

THE GLEANER.

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER, AND RESTIGOUCHE
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

New Series, Vol. III.

Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

No. 8.

Miramichi, Saturday Afternoon, November 30, 1844.

Agricultural Journal.

From an American Paper.
A WORD FOR THE BOYS.

There is one thing that some boys are much inclined to forget, but which they ought always to try to bear in mind, viz. that they are *only boys*, and that it is their duty to endeavour to be contented to be so, until their turn comes round to be men. But they are, many times, in so much of a hurry that they cannot wait, they want to become men at once. They should recollect, however, that we have all had our turn in being boys, some of us, very probably were impatient as they are, but somehow we all got through with it in a very short time, at least it seems so now, and so it will seem to them. But the particular reason of my mentioning this here, is, that some of the difficulties and troubles of life which the farmer's boy frequently has to encounter, and is apt to think a good deal of, will, in a great measure disappear when he comes to be a man. Such for instance, as arise from the inclemencies of the weather, as heat and cold and wet, &c. These, as he grows up to manhood, his frame will be better able to endure. And then the man, when he becomes the owner and manager of a farm, has numerous sources of encouragement and enjoyment which, of course neither the boy nor the hired man can be supposed fully to understand—particularly those arising from the contemplation of the profits which he expects to realize from the growth of his crops and animals. These it must be admitted, will and must hold a very prominent place among the pleasures of the farmer, and it is right that they should, provide they do not exclude others of a more exalted and ennobling nature. And it is a satisfaction to know that the most intelligent and best managing farmer is pretty sure to receive the greatest amount of profits. Every person, however, whether old or young employed on a well conducted farm, who has a well cultivated mind and taste, and who is in the habit of observing the beauties of nature, will be sure to feel interested and gratified at the general success and prosperity. Now in order that he may at some future time become an intelligent, successful and happy and contented farmer, the first step for a boy to take is (I mean if he has not already taken it,) to form habits of reading, observation and reflection. What particular book he begins with some kind of one immediately, and with a determination to persevere. And when he begins to acquire a habit of reading and study let him direct his attention to those subjects that will most surely prove useful and interesting in the end, although they may appear somewhat dry at first, particularly I would recommend those mentioned in my first communication. And others of a scientific character. And be not easily discouraged, recollect that the habit once formed for life, not merely of reading but loving to read. And what an immense advantage is to be gained by it. How wonderfully superior is the man who reads, to him who does not. The old excuse, so often made use of, that you have *no time to read*, is not tolerated, it is not true; the fact is, those persons who make that excuse have *some time* to read perhaps but little, but they do not improve that little. If all the little nooks and corners of time are improved, such as waiting for breakfast and waiting for dinner, and showery days and evenings, &c. &c., you will be astonished at the amount of reading you will get with in a year. By habits of observation, I mean taking notice of every thing that comes within our sight and observation, so that we can be able to recollect something about it, and give some account of it at another time. And also of distinguishing in our minds between those things which we think are beautiful and useful, and those which appear otherwise. Especially let the boy notice all the beautiful things about the farm, not only his father's farm, or the farm where he lives, but all the farms he sees; the buildings and the conveniences about them, the fences, the trees, the fields, and particularly the domestic animals, let him learn to distinguish

the particular points of beauty in the cow, the ox, the horse, &c. Let him try his hand in endeavouring to improve the beauty of his flock of chickens. By selecting only the most beautiful to keep for breeding, he will soon find that an improvement has taken place, and by the same process other animals are improved. By habits of reflection, I mean the power and practice of controlling our thoughts, and directing them to such subjects as we have thought and studied about before, and in general, to such subjects as may be said to be worthy of being thought about, instead of letting them run at random upon such things as they happen to light on, however unworthy they may be. And a boy who is studying Geology or Botany, need never be at a loss for a suitable subject for his thoughts, whether he may be upon the farm, or whatever may be his business, he cannot fail of finding something to engage his attention and enquiry. Every new or unusual plant or weed that may meet his eye, will immediately attract his attention. Also every stone he may happen to turn up with his plough or hoe will be recognized as belonging to a particular class or family, and every one of rare occurrence or curious structure will be preserved and placed in his cabinet.

