



[From the Country Gentleman.]

Profitable Farming.

The New-England Farmer reports an interesting discussion by the Legislative Agricultural Society at Boston, on the subject of the most profitable kinds of farming in different parts of the State. White, of Petersham, said a farmer in Barre kept 16 cows, that produced each 440 pounds of new milk cheese, at 10 cts. per pound—which is over \$700 for the 16 cows. Proctor, of Danvers, said that in Essex county, men who cultivated from 5 to 30 acres, made as high as \$40 per acre by thorough plowing and manuring freely, mostly by raising vegetables. Onions were raised largely before the insect was known—many had cleared over \$100 per acre. Onions do not exhaust the land, and successive crops for 20 years had been raised, and at 500 bushels per acre. Hay had proved profitable, as well as beets and carrots; and within a year 30 bushels of wheat had been obtained from an acre. Bushnell, of Sheffield, was strongly in favor of sheep husbandry; but its profits had been greatly reduced by the ravages of dogs. Animals in which Spanish Merino blood prevailed, produced 3 1-2 to 6 lbs. of washed wool per head, usually selling at 50 cts. per lb. A cross of Merino and South Down, made fine lambs for market. He had been engaged in sheep raising for 30 years, and had increased the value of his land 50 per cent. by it. Land which cannot be plowed may be enriched on any desired spot, by placing there a moveable structure for shelter, running on wheels, under which salt is placed, and where the sheep will lie. P. Lathrop said that along the Connecticut valley, winter and spring wheat, broom-corn, and onions, were profitable. He preferred raising sheep to cattle; said that a pound of mutton could be raised as cheaply as a pound of beef, the cost of grinding grain being saved by the perfect digestion of the sheep. Sears, of Barnstable county, said their best paying crop was cranberries; and he mentioned as an exception, not as a rule, that \$1,750 had been realized in a single season from an acre of land; and a cranberry meadow sold in the spring for \$1,500, cleared the same year \$1,100. The average yield he thought about \$500 per acre. Josiah Quincy, Jr., said the best crop he had found was the manure crop. He raised 350 tons of hay, kept 80 cows, and mixing his manure with swamp muck, made 100 cords of compost per month, for his grass lands. C. G. Davis, of Plymouth, stated that 4 1-2 acres of grass, behind a livery stable, had received the manure of 15 horses, top dressed in November, and yielded 26 to 31 tons of hay per year, last year cutting 26 tons the first crop, and 7 to 10 the second—(over 7 1-2 tons per acre for two cuttings.) Simon Brown said that fruit, milk, and vegetables afforded large returns, near the cities. Cows had been so much improved as to be nearly doubled in value, within fifteen years. The cost of cutting and making hay was alluded to by G. M. Atwater of Springfield, as being \$3 per ton. Our own experience with mowing machines and horse rakes, is, that it need not generally exceed \$1 per ton, never over \$1.50.

Live Cattle Weighed by Measure.

The only instrument necessary is a measure with feet and inches marked upon it. The girth is the circumference of the animal just below the shoulder blades. The following table contains the rules to ascertain the weight of the animal:

If less than one foot in girth, multiply superficial feet by eight.

If less than three feet and more than one, multiply superficial feet by eleven.

If less than five and more than three, multiply superficial feet by sixteen.

If less than seven and more than five, multiply superficial feet by twenty-three.

If less than eleven and more than nine, multiply superficial feet by forty-two.

Example: Suppose the girth of a bullock to be six feet three inches; length five feet six inches, the superficial area will then be thirty-four; and in accordance with the preceding table, the weight will be seven hundred and eighty-two pounds.

Example: Suppose a pig to measure in girth two feet, and length one foot nine inches. There would be three and a half feet, which multiplied by eleven, gives thirty-eight and a half pounds as the weight of the animal when dressed. In this way the weight of the fore quarters can be substantially ascertained during life.

Why Carrots Should be Grown.

Mr. E. A. Roby, of Burlington, Wisconsin, in a communication to the *German Town Telegraph*, on the subject of raising carrots says:

I wish to say a word about carrots for all kinds of stock. I raised at the rate of 1,000 bushels per acre the last season. I have fed them regularly to my cows twice a day, and I never had them look as well as they do this winter. My horses have had them about twice a week, and they seem to do better than usual; my calves, colts and hogs eat them as readily as oats or corn. There are several reasons why we should grow them besides

their value as food. They can be raised for five cents per bushel. They leave the ground for the next year's crop in superior condition, and finally in localities where water is scarce the stock fed with carrots do not require as much water. If carrots freeze they are not injured like potatoes. I used a subsoil lifting plow, and my ground is a sandy loam, and never has been highly manured. I believe 1,500 bushels can be raised from an acre.

