

Farm, Garden & Household.

WALKS AND TALKS ON THE FARM.

The time has arrived in our agriculture, however, when we must bestow more care and labor, in feeding stock, and enriching our land. I think farmers are becoming convinced of this. High prices are a great incentive to improvement. We can all see that if our farms were in condition, we would make money. I was on a farm, the other day, where the wheat crop was 27 bushels per acre, and being very clean and nice, was all sold to the neighbors for seed, at \$2.75 per bushel. Most of us, on land naturally just as good, only raise 15 bushels per acre, and that not of the best quality. In a ride of some twenty-five miles, through two of the best towns in this county, in search of some good seed wheat, this was the only wheat I found that was clean! It may be that I did not happen to fall in with the right man. One farmer, who has always been noted for careful culture, and who, I was told, would have clean seed if it was to be found, had wheat no better than his own. "I have had seed, for, on going to the barn, where he had been cleaning some thirty or forty bushels for seed, there were lying on the floor five or six bushels of stricken grain and foul stuff that had been cleaned out. This was on one of the best wheat farms in the State. Unfortunately such cases are not rare. Where one farm has improved during the past five years, ten have run down. Uncertainty in regard to future prices, and the scarcity and inefficiency of laborers are among the chief causes of this deplorable state of affairs. I did not see during the whole ride a single clean piece of corn. Most of the corn was cut up, and in every case the rows could be traced by weeds running to seed, and not infrequently the whole land was covered with weeds from six inches to three feet in height. In a dry season, like the present, it is not easy to understand how land could get so foul, where even nothing more than ordinary cultivation is employed. Next spring, this land will be sown with barley, followed by wheat in the fall. Is it to be wondered at that clean wheat is so scarce? Many farmers plow their land twice for wheat after the barley is off, and harrow, roll, and cultivate their land very nicely, in order to get it clean and mellow. But this does comparatively little good. The time to clean land is when it is in corn. If it cannot be made thoroughly clean with one corn crop, plant it two years in succession, and cultivate it every week or ten days from the time the rows can be traced till the corn is set. You will then have clean wheat.

There are two objects in working land. First, to kill weeds, and second, to enrich it by promoting decomposition, and rendering it capable of absorbing ammonia from the atmosphere. These chemical changes require time. If you have two heaps of manure piled up last spring, and one heap has been turned over three times during four or five months, and the other has not been turned at all, the one would be well rotted, and in fine condition to put on the land, while the other would most likely be lumpy, with some parts heated too much, and others not fermented at all. Now then, if you should make a spasmodic effort to get this last heap into good condition, and should turn it over a few days before you wished to use it, three times or even six times do you suppose the heap would be as fine, and as well rotted, and as rich as the other? So far as enriching the land is concerned, stirring it over three or four times in as many days, does comparatively little good. Such treatment may be necessary to get the land ready for the seed, but by doing the work all at one time, you lose one of the chief advantages of working the land. It should be understood that decomposition or oxidation in the soil or in a manure heap is a kind of slow combustion. Now, any good housewife who bakes in an old-fashioned brick oven proceeds in strict accordance with scientific principles. She turns the fire from one side in the oven to the other, and thus exposes the black embers to the air, and when they are all aglow, she exposes another portion. If she should neglect to do this till the bread was all ready, and then should knock the fire back and forth half a dozen times in as many minutes, she would exhibit no more sense than her husband, who is, with plows, harrows, and cultivators, trying to get his land ready for wheat in a hurry. In heating the oven, the fire heats the opposite side from that on which the wood is placed, and so in the field the effect of working the land is not felt wholly on the first crop, but on those which follow. Cultivating corn benefits the crop. This is not all; its effects will be felt for two or three years.

The Doctor says, he "never knew a man to sell his farm who did not regret it." This is perhaps stating it a little too strong. But being one of the oldest pastors in Western New York, he has had good opportunities for observation. I think men engaged in other pursuits, who buy farms, expecting to find nothing but pleasure and profit in agriculture are generally very glad of an opportunity to dispose of them. Such men seldom regret selling. But with a farmer the case is very different. He either sells because he thinks he can buy a better or cheaper farm, or because he is tired of farming, and proposes to live in the city. In the latter case he is almost certain to wish himself back again on the farm. I heard of such a case the other day. A farmer was offered last spring what he thought a high price for his farm, and accepted the offer, thinking he could live comfortably in the city on the interest of the money. After trying it six or eight months, he offered the purchaser \$1000 to let him have the farm back again, giving him the summer crops and all the wheat into the bargain. A farmer who sells expecting to buy another farm, finds it not so easy to suit himself as he expected. If you must sell the better plan is to look beforehand where you are going.—American Agriculturist.

