

Farm and Household.

Labor. Toil swings the axe, and forests bow. Rich harvests smile behind the plow. And cities cluster round the loom. When towering domes and tapering spires Adorn the vale and crown the hill, Stout labor lights its beacon fires, And plumes, with smoke the forge and mill.

Mothers, when your daughters begin to learn to bake and cook, do not discourage their first attempts by telling them it is not good or well done. If it is not good, or as well as you can do it (after years of experience), do not discourage them by telling them so, but remember one word of praise will help them try the next time to do better than a thousand words of fault-finding would. Well do I remember the first time I kneaded a loaf of bread and baked it. I was alone at home, and, O how I tried to make it nice, and I thought myself it was nice; but, alas! when my good home said my bread was not good at all. Ah, how my heart sank with me and I said to myself: "I'll never again try to make another loaf of bread," and yet, to this day, when I make bread I do it with a heavy heart, for it always reminds me of my first attempt and the discouragement I then received.

Is Farming Slavery? "The life of a farmer is not necessarily hard or arduous. Though skill and care have their reward here as surely as any where, and in as large measure. Men who lack these find any business hard and slavish enough. But the fault is in the man, not in the occupation. It is rare to find men honest enough to see and confess the cause of their failures. Were they to do so, the unskillful and therefore unsuccessful farmer would be compelled to say, "Farming is not a bad business. It is, when rightly conducted, honorable and profitable. Money has been made in it by men who have the faculty of making money. Almost any man, with average skill and industry, can make a comfortable and honest support by farming. It is I, who am a failure for undertaking a business which demands thought, skill and labor, when I have them not or am not willing to give them as the price of success."

With increasing interest in the stock and sheep raising we are often asked what breed is best adapted to Western farmers. That depends upon circumstances; whether in large or small flocks, and whether for mutton or wool as specialties; but for the general farmer, in small flocks less than a hundred, where mutton and wool are desirable, the Cotswold is the most desirable breed. The fine long combing wool is obtained in a good heavy fleece, and they are of good size for mutton, and mature quite early.

For wool alone, in large flocks, the Merinos are better; and for mutton alone, the Southdowns will be more profitable. Cotswold, to be profitable, must have good care and shelter, as they are not so hardy as the fine-wools. But little corn should be fed with plenty of hay and turnips, or roots of any kind to keep them healthy and thriving in winter, while in summer they are always in good order on grass. The Cotswold make a good cross with the Merino, or even with common sheep.—Western Agriculturist.

"When the Cows Come Home." Many of our farmers have wasted years of valuable time just because they did not understand the nature of their cows. They are not to be treated as brute beasts, but as intelligent animals. They will remember the farmer's "Cobos, Co-bos," of the farmer's son or hired man, as he endeavors to coax the cows from the great pasture. We have had a little experience in this matter, and will remember how many times we have weeded through the brush and bog, looking for the cows, and, boy-like, we thought them dreadfully contrary animals; but we have lived long enough to learn better, and now that the biped was the more contrary of the two. Boys, we will tell you a secret that will save you a great deal of trouble, and it is this! Every time the cows are driven up at night, or in the morning, give them a good lick of meal or bran, and our word for it, the cows will always be on hand at milking time! Besides this, they will give more milk, and forget to kick over the milk-pail, even if you do whistle a little too loud.—Exchange.

A CHEAP AND APPETIZING PUDDING.—Have four ounces of bread crumbs, grated, the same quantity of currants, the same of sugar, chopped very finely, a large spoonful of butter, and a little nutmeg; mix all together. Take the yolks of three eggs, and make your pudding up with milk, and fry them a light brown in butter. Serve with sugar. If you would enjoy the lay of the land during the winter season, feed your fowls instead of corn. So says the Scientific American. Good authority.

Miscellaneous.

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