Let the Sunshine in.

Yes, open your hearts as well as your windows, and let the sunshine into your souls as well as your houses. Under its genial influence the grass and the flowers spring up and clothe the earth with verdure and beauty, and if you will let it into your heart it will melt its icy coldness, make summer there, and cause the buds of gratitude, love, and joy to blossom, where coldness, anxiety and sadness now exist—it will make you, if not "a thing of beauty," yet "a joy forever" to those whose sun is your face, and whose hopes and happiness are centered in, and dependent on, your own.

Don't go about so sad and melancholy, looking as if you had a friend in the world, and expected to meet the hangman at every corner. Look up; gaze into the clear blue vault of heaven; let the sunshine into your soul; think of the many blessings you have instead of those you have not. Look with compassion on those below you, instead of envying those above you. How much have you to be grateful for; especially if you have that choicest of earthly blessings, one loving faithful heart devoted to your happiness, to share in your pleasures and to sympathize in all the trials of life. If you have it, it's your own fault—you ought to have.

But some are always looking on the dark side—always repining because deprived of some imaginary blessing—which when gained, often proves a curse—always destroying present enjoyment by dark forebodings and distressing fears for the future. Such are ever looking away from home and self for happiness. They think their lot harder than that of any one else. If they see a neighbor with any good which themselves do not possess, they grumble and struggle till, perhaps, they gain it, and then cannot enjoy, for fear of losing it. If they read of faithful and affectionate wives, of dutiful children, of devoted friends—they inwardly sigh at their own unhappy condition; when their friends and relations would, if permitted, be just as affectionate, dutiful and devoted.

Of this class, and we need not look far to find them, are those sensitive gentlemen who will read with thrilling sensations and the profoundest admiration, of the unwearied, unchangeable and faithful devotion of some youthful maiden to an absent lover, clinging to him through years of separation, through disappointment and trial, "in secret, in silence, in tears"—and they will sigh, "oh that I had found such a heart to appreciate me, how could I have loved and cherished it." And yet you forget the faithful, devoted, self-sacrificing, heroic wife at home, who has clung to you year after year, through evil as well as through good report; who waits patiently for your return during an absence, not to say a neglect, of years, without thought of change; who rejoices in your welfare; who labors and prays for your happiness; who is wearing her life away for you and your children. Do you appreciate her and her self-sacrificing love? Is not this devotion and constancy as noble and precious after marriage as before—nay, more so? And yet is this an overdrawn picture? You for whom it is meant know it is not.

You may well look ashamed—go home and cherish and well cultivate that heart you have already won, and it will repay you by bearing more fruit to your happiness than though you reached but the surface of a hundred others.

Lo! at home—above, around you. Gaze on the thousand beautiful fulgents which nature has surrounded you with. Listen to her sweet melodies—take from her hand the cup of happiness she is holding to your lips. Look upwards, and teach others as well as yourself, to let the sunshine in.

SIRIUS.

BRITISH REASONS FOR WEARING THE MUSTACHE.—A curious inquirer has been able to draw up a table of the different reasons for wearing a mustache. Having questioned not fewer than one thousand persons so adorned, their answers have helped him to the following result: To avoid shaving, 69; to avoid catching cold, 32; to hide their teeth, 5; to take away from a prominent nose, 5; to avoid being taken as an Englishman abroad, 7; because they are in the army, 6; because they are rifle volunteers, 221; because Prince Albert does it, 2; because it is artistic, 29; because they were singers, 3; because they travel, 17; because they have lived on the continent, 1; because the wife likes it, 8; because they have weak lungs, 5; because it acts as a respirator, 29; because it is healthy, 77; because the young ladies admire it, 471; because it is considered "the thing," 10; because his uncle did not, 1.—[English paper.]

TESTS.—An infallible evidence of a low nature is ingratitude and the forgetfulness of friendship. Some men are warm friends while they are helpless and living on the bounty of better natures; but once positions are changed and momentary success makes seeming equality, the low nature exhibits its grossness by ostentation. Poverty or trials never destroys manliness; riches and success never make a gentleman.

Diamonds.

