

Varieties.

Try Again.

"Try again" that simple sentence has a strong and earnest power; As a household word familiar, Then, in truth, we might have murmured At the oft repeated strain; When to master tedious lessons We were urged to "try again."

"Try again" I liked it better When we found the plan succeed; Found that winning followed trying, This was a sufficient need. Victory would lose its triumph, If it were not earned by pain; And the moral conqueror's watchword Is the motto—"try again."

"Try again" faint souls and fearful, Striving makes the spirit strong; With the bravest of life's victors, You will win a place ere long. "Try again" bold hearts and fearless, Shrink not at the passing pain; You have borne too much already, Not to trust, and "try again."

"Try again" from youth to manhood, From full prime to age's night; Life in every phase has trials, Fields to win and loss to fight. For a time our hearts may falter, But the onward path is plain; Disappointment must not daunt us, Let us hope, and "try again."

The Liberal Stranger.

A red-nosed stranger shuffled into a saloon yesterday evening where a crowd of loungers were discussing the political situation, and waiting for a successful candidate to drop in and "say something."

Making a low obeisance to the man behind the bar, the stranger turned to the loungers and said:

"Glad you're on deck, gents; was afraid I would be obliged to drink ale, and if there is anything I despise it is to play a game of solitaire at a public drinking-fountain. Come up and join me."

The boys rallied to the call, and half-a-dozen glasses were filled and emptied with "My regards, stranger." "In the words of the Latin poet," said the stranger man, whirling his empty glass across the counter, "Fill 'em up again!"

The order was obeyed, and the beverage drank to the health of the genial stranger.

"What's the penalty?" he asked, wiping his lips on the back of his hand.

"Dollar-forty."

"Only a dollar-forty!" he exclaimed; "as sure as my name is Goosie, it's worth twice that, if it's worth a cent. Why, my dear sir," he continued, unscrewing a greasy pocket-book, "I've travelled from Maine to California, from Camden to Kalamazoo, and dog my cats if I ever heard tell of such a cheap entertainment."

"We try to do the fair thing by our customers," said the bar-keeper, visibly touched by the compliment.

"I have elated my thirst at the Fifth Avenue, at the Palace Club, at the Southern, at Daly's at the Brunswick, at the Continental, and I can truthfully assert that never before have my lips touched juice of the corn that could hold a candle to that with which you have just regaled us. Dollar-forty, indeed!"

"I won't have any but the best," said the bar-man, blushing slightly.

"As I go up and down through life," continued the stranger with enthusiasm, "I will make it a pleasure to call every man's attention to the fact that at your place—and I will note the street and number as I go out—that at your place, sir, sign of Gambrinus sitting on a beer keg, is dispensed a balm in Gilead at ten cents a glass, that can be had nowhere else on the footstool for less than twenty-five."

"I will be much obliged to you," said the bar-man.

"Don't mention it. I will go miles out of my way to call a traveller's attention to the fact that beneath your counter is a black bottle with a cork-cob stopper, which contains the identical nectar that Jupiter sips. In addition to this full-page advertisement embellished with original cuts, I would gladly hand you the paltry dollar and forty cents,"—and he uncorked the pocket-book and helped himself to a chew of fine cut tobacco—"but the fact is, sir, the failure of the Bank of the City of Glasgow has left me without a cent in the world; ta—ta—come and see us often," and he was gone.

Speak kindly as thou reprovest the erring child. Remember that gentle words will soften his heart, and in after years, when thou shalt be gone, they will linger around it, and be a shield to guard it against temptation. It is the kind words that memory twines around our hearts and guards them with care.

There are three degrees of folly—to censure actions from which we are not exempt; to discover faults in others, which we are prone to overlook in ourselves; to solicit a useless favour.

The Agriculturist.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

"AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH."

ANDREW ARCHER, Editor

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Agriculture.

For the "Agriculturist."

