



[From the Home Journal.] SUMMER DYING.

BY W. H. C. HOSMER.

Beauty is waning, a voice of complaining
Comes from the hillside and dell;
Dirge notes are ringing, and crickets are singing
To summer a song of farewell!
Day brightly closes, but where are the roses
June wreathed with her tresses of gold?
Soft winds are sighing, where darkly are lying
Their rain-beaten leaves on the mould.
Sadness comes o'er me, for barren before me
Lie fields that I loved when a boy;
No more in the shadows of oaks on the meadows
Stout mourners their nooning enjoy.
The stubble how lonely! weeds shooting up only
Where grain clothed the generous soil,
And reapers were swinging their cradles, and singing
Mithra strains to enliven the toil.
Cattle are wading where willows are shading
The low, shallow bed of the stream;
Thistle-down floating, is sadly denoting
That summer will pass like a dream.
The harvest moon, sailing through mist, is unvelving
Her disk like a blood-painted shield,
While schoolboy and mail'en, their baskets fruit-laden,
Hie home from the blackberry field.
Dark swells of ocean, with long measured motion,
Moan as they break on the shore;
Ary tongues wailing for beauty's cheek palling
Clime in with the desolate war.
Stars have grown dimmer, less dazzling the glimmer
Of fire-fly lamps on the lawn;
Flower cups unfolding, are honey-drops holding,
But light from the landscape is gone.
Throned on the thistle, the bobolink's whistle
Made cheerful the meadows of June;
Mead larks saluting the morn with their fluting,
Replied to his rapturous tune.
Hoarse crows are calling, and first leaves are falling,
But still a mild loveliness reigns;
A sweet haunting sadness, though vanished a gladness
And glory from nature, remains.

Stocking a Farm.

The following, from a correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, will be found to contain facts worthy the consideration of all of our farmers, who are desirous of learning and adopting the most approved methods of facilitating the accomplishment of the varied and interesting duties devolving upon them and thus enhance their own prosperity:

Various circumstances connected with farming conspire to influence the farmer in choosing the kind of stock to be kept, best adapted to his location, or best calculated to prove remunerative to him, either as a stock raiser or mixed farmer. If these have induced him to pursue dairying as a special branch of farming, he would unquestionably find it to his advantage and profit to keep hogs also, otherwise a great waste will occur in the manufacture of butter and cheese.

If he possesses a large orchard, sheep may be kept on a portion of it, or if he occupies a rocky or mountainous farm, and especially (inquiries having recently appeared in various papers in regard to this question) if portions of his farm lying in pasture, in an elevated position, have "become mossy and unproductive," when no stock is so well adapted to the improvement and profit of such farms as sheep; always profitable animals, but especially here.

In the present state of the markets, the production of butter and cheese, and in connection with these—not otherwise—the raising of pork and young pigs, for distribution among cottagers and small families, who find it economical to keep such animals on a small scale, is found to be very profitable to a certain extent. We would like, however, to see mutton take the place of pork in a great measure; it can be raised, except where dairying and pork raising are combined, at a smaller cost than pork; the meat is also more wholesome and nutritious.

Dogs are very troublesome wherever they are numerous, as in Massachusetts before the adoption of the law of the last legislature, where there were two dogs to every sheep. But measures must be promptly adopted to rid us of their depredations.

It becomes us not to suffer so slight an obstruction to stand in the way of our interests. Of course, stock farming of any kind is not the most appropriate to the immediate vicinity of cities and towns; a much nearer proximity is allowable, however, in the case of horses than of other animals, they being well suited to almost any locality, as a branch of stock raising. Horses suitable for driving in light carriages, such as are denominated roadsters at our agricultural fairs, and those adapted to the wants of the butcher, milkman, expressman, farmer and mechanic, are in great and constant demand, and are easily raised, if desired, to maturity; though, in general, for ordinary animals, the age of six months is conceded to be the period when the farmer may dispose of them with most profit. This, of course, would not be the most profitable age for sale everywhere, but perhaps the rule will hold good in the northern States, where I have heard the subject frequently discussed at farmers' clubs. Horses and sheep may also be raised upon the same farm with great advantage.

