# Rural Economy.

AN OLD STYLE FARM.

The fences were as motley as the militia men's coats on a first Monday in May. From time to time some previou- tenant or owner had devoted "fall leisure" to the erection of a wall, mostly in continuation of a great range of barrier which separated the hill-land from the flat. In this erection their views of economy (no other being recognized) had taken wide divergence. Thus, one had given a circular sweep to his trail for the sake of inclosing some smooth spot upon the lowest slope of the hills; another had made a flanking movement in the other direction, for the sake of excluding some unfortunate little group of innocent rocks. But the sinners and the well-doers, on the score of walling, must have long before gone to their account. since the stones were all mossy and the frequent gaps had been blocked up by lopping over some vigorous young hickory or chestnut which had started from the base of the wall. But even this rustic device had not given full security, for with settlements and the "bulging" under frosts, this great line of barrier was no proof gainst the clambering propensities of the sheep; and the whole line of fence had been topped with long poles, kept in their places by cross stakes, firmly driven and sustaining the "riders" at the point of intersection. To complete the fence picture, I have to add to those half-lopped hickories in the gaps—to those bulging tumors of stone—to those gaunt overriding poles—a great array of blackberry briers, of elders, of dog-willows, of dried stems of golden-rod, of raspberries, of pretentious wild cherries Still further, I must mark down a great sprawling array of the scattered wall, in some half dozen spots, where adventurous hunters had made a mining foray after some unfortunate woodchuck or rabbit.

So much for the average New England walling in retired districts twenty years ago, (is it much better now?) As for the wooden fencing, there was across the meadow by the road a staggering line of "posts and rails"-one post veering southward, the next veering northward—a wholly frightful line, which was like nothing so much as a file of tipsy soldiers making vain efforts to keep "eyes right." In the woodlands and upon the borders were old. lichen-covered Virginia fences, sinking rail by rail into the earth, luxuriant young trees shooting up in the angles, brambles overgrowing them, poisonous vines—the three-leaved ampelopsis among them, (which country people call mercury, ivy, and I know not what names beside) - and this entire range of exterior fence gone over each springtime-April being the usual month—and made effective by lopping upon it such lusty growth as may have sprung up the season past. It is afflictive to think what waste of natural resources is committed in this way every year by the scrubby farmers of New England.

In giving this description of a farm of twenty years ago, I feel sure that I am describing the available surface of a thousand farms of New England to-day. We boast, indeed, of our thrift and enterprise, but these do not work in the direction of land who manage their lands infinitely better. I do not quite understand why the Ameridirection of agriculture. I feel quite confident that seven out of ten of the most accomplished and successful nurserymen, gardeners, and farmers in the country, are of foreign birth, or of foreign parentage. Within the limits of my own experience, find it infinitely more difficult to secure a good American farmer, than to secure a good Scotch or even an Irish one. And I observe, with not a little shame, that while the American is disposed to make up the a rigorous step dame from which all possi-Hours at Home.

### GOING TO MARKET.

I have tried to outline the surroundings and appointments of many a back country farmer of New England to day. I am sure life. I seem to see such an one now on one of these May mornings an hour before sunskin, of which the fur is half worn away. mentions that the messenger sent by that An oaken firkin is presently lifted in, with general to his fellow-citizens, when besieg a white linen cloth shut down under its ed in the capital, made use of a cork-jacket cover, and a corner of the buffalo turned to enable him to cross the Tiber, the Gauls over it to shield it from the dust and the being in possession of the bridge. sunshine. Then comes a bushel basket of | eggs packed in rowen hay, next the great commerce than might be supposed from the plication debilitates the patient.—Nation. clothes basket, covered with a table cloth, compartively limited purposes to which it in which lie the two hind quarters of a veal is devoted. We have not the complete killed yesterday, (the fore quarters being statistics in regard to its importation; but kept for home consumption.) In a corner in New York there are several houses which of the wagon is thrust a squat jug-its deal exclusively in the article, and the stopper being a corn cob wrapped around great increase in its price is one evidence with newspaper-which is to be filled with of the increasing demand for it. We would "Port o' reek" molasses. Then, at last, Jerusha the wife, in silver spectacles, and should be taken for introducing and en-Sunday gown, clambers in-a stout woman, couraging its production in our own soil with her waist belted in, after a loose sausage-like way-who has a last word for her rieties of soil, so that there can be no doubt "darter" Sally Ann, and then another last that it would soon find itself at home. We word, and who cautions Enos (her hasband) about "turnin' too short," and who asks if trial, should be found to attain a size in

the spring weather?" So they drive away-Enos and Jerushy. tains magnificent! dimensions in Florida, They talk of the new "howsen" along the Louisiana and Texas. The richness of the way; they discuss the last Sunday's ser- | Southern soil might impart to it a new

b'lieve a word on't, Enos. No sich a thing.
Did you put a baitin' for the hoss in the waggin' Enos?"

