

THE FARMER'S SONG.

TUNE—"Auld Lang Syne."

I envy not the mighty king
Upon the splendid throne—
Nor crave his glittering diadem,
Nor wish his power mine own;
For though his wealth and power be great,
And round him thousands bow
In reverence—in my low estate,
More solid peace I know.

I envy not the miser he—
May tell his treasures o'er,
May heaps on heaps around him see,
And toil and sigh for more;
I'd scorn his narrow, sordid soul,
Rapacious and unjust;
Nor bow beneath the base control
Of empty, gilded dust.

Let warriors mount fame's giddy height,
Gain glory's gallant meed—
Be calm, collected in the fight,
When thousands round them bleed;
I envy not their victor wreath,
Their courage, nor their fame;
Their laurels are a fleeting breath,
Their glory, but a name.

My wants are few, and well supplied
By my productive fields,
I court no luxuries besides,
Save what contentment yields;
More pure enjoyment labor gives,
Than wrath or pain can bring;
And he is happier who lives
A FARMER than a King.

N. E. Farmer.

FARM WORK.

Farmers, if you have not put your buildings in repair for the winter—pruned your grape vines—covered your strawberries, box, and other articles requiring protection—and performed the work spoken of in our communication at the commencement of last month: remember that your last opportunity to do it during the present season, will soon have passed.

See that your carts, ploughs, harrows, and all your agricultural implements are well housed and secured. If the ground continues open, you may ditch and drain your low and wet land; and, anticipating some of your next Spring's work, you may advantageously plough your stubble land and greenward. The action of the rain, frost, and snow will convert the vegetable matter on the surface into manure, and the soil will be in a favourable state for an early crop the ensuing season.

But the present month is peculiarly appropriate for cutting and drawing your next year's stock of wood. Later in the winter, the quantity of snow may render your wood-lot impassable. A few suggestions on this subject, therefore, may not be inappropriate.

If your forest consists of a young growth, you will find it profitable to trim the trees, and to thin them where they are too thick, preserving the best formed and most thrifty. By this process, when wood is not abundant and the price is high, a large quantity of fuel may be obtained from a small wood-lot, not only without injury, but really with a very great advantage to it.

But if your forest consists of old wood, or of trees thirty or forty years of age, the best method is to select a spot on one end or side of the lot, and cut every tree, young or old, large or small—yea, even the shrubs and underbrush—so as to leave no obstruction to the growth of the young shoots the next spring. The French esteem this so important, that their laws require their arboriculturists to cut off the whole growth of wood after the twenty-fifth year, except trees marked by governmental agents and reserved for timber.

The practice of entering a wood-lot and cutting here and there a large tree, and felling it upon the young growth, cannot be too highly reprobated; especially in the more populous towns of New-England, where the quantity of wood annually diminishes while the demand for it increases, and of course the price rises.

In the preparation of wood for the fire, it is good economy to use the saw as much as possible instead of the axe. But do not split your wood too fine: billets of a length suitable to your stove or fire-place, and three or four inches in diameter, are most economical.

In building a fire, collect and compact your wood, if burnt in a fire-place, as much as is consistent with suitable draft;—always hav-

ing on hand a quantity of kindling stuff, that neither you nor any of your family may be perplexed and frozen in the vain attempt to kindle a fire, when the mercury in the thermometer stands below zero. If you burn your wood upon an open fire, and would be free from the danger which attends the snapping of the wood, lay the sticks on the fire with the bark next to the room, and the side nearest the heart of the tree toward the fire; for the sparks, usually proceeding from the inside of the stick, will then snap into the fire, and not into the room, burning the floor or carpet, and sometimes the clothes, and even the dwelling.

The irrigation or flowing of your meadows should begin with this month, that the grass may be ready to mow in the early part of the ensuing summer. Stephens, in his Book of the Farm, says: "It is a fact well worth keeping in remembrance, in favor of winter irrigation, that irrigation then produces wholesome, and in summer unwholesome herbage for stock."

Of the care of cattle, which occupies so much of the farmer's time during the winter, and of other objects appropriate to the present season, we hope to speak hereafter.

[From Hunt's Merchants' Magazine for December, 1849.]

The Moral and Social Benefits of Cheap Postage.