Mr. Editor,—Having lately visited several sections in the County, it occurred to me that a few remarks in your valuable paper in connection therewith, would not be altogether uninteresting to a few of your readers in the places named. On arriving at Springfield, I was much surprised to find so many well-to-do farmers; but our friends in the County are not behind their City neighbors in crying out about hard times. I am compelled to say, however, that, as a rule, our farmers have very little cause for complaint. Their barns and grain-eries are full: provisions of all kinds they have in abundance. They no doubt find it hard to get money, but there are hundreds of families in the City, who find it very hard to get the bare necessities of life. Could the poorest of our farmers but get a view of the manner in which a great many of City people live in these times, they would so home feeling thankful that providence had been more bountiful towards them. Passing on from Springfield, towards Caverhill, (a distance of about five miles) the road is dotted all along with splendid farms. At Upper Caverhill, there are a great many wealthy farmers. This place, about twenty years ago, was a dense forest; now you will find here some of the most splendid farms that our Province can boast of. Never was truer words spoken than that "Agriculture is the true basis of a nation's wealth;" and if some of those in the City, with large families, would but strike out on a farm, they would soon better their condition. I came across some who had left their farms and went to the City; they all, without a single exception, bitterly regret ever having made such a false move. I have not met with a single farmer, who, having stuck to his farm, and left lumber alone, but is in comfortable circumstances. Were it not for lumber, there would not be a mortgaged farm in York County. One cannot but be pleased to see so many neat and substantial school houses in the County, but it is a disgrace to see so many of them locked up on account of a few extra dollars the ratepayers would have to tax themselves with. Going on to Millville, I was astonished to find such a large business being done in cord wood. There, too, are splendid farms. The railroad runs through the settlement, and in a short time Millville will be one of the most stirring places on the line. Friend Boyd, the station agent at this place, is one of the most obliging men I ever met. He has only been here a few months, but has already made a host of friends. Nor can I pass on without a word in favor of Mr. Thomas Parvis, boarding house keeper. Tom is a first rate fellow, looks well after man and beast, and honorable in all his dealings; the weary and hungry traveller will fare well at the hands of friend Tom, and his agreeable wife. Leaving Millville, my next place was Temperance Vale. The first thing that took my attention was Pinder's mill; it is almost new and in splendid running order. It runs Rotary, Drag, Edger and Cutting Off Saws; also Shingle and Clapboard Machines, and Planer. This mill gives employment to 18 men in summer. The dimensions are 100 x 40, with first-class water power. Friend Pinder is the same in these days as of old; let an old acquaintance drop in, and he is sure of a hearty welcome. It is only 6 miles from here to Millville station, and 4 to the river. The roads in this neighborhood are splendid. A road is in course of construction from Millville through Temperance Vale to the river, which, when completed, will shorten the distance very much. A road will also be built shortly to connect Caverhill with Temperance Vale, which will give a direct line through to Temperance Vale. This parish (Southampton) can boast of a Brick and Lime Kiln. Close to Pinder's mill, is Thornton's Grist and Shingle mill, (a good property to possess) This thriving settlement can boast of having one of the neatest and most substantial built school houses outside the City limits. In one respect it surpasses any building occupied as a school house in Fredericton. On each side of the building are very large windows, so that on the most cloudy days it is as light within the building as without. The utmost care and forethought has evidently been spent to make this building perfect; and it is, without doubt, a credit to the trustees, the builders, and the ratepayers. Trustees of other districts contemplating erecting new school houses, would be well repaid by paying Temperance Vale a visit. All honor to the men who caused such a building to be erected. The sight of such a building speaks volumes for

the intelligence of the district. No wonder this is a thriving settlement, as it is largely settled by men of intelligence; and this fact will account for the prosperous condition of its inhabitants.

Yours, respectfully,
BLUESOKE.

Pig Breeding.

