W H Matthews 1jan77

The Vermont Farmer.

AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER FOR THE RURALISTS OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE.

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Vermont Farmer

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LEWIS B. HIBBARD, EDITOR.

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Scientific Farmer,

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EMBDEN GEESE.—A subscriber, having seen favorable mention of these geese in the FARMER inquires where he can procure them, and the price. We have consulted our valued correspondent, Mr. J. G. McKeen, of South Acworth, N. H., and he replies as follows: "We have several breeders of Embden geese, but W. H. Todd of Vermillion, Ohio, has the best. I think his price is $10 to $15 per pair. C. E. L. Hayward of Peterboro, N. H., has ordered a very fine pair of Mr. Todd, and will have goslings next fall for $8 per pair probably. Mr. Todd says Toulouse geese are much the best for general purposes."

Pasturing Meadows.

Of that shortsighted and pernicious practice we have been the foe for many years; and we certainly never knew pastures shorter than for the last three months of this season. We know we cut several tons more of hay last haying season, because the meadow was untouched a year ago; and the hay is worth double all the extra butter the cows would have made. Our meadow is now covered with a fine, soft, but short aftermath, which will wonderfully protect the roots during the winter, especially if it is an open one as it now promises to be. Beside, the ground is not all poached up, and if any one will examine a clay meadow in June, he will find little or no grass growing where the cattle's feet pressed into the wet soil the fall or spring previous. Raise fodder corn, or Hungarian grass, or buy shorts, but keep the cattle off the meadows, unless you are taking a farm on shares, and then you will skin the farm all you can, or you are an exception to any one we ever knew. Read the following suggestions:

A neighbor of mine has a meadow on which there is now a most luxuriant growth of aftermath. Last Saturday, a week ago, he turned in on this field some twenty head of cattle, and purposes to keep them there most of the fall. Will it injure the meadow? I told him it would if he turned them in now, for it has been very wet here, and his meadow is naturally moist. The tramping of that many cattle for a month, as wet as it is now, will ruin the meadow. But he thinks not. I have no serious objections to pasturing down an aftermath when it grows rank, aside from the tramping in wet weather. But I do not believe in eating it off bare and leaving the roots exposed to the rigors of our winters, with nothing whatever to protect them. Our meadows and grass lands would not run out so frequently, methinks, if less fall pasturing was done. The grass that springs up after harvest will fall down and furnish a protecting carpet through the winter, and will enrich the land by its decay, so that it will produce, generally, enough more the following season to compensate for the loss of the pasture in the fall, while the better condition of the land and of the grass crop itself, is so much clear profit.

My plan is to pasture aftermath according to its growth. In dry seasons, when there is but little growth, I do not turn in at all. In wet seasons, when there is a rank growth, I pasture whenever the ground is dry enough to prevent sinking of the hoofs. I mowed a field last year that had been pastured wet the fall before, and it was as rough as a plowed field, and did not turn off half as well as fields that had not been so tramped. —*G. G., in Ohio Farmer.*

An Editor's Wife.

We know one editor's wife who will utter a mental amen as she reads this, and an ex-editor informs us that his excellent wife appreciates it. We publish it for the special benefit of those who contemplate marrying an editor, that they may see "what they are coming to."

Yes, I'm Mrs. Peter Snow, an editor's wife. I well remember the day when Mr. Snow asked me to become his wife. I confess I liked Mr. Snow, and thinking it would be a fine thing to be the wife of an editor, I said "yes" as pretty as I knew how, and I became Mrs. Snow. I have seen ten years of married life, and find my husband to be an amiable, good-natured man. He always spends his evenings at home, and is in that respect a model man: but he always brings a pile of exchanges which is only limited by the length of his arms, and reads while I patch the knees and elbows of his pantaloons and coat. After we had a Quaker meeting of an hour's length I broke the stillness by asking: "Mr. Snow, did you order that coal I spoke to you about?" "What did you say, my dear?" he asks, after a minute's silence. "Did you order that coal I spoke to you about?" "Indeed, my dear, I am sorry, but I forgot all about it. It shall come to-morrow." Another hour's silence which is relieved by the baby's crying, and rather liking a noise of that sort, I made no effort to quiet him. "My dear," says Mr. Snow, after he had cried a minute or so, "you had better give the baby some catnip tea to quiet him; he troubles me." The baby is still. Another hour passes without a breath of noise. Being tired, I take a lamp and retire for the night, leaving Mr. Snow so engaged with his papers that he does not see me leave the room. Towards midnight he comes to bed, and just as he has fallen asleep the baby takes a notion to cry again. I rise as quietly as possible and try to still him. Then another baby begins to scream at the top of his lungs. There is no other course but to awake Mr. Snow, so I say: "Mr. Snow!" The third time he starts up and cries, "What, Tom, more copy?"—*Rochester Advertiser.*

