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NO. 7.

TWO PICTURES OF FARM LIFE.

The Imaginary and the Real—Free From Care—Scarcely a Living.

The wise man who edit newspapers and write these on social and political economy advise young men in cities to live to the country and grow up with it. Early and late they wrestle with imaginary angels for blessing upon their efforts in the good work of depopulating the overcrowded city, and building up the waste places where the owl hooteth and the "gallinipper" draws sustenance from animate nature. The fact that agriculture is the basis of all solid prosperity is made a vehicle for the proposition that it is therefore the most desirable of callings.

The farmer is pictured as a sturdy, independent fellow, living on milk and honey, or its equivalent, and bearing with ease the weight of the whole economic system. His wife is a portly, pleasing dame, who glides peacefully through the daily round of pie and dairy truck and raises up children to call her blessed. His daughter is a rosy-cheeked damsel, who blushes naturally on slight provocation and can jump a fence, but wears No. 9 shoes and has a mind thoroughly attuned to nature in its loveliest moods. The farmer boy is free from care. He rises with the dawn, feeds the philosophic mule and goes forth to healthful labor. At noon he comes in, eats the good things spread before him and goes forth again to till the soil that will soon laugh with a harvest. At night he reads good books by a pine knot fire and stores his mind with useful knowledge. He is a daisy and warranted fast color.

That is the imaginary picture—the real. The farmer in this part of the country at least, is not independent. Far from it. If he makes a big crop, so does everybody else around him, and he finds no sale for his surplus. Does he try to raise hogs? Cholera prances along two years in five and takes them off. The range for cattle is getting scarcer every year, and each year costs just as much extra fencing to keep him out of the fields. Cotton is the only crop a small farmer can raise, sugar requiring capital; and the price of cotton has been steadily falling for ten years, until it has reached the actual cost of production. There is no profit to be made; scarcely a good living. In fact, there is no such thing as a good living in the country, or so little of it that it doesn't count in the total. I don't attempt to explain this, but simply mention the undeniable truth. Even milk and butter and eggs are easier got in town than in the country, and good bread is a lost art with rural housewives. The Texas ranch, where there are thousands of cattle and not a drop of milk to be had is not more of a puzzle to the city man than the average Louisiana farm or plantation. There is little fruit, and that not the best. The staple article of diet is salt meat of some kind, corn bread or biscuit, the right bower of dyspepsia, and coffee, a nutrient admirably adapted to the region of Hudson Bay.—Cor. New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Brooklyn's Hansoms and Cab Horses.

Up to a few years ago such a thing as a hansom was unknown in Brooklyn, and it was generally considered among the fraternity that it would be nothing short of financial suicide to attempt to run one. The surprise of the veterans can very well be imagined, then, when a short time ago they saw one of these taboored vehicles driven up to the stand and ranged in line. The driver was expostulated with and warned of the abyss of bankruptcy into which he was about to plunge, but he said he didn't care, he had come to stay. After a while finding himself a little lonely among the "old families," the coppers, he moved over to the other side of the street, and there he and his hansom may be seen any day, when not whirling a fare through the city.

Of the horses it may be said that they are no better than they should be. Some of them are sound and are kept in good condition, but the majority of them belong to that class, spoken of in "Pickwick," which require "showing up very tight and retreating very short" to keep them from exorcising their knees. To any one who is in the habit of passing them daily, they always seem to have a half mournful, half reproachful look on their fiddle-shaped faces. They certainly have a hard time of it, even when doing nothing, and if there is a paradise for animals, cab horses should be entitled to a place in that part of it where the grass grows greenest and thickest.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Starting a Club in Gotham.

It is easy enough to start a club in New York if you can enlist the right kind of men in the enterprise. There are a half a dozen cheerful and agreeable young rascals here who seem to have no other ambition in life than to establish a connection with a fresh club every fifteen minutes. They go about primed with enthusiasm and loaded with application blanks to see whom they may succeed in snaring into the club which enjoys their latest affection, and if they are very much in earnest the club springs into life with extraordinary rapidity. A week or ten days they turned their attention to a country club on Staten Island where brokers and business men could run down and spend an hour or two bathing or lounging warm summer nights. To-day there are 400 members, a plot of ground ten acres in extent has been purchased, an immense building begun, thirty tennis courts laid out, and a ball ground and a grand stand are rapidly assuming perfected proportions. All this is due to the energy of three young club men. They have enlisted men of every age in the enterprise by shaming the force of personal magnetism and indomitable work. Clubs of this sort spring up every day, and club life in New York is assuming an extensive proportions as in London. There is an endless variety, and a million man, from a grocer's clerk now to a millionaire, now has his club.—New York Letter.

Prevention of Adulterated Teas.

Consul General Warren Green, of Yokohama, Japan, has sent to the state department the resolutions adopted by the Central Tea Association of the Japanese empire, looking to the prevention of adulterated teas being sent out of the country. These resolutions provided for the establishment of central depots at Yokohama, Kobe and Nagasaki, where all teas sent in from the producing districts will be carefully inspected. These inspectors will also inquire carefully into the methods pursued by the brokers in conducting their business. The brokers will be held responsible for the discovery of adulterated teas, and when such teas are discovered they will be seized and turned over to the authorities. A committee will be dispatched to China to study and report upon the tea production of that country.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

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