The only animals at present rivalling the horse in value are those of the bovine race; and we are inclined to think he even out-numbers these, beside being of greater aggregate value, since it does not appear in the numerical estimate of the seventh census, that the horses of our cities and towns were taken into account, where it is shown that the number of cattle, sheep and swine, respectively, exceeds that of horses.

One would suppose that the laws of supply and demand would cause to be regulated in a great measure, the profits derivable from the various branches of stock farming, and make them uniform or nearly so, and this is without doubt the fact, under the ordinary modes of shiftless management, and would be so in any case where the method of raising and general treatment was uniform. But these are not uniform, either good or bad. Were the case different, and there existed great perfection in the raising of farm stock throughout the country, or, on the contrary, if it were impossible to improve our animals from their present character, their comparative value would be more uniform, and we could find as much profit in one kind as in another; there would exist no choice between horses, cattle, sheep and swine. This is not now the case; and judicious breeding, and skillful management, and proper treatment have given such advantage to the person who practices them, and placed so far in the back ground the shiftless farmer, that the comparative value of different kinds of animals in stocking a farm, is not much influenced by these laws and his choice may be governed by various considerations, there being a great difference in the returns of stock farming. It should be our aim to have no animals in our possession but those of the best quality, which is a matter of the greatest importance in farming.

Contraction of Horses' Feet.

This is not so great a misfortune, says the *American Agriculturist*, as some suppose. It is an unnatural condition of the hoof, but it does not necessarily produce unsoundness. If a horse has good action, and is otherwise unexceptionable, he is hardly less valuable for a slight contraction of the foot. Still, we should try to prevent it.

Bad shoeing is one cause of contraction. The blacksmith sometimes cuts away a part of the frog, which causes it to lose some of its moisture and elasticity. Then, again, he makes the shoe too much inclined inward from the outside, which prevents the natural expansion of the hoof. A pressure is thereby made upon the tender parts of the foot, and hence come fever and lameness, corns and unnatural deposits of hoof. The shoe should be made perfectly level "on the quarters," so as to allow the natural expansion of the foot. The shoes, moreover, should be forged, not twisted into shape, as is sometimes done by bungling workmen. As a general rule, shoes are worn too long without resetting. Every three or four weeks, they should be taken off, the toe shortened in, the sole thinned, and the heels lowered.

Contraction is often caused in stable-horses, by want of natural moisture. Where there is a strong tendency to contraction, the hoof should be "stopped" or plugged with a mixture of cow-dung and clay. Or, better still, a piece of thick felt, cut to the shape of the sole, and soaked in water, should be applied daily.

The broad, flat foot of the cart-horse, is seldom troubled with contraction. Blood horses are quite liable to it.

Ordinary cases of contraction will be cured by the treatment above suggested; but where it becomes excessive, and is combined with any other disease, the animal should be put under the care of a skillful veterinary surgeon. We will only add that horses of our own have been cured by turning them out to pasture for several months, wearing, meanwhile, very light shoes, and these frequently changed.

A Word for Weeds.

A neighbor of the editor of the *American Agriculturist* has invented an argument for weeds, which, thinking it should not go unpublished, the editor publishes with his comments:

"I let them grow," says his neighbor, "to keep off the hot sun and the bugs from my cucumbers. I would not, indeed, let enough grow to exactly smother the vines, but enough to keep off the insects, and to shade the ground and keep it cool." As he said this, the muscles of his face seemed a little disturbed, as though he half distrusted his own theory, but he kept his countenance quite well.

What a dunce! Even if the leaves shade the ground, what do the roots do meanwhile? Pump it of its moisture and send the vapor off into mid-air, rendering the soil dryer than it would have been if exposed to the full rays of the sun. Let any one try the experiment, and he will be satisfied. And then, as to protecting the vines from bugs, we very much question it. No, no. The only rational way to garden successfully, is to keep down the weeds. If the ground is suffering from drouth, run the cultivator through it, keep the hoes bright, and this will keep the soil in the best possible condition for absorbing the nightly dews. Cultivate the cucumbers well, surround them with boxes, and they will soon run away from the insects.

