

Wm. Bluff

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### AGRICULTURAL.

**FORECAST.**—There is no profession or calling wherein not only the energies of the body, but those of the mind are brought into more profitable requisition than that of agriculture. Those who entertain the opinion that farming can be carried on with reputation and profit without a good deal of sound reflection and thought, appear to labour under a grand error of judgment in the matter, for of all kinds of business in which man is engaged, none requires more sound discretion and forecast.

During the winter, in addition to the current duties of the season, of threshing out, and preparing his grain for a market, and taking a fatherly care of the domestic animals constituting his stock, he must lay his plans, and carefully and wisely digest them, so as to enable him to commence and carry on his spring and summer operations effectively; and all this requires a good deal of sound discretion and forecast.

On the opening of spring, manure never waits to accommodate an idle, careless farmer; he must therefore be up and doing, for there are scores of matters to do, and no such thing as stretching out the time for accomplishing them. There are the oats that can't be too soon in the ground; the Indian Corn (the most important and valuable crop we produce) won't permit any delay or neglect in the preparation of the ground, or of its subsequent treatment, without affecting his interests very seriously; the garden can't be started too early; and the grass fields and fences must be looked after and attended to, at as early a period as practicable; all these, with a host of other minor duties of the season, keep the mind and body in perpetual motion, and show the importance of sound discretion and forecast.

Summer, with its numerous heavy cares and duties, is down upon us almost before we are aware of it. Here is hay making, corn dressing, and harvesting with numerous other important matters, all requiring prompt and vigilant attention, and all impatient of delay. These are heavy duties, and the penalty for their neglect is so serious as to call forth all our energies, and to bring into requisition a double share of sound discretion and forecast.

Now comes the autumn, when there is every thing to do and you don't know how short the time is you will have to do it in. The winter grain must be put in nicely and competently, or there is a heavy penalty in store for the delinquent; the potatoes and other root crops, the buckwheat and the Indian corn must all be gathered in and housed and taken proper care of. In fact, the labours of the months resemble the preparations of a siege; they have to be extended not only to the winter, but much is to be done in anticipation of the succeeding spring; the oats and corn grounds should be ploughed, so as to give them the benefits of the meliorating influence of the winter frosts, and the garden grounds should be thrown up and trenched for the same reason. Now where is the person who will venture to say that the man who conducts all various processes effectively has not a necessity for a double dose of sound discretion and forecast.—*Farmer's Cabinet.*

**A FARMER'S LIFE AND DUTIES.**—If we were ever envious, it was of the farmer,—the intelligent, independent farmer, who owned his land, his house and barns; who was free from debt, whose family were growing up prosperously around him, upon whom God smiled and blessed.—We have seen such a farmer, and in truth, we know of no man so happy, and no business so permanently profitable, none that makes the owner so independent. An independent farmer has his house to live in, it is his own, he has earned by the labor of his hands. He has his granaries filled with the productions of his farm, his barns with the stock reared, and the hay raised upon his farm. His cellars are filled with the necessaries and luxuries of life.—Almost every thing necessary to feed him and his family, grows around. He may raise his pork, fatten and kill his own sheep, eat his own poultry and his own eggs—live upon his own home made bread—weave his own cloth—raise his own wool—knit his own stockings through the agency of his wife and daughters—make his own butter and cheese,—in short live and dress comfortably without going off his own homestead. This is no fiction, and it is the fact that the farmer is the most independent man in the community.

But in order to be happy, and to make his life useful as it ought to be, he must be intelligent—in possession of the means of knowledge—especially that kind of knowledge which relates to his own profession. He must use means which God has given him; to be happy himself and contribute to the peace and comfort of those around. In

justice to himself he will employ his evenings in the acquisitions of knowledge. He will be a reader of useful books and a supporter of the public press, which brings at his door the newspaper which gives him the history of the world. Such a farmer as this will fulfil his duties to his God and his fellow man, and is the happiest and most independent among the best of men.

**FARMER'S EVENINGS.**—In one respect the farmer has the advantage of almost all other classes of the laboring community, his evenings he has to himself. While the mechanic has to labor from morning till nine o'clock in the evening, the farmer's day commences with the rising and setting sun. Although the industrious farmer finds many little jobs of work to which he very economically appropriates his evening leisure, yet the greater part of the long winter evenings he can appropriate to his amusement and instruction. In no place do we see more cheerful countenances than around the blazing fire at the farmer's hearth. There, at the merry apple paring, or at the neighborhood collection, or even in the family circle alone do we find social happiness in its purest simplicity. What an opportunity is this for the acquisition of knowledge.—What farmer who improves these opportunities can but be intelligent? And what instruction so interesting as that which gives him a knowledge of his own employment?—Here we would suggest the importance of every farmer having a good supply of agricultural books and papers. It seems to us that no one can be insensible of their utility. If this should be a suggestion of self-interest, which we do not deny, still we believe it coincides with the interest of the farmer. We will not enlarge on this subject, as we apprehend it will not convey that knowledge which we recommend. We will barely say, that we expect our subscribers to increase as the evenings lengthen.

