The Huntingdon Journal.

Farm and Household.

The happiest men who live by toil
Are those who cultivate the soil

Raise More Sheep.

Some people claim that it is better to keep sheep than cattle, and certainly we must admit that the shepherd does possess advantages over herdsman, as follows: In the first place, a flock of sheep costs less than one of cattle. A farm which will carry twenty cows will carry about eight times as many sheep, and to stock a farm with twenty cows and necessary fixtures will require an outlay of a large sum of money. An equivalent number of sheep—say 150 can be purchased for about half the sum. Again, a flock of sheep demand less care than a herd of cows. The latter must be milked daily and the work of the dairy in making butter and cheese is constant laborious, demanding also skill of a high order to make it eminently successful. The sheep will live and thrive where cows would starve, or at least make poor returns. These nimble animals will climb over rocks and ledges where cows would not venture, and almost every herb that grows, even down to Canada thistles, suffices them for food. Pastures are benefitted by being cropped by sheep. They not only keep down the weeds, but have more fertilizing material in their droppings than do cows, besides, the manure of cows and also pigs, resist decomposition for a much longer time than that of the sheep and horse—the latter being dryer than the former, and decomposing more readily in the soil. A flock of sheep always multiplies much more rapidly than a herd of cows, and this is especially true of the large mutton breeds, which often produce twins. Sheep also fatten more easily than cattle, and when slaughted, they furnish not only meat, but wool as well.—*Exchange.*

How to Make Good Coffee.

There are two things which should be well considered; first the coffee pot should be well washed and rinsed. Some housekeepers leave the grounds and cold coffee in the coffee pot from day to day; when they want to use it they only rinse out the grounds. This habit is a very poor one as it wears out the coffee pot and in a short time spoils the coffee. Second always measure the amount of water; have a tin dipper or some dish that will hold just enough water, use it every time, it will save waste, for every housewife knows how much coffee her family consumes, so she can tell how much water to use. I have tried making coffee by every recipe I ever saw, I have made it with cold, warm and hot water; I have soaked, boiled and stewed it, but the one way that I can recommend is the every-day way of making it. Put the ground coffee in the coffee pot, add a good deal of cold water, place it on the stove where it will come to a good boil, then set it where it will not quite boil for some minutes and it is ready for the table. This is the only way I can get clear, good coffee.

How to Cook a Steak.—First, never fry it. There is no mystery about broiling a beefsteak. The simple art is to cook a steak without smoking, and to retain the juices. What is needed is simply to broil without firing or blazing. No steak can be cooked without watching it. The fire must be very hot. The outside must be well cooked in order to keep the juice inside; but the outside must have scarce any thickness. The thing to do is *to turn a steak from side to side*, and to keep doing it. Never pepper or salt steak until it is on the dish. To pepper it might not do so much harm, but to salt it is almost a crime. Good steaks must be served instantaneously on a hot plate. Butter is admissible on a steak, but only in a very minute quantity. Cut an inch and an eighth thick, and the cooking artistic, the juice of the meat follows every cut.

Washing Fluid.—Washing in many families makes a day's hard work every week. It may be made much easier, and quicker done, by using this fluid, without injury to the clothes and with little expense. Two quarts of boiling water on a half pound of unslacked lime. Dissolve in another vessel one pound of washing soda and one half pound of borax in two quarts of water, then mix with the lime and boil five minutes; let it settle and bottle the clear part of the mixture. Use a small teacup of this to two pails of water with a small cup of soft soap or as much hard soap. Soak the clothes first in clear cold water, then put in the boiler, in which the soap and mixture have been stirred in cold water, boil ten minutes, then take out, wash the dirty places, and rinse in plenty of clean water. The fluid saves more than half the work, very little rubbing being required even for clothes very much soiled.

Wood Ashes and Muck.—Wood ashes are an excellent application to apple trees or any other trees or plants. Spring is the best time to apply them. Regulate the quantity by the facilities for obtaining the supply. There is little danger of applying too much, unless the land is surfeited with potash. Ashes are good for fall or spring wheat. They may be sown at any time, though we would prefer spring; and there is little fear of applying too much of them, as a liberal dressing strengthens the straw and enlarges as well as improves the grain. Composting either lime or wood ashes with muck is one of the very best methods of utilizing them for manurial purposes. None of their own fertilizing virtues are then lost, while they help greatly to neutralize the injurious acids of the muck, and to render its manurial elements fit to be readily taken up as plant food.—*Rural New Yorker.*

A Zanesville, Ohio man a short time ago dug up a lot of apples that were buried in sand four years ago, and every apple was as sound as the day they were buried. So bury your apples in sand, if you want them to keep.

Around the Fireside.

The Gates of Hell.