Utah County Agricultural Society.

We have been shown, by Mr. Daniel Graves, secretary of the above named society, the list of premiums to be awarded at the next annual county exhibition, to be held on the Tithing grounds in the city of Provo, on Friday and Saturday, September 28 and 29, 1860.

THE CONDITIONS

For the entry of all articles, as stated at the head of the list, are as follows:

1. A statement must be given with each animal, stating the age, breed and, of cows, the time of calving, the quantity of milk given and butter made and how fed, &c.
2. The judges are to report, not only the animals and articles entitled to premiums, but also those next in merit, and anything not mentioned in the list deserving of a premium to be reported to the board, who shall have the power to give a premium according to their judgment.
3. Certified evidence must be filed with the secretary at the time of entry of each variety of produce, given time of planting or sowing and the manner of culture, whether grown on bench or bottom land, and with a description of soil. All fruits, flowers, plants, produce, and manufactured articles offered in competition must have been grown or made by the competitors.
4. No article will be entitled to compete for a premium on which one has previously been awarded.
5. All manufactured articles to be the same as kept for sale, and if extra work be put thereon, to be specified, and to what amount, and to be made within the district of this branch.
6. Non-members can exhibit articles of manufacture or produce, but cannot draw premiums.
7. Individuals sending in wine, preserves and pickles are requested to state what they are made from and how made.

THE PREMIUMS.

Among them we noticed a large number of valuable works on agriculture, horticulture, stock-raising, agricultural chemistry, treatises on the dairy, on fruit, the vine, manures, &c., &c., each one of which, we predict, will be estimated as infinitely more valuable by the progressive farmer and gardener than a nominal premium in cash or its equivalent, even of much more than the cost of the book.

It was also designed, we understand, to have issued a large number of volumes of the *American Agriculturist* as premiums. The subscription money was forwarded; but, as Mr. Graves informed us, not a single copy was ever received. We will venture the assertion here, that the money never reached its destination. This failure was truly unfortunate, as a large number of our citizens have thereby been deprived of the perusal of that invaluable publication. However, let us not despair. We trust that the time will ere long arrive when more safe and speedy means of transmission will be afforded us.

The classified manner in which these premiums are to be awarded particularly attracted our attention, as being altogether becoming. For example: the premium on the "best improved stallion over two years," is "Richardson on the Horse;" for the "best fenced and cultivated garden," "Thairs' Principles of Agriculture;" for the "best peck of Mercer potatoes," "Fessenden's American Kitchen Garden;" for the "best six pears," "Coles' American Fruit Book;" for the "best three bunches of grapes," "Spooner on the Grape;" for the "best collection of roses," the "American Rose Culturist;" for the "best plow," "Allen's American Farm Book;" for the "best corn cultivator," "Bridgeman's Young Gardener's Assistant;" for the "best specimen of muriatic acid," "Chemistry Made Easy;" for the "best cheese," "Melburn on the Cow and Dairy," etc., etc.

Among the premiums offered under the sub-heading of "Women's Work" we observed one for the "best variety of crochet work," "Every Lady her own Gardener," which we wish could be placed in the hands of every intelligent young woman throughout the valleys of the mountains, and that its title might truly illustrate their exemplary practice.

There are prizes offered for almost every article that can be manufactured at home and for some that, at least as yet, have not been manufactured here; but that they can be, when the required energy and the native ingenuity of our artisans and mechanics is directed thereto, is with us a question of no dubiety.

DAY AFTER THE "FAIR."

On the second day of the exhibition there are to be racing, trotting, shooting and plowing matches.

The first race is to be one mile and repeat; second, single dash, 1000 yards; third, single

dash, 400 yards. Entrance fee, ten dollars on each horse—the amount to be put in a purse and awarded—two-thirds to the first and one-third to the second, with a diploma to the third.