THOROUGHBREDS.—A business gentleman wrote in behalf of a farmer, to one of our leading breeders of thoroughbred stock, asking him for terms of certain animals advertised in our journal. The request was attended to and he soon received a letter saying the farmer thought the prices too high, and declined to purchase, although he wanted the stock. Whereupon our business man delivers himself of this sensible message which we hope the before mentioned breeder found of some slight comfort. "There seems to be an idea prevalent among many farmers that the cheapest is the best, regardless of quality—but it is a penny wise and pound foolish plan. I have in mind some farmers who have bred their sheep in-and-in until they are all run out, poor, *scraggy, half-wooled* things; and it is impossible to make them believe that new blood would be a benefit. The loss is their own, although it is a shame and belittles the profession of farming." Who wonders that breeders find it unprofitable to raise blood stock where such ideas prevail? Fortunately, however, they obtain among a much smaller portion of the farming community than formerly.—*Maine Farmer.*

For the VERMONT FARMER.

Scarcity of Water.

FRIEND HIBBARD:—The surface of the earth is frozen from four to eight inches in depth, according to the exposure, and the frost is daily penetrating. Our trust that winter would not close in without replenishing rains, seems in fair way to be disappointed. I have no water yet at my barns, and may have thirty head of cattle, fifty sheep, and six horse kind put up in winter quarters any day, though we keep them out yet by daily feeding; the cattle all coming up nights, and the sheep getting a ration of corn in the pasture. Many other farmers are as badly off. Now if we do not have an unusual thaw and soaking rain we must drive our stock away to the brooks, or carry water to them, or haul it in barrels. Much labor and care are necessary to avoid losses, by injuries to each other, slipping on the ice, exposure to cold and storms, and an insufficient or irregular supply of water. When the weather is rough, or the young and small animals are driven away by the large and strong, they will go without drinking, and the next day will take so much water as to injure them. If the farmer tries to favor them by hauling water on stormy days, they learn to expect it, and do not drink at the brook next day, unless the weather is mild and everything all right.

I think the best way is to provide water at the barns for the milch cows, the calves and other animals that may be feeble or less able to stand the exposure and hardship of going to the brook, if not for all the stock, and am inclined to think it pays to haul it for all. Those animals that go to the brook should be sent along in squads, the smallest first, so that all will have an opportunity to drink. Those farmers who have an unfailing supply of running water for house and barns, do not know what a luxury they possess.

Domestic animals need an abundant supply of pure water free from ice and easily accessible. They should have an opportunity to drink twice a day with regularity. Without such abundant, frequent and regular supply, they fail in thrift, and are liable to suffer an impairment of health. Perhaps an exception should be made in favor of sheep. They will do without water if they have access to clean snow. But they should have one or the other regular. One of the best flocks of my acquaintance, sixteen in number, all breeding ewes, never have water in winter, running at large in a ten acre field. They are always strong and thrifty in spring. I do not say that they would not do better if they had running water. It seems to me they would. C. H. H.

Springfield, Vt., Dec. 4, 1876.

For the VERMONT FARMER.

Facts About Fences.

Few farmers realize the immense sum it requires to prevent our cattle from intruding on our neighbor's property, and from injuring our own crops.

According to the agricultural report of 1871, there are 250,505,614 acres fenced; requiring 1,619,199,428 rods of fencing; costing $1,747,549,931! In the United States there are 5,922,470 people engaged in agriculture, and it averages each farmer $295 to enclose his fields. We have 5,059,998 miles of fence; a little more than two hundred times the circumference of the earth at the equator, and twenty-one times the distance to the moon, or nearly one mile to each farmer.

It requires an annual outlay of nearly ninety-four millions of dollars for repairs—a sum equal to the amount of our government debt, on which interest is paid.

In our own State we have enclosed 4,169,817 acres, at a cost of forty-three millions of dollars—a sum one-sixth as large as the real and personal property in Vermont in 1870.

It is estimated to cost annually four dollars to keep 100 rods of fence in repair, or about one and a half million of dollars we pay to resist the attacks of live stock on farm production. Many of the fences in Vermont are built of stone, occupying and rendering impossible of cultivation at least, a strip of land twelve feet in width; making an acre for every three-quarters of a mile. There are occupied in this State 75,000 acres by fence; making three towns of ordinary size, and 375 farms of 200 acres each. We have (reckoning the 75,000 acres occupied by fences at $15 per acre,) over one million dollars to be added to the first cost of the fences of this state; making over forty-four millions of dollars as the sum farmers pay for enclosing land not worth the cost of the fencing. F. E.

