

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

A Farm and Home Weekly for the States of Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

FOUNDED, 1895, BY DR. TAIT BUTLER, AT STARKVILLE, MISS.

Volume XV. No. 13

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1910.

Weekly: \$1 a Year.

## The True Test of Success—Love for One's Work

WITH the coming of the first days of real spring weather the true farmer again feels the lure of the soil and hears the call of the fields. To one who has followed the plow on an April morning when the whole world was pulsing with the thrill of newly awakened life, and the reviving warmth of the sunshine had in it the infinite promise of endless harvests, there remains always something subtly inspiring and wonderfully satisfying in the odor of the crumbling soil, the glint of the sunshine on the fresh-turned furrows, and the rattle of the traces as the team swings leisurely around at the corners.

Who that has once known these things does not find a great, wholesome joy in the planting of the seed in the expectant soil, in watching the unsteady steps of the young calves and colts as they take their first journey afield, in the ministrations to the needs of tree and vine and tender garden plant that is called for with each succeeding spring? The man who has once caught the spirit of the farm, who has felt the deep, elemental earth-thrill in his veins, will never outgrow the old love and the old longings.

This feeling, too, is peculiar to the best farmers—to those who love and understand and are glad of their work, and who get more than a living out of their farming—to whom it is a life, full, satisfying, fruitful and joyful.

No man can do his best at any work he does not love. The farmer who does not love his farm—the very ground he walks on—who does not love his stock, his crops, the blossoming of the orchards, the rich hues of ripening grain fields and tasseling corn, the snowy fruitage of the cotton lands and the long sweep of the upland pastures, is not at all likely to make the same success of his farming as is the man who sees something more than increased profits in the increasing richness of his fields and the increasing bounty of his crops.

To feel the dignity of the labor that calls from the seemingly lifeless soil the food and clothing for all mankind, to know the great creative joy that comes from helping to make this world of ours a fairer and a better place to live in, to walk hand in hand, as it were, with Nature's self and realize one's elemental kinship with all the universe—these are the privileges offered to the farmer whose soul, as well as his muscle, is devoted to his work; and to him they bring a joy far more deep and abiding than can come from any mere financial success.

It is great to be a successful farmer, even when success is measured by dollars and cents; but the greatest and truest

success is the spirit that enables one to feel that his work is good and to do it with gladness.



A STUDY IN NEGLECT

Here is a farm home that should be and might be a thing of beauty; but it is not. A few trees, a lawn, two or three well placed clumps of shrubbery, a vine or two, a few flowers about it, and how inviting it would be! On page 248, Mrs. F. L. Stevens has an article on the planning and planting of the home grounds, that we hope every man, as well as every woman, who gets this issue will read. Then, after reading it, we hope everyone will begin planning to make his or her home beautiful. While the best effects can come in any case only as the result of careful planning and minute attention to details, any planting of trees or shrubs or flowers will help in a case like this.

Now is a good time to begin. Let us make the South a land of beautiful farm homes. "There is no reason for an unattractive home anywhere in the country."

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