

HOUSE AND FARM.

Something to Sell. One of the best and most successful farmers we ever knew, once told us that it was a rule with him to always have something to sell, no matter what time of the year. In the spring he always had seed grain of some sort—samples of wheat, oats, barley, rye, corn, or potatoes, carrot seed, beet seed, salt pork, hams, corned beef, or fat stock of some sort. He had found that it paid to take extra pains to have seed grains or vegetables on hand in the spring; for since it had become known that he always had these to sell, he found no difficulty in selling all that he had at good prices—at prices that paid him for all the extra trouble and care in preparing and preserving them. Another thing he said he had found useful to him, and he did not understand why farmers did not practice it more. When he had a stock of anything to sell he announced the fact in the local papers, just as the grocers and merchants do. He had found it profitable to purchase space in the paper by the year, and advertise his products according to season and the stock on hand. Then it was a part of his creed to produce the best. His seed was pure and clean; his stock fat and healthy; his fruit for sale was always perfect; his butter was gilt edged; his hams were sugar-cured, smoked just enough, and people were always glad to pay him two or three cents more per pound than for those found at the grocers. He laid great stress upon the advantages of a home market for his products. His local reputation as a producer was of direct value to him, and he labored to keep it first class. His grain did not go in bulk to a grain buyer who mixed it with inferior grades. It was sold to the local miller, who could afford to pay him more for it than the speculator, because he knew there were no screenings in it to depreciate its value. Thus he always had ready recourse. When we asked if he did not find it more difficult to save his money when it came to him in dribbles, he replied, no. It was no more difficult for him to save than for the retail grocer or merchant. He deposited his money in bank, and only paid it out in shape of a check—except for personal expenses. While he sold at retail, he bought, so far as practicable, at wholesale. He sold for cash or exchanged for something he needed—never trusted any man. He also bought for cash, and always had money on hand with which he could buy to advantage. Now this mode of dealing, we are aware, is not always practicable; for all farmers do not live near large towns nor in populous districts; but if the farmer adopts a mixed system of husbandry, he may always have something to sell that will meet a local want. Something to sell is what the farmer labors for. The best mode of selling it is an equally important consideration; and our own experience and observation proves that there is no more profitable way than to try to supply all local demands first, and then if a distant market must be sought for any surplus, try to but that surplus in the least bulky shape possible. The Green House. A good effect is readily produced by introducing groups of mixed plants in pots from the green house at points where walks join or cross each other, or in such other places as appear naked require tinting up during the summer months. Sand, saw dust and stone coal ashes are all of them good in forming a bed in which to plunge the pots. Acacias, Diosmas, Metrosideros and Eucalyptus are the kind of plants suitable for this purpose, while others, as Camellias, which have large smooth leaves, convert a partial shade white out in the open air. One cannot but admire the taste exhibited—and labor bestowed by the great masses of people possessing property on the Continent of Europe, where every conceivable device is resorted to in preserving during the winter the pet Oleanders, Oranges, Jasmines, Engenias, Myrtles, Russellos and Sweetbays, which they grow in tubs, fancy vases, or pots. With these the terrace and lawns are adorned, while at the cot-