UTILIZING CIDER POMACE.—At this season of the year, and especially when apples are so plenty as now, there is much fruit manufactured into cider, the pomace after pressing, being often troublesome to dispose of. We have found it pay well to feed pomace to stock, which usually eat it greedily. If placed in layers six inches thick, with twelve or fifteen inches of hay or straw between the layers, it will not ferment, but will keep in good condition until fed out, provided it is kept from freezing. Cattle, sheep or horses will eat straw readily, if it has been used to dry pomace, and frequently improve in condition, even if fed nothing but the straw and pomace. A neighbor once stated to us that the owner of a cider-mill near his father's farm in Lyme, Conn., always filled a 30 or 40 foot barn full of straw and pomace, on which he wintered a large flock of sheep, bought up in the fall for this purpose, and sold them fat after shearing in the spring. He allowed the sheep to eat all the pomace and straw they would, and in so large a mass it kept secure from freezing, except at the outer edges, so that it was always fresh and soft when fed. In making cider with the now common hand-mills, we have usually pressed about one bushel of apples at each time, and the resulting cheese will usually last a horse one day, with hay or straw in addition. This feed makes the horse's coat silky, and makes him lively when driven.—*Country Gentlemen.*

It is said that 100 pounds of beech ashes will supply phosphates enough for 4000 pounds of wheat straw, and 2000 pounds of grain.

Fattening Poultry.

The following advice from the Journal of Chemistry is the best we have ever seen, though we think they need a little more room, but should be shut up. Our practice has been to use a pen some ten feet square for a dozen or more, but shut them up by all means:

It is hopeless to attempt to fatten chickens while they are at liberty. They must be put up in a proper coop, and this, like most other appurtenances, need not be expensive. To fatten twelve fowls, a coop may be three feet long, eighteen inches high and eighteen inches deep, made entirely of bars. No part solid—neither top, sides nor bottom. Discretion must be used according to the size of the chickens put up. They do not want any room; indeed, the closer they are the better, provided they can all stand up at the same time. Care must be taken to put up such as have been accustomed to be together, or they will fight. If one is quarrelsome, it is better to remove it at once, as, like other bad examples, it soon finds imitators. Diseased chickens should never be put up.

The food should be ground oats, and may either be put up in a trough or on a flat board running along the front of the coop. It may be mixed with water and milk, the latter is better. It should be well soaked, forming a pulp as loose as can be, provided it does not run off the board. They must be well fed three or four times a day, the first time as soon after daybreak as may be possible or convenient, and then at intervals of four hours. Each meal should be as much as they can eat up clean, and no more; when they have done feeding, the board should be wiped and some gravel spread. It causes them to feed and thrive.

After a fortnight of this treatment you will have good, fat fowls. If, however, there are but five or six to be fatted, they must not have as much room as though there were a dozen. Nothing is easier than to allow them the proper space, as it is only necessary to have two or three pieces of wood to pass between the bars and form a partition. This may also serve when fowls are up at different degrees of fatness. This requires attention, or fowls will not keep fat and healthy. As soon as the fowl is sufficiently fatted, it must be killed; otherwise it will not get fatter, but will lose flesh. If fowls are intended for the market, of course they are, or may be, fatted at once; but if for home consumption, it is better to put them up at such intervals as will suit the time when they will be required for the table.

When the time arrives for killing, whether they are meant for market or otherwise, they should be fasted without food or water for twelve or fifteen hours. This enables them to keep for some time after being killed, even in hot weather.

Fall Treatment of Calves.

Calves require special treatment at this season of the year. Grass begins to depreciate in nutritive value when the first frosts occur, and as cold weather approaches, calves not unfrequently run down thin and weak and are not prepared to meet the rigors of winter. There is no season of the year when extra care and feed are more needed than in the fall before the animals go into winter quarters. Calves require to be kept in a thrifty, growing condition, and if checked in their growth during fall for proper nourishment they will be apt to fall sick in early winter, and then can only with great difficulty be kept alive. Winter is a very favorable time to resuscitate weak and sickly animals, and it is always better to guard against this trouble by care and good feeding during fall, for calves that are not allowed to lose flesh and become weak at this season will, with fair treatment, go through the winter without trouble. It is well then to commence feeding calves a little grain or ground feed, pumpkins, tops of turnips, beets and carrots when grass first begins to fail. Oats, either ground into meal or in the grain make a good food for calves, and it is of advantage to teach them to eat extra food of the kind named at the time suggested, because later in the season they may be more dainty in appetite, especially if sick and debilitated.

