Farm, Garden & Household.

For the Inquirer.

A PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF "COMMON SENSE IN FARMING."

Just at the present time, we venture to say half our farmers are scarcely doing more than caring for their stock. In harvest when every hand is wanted and every hour precious a hand will be kept from the harvest field, by each of these same men, to chop enough wood to cook the meals for the harvest hands. We know from personal observation that this is annually the case with hundreds of our farmers. Why not economize time now? During the milder days of winter enough wood can be cut, hauled home, and sawed and split into stove wood to last the family until another winter. This doubtless sounds very matter of fact and simple, yet it is neglected from year to year by many who would angrily resent the intimation that they were not model farmers in their management and economy in farm work. If this simple rule of preparing fuel in winter for the whole year were pursued by all our farmers, their good wives would be saved a vast amount of worry and trouble. Slow fires and smoked dinners would be much less frequent, and they would be saved the shame and disgrace of having their wives and daughters, found doing the work in the busy days of summer, that lazy or mismanaging fathers and sons neglected to do when they had abundance of leisure in the winter. Chopping wood is not proper work for farmers wives, but we have often seen them do it and it did them no discredit in our estimation, but we ever after despised the fathers and sons that permitted them to do such work. How many will take a hint from this plain statement and during the remaining days of winter store away under cover a bountiful supply of ready prepared fuel? How many will apply the same philosophy to a dozen similar things that may be done in winter so as to economize the precious hours of seed time and harvest?

AMERICAN AND ENGLISH FARMERS.

The former says "plow and re-seed every few years to renovate the grass land;" the latter on no pretense whatever thinks of plowing an old established grass field. If mowed too many years in succession, and the crop becomes light because manure cannot be conveniently applied, by grazing with cattle and sheep for two or three years together the grass will thicken and rapidly improve in every respect, especially if kept short by putting stock enough upon it to prevent bunches of old grass being left uneaten from the middle of May till the end of August; for there are so many varieties of grasses growing in a permanent pasture that, if allowed to be stocked lightly, the coarser kinds will shade and kill all the finer and more nutritious sorts.

Look at a pasture field in America—where do cattle or sheep like to graze best? It will invariably be seen that they will prefer the places where the grass has been kept short, and those patches in the field often near the gateway will look greenest and be as thick again in the bottom as elsewhere.

Blue grass is similar to some English grass, and is most excellent to have in pastures and mowings likewise; for the finest and best meadow hay in England is made from a mixture of grasses, the stems of which are all as thin as white clover, and, as the English farmer is not foolish enough to let his grass become nearly ripe for seed before cutting, his meadows continue to have a thick-set sward year after year. Thomas Gibbs & Co., seedmen to the Royal Agricultural Society of England, sell grass seed having about seventy varieties in it—price one guinea per bushel—which will soon become good for alternate grazing and mowing; but if grazed continually, and if on good deep soil, it will become feeding, and every kind of stock put on it will soon get fat, or if mowed season after season, manure will be needed to keep up the stamina, and it will want repeated rolling and bush harrowing in the spring.

In America, large-boned animals are admired; in England, large frames heavily laden with flesh and fat, but with fine bones. In the former country, meat is supposed to be best when put on the carcass quickly; but in the latter country the butcher will prefer a beast which has been laying on meat for years instead of months, and all meat from animals which are said to be "firm as a board," when those creatures are in their prime, is worth several cents more per pound than softer fleshed ones. A heifer never having had a calf, is in her prime at four years; an ox is in his at six years; a calf for veal at ten weeks—having had as much milk as he could suck.—*Country Gentleman.*

PLEASURES OF GARDENING.

The pleasures arising from the culture of flowers are harmless and pure; a streak, a tint, a shade becomes a triumph, which, though often obtained by chance, is secured none by morning care, by evening caution, and the vigilance of days. It is an employment which in its various grades, excludes neither the opulent nor the indigent; teems with boundless variety, and affords an unceasing excitement to emulation, without contention or ill-will.

There is no other pursuit alike calculated for peer or peasant in which the distinctions are so trivial, for the cottager may possess and enjoy the same beauteous rose or fragrant mignonette in his little plot or his window, that occupies a place in the garden of the richest. The clear light of heaven, the sweet fresh air, the verdure of the fields, the delicacy of form and richness of color with which bounteous nature supplies us on every side, in the almost inexhaustible variety of her horticultural and floral treasures, are all sources of the most unalloyed pleasure; and it is a wise dispensation of the Giver of all Good, that this gratification of the senses of sight and smell, whilst beholding the elegant shape of plants and inhaling the exquisite perfume of their flowers, is an enjoyment within the reach of all who choose to seek it. There are few surer tests of a happy home within, than the flower-decorated window and neat kept garden; and there is no occupation for the leisure hour more calculated to keep it so, or to soothe the mind. It yields pleasure without surfeit: the more we advance the more eager we become. And how unlike this is to most of our worldly engagements.—*Gardeners' Magazine.*

Healthfulness of Apples: There is scarcely an article of vegetable food more widely useful and more universally liked than the apple. A raw, mellow apple is digested in an hour and a half, while boiled cabbages require five hours. The most healthful desert that can be placed on the table. If eaten frequently at breakfast, with coarse bread and butter, without flesh of any kind, has an admirable effect on the general system, often removing constipation, correcting acidities, and cooling off febrile conditions more effectually than the most approved medicines. If families could be induced to substitute apples—sound and ripe—for pies, cakes and sweetmeats, with which their children are too frequently stuffed, there would be a diminution in the sum total of doctors' bills in a single year, sufficient to lay in a stock of this delicious fruit for the whole season's use.

