

Farmer and Housekeeper. (For the Star and Sentinel. Messrs. Editors:—About two years ago, a correspondent proposed that some important subject of interest should be taken up for discussion during the long evenings when the hands of intelligent minds have leisure. I felt pleased with the suggestion, hoping to have the pleasure of perusing something of extra interest.

Will hire labor, pay at farming? Many farmers have always supposed it best, consequently best to do all they can within themselves, and have become so conservative in their principles, that they are slow to adopt new methods of managing their farms. If sufficient arguments and directions can be furnished in favor of more extensive operations some might be disposed to take advantage of their own and country's good.

It is without doubt the most important branch of Sheep Raising, and the one upon which too much attention cannot be bestowed. It may not perhaps appear generally to those farmers in this immediate part of the State, for most of those who keep sheep at all keep what are called flying flocks; that is, they choose their stock from year to year, either buying from the West, or from the drovers again to go to the butchers; but still there are a great many farmers who keep standing flocks generally for the improvement of some particular breed. In order to breed sheep successfully it is necessary that several important particulars be strictly attended to.

When I say necessary, I do not speak merely in regard to increase in numbers, for some of the poorer breeds will produce as many lambs as those greatly superior to them; but in the production of those animals which possess many as possible of those valuable properties which distinguish the breed.

The first and most important of these, and the one upon which the future success of the flock in a great measure depends, is the selection of the flock of breeding ewes. These should be chosen with reference to the following particulars: The frame work of the body should be of sufficient size to admit of the fetus being properly developed; reference should also be had to the facial properties, and they should also be selected with reference to their wool and flesh-producing properties; also their sex disposition, and not be given unduly to wandering.

Without the possession of the two properties it is impossible that anything but stunted animals can be produced; without the second, all that is produced will be of a comparatively simple nature, and without the last there is danger of the lambs, after being dropped, being left to perish. Sheep possessing a quiet disposition, also take on fat more readily.

The next particular, and one which is almost as important as the first, is the selection of the ram. It is almost as important, for the question is only in respect to degree; for without doubt, if the ram is inferior to the ewes, the lambs will also be inferior to them, and as the ram's influence is felt as fully on the future flock as the ewe's, so also is it comparatively simple matter to select a ram of desirable qualities as to select a flock of ewes possessing like qualities.

It is necessary that great care be taken in selecting a ram. It is not only necessary that as many desirable qualities as possible be combined in him, but it should also be ascertained that his parents possessed like qualities; for it is by no means reasonable to suppose that the lambs born of a perfect animal will possess like points without those points have been regularly transmitted to him by his parents.

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THE UNDERSIGNED take this method of informing the public that they still carry on the Cabinet-making Business, in all its varied branches, and that they now have on hand a large assortment of the best quality of

THE UNDERSIGNED have just returned from Philadelphia with a large assortment of the best quality of

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540 MILES OF THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD, RUNNING WEST FROM OMAHA ACROSS THE CONTINENT. ARE NOW FINISHED.

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THE STAR and SENTINEL, Gettysburg, Pa. February 26, 1888.

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