

## The Farm.

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## THE CHRISTIAN FARMER.

The inquiry has often entered my mind, as, doubtless, it has many others, when looking at the condition of many of our country churches—their diversified history of prosperity and adversity—What change is necessary to place them upon a more firm footing and advantageous ground? In seeking for an answer to this important inquiry, my mind has run over their composition as regards members. They are made up of farmers, mechanics, merchants, a few professional men, &c. Among these, where are we to look for the right foundations or the proper materials for a durable, unwavering "body" to fight the battles of the Lord; "a building fitly framed together," that adverse winds and waves cannot overthrow?

From mechanics of different callings, the Church has some of its strongest pillars and boldest soldiers, but permanency is not always found among them; they are often moving from place to place, as their interests may demand, and as change, change—which is the order of the day, and peculiar to our times—may compel them.

Are we to look to our merchants and speculators, professional men, &c., for this important strength and permanency? From among them the cause of Zion has also many efficient advocates and devout men, but it is lamentably true, as far as my observation extends, that a much smaller proportion of this class than of the other are religious men, and they are quite as changeable as to location.

I am driven, irresistibly, to that large class, the *farmers* of our country, for the efficient instrument which I seek, to carry on, by the blessing of God, the great work of sustaining the institutions of the Gospel, by which souls are saved and God glorified. The factory, the workshop, the iron-furnace and forge, &c., may be deserted, but the *land* will be occupied; the product of some of the mechanic arts may not be demanded for a time, but those of the earth always will, as long as seed-time and harvest remain. How appropriate that the voice of prayer, of praise, of warning, and religious effort, with the "tithes and offerings," should come from those who receive them more directly from the "Lord of the harvest."

There are some essential reasons why the farmer should be a Christian, and he has many important advantages for becoming so, and fulfilling faithfully this high mission. Some of them I will name. First, That which I have already mentioned: the Church and the cause of God need the stability of this class. The Sabbath often finds men of business away from home, or their minds so filled with vexations cares as to unfit them for the duties of the closet or the sanctuary. How pleasant to see the Christian farmer, with the "family waggon," (usually well filled,) wending his way to the house of God, and there, undisturbed by treacherous debtors or troublesome creditors, bowing, in humble worship, with his family, to that God who is bringing, at the same time, the rain and sunshine to mature and ripen his bountiful crops! The regular weekly meetings, both business and religious, of the church, the farmer can usually attend, while men deeply immersed in other business could not always spare the time. The long evenings of certain seasons of the year give them abundant opportunity, and their attendance is very important in order to sustain their organization.

Secondly, the farmer, from the nature of his calling, has more retirement, and room for serious thought, than any other class. There is something particularly elevating and inspiring to the mind, in the "silent grandeur" of the open field. The Saviour most frequently chose a position in the open air for his private devotions, or to give utterance to those words of comfort and instruction which we prize so highly. I do not know what should make the difference, except it be that the balmy air, the leaf, the flower, and every thing around, point unerringly to the God we worship, strengthen our faith, and thus assist in our devotional exercises.

While the man of business is overwhelmed with a multitude of subjects and individuals to engross his attention, the mind of the farmer, while he pursues his quiet occupation, is left comparatively free to think upon and investigate those subjects that are the food and life of a true Christian. Surely the Christian farmer should be a devout and spiritual man!

Again, the family altar of the farmer has to me, a peculiar interest and sacredness about it. There is no danger of interruption, nor necessity of hurrying through the form of worship for want of time. The spectacle of the family circle, perhaps including the gray-headed, decrepid grandparents, down to the prattling infant, with the domestics, each sitting quietly in his or her place, listening attentively to the sacred text, the prayer, or the "practical remarks" from the old "Cottage Bible," or joining in a hymn of praise, morning and evening, is a spectacle truly interesting to God and man.

Thirdly, the farmer and his family are, in a good degree, removed from the many vices and temptations in which so many are ensnared in our cities and large villages. There is less danger of backsliding, and the cause of Christ suffering from "disorderly walk and conversation." Who will deny but what the cause of religion suffers most severely and receives its deepest wounds from those who are, or have been, its professed friends? Vice and irreligion present a bold front at the present time; and it seems to me that the religious and moral character of the young, especially, never stood in greater jeopardy than at the present time. What better shelter can we give them, than to enlist them in agricultural pursuits?

## Gardening for Girls.

Some of the best writers on education in the country have advocated the importance of this subject, and the peculiarly healthful and strengthening influences that attend it.

Miss Beecher, in her work on Domestic Economy, recommends every father to "set apart a portion of his yard and garden for fruits and flowers, and see that the soil is well prepared and dug over, and all the rest may be committed to the children. These would need to be provided with a light hoe and rake, a dibble or garden trowel, a watering pot, and means and opportunities for securing seeds, roots, buds and grafts, all which might be done at a trifling expense. Then, with proper encouragement, and by the aid of such directions as are contained in this work, every man who has even half an acre, could secure a small Eden around his premises."

