

THE AVANT COURIER

THURSDAY, SEPT. 13, 1877.

Lost and Found.

BY ALICE CAREY.

A roof of light, and a heart of light.

Neighbors and friends, to make his amends.

A purse without gold, and a heart that is cold.

A mind that is wrecked by his own neglect.

A tongue slow to speak, and a hand that is weak.

Some ragged clothes, and a great red nose.

No Money in Handling Sheep.

Occasionally a man is met who is ready to exhibit his stock of epithets against sheep and "the sheep business."

He is satisfied there is no money in it, for he has tried it.

He speaks from experience, and stands proof against figures and argument.

Get such a man down to particulars, and it will usually be found that he went into the business on what lawyers term ex parte information.

Men who were deemed reliable had said and written that all the way from 20 to 100 per cent, was being made from the money that had been put into sheep.

This was better than could be done with any other live stock; so he sold a portion of his cattle and hogs, which he knew how to handle, and bought sheep, of which he knew nothing.

He saw no reason for paying \$4 to \$5, or even more, for sheep, when plenty could be had for \$1.50 to \$2.

So he bought the cheap ones. Having been told that sheep required very little attention, he gave his but little.

After they had been on the farm a few days, he walked out to see them, and found that the change in pasture had given the scours to some of the weaker ones, and from lack of timely attention, the maggots had worried them to death.

He went back in a few days to find that the dogs of the neighborhood had noticed the change from cattle to sheep, and evidenced their approval by making a horde of a hand some percentage of the best ones.

To escape a repetition of this latter experience, he drove the flock into the barnyard at night, and found next morning that the mules had crippled half a dozen of them.

Never knew that young mules would bother sheep. By and by a peddler came along with some rams, of which marvelous stories were told as to pedigree and shearing qualities, and he bought one and turned him in with his sheep.

He remembered the date, but it must have been rather early, as what few lambs he got came in March, and having no good place to run during the stormy nights, most of them died.

Before this the high-priced, fine-pedigreed ram had died—as well as a goodly number of ewes; all of which he was unable to account for, as they had a stalk field to run in, and constant access to the straw pile.

Shedding time came, and his wool was light; the buyers found fault with the burs, and cut the price.

On the whole, he had "had luck" with his sheep, and would have done better if he had "had luck" to cattle and hogs.

Such is a pretty fair sample of the experience of those who "know there is no money in the sheep business."

Good Advice.

Mr. Aaron A. Webster, an old farmer, and now the treasurer of the People's Savings Bank at South Bend, Indiana, advising selling the wheat crop as soon as it is ready for market.

Taking one ten years with another, he claims he has realized more for his wheat than those who held it over winter for higher prices.

His argument, as given in the South Bend Tribune, is:

In selling his crop from the machine, he ran no risks whatever.

The wheat was delivered, he got his money, and if he had no other use for it he put it on interest.

Had he stored it, there was shrinkage, cost of storage, waste by vermin, loss of interest on the money in it, and the risk of a high fire, etc.

He had no other use for it he put it on interest.

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A Bad Fire.

"Jones, have you heard of the fire that burned up the man's house and lot?"

"No, Smith; where was it?"

"Here in the city."

"What a misfortune to him! Was it a good house?"

"Yes, a fine one; how did it go?"

"What a pity! How did the fire take?"

"I'm sure played with fire, and thoughtlessly set it himself."

"How silly! Did you say the lot was burned, too?"

"Yes, lot and all; all gone, slick and clean."

"That is singular. It must have been a terrible hot fire—but then I don't see how it could have burned the lot."

"No, it was not a very hot fire. Indeed, it was so small that it attracted but little attention, and did not alarm anybody."

"But how could such a little fire burn up a house and lot? You haven't told me."

"It burned a long time—more than twenty years. And though it seemed to consume very slowly, yet it wore away about one hundred and fifty dollars' worth every year, till it was all gone."

"I can't understand that, yet. Tell me where the fire was kindled, and all about it."

"Well, then, it was kindled in the end of a cigar. The cigar cost him, he himself told me, twelve and a half dollars per month, or one hundred and fifty dollars a year, and that in twenty-one years would amount to \$3,150, besides all the interest.

Now the money was worth at least ten per cent, and that rate it would double once in about every seven years. So that the whole sum would be more than \$20,000. That would buy a fine house and lot in any city. It would pay for a large farm in the country. Don't you pity the family of the man who has slowly burned up their home?"

"When I guess you mean me, for I have smoked more than twenty years. But it didn't cost so much as that, and I have not any more of my own. I have always rented—thought I was too poor to own a house. And all because I have been burning it up! What a fool I have been!"

"The boys had better never set a fire which costs so much, and which, though so easily put out, is yet so likely, if once kindled, to keep burning all their lives."

About the House.

A few puffs from a cigar or pipe, or a smoking lamp, will scintillate all the dogs of the neighborhood had noticed the change from cattle to sheep, and evidenced their approval by making a horde of a hand some percentage of the best ones.

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J. D. McCLAM, Sec'y.

Bozeman, January 20, 1877.

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