

# THE CAROLINA UNION FARMER



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One Dollar a Year

## The Farmer's Thanksgiving.

(From Wallaces' Farmer)

While the president of the nation and the governors of the various states call upon the people year after year to give thanks, among other things for bountiful harvests, they do not always remember that the harvest depends not alone upon the bounties of Providence but upon the farmer also. No matter how favorable the season may be, or how rich the soil, there will be no crops unless the farmer prepares the ground, sows the seed, cultivates the crop, and gathers in the harvest. In other words, the farmer is God's hired man, or perhaps better, he is God's partner in feeding the world; and the amount of food that the world will enjoy depends largely on the efficiency of the junior partner in this food-producing firm.

The farmer, we fear, does not always sufficiently "magnify his office" nor his position in this partnership. The prophet Isaiah, however, recognized it long ago when he wrote:

"Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech. Doth he that ploweth to sow plow continually? doth he continually open and harrow his ground? When he hath leveled the face thereof, doth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter abroad the cummin, and put in the wheat in rows, and the barley in the appointed place, and the spelt in the border thereof? For his God doth instruct him aright, and doth teach him."

The farmer's Thanksgiving, therefore, differs or at least should differ from the Thanksgiving of any other man or class of men on the face of the earth. He is a partner with the Almighty in the work of feeding the world, and without him the human race would perish.

The work of these partners is quite distinct. The raw material—the sunshine, the rainfall, the climatic conditions—is furnished by the senior partner, as He sees best. The farmer has nothing to do with that. His business is to utilize this raw material, and by utilizing it create food for the hungry nations. If he has made full use of this raw material, the best use possible under the conditions and circumstances, he will have a harvest and abundant reason for thankfulness. If he has failed to do his duty, it is his business to know wherein he has failed.

The farmer can see as no other man can his dependence on the Power that rules this

world. Without the senior partner, the junior partner can do nothing. He may plow and plant and cultivate; he may even manure heavily; but the amount of the harvest depends mainly on the raw material, which is entirely beyond his control. David long ago recognized the fact that this rain from heaven and fruitful seasons are the gift of God, that filleth the heart of the farmer and the consumers of his product with joy and gladness.

While the farmer should give thanks for rain and sunshine and fruitful seasons, he should not forget that he also owes thanks for any natural ability he may have to work up this raw material. We have known men who were really good farmers, but who spoiled it all by taking all the credit to themselves, and thinking and speaking slightly of their neighbors who had not their skill and success. This is human nature. This streak in humanity runs back a long way.

Moses saw it in the wilderness, and in the eighth chapter of the book of Deuteronomy writes: "Beware lest thou forget Jehovah thy God, \* \* \* lest, when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; (13) and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; then thy heart be lifted up, and thou forget Jehovah thy God, \* \* \* and lest thou say in thy heart, My power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember Jehovah thy God, who giveth thee power to get wealth; \* \* \*

The rich man is not the only man who puts on airs, pats himself on the back, and says: "What a tremendous big fellow I am." Nor is the good-looking girl, who by birth inherited a fine form and a beautiful face, the only one whose head is swelled. The farmer is quite likely to pat himself on the back, and say: "I am the biggest man in all this community. These neighbors of mine are poor farmers, shiftless and lazy."

The question we wish to put to any man who feels so inclined on Thanksgiving Day is: Where did you get it? Who gave you the knack of farming? Why is it that everything you touch turns into money? and why is it that some of these other people failed after doing their best? It is partly natural endow-

ment; and all the credit that is due you is for developing that endowment.

This brings another fact: that the farmer in this day, and especially the western farmer, should be thankful all Thanksgiving Day that he was born at the right time; that his father or his grandfather settled in the right place; that he was born at a time when inventive genius enables him to get rid of most of the back-breaking work and drudgery of farming; that science has enabled him to hang his cradle and scythe on a tree and get onto a mower, a reaper and binder; that science has taught him how to preserve canned feed for his live stock all the year around, winter and summer; that science has taught him all about bugs and worms and blights and molds, the life-habits of all these pests, and has taught him to stand by his feathered friends through thick and thin. This in itself is ground for thankfulness.

It is true that we do not utilize all these advantages, and that is a matter for humiliation even on Thanksgiving Day. There never was a time in the history of the world when the farmer had so many helps in utilizing and making the most of the raw material which the senior partner gives him.

If our neighbor's cornfield has yielded forty bushels of corn this year when ours has yielded only twenty on the same kind of land, that's no reason why we should be jealous of our neighbor; but it is reason why we should inquire why it is that our neighbor under the same conditions has been so successful. If ours has been a big crop and our neighbor's a small one, this is no reason why we should look down upon this neighbor; but the very best of reasons why we should win his confidence and suggest to him how he can reap as great a harvest as we have reaped this year.

If our readers will think this over, we believe they will see new reasons for thanksgiving and gratitude, new reasons for using extra efforts next year, taking more and better agricultural papers, reading more carefully the reports of experiment stations, attending the corn and judging shows, getting in touch with the young fellows who have been wide-awake to the opportunities and are ready to help us. There is no reason why this should not be the best Thanksgiving we have ever had since Thanksgiving began in our experience.