Calves when brought to the barn in the fall ought not to be run indiscriminately with larger and older animals, because they often receive harm by being hooked and shoved about by the vicious members of the herd. They are often deprived also of their due share of food and in consequence fall away rapidly.

If whey or skimmed milk can be had from the dairy they will make a good feed, and a little oil meal, say a pound to each animal, cooked and made into a gruel and added to the milk or whey, will greatly add to this kind of ration. In raising stock for the dairy it is desirable that the animals be taught early to eat all kinds of slop and that they get an abundance of succulent food, as by these means the capacity of the stomach is enlarged and milk secretion is promoted. It is important that calves make a continued growth during the first year, for if they are not stunted during that period they will be likely to "come in milk" when two years old; and our experience in growing stock for the dairy goes to show that the best cows for milk, other things being equal, are those which drop their calves as early as the time named. But in addition to the greater milk habit of animals coming in at two years of age there is the increased profit to the farmer, since the milk yielded during the following year will be more than sufficient to pay the cost of keeping, while the animal "coming in milk" one year later adds in her keeping a very considerable extra expense.

In conclusion it may be proper to remark that calves in the fall should be sheltered from the cold storms of rain and sleet incident to that season of the year. This is an important item in fall management and one which is quite too often overlooked and neglected. Animals of tender age that are allowed to lie out at night exposed to drenching rains mingled with sleet and snow not unfrequently contract colds which lead to ills that impair the constitution, and in this way the stock becomes weakly and possessed of less endurance than they would have if properly cared for when young.

The raising of "deep milkers" as profitable stock for the dairy does not depend altogether upon breeds. The animals must be properly fed and cared for from the start. The raising of dairy stock should not be left to chance but should receive careful attention, guided in all its branches by thoughtful foresight and intelligence.—*Rural New Yorker.*

The Scientific Farmer says: "The New Hampshire Board of Agriculture are discussing means of resettling the 2,000 deserted farms of that State. It is hoped to make some provision with the owners by which settlers can be induced to take them up again, possibly by the owners giving a bond for a deed after a few years' improvement. This is a step in the right direction, and deserves success."

Weighing Firewood.

At the council meeting on Tuesday week, Ald. Holland gave notice of a motion, "To consider the expediency of amending the by-law regulating the sale of firewood, so as to permit dealers selling it by weight." The proposed change in selling wood by weight instead of by measure as heretofore, has many things that can be advanced in its favor, as well as some things which can be said against it; and as fuel is one of the prime necessities of the general public, any action of the Council in this matter should receive due attention from the citizens. The following are the chief benefits to be derived from the sale of firewood by weight. There are about 100,000 cords of wood brought annually to the city; if this wood was weighed, and ten cents per cord charged for the weighing, it would amount to $10,000, and as two, or at most three, additional scales would be all that would be needed, the gain to the city would be over $8,000 annually. This would be no additional burden, as it costs at least that much to cord the wood that is consumed in the city. Weighing would do away with the numerous and well-founded complaints of short measure in the quantity delivered. It would also be an inducement for the persons cutting the wood in the forests to cut it longer, or, better still, to saw it, thus causing a great saving in the amount of "chips" that are annually left to rot in the bush. At present, as a cord of wood is a cord, whether it be cut long or short, there is a premium on short wood, causing a waste in chips of about 15 per cent., or 15,000 cords out of the 100,000 cords consumed annually in the city, and which would nearly all be saved to the country, if wood were sawn instead of being chopped in the bush. People in the city are very frequently imposed on by wood-sawyers, who sometimes charge over two dollars per cord for sawing two cuts in each stick and splitting it. If wood were sold by weight, wood dealers could keep men engaged continually sawing and splitting the wood at the woodyards, or on the wharves, and as it is an easy day's work for a man to saw two cuts in each stick in a cord of wood, and also split them, it would not cost more than a dollar if done at the dealer's yard; besides when wood is sawn and split fine, the buyer has a much better opportunity of knowing the true quality of the wood he is getting. Wood grown on rocky land is much better and much heavier, when dry, than wood grown on swampy soil; consequently the seller of rock maple would get the additional sum over the seller of swamp-grown wood which the quality of the wood entitles him to.

The only "weighty" argument that can be urged against the selling of firewood by weight is that it would be a premium to wet wood, consequently people would have to pay higher prices for an inferior article; a cord of hard wood grown on a swampy soil, cut three and a half feet long would weigh about 50,000 lbs. If the same wood was properly dried, it might not weigh 40,000 lbs. This weighty objection might be greatly weakened if not entirely removed, by establishing different grades of wood, such as green, half dry and dry. Let several cords of, say ninety cubic feet each, be weighed of all the kinds of wood sold, and at the different states of drying, and the results used for ascertaining the quantity of all the wood that is weighed.—*Montreal Witness.*

Sweet Corn Fodder.

