

Farm, Garden & Household.

Humorous.

THE FENCE QUESTION.

One kind of work which farmers have been much accustomed to perform in winter time, hitherto, was that of turning the proper timber into rails and stakes for fences. Doubtless many look with a feeling of sorrow and apprehension, at the present time, on their decaying fences, and wonder what another generation will do when the rails and rail timber are alike among the things of the past.

Well, among other important subjects which the farmer should carefully consider and discuss, in his time of leisure, is the fence question. The rail fence, has had its day; from necessity we must abandon it when the present stock of rails is worn out and decayed. And with it will vanish a slovenly appendage to the farm—one of the chief harboring places of small vermin and foul weeds, and a too convenient receptacle of stings, stumps, or any loose rubbish of the field. If, then, the state of our farming is such that fences are a necessity, and are likely to so continue, we must adopt something more readily accessible than timber, and more durable and tasty. On the vast, monotonous prairie, we think is the most appropriate place for hedges; the fields are likely to be made large, and in the absence of hills and groves those lines of living green are needed to break the monotony of view, and supply some shelter from the bleak winds. Hedge rows running north and south should be grown as tall as possible.

In New England, the Middle and Southern States, the safe use of a fence is to turn stock; and it is desirable to occupy as little land and it is possible. Where stone abounds other material will be less required. In many places ditches with a sod and stone wall will answer the double requirement of drain and fence, and there will, doubtless, eventually be found hedges adapted to the coldest and warmest sections. In this connection it is not amiss to hint to the tile makers that it is just possible burnt clay, in some form may become a substitute for the wooden ends of fence posts that are inserted in the ground. We are justly hating to the farmers who are anxiously studying how to restore their fences in the cheapest manner, that the first step is to dispense with a large proportion of what you already have. This will give some material to repair the remainder. Make the fields larger—but remember it is not necessary to always plow the whole field, or sow it all to one crop. All the grain, land and meadow might be in one field and thus save hundreds of rods of fence on a farm. A string of movable fence may be used in portions of it as required for pasture. In short, look over your farm and calculate how many lines of fences you have; next, how many rods of permanent fence can you dispense with by using one hundred rods of movable; third, what material you can best use to make your indispensable fences really permanent.

TOO MUCH STOCK.

It should ever be a rule with the farmer to winter no more stock than he can winter well. A single sheep or cow, well cared for, and provided with a sufficiency of wholesome and nutritious food, water, and comfortable shelter, will be of more value to the owner than two, poorly kept. It is a singular error in domestic policy, to appropriate to two or more animals the food necessary for one. Yet this singular mistake is often noticeable among those who consider themselves—and are called—good farmers; and indeed, is, or has been, often practiced by whole communities. In seasons of scarcity, more stock is kept than there is food to supply their wants; and suffering, often irremediable and ruinous to the community, is the result. The true policy is, to keep just as many animals as will consume the fodder produced on the farm, and no more. But this would not preclude the plan of purchasing fodder—the money at hand to do so—with the intention of increasing the quantity of manure and the productive power of the farm. Practices on the farm have greatly changed in this respect as in many others. We have heard men boast of wintering a cow of common size on a single ton of ordinary hay. Under such a practice, nearly every farm in the neighborhood would lose one or more animals every spring, by some disease induced by want of food or exposure to cold. Swine died, and so did nearly one-half the lambs and calves. Cows and working oxen came out of the winter poor and weak, the former giving but little milk after calving, and the oxen entirely unfit for performing the spring work on the farm. It was a wretched policy. We trust that it is abandoned among all enterprising farmers. Feed your stock well, and they will feed you.

HINTS FOR FARMERS.

A correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph says: It is not what we make but what we save that makes us rich. In looking around among my brother farmers, I notice many things wherein there might be greater economy in my opinion. In turning cattle out late in the fall, when the ground is soft, to be trampled upon. In letting cattle stand in an unsheltered yard in cold, stormy weather, when there is room in the stable for them. In throwing their fodder in the yard to be trampled under foot, instead of feeding it in racks. In not having water in the yard for the cattle, in place of driving them through snow and all kinds of weather to the creek, thereby losing more in manure during the year than the interest of what it would cost to bring the water in the yard, to say nothing of the convenience. In not having a house for poultry to roost in, and save their droppings; the value of the latter from one hundred fowls, in one year, would pay the cost of the building, not counting the advantage it would be to the fowls. In not having a wood-house to cut in, on rainy days, and store up dry wood. In leaving potato vines, weeds, &c., go to waste, instead of hauling them to the hogpen to be worked into manure. In riding about and leaving the management of the work too much to hired help. And last, but not least, in sending their children to school a day or two in each week, and allowing them to play and loiter about the rest of it.

A ROMANTIC young man says that a young woman's heart is like the moon; it changes continually, but it always has a man in it.

This greatest event dawn with no more noise than the morning star makes in rising. The last place to look for the milk of human kindness is in the pale of civilization. What is society after all but a mixture of miseries and miseries?

In what color should friendship be kept? In violet (in violet).

What motives have railroad trains for running? Locomotives.

The tobacco-chewer is said to be like a goose in a Dutch oven—always on the spit.

BEAUTY is the woman you love, whatever she may seem to others.

Why are railroad companies like laundresses? Because they have ironed the whole country and sometimes do a little mangling.

It is with the votes of men, as with their actions; it all depends upon the way in which you treat them.

It is said that when a crew of Chinese pirates get out of provisions they salt their own junk and eat that.

A BUFFALO man claims to have discovered that leather and India rubber for belting can be replaced by sheet iron.

A DISTILLERY internal revenue case in New York is entered in court—The United States vs. Two Large Worms.

Mrs. PARSONS says that because dancing girls are stars, it is no reason why they should be regarded as heavenly bodies.

Writes an extravagant friend wishes to borrow your money, consider which of the two you would rather lose.

The President's message has three heads, says General Schofield: Copperhead, sore-head and blockhead.

A KISS, says an ingenious authority, is like the creation, because it is made of nothing, and is very good.

A MARRIED monster says he once had a most delightful dream, in which he imagined he had an angel by his side, and on waking found it was only his wife.

What is the difference between a summer dress in winter and an abstracted tooth? One is too thin, and the other tooth-rot.

A NEW mode of dispersing mobs has lately been discovered, and it is said to act "like a charm." The mode is, to pass round a contribution box!

A YOUNG lady is charged with having said that if a cart wheel has nine fellows, it's a pity if a pretty girl like her can't have one.

A YOUNG gentleman the other day asked a young lady what she thought of the married state in general? "Not knowing, I can't tell," was the reply; "but if you and I were to put our heads together, I could soon give you a definite answer."

A LAWYER, neither young nor handsome, when examining a young lady witness in court, desiring to perplex her, said, "Miss, upon my word, you are very pretty." The young lady replied, "I would return the compliment, sir, were I not your out."

"I think," said a wife who could not agree with her husband, "I think Mr. Jibbs, we had better divide the house. You shall live on one side and I on the other." "Very well, my dear," replied he, "from this time out, I'll have the inside."

An American Quaker said to a gunner during the Revolutionary war—"Friend, I counsel no bloodshed; but if it be thy design to hit the little man in the blue jacket, point thine engine two inches lower."

Witness, you said that while walking with an open umbrella, you fell into this reservoir and were badly injured. Did you break any bones, sir, at the time? "I did, sir."

"What bones?" "I say, milkman, you give your cows too much salt."

"Why, how do you know how much salt I give them?" "I judge from the appearance of the milk you bring us lately. Salt makes the cows dry, and then they drink too much water, and that makes their milk thin, you know."

The following correspondence is said to have taken place between a New Haven merchant and one of his customers: "Sir—Your account has been standing for two years; I must have it settled immediately." To which in reply: "Sir—Things do usually settle by standing; I regret that my account is an exception. If it has been standing too long, suppose you let it run a little."

USKEL SAW had a neighbor who was in the habit of working on Sunday, but after a while he joined a church. One day he met a minister to whose church he belonged.

"Well, Uncle Sam," said he, "do you see any difference in Mr. P. since he joined the church?" "Oh, yes," said Uncle Sam, "a great difference. Before, when he went out to mend his fence on Sunday, he carried his axe on his shoulder, but now he carries it under his overcoat."