The most profound diamond amateur in the world, is the Duke of Brunswick; he owns \$3,000,000 worth, and has just published a catalogue, of 268 quarto pages, containing a list of them, in great detail. It relates how this once adorned a Turkish sabre, that a royal diadem, another an imperial collar, a third a Grand Electoral hat; this black diamond was an idol's eye; that brilliant rosy diamond was taken from the Emperor Baber, at Agra, in 1836, (it weighs 41 carats, and is worth \$69,000), those were the waist buttons of the Emperor Don Pedro; this diamond ring, with the Stuart coat of arms and the cypher "M. S." belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots; that pair of ear rings hung once on Marie Antoinette. He is in treaty now for two diamonds, one of which is worth \$249,000 and the other \$650,000. In an appendix, there is a notice of the most celebrated diamonds in the world, he places in the front rank a brilliant white diamond, weighing 250 carats, and belonging to some East India prince, and worth \$2,500,000; next comes the Koh-i-noor, which weighs 136 carats, worth \$1,383,849; next the Rajah of Matara's (Borneo) diamond, for which the Governor of Batavia offered the Rajah \$150,000, two brigs of war armed, equipped and provisioned for six months, and a large quantity of cannon balls, powder and congrue rockets; the Rajah refused them all, and preferred keeping his diamond, which passes for a talisman; it is worth \$1,339,455. Next comes the Great Mogol, which is of a beautiful rose color, and of the shape and size of half a hen's egg; it is worth \$784,000; the Regent's diamond of France (which belonged to Lord Chatham's grandfather, who brought it from India, concealed in the heel of his shoe), comes only in the fifth rank; it weighs 136 1-4 carats—it is worth \$739,840; it is the purest diamond known; it required two years to cut it; before it was cut it weighed 410 carats; the chippings of it were sold for \$40,000. After, we have the Orloff diamond of Russia worth \$341,360, and the Nancy diamond, which Prince Paul Demidoff purchased at the price of \$400,000. It once adorned the sword of Charles the Bold found after his death on the battle field of Nancy.

The Duke of Brunswick dares not leave Paris at any period of the year; his diamonds keep him chained there. He dares not sleep from home a single night. He lives in a house constructed not so much for comfort as for security. It is burglar-proof, surrounded on every side by a high wall; the wall itself is surmounted by a lofty iron railing, defended by innumerable sharp spear heads, which are so contrived that if any person touches any one of them, a chime of bells instantly to ring an alarm; this iron railing cost him \$14,127. He keeps his diamonds in a safe, built in a thick wall; his bed is placed against it, that no burglar may break into it without killing, or at least waking him, and that he may amuse himself with them without leaving his bed. This safe is lined with granite and with iron; the locks a secret which must be known before they can be opened; if they are opened by violence, a discharge of firearms takes place, which will inevitably kill the burglar, and at the same time a chime of bells in every room in his house are set ringing. He has but one window in his bed-room; the sash is of the stoutest iron; the shutters are of thick sheet iron. The ceiling of his room is plated with iron several inches thick, and so is the floor. The door opening into it is of solid sheet iron, and cannot be entered unless one be master of the secret combinations of the lock. A case of dozen six-barrelled revolvers, loaded and capped, lies open upon the table, within reach of his bed.

The Theory of the Earth.

The Hon. H. W. Taylor, of Canandaigua, New York, in a recent lecture delivered in Patterson, New Jersey, as reported in the *Patterson Guardian*, controverted the commonly received opinion that the earth is an oblate spheroid, and holds that instead of being flat near the poles, there is a hollow depression; quoting in support of this opinion, recent geographical discoveries. Extending 2,000 miles across the poles is a warm sea whose existence would be incompatible with the received theory. The rays of the sun, in summer, striking inside the cavity which has the icy circle for a rim, generates a vast amount of heat, which in connection with the increased warmth resulting from a nearer approach to the earth's centre becomes adequate to the production of the tropical phenomena, which, found on the edges of the Polar sea, have hitherto proved enigmatical. The northern regions abound with remains of tropical plants and animals, and in the most northern parts of Siberia; around the Polar sea, embedded in the soil that is washed by this unknown tropical ocean, are remains of rhinoceros, hippopotamus and elephants, the latter, it is said, exceeding in number all the animals now living in the world. Mr. Taylor cited the opinion of Sir John Herschel, showing that such a depression at the poles would be the necessary result of a globe of liquid set in motion with the velocity of the earth around its own axis.