The main elements in success in pig breeding and feeding are regularity in feeding, warmth, exercise and cleanliness. If these are carefully attended to the owner of "piggy" may look for a fair and speedy profit. In breeding, various means have been resorted to to secure large litters. By some it is contended that the dam should be in improving condition at the time of connection with the boar. Whilst we believe this to be essential, we consider that she should by no means be too closely bred, having observed that when this was the case the number became smaller. To ensure complete success the boar should be kept upon nourishing food, calculated more to produce muscle than fat. He should be kept in an airy, roomy sty with connected yard for daily exercise. Adjoining this should be a similar sty for smaller into which his visitors are introduced. At first the attendants will soon see by gesture and appearance the proper time to introduce the sow to the boar. This being done, and the sow served, it is much better that she should be taken back into the adjoining sty. If not convenient for her to be removed further at the time, during the summer months and during the period of gestation, she cannot do better than be put in a grass run, provided she is safe from damage by horses or cattle. A portion of ground oats soaked and given as a "mash" in addition to house refuse, will be suitable food for her up to the time of pigging. The three months having elapsed, the sow should be taken permanently into an airy shed; if the one in which she has been allowed to sleep so much the better. Around this, at each corner, posts must be placed carrying rails one foot to eighteen inches from the floor, according to the size of the sow. In farrowing she will probably rest herself against these as she lies, and they will prove a greater protection to the little ones who will take refuge under them, and so escape being smothered by the dam. A small portion of straw passed through a chaff machine must be supplied as litter. Beyond this, leave the sow to her own discretion. The first feeding should be of mush, made by adding two quarts of fine shorts to one pint of beans, and half a pound of treacle. This should be given rather sparingly the first two days, until the little ones have acquired sufficient strength to escape from the dam when she lies down to suckle them. By over feeding immediately after farrowing, the sow is drowsy, and apt to tread upon the pigs.—*London Live Stock Journal.*

Economy Necessary to Success.

The most important element of success is economy—economy of money and economy of time. By economy we do not mean penuriousness, but merely such wholesome thrift as will discipline to spend our time or money without an adequate return either in gain or enjoyment. An economical application of time brings leisure and method, and enables us to drive our business instead of our business driving us. There is nothing attended with results so disastrous as such a miscalculation of our time and means as will involve us in perpetual hurry and difficulty. The brightest talents must be ineffective under such a pressure, and a life of expedients has no end but puerility. Worldly success, however, though universally coveted, can be only desirable in so far as it contributes to happiness, and it will contribute to happiness very little, unless there be cultivated a lively benevolence to every animated being. "Happiness," it has been finely observed, "is in the proportion of the number of things we love, and the number of things that love us." To this sentiment we most cordially subscribe, and we should wish to see it written on the tablet of every heart and producing its fruits of charity. The man, whatever be his fame, or fortune, or intelligence, who can treat lightly another's woe—who is not bound to his fellowmen by the magic tie of sympathy, deserves, ay, and will obtain, the contempt of human kind. Upon him all the gifts of fortune are thrown away. Happiness he has none. His life is a dream, a mere lethargy, without a throb of human emotion; and he will descend to the grave "unwept, unhonored, and unsung." Such a fate is not to be envied; and let those who are intent upon success, remember that success is nothing without happiness.

Brittle Bones in Cattle.

In the Austrian Quarterly Review of Veterinary Science, Herr Dobusch of Hohenfurt, publishes some cases illustrating forcibly the direct influence of the quality and composition of water upon the occurrence of *fragilitas ossium*, or bone brittleness in live stock. The owner of some affected cows, by whom Herr Dobusch was consulted in his professional capacity, stated that within the last twenty years 130 of his cattle had been attacked by this disease, about half of which had to be slaughtered on account of actual fracture of the bones, while the rest were rescued by timely removal in carts to another farm in a neighboring village. Every kind of treatment had been tried, both by giving medicines of all sorts to the animals, and by treating the pasture land with lime. On his first attendance Herr Dobusch could discover no apparent cause for the evil. The food consisted chiefly of hay, straw, and potatoes, all of which were of excellent quality. On his recommendation, some prepared bone meal was given with a little common salt three times a day, but no good result followed. Thereupon he undertook the examination of the drink water, which was obtained from a spring near the farm yard, and conducted thither by wooden pipes. This was perfectly clear, colorless, and free from smell; it tasted remarkably soft, and retained these characteristics after it had stood for some days. On chemical analysis no trace of salts could be found, so that it might readily have been taken for rain or distilled water. Upon this the cattle were given water from another spring. This had a harder and fresher taste, and was found on analysis to contain carbonate, sulphate, and phosphate of lime, and chloride of magnesium, although but in small proportions. The effects of this change of water were thus noted: 1. The animal drank half as much again as before. 2. The worst diseased cows at once began to get better, and this was the first occasion on which any of them had recovered without removal. 3. The cows gave more and better milk than before. 4. The oxen showed far better condition than could be previously attained on the best of food and with the most careful attention. 5. No fresh cases occurred as soon as the change of water was introduced. Some time afterward the owner of the cows prohibited from using water from the second spring under pain of legal proceedings against him, and was thrown back upon the original supply. The animals at first refused to begin to lose flesh, and some of those that had recovered had relapsed. By this time arrangements had fortunately been made for the renewed use of the wholesome water, and immediately the cows were again put upon it, all its previous beneficial effects were repeated. From this evidence of the water, and considers that the relations between lime salts in the water and softness of bone deserve far more consideration on the part of stock keepers than is generally accorded to them.—*The London Farmer.*