Let Quercus Alba plant some sweet corn one year and feed it to his milch cows in the month of August and September, as his pastures begin to fail, and I think he will not ask the second time, if sweet corn fodder is a profitable crop to cultivate, even if if it is a pretty good season for pastures. And perhaps he will not be obliged to report that it takes twelve quarts of milk to make a pound of butter. If he should be, I would suggest that it might be to his advantage to make a change in his cows.

For many years I planted the Western corn for fodder, and while the cows would fill themselves with it, and hold their flesh, I could see no improvement in the milk. But after feeding sweet corn fodder awhile I at once noticed a change both in quantity and quality. Quercus Alba asks Mr. Foster for his figures in relation to keeping cows and making butter. As I have not noticed any figures of Mr. Foster's I will venture to present a few of my own as the result of my experience. I do not know how much bran, or shorts it takes to produce a gallon of milk, but I do know by experiment that the benefit that I derive from feeding them more than equals their cost to ascertain how much milk it takes to make a pound of butter. I have made a number of trials. The first one was eight years ago in September with six cows running in the pasture, and having no provender, when it took seven quarts to the pound. Another trial two years ago, with eight cows in the month of December, it took but six and a half quarts to the pound. At this time I was feeding some shorts. We made last year from eight and one-third cows (having the eighth cow four months of the year) seventeen hundred and sixty pounds of butter, and fifteen hundred pounds of cheese which we sold for eight hundred and seventy-five dollars. Now we don't reckon this as being very extra, but we do know what we are doing. Farmers should prove all things, "hold fast that which is good."—*J. W. in Main Farmer.*

INFORMATION WANTED.—It will give much satisfaction if the committee who awarded the premiums for Mr. Conrad Wilson's prizes will give the public the special manner of making up the results of feeding pork hogs; the manner of preparing and using the corn; the age of the hogs; how often said hogs were weighed; what drink or other food was given, and any other details, to get a certainty of the report given by the committee. Also, the kind of hogs fed; was anything given to increase the appetite of said hogs, and was the natural growth taken into consideration during the term of the trial feeding? I would also ask the particular manner of getting the result of butter made by one bushel of corn; what kind of cows were fed; what age of cow was used; were they run at pasture or confined in the stable; what was the special manner of feeding; how was the corn prepared, and how often was it fed; were the cows given anything but water for drink; the manner of getting at the precise results reported in butter from the bushel of corn fed; was the milk all churned or was it set as usual; what month of the season was the trial made, and in what manner were the cows prepared and fed for the trial of the bushel of corn? —*N. Y. Times.*

Congressman Frank Jones, of Portsmouth, N. H., has been the most insured man in New England, having $140,000 in life policies; but the well-known Boston lawyer, Francis A. Brooks has insured himself for $150,000, and Mr. Jones proposes to put $50,000 more on his own life.

SELECTIONS.

For what purpose was Eve made? For Adam's Express Company.

In hauling dirt, remember that 23 cubic feet of sand, 18 cubic feet of soil, or 17 cubic feet of clay, make a ton. It is an easy matter to overload with material of this kind.

Palestine is to have a railroad; a prophetic itemizer remarks, the cry will soon be, "All aboard for Jerusalem. Passengers for Moab and the Dead Sea will please remain in the forward car."

A bright little fellow who had been told that God made everybody, was standing at a window looking out upon the street and seeing a man passing with but one leg, earnestly called out, "Mamma, mamma, come and see! Here's a man God hasn't finished."

Doughnuts are plenty in Boston, for during the past three months 860 car loads of hogs have passed over the Central road, making about 62,000 hogs that went over the road during the months of August, September and October.

It is said that 90,000 people have been to the Centennial from Vermont. If it costs them $35 each the entire outlay would be $3,150,000. Of course these figures are not accurate but they give some idea of the vast sum expended by Centennial visitors.

A Canadian farmer missed a valuable heifer, and, after several days' unavailing search, found that she had eaten her way thirty feet into a straw stack. She had taken a winding course inside the stack, which accounts for her not having eaten her way through.

"William," said his loving spouse, as William Jones was going forth to exercise a sovereign privilege, "what ever you do to your ticket I will do to your face." And that is the reason why Jones did not scratch his ticket, as he promised to do only the night before.

The rumseller who formerly eluded the vigilance of the Rutland police so successfully by selling liquor from a patent reservoir which he carried under his vest, has been discounted by a female member of the profession in Lewiston, Me., who had her pannier divided up into nine compartments, each compartment containing a bottle.