—A "mighty hunter" in Crittenden Co., Arkansas, known as the Deer Slayer, returning home with an uncharged gun, one night last winter, encountered a huge she-bear in his path; he promptly loaded and fired, the ball only grazing her back, a hand to hand fight for life ensued, and the bear was only killed after she had terribly lacerated the Bear Slayer, as he is now called.

Piercing the Alps.

PROGRESS OF THE TUNNEL THROUGH MONT CENIS.

A correspondent of the *London Times* gives the following account of the progress of the great railway tunnel through Mont Cenis:

The tunnel to be opened through Mont Cenis from Bardonneche, in the Upper Val Sasa, or Val di Dora, above Oulx and Modane, on the Ave, in Savoy, on the old carriage road, is to be 12,000 metres (about 7 1-2 English miles) in length. The Sardinian Parliament voted a yearly outlay of 8,000,000*fr.* out of the budgets of 1857-8-9; the actual expenditure, however, does not exceed one-half of the money assigned for the purpose.

The fears entertained by those who showed disinclination to favor the enterprise were grounded on the fact that a hole dug in the earth beyond a depth of two thousand metres becomes impracticable on account of the foul air and high temperature. The laborers engaged in this present tunnel would, if only ordinary means were employed, be suffocated before they had achieved one-third of their labors, as it was impossible to supply fresh air from vertical shafts or windows, as is done in other tunnels, as the shafts would have to be made several thousand metres deep and the same difficulty of the mephitic air would have to be encountered. There are people who still think that the phenomenon observed in vertical holes would not reproduce itself in an horizontal tunnel, as the whole work would in the present instance be accomplished on a level with the earth's surface, but the engineers at the head of this achievement flatter themselves they have found the means of doing away with the obstacle of the mephitic air altogether.

These gentlemen have invented boring machines which are set to work by air compressed by hydraulic power, whereby they not only have found the means of hastening the process of excavation, but also of supplying the laborers with an inexhaustible current of fresh wholesome air.

The experiment with these machines only began at Bardonneche, on the eastern side of the tunnel, on the 14th of January. One of the boring machines, worked by compressed air supplied by five hydraulic compressors, established outside the tunnel, has shown the result of forty centimetres (about one foot and a third English,) limited to the boring of the holes for the mines. From that time to the present day the excavation upon this new plan has been proceeding favorably, both as to the effect of the hydraulic compressors and of the boring machines.

There has been a delay in the commencement of the work, for the engineers had intended to begin their operations towards the end of October last, and a day had even been appointed for Count Cavour and the Minister for Public Works to view the novel experiment at the outset. The delay was occasioned by the giving way of two of the compressed air-pipes during a preliminary trial, and the breaking of a piece connected with one of the water-pipes and the valve of one of the air-compressors.

The mishap of the air-pipes arose from some flaw in the casting, and, as yet, only a four atmosphere pressure had been applied, it was instantly remedied; but the accident resulting from the breaking of the valve of the compressor was of a more serious nature, and depended on some defect in the system of the valves. The whole of the months of November and December was spent in providing a remedy for this defect.

Up to the 14th of January, as I said, the work was carried on with the usual means of excavation. At the above period the tunnel on this side by these means had been opened to the length of seven hundred and twenty-one metres; of these five hundred and twenty-eight metres were completely finished, the remaining one hundred and ninety-three metres were only partially bored through.

You are aware that, besides the difficulty of the mephitic air; which the engineers trust they have successfully obviated, fears are entertained that works of excavation may be interfered with and even utterly prostrated by the breaking in of the water from the almost unfathomable little lakes which are to be met with on the summit of this mountain, as on almost all the other Alpine passes and summits. But the engineers work on with good strong faith, prepared to meet evil whenever and from wheresoever it may arise.

SPURGEON TO THE ROGUES.—Once when the celebrated preacher Spurgeon ascended the pulpit, the first sentence he uttered was:

I hear that some one here has lost a watch and another a pocket-book. All I can say in the matter is—I think it serves them right; why did they not leave them at home? But I have a word or two more to say on the subject, which is this—that if my friends the pickpockets are still in the chapel, I have to request that they will not attempt to pick any more pockets till I have made my collection, as I want all the money I can get.

—The *London Examiner* says: England has already spent £2,000,000 in experimenting upon oceanic cables; and we are decidedly of opinion that a North Atlantic cable to bring the Old and New Worlds together by the route of Scotland, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Labrador, over seas infested by icebergs and along ice-bound coasts, is a hopeless project, that will not be and ought not to be attempted.