How to Make Bones Useful.

North Carolina, chemist for the Agricultural Department of Agriculture, gives the following instructions about preparing bones on the farm for fertilizing purposes: "The chief value of bones as a source of plant-food consists in the phosphoric acid and nitrogen which they contain. The former is combined with lime as phosphate of lime, and in new bones this phosphate of lime should constitute 50 or 60 per cent. of the whole, the remaining 40 to 60 per cent. being made up of cartilage, gelatine, magnesia, etc., etc. The nitrogen is in the organic matter (cartilage and gelatine). The phosphoric acid in combination with the lime is held in a comparatively insoluble state by the organic matter which the bone is surrounded and permeated. When acted upon by the soil, the fibre and other organic matter are decomposed, their nitrogen being converted into ammonia, while the phosphoric acid is gradually rendered soluble and capable of being assimilated by the growing crop. The view of these facts, two points are to be taken into consideration by the farmer. First, the combination by which the action of the soil is aided and accelerated; and, secondly, the means of artificial rendering the phosphoric acid soluble.

If no mill is convenient, it will pay the planter to set a hand at breaking up the bones into as small pieces as possible, which may be done by a heavy hammer and a little patience. When cotton seed or other nitrogenous organic compound is obtainable, it will pay to burn the bones, if it is found difficult to break them, and then there will be little difficulty in

getting them into good subdivision. Bones are rendered soluble with great ease by treating them with oil of vitriol, and where this acid may be obtained cheaply it will pay in almost every case to employ it. The following directions can be easily followed: but those not familiar with the handling of so powerful an acid as the oil of vitriol should use the greatest care. The bones should first be broken up into the size of walnuts and weighed out into lots of about 100 lbs. each. A large tub can be used for the operation, which is conveniently made by sawing a petroleum barrel in half. And now we are ready to begin the work. Let the manipulator put on old clothes, which will be no great loss should the corrosive acid splatter upon them. Have at hand a solution of washing soda or weak lye, to put upon the hands or face as an antidote should a drop of acid touch them. Place a layer of bones 8 or 9 inches deep in the bottom of the tub. Pour the oil of vitriol from the carboy slowly and steadily into the pitcher or other article of stoneware (which was previously weighed) until full. Wet the layer of bones in the tub thoroughly with water, then pour acid cautiously upon them from the pitcher to the amount of about 50 or 55 lbs. of acid to 100 lbs. of bones, stirring and mixing the whole mass with a wooden shovel or an old hoe. Then put in another layer of bones on top of the first, and repeat the process till the tub is full. After standing from 3 to 12 hours, shovel the whole out into a heap and mix with it, if obtainable, some ground plaster. This will help to dry the mass thoroughly and render it more readily broken up when it is to be applied.

I have given these outlines somewhat hurriedly, owing to pressure of work; but I think they will be found sufficiently plain. Let me once more caution those who use sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol) against its dangerous corrosive properties. When used with care, it is perfectly manageable; but a dangerous subject to handle carelessly. Never pour water into acid. When desiring to mix them, pour the acid into the water, stirring all the time.