Cheap Postage is no longer an experiment: its success has justified the anticipations of its promoters, and silenced the cavils of incredulity. The principles on which it rests are no longer theoretical. The arguments and calculations, which seemed so conclusive, when only seen on paper, have now been subjected to a trial-process which must satisfy those over-cautious minds that believe nothing they do not see. "Rowland Hill's System of Postage" is now as distinct a subject of study and of history, as Prof. Morse's System of Electro-Magnetic Telegraphs; and the principles and rules of operation are as necessary to be understood, in order to successful application in practice. Dr. Franklin's system of electricity will afford as much help in one case, as Dr. Franklin's system of postage in the other.

It is Rowland Hill's system which has wrought the wonders of cheap postage in Great Britain; and that will do the same here, if applied according to Rowland Hill's principles. That the expense of postage per letter is inversely as the number of letters, is seen in the fact that in 1839, under the old system, 76,000,000 letters cost, on an average, twopence half-penny per letter; while in 1840, the first year of the new system, 169,000,000 cost less than a penny, a farthing per letter; and, in 1847, the whole 322,000,000 cost only three and a half farthings per letter. The distance, greater or less, which a letter is carried, is matter of small consequence. Ten letters carried a hundred miles may cost the government a dollar per letter; when 10,000 letters could be carried the same distance, and the transportation cost only one mill per letter. And if government runs one mail from Boston to New York, and another from New York to Philadelphia, its costs no more to carry the Boston Letters to Philadelphia. Hence, distance is laid out of the calculation, and uniformity becomes the rule of postage. Hence, also the productiveness of the post-office is proportioned to the increase of numbers; and therefore the interest of the department requires it to do everything to increase the number of letters, by increasing the public accommodation. The genius of the new system is public accommodation; and the measure of success in administration is the number of letters it induces the people to write, by the facilities it affords for their conveyance.

The increase of letters in Great Britain, from 76,000,000 in 1839, to 169,000,000 in 1840, and 346,000,000 in 1848, shows something of what the system is capable of doing; while the fact that the addition of 93,000,000 letters the first year added only £101,678 to the expense, which is only at the rate of one farthing per letter, shows that the great increase of expenditure, £528,176, added between 1840 and 1848, was caused by increased public accommodation, rather than the increase in the number of letters.

Our own "reduced postage," established by the act of Congress of 1845, contained only one solitary feature of Rowland Hill's system—that of rating letters solely by weight—a great improvement it is true. And in regard to letters going not more than thirty miles, which make up one fifth of the whole, and

were before carried for six cents, the reduction to five cents was too trifling to produce any considerable effect in increasing the number sent. And yet the results of the act of 1845 all go to confirm the soundness of Rowland Hill's principles, and show that his system is just as applicable, and will prove quite as successful and beneficial in this country, as in Great Britain.

It is quite remarkable, that while the whole cost of management of the British post-office is \$6,712,368, that of the United States is only \$4,346,850—a difference of \$2,365,518.—And the cost of transportation, in which we should naturally expect the difference to be very great, on account of the immense distances traversed by our mails, is \$2,229,763 in Great Britain, and \$2,448,756 in the United States, which is only \$210,993 more.—There is therefore no shadow of reason why the rate of postage on letters should be greater here than there.

This system has been in operation for ten years, in Great Britain, before the eyes of the people of the United States. Thousands of our citizens, visiting England, have witnessed its facilities, and experienced its benefits, and have wished that our own country might enjoy the same blessing. Its practicability and adaptedness to this country have been demonstrated over and over again; and yet we do not get cheap postage. None of our leading statesmen have made the cause their own, or have shown that they had taken pains to understand the elementary principles of the system. Congress meets and adjourns, without passing the bill, and the men by whose apathy or opposition so great a good is lost, hold up their heads before the people and are re-elected. Why does not Congress pass a bill establishing Rowland Hill's system of cheap letter postage? The true and only reason is that the people—the PEOPLE have never willed it, with that energy of purpose which Congressmen always understand and obey.

The truth is, the people at large have hardly begun to be impressed with the real value of cheap postage. They like the idea very well of sending their letters at a cheaper rate; but the few letters which they now write, do not make their bill for letter postage much of a burden; or, if their business requires many letters, the postage amount is a percentage so small, as to be but little thought of. The public mind has been too much occupied with the financial and pecuniary bearings of the question. On the first introduction of the subject, it found our public men so deeply imbued with the old saw that the "post-office must support itself"—a principle grounded on nothing in the constitution, and contradicted by its own history for two years out of five, that the first objection everywhere to be met with was, "Will it pay?" And we were obliged to wait until the department became convinced, by full experiment that the old system could not be made to pay, before we could get the partial and unskilful reduction of postage, granted by the act of 1845.