There is also another class of evils which are sometimes a sore affliction to the boy (and man too) but which do not necessarily belong to farming. I mean those that are caused by bad management, such as attempting to cultivate so much land that nothing can be done thoroughly, or in its proper season. Bad ploughing makes hard hoeing; and hoeing that would be tolerable if done this week, is abominable if put off two or three weeks. In fact, a farm half-ploughed and worse from year to year, until, I must confess, it is enough to give one the horrors to look at it, much more to attempt to cultivate it. And of the boy whose lot falls on a farm managed in this kind of way, I will only say he has a *hard row to hoe*. But I hope he will stick to it patiently, if duty requires him so to do, but at the same time, form in his mind such a resolution as this. If I should live to become a man, and the owner or manager of a farm, I will endeavour to attempt to cultivate no more land than I can plough thoroughly, harrow thoroughly, and seed thoroughly. If he does that and sticks to it until he can put it in practice, I believe he will find farming a much more pleasant kind of business than he finds it now to be, in the days of his boyhood.

From the Albany Cultivator.

CURE FOR BOTS AND MURRAIN.

A writer in the *American Farmer*, who signs himself "J. W. J.," gives a number of instances in which he has been successful in curing the bots in horses by the use of lime, and in preventing the attacks of murrain by the same remedy. Having a few years since purchased a very fine horse, he soon found he was diseased, and in spite of the various remedies administered, grew worse. Finding he discharged some bots he suspected the difficulty might be found in them, and commenced giving him a table-spoonful of slacked lime three times a week in bread mashes. Pursuing this course two weeks, the bots began to pass off in large quantities his appetite began to improve, and in six weeks he became well and sleek. Since this, he continued the use of lime among his horses with the best effect, and though he lost many before, he has lost none since from that cause. Spirits of turpentine he found produced no effect upon the live-voided bot, while if put into lime, they were perfectly dead in forty-eight hours.

Mixed with salt, and fed to cattle two or three times a week, or rather by allowing them always to have access to troughs containing the mixture, he deems lime, and we think with very good reason, an effectual prevention of murrain. Since he commenced its use, he has not lost an animal from this disease, though some of his neighbours who neglected this precaution, have lost nearly all their cattle by it. In one

instance, a farmer living near him lost nearly all his stock by this disease while the animals of a neighbour living within two hundred yards, and which ran daily with those that died, all escaped.—The owner of those that escaped made it a rule to fling them a handful of salt and lime every morning. At the west, where the murrain is very prevalent and fatal, lime and salt are becoming to be considered a specific, so far as prevention is concerned; and when it is recollected that the disease once developed is rarely cured, it would seem advisable to adopt the use of this mixture wherever danger is to be apprehended.

From the American Farmer.

TO FARMERS' DAUGHTERS.

The desire of information is necessary in order to the acquisition of it, and as books are one of the principal sources from which we derive our most valuable knowledge, I will talk to you about them, and a few other matters this evening. A taste for reading should be cultivated by all young persons. I consider a fondness for useful books one of the greatest blessings. Without this, there are so many hours that pass away heavily and idly, and for which no good account can be rendered in time or eternity.—In bad weather, I have seen young ladies lounge about, not knowing what to do with themselves, because they could not go out to visit or shop.—The case is so much altered, when you can sit down with pleasure to a good book, and regardless whether it rain, or the sun shine, can read on, determining to improve the dark days of life by laying up those stores of knowledge so much needed in after time. You derive pleasure not only from the reflection, I have improved the time. I have learned something I did not know before. It is of great importance that you have the right kind of books. Many young persons read, and it would be better for them if they were ignorant of the alphabet. They read for present excitement, and of course, novels are the only books for which they have an appetite. It is my opinion, you had better not read at all, than acquire a passion for them, for it generally amounts to a passion. Girls who read many novels, lose their common sense and healthy action of mind. They dream over the love-sick eloquence of the heroines, the beauty, bravery and noble bearing of the heroes; all the great events therein related are pondered over, until the common affairs and duties of every day existence, are tasteless and disgusting, and they are thrown aside whenever it is possible, for the favorite novels. This is not always the worst evil resulting from improper reading. The splendid qualities of the heroes are transferred to some living character; it is imagined he has the deep dark and lustrous eye, the wreathing hair, the marble brow, the noble and high born grace of a Thaddeus, a Sir William Wallace, or some other imaginary favorite; and it is all the same whether he be a gambler, a play actor, or a horse thief, she believes it not: reflection is at an end, and the novelist wakes from her dream, to bear her bitter lot in the stern realities of life without preparation of mind or heart. On the contrary, useful books impart strength and vigor to the mind, discipline it to bear the misfortunes of life, render it more capable of judging the true character of others, and of acting with discretion in all trying situations. Read for instance the life of Franklin, a Washington, a Miss Hannah More, and you find in every page something to imitate, something to better the heart and life. In Miss M. you see a woman of true feminine grace and dignity, one who learned and taught the art of "growing old gracefully!"

