

Farm, Garden & Household.

HOW A FARMER MAY LOOSE MONEY.

By not taking a good home paper. Keeping no account of home operations. Paying no attention to the maxim: "A stock in time saves nine," in regard to the sowing of grain and planting seed at the proper season.

Leaving reaper, plows, cultivators, etc. uncovered from the rain and heat of the sun. More money is lost in this way than most people are willing to believe.

Permitting broken instruments to be scattered over the farm so that they are irreparable. By repairing broken instruments at the proper time many dollars may be saved, a proof of the assertion that "time is money."

Attending the auction sales, and purchasing all kinds of trumpery, because, in the words of the vendor, the articles are "very cheap."

Allowing fences to remain unrepaired until straw cattle are found grazing in the meadow, grain field, or bruising the fruit trees.

Disbelieving the principle of a rotation of crops before making a single experiment. Planting fruit trees without giving the trees the attention required to make them profitable.

Practicing economy by depriving stock of proper shelter during the winter, and giving them unsound food, such as half rotten and mouldy hay and fodder.

Keeping an innumerable tribe of rats on the premises, and two or three lazy dogs that eat up more in a month than they are worth in a whole life time.

And lastly, by never reading the advertisements of those who patronize the printer, they being invariably the most enterprising and liberal houses to deal with, when he goes to town.

SMALL MATTERS.

There are many otherwise good farmers who are entirely regardless of little fixtures, and who devote all their time to the larger matters. Now we hold that while the latter should by all means be the objects of attention, the former should on no account be neglected, and it is as much the part of a thorough good farmer to see to the one as to the other.

We enjoy visiting a farm when this attention to little matters, this time spent in complete keeping with the more weighty matters. We like to see your well built gates instead of bars, barn-doors on rollers instead of hinges, and fodder racks for sheep instead of feeding them upon the ground or floor.

We like to see all doors to outbuildings provided with hasps, for both fastening them upon the inside if necessary, and also for securing them back, when open, from the action of the wind; to see a gate to shut across a barn door to keep out cattle or sheep when the door is open; to find in connection with every large stable, a closet for harness or carriage robes, as well as a tool-room for the storage of the larger farm tools and implements; to find hooks for hanging up odd pieces of rope, chisels and the like, and nails for hanging up the smaller tools and utensils used upon the farm, as well as boxes for the reception of old iron and every sort of waste and a work-bench and tools for making and repairing all kinds of farm implements.

In examining the buildings upon a farm we find the latter, we are also generally sure to find all the other conveniences suggested above, as well as many others it is not necessary to enumerate. And one hardly knows, without having tried it, how much the farmer can accomplish during the spare hours in the way of fixing up his buildings with these handy accompaniments, nor how much they add to the actual value of the farm, not only upon it, but in the estimation of any one wishing to purchase a farm. Attention to these little matters makes the really economical, successful farmer.

We recently passed the residence of a man, who would be indignant did we not class him among the best farmers in the town where he resides, whose oxcart was standing by the roadside, where it was last used, and a part of whose harness was visible from beneath a snowdrift in an adjoining field. They will be ready when wanted in the spring, but we fear the example of the farmer in this matter will be hard to be contracted by his more commendable qualities; and the contrast between him and the farmer who has all his tools and implements well housed in his outbuildings or barn cellar is too striking to need further illustration.—Main Farmer.

THE LESSON OF THE YEAR.

If anything be wanted to teach people how cold like plants, the past winter affords the material. It was at that time supposed that frost destroyed plants by rupturing the sap vessels. The facts were believed to expand and burst by frozen sap. It was known that a bottle of water would burst in this way, and why should not plants be thus? The plant was killed, and the bottle destroyed; what was more natural than to suppose the process identical?

Some years ago, the writer of this attempted to show the fallacy of such a theory. In Hoop's Magazine of that time, some of our best horticulturists argued the point. We endeavored to satisfy our friends that, when evaporation went on faster than the roots could supply moisture, the plant had to die. No theory of cell bursting was necessary.

Evaporation is excessive and the work of cells—when it goes out faster than it comes in—they die not by bursting, but by shrinking away. A recognition of this fact will save many a tender tree; and a review of the past winter's losses must convince any one that such is the fact.

We have not had an extraordinary low temperature yet, plants never suffered so. But we had a higher one, coupled with a low temperature, than ever known before. The exhaustive strain on the evaporative powers of a plant in the high wind, even in a temperate atmosphere, is enormous. How much greater must it be in a very cold medium?

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