ROWLAND BILL, once at Wotton, was preaching in the afternoon, the only time when it seemed possible to be drowsy under him. He saw some sleeping, and passed, saying: "I have heard that the miller can sleep while the mill is going, but if it stops it wakes him; I'll try this method." And so he sat down, and soon saw an aroused audience.

SMILES is down on false teeth for old people. He thinks they eat much food that belongs to the younger generation, and it keeps provisions high.

A WITNESS in a late divorce suit kept saying that the wife had a very retaliating disposition—that she "retaliated for every little thing." "Did you ever see her husband kiss her?" asked the wife's counsel. "Yes, sir, often." "Well, what did she do on such occasions?" "She always retaliated, sir." (Great laughter, and wife triumphant.) "I saw a lady wrapped up in a shawl that she would not take six hundred dollars for," said Smith to Jones. "I can beat that all hollow," retorted Jones; "for I saw a lady so wrapped up in her baby that she wouldn't have taken six hundred thousand dollars for it."

A PROVINCE boy, five years of age, having stolen a can of milk, his mother took him to task, with moral suasion, and wound up her discourse by exclaiming: "What in the world were you going to do with the milk anyhow?" "I was going to steal a little dog to drink it," was the crushing reply.

A HANDSOME young widow applied to a physician to deliver her of three distressing complaints. "In the first place, said she, 'I have little or no appetite; what shall I take for that?'" "Air and exercise, madam." "And, Doctor, I am quite fitfully at night time, and afraid to be abed alone; what shall I take for that?" "A husband, madam." "Fie! Doctor. But I have the blues terribly; what shall I take for that?" "Take a newspaper, madam," replied the Doctor.

A WAG entered a grocer's shop some two days ago, which had for its sign "The Two Baboons," and, addressing himself to the proprietor, said, "I wish to see your partner." "I have no partner, sir." "I beg your pardon, sir, and hope you will excuse the mistake." "O, there's no harm done; but what made you think there were two of us?" "Your sign," he replied, "The Two Baboons."

CORRECT OLD LADY.—"When I goes a shoppin'," said an old lady, "I allers ask for what I wants, and if they have it, and it's suitable, and I feel inclined to buy it, and it's cheap, and can't be got for less, I most allers takes it without chappering about it all day, as some people do."

A GENTLEMAN, giving a lecture to some boys was explaining how no one could live without air. He then said, "You have all heard of a man drowning—how does that happen?" The ready answer was, "cause he can't swim."

AN AUNT-UNCLE.—Husband—"Well, Mary, your aunt Tabitha's gone at last, poor soul."—Wife—"Poor thing; of course you'll go to the funeral, George, as a mark of respect, besides, the scarf and hat-band will make up for baby."

RABBI Joshua once met a boy who carried something in a covered vessel. "My boy," said the Rabbi, "what have you in your covered vessel?" "If it was intended for you to know," replied the boy, "it would not be covered."

A CORRESPONDENT writes to ask if the brow of a hill ever becomes wrinkled? The only information we can give him on that point is, that we have often seen it furrowed.

A JOKE by a gentleman recently from Ninewah: The greatest country in the world for ninnies is Africa. There you take your pick o' ninnies.

THERE is an old Oxford story about a University official who had attended the University sermons for forty years, and who used to thank God that he remained a Christian still.

CASH BUYERS TAKE NOTICE AND SAVE YOUR GREENBACKS! NEW FALL AND WINTER GOODS, JUST RECEIVED, AT Greatly Reduced Prices, At J. M. Shoemaker's Store.

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N. E. 10 per cent. saved by buying your goods at J. M. SHOEMAKER'S, Cash and Produce Store, No. 1, ANDERSONS' ROW, June 28, 1867, 6m.

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