How to make SIXTEEN COWS PAY.—Mr. C. M. Morgan, of the town of Cuba, Allegany Co., New York, says the *American National Live Stock Journal*, began about 1870 to select the best specimens he could find of cows of common mixed breeds, and to breed only from the best, and to select only the best heifer calves from these. He worked up the character of his herd in five years, so that in 1874 he delivered at a cheese factory, between April 1 and November 28—

Milk from 16 cows	115,947 lbs.
Average number of pounds per day	473 "
Average number of pounds per cow	7,190 "
Net return for 100 lbs. of milk	\$1.26
Money received from factory	\$1,440 45
Average per cow	\$90 50

Made butter besides, 10 dol. per cow; so that he received in all over 100 dol. per cow. The figures in this case were given by Professor Wickson at the Ohio Dairyman's Association. This occurred when cheese was higher than now, but let us see how such a dairyman would come out in this season. The best factories will not to their patrons 8¢ cents per pound during this most discouraging season, which would give from the factory 61.11 dol. per cow, even in these woe-begone times. Mr. Morgan subjected each cow to the test of weight and quality of milk, and discarded those that did not come up to the standard. He thus obtained a high average. He fed during the whole milking season a slop of one part of corn meal to three parts of wheat middlings. His extra feed was just in proportion to the condition of his pasture. Having studied practically for some years the effect of such feeding upon the product of his cows, he was able to exactly adapt it to their wants and economy.

The glory of the farmer, that in the division of labor it is his part to create. All trade rests at last on his primitive activity. He stands close to nature; he obtains from the earth the bread and the meat. The food which was not, he causes to be. The first farmer was the first man, and all historic nobility rests on possession and use 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 property for which the farmer will give him due place among the planters. And the profession has in all eyes its ancient charm as standing nearest to God, the first cause.—*Emerson.*

History of the Plough.

The history of the plough is remarkable; the most ancient and simple of machines, yet it has been almost the last to undergo improvement. The first plough is supposed to have been the rude branch of a tree, cut so as to have a cleft end, the point of which, dragged along the surface of the ground, scraped a furrow into which seed were thrown. It soon occurred to the husbandman that he might relieve his own labor by yoking an animal to the long arm of this primitive instrument; then arose the necessity for a handle, affixed to the back, so that the plough might be guided. The strength of the animal soon wore away or broke the cleft of the branch, and this necessity gave rise to the invention of means for attaching movable shares, first of wood, and next of stone, copper, or iron, worked to a shape adapted to the cutting of furrows, so as to avoid the excessive labor arising from the ploughman's having to lean upon the plough with all his weight to press it into the earth. Such simple implements as these conjectures indicate were used by the Saxons. Some of facts connected with the history of the plough are almost incredible. In Ireland there once prevailed a custom of "ploughing by horse's tail." The draught pole was lashed to the tail of the horse, and as no harness was employed, two men were necessary, one to guide and press upon the plough, the other to direct the horse, which he did by walking backwards before the miserable animal, and beating it on the head on either side, according to the direction required. This custom prevailed for a considerable time, in spite of a law which was passed in the early part of the seventeenth century imposing severe penalties upon persons found guilty of "ploughing by the horse's tail." A paper in the "Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland" speaks of the awkward custom of yoking horses by the tail, and the driver of harrows walking backward with his face directly turned to the horse which he led. The Rev. C. Otway says: "In ancient times, all through the west of Ireland, it was the practice to work both the plough and the harrow with horses drawing from their tails. I am assured that it is still (1840) a part of the Eriskany husbandry." In 1634 during the reign of Charles I. the Irish Parliament passed the following: "Act against Ploughing by the Tail, and pulling the wool living sheep." "No person or persons whatsoever shall after one year next ensuing the end of the present Parliament, with plow, harrow, draw, or work with any horse, gelding, mare, gelding, colt, by the tail, or shall cause, procure suffer any other carriages to be drawn with his horses, mares, geldings, geldings or colts, or any of them by the tail; and that no person or persons whatsoever shall, after the end of this present Parliament, pull the wool off any living sheep, or cause or procure to be pulled instead of shearing or chipping of them; and if any shall do contrary to this act and the intention thereof, that the justices of assize at the general assizes to be holden before them, and the justices of peace at their quarter sessions shall have power by this act to enquire of, hear and determine all and every offences and offences done contrary to the present act, and to punish the offenders which shall do contrary to the same by fine and imprisonment, as they in their discretion shall think fit."—*Selected.*

