

Farm, Garden & Household.

From the New York Tribune. WHAT I KNOW OF FARMING.

VII.—Trees—Wood-Land—Forests.

I am not at all sentimental—much less spoozy—regarding the destruction of timber cutters for my parental ancestors came to America in 1640 and myself engaged for three years in land-clearing. I realize that trees exist for use rather than for ornament, and have no more scruple as to cutting timber in a forest than as to cutting grass in a meadow. Utility is the reason and end of all vegetable growth—of a hickory's no less than a cornstalk's. I have always considered "woodman, spare that tree," and have verified those in my language, and never could guess how it should touch the sensibilities of any one. Understand, then, that I urge the planting of trees mainly because I believe it will pay, and the preservation, improvement, and extension of forests, for precisely that reason.

Yes! I am not insensible to the beauty and grace lent by woods, and groves, and clumps or rows of trees, to the landscape they diversify. I feel the force of Emerson's avowal, that "Beauty is its own excuse for being," and that a beautiful landscape is a landscape which is its own excuse for being. I doubt whether there is another equal area of the earth's surface where so many kinds of valuable trees grow spontaneously and rapidly, defying eradication, as throughout New England and on either slope of the Alleghenies, and this profusion of timber and foliage may well alone for, or may be fairly weighed against, many deficiencies and drawbacks. The Yankee, who has been accustomed to see trees spring up spontaneously wherever they were not kept down by ax, or plow, or scythe, and to cross running water every half mile of a Summer day's journey, may well be made homesick, by two thousand miles of naked, dusty, wind-swept Plains, where he finds no water for fifty to a hundred miles, and knows it impossible to cut an axe-helve, much more an axe-tree, in the course of a weary journey. No eastern farmer ever realized the blessedness of abundant and excellent wood and water mill he had wandered from his boyhood's home.

No one may yet be able fully to explain the interdependence of these two blessings; but the fact remains. All over the Plains," there is evidence that trees grew and flourished where none are now found, and that springs and streams were then frequent and abiding where now they are scarce. A prominent citizen of Nevada, who explored southward from Austin to the Colorado, assured me that his party traveled for days in the bed of what had once been a considerable river, but in which it was evident that no water had flowed for years. And I heard that, since the Mormons have planted trees over considerable sections of Utah, rains in Summer are no longer rare, and Salt Lake increases by a constant though moderate evaporation of her soil of water. The equilibrium of rainfall with evaporation in the Great Basin has been fully restored—or rather, that the rain fall is now taking the lead.

I have a firm faith that all the great deserts of the Temperate and Torrid Zones will yet be reclaimed by irrigation and tree-planting. All the bill which Congress did not pass, nor really consider, whereby it was proposed, some years since, to give a section of the western Lands remote from settlement to every one who, in a separate settlement, would plant and cherish a quarter-section of choice forest-trees, ought to have been passed with modifications, perhaps, but preserving the central idea. Had ten thousand quarter-sections, in so many different townships of the Plains, been thus planted to timber ten to twenty years ago, and protected from fire and devastation till now, the value of those Plains for settlement would have been nearly or quite doubled.

A capital mistake, it seems to me, is being made by some of the dairy farmers of our own State. One who has a hundred acres of good soil, whereof twenty or thirty are wooded, cuts off his timber entirely, calculating that the additional grass that he may grow in its stead will pay for all the coal he needs for fuel, so that he will make a net gain of the time he has hitherto devoted each Winter to cutting and hauling wood. He does not consider how much this soil will lose in Summer moisture, how his springs and swamps will be dried up, nor how the sweeping winds will be intensified, by having his hill-tops and ravines to sun and breeze so utterly. In my deliberate judgment, a farm of one hundred acres will yield more food, with far greater uniformity of product from year to year, if twenty acres of its ridge-crest, ravine-sides, and rocky places, are thickly covered with timber, than if it be swept clean of trees and left devoted to grass. Hence, I insist that the farmer who sweats off his wood and resolves to depend on coal for fuel, hoping to increase permanently the product of his dairy, makes a bad miscalculation.

Spain, Italy, and portions of France, are now suffering from the improvidence that devoted their forests, leaving the future to take care of itself. I presume the great empires of antiquity suffered from the same folly, though to a much greater extent. The remains of now extinct races whose territory was divided and tilled the central valleys of this continent, and especially the Territory of Arizona, probably bear witness to a similar recklessness, which is paralleled by our fathers' and our own extermination of the magnificent forests of White Pine which barely a century ago, covered so large a portion of the soil of our Northern States. Vermont sold White Pine abundantly to England through Canada within my day; she is now supplying her own wants from Canada, and not less than five times the price she sold for; and she will be paying still higher rates before the close of this century. I entreat our farmers not to preserve every tree, good, bad, or indifferent, that may happen to be growing on their lands—but, outside of the limited districts wherein the primitive forest may still be seen in order that land may be obtained for culture, to plant and rear at least two better trees for every one they are impelled to cut down. How this may, in the average, be most judiciously done, I will try to indicate in my next.

Howe First of All.—Let parents talk much and much well at home. A father who is habitually strict in his own house, may be in many respects a wise man; but he is not wise in his silence. Who sometimes sees parents, who are the life of every company which they enter, dull, silent and uninteresting at home among the children. If they have not mental activity and mental stores sufficient for both let them first provide for their own household.

Irish exports beef and wheat, and lives on potatoes; and fare as poorly who consume the social chaff and the consumption abroad, and keep their dwellers for home consumption. It is better to instruct children and make them happy at home, than it is to churn strangers or amuse friends. A silent house is a dull place for young people, a place from which they will escape if they can. They will talk, or think, or being "faint" they will go, and the youth who does not love home is in danger.

Miscellaneous.

OFFICE OF FISK & HATCH, BANKERS AND DEALERS IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

No. 3 NASSAU STREET, NEW-YORK, February 15th, 1870.

The remarkable success which attended our negotiation of the Loans of the CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY and the WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, and the popularity and credit which these Loans have maintained in the markets, both in this country and Europe, have shown that the First Mortgage Bonds of wisely-located and honorably-managed Railroads are promptly recognized and readily taken at the most favorable rate, and a liberal income than can be derived from Government Bonds, and available to take their place.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ROAD AS A NEW OUTLET FROM THE WEST TO THE SEA impels it into one of national consequence, and assures it to an extensive through traffic from the day of its completion; while, in the development of the extensive agricultural and mineral resources of Virginia and West-Virginia, it possesses, along its own line, the elements of a large and profitable local business.

Thus the great interests, both general and local, which demand the completion of the CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILROAD to the Ohio River, afford the surest guarantee of its success and value, and RENDER IT THE MOST IMPORTANT AND SUBSTANTIAL RAILROAD ENTERPRISE NOW IN PROGRESS IN THIS COUNTRY.

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Miscellaneous.

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REMOVED. My 18, 1869. This is to certify that I have used Middleton's Liniment for the Rheumatism, and it gives me great pleasure in saying that I feel in my right shoul-der, so that I could not get my hand to my head without great pain, and after a few applications was entirely relieved. My desire is not only to sell goods, BUT TO SELL CHEAP AND GIVE SATISFACTION.

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Miscellaneous.

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