#### A FEW SIMPLE FACTS.

It has frequently happened that valuable lives have been lost by persons who have taken saltpetre (nitrate of potash) by mistake for Glauber's or Epsom salts. The appearance and even the taste of these articles are too similar to be distinguished by people in haste, or those who are not much in the habit of administering medicines. A very little elementary knowledge of their chemical properties which are extremely unlike, might prevent intense suffering, or even loss of life, from the effect of taking into the stomach saltpetre, instead of either of the intended harmless drugs. Therefore, when a dose of Glauber's salts is to be taken, and the box or bottle is not properly labelled, or a suspicion arises, that there may be a mistake, throw a small portion on some burning coals, and if no unusual appearance takes place, if it only damps the fire, or crackles a little, like common salt, it is the desired salts, which are incombustible; but if it is saltpetre (one of the component parts of gunpowder,) it will deflagrate, or burn with sparkling rapidity, and cannot be swallowed without great danger to health.

If, however, the mistake is discovered too late, give, as quickly as possible, mustard and water, until it acts freely as an emetic; and when the stomach is well cleansed, give flaxseed tea, mallows tea, or any other tasteless mucilage; and then administer if necessary, small doses of laudanum.

Laudanum has often been given by inexperienced persons, or by careless or unprincipled nurses, instead of syrup of rhubarb, or other common medicines, which it much resembles in color and consistence. As soon as it is discovered, if the stomach pump cannot be resorted to, give emetics of mustard and water, repeated at short intervals, until all the laudanum is thrown off; keep the patient in motion to prevent sleep, and then give some warm mucilage.

In order to prevent the excessive, or too long continued effect of an emetic, give Peruvian bark, mixed with water; or if that is not at hand, a cup of very strong tea without sugar or milk, and afterwards a few drops of lavender compound. The nausea can be relieved by the application of a mustard plaster over the pit of the stomach, made by mixing mustard with whisky, or hot water, and kept on until the skin becomes red, or the burning extreme, say fifteen or twenty minutes. If left on too long the blister becomes very sore, and is difficult to heal. A piece of very thin muslin, or gauze, should always be placed between the skin and the plaster, to prevent it from sticking, and to facilitate its removal.

When arsenic, which strongly resembles magnesia, has been given by mistake, or poisonous intent, large doses of magnesia speedily administered, will often prove an excellent antidote.

If insects are taken into the stomach, their lives can be

destroyed, by swallowing strong vinegar, in which salt has been dissolved.

The air of a vault or well, that has long been shut up closely, is unfit for respiration, and is fatal to animal life, if taken into the lungs. This is owing to an accumulation of carbonic acid gas, which, being heavier than common atmospheric air, naturally sinks to, and remains at the bottom of the cavity, and therefore is not easily detected. Such places should always be entered with extreme caution, and the presence or absence of the noxious vapor ascertained, which can easily be done by lowering a lighted candle to the bottom of the well or vault. If it continues to burn freely, the air is fit to breathe, and the place may be entered with impunity; but if it promptly extinguishes a lighted candle, after repeated trials, danger lurks at the bottom; and means must be taken to expel the gas, before the life of a fellow creature is exposed to certain destruction.

The knowledge of the distinction between arteries and veins is of the utmost practical importance, particularly to people residing in districts remote from surgical aid, where those who receive serious wounds may actually bleed to death for want of such easily acquired information. The arteries are composed of no less than four very firm, strong elastic membranes, or coats, and this, as their being generally deeply seated in the flesh, to guard them from injury, renders them less liable to be hurt by accident; but when cut or wounded, the firmness of these coats prevent them from closing, and hence arises the fatal tendency of wounds of large blood-vessels, which will remain open till they are tied up, or till death ensues. Another distinctive character is, that the pulse of the heart is felt in the arteries only.

The veins lie near the surface; and bleeding from them may readily be stopped, in common cases, by closing the orifice, and bandaging in the manner usually adopted by operators after having opened a vein in the arm or foot.

When a person or animal is seriously wounded, and a surgeon cannot be immediately procured, ignorant bystanders will often content themselves with laying on a little lint, or cobweb, or some other trifling application, wholly inadequate to the case; they ought to know when such remedies fail, and more especially when the blood flows from the wound by pulsatory leaps, it should be arrested by mechanical compression, until professional aid can be obtained. This can easily be done by the most ignorant person present, by winding a string or bandage tightly above the wound. Those more skillful or better informed, may take up the severed artery, and twist, or tie it up.

By thus acquiring a little elementary knowledge, and thoughtfully bringing it into use, in cases of unexpected peril, we should be enabled to act the part of the good Samaritan with happy effect; whereas, without it, we must be idle, and perhaps agonized spectators of human suffering, deeply reproaching ourselves, when too late, with selfish neglect of opportunities for learning what can hardly fail, at some time or other, to be useful to our fellow creatures, in their own persons, or in the domestic animals that, either by their services during life, or by their death contribute so materially to our comfort and well being.

**TO RESTORE FROSTED POTATOES.**—It is said that potatoes, which have been frozen, may be effectually restored to their original goodness, by allowing them to remain in the pits, after a severe frost, till the mild weather has set in for some days, and allowing them to recover gradually. If once exposed to the atmospheric air, no art can restore them.

**KNOWLEDGE AND IGNORANCE.**—The man of knowledge lives eternally after his death, while his members are reduced to dust. But the ignorant man is dead, even while he walks upon the earth; he is numbered with living men, and yet existeth not.

**GENIUS.**—A distinguished teacher, and president of a college, defined genius to be "the power of making efforts."

The virtue of prosperity is temperance; the virtue of adversity is fortitude.

The souls of the just, like flowers, more abundantly give out their fragrance in the evening of their days.

There are two ways of gaining a reputation: to be raised by honest men, or abused by rogues.

Nothing sits so gracefully upon children and makes them so lovely as habitual respect and dutiful deportment towards their parents and superiors.