

RAKINGS.

NEVER attempt to cultivate wet land with a green crop. If draining will not pay, working wet land never will.

LET sheep-keepers shorten the tails of nine-tenths of the dogs, say to within an inch or an inch and a half of the ears.

THERE is always a little doubt about what seed will produce, and always must be. With cions and cuttings there is no uncertainty.

FIND me a chicken fancier, who at the same times likes fruit-growing, and I would advise him to plant prunes and plums in his poultry ranges.

How many men would escape a dull, lifeless old age, if they would, in the decline of life, take an interest in the culture of flowers, or some similar pleasant pursuit.

PROMINENT among our exchanges we find "Vick's Floral Guide," No. 3, for 1876. It is full of delightful reading for all lovers of flowers, and superbly printed and illustrated.

No man having a farm or village lot should neglect to plant fruit trees and grape vines. Every corner and waste place should be occupied by a tree or vine to bear fruit.

A Chester county orchardist had intended to graft some of his trees over again, but limed heavily under them, and that brought them to perfection—a thing worth knowing.

EVERY writer and every farmer who has tried it, so far as we have been able to learn, favors harrowing wheat in the spring after the ground has settled. Rolling may be done earlier.

How are the cellars—have they been cleared of vegetables and all rubbish such as boards, barrels, and boxes? The health of the household depends much on having pure air underneath the rooms.

I HAVE found coal tar the best covering for stumps of large limbs or spots where the trunk is barked by white-trees. Having used it a few years since, I found the wounds healed over finely.

THE sea gathers waters from a thousand tributaries. So an agricultural paper gathers knowledge, experience, wisdom, from hundreds of intelligent, practical correspondents, and from other agricultural papers, and thus furnishes an exhaustless store of information to the farmer.

FARMERS are greatly improving in observing with more care what is going on under their own eyes, and are reporting it with more care, as we often remarked and heard remarked at the meetings we attended the past winter. This is an indication of progress and improvement.

Now for the dogs. If you keep one yourself tie him at night, and shoot every strange dog you find prowling around your sheep-pen at night. If you occasionally put out a bait with strychnine in it, it will do its work noiselessly, but none the less effectually. Any dog that is worth having is worth keeping at home. We have one that we would not give for the best cow in this neighborhood; yet if he is caught in bad company and gets killed, we will not blame the one who shoots him.

THE celebrated farmer, John Johnston of Geneva, New York, says he has used plaster every year since he came on his farm, now fifty-four years; and it has done wonders for him on corn, clover and grass. The first he used was on corn, soaking the corn in water, then mixing it with plaster when wet. He planted the plastered corn, and a hired man planted the corn that was not plastered. When the corn was up, that which was plastered was stronger and better colored than the other. It kept ahead throughout the season, and when ripe a blind man could have told the difference by feeling the stalks and ears,

HEROES are scarce, but the man who can make poverty respectable is one of them.

[Continued from 1st page.]

To this must be added compound interest on the land occupied by these fences, equal by careful calculation to \$10.22 per year.

To this again there must be added the year's loss upon the land taken up by lanes, that would be farmed were it not for the fences at the sides, which amounts to 148½ rods of land. This at \$60.00 per acre amounts to \$55.68, the compound interest on which for twenty years would be \$122.89. This divided by twenty would give a yearly loss of \$6.14. There yet remains the item of yearly repairs, a matter, as every farmer very well knows, of no inconsiderable consequence in estimating his annual expense. Owing to the great difference of opinion among farmers as to the amount of this expense, and in the absence of any correct data from which to discover it, I have been compelled to estimate; and preferring to err by an under rather than by an over estimate, have supposed that an average of at least \$5.00 per year would be expended in these repairs.

We have then as the total cost per year of ten hundred and twenty-four rods of fence, not including taxes, gates or cost of clearing fence rows, the sum of \$292.29, an amount equal to the net yearly income from upwards of thirty-six acres of wheat; or by losing this amount for twenty years you will have lost \$5,845.80. In other words a young man buying a farm of one hundred and eighty acres, at \$60.00 per acre could in twenty years pay \$5,845.80 by simply doing without his inside fences.

Startling as these statements are they by no means tell the entire truth. There are circumstances of inconvenience and loss of time, although commonly overlooked, or considered as but trifles by farmers, which are so directly chargeable to the inside fences, that I would be neglecting my duty to you and be unfair in my treatment of the subject were I to pass them by without attention. Farmers, in a general sort of way, know that it takes somewhat longer in proportion to the number of acres, to plow a small field, than a large one. But few ever calculate just how much is thus lost, or investigate the cause?

[Here the Prof. enters into a long, elaborate and most carefully prepared calculation, which we are compelled to omit for want of room, by which he shows a loss of \$63.44 each year that a farmer puts out a crop, in turning alone. A loss that would have been saved had he simply taken out the fences dividing fields in which the same crops are grown. EDITOR.]

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

No stock should be allowed to wander over the meadows. This is doubly injurious. It destroys the grass and spoils the appetite of the animals for dry feed. Nothing is gained but much is lost by this practice. The ground is also "poached," and quagmires are formed in low springy spots where the first grass appears.

THE most profitable hog is that which will grow you the most pounds of pork at ten months old for a given amount of food. This will require an early maturing breed, and one that utilizes its food to the greatest extent. The Berkshire, or Essex, or Suffolk, in health, will do this.

THERE is no profit in feeding stock that is past its prime. It is a waste of feed and money. Old animals form the bulk of the stock upon many farms. The young animals are sold off. This is the reverse of what is wise and profitable.

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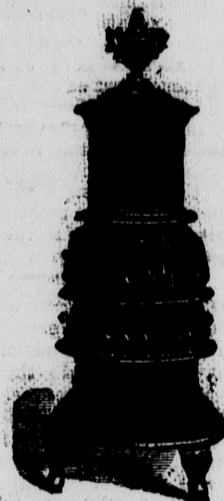
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