

HOME AND FARM.

"A Little Land Well Tilled."

Has any farmer ever considered the great significance of that humble expression? There is nothing about it to attract particular attention, and still might lead to the thought, that farmers as a general rule undertake the cultivation of too much land in which they greatly err. It has come to be very natural for the farmer in settling upon his plans for the year, to make his calculations to sow so many acres of wheat, rye, barley, oats or other grains, to plant so many acres of corn, potatoes, beans, or other products without stopping for one moment to consider the question of labor, or whether he has manure sufficient to do even partial justice to one-half the surface indicated. The result of this is to occasion great inconvenience, to say nothing of haste in cultivation. Again, others have so strong a desire to add to their acres, that they are continually purchasing although they can but half cultivate what they have. It is an old and true maxim that "What is worth doing at all, is worth doing well," and this should be the watchword of farmers in all their operations.

It requires no argument to prove that a small farm well cultivated is better than a large one half cultivated. Persons having a kitchen garden upon which much pains have been bestowed, cannot have failed to observe the very great returns that have been furnished, and if the same course could be pursued with all lands, the results would be proportionate. The fact is, that but few farmers know experimentally how much an acre of ground is able to produce. The gardens of mechanics are often very productive, and are sometimes an approximation to this. It is well known that ordinarily the preparation of the soil works very marked changes in the results obtained; the more finely the soil is pulverized, the better it is adapted to furnish food for the growing plant, and yet how often is it the case that the seed is planted than that furnished by the plow, and if the yield is a trifle below the expectations of the farmer, the result is charged upon some climatic conditions or anything but the true cause? There are crops in which the necessity of greater pains is believed to exist for the reason that without reasonable preparation, the nature of the plant itself revolts and refuses a fair increase. Such is the onion crop, and in fact the same may be said to be partially true of all root crops. The grower of onions has learned that unless his soil is mellow, thoroughly pulverized, and so prepared to receive the seed, he may as well sow it by the wayside as in his soil. Why is it, too, that the raisers of tobacco expend twice or three times as much labor, and apply a proportionate increase of manure in the preparation of a field for that crop? Simply because they have learned that their returns are more than proportionately increased. Now what is true of tobacco would prove equally true with other crops, only farmers are not as ready to believe the fact. The probable average produced of corn is about thirty bushels per acre, and yet there are cases of a production of one hundred and twenty, and even more bushels per acre; and yet no one would believe that four times the amount of labor was expended in the latter case than there was in the first. The secret lay in somewhat heavier manuring and a more careful preparation of the soil to receive the seed. The after cultivation could not, of course, have been greatly increased. Then let farmers try "a little land well tilled" until there is furnished some valuable information of the maximum capacity of an acre of ground, when cultivated with additional care with an increase of fertilizers, and there will soon be a great revolution in farming practices.—Practical Farmer.

How He Did It.

We know a farmer, now in comfortable circumstances, who beginning with a few cows and constantly increasing their number paid all the expenses of running his farm, all the grain bills and brought up his farm to a splendid condition solely from the profits of his milk. His system of management was to buy good cows at the outset. He required that they should average each more than the can per day, season in and out, which many milk raisers are content with. His farm at the outset was run down and did not yield hay enough hardly to pay for the cutting. Buying grain by the ton, and feeding it to the cows; spreading the manure on the land and turning it over and sowing rye and oats and millet to be used successively for fodder; turning over more land and laying it down to grass; all this time selling his milk and buying grain and more cows, he now produces forty cans a day; is obliged to sell hay because he makes more than he can possible use; and his management is such that he actually more than pays for all the grain that he buys solely from hay sold off his farm. He believes in selling cows; in fact he says he can't afford to pasture them, believing that the increase of their manure will more than compensate for the extra labor employed in milking. Two smart men can do all his work and not be over driven at that. He sells his cows to the butcher when they have reached the minimum product of milk that he counts on; and the prices realized are because of their fine condition, often greater than the original cost of the animal. We know another farmer who manages much the same way depending on a liberal grain feed and selling, and getting every dollar made on the land. He buys what would be termed poor stock, that is, cheap, thirty or forty dollars cows, and looks to less profit from his milk than from the increased value of cows for beef, and the increase of his manure pile. However, he is now rich, and his money has been made solely by the above management.—Miss. Ploughman.

Small Farm Maxims.

