



HYMN OF THE HARVESTERS.

We gather them in, the bright green leaves—
With our scythes and rakes to-day,
And the mow grows big, as the pitcher heaves
His lift in the sweltering hay.
O ho! a field! for the mower's scythe,
Hath a ring as of destiny,
Sweeping the earth of its burden lithe,
As it's swung in wrathful glee.

We gather them in—the nodding plumes
Of the yellow and bearded grain,
And the flash of our sickles' light illumines
Our march o'er the vanquished plain.
Anon, we come with the steed-drawn car,—
The cunning of modern laws;
And acres stoop to its clanking jar,
As it rocks its hungry jaws.

We gather them in—the mellow fruits
From the shrub, the vine and tree,
With their russet, and golden, and purple suits,
To garnish our treasury.
And each has a treasure stored,
All aneath its tinted rind,
To cheer our guests at the social board
When we leave our cares behind.

We gather them in—this goodly store—
But not with the miser's gush,
For the great All Father we adore,
Hath given it but in trust;
And our work of death is but for life,
In the wintry days to come—
Then a blessing upon the reaper's strife,
And a shout at his Harvest Home.

A Hurrying Time with Farmers.

It is now a very busy time with farmers who are generally behindhand with their work, notwithstanding the very favorable weather that has been experienced during the fall till recently, and but few, if any, have all things prepared and in readiness for winter. The spring was late, consequently most of the seed sown or planted, of all kinds, both of grain and vegetables, was put in late, and all farming and out-door operations, have been, and yet are about one month later than usual in this part of the Territory.

Since the snow storm on the 29th ult., we have seen and conversed with several gentlemen from the country, none of whom have their work done—some of their corn is not harvested; their potatoes have not all been dug; their garden vegetables have not been properly secured, and there are some who have large quantities of sugar cane, that has not been worked up and which will soon be spoiled if not manufactured into molasses. Not only are the farmers behindhand in securing their crops, but, in common with other classes of community, the majority of them have not hauled much of their fuel from the mountains, not enough by one half to last them till Spring, and in this city there has not as yet, been more than one fourth as much wood hauled as will be needed during the continuance of cold weather, by the citizens collectively, if the coming winter should be as cold as was the last.

This state of things, however, is not in consequence of inactivity, or slothfulness, on the part of the people, for there could not be found a more industrious and stirring community than there is in this part of Utah, and there has been less idleness, especially among farmers, this season than in former years; but with all their diligence and exertions in securing their crops as fast as they came to maturity, winter has come before they were prepared for it. To make the best of it possible, all are seemingly exerting themselves to the utmost to gather up and secure whatever portion of their crops may be yet standing in the fields, and to arrange things for cold weather as fast as possible and, to urge a farmer or mechanic to be more energetic in his labors at this particular time, would be intirely useless. All are doing the best they can with very few exceptions, and there are not many idlers to be found, either in city or country at the present time, neither have many of that class been seen lounging about for several months past. Common laborers have been scarce through the season, and farmers and others have had much difficulty in hiring hands, when wanted, either to work at farming or any other business, which is one reason why they are not farther advanced with their work and better prepared for winter than they are, at this advanced season of the year.

It is to be hoped that the present winter will

not be as severe as the last, for if the weather shall be cold and stormy with early deep snows in the mountains, there will be unavoidably much suffering, for want of fuel, but if the weather shall continue to be pleasant as it has been since the storm, tho' cold, and snow does not accumulate in the mountains to an extent necessary for the successful cultivation of the earth the ensuing year, till late in the winter, wood may yet be obtained in sufficient quantities to keep a majority of the people from freezing till spring.

