

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 previous 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.

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."

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 the drawing is true, because it is from the life. I seem to see such an one now on one of these May mornings an hour before sunrise.

mon: Enos says, "I heard that Hosea Wood is a cordin' Malviny Smith." "Don't b'lieve a word on't, Enos. No sich a thing. Did you put a baitin' for the hoss in the waggin' Enos?"

Scientific.

CORK.

There are multitudes of persons who are perfectly familiar with this indispensable 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.

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 culture—at least not in the way of that liberal and generous culture which insures the largest product.

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vigor. The matter is at least worth an experiment and thorough trial.—New York Journal of Commerce.

THE EYE OF AN EAGLE.

The eyes of all birds have a peculiarity of structure which enables them to see near 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.

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.

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 sun-beams 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.

ICE AS A MEDICINE.

Quite 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 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 following that treatment. The patient was bound to the bed, face downward, and a thorough wet cupping from the head down the whole length of the spine, followed with ice applications for two or three days uninterruptedly.

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