The writer of a very popular treatise on gardening says:—"A love of flowers is one of the earliest of our tastes, and certainly one of the most innocent. The cultivation of flowers, while it forms an elegant amusement, is a most healthful and invigorating pursuit. The flower-garden, while it agreeably occupies the time, does not impose a heavy tax on the pocket; and there are very few flowers but what may be cultivated to as great perfection in the garden of the peasant as of the peer. It is a taste, too, which is well adapted to the female character, and affords much rational amusement to the recluse. The cultivator of flowers is not confined to the gratification of beholding the expanded flower, when it spreads forth its glories to the meridian sun; every stage of its growth has been a source of delight, from the moment the seedling peeps above the ground, to the period of its perfect development; and a flower which has been reared by one's own hand is viewed with tenfold delight, compared to one, the growth of which has not been witnessed or provided for."

**AMERICAN RURAL LIFE.**—Many thousand farmers in New England and other states, rear large families, pay all their debts and taxes promptly, live independently, well clothed and comfortably housed and provided for, and lay up money, on a farm of fifty acres. With them there is a place for everything, and everything in its place. Their horses and cattle, tools and implements are attended to with clock-like regularity. Nothing is put off till to-morrow, that can be done to-day. Economy is wealth, and system affords ease. These men are seldom in a hurry, except in harvest time. And in long winter evenings, or severe weather, which forbids employment out doors, one makes corn brooms, another shoes, a third is a carpenter, cooper, or tailor; and one woman spins, another weaves and another braids "Palm leaf hats." And the families thus occupied are among the most healthy and cheerful in the world.

**SCIENCE IN FARMING.**—Still another proof of what science can achieve in agriculture is afforded in the contiguous county of Lincolnshire, which, little more than fifty years ago, was, to the extent of one quarter of its area, little better than a perfect waste. It contain-

ed one barren range of hills, near forty miles in extent, known under the name of Lincoln Heath; where, in old times, a lighthouse was erected, to prevent travellers from being lost in crossing its surface. It now presents the marvellous contrast, of the most perfect field agriculture in the whole country; and is little else than a succession of well-constructed houses, barns and offices, surrounded with crowded grain-stacks, on farms varying from 500 to 1000 acres. It is now an abundant grain country, yielding also vast crops of turnips, and sustaining immense flocks of sheep. One farmer, in 1823, took 700 acres of this once inhospitable and dreary region, then not worth the yearly part of a pair of rabbits to the acre. By a system of four-course rotation of turnips, barley, clover and wheat, the first of the course being sown with 16 bushels of bones per acre, and the turnips consumed on the land by sheep, together with the feeding of hay and straw along with oil-cake to horn-cattle, he has raised the entire tract to the fertility of a garden, and himself to independence. The wolds of Yorkshire, to the north of Lincoln, have undergone a similar renovation.

At the extreme northern end of Scotland, in latitude 58 1-2 degrees, where, less than 50 years ago, a few small farmers lived, in rude cabins, and under shelter of side-hills, whose only stock consisted of a few half-starved cattle, that wandered over fenceless commons, one of which contained 60,000 acres, the whole is now under cultivation. Where wheat and oats were once unknown as crops, 50 bushels of the former, and 56 of the latter, are now often quoted; and where as prolific a yield of turnips and potatoes is afforded, as in any other county of Scotland.

**FARMER PENNYWISE AND FARMER POUNDWISE.**—There is a farmer Pennywise, with whom I am acquainted, who will occasionally raise a good heifer, steer or colt, for his neighbors keep good breeds, and he is by accident occasionally benefited thereby. When he has such an animal in his flock, he is apparently uneasy until it is disposed of; and after selling such an animal, a heifer for instance, if you follow him into the house, you may hear something like the following:—"Well, my dear, I have sold the big heifer for fifteen dollars; is not that a good price for a heifer of her age?" "Good price, indeed," his wife would reply, "you had better have sold two of them cat-hammed, crooked-legged, scrawny things that you always keep for cows. The reason that our cattle always look so bad, and that we sell so little butter and cheese is, that you sell the best heifers." Poor woman? I pity her; her pride and ambition are injured, and her children and self in rags, because her native industry and economy are cramped by the foolish and niggardly policy of her husband.