SCHOOL BLANKS.—Articles of Agreement, between Directors and Teachers, Checks, Bonds of Collectors, Warrants of Collectors, Bonds of Treasurers, &c., for sale at the *Inquirer* office.

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Humorous.

To a bonnet—"Though lost to sight to memory dear."

The man who waxes strong every day—The shoemaker.

The paper having the largest circulation—The paper of tobacco.

What is that which, when thrown out, may be caught without hands? A hint.

It doesn't follow that a man dislikes his bed because he turns his back upon it.

Nautical neatness—sweeping the horizon with a glass.

A thief's career, like a practical joke, usually ends in a *cell.*

The object some wives have in blowing up their husbands is doubtless to have them come down.

Mr. Snooks says the reason he does not marry is, that his house is not large enough to contain the consequences.

An editor asks his subscribers to pay him that he may play the same joke on his creditors.

Why is a married man like a candle? Be cause he sometimes goes out at night, when he ought not to.

A showman advertises that among his other curiosities is the celebrated "difference" which has been so often split by bargain-makers. He says he has both halves of it.

Tom asked old 'ten-per-cent' the other day what he wanted to accumulate so much wealth for? Says he: "You can't take it with you when you die, and if you could it *would melt!*

A sporting man remarked of a belle in the habit of wearing low-necked dresses, who carried off a matrimonial prize in the shape of a rich old widower, that "she won the race by a neck!"

A clock having just struck the hour of one, a tender-hearted woman exclaimed: "O, what a cruel clock!" "Why so?" asked a friend. "Because it struck its little one!" answered the tender-hearted mother.

It is a singular fact that ladies who know how to preserve everything else, can't preserve their tempers. Yet it may easily be done on the self-sealing principle. It is only to *keep the mouth of the vessel tightly closed.*

A little fellow in New-York, who had just commenced reading the papers, asked his father if the word "Hon.'" prefixed to the name of Fernando Wood, the member of Congress, meant "honest." The parent shook his head.

"Are you a skilful mechanic?" "Yes, sir." "What can you make?" "Oh, almost anything in my line." "Can you make a devil?" "Certainly; just put up your foot, and I will split it in three seconds. I never saw a chap in my life that required less alteration."

A professor, 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."

A dissipated and unmannerly nobleman, presuming upon his "nobility," once asked Sir Walter Scott, who sat opposite to him at a dinner, what the difference was between Scott and sot? "Just the breadth of the table," retorted Sir Walter.

Good morning, Mr. Henpeck, said a printer in search of female compositors, 'have you any daughters that would make good type setters?'

'No; but I have a wife that would make a fine devil.'

"The Irish Judge, Day, was a remarkably tall man, and an intimate friend of Sir Arthur Clarke, who was almost a dwarf. It was a standing joke with the wags of Dublin to liken the colossal judge and his diminutive companion to the twenty-first of June, inasmuch as they jointly constituted the longest Day and the shortest Knight.

"Show me a man who can define," said Plato, "and I will worship him as a god." Webster would have suited him, particularly in his old definition of a boil, as a "circumscribed subcutaneous inflammation, characterized by a pointed, pustular tumor, and suppurating with a central core; a percuncutis."

Two Friends were dining together; one of them remarked: "As I am going abroad I have made my will, and have bequeathed to you my whole stock of impudence." The other replied: "You are generous as well as kind; you have bequeathed to me by far the largest portion of your estate.'

A Frenchman owed a man eight hundred francs, and he made a proposition to give him eight notes, payable monthly, for one hundred franks each. The first note was protested. The creditor demanded an explanation. "I didn't want you to lose eight hundred francs all at once, so I divided it up, that the loss might fall upon you by driblets."

Here is a peculiarly French description of the people of Bavaria:—"The Bavarians are a happy people. They have money which brings happiness, and a king who makes music. They drink much and often, and smoke as they drink. They sleep long, eat five times a day, and make love between their meals."

Answering Precisely.—A witness in court who had been cautioned to give a precise answer to every question, and not talk about what he might think the question meant, was interrogated as follows:—"You drive a wagon?"—"No, sir, I do not."—"Why, man, did you not tell my learned friend so this moment?"—"No, sir, I did not."—"Now, sir, I put it to you on your oath, do you not drive a wagon?"—"No, sir."—"What is your occupation, then?"—"I drive a horse, sir."

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"Yours truly, GEO. W. WOODWARD."

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GEORGE SHARSWOOD.

HON. JAMES THOMPSON,

Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

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