Interesting Facts.

A legal stone is 14 lbs. in England, and 16 lbs. in Holland. A fathom, 6 feet, is derived from the height of a full grown man. A hand, in horse measure, is 4 inches. An Irish mile is 2240 yards; a Scotch mile is 1984; a German, 1806; a Turkish, 1826. The human body consists of 240 bones, 9 kinds of articulation or joinings, 100 cartilages or ligaments, 400 muscles or tendons, and 100 nerves, besides blood, arteries, veins, &c. Potatoes planted below 3 feet do not vegetate; at one foot they grow thickest, and at two feet they are retarded two or three months. There are no solid rocks in the arctic regions, owing to the severe frosts. The surface of the sea is estimated at 159,000,000 square miles, taking the whole surface of the globe of 199,000 square miles. Its greatest depth is supposed to be equal to the height of the highest mountain, or 4 miles.

A New Invention.

An invention for the expulsion of water, is on this wise. The model contains a small box water-wheel made of tin. This is fitted at the bottom of a square tube dipping into a small cistern containing water, which may represent a lake, &c. The little wheel, being made to rotate with great velocity, throws up water rapidly into the tube above itself, until it overflows in a continuous stream at the top, and the volume of the stream is such as to deliver eight gallons per minute; and applying a

nozzle, the stream is driven to a distance of twenty feet. This, you will say, is a marvelous effect from so apparently insignificant a cause; but a wheel about fifteen inches in diameter, will deliver 1,800 gallons per minute; it requires to be worked by an engine of four horse power. With such power at command, one would think we ought never more to hear of ships foundering at sea; and the emptying and reclamation of the Zuyder Zee resolves itself into a possibility.

Memory.

There is a Devonshire gentleman in the Custom-house, London, who it is said, can tell where any ship that may be named out of 2000 hails from, and in what port she is registered. He comes originally from Tiverton.

The Family.

A Scene in Boston.

A half-score or more of Irish women have lately taken their stands at the Park-street corner of the Mall, where with a few oranges and other fruits placed upon some temporary table or box, they remain from morning until night, perhaps clearing by their small sales from one to two shillings per day. They are mostly old women, who can do nothing else for a living, and are patronized more from charity than from the tempting appearance of their goods.

One day, not long since, one of these old women became quite ill from exposure to the sun, and probably from want of proper nourishment, and was forced to leave her stand, and seat herself against the iron railings of the common, in the shade. A little, bright-eyed girl of thirteen summers, saw her limp to the spot, and also observed the anxious eye of the old woman directed towards her little store of oranges, nuts and candy. "Never mind those, ma'am," she said, "I'll go and sit there till you are better, and sell for you."

The little miss dressed with much taste and richness, with an air that indicated most unmistakably the class to which she belonged, sat down upon the rough box, behind the Irish woman's stand, assuming all the importance of a young saleswoman. She had never sold anything before in her life; but people began to stop and wonder what it meant, to see the fair and beautiful child in that singular situation.

The story was soon told by the bystanders, who had only to point to the poor woman. In a moment, every one was seized with a very extraordinary desire for an orange, a handful of nuts, or some candy; and our little beauty could hardly serve them fast enough. Many, utterly refusing any change, gave her a ninepence, a dime, or a sixpence for a penny's worth of nuts or candy. It was all accomplished very quickly, though the little girl was somewhat disconcerted, and had to be encouraged by a whisper, now and then, from one who need not to be named, for she was not accustomed to a crowd.

The table was soon swept, and we saw her pass her tiny hand full of silver to the poor woman, who thus realized treble the value of her small stock, and called on half the saints of the calendar to bless the kind-hearted child.—*Merry's Museum.*

Worth Considering.

A man who is very rich now was very poor when he was boy. When asked how he got his riches he replied, "My father taught me never to play till my work was finished, and never to spend money until I had earned it. If I had but half an hour's work to do in a day, I must do that the first thing, and in half an hour. And after this I was allowed to play; and then I could play with much more pleasure than if I had the thought of an unfinished task before my mind. I early formed the habit of doing every thing in time, and it soon became perfectly easy to do so. It is to this habit I owe my prosperity." Let every boy who reads this go and do likewise, and he will meet a similar reward.

The Will and the Deed.

God never accepts the will for the deed, when he puts it in a man's power to do as well as will. He judges us according to our means,—not by what we have known, nor by what we have felt, nor by what we have intended, but by what we have done. "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." "Inasmuch as ye did it not to these, ye did it not to me."