- 1. Small farms are cheaper and easier than large one, and pay better for capital invested. Therefore, small farms are best.
2. If you want to make your farm pay, you must give it your daily personal attention. But if your farm is too large you cannot do this; hence, as I said above, small farms are best.
3. If you don't want your farm to run away, you must stop little leaks. We may expect fewer leaks on a small place than on a big one; hence again, small farms are best.
4. Feed your land well, and it will feed you. It takes less to feed a few acres than a great many. So you see small farms are best.
5. If you would live long and enjoy life, work a little, then rest a little. But if you have a large farm you must labor all the time. Here again small farms are best.
6. To raise big corn, you must keep small grass. To make small grass you must cut often. So in this, we find small farms are the best.
7. If you have a good fence you need fear no loss of stock. But fences are costly. Thus once more we find that small farms are the best.
8. If you want good roads and plenty of schools, churches and mills, you must have a dense population. If farms are large, this is impossible. Therefore, I declare small farms to be the best.
9. Farms should increase in value year by year. It costs less to improve a few acres than a great many. Here, as before, small farms are best.—New England Home-stead.

POULTRY YARD.

Fattening Chickens.

It is hopeless to attempt to fatten chickens while they are at liberty. They must be put in a proper coop; and this, like most other poultry appliances, need not be expensive. To fatten twelve fowls, a coop may be three feet long, eighteen inches high, and eighteen inches deep, made entirely of bars. No part solid—neither top, sides or bottom. Discretion must be used, according to the size of chickens put up. They do not want room; indeed, the closer they are the better—provided they can all stand up at the same time. Care must be taken to put up such as have been accustomed to be together, or they will fight. If one is quarrelsome, it is better to remove it at once, as, like other bad examples, it soon finds imitators. A diseased chicken should not be put up. The food should be ground oats; and may either be put up in a trough or on a flat board running along the front of the coop. It may be mixed with water or milk—the latter is the better. It should be well soaked, forming a pulp as loose as can be, provided it does not run off the board. They must be well fed three or four times a day—the first time as soon after daybreak as may be possible or convenient, and then at intervals of four hours. Each meal should be as much and no more than they can eat up clean. When they have done feeding, the board should be wiped, and some gravel may be spread. It causes them to feed and thrive. After a fortnight of this treatment, you will have good, fat fowls. If, however, there are but five or six to be fattened, they must not have as much room as though there were twelve. Nothing is easier than to allow them the proper space, as it is only necessary to have two or three pieces of wood to pass between the bars and form a partition. This may also serve when fowls are put up at different degrees of fatness. This requires attention, or fowls will not keep fat and healthy. As soon as the fowl is sufficiently fattened it must be killed, otherwise it will not get fatter, but will lose flesh. If fowls are intended for the market, of course they are or may be all fattened at once; but if for home consumption, it is better to put them up at such intervals as will suit the time when they will be required for the table.—Journal of Chemistry.

Preserving Eggs.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman writes as follows:—One of your correspondents asks for a method of preserving eggs through the winter. Here is a way that my wife has practiced with perfect success ever since we were married, which is twenty-eight years. She puts a lump of lime as big as a man's fist in a bucket, and fills with water. After the lime falls, it is stirred up and allowed to settle, and it is then ready for use. The eggs are put into a vessel, and the clear lime water is poured over them, together with some of the thick, creamy part of mixture from the bottom of the bucket. If only clear lime water is used, the eggs will not keep, and if too much lime from the bottom of the bucket is put on, then it will eat the shells. She says that she pours in the creamy part in about the proportion of a big bowlful to a bucketful of the clear water. Once in a week or two she examines them and stirs them up. If the shells are rough, there is too much lime, and if any of the eggs were not good when put down, they will pop when she stirs them, which makes it necessary to take them all out and wash them before repacking. This never happened but once. The stirring is not for examination alone, but is necessary to the preservation of the eggs, for if they should lie too long in one position, the yolk would settle down to the lower part of the shell, and then spoil, she says. The stirring is accomplished by running her hand to the bottom of the vessel, which is easily done, as the eggs are almost floated by the water, and drawing it slowly to the top with the hand bent. This is a cold job in winter, for the eggs must be kept in a cold place of course, but must not be frozen. Now for my part of the statement. We had eggs for breakfast this morning that were put down some time last summer, when they were plenty and cheap, and they seemed just the same as fresh eggs. We have plenty of eggs every winter, and

all winter for cakes, puddings, poaching, boiling, or any other use they can be put to, and that at the lowest price of the year.