At a farmers' institute recently held at Rochester, Mich., it was conceded that thistles kept down one year so that they cannot obtain the use of their leaves in the open air will cause no further trouble. To accomplish this it was recommended to cut them off below the surface and cover them up once a week with salt throughout the season, or put two or three feet of straw over them.

An intelligent looking colored man walked into a Buffalo office the other day with a slate in his hand on which he wrote, "I am deaf and dumb. Please help me." But there happened to be a sharp pointed tack, end up, in the chair on which he was invited to sit, and, as he jumped about five feet into the air, his speech was suddenly restored, and he went out uttering language totally unfit for publication.

GOOD ADVICE.—We know that many farmers have an idea that they cannot write well enough for publication, but this is all nonsense in this connection. We have plenty of employees in our office who can write and spell better than they can talk agriculture, and if our friends will give us their experience and opinions in a plain way, there are those here who will put their communications in proper shape. We want to get at the facts which our readers alone can furnish us, and the rest we can take care of here. If you have found a new variety of potatoes which is better than the old ones, write and let us know it. If you have found how to raise pork at a profit, tell us about it. If you have proved anything by experiments in feeding cattle, or breaking colts, or keeping hens, let us know that, and so on.

Again, if there is anything you want to know before you decide upon next year's operations, write and ask about it. If we know we shall be glad to tell you, and if we do not we will try and make some subscriber inform us. A long winter is coming and it would be very foolish in all of us to let it pass without learning very much which will help us next year. We can learn much from books but more from each other.—*Mirror and Farmer.*

In the great majority of barns and stables throughout New England little or no attempt is made to save the liquid excretion of the animals. Most of it goes through the light and insufficient bedding, or other absorbent, and through the cracks in the floor, into the ground beneath. There are thousands of such barns and stables that have been standing from five to fifty years, and by all chemical calculations there ought to be, in the soil under these buildings, hundreds and thousands of pounds of the most valuable fertilizing material. Is it there? Or, if it is not there what has become of it, and how has it disappeared? The ammonia we may expect to have in a great degree evaporated, but what has become of the phosphoric acid and potash? Can any of our agricultural chemists tell us whether the ground under an old barn may be expected to be "as rich as a guano bed," and if not, where those valuable salts have gone?—*Dr. Hoskins.*

THE FIRST FARMER.—The first farmer was the first man, and all historic nobility rests on possession and use of land. Men do not like hard work, but every man has an exceptional respect for tillage, and a feeling that this is the original calling of his race; that he himself is only excused from it by some circumstances which made him delegate it for a time to other hands. If he have not some skill which recommends him to the farmer, some product for which the farmer will give him corn, he must himself return into his due place among the planters. And the profession has, in all eyes, its ancient charm as standing nearest to God, the first cause of all that it is true, good, noble and honorable. Mr. Emerson will admit, we doubt not, that the first man was also the first gardener, until he was sent from Eden. It was after this that he devoted himself to farming.—*Emerson.*

AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS NEEDED.—We need more men among agriculturists and fruit men who are experts in their business. What a satisfaction it must be to a stock breeder to be able to detect a pure bred animal at a glance or a touch. What a demand there is for such men, and how fully is their judgment respected. To be able to name a fruit at a glance or by a taste is a wonderful acquirement—very few have it—and the judgment of such a man is sought after. These are but examples of what is wanted in agricultural practice. It is only by being students that this expertness can be attained, and if a man desires to be an honor to his vocation, a benefit to his fellows, he must seek to be an expert in some branch of it. And no man need to assume the knowledge of an expert without hard study and keen observation.—*American Farm Journal.*

Literary Notes.

There is a lull in the book publishing business just now; publishers are expending their energies in getting their various holiday editions ready. Of this class there will be a great variety at prices to suit all, especially those who care but little for the cost. We like the idea of giving books for holiday presents, but we hope our readers will seek that class of works which combine literary merit with their other attractions. It is just as easy to get an excellent book, prose or poetry, printed on toned paper and finely bound, as it is to purchase a gilt-edged, morocco-bound volume whose contents are of no special value. Our personal fancy would be a volume of the Art Journal, published in monthly parts by the Appletons of New York, or if we could afford from thirty to forty dollars, Picturesque America, by the same publishers. The fathers and mothers in our rural homes do not think enough of works of art as parts of their home comforts or adornments.

That works of fiction of the highest order have readers is shown by the fact that Messrs. Harper are to publish a fifty cent edition of "Daniel Deronda," to meet the demand for that work among those of limited means.

The book of travels which the noble Emperor of Brazil is writing will be ready for American readers in about two months.

