

## Scientific.

## A WONDERFUL CLOCK.

Towards the end of the sixteenth century, Jaquet Droz, a Swiss clockmaker, carried to Ferdinand the Catholic, King of Spain, a clock, which was the wonder of all Europe. The King paid the large sum of five hundred louis (or about two thousand two hundred dollars) for it and when it arrived, gathered his most illustrious noblemen to look at its marvellous works. The clock represented a landscape, and when it struck the hour, a shepherd issued from behind some rock, and played six different tunes upon his flute, while his dog very naturally fawned upon him. To show the King that the dog was faithful as well as affectionate, Droz told him to touch the fruit in a basket by the side of the shepherd. The King laid hold of an apple, and the dog at once sprung at his hand, barking so naturally that a spaniel in the room replied with great ferocity, and showed signs of fight. At this all the court left, crying out "Sorcerer!" and there was only left the King and the Minister of the Navy. The King asked the shepherd what time it was. The clockmaker told him that he did not understand Spanish, but if he would ask him in French, he would reply. The King then put his question in French, when the shepherd instantly replied. This was too much for the Minister of the Navy, and he instantly ran away. The poor clockmaker was in danger of being burnt for a sorcerer, but he explained the wonder to the Grand Inquisitor, who was convinced that, instead of being the work of evil spirits, it was only the result of great ingenuity.

## SINGULAR CASE OF INSTINCT IN A HORSE.

We do not remember ever to have heard of a more remarkable exhibition of equine intelligence than was communicated to us a few days since by Mr. Allen, of this place. The circumstances, as they were narrated to us, are as follows:

Mr. Allen has had for a considerable time a span of sprightly little horses that he has never separated. In the stable, in the field, in the harness, they have always been together. This has caused a strong attachment to grow up between them. A few days ago, he went with them out to Lake Minnetouka, on a fishing excursion. Taking them out of the carriage, he led them down to the lake, and tied them with stout ropes, several rods apart, on a strip of grass that grew upon the shore, and left them to feed. Returning to the shanty, he threw himself upon the floor to await the return of the party who had repaired to the lake to fish. Not much time elapsed before the sound of an approaching horse's feet attracted his attention, and a moment after, one of his span appeared at the door. The animal put his head in, and giving one neigh, returned at a slow gallop, yet under evident excitement, to the spot where; but a few moments before, he and his companion had been seemingly safely fastened. Surprised to find his horse loose, and struck with his singular conduct, Mr. Allen immediately followed, and found the other lying in the water, entangled in the rope, and struggling to keep his head from being submerged. While Mr. Allen proceeded to disengage the unfortunate horse, his noble benefactor stood by, manifesting the utmost solicitude and sympathy; and when his mate was extricated from his situation, and again upon his feet on terra firma, the generous creature exhibited the most unquestionable signs of satisfaction and joy. That this intelligent animal should have noticed the misfortune of his mate, and he should know where to apply for rescue, and in his efforts should sunder a three-fourths of an inch rope, and finally, that he should exhibit so high an appreciation of the event, are circumstances to astonish us, and commend themselves to the thoughtful consideration of those who would limit the power of reasoning to the "genus humo."—*St. Anthony Express.*

## HOW TO GET RID OF A NEIGHBOR'S HENS.

If you are troubled with your neighbor's hens, the best way is not to shoot them, and send in the dead bodies, but quietly feed them around your stable with your own, and then shake out extra straw in some empty barrel or by place. An acquaintance of mine in this way collected some dozens of eggs at a slight expense, thereby getting all the profit of the poultry without the trouble of housing or keeping them through the winter. Try it. It is

too good a business to last long. By this plan you will effectually get rid of the hens, and besides this, and the saving of the eggs, you will save your friend, and save having one more enemy. A little planning is as good as hard work.—*Ch. Times.*

**SINGULAR METHOD OF FINDING DROWNED PERSONS.**—The London papers relate that on Saturday, the 29th ult., an agricultural laborer, named Solomon Dunford, was drowned at West Cowes, Isle of Wight. A "novel process" was used for the recovery of the body by one of the coast guards. On Friday morning, the circumstance being made known to him, he assured the bystanders that if the party was drowned in the neighborhood he would discover the body by means of a new loaf of bread, in which should be deposited three ounces of quick silver, when the loaf would float till it rested over where the body might lay. However extraordinary it may appear, the experiment was tried, and on the loaf becoming stationary, a boat-hook was put overboard beneath it, and brought up the body. The man states that this is the fourth instance in which the experiment has been tried.

