

The Farmer's Department

The Law and Manners of the Road

We find the following article upon the foregoing subject, which we take great pleasure in reproducing. Good manners upon the highway is as much an evidence of good breeding as in the drawing-room—and we presume no one who is at all acquainted with the subject will pretend to gainsay it.

The remarks touching the question, which we find in the *Clermont* (N. H.) *Eagle*, we commend to public attention, in the belief that their general perusal will produce a good effect.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

All of us have ideas more or less correct, in regard to the law which regulates our use of the highways; and, at any rate good sense and good nature are usually very safe guides. A few words on the subject, however, may not be amiss.

It is commonly said that every one has a right to half the road. This is practically true, and comes about in this wise: You and I meet upon the road—our legal rights are exactly equal, and both have a right to go our several ways without obstruction, so, popularly, we say I own half and you half. The law steps in to facilitate matters, and directs each to turn towards his right hand. This is true whatever the load or the team; for if one can drive such a team that another can pass him but with difficulty or at all, then their rights are no longer equal. This point becomes very important in winter, for it is no joke to turn your horse and fall into deep snow while your neighbor goes smoothly along in the beaten path.

No one has a right to load his team as not to be able to give up half the track to whoever demands it. A footman may choose the part which pleases him or any portion of his right hand half of the way, and the team must yield to him. This is clearly so in winter, and no man is obliged to step into the snow for one or two horses. This is the law and the court awards it.

Now for the manners of the road; which, in some instances vary from the law.

The first requirement of road manners is good nature and an accommodation spirit. Do to others as you would have them do to you. Always be willing to yield more than half the space, then you will be pretty sure to be equally well treated.—They who exact inches will have inches exacted of them. If your neighbor has a heavy load, consult his convenience as far as possible; you may sometimes be loaded. It has become a practical rule of courtesy to turn for heavy teams, especially in winter, and when the roads are heavy. But remember it was a reciprocal duty to perform, and one which, I am sorry to observe, is not always borne in mind.

One word in relation to teams going the same way, in which case many seem to think there is neither law nor manners. When a team comes up behind you, that team has a right to pass in—fact to half the road for that purpose—and your obstructing him in his lawful desire is a bad manner and bad law. If your load is heavy, do the best you can. In most cases the very least that can be asked is that you should stop. This is particularly so in winter, when it is a heavy tax on a team to force it into a tract in deep snow, or deep mud, or frozen and deep ruts—made necessary by your continuing to move on. Remember the good old proverb, which can be so opportunely applied here—"Wheel grease is great lubricator, but good manners a vastly greater one."

Good Tools.

The following is from a correspondence of the *Germantown Telegraph*: In order that a farmer may be able to do his work well, it is necessary that he should have good tools and implements, and also that these tools and implements should be kept in good order; yet how often is it the case that farmers instead of paying the necessary attention to their tools, neglect them altogether, even suffering them to remain for a long time exposed to the weather in the place where they were last used.

I have no doubt that the reason of this, that farmers in buying their tools, purchase those which can be obtained at the lowest price, and consequently underrate the importance of bestowing that attention upon them which is necessary, in order that they may do their work properly. And here let me say a few words upon the bad economy of buying low-priced tools, for they are not by any means cheaper, but generally prove dearer than those which cost double or even treble their price.

It is obvious to all that it is necessary to bestow a great deal more care and trouble upon an implement of an inferior quality, to enable it to do the same amount of work in as good a manner as one of a better class,

than upon one of a superior quality. Hence the value of the time lost in repairing such an implement would amount to more than the difference of the cost of such a one and one of a better class.

Now, I believe if farmers, instead of buying these low-priced tools, would purchase only those which they have ascertained for a certainty to be good ones, we would not see near so many plows, harrows, &c., lying about the fields or stowed away in the fence corners; or hear so many complaints about the smaller tools being lost; for when they purchased first-class tools, they would see that the necessary attention was bestowed upon them to keep them in good order, and the increased facility and dispatch with which their work was done would amply repay them for the extra amount invested.

Farmers out of Debt.

There must be something radically wrong with the farmer that does not now free himself from debt. Never in the lifetime of the present generation will such another opportunity present itself. Every cultivated product of the temperate latitude bears a highly remunerative price. Every fruit of our trees finds ready market. Every domestic animal that roams over our fields or feeds on the contents of our granaries finds a ready purchaser. Animals, vegetables and fruits alike are in demand.

