FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

The Most Important Industry.

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The discovery is being made that the nations most experienced in agriculture are only yet in their apprenticeship to the great business of extracting human food from earth, air and water. Nor is this wonderful. To carry agriculture to perfection one would need to know all about the soil to be operated upon; all about the effects of the various kinds of manures to be employed; all about draining and irrigation; all about climate, air and sunshine; all about the best and most economical modes of working the soil, including impliments, machinery, labor, &c.; all about breeding, raising and fattening live stock, and all about the best modes of preparing wool, butter and cheese for market. Surely here is enough to satisfy the most enterprising ambition and to task the best brains in any country, and yet how often is farming carried on by what is familiary called "rule of thumb!"

Where science, experience, intelligence and capital are brought to bear on agriculture it is not an uncommon thing in the old world to raise on old fields that have been cropped for a thousand years fifty or sixty bushels of heavy wheat to the acre, instead of ten, fifteen or twanty bushels of light wheat, as is the case in many parts of America. Such high cultivation could not of course be carried on at all where labor and capital are both scarce and dear, but it serves to show how productive the earth may become — Indeed it is said that the increase in the production of food is more rapid in Europe than the increase of population, so that the necessity for importations from America and Asia is constantly diminishing.

From the foregoing it may be deduced that the best minds and means of the country may be most advantageously devoted to the business of rendering the earth productive all over America, and that there is no need for intelligent young farmers to seek the cities, with a view of engaging in some more respectable and lucrative calling. There is no business more respectable than farming and none, on the average, more lucrative. A successful farmer may as well rise to a position of dignity, wealth and importance as a successful merchant or lawyer. He may add farm to farm, and apply capital as it accumulates, till he has several hundreds of acres under high cultivation as many have done already; and he may at the same time, cultivate his own mind so as to be a most desirable representative of his district in the Legislature or Congress. It is such representatives that are wanted.

The Law of Fences.

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A case was tried not long ago in this county which is instructive as giving the law as to fences, and as to trespass arising out of insufficient protection to fields and crops. The Judge laid down as law the following points: "It is a maxim in law that every man must so use and care for his own property as that it shall not injure his neighbors."

"It must not be considered as law that if the owner of improved land has no fences protecting his crops he cannot recover for injuries done by cattle straying upon his land. He must both shut in his own cattle and shut out those of others." "It has been held so long as three-quarters of a century ago that if a fence is not what my be called lawful but is what may be called neighborly and sufficient to keeb out cattle that are not breachy, a claim for trespass will lie upon injury by others cattle." The jury in this case was instructed by the Judge that if defendant's cattle broke through or jumped over the fence between the plaintiff's cornfield and the defendant's woods, and damaged the plaintiff's corn he was entitled to recover for the damage done, unless the jury were satisfied from the evidence that the fence was not such as farmers of practicle knowledge and experience would consider as sufficient to protect the crop from injury by usually orderly cattle. If it was such a sufficient fence, for the damage done while in that condition the plaintiff may recover, although it was not made of logs or rails, or posts and boards, and was not "four and a half feet high and well staked and ridered." The material of which the fence was made should also be considered as well as its height breadth and firmness, and if these were not considered sufficient to keep out orderly cattle no "damages" could be recovered.—*A. C., Wyoming Co., Pa.*

Tree Agents.

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Many of our readers will purchase fruit trees this fall. There are two ways of doing it. The planter who knows just what he wants will probably make out his list or order, and send it to some reliable nurseryman whose character for intelligence and integrity has been fully established. The trees will be returned by railway or steamer, securely packed, so that when the package is opened they will be as fresh as the hour they were dug from the soil. If the plahter has already an orchard, he will probably instruct the nurseryman to make no substitutions in case any particular sort is exhausted. Those planting new orchards may, if they choose, direct that substitutes, say to an extent of ten or twelve per cent.

This mode of ordering from nurseries is usually the best way, where the owner knows when and how to order, and is willing to make the trouble. But most planters will choose to buy of traveling agents. Many of them are trustworthy men, employed by nurseries. Be careful to distinguish between these and irresponsible, smoothtongued peddlers. See that their credentials have a recent date, and that they are employed by good men. You can authorize them to substitute ten per cent, if you think best. This is an easy way to have trees brought to your door.—*Country Gentleman.*

The statistics of the Texas cattle trade show a rapid increase in that very important branch of business. The total number of cattle shipped over the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad for the first seven months of the present year was 38,903, as compared with 24,858, for the same period in 1873. showing an increse of more than 13,000 in that time.—September and October, two of the best months of the year for cattle shipments, are not included in these figures, and if the same ratio is maintained this will be the heaviest cattle year on record. Wichita still leads all the towns on this railroad as a shipping point, 22,361 out of 38,903 having been shipped there.

The California barley crop is enormous.