The shooting is to be the best in three shots, 40 yards off hand or 60 at a rest. Entrance one dollar each—two-thirds of the whole amount deposited to be awarded to the best shot, one-third to the second best and diploma to the third.

The plowing match is to be with horses, mules or oxen—land, one quarter acre. Each person competing in the plowing match is to put three dollars in a purse, and two-thirds of the amount is to be awarded the best, one-third the second, and diploma to the third.

"What is a 'Fair'?"

The term "fair," as sometimes used among us conveys an erroneous impression. A fair, in the common acceptance of the word, is a general holiday set apart for speculative exhibitions and the selling and buying of all kinds of commodities. Such fairs are chiefly confined to England, where they are celebrated with general festivity and conviviality.

In the United States, "fancy fairs" are held by the ladies for the sale of every species of ladies' work, usually for charitable purposes.

It is quite obvious that, with the above renderings of the word "fair," when applied to an agricultural exhibition or show, where no speculative objects are presumed to obtain, it is altogether inapplicable and is a gross misnomer.

How They Make Port Wine.

A correspondent of All the Year Round who "happened to be in Oporto during the last vintage season," thus describes the process:

The first care of the wine farmer, when his harvest-time approaches, is to engage men and women enough for the vintage work. The laborers engaged are almost savages, wild in their tempers, dirty in their persons, and each male of them, man or boy, goes armed, after the custom of the province, with an ugly gun slung to his back. The day's food of these poor people is a little matter. They will think themselves very well off if they can get a couple of dried sardines for dinner, as a relish to their bit of Indian corn bread. The duty of the women in the vineyard is to cut the bunches into large baskets, which the men carry upon their shoulders to the press. There is a great deal of singing on the ground, and all seem to work very contentedly, in spite of the great heat. When darkness ends the labor of the day, the laborers all meet outside the farm-house, a guitar is produced, and dancing is kept up for some hours.

When all the grapes are in the wine press, the first thing to be done is to drag them well over with wooden rakes, to separate some of the stalks. Then all the men tuck up their trousers and jump in. At my friend's farm, a tub of water was ostentatiously set by the side of the press. I suspect, however, that this was a concession to the prejudice of visitors, for it did not go to the extent of actual ablution. Nobody used the tub of water, all seeming to have a supreme contempt for cleanliness.

The scene inside the press is very animated. Twenty or thirty brown-faced and black-bearded tatterdemalions, up to their knees in the purple juice, smoke, sing, quarrel, dance, and scream, half mad with excitement, for to them this is the crowning event of the year. Every now and then a cry is raised for brandy, which the farmer furnishes. It is the pure white spirit as it has run from the still, and very strong. As it begins to take effect, the singing becomes louder, and the dancing, which within the press is the desired work, fast and furious. A general fight often ensues, in which the long guns sometimes play their part. When all the juice is trodden from the grapes, a plug is drawn. The must runs through into a smaller tank, whence it is carried in buckets to the tuns, containing four to five pipes each, there to ferment.

The wine press is then half filled with water, the husks are again trodden, and finally squeezed under a press of wood. The liquor thus obtained ferments into what is termed *agua pe*, a liquor that will be drunk by the laborers when they come, a month later, to prune the vines.

When the fermentation of the wine in the tuns is complete, the result would not suit English palates; being thin, and tart, and rough. It has, therefore, to be sweetened and fortified. For sweetening, *geropiga* is used. This is made by adding brandy to a part of the fresh must, which is thus prevented from fermenting, and retains, therefore, the sugar of the grape. Brandy is used to strengthen the wine. Often there is deficiency of color, and this defect is cured with dried elderberries, tied in a sack, put into a tub about half full of wine. Into the tub a man gets, and, by treading on the sack, soon draws the color from the berries, and the darkened liquor is added to the wine. This practice is common all over the wine country, and favorable spots are chosen for plantations of elder bushes, solely to supply the demand for berries.