THE APIARY.

Transferring Bees.

A writer in the Southern Cultivator gives the following hints on this delicate operation: When about to transfer, have everything in readiness, so as not to have any delay in the operation. Have a room or small out-house ready, (some experts perform the operation in the open air, but I would not advise a novice to do so), place a small table convenient, cover it with several folds of cloth, so as to give a soft substance for the comb to rest on; have at hand a lot of strips of wood one-eighth inch square, half inch longer than the frame and a lot of small rubber rings, such as are used on car tickets, to be had at the stationer's. Go to the hive that you wish to transfer, blow smoke in at one entrance, rap on the side of the hive, continue the rap at intervals for about ten minutes; by that time the bees being thoroughly alarmed will have filled themselves with honey. Now move the hive into the room and leave an old hive on the stand, for absent bees to go in when they return. Invert the hive, placing top on floor; take a cold chisel and hammer; cut off the sides parallel to comb; the bees will crowd to the opposite side; remove side of hive, have a frame lying on table, two sticks underneath; cut a comb out, and cut it to size of frame, no matter if you kill some of the brood; lay it in frame; put some sticks on top; spring rubber rings over ends of sticks, raise gently and put in new hive; place the comb in the same position in the new hive as it had in old; cut into the next, and brush adhering bees into the new hive, until the new hive is filled; put all the bees in; close up the new hive, and let it stand for a while. If the bees exhibit any uneasiness, running about the hive as if looking for something, the queen may not be in, they will be looking for her. Hunt for a cluster of bees, dip them up and put them into the hive; as soon as she is in all will be quiet again. Carry hive to old stand again, shake out the bees that are in the hive, lift them in front of new hive, and they will all go in. If in the operation the comb should get broken, or if you want to put the broken comb in, lay three or four sticks or as many as is necessary under the frame; place the pieces of comb in as good order as possible, same number of sticks on top, and fasten. Remember all sticks to be put in perpendicular to bottom of hive; in three or four days afterward go to the hive (by that time the combs will be fastened to the frame) and remove rings on top, pull out sticks; the rings left in the hive will be carried out by the bees. After moving the hive to its stand, contract the entrance, so that they can protect themselves against robber bees, as the odor of broken comb and honey will attract a good many. This is the objection to performing it in open air, as you are likely to be bothered with robbers.

Save the Combs.

Every scrap of worker's comb, if only two inches square, can with a little skill and a few splints, be profitably used in patching up unfilled frames. After the frame of scraps is placed in the hive, it will take the workers but a little time to put it in good order for breeding and storing purposes. Combs and frames that have been badly soiled by stocks having dysentery, can be easily cleaned, and rendered fit for use of bees. I had a large number of stocks die with dysentery in the winter of '71 and '72 and several hundred frames of comb left in a very offensive condition. After the bees had died, I set the hives out, took off the tops, and let the snow and rain and sun have free access to them. In a short time, the combs were as clean and sweet as before the bees had the disease. The cells filled with water, but this was easily thrown out, by holding the frames and combs firmly with both hands, and giving them a few quick downward jerks. Two or three good showers of rain will cleanse the foulest frames and combs. After they are well washed, the water should be thrown out; the sun and wind will then dry them in a few hours. I have used all my soiled combs, after they had been cleaned in this manner, and the bees used them as readily as if they did those that had never soiled.—Cor. Farmers' Journal.

It is an excellent thing to have a good memory as a rule, but it is quite as good to have a poor one sometimes. There are some things it would be such a blessing to forget. Angry remarks and bitter reports are amongst them; but, alas! a thousand good words are forgotten, while the bad one is remembered forever. It is far easier to learn an idle, senseless jingle of rhymes than a beautiful hymn or poem. Do not waste your time and attention over what you would some day give much to forget. Slanderous words are far better forgotten than remembered. One of the best helps to forgetting is never to speak of them, not even in a whisper. If you hear a playmate say something unkind of another, keep it to yourself; she will forget it pretty soon, and feel as kindly as ever toward the person. But if you tell it, then what a storm you will raise! How the girls will take sides! and two parties will be formed, and very likely the girls' parents will join the quarrel, and the whole neighborhood will be in a great uproar just because of that cross word you had so much better let die. What would you think of a person who went along picking up all the old burrs and thistles he could find, and then fastening them on to people? Just such nuisances are those malicious, thoughtless words. Don't pick them up, and they will do but little hurt.

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