It matters not for the purpose of paying debts, whether the money received for farm products be fifty, sixty, ninety or more cents below par, a dollar cancels a dollar's worth of debt, contracted even in the good old days of specie for which men sigh. A few years ago it took, in many parts of the West, ten bushels of corn to bring a dollar. Everything else that the farmer produced by his toil and care was equally low in price. Then indeed were hard times, and a crushing load of debt settled down upon the shoulders of all—for the great mass of Western farmers came here poor in money; rich only in faith and hope.

If a man's crops and stock last year brought him \$1000, and his expenses were \$500, this year his receipts will be \$2000, while his expenditures, even allowing them to have doubled—which they will not have done in one case in ten, will allow of a profit double that of last year.

And what is a year or two of economy now—economy of the most rigid kind, that shall cut off all the luxuries of life, compared with the years of happiness that shall follow when the homestead is free from encumbrance; when all the stock and machinery are the property of the landholders; when there is no account at the grocer's, nor the dry-goods merchant's, shoemaker's, nor blacksmith's?

It will be a glorious epoch when the people of these prairies own their own farms, and this we believe may be attained, if proper advantage be taken of the times in which we now live.—*Prairie Farmer, Chicago, Ills.*

Although the foregoing has particular reference to the prairie farmers of Illinois, yet it really has a far more extended application. It will apply here—to Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, &c., nearly in the same force as in Illinois. Now, indeed, is the golden opportunity for farmers to get out of debt, to make money, and to improve their estates. "It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good." The war, in the track of the hostile armies, leaves little else than desolation; but to the States not subject to the tread of the foe, the consequence, in a pecuniary aspect, especially to the farmer, who has been favored over all others in the operation of the tax and revenue laws, the advantages have been of the most decided character.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

GERMAN ECONOMY.—The late tourist in Germany describes the economy practiced by the peasants, as follows: Each German has his house, his orchard, his roadside trees so laden with fruit, that did he not carefully prop them up, tie them together, and in many places hold the boughs together by wooden clamps, they would be torn asunder by their own weight. He has his own corn plot, his plot for mangel wurtzel or hay, for potatoes, for hemp, &c. He is his own master, and therefore he and his family have the strongest motives for exertion. In Germany nothing is lost. The produce of the tree and the cows is carried to market. Much fruit is dried for winter use. You see wooden trays of plums, cherries, and sliced apples lying in the sun to dry. You see strings of them hanging from the windows in the sun.

The cows are kept up the greater part of the year, and every green thing is collected for them. Every little nook where the grass grows by the road side, river, brook, is carefully cut by the sickle, and carried home on the heads of the women and children, in baskets or tied in large cloths. Nothing of the kind is lost that can be made of any use. Weeds, nettles, hay, the very goose grass that covers the waste places, are cut up and taken to the cows. You see little children standing in the streets of the villages, and in the streams which generally run down them, busy washing those weeds before they are given to the cows. They carefully collect the leaves of the grass, carefully cut their potato tops for them, and even if other things fall, gather leaves from the woodlands.

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SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS.

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Always on hand a large stock of Ladies goods, such as

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PRINTS, KERCHIEFS, NUBIES, GLOVES, &c.

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Always on hand Black Cloth, Fancy and Black Coats,

Suits, Shirts, Caskets, Towels, Plain and fancy Vestings,

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Such as COATS, PANTS, VESTS and other garments

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and a variety of other articles

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Ice-Cream, Imperial, Young Hyson or Black Tea, go to M'ABOY'S.

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of a superior quality, at as low rates as they can be had

elsewhere in the county, go to the store of

R. C. & J. L. M'ABOY.

May 11, 1864.

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THE undersigned would respectfully inform the public,

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where he is prepared to execute all orders in the Art of

Photography, at the shortest possible notice.

His Reception Room is fitted up with neatness and elegance,

where he is open for inspection to the public. Those desiring

life-like Photographs, will please give a call.

Butler, Aug. 17, 1864.

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For Rats, Mice, Roaches, Ants, Bed Bugs, Moths

in Fur, Woolens, &c., Insects on Plants, Fleas, mals, &c.

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"Sells by all Druggists and Retailers everywhere."

"See '11 Beware!' of all worthless imitations."

"See that 'COSTAR'S' name is on each Box, Bottle, and

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