If you will read novels, read but few, and those selected by some one upon whose judgment you can depend. Miss Edgeworth, if I might hazard an opinion, is one of the very few whose works may be read with safety and even profit. She has sense, practical every day common sense, that is good for use. She talks about industry, economy, correct principles and actions. She possesses at the

same time delicacy and propriety in all things. Better for you to read the pure morality that lives in her writings, than to pore over the passionate effusions of the corrupt Bulwer. He it is, who now writes, and forms the taste of millions, and when he talks of love, how fervently do his tones of tenderness gush forth, as if he had a heart to appreciate the holier sentiments of human nature. But while he thus writes, he can treat even with personal violence, the beautiful wife who loved and trusted,—who gave to him the first pure affection of her noble heart; he can separate her from her children, drive her from his home to take refuge with strangers, and even follow her with insult and persecution. But I am digressing. There is another article I will mention. Read but few books, and let your knowledge be accurate. Understand perfectly what you read, it is better to gain two ideas you can appropriate to your use, than to have a confused idea of fifty things.—One of our great men attributes all the distinction he has gained, to the careful perusal of *one book*. The authors of purest style and most correct sentiments should be studied; while those of an opposite character ought ever to be carefully avoided. You know a woman is generally thought intelligent, if she can talk about a good number of authors she has read, I do not think it is always conclusive evidence. It is oftener a proof her knowledge is superficial.

There are but few of our sex who devote much time to study, in our part of the country at least, and you frequently find that she who has most names at the end of her tongue, has fewest ideas in her head. Some minds of uncommon strength may be improved by the study of many books; where however it is advantageous to one, it is a disadvantage to many others. A feeling of vanity is produced, and the intellect confused, rather than enlightened. Of course I speak of *young persons*. Do not look into books in order to make a show; to know their title and a few sentences from them. I have seen young persons who would look for an hour or two into Paley, and then talk more of philosophy than others who had studied him thoroughly, and had his ideas on all matters. Some one writing of this effort at display, says, "you can always see the bottom of the pebbly brook, but the ocean unveils not its richly gemmed carpeting." Miss Beecher, speaking of a young lady who had but few books, and had studied them well, mentions that "a person of information in conversing with her would always feel a constant wondering pleasure, to find she had so much more to say of this and that and the other thing than he had expected."

This cannot be said of mere smatterers you know. There are many of you who devour with eagerness, all the fashionable journals of love tales. Now, love is an excellent thing in its place, but reading about it all the time is not much benefit. I cannot think you derive much improvement from such studies. They produce a pleasing excitement for the time, but then that time is to all intents and purposes *wasted*. Take care of the minutes, and the hours and days will take care of themselves.

There are papers in our country you may read, and improve from the perusal, and they are those devoted to Agriculture. You may say what have I to do with Agriculture? You have much or will have, in the course of your future life. They will teach you how to cultivate the gardens you intend to have, when you go house keeping; how to manage household affairs with the most ease and to the best advantage, how to do a hundred and fifty other things. A number of you will marry young doctors, lawyers, preachers, merchants, with soft white hands, who know nothing beyond their professions, and if you can learn something beforehand, and teach them common sense about going to work, and earning their living by the sweat of their brow, as the Lord intended them to do, it will add more to your own comfort than you have any idea of. After the first romance of love is