What an amiable editor he is, to be sure. Wonder if he has a wife and children.

WHITE HOUSE ANECDOTES.—Some good stories are told of the Irishman "Edward," for four years doorkeeper at the White House. Edward went with Fillmore to look at a carriage which the necessities of some Southern magnate had thrown upon the market.

PROSPECTUS FOR 1867.

THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL. By common consent the Commercial ranks first among the papers published in Western Pennsylvania. Although long recently established its circulation and influence are widely extended. As a journal of enterprise in gathering the latest intelligence, and giving in each issue a large amount of great variety of reading matter, it is held in esteem by all who are constantly increasing. An unflinching advocate of sound United principles, it at the same time pays special attention not only to all matters of general interest, but to topics of moment to the Capitalist, the Laborer, the Agriculturist, the Mechanic, and the Family Circle. Its ample columns embrace a carefully prepared Literary and Valuable Scientific Miscellaneous, Agricultural and Horticultural Information from the best sources. In giving the Earliest and Fullest News from all quarters, neither expense nor labor is spared; and it has complete arrangements for extended and valuable Commercial Reports, giving the Stock, Financial, Dry Goods, Grocery, Cattle and General Market of Pittsburgh, and the latest reports by Telegraph of the Markets of the leading cities of the world; and in every department it aims to keep pace with the progress of improvement on continents in journals at the present time. Firmly established, it is confident in its position, and will enter upon the year with new plans, well matured, looking to increased strength and usefulness.

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MR. Fillmore took the joke but not the carriage. This anecdote was told me by Mr. Lincoln, and was called up by the following: One dark and rainy evening we had got as far as the door, on our way to General McClellan's headquarters, without an umbrella, and Edward was sent back after one, the President telling him whereabouts he might find it. In a few moments he came back, announcing a fruitless search, and adding: "Sure, yer Excellency, and the owner must have come for it."

The President laughed heartily, and Edward found us another umbrella.

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Under the Act of Congress, approved July 14th, 1862, pensions are granted to the following classes of persons: 1st. Invalids disabled since March 4th, 1861, in the military and naval service of the United States in the line of duty. 2d. Widows of officers, soldiers, or seamen, dying of wounds received or of disease contracted in the military or naval service as above. 3d. Children under sixteen years of age, of such deceased persons, if their father or mother survived, or from the time of the widow's second marriage. 4th. Mothers (who have no husband living) of officers, soldiers, or seamen, deceased as aforesaid, provided the latter be no widow surviving, or from the time of the widow's second marriage. 5th. Sisters under sixteen years of age; and provided also, that the mother was dependent, wholly or in part, upon the deceased for support. 6th. Sisters under sixteen years of age; and provided also, that the mother was dependent, wholly or in part, for support, provided there are no right claimants of either of the last preceding classes.

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GOOD NEWS FOR THE FARMERS!

THE following kinds of Thrashing Machines, CONSTANTLY ON HAND AT THE MANUFACTURING DEPOT OF P. H. SHIRES, BEDFORD, PA. The Celebrated RAILWAY, or TREAD-POWER Thrashing Machines with all the latest and best improvements.

ONE AND TWO-HORSE POWERS. The Four-horse Machine with two hours and four-horse will thresh from 100 to 125 bushels of wheat or rye, and twice as much per day.

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The most perfect Mower in the world. Single Mowers or Combined Machines Warranted to give satisfaction or no sale. Farmers in want of the BEST MOWER in the field now made, would do well to call and make arrangements to give their orders for Machines in time for mowing. PETER L. SHIRES, Proprietor and Manufacturer.

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BLACK CLOTH COATS. Fine all wool Cassimere, in the price, from \$1 to \$2.50 per yard best. A full line of TAILOR TRIMMINGS.

Also a complete assortment of Fur, Canton and Palm Hats for Men and Boys, at prices to suit the purchaser. Also, an assortment of LINEN GOODS, Call and examine our stock. BERTRESSER & SMITH, Bedford, Pa., May 18, '66-17.

1866. PHILADELPHIA 1866. WALL PAPERS.

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