The picture is reversed in farmer Poundwise, who always keeps his best animals until full grown; then selecting his best breeders for his own use, he sells the rest. If he has a good young horse, he will say that he will make a fine team horse; a mare, she will make a fine breed mare. "And what will you do with that?" says his neighbor, pointing to an ordinary animal. "Between you and I," says he, "I shall sell that colt the first chance.—Such an animal spoils the looks of all the rest, and will not pay for keeping." Thus he will sell his poor steers, heifers, sheep and pigs at the first offer. If not sold, he would fatten those that would pay the expense, and give away those that would not. Not pay the expense of fattening! Are there any cattle, sheep, or hogs, that will not pay the expense of fattening? Reader, take some of each—of the real Pharaoh breed—feed them until fat; keep an exact account of the expenses, and you can answer this question yourself. In this way farmer Poundwise always has valuable stock; his steers are ready sale, and command a good price; his horses are the best in the neighborhood, and the first to be looked at by purchasers. So with all the animals he raises. Pennywise, on the contrary, is thronged with an ill-shaped, worthless stock, that none will buy and pay the expenses of raising; which are continually eating out his substance and making no return. Thus Pennywise drags on a miserable life in the road to ruin, while Poundwise moves easily and happily along in the road to wealth.—*Maine Cultivator.*

**SUBSOILS IMPREGNATED WITH IRON.**—Professor Johnston says on this point:—"In many parts of the country, and especially in

the red sandstone districts, the oxide of iron abounds so much in the soil, or in the springs which ascend into it, as gradually to collect in the subsoil, and from a more or less impervious layer or *pan*, into which the roots cannot penetrate, and through which the surface water refuses to pass. Such soils are benefitted for a time, by breaking up the *pan* where the plough can reach it; but the *pan* gradually forms again at a greater depth, and the evils again recur. In such cases the insertion of drains below the level of the *pan* is the most certain mode of permanently improving the soil. If the *pan* be now broken up, the rains sink through into the drains, and gradually wash out of the soil what would otherwise have only sunk to a lower level and have again formed itself into a solid cake. It is not less common, even in rich and fertile districts, to see crops of beans, or oats, or barley, come up strong and healthy, and shoot up even to the time of flowering, and then begin to drop and wither, till at last they more or less completely die away. So it is rare in many places to see a second year's clover come up strong and healthy. These facts indicate, in general, the presence of noxious matters in the subsoil, which are reached by the roots at an advanced stage of their growth, but into which they cannot penetrate without injury to the plant. The drain calls in the aid of the rains of heaven to wash away these noxious substances from the soil, and of the air to change their nature, and this is the most likely, as well as the cheapest, means, by which these evils can be prevented."—*Maidstone Gazette.*

**LIME ON ORCHARDS.**—It has been demonstrated by actual experiments, that the application of lime to soils on which fruit trees are planted is in the highest degree beneficial. From one bushel to a bushel and a half is commonly applied to each full sized tree, though some assert that half a bushel is amply sufficient, even where the soil is non-calcareous, and where a larger quantity is necessary than on lands where lime naturally exists as a constituent principle. By applying lime, says a distinguished writer on terraculture, "the food or pasture of the trees is increased in quantity and improved in quality, and it is doubtless an important agent in destroying the grub or worm which so frequently destroys the apple and other fruit crops, and proves so injurious to the trees themselves by perforating the wood."—By applying a peck or such a matter of fresh caustic lime around the trunks of peach trees, in the Spring, we have found it to produce excellent results. Salt, also, in small quantities, is a valuable application.

**RICE BLANCMANGE.**—This forms an excellent accompaniment to preserves of any kind, or to baked apples. It is made as follows:—Put one teacup-ful of whole rice into half-a-pint of cold water; when the rice cracks or begins to look white, add one pint of milk, and a quarter of a pound of loaf sugar. Boil it until the rice has absorbed the whole of the milk, stirring it frequently the whole time. Put it into a mould, and it will turn out when quite cold. If preferred hot, it may be again made warm by being placed in the oven for a short time. It may be flavored with lemon, cinnamon, &c.; but is most wholesome without, and forms both an elegant and very economical dish at any time.

## TOMATO CATSUP.

As this delicious and healthful vegetable will soon be ripe, we presume our female readers will be glad to know the best method of making CATSUP from it. Here it is:

"To a gallon skinned tomatoes add 4 table-spoonfuls of salt, 4 do. black pepper, half a spoonful allspice, 8 red peppers, and three spoonfuls mustard. All these ingredients must be ground fine, and simmered very slowly in sharp vinegar so as to leave half a gallon of liquor when the process is over. Strain through a wire sieve, and bottle, and seal from the air. This may be used in two weeks, but improves by age, and will keep several years."

**FOR KEEPING BACON IN SUMMER.**—Cut the bacon in slices and rind it, ready to cook, then take a stone pot and cover the bottom with melted lard; pack your meat as tightly as possible, and cover the top with melted lard. While using, keep it covered air-tight, and the last piece will be as good as the first.