

A Few Words with the Farmers

The Spring is opening, and the season for plowing and sowing will soon be here. Never was it so important to the country that you farmers should improve it to the utmost of your power. For the last forty years the price of live produce has never been so high as now. There has never been a time when the industrious farmer to labor assiduously in their calling were so great as they are now. In a military point of view. Now, if ever, every consideration of interest must prompt him to diligence and industry. If he wishes to make money he can have his wish gratified by raising hay, or grain, or live stock for the market. If he is in debt, and wants to get out of it, he has only to pursue the same course, and the thing can be done.

But superadded to this there is another consideration of a public nature which ought to have a powerful influence with every one. We are in the midst of a gigantic war which is taxing severely the resources of the country. It has already taken from our sources of labor over one million of men, and it is calling for more. This large drain has borne, and will continue to bear, more heavily upon the farming interest than on any other. No other class of men in the country have exerted more patriotism, if any other has evinced as much, as has the farmers. No other class has given its blood more freely for their country than they. In this they are worthy of all praise. But the country is not more indebted to the farmer than to the men who fight the battles, than it is dependent on them for supplies to subist its armies. Without supplies, our armies, great as they are, would be as nothing; and without the labor, the diligence, and the foresight of the farmers, supplies would be wholly wanting.

Everything indicates that there is in the country this spring more than ordinary scarcity of farm produce of every kind. Flour, corn meal, potatoes, feed, fodder, meats, vegetables, and small marketing of all kinds, are scarce, beyond all precedent. Whether this scarcity is to continue and grow more pressing or into

be relieved, rests wholly with you farmers. You have the whole matter in your hands, and can do with it as you please. Whether our troops in the field are to be well fed or go hungry, depends upon you; you can settle the question whichever way you will. Upon your plowing and sowing this spring the comfort and well-being of the soldiers throughout the whole ensuing year, will depend more than upon any and all things else. A hungry, ill-fed man is of little account for any purpose, and the same is the case with a poorly fed army. If we would have our armies do us good fighting, we must take care that they have full rations of good, wholesome food. To you alone can they look as the source from which such rations are to be derived. If you do not produce them they cannot get them. You must supply the food of our armies—must starve. Patriotism unites with your own interest to stimulate you to use your utmost exertions to keep up the supply of every kind of food. By so doing, you will at the same time serve the country, promote the interest of the whole human family, and enrich yourselves.

Begin your spring work betimes. Do not let an hour of good weather pass by unimproved. Plow early, and sow early. The very first moment that seed can be put into the ground with advantage, and you can judge when that moment arrives, put it in. But be careful to have ground well prepared for it before you put it in. Nothing else is so important. Many of you, most of you, doubtless, will scarce of help, there are so many young men in the army. Do not, on that account, sow or plant less than you otherwise would have done. Replace their labor by your own extra industry. This will involve a sacrifice of comfort on your part. But remember that in times like these we must all make sacrifices. How many of our noble young men, your sons and ours, are sacrificing their lives for our country?

We shall, on our part, refuse to sacrifice a comfort by performing more than our accustomed labor to help on the good work? Every principle of pride and of patriotism says no. Let nothing persuade you to put in a less breadth of spring crops than usual. The necessities of the country require that, instead of less, you should put in more. Will you not do it? That will require extra work from you. Will you, in such a time as this, draw back on that account? Certainly you will not.

They say that the war will soon be over, that this summer will surely put an end to it. We hope that this may be true. But let it be as it may, even if the war should come to a speedy close, the demand for farm produce must still be greater than the supply, and the prices must be high in proportion. If the war should continue through another year, and if may do so, all that you farmers will do not suffice to prevent food of all kinds from being scarcer and dearer next winter than it has this one. It is the duty of us all to be industrious and frugal. To do all we can to add to the comfort and efficiency of our soldiers by increasing their supplies of food and clothing. Nobody can do so much in this way as you farmers, and consequently to nobody else does the duty come home so directly, and forcibly as it does to you. That you will meet it in the proper spirit and perform it to the utmost extent of your power, we have not the slightest doubt. Come, then,

Mr. J. C. Oliver, his wife, elder daughter, and infant, residing in Halcum, Saratoga County, have died within a brief period. Their disease is attributed to physicians to the foul vapor from the cellar under the house, which was filled with potatoes.

Subscriptions for the Montrose Democrat, \$1.50 a year in advance.

GREAT INDUSTRIAL FAIR

FOR THE
INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES.
Philadelphia, April 4th, 1863.

One of the Committee, Lathrop and Bertram.

No. 118 South Seventh Street.

Philadelphia, April 4th, 1863.

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