No, I vum! I forgot it," says Enos. "What a plaguey careless creeter you're gittin' to be, Enos!"

And so the good worthy couple jog on. In town, the jug is filled; the stout matron peers through her spectacles at tapes, thread, needles, and a stout "caliker" gown (fast colors) for Sally Ann. Pater Fumilias sees to the filling of the flat jug, he makes a fair sale of the two quarters of veal, he buys a few "garding" seeds, a new rake, a scythe snathe, and dickers for a grindstone—unavailingly. Two hours before nightfall, the good couple jog home ward again, with humdrum quietude. -

# Scientific.

CORK. There are multitudes of persons who are

article, so constantly used in various ways,

who know very little of its nature and where it comes from It is the bark of a species of oak, not the real bark, essential to the life of the tree, but the outer coating, which corresponds to the dry bark of many of our own trees. This oak grows naturally in the mountainous districts of the south of France, in the Spanish peninsula, Italy, and in the north of Africa. It does not attain a great height, not more than forty feet, nor is its circumference great compared with many other varieties of the oak, but it is sufficiently large to allow of sheets being taken from its trunk twelve inches or more in width and several feet in length. The tree has a strong resemblance to the live oak of our Southern States, and there is no doubt that it might be cultivated with advantage in the warmer portions of our country. We do not know that it has ever been attempted to any considerable extent, but it is well worth the attention of those who are seeking to develope the resources of the country, and at the same time to do a good thing for themselves. This tree might be planted in grounds that are not arable, and be growing up to yield a profit while better soil is under cultivation. The cork tree, after arriving at a certain state of maturity, sheds its bark of its own accord, like some of our own forest trees which are continually throwing off their outer coats. But the bark thus shed spontaneously is of very little utility. That which becomes an article of commerce is removed from the tree by cutting around it and making longitudinal incisions, care being taken not to cut through the inner bark. The sheets which are taken from the tree are usually about a foot wide and four feet in length, the bark itself having the thickness of an inch or more, according to its age. The bark is not removed until the tree has at tained the age of twenty five or thirty years. and after that it may be taken off every eight or ten years, as it renews itself, the quantity of the cork improving with the advancing age of the tree, which thrives for one or two hundred years and continues to yield culture-at least not in the way of that its decennial crop. The time for stripping liberal and generous culture which insures off the bark is in July or August, when it force developed equivalent to that of 11, the largest product. I doubt greatly if is easily removed. In Spain and France 422,000 lbs. falling one foot, and the actual there be any people on the face of the and Italy it is an important production, and useful force got from each pound of coal in earth, equally intelligent, who farm so in those countries it may be seen piled up a good steam-engine is that of 1,000,000 poorly as the men of New England; and in long rows like cord wood, or like the lbs. falling through a foot; that is to say, there are tens of thousands less intelligent bark which is used for tanning in our own there is spring enough in coal to raise a forests and by the roadside in the country. million times its own weight a foot high. can character which has shown such won- and the like, it is charred on each side of horse and cart to bring a ton of coals to derful aptitude for thrift in other direct the sheet of bark, which produces a contions, should have shown so little in the traction of its substance, stopping the pores more effectually, and greatly adding to its value for most purposes for which it is used. Its valuable properties are well known. Its remarkable elasticity, combined with its it indispensable for stoppers, no other subthat could take its place. India-rubber has been used to some extent, but for cheap ness and convenience and durability, it does not rival the old familiar article. The tale of his profits by sharp bargains, the manufacture of the cork for stoppers is Scotch are as much disposed to make it up almost altogether accomplished by hand, by liberal treatment of the land. Why is machinery having been used only to a very this? The American is not illiberal by limited extent; and on account of the high nature; a thousand proofs lie to the con- price of labor in this country, the cork is trary; but by an unfortunate traditional almost entirely cut before its importation belief he is disposed to count the land only | The cutting of it is quite an art, requiring a very sharp knife, and considerable dexble benefit is to be wrested, and the least terity to give it the proper shape, and not possible return made. - Donald Mitchell in | to waste the raw material. It is used for which adapt it for the use already suggest ed, fit it also for buoys, for nets, and other light articles; for life-buoys and life boats, and for the soles of shoes, for which it is in | ing that treatment. The patient was bound great demand. It was formerly used to a to the bed, face downward, and a thorough the drawing is true, because it is from the artificial limbs, but in this department it length of the spine, followed with ice applihas been superceded by other substances more available. We have accounts of its edly. Pulse and breathing became quiet, rise. It is his market day, and the old use in very ancient times for many of the pains gradually left him, and complete resorrel mare is harnessed, and tied to the purposes for which it is employed at the covery was the result. In the French hoshitch-post. The wagon is of antique shape, present day, and it is very natural to supbulging out in front and rear, and with pose that its peculiar properties would sughalt rounded ends. The high backed seat, gest uses to which it could be applied. The supported upon a V shaped framework of cork-jacket, for instance, is no modern in ash, and covered over with a yellow buffalo | vention. Plutarch, in his life of Camillus.

