

FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

OUR HOME.

BY WOODLAND WILLIE.

You would know it by the trees  
Waving in each passing breeze;  
Over which, in Summer time,  
Roses sweet and clasping vine.

Lilacs pale, beside the wall  
In the sunshine rise and fall  
While the locust trees, in white,  
Look like watchers of the night.

Chestnut leaves in sunshine bathe,  
Rolling on a sea green wave;  
While their branches proudly bend—  
Kiss you like some returned friend.

Moss-edged door-stones, old and brown,  
Once by careless hands thrown down;  
Kitten sleeping on the hearth,  
Sharing in our love and mirth.

You would know it by the shade  
Over all the landscape laid;  
Meadows fair, with seams of rills,  
Belted in by pine-capped hills.

Tall, red chimneys rise in air,  
Homely mile-stones gleaming there,  
Green vines shading window and door  
Flinging shadows on the floor.

One clear streamlet glides along,  
O'er a cool and spreading lawn;  
Chasing music all the way,  
Through the Summer's sultry day.

Graceful willows bend above,  
Where sits little Maud, our love,  
Splashing in her tiny feet  
Where the leaves and waters meet;

Lisping sweet a pretty song  
As the bright waves glide along:  
Dear God! in her future life,  
Grant there be as little strife.

Sorrow once, before the door,  
Paused, with head bent low, then lower;  
Seeing all so free from sin,  
Half afraid to step within.

Then, as she walked on apace,  
Stopped with half averted face,  
As in consecrated nook,  
Just to catch another look.

Saving Labor Saves Expense.

A correspondent of the *Germantown Telegraph* offers some valuable hints on a branch of domestic economy which, we regret to say, is too often overlooked—namely, a judicious labor saving system in our home arrangements, so far as practicable, and a strict adherence to order—having a place for everything and everything in its place.

None need presume that, to accomplish all this, a vast amount of capital is required. The homeliest cabin in the land may be a pattern of neatness, order and convenience, if the work is persistently set about; but, in erecting habitations, it is frequently forgotten that even a very few simple and perhaps rude, but ingenious fixtures will add immensely to the order and comfort of a family and greatly lessen the labor of the industrious house-wife, whose work—in opposition to the ennu of the would-be lady who thinks it derogatory to her dignity to soil her tiny hands with honest toil—it has become proverbial, is never done—doubtless no little owing to the small care commonly exercised in planning for her convenience. Some houses that we have seen—and some of them externally good looking edifices, we have thought, ought to be built over again at the expense of the thoughtless architect who devised the plan.

Such establishments may be justly entitled to the expressive cognomen of *women-killing institutions*; for, after filling up the live long day in the performance of their incessant routine of domestic labors, the poor woman, or hired servant, as the case may be, fatigued and careworn, having had no precious moments of leisure to devote to reading or other means of storing her mind with information so requisite to the development of the intellectual faculties, whereby many are doomed to a mortifying ignorance of the most common-place matters who, had opportunity been offered, might have qualified themselves, as angels of truth, to impart, in their sphere, the counsels of wisdom and prove an ornament to their sex, she retires to her couch with the consoling thought that, after all, her "work is never done."

The writer's hints relative to labor-saving machinery and more thorough culture of lands are to the point. We adopt them as "our sentiments." But farmers and others, read for yourselves:

"By having a place for everything and keeping it there, many steps will be saved, and that weariness and stupidity, so often complained

of, would be greatly diminished, if not entirely dispelled. The adoption of improved domestic machinery, now available, is another mode of reducing the care involved in the management of a home. To our knowledge, few farmers have yet supplied their wives with a complement of the most simple and economical culinary inventions. The disproportion between the house and farm, in utensils, is apparent. Where do you find similar attention paid to each? Does not feminine delicacy demand it? Why not provide the sewer and the washer, as well as the mower and thrasher? Is woman more able to use the needle and washboard, than man to apply the scythe and flail?

There is another method by which a vast amount of the toil and fatigue consequent to this pursuit may be lightened. Indeed, this is the most universal and permanent cure for that "drudgery," in the known world. It is simply this: Farmers must lessen the number of hands required, in order that cooking, washing, etc., may be decreased. We do not say the crops should be neglected or culture less thorough. But the number of acres tilled must be fewer and more fertile. A majority of farms are too large for profit. One hundred acres, producing each thirty bushels of wheat, or fifty of corn, or four tons of hay, as the case may be, will clear more dollars in a year than double that number with half the crops. If it requires four hands to work a farm of two hundred acres, three would cultivate one hundred with more ease. In many instances the wife and daughters, or either, would be able to do all the housework—saving the expense of a servant—and the husbandman might dispense with an expensive workman. Hence, this would be beneficial pecuniarily and physically.

John Johnson, whose success in agriculture is familiar to your readers, lately became exemplary by disposing of either one-third or one-fourth of his farm, to facilitate the improvement of the remainder. Many in this country who have sold their entire estates and moved to the city or village, to avoid the charge and perplexity incurred, when a sedentary life was unfit, yes, unnatural for men of their activity and vigor—have become discontented and longed for the old homestead. How much better to have divided the farm, rented a portion, and devoted the evening of life to the "most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment of man."