Blanchard Jerrold's life of Napoleon Third has reached a third volume which will soon be ready. Three volumes are more than that debauching tyrant deserves, unless they are volumes of such brilliancy, penetration and impartial justice as characterizes Lanfrey's biography of the elder Napoleon. We have had enough of the Abbott class of biographies of tyrants!

That charming work, Henry Crabb Robinson's Diary, is to be issued in a single 12mo volume by Hurd & Houghton. That's the book, young man, for a winter evening or stormy day, if you enjoy the quiet humor, wit and genius of such a man as Robinson, and if you do not love such books, cultivate an affection for them, as well as an affection for the farmer's auburn-haired daughter: she will love you none the less, and you will be more worthy of her affection. If you can't quite come up to the charming "Diary," there is still something in store for you, for John Habberton, the author of that inimitable book, "Helen's Babies," has another nearly ready for an impatient public entitled "The Barton Experiment." You have not read Helen's Babies? Well, then, you are to be pitied; get it at once, and having read the first pages, we will trust the rest.

Lovers of the cream of good books will purchase Selections from Macaulay's Works, in press by the Harpers.

M. D. Conway, that rare American genius living in London, is to publish a work on Christianity. We should think it would be very much like the Prince of Denmark with Hamlet's part omitted.

We can get some idea of how many important events sometimes gather around one great man, when we bear in mind that Professor Masson's Life of Milton and His Times" has reached the fifth volume, heavy octavo, and it is in press by Macmillan & Co., London and New York.

That irrepressible Dr. William Smith, who has issued more dictionaries than all the Johnsons, Websters and Worcesters combined, has just announced another, a Dictionary of Christian Biography, Literature, Sects and Doctrines from the time of the apostles to the age of Charlemagne. It will be a volume of rare value to a minister, a Sunday school or public library of any kind, as Dr. Smith has one literary virtue—reliability.

The subscribers to Zell's popular encyclopedia may rest assured that the remaining parts are coming, and that very soon. We may comfort ourselves with the thought that delay means enhanced value. That work has laid at our elbows for four years, and has been in constant use; and we hope hundreds of Vermont homes will be made better for its presence.

E. Steiger, 24 Frankfort Street, New York, sends us a "map of Turkey and Greece," drawn by J. Schedler, 19x24 inches in size. The author's name is guarantee for reliable and excellent work, while by including the whole of European Turkey, Servia, Herzegovina and Montenegro, as well as the provinces of Asia Minor bordering on the Ægean sea. Of course enough of Russia and Hungary are included to show their relative positions. Being in several colors the eye at once recognizes each country, together with its comparative size and position. All the railroads, and towns of any size or importance are indicated, making a map of great utility, at any time, but especially so now that the world's attention is drawn thither to note the progress of Turkey's fall. The map is not only excellent, but sold for 25 cents, though another and superior edition is issued at 75 cents.

Report of the Connecticut Board of Agriculture for 1875–6, by T. S. Gold, Secretary, has been laid on our table. It is a substantial volume of 418 pages, very much in the style of the public documents issued by the government office in Washington. The contents have attracted us most, as they show that Mr. Gold and his fellow laborers are doing a work of great utility for the Nutmeg state. The volume is made up of a series of papers read at the various meetings, and the substance of the valuable hints gleaned from the public discussions are here published, followed by valuable tables of varies kinds. The papers are on such topics as these: "Fences and Fence Materials," "Common Roads," by a civil engineer, finely illustrated, "Rural Architecture," "Law of Roads and Boundaries," "Water supply and Drainage," "Fences and Divisions of Farm Lands," "Farmer's Homes and how to use them," and reports on the experiment farm, pomology, committee on farms, diseases of animals, fairs, etc. The statistical tables which pleased us most were those which showd how many cattle of all kinds, and every variety of farm product that was exhibited at each county fair in the state, also how much money went to each town in premiums and gratuities. These features all should be glad to see incorporated in our future reports. Altogether it is a valuable work, and its yearly issue and distribution among the farmers of Connecticut must have a wonderful influence on the agricultural prosperity of that state.

Interesting Selections.

THE OLD LOG HOUSE.

There's an old log house on my father's farm,
All silent, and lonely, and still;
Not a sound of mirth is ever heard now
In the old log house on the hill.

But fondly I think of the bygone days,
Where, with brothers and sisters dear,
Not a happier home in the country around
Could be found, either far or near.

But my father builded another house,
And my brothers are gone afar;
And the old log house is deserted now,
And defaced with many a scar.

The rabbit and squirrel play hide-and-seek
With mice o'er the oaken floor;
But they quickly beat a hasty retreat
When the owl flies in at the door.