HARD WINTERS.—A writer in the *Gardener's Chronicle* gives a rule by which to predict the date of a hard winter. The rule is that an very hard winter is likely to recur every forty-one years later or eighty years later. If it recurs in the forty-first year, it is not likely to recur in the eightieth year. Whatever be the scientific value of this calculation, it seems, at all events, to be borne out by a large number of coincidences. The hard winter of 1683 was followed eighty years later by the hard winter of 1763. At the same interval from the hard winters of 1703, 1716, and 1739, came those of 1783, 1796, and those of 1819. The three successive winters of 1783-84-85 fall under the forty-one years' rule. The winter of 1754 was very severe; so was that of 1795, while that of 1835 was unusually mild. The hard winters of 1848, 1855, 1859, 1860, 1864, and 1865 all followed upon hard winters occurring either forty-one or eighty years previously, and the writer says that, relying on this rule, he predicted the cold weather of 1867 and 1875. The present winter seems eighty years after the winter of 1798-99, and forty-one years after that of 1837-38. In both these winters the cold was very great; in the latter the thermometer near London registering 46 degrees of frost.

The Correct Way to Handle Sheep.

There is a right way and a wrong way a hard way and an easy way, an awkward way and a skillful way to catch and handle a sheep. A great many men will seize the sheep by the wool on the back, with both hands, and lift the animal clear from the ground by the wool only. Barbarous! Let some giant grasp you by the hair of your head and lift you from the ground by the hair only! Would you not squiggle and squirm worse than the mute sheep does when lifted by the wool? And would not there be a complaint of a sore head for a week or two? If you do not believe it, try the experiment. We have slaughtered a great many sheep in years past, and when removing the pelts of such sheep as had been handled by their wool, we never failed to observe that beneath the skin wherever the animal has been separated from the body so that inflammation was apparent. We have known proprietors of sheep to be so strict in regard to handling them, that they would order a helper from the premises if he were to catch a sheep by the wool on any part of the body. Some owners of sheep direct their helpers thus: "When about to catch a sheep, move carefully toward the one to be taken, until you are sufficiently near to spring quickly and seize the beast by the neck with both hands. Then pass one hand round the body, grab the brisket, and lift the sheep clear from the ground. The wool must not be pulled. If the sheep is a heavy one, let one hand and wrist be put around the neck and the other pressing against the rump." We have always handled sheep in the way alluded to. We never grasp the wool. Others seize the sheep by a hind leg, then throw one arm about the body and take hold of the brisket with one hand. But ewes with lamb should never be caught by the hind leg, unless they are handled with extreme care. When sheep are handled roughly, especially if their wool is pulled, the small bruises and injuries will render them more wild and more difficult to handle.

To Make Hens Lay.

Put two or more quarts of water in a kettle, and one large seed pepper, or two small ones, then put the kettle over the fire. When the water boils, stir in coarse Indian meal until you have a thick mush. Let it cook an hour or so; feed hot. Horse radish chopped fine and stirred into mush as prepared in the above directions, and for results we are getting from five to ten eggs per day, whereas, previous to feeding we had not had eggs for a long time. We hear a good deal of complaint from other people about getting eggs. To such we would warmly recommend cooked feed, fed hot. Boiled apple skins, seasoned with red pepper, or boiled potatoes seasoned with horse radish are good for feed; much better than uncooked food. Corn, when fed to the hen, by itself, has a tendency to fatten rather than produce the more profitable egg laying. A spoonful of sulphur stirred with their feed occasionally will rid them of vermin and tone up their systems. It is especially good for young chickens or turkeys. Out of a flock of ten hatched last November we have lost but one. They have been fed cooked food mostly and are growing finely.—*Ohio Farmer.*

Keeping Bees for Pleasure.

We often hear of people keeping bees for pleasure, and it always signifies that those who do it are not only people of a greater or less degree of cultured taste, but that the apian is really one of the fine arts. Whether it is appreciated as such or not, it is just of that character. When we take into consideration the habit and artistic design of the little bee it is no longer a wonder that its characteristics have been woven into verse, and that the scientist and artist poet have been free to adore its ingenuity.