To the novice in this vocation, and those about to engage in it, these remedies of domestic drudgery will, we hope, be seasonable and practical. To sum up: If economy and health demand it, (or the latter alone) let machinery be substituted for nerve and muscle, either in or out of doors. Let heaven's first law rule in all operations. Have a small farm well tilled, a good wife well willed, and you will have a large barn well filled."

If there are any who have doubts as to the practicability of the above, we suggest that they make the trial of a few, if not all of the hints thrown out and, our word for it, they will not regret it.

**Tying up Cattle.**—"Tamworth," in the *Stock Journal*, condemns the practice of tying up cattle, and says animals that are much confined, besides their poor health for want of exercise, have loose, porous, coarse flesh, with comparatively relaxed, and therefore light-weighting, muscular fibre; and much of the space which should be filled with muscle, or lean meat, is supplied with loose, light-weighting fat. Size in excess is not a sure index of proportionate extra weight; for many middle-sized animals of compact form and hardy constitution are really much heavier, bulk for bulk, than larger animals.

**How to get up a Farmers' Club.**—The *N. H. Journal of Agriculture* says:—Get up a meeting among those interested in the improvement of their minds, and make it as sociable as possible. Adopt no rules at first. Decide upon a subject for discussion at the next meeting; invite others in; and let it be the especial aim to keep everything cosy and familiar. Keep the text steadily in view, of improving ourselves and each other. Well conducted farmers' clubs have increased the average yield of crops in some townships, 25 per cent.

**Horn Ail, or Hollow Horn.**—The *New England Farmer* says there is no such thing; it is merely an incorrect name for some ailment which has nothing to do with the horns. Standard writers on veterinary practice also hold the same opinion. Dadd ascribes the symptoms which attend horn ail, to a general derangement of the health of the animal, and recommends the use of purgatives, and to stimulate the digestive organs and the circulation by aperients and stimulating liniments.

**Italian Bees.**—The *Ohio Cultivator* gives an account of some bees recently imported from Europe by Mr. Colvin, of Ohio. They are said to be superior, in many respects, to the common bee. They are more industrious and lay up a larger store of honey. The queen is more prolific; consequently, more swarms are raised each year.

Winter Treatment of Stock.

The *Am. Agriculturist* has the following seasonable "lesson," to which we invite the careful attention of every farmer and stock-owner who cares enough for his animals to exert himself to make them as comfortable as possible:

"A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast; but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel." Every farmer knows that the health of his cattle next Spring will depend much upon their management through the Winter. Their treatment for about six months to come, shut up, and fed on dried food, is an artificial one, and needs to be well conducted. It is said that more than \$600,000,000 are invested in live stock in this country; is not that investment worth looking after? *It is held too, that it costs about half the value of the stock to winter it;* hence, there are some three hundred millions of dollars to be fed out, between this month (December) and next May. Now, if that sum can be reduced by good economy, would it not be a great benefit to the farming community? We believe that some of that money can be saved. How saved?

1. By providing good shelter for stock. Every man knows that exposure to a cold wind in Winter (even though he does not exercise much) gives him an enormous appetite. The carbon in his system is expended in keeping up his vital heat, and he needs a new and large supply of food to restore the waste. So with animals.

If they are kept out of doors, exposed to severe winds and frosts, they will be compelled to eat much more to keep themselves warm, than they would if well housed in sheds and stables. If they have only fodder enough to keep up their animal heat, they will decline in flesh, and of course in value. Farmers not at all given to exaggeration, assure us that they find it a loss of one-third of their fodder to try to winter their stock without adequate shelter.

2. Consider, too, the waste of food by its being trampled in the wet ground, by irregular feeding as to quantity and time, also the effect of lying on cold, wet ground, with little or no bedding, and other wasteful practices which generally accompany the neglect of providing shelter. Do not cows give more and better milk; do not horses and oxen work better; do not sheep improve more in flesh and wool; and do not pigs fatten quicker, if kept in comfortable quarters and well fed, than if treated with neglect? We have seen horses and cattle that bore, for several years, the marks of bad treatment for a single Winter. They were stunted in their growth, or they contracted diseases from which they never fully recovered. "Penny wise and pound foolish," as Dr. Franklin would say.

Horses are not as apt to be neglected as other stock; but even they sometimes suffer from being kept in too close and foul stables, and in being irregularly blanketed and curried. Their stalls should be cleaned twice every day, and supplied with good dry litter at night. Provision should be made for letting in fresh air on the least windy side of the barn, and the opening not very near to the horse-stalls. The curry-comb should not be allowed to rust for want of use, and this should be followed by a good wisp of pea-straw and the brush. If the horse is blanketed at all, it should be done the Winter through, by no means neglecting the times when he is heated after working.

Cows should have special care. Those with calf should have no harsh treatment from men or dogs or other cattle. Their food should be plentiful and nutritious. Remember that their future condition and that of the coming calf depends on their management at this critical time. By no means, deny them the comfort of the stable by night. Milch cows should have an abundance of food and pure water—that from a running spring being better than that from a well. They should be milked and fed at regular hours. Roots should form a stated part of their fodder, and, if these give out, they should have messes of shorts, meal and flax-seed cake. If their hides get an occasional carding, it will do them no hurt.