## The Farm.

We have always taken a lively interest in the Farmer—having lived for some years near some intellectual agriculturists, and observed that the more they read, and carried their reading into practice, the more they flourished. We would say to all our friends so employed—*educate your children, and you will not need for a moment to pause to consider the question with which we commence our Farmer's column this week.*—*Eds. Vis.*

## Can Money be Made by Farming?

**EDS. CULTIVATOR.**—I have been a subscriber to your valuable monthly for two years, and have attentively read all the previous volumes. As my researches have not resulted in the conviction that farming pursuits, how desirable in other respects, are sure to be profitable as a business, I am led to suppose that the difficulty must be either in myself, or a certain unwillingness on the side of editors to promptly give the whole truth. For instance—Why is it so notorious, that men universally pronounce farming occupations to cost more than its results amount to, weighed in the balance of debt and credit? It certainly looks as if there was some ground for such a judgment. Agricultural papers are always putting in the fore ground, the delightful advantages of country life, the pleasures of farming. But where is the working farmer, retired merchant, sea captain, or amateur, who can give us the real truth, covering the results of five or ten years? You will hear a theorist charm his audience with the prettiest systems of rotations imaginable, and the talented chemist crying over the dreadful waste of organic and other manures by large cities; and what does it all amount to? Does he farm it? What responsibility dare he assume, who urges his fellow man to invest his capital in what he dare not himself? The truth is, I am yet to see, in any modern work, an authentic record of any man's farm for a course of years, in this country, stating that it has or has not paid, him a reasonable family expense, and left him at the end of the year—unless he happens to be one of your grubbing, anti-book-farming characters, who do all their own work, don't educate their children, and live with scarcely any of the comforts of life—thinking that money is all and all, and nothing else is worth possessing.

Now I want you to frankly tell me, if I can, by a judicious expenditure of capital, with a market not far distant, bring ordinary land to a condition that will enable me to support my family comfortably?

You perceive I propose an earnest investigation, and my reason for it is, fairly to know, from creditable sources, whether I am justified in freely investing money on my 40 acres of land, with any prospect before me that the returns will, after five years, compensate me for the extra outlay.

Once more, is it not true that all farming journals are united in representing that the prejudices against farming among the crowds of young men who throng the marts of commerce, is occasioned by a distaste of labor on by reason of caste; and do you not endeavor to convince them that these impressions are wrong? Indeed do you not often try to convince them that although they will not become rich quite as fast by farming as by successful trade, yet that they are sure of freedom from wasting excitement, and may enjoy what is worth more than large returns accompanied

by sleepless nights. This is all very plausible, but the misfortune is that they don't think as you represent. I can speak for 10,000 young men now in New York, who are compelled to struggle onward in the almost hopeless race for competence, who would cut loose from such confinement, could they have the evidence before their eyes, that with a small capital, competence is attainable on a well cultivated farm.

I heard it remarked by an intelligent man of Massachusetts, before a country audience, that were all the farmers in the state to sell off their farms, and invest the proceeds in bonds and mortgages, &c., they would be much better off. Now will you be kind enough to inform your many readers the names of ten intelligent farmers in our state, who realize a competence from their respective farms—whose business for a series of years can be pronounced profitable? I fear it cannot be done. I hold it decidedly wrong for a retired merchant to live without occupation, and inasmuch as I have chosen, from a long cherished preference, a country residence, I must cordially acknowledge that I am possessed with the common feeling of my fellow men, and find it hard to swallow a yearly loss, after the pains, labor, and expense of producing crops, and getting for an equivalent the only satisfaction of knowing that I could support my family cheaper in town, and have less trouble.

Don't think me impertinent, or wishing to cast any discredit on you or your compeers of the press, but I am desirous of being encouraged, if in your power consistently so to do, and will persevere if I can see a fair prospect of success in the future. *MERCURIO.*

**REMARKS.**—The gist of the above anonymous communication, is comprised in the question, whether the person who wrote it can support his "family comfortably" from 40 acres of land? How does he suppose it possible that such a question can be answered from the data he gives? We know nothing about the land, its capabilities of production, or the value of its produce. We do not even know where it is situated. He tells us there is "a market not far distant," but we have no information as to what market is meant, the prices of agricultural and horticultural articles, or what could be raised from the land to the best advantage. He is just as indefinite in regard to the amount of income he requires from his 40 acres. He wants to support his "family comfortably," but how do we know what his family is, or what expenditure of money would keep an indefinite number of people in that indefinite state called "comfortable?" Upon the whole, he has given us as a poser—we acknowledge the proposition to hard for us to solve.

As to the general question of the profits of farming, it is easily answered. Take the whole farming interest of the country. Does it lose or gain? Obviously gains. What but agriculture supports four-fifths of our population? In our own state, we have many sections where agriculture constitutes the only resource of the inhabitants. Is our friend so ignorant as to suppose that there has been no increase in wealth in these districts for "a series of years?"