Believing, therefore, that we cannot cultivate refined taste too much, the business of bee-keeping becomes more valuable as we view it in this light. We frequently refer, the reader is aware, to those branches of farm industry which often elevate and commend them most heartily. While the apian can be made pecuniarily profitable, it must always be remembered that money is not the only profit in this world, but that whatever makes us better, more industrious, frugal and nobler, is profitable, if it never returns us a penny. Bee keeping we believe to be of this character, if it is properly studied.—*Western Rural.*

The Threshing Machine Act, which requires the use of a drum guard to prevent accidents, came into operation on the 1st of January, in England.

Farm Conveniences.

We ask every farmer, the first half day or rainy or idle time, to sit down and seriously inquire of himself, if there are not many conveniences needed about his house, barn, outhouses and stables which he could easily and cheaply construct. Confine this investigation not entirely to convenience for himself, but extend it to all departments—for the wife, daughters and hired help. Do you wade through mud to the barn in rains and in thaws of spring? How easily this could be obviated by gravel or plank walks. Are the members of your family exposed to the same inconveniences in going to the well, the smoke house, the water closet, the chicken house, or even to the front gate? And yet some people think you are a good husband and father. How are the steps to go into your cellar? Are they in good order, and are the steps of the proper height for your over-burdened wife to ascend or descend easily? Is the wood-house distant and inconvenient, or have no such convenience, leaving your family to dig the wood from the snow in the winter, or use it dripping with water in summer?

Dried Apples.

Apples should be dried as soon as possible after they are cut, to have them light-colored, stores and kilns should be used in preference to putting them out on a scaffold to run their chances for rain or sunshine; and as soon as dried they should be boxed up tight, to keep them from the insects which deposit their eggs among them and produce the worms which destroy so many of them. In this way they may be kept for years with perfect safety.

Some time ago, while purchasing a lot of dried fruit, we discovered small pieces of sawdust mixed among it, and upon inquiry, were informed that it was a preventive against the worms. It is said that dried fruit put away with a little bark (say a handful to the bushel) will save for years unmolested by those troublesome little insects, which so often destroy hundreds of bushels in a single season. The remedy is cheap and simple. We venture to say a good one.

Stewart says, in the *Shepherd's Manual*, that the Cotswold-Merino cross makes a fine sheep. They are without horns, with bare faces resembling Cotswold, but with the pink noses of the Merino. The wool is much finer than in the Cotswold, very bright, with good curl, thickly set on the skin, and well filled with liquid yellow oil, but free from solid yolk or gum. The fleece is better closed than that of the Cotswold and is easily kept free from dirt and dust. The flesh is firmer than that of the Cotswold and thicker than in the Merino, both back and ribs being well covered. The wool is scant below the knee and hock. This is the character of the first cross. When bred without further crossing, this character is well maintained. The cross bred animals and their produce are of strong constitution, mature quickly, becoming prime fat at 12 to 14 months old, and weighs alive, at that age, 140 to 148 pounds.

Just now there is no better way for the farmer to add to his savings than to improve his farm. The tide of events is on the turn. One dollar now will do as much in the way of clearing land, draining, building, as two would a few years ago and undoubtedly as much as they will do in a year or two hence. When the tide has fully flowed, every dollar thus spent will be worth two or more. But at any rate, every dollar thus spent is safe, and is in a position to return good interest every year. Money judiciously spent in farm improvements can be made to pay 25 to 100 per cent, and in this case, the big interest does not measure the risk of the investment.—*Rural New Yorker.*

SEVENTH OF SHEEP TO ENGLAND.—Mr. Geo. Sparks intends making a shipment of four hundred head of sheep to England by the Allan Line steamer which leaves Halifax on the 25th instant. This is the first shipment of sheep to the old country from this section, and if it should prove remunerative, Mr. Sparks intends entering into the business on a large scale.

Learn well your calling, practice it thoroughly, that it may be profitable to you. Stick to your business. Do not be beguiled away from your farm. A venture in other pursuits might lose you all.

Mr. Boardman, long agricultural editor of the *Maine Farmer*, retires to accept the editorial chair of the *Boston Cultivator*. He will be succeeded by Dr. Lapham, one of the best newspaper men in the State of Maine.