I kept sheep on the most is worth twenty-five per cent. more than the one I pastured with cattle. I have an orchard of four or five hundred trees, or about five acres. When the apples are the size of walnuts I turn sheep in, they pick up the green fruit which has fallen to the ground, thereby destroying many worms. I allow them to remain until the middle of July, and I think they benefit the orchard more than one half the expenses of their pasturing through the season."

A Poser for Dan Lockwood.

Washington, Oct. 28.—The President's bouncing of District Attorneys Stone of Pennsylvania and Benton of Missouri for making a speech at a political meeting, raises public expectation to frenzy about what will be done to Dan Lockwood in 1887? Dan will and must inevitably make the nominating speech, and will Mr. Cleveland bounce him?—*From the Mail and Express.*

The Democratic party is the friend of the people—it is composed of the people, and the intelligent people. The Republican party is composed of a few bosses and a large herd of ignorant, superstitions blacks, who are fond to the call of the few selfish "shepherds" with the fidelity of the most faithful sheep.—*Wilson Advocate.*

TRUE BROTHER.

The people of North Carolina need to prepare for the more thorough education of the children of the State. Give us men in every position of power and trust who are in thorough accord with the progressive ideas of the times. Give us men who believe in the education and elevation of the masses of the masses of the people. We need true and honest men in the halls of Legislation and in every political office.—*Gulf Leaf.*

A Contrast.

Philadelphia Record

The Southern Democracy are charged by James G. Blaine with awfully and systematically suppressing the right of suffrage that belongs to the colored voters. Yet two negroes one from South Carolina and the other from North Carolina, have seats in the present Congress, and these are just two more negroes than have been elected to Congress by all the Republicans of the North. If what Mr. Blaine asserts be true, how did Robert Smalls and James E. O'Hara get into the present House of Representatives? And if Northern Republicans have so great a desire for the political elevation of their colored brethren, why do they not send an occasional negro to Congress, the State Legislatures?