As to the remark charged to "an intelligent man of Massachusetts," that all the farmers in that state would do better to sell out and invest their money in bonds and mortgages, we think there might be some question as to his "intelligence." As to the names of "ten intelligent farmers in our state," who make farming profitable, we do not wish to make an invidious array of names, but if our correspondent will give us his own name and residence, we will send him the names of one hundred men who, for "a series of years," have made money by farming, and who will be ready to show the way it was done.—*Cultivator.*

## IMPROVEMENT OF OUR COMMON SHEEP.

In the improvement of sheep, as well as of all other animals, the male is considered of more importance than the female, and more care is therefore necessary in selecting one; yet, for the production of perfect animals, it is absolutely essential that both male and female be well bred; and if not individually perfect in every point, the conformation of the two should be such as when combined would form a perfect creature. So that, in endeavoring to improve our common flocks of sheep, we should not only get good, first rate bucks, but should select out from the flock the ewes of the best age and make, to put with him; and in choosing them, should have an eye to those

particular points we wish to have well developed in the lambs. In this way much may be done to improve our ordinary breeds of sheep, without much outlay in purchasing improved stock. A knowledge of the principles of breeding, and care in the selection and management of the ewes from which we intend to breed, and the choice of a buck adapted to counteract any deficiencies in the ewes, will, if judiciously persevered in for a few years, greatly improve any flock of sheep.

Farmers often procure a buck which, however useful he might be for other flocks, is altogether unsuitable for the flock he is intended to serve. Again in a large flock of ordinary sheep, there are often two or more kind of ewes, with characteristics entirely different from each other: hence a buck that might be first rate for the one, and calculated to improve the breed, would be altogether ill adapted for the other, and would propagate imperfections rather than neutralize them; yet how common is it to let the whole flock run together, and have the indiscriminate use of the same bucks. Instead of this careless, heedless, and profitless way of breeding, the flock should at this time be judiciously assorted into lots of forty or fifty, having a buck with each lot possessing strongly the particular points in which the ewes are somewhat deficient, and in accordance with the object for which the lambs are raised. Where a small flock is kept, and only one buck is needed, a farmer can often select out some ewes of a particular conformation, that would be better served by a neighbour's buck than his own. The neighbour, too, may be in the same circumstances; and thus a change of ewes to be served by each other's buck, would be mutually advantageous to the owners, and beneficial to the flock.

The best time at which to place the bucks with the flock, depends a great deal on the breed of sheep, and the object of the breeder. If his flock is rather coarse woolled, and he wishes early limbs for the butcher, the middle of September is, perhaps, not too soon. This, as ewes go twenty-two to twenty-three weeks, would bring the lambs about the first of March, which, in the vicinity of large cities, where early lamb commands a good price, is the best time—yielding most profit although a little extra care and feed are necessary. The buck, in this case, should be a Leicester or South Down, as their cross with common sheep gives her a larger lamb, with increased tendency to fatten, and early maturity. Such a cross with our common half-blood Merino flocks, produces good mutton sheep, and it is often profitable to adopt it for that purpose; but it would be folly to attempt to breed from such a mongrel race. If the object of the flock-master be merely the production of wool of fine quality, he should procure Spanish or French Merino bucks, selecting from his flock the best ewes of from three to eight years old, to place with them. It is not desirable to have the lambs come till there is a prospect of grass for the mother, so the bucks should be kept from the flock till the latter part of October. And as grass is often scarce and innutritious then, it will be advisable to give a little clover hay, or perhaps oats or peas, to stimulate the ewes at that time. The buck, too, should be grained or have a little oilcake separately from the ewes. Nothing pays better than careful attention to the flock during winter; and towards spring the quality of their food should be increased, and a few ruta baga or mangel wurzel may be given with advantage. Especially are they beneficial when the ewes are heavy in lamb, or after lambing, if grass is not ready. It is not, however, desirable to have the breeding ewes too fat; but we are sorry to say this is a caution too little needed—more flocks being injured by scant and non-nutritious food, than by over feeding.—*Gen. Farmer.*

**A LAST LOOK.**—There is a feeling that resembles death, in the last glance we are ever to bestow on a loved object. The girl you have treasured in your secret heart, as she passes by on her wedding-day, it may be, happy and blissful, lifts up her laughing eyes, the symbol of her own light heart, and leaves in that look darkness and desolation for ever. The boy your father's spirit has clung to like the very light of your existence, waves his hand from the quarter-deck, as the gigantic ship bends over to the breeze; the tears have dimmed his eyes, for mark! he moves his fingers over them—and this is a last look.

**Influence of Slavery on Popular Education.**—The number of adults in Virginia who cannot read or write, is 80,000—twenty thousand more than in 1840; and the number of children whose parents have not the means to educate them, 75,000.