Cattle and sheep should not be neglected, either as to shelter or food, if you would have them return a profit. And so endeth our first lesson.

The *American Agriculturist* and *Genesee Farmer* for December and the last Nov. number of the *Country Gentleman* were received per late Eastern mail. We learn that clubs for the *Agriculturist* are forming in most of the settlements throughout this Territory. This is as it should be. We would like to see a copy of this excellent journal in every house in the Territory, where there are inmates who seek for improvement, or children whose curiosity may be gratified and whose minds, by the simple illustration of facts, may be gently led into wisdom's pleasant paths.

**Charcoal for Hogs.**—It is not generally known that one of the best articles that can be given to swine while in preparation for the tub, is common charcoal. The nutritive properties are so great that they have subsisted on it, without other food, for weeks together.—Geese confined so as to deprive them of motion, and three grains of corn per day, and as much coal as they can devour, have become fattened in eight days. The hog eats voraciously, after a little time, and is never sick while he has a good supply.—[Ex.

Kerry Cattle.

The *Boston Cultivator* contains an interesting account by Sanford Howard of his late visit to Ireland, from which we extract the following description of a peculiar breed of cattle raised in that country:

"I found these cattle even smaller than I had supposed them to be, but evidently very useful in that locality—living where no other cattle that I have ever seen could live. In several instances I met with them at elevations of fifteen hundred to two thousand feet above the sea, sharing with the goat, the wild herbage of the mountain's side. The color varies from black to black and white, brindled, and red; but clear black is preferred as indicating the nearest affinity with the original type. I hardly know how to estimate the weight of these cattle, as they are so different from any others I have been acquainted with.

The two-year-old heifers which I bought for Mr. Austin—rather larger of their age than the average of their breed—girthed from four feet five inches to four feet six inches. They are large-bodied in proportion to their height, their legs being short and the shank bones very small. Their heads are generally handsome, and the countenance lively, but with a mild expression. The best of them are decidedly pretty. When taken to the low country and supplied with plenty of nutritious food, they become more bulky, but I had no opportunity to see what would be the effect of breeding them for several generations in a milder climate and on better soil.

As illustrating their hardness, I will mention an incident: A man led me up a mountain glen to see a lot of three-year-old heifers he had grazing there. It appeared a mystery to me how the cattle could get around and over the rough rocks and obtain a subsistence even in summer. Having noticed that the man had several stacks of hay down in the valley, where was the rude habitation which he called his home, I asked him if he was going to take Kerry cattle there for the winter. He replied—"No, the hay is for the low-land cattle and ponies; the Kerries will winter where they are." I asked him if deep snows did not fall in the mountains. He said they did, sometimes; "but the snow generally softened after a day or two, and the cattle could work through it."

I could not generally obtain any definite statements in regard to the yield of milk or butter of these cows, but a reliable man who kept several of this breed, near Killarney, told me he had often had them give ten imperial quarts of milk per day, each, and then had a four-year-old cow, which I saw, that had afforded six pounds of butter in a week.

I may here mention, that the butter I have eaten in this part of Ireland, both this season and the last, is actually the best I ever tasted. I know not whether the superior quality is attributable to the cows, the herbage, or the mode of manufacture, or all combined. The butter has a wide reputation, and commands in London an extra price."

We have urged our farmers to procure the best breeds of stock because they are in all respects the most profitable. A correspondent of the *Genesee Farmer* writes:

"In my father's yard during the winter are several head of cattle, young and old. Some are natives, but the greater portion are grades with from one-half to seven-eighths Short-horn blood in them. All the stock are treated alike, and receive the same food, and the same care and attention. The cows are warmly stabled, and the young stock have good warm sheds, and plenty of straw. The native cows eat their meals quickly, and then grab all they can from their neighbors. The native stock in the yard do the same. The grades eat quietly and contentedly, and submit to being plundered of their last morsels by the others. Yet the grades come out in the spring increased in size, in good condition, and with sleek coats, while the natives seem to stop growing and get so poor it requires a summer pasturage to get up their condition and start their growth again."

Keeping Sweet Potatoes.

We have frequently heard it inquired, "What is the best method to keep sweet potatoes?" Although the sweet potatoe has been grown in Utah, the seed was not saved, owing, probably, to the fact that but very few knew how to keep them sound through the winter. The sweet potatoe has been justly classed among the most delicious of vegetable roots and well deserves cultivation. We believe the chief obstacle in the way of growing it here is the difficulty of perpetuating it for seed.

We printed an article some time since in which was stated that a new method of propagating sweet potatoes had been discovered—namely, by planting its own seed, formed in the matured blossom, instead of using the eyes, the common practice.

Probably, when we shall have again been successful in growing sweet potatoes here, this new plan may be tried by some of our experienced horticulturists; but, as the old method of planting may be still preferred by many—and doubtless involves less labor for those but moderately experienced in agricultural operations—we copy the following from the *Am. Agriculturist*:

"From a plot of 24 hills, on rather heavy