Cork is a much more important article in renew the suggestion that some measures We have the requisite climate and all va should not be surprised if the tree, upon the mare "ain't gittin' kind o' frisky with this country unknown in the Old World. It is near of kin to the live oak, which at-

mon: Enos says, "I heerd that Hosea vigor. The matter is at least worth an ex-Wood is a cortin' Malviny Smith." "Don't periment and thorough trial.—New York

THE EYE OF AN EAGLE.

The eyes of all birds have a peculiarity of structure which enables them to see near PUBLICATION COMMITTEE. or distant objects equally well, and this wonderful power is carried to the greatest perfection in the bird of prey. When we recollect that an eagle will ascend more than a mile in perpendicular height, and from that enormous elevation will perceive its unsuspecting prey, and pounce upon it with unerring certainty; and when we see the same bird scrutinizing, with almost microscopic nicety, an object close at hand, we shall at once perceive that he possesses a power of accommodating his sight to distance in a manner to which our eye is unfitted, and of which it is totally incapable. If we take a printed page, we shall find that there is some particular distance, probably ten inches, at which we can read the words and see each letter with perfect distinctness: but if we move this page to a distance of forty inches, or bring it within a distance of five inches, we shall find it perfectly familiar with this indispensable impossible to read it at all; a scientific man would, therefore, call ten inches the focus or focal distance of our eyes. We cannot alter this focus except by the aid of spec-

But an eagle has the power of altering the focus of his eye just as he pleases; he has only to look at an object at the distance of two feet or two miles in order to see it with perfect distinctness. Of course, the eagle knows nothing of the wonderful contrivance which God has supplied for his accommodation; he employs it instinctively and because he cannot help it. The ball of his eye is surrounded by fifteen little plates, called sclerotic bones; they form a complete ring, and their edges slightly overap each other. When he looks at a distant object, this little circle of bones expands, and the ball of the eye, being relieved from the pressure, becomes flatter; and when he looks at a very near object, the little bones press together, and the ball of the eye is thus squeezed into a rounder or more convex form; the effect is very familiar to everybody; a person with very round eyes is near-sighted, and only sees clearly an object that is close to him; and a person with flat eyes, as in old age, can see no-thing clearly except at a distance; the eagle by mere will, can make his eyes round or flat, and see with equal clearness at any

#### COAL AS A RESERVOIR OF POWER.

Coal has all the characteristics which entitle it to be considered the best natural source of motive power. It is like a spring, wound up during geological ages for us to let down. Just as in alluvial deposits of gold dust we enjoy the labor of the natural forces which for ages were breaking down the quartz veins and washing out the gold ready for us, so in our seams we have peculiar stores of force collected from the sunbeams for us. Coal contains light and heat, bottled up in the earth, as Stephenson said, for tens of thousands of years, and now again brought forth and made to work for human purposes. The amount of power contained in coal is almost incredible. In burning a single pound of coal, there is Before being cut into stoppers for bottles Or again, suppose a farmer to despatch a work a portable engine, occupying four hours on the way, the power brought in the coal is 2800 times the power expended in bringing it; and the amount of useful force actually got from it will probably exceed by 100 times or more that of the horse as emimperviousness to any ordinary fluid, make ployed in the cart In coal we pre-eminently have, as the partner of Watt said. "What stance having been discovered or invented all the world wants-Power." All things considered, it is not reasonable to suppose or expect that the power of coal will ever be superseded by anything better. It is naturally the best source of power, as air and water and gold and iron are, each for its purposes, the most useful of substances, and such as will never be superseded.

ICE AS A MEDICINE. Ouite marvellous results have lately been noted from the use of ice applied to the spinal nerves. Its frequent application in some severe cases of apoplexy has relieved many other purposes. The same properties | the patient. It is applied to the lumbar plexus of nerves over the spine, alternated with hot water to the feet. A case of undoubted hydrophobia has been cured by followconsiderable extent in the manufacture of wet cupping from the head down the whole cations for two or three days uninterruptcovery was the result. In the French hospitals the ice treatment in cases of nervous debility, paralysis of the motor nerves, prolapsus uteri, convulsions from teething, and perpetual convulsions, has been successful without a drop of medicine. The great secret of this mode of treatment consists in using the ice long enough to get its tonic effects only, which is a nice point, and requires great care from the medical attendant, as short applications of ice are powerfully neurotonic, while its too lengthy ap-

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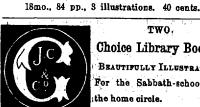
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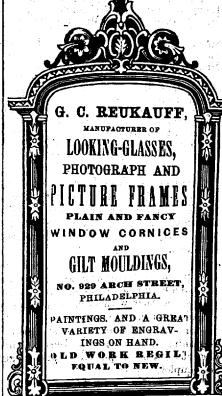
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