The "twittering swallow" now builds its nest
On the rafters, going to decay;
And the robin and sparrow have made their house
On the logs for many a day.

The little room, where my brother and I
Oft listened to the weird whip-poor-will,
Is open now to the birds and the bats,
And they come there without fear of ill.

But the poor-will is missed from his nightly seat
On the apple-tree near the door—
For there's no one there to answer him back,
As we've done a thousand times o'er.

The primroses bloom uncared for now,
And the "blue eyed violets" blow;
And the cottage rose, that my sister loved
Climbs in at the casement low—

As if it would ask, "Where are they all gone
That used once to caress and to love
Us poor flowers, neglected now
In the rank weeds that o'er us rove?"

But the friendly vine, on the old black logs,
Still clings there, loving and true,
As if it would hide the marks of decay
From the passing traveler's view.

Oh, my heart still clings to the dear old home,
And the times of my childhood there!
And I'd rather live o'r those blessed days
Than to dwell in a palace fair.

REFORM MOVEMENT.—The temperance reform movement in this state, originated less than a year ago, is developing into an agency for well-doing of almost incredible extent and of unspeakable value. A partial list of towns where Reformed Men's clubs have been organized and are now in active operation (gleaned from our exchanges) embraces this city, Hinesburgh, Jericho, Brattleboro, Winooski, Montpelier, St. Albans, Newport, Bellows Falls, Vergennes, Middlebury, Worcester, Brandon, Lyndon, Cabot, Woodbury, Johnson, Cambridge, North Ferrisburgh, Lyndon, Bradford, Charleston, Holland, Coventry, Barton and undoubtedly many others of which we have no record. But few of these clubs number less than a hundred members each, and many largely exceed that number. Thus the Brattleboro club—the largest in the state—numbers over fifteen hundred members; that in this city some six hundred, odd; and a number of others from one to five hundred. The number of our people, then, who have taken a stand for temperance forms a very large percentage of the population of the state. And of the names on the rolls many were almost irreclaimable drunkards, and the vast majority were more or less addicted to strong drink. Nearly all the clubs, too, have neatly fitted up rooms, open at all times, where newspapers and materials for innocent recreation are provided, and where weekly meetings are regularly held. All friends of temperance must rejoice at the success of these organizations and wish them God-speed. They are doing their work modestly and well, and their good influence can hardly be overestimated.—*Free Press.*

SUNDAY DINNERS. A kind sister, helpfully inclined, writes me as follows: "I've had it on my mind for several weeks to write you something about Sunday dinners. You know when there is a family of five or six persons, more or less, and all want to go to the morning service, and stay to Sunday-school, their appetites are pretty well sharpened by the time they get home, especially if there is a ride of two or three miles. I have experimented in various ways that we may have our dinner as soon as possible after getting home, or each one begins to help himself, which causes much confusion and spoils the meal. I find that by leaving the tea-kettle on the stove and filled, with a little fire, the water is in a condition to boil quickly, and mush is soon prepared. In cold weather nothing is better than oyster-soup, which requires but a few minutes cooking. A good meal is quickly prepared by having a chicken made ready over night by dressing and stuffing, and then it is ready to put into the oven when the family sit down to breakfast. It requires but little care, and is nicely browned by church time, and keeps warm in the oven until wanted for dinner. I find it a great help to have potatoes to warm over. Often meat is boiled or roasted on Saturday, which relishes well cold. A rice pudding, made without eggs, and left in the oven, is nice with sugar and cream."—*American Agriculturist.*

WINTERING FLOWERS.—All the ordinary budding flowers can be wintered successfully in a tight, tolerably dry and light cellar. We have, says a correspondent, a cellar provided with sash to the windows, and about the 15th of November, before severe frost, we make a bed of light, rich soil under one of the windows, and take up all our geraniums, heliotropes and verbenas, with all their roots, and a small ball of earth, put them in the cellar, and pack them as closely as they will stand in an upright position. Sift plenty of loose earth between them, and give them a good soaking of water. They will require no other attention, except a moderate watering once in two weeks. In very fine weather, open the sash for an hour or two during the middle of the day. They will grow but little, but in the spring make nice plants. Before taking them up in the fall, they should be severally cut down.—*American Cultivator.*

We are not sent into this world to do anything into which we can not put our hearts. We have certain work to do for our bread, and that is to be done strenuously; other work to do for our delight, and that is to be done heartily. Neither is to be done by halves and shifts, but with a will; and what is not worth the effort is not to be done at all. Perhaps all that we have to do is meant for nothing more than an effort of the heart and the will, and is useless in itself; but at all events, the little use it has may well be spared, if it is not worth putting our hands and our strength to.—*Ruskin.*