tage door and flower parterre they are set out as the garden gods of the proprietor. In our own land we see the same taste taking fast hold of the people, who thus add to domestic happiness through Flora's refining process. Some people prefer to have their conservatories adorned during the summer months with only one or two genera of plants such as Caladiums or Achimenes, while others select a mixed assortment of such things as Begonias, Gesnerias, Tides, Gloxineas, Achimenes and Caladiums. Now the effect produced by all these, when well grown, and at the same time intermingled with a goodly sprinkling of the graceful Ferns, affords more satisfaction, because a more artistic arrangement can be made, and moreover, the eye is gladdened by a greater variety of forms. In speaking of forms in plants themselves, we would remind our readers that among Orchids, or Air plants, in their flowers, a still greater variety in colors and singularity of forms present themselves, some of them resembling doves, butterflies, bees and spiders, and the singular names by which some of these lovely plants are known in South America are not deemed proper for a christian to repeat. People of taste and means are beginning in this country to make collections of this lovely tribe, but unfortunately their cultivation will never become universal, as they require more care than people in general are willing to bestow on such subjects, therefore the Rose, Geranium and Heliotrope must still hold the high place they have attained in public estimation. The principle work to be performed under glass at this season will consist in tying up creepers, shifting into larger pots any young growing plants that may require it, not neglecting to use the syringe freely, so as to keep up a humid atmosphere and hold insects in subjection, but remember that delicate flowers are often injured by receiving too much water overhead. Corn Fodder. Corn for fodder may be sown from the first of June till the middle of July with success, if the variety of corn is adapted to the season of sowing. Very large crops are obtained by some farmers by the use of the seed of the large sorts which are grown in southern Ohio, or in the Middle States, the seed being brought from those latitudes. Such corn must be sown early to mature sufficiently before autumn. The later the sowing, the earlier must be the corn used. Small Canada corn, put in twice as thickly as the other sorts, as late as the middle of July, will give a good crop in September. Corn fodder will grow on almost any land, but to have a good and profitable crop, the richest ground must be selected. Many have rejected it because they have never given it a fair chance. Cows and Calves. Much has been said and written about the best treatment of calves, and so many have advised their immediate removal, that we this spring determined to try it. Out of four so treated (all heifers worth \$100 when they were dropped), one died before it was a week old, another is scouring so badly that we have but little hope of its recovery, and a third is ailing and weakly. We have had quite enough of this treatment, and shall return to our custom of leaving all calves with their mothers until they are at least three days old, and longer, if necessary, to start them fairly, and vigorously on the road of life, a practice which has hitherto produced the most satisfactory results. I have also experimented—until I have regretted it—on another theory of some modern breeders of Jerseys—that is, to milk the cows quite up to the time of calving, if possible. In every case, I am convinced that real and probably permanent injury has resulted. The idea advanced was that a Jersey cow has no other purpose but to bring calves and to produce milk, and that she should be trained to the fullest and most persistent exercise of the lacteal function. The subject has been presented to me so long and so persuasively, and by men whose opinion

seemed so well worthy of respect, that I had come to more than half believe it, and have tried the experiment this spring with several animals. In every case there has been trouble with the udder, and thus far the flow of milk is less than it was after the previous calving. The calves have not been materially affected by it, but the mothers have been in every instance. Hereafter, we shall endeavor to dry off all the cows a month before calving. Up to that time it is well to keep the milk flowing (if only a pint a day), and with Jerseys it is almost easy to do this; but after that the milking should cease, and the udder should be allowed to become entirely empty of milk preparatory to the commencement of its new period of activity—"springing" regularly and naturally, and having no trace of the old love when it begins with the new. Farmers' Wives. If there is a busy place in the world, it is the farm house in America during June and July. There are thousands of cases where one woman does all the labor of the house, besides having the care of one or two children, during this hot, busy season; and we blush to add that in many instances the men are to headless to render her such assistance as they could easily perform in the mornings, noons and evenings. It would lighten her toil and lessen her steps if the fruit and vegetables were brought in from the garden in the morning; if the water was drawn from the well for cooking purposes; if the reservoir on the stove was filled; if the wood was brought close to the stove; if the slops regularly taken to the compost heap; the skimmed milk brought from the milk room. These chores might all be done by the men and boys during the leisure moments before meals and at the "noonings." When a woman is obliged to "tramp, tramp," all day through, and perhaps nurse a baby besides, there is something wrong. It is too much for her to do; it inflicts serious ills upon her offspring, and eventually will result in sickness or infirmity and loss. Our women on the farm are an overworked class. They spend too much time and strength in hot rooms and over stoves, and too little in the open air. Between cooking and washing and ironing, and scrubbing, sweeping, dusting, care of plants, etc., where is the time for any mental exercise or for gaining any information of current events? We want to see farmers' wives have as much relaxation from toil as farmers themselves. Yeast From Grape Leaves. We do not know the origin of the following. We find it in an exchange uncredited: Last summer I discovered that grape leaves made a yeast in some respects superior to hops, as the bread rises sooner and has not the peculiar taste which many object to in that made from hops. Use eight or ten leaves for a quart of yeast; boil them about ten minutes and pour the hot liquor on the flour, the quantity of the latter being determined by whether you want the yeast thick or thin. Use hop yeast for raising it to begin with, and afterward that made of the grape leaves. Dried leaves are equally as good as fresh. Sometimes the yeast has a dark film over its surface when rising, but this entirely disappears when stirred. It is a common mistake to plant pines and spruce-firs near the edge of one's walk and carriage roads. Few persons know or stop to inquire how large trees will spread as they grow to maturity. They look pretty as they stand in the nursery, and are set at arm's length of the walk where they can be seen and petted. But in a few years they stretch from fifteen to twenty feet each side, over the walks and shrubbery, and the result of the whole is, that either the trees must be cut down or the lower branches hewn off, which is sure destruction to the trees. Any method of planting which does not forecast the future height and breadth of trees, whether planted in groups or singly, is a mistake.

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