Mr. Talmage, in one of his recent sermons on the above topic said: "Another gate of hell, and the chief gate, and as wide as all others put together, is the gate of alcoholic beverage. On the night of exploration I found that everything was done under the enchantment of the wine cup. That was what the witnesses carried on the platter; that was one of the chief attractions of the illuminated gardens; that staggered the steps of the patrons as they went out. This wine cup is the instigator of all impurity and the patron of all uncleanliness. So far as God may help me, I shall be its unending foe. It was the testimony of the officials on the night of our exploration that nearly all those who frequent the house of death go in intoxication; the moral and spiritual abolished, the brute ascendant. Tell me a young man drinks and I know the rest. Let him become captive of the wine cup and he is the captive of all other vices. No man ever runs drunkenness alone. That is one of the carrion crows that goes in a flock. If that beak is ahead you may know the other beak follows. In other words, strong drink under balances and dethrones and makes him the prey of all the appetites that slight upon the soul. There is not a place of sin on this continent but that finds its chief abettor in the places of inebriety. There is a drinking bar before it, or behind it, or a bar over it, or a bar under it. The officers said to me that night, 'You see how they escape legal penalty; they are licensed to sell liquor.' Then I thought within myself, the court which licenses the sale of intoxicating liquors, licenses gaming houses, licenses libertinism, licenses disease, licenses death, licenses all crimes, all suffering, all disasters, all woes. It is the legislature and courts who swing wide open this grinding, roaring, stupendous gate of the lost. But you say, you have shown us how these gates swing in for the entrance of the doomed. Please tell us how the gates swing out for the escape of the penitent. Let me answer: It is the exception when any come out. I think nine hundred and ninety nine out of a thousand perish.

Christianity Dying Out.

So the skeptics say. Let us see. The census tables give us comparative statistics for different decades. In 1850 the population was 23,191,876. The number of churches was 38,061, with property worth $87,328,801. In 1860 the population was 31,443,321, an increase of 36 per cent. The number of churches was 54,000, an increase of 42 per cent—6 per cent. greater than that of the population—and the value of the church property was $171,397,932, an increase of nearly 100 per cent. In 1870 the population was 38,558,371, an increase of 22 per cent. [illegible] 72,459, an increase of 11 per cent. [illegible] The church property was reported at $353,487,601, an increase again of more than 100 per cent. Now if, notwithstanding our immigration from abroad and our civil war the church has grown faster than the population, and we have doubled our investment in them every ten years, is there any indication that Christianity is waning? I believe that the present decade has been more prosperous for the church than any previous one in our history. I believe that the census of 1880 will show that we have more churches in proportion to the population than ever before. The statistics will not silence skeptics of the Ingersoll school. They do not care for facts. But they will encourage Christians who may have been troubled by the impudent assertions of ungodly men. Our blessed religion has not only a past but a future life. Its place in prophecy is as sure as its place in history. It not only has been and is the mightiest institution among men, but it is going on steadily to the conquest of the world. Let the progress of the present century, with its ever accelerating ratio, continue for another hundred years, and will not the earth be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters fill the sea?

Treating the Wrong Disease.

Many times women call upon their family physicians, one with dyspepsia, another with palpitation, another with trouble of the breast, another with pain here and there, and in this way they all present alike to themselves and their easy going and indifferent doctors, separate and distinct diseases for which he prescribes his pills and potions, assuming them to be such, when, in reality, they are all symptoms caused by some uterine disorder; and while they are thus only able perhaps to palliate for a time, they are ignorant of the cause, and encourage their practice until large bills are made, when the suffering patients are no better in the end, but probably worse or the delay, treatment, and other complications made, and which a proper medicine directed to the cause would have entirely removed, thereby instituting health and comfort instead of prolonged misery.

SHADE, Athens Co., Ohio.

Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.:

Your Favorite Prescription is working almost like a miracle on me. I am better already than I have been for over two years. LORINDA E. ST. CLAIR

YORKVILLE, Toronto, Ont., Mar. 18'79.

R. V. Pierce, M. D.:

Dear Sir—I write you about a most remarkable cure of a lady friend of mine Mrs. Rutherford. Since her marriage thirteen years ago, she has suffered greatly from uterine disease which caused sterility. She tried the most eminent physicians of this part of the country, who told her she would have to undergo an operation with the knife. Being afraid of this, she was induced by reading your Medical Adviser to take your Favorite Prescription and Pellets. She used three bottles, as a result she entirely recovered her health and is the happy mother of a healthy babe. Very truly yours, Mrs. John McElroy.

I have found nothing yet which requires more courage and independence than to rise even a little but decidedly above the par of the religious world around us. Surely, the way in which we commonly go on is not the way of self denial and sacrifice and cross bearing which the New Testament talks of.—*Dr. J. W. Alexander.*