The most learned and observing of the weather prophets in this country have never been enabled to foretell with much certainty what a winter would bring forth in this mountainous region; but whether the winter now transpiring shall be rigid or mild, and whether there be much loss sustained or not by the farming community in consequence of its appearing before they were fully prepared for cold weather, one thing is apparent to all who have been carefully watching the progress of events and the movements of the people, the farmers particularly, and that is, the present state of affairs, so far as the exertions of the majority of the people are concerned, has been unavoidable, and not, as is often the case, attributable to slothfulness and inactivity.

That there are some who have trusted to providence more than to their own exertions for the accomplishment of what was, and is necessary to be done for their subsistence and comfort during the next six months, cannot be doubted; and some unquestionably for the want of knowledge, and lack of skill in their several pursuits, have not been as expert nor accomplished as much as they would have done if their intuitive and inventive faculties had been of a different order. Such persons are to be met with in all communities, and if they had every facility the country could afford for making themselves comfortable they would always be more or less in want and behindhand with whatever they were engaged in or undertook to perform.

Farming operations cannot be carried on in this Territory as systematically (owing to the many obstacles that have to be overcome, and the many difficulties that have to be surmounted,) as in countries where the seasons are more regular, and the summers longer than they are in this and adjoining valleys; but when those engaged in agricultural pursuits, have, by observation and practice, become better acquainted with the business than the most scientific among them now are, the less difficulty there will be in having every thing done in the season thereof, by those having that desire.

Setting Fence Posts.

Mr. G. E. Brackett of Belfast, Maine, in a communication to the *Genesee Farmer* says: It has been asserted by correspondents of the *Farmer*, and others, that wooden posts will last longer with the top, than the butt, end in the ground. I have often heard a similar opinion expressed in regard to fencing stakes. Now if this is so, there is undoubtedly a cause for it. What is that cause?

In connection with this subject, the following ideas have been suggested, which if erroneous, can be refuted; if correct, can do no harm.

Premised—that moisture continues to follow, in a certain degree, the same course through the pores of wood after death as when alive.

Those who assume to know, inform us the sap of a living tree passes from the roots upward through the wood of the trunk to the leaves, there to undergo certain chemical changes, and then flows downward principally between the bark and wood to the roots again—thus forming a current of sap or moisture, whose course is always upward through the pores of the wood and downward between the bark and wood.

Therefore, if wood after death be placed in its original position—the butt end in the ground—this upward motion of moisture thro' the pores of the wood may still continue, although to a small extent, yet still enough to keep the lower end of the wood partly saturated with water—thus facilitating its decay.

Again; if the wood be inverted, whatever influence is exerted in the former case to cause the moisture to rise or flow upward, the same influence will be exerted in the same degree to oppose its entrance into the pores of the wood.

If, as has been asserted, the decay of wood is prevented to a certain extent by placing in an opposite position from that while alive, it deserves to be generally known.

It is a subject of much importance, and all facts tending to prove, or disprove, should be elicited.

Sorghum Sugar.—A correspondent of the *Ohio Cultivator* has had the best success in making sugar from the sorghum by dividing the cane—taking the lower joints for sugar and the balance for molasses.

How a Mechanic Became A Farmer.

In the *American Agriculturist*, for October, Mr. George Ferret, of Putnam county, N. Y., gives the following interesting account of his experience in agriculture, and how he turned farmer, after having learned the cabinet maker's trade, and worked at that business several years.

I was born and reared in New York city, and save an occasional visit to friends living in the country, I knew nothing of farm life, until within the past few years. I learned the cabinet maker's trade, and worked at it steadily for twelve years. During that time, I found a use for articles of my own make, to the extent of six chairs, with other things in proportion—four children having fallen to our lot.

Having no capital, I was obliged to remain a journeyman, or do piece-work, and any one knowing the active competition that has prevailed in this business, can readily believe that, after making both ends meet, at the year's end there was but little left to lap over with. As my little ones grew up around me, regard for their health and morals, and anxiety to meet increasing expenses, incited me to try and secure a home in the country.

In the Spring of 1854 I received an offer to work in a village in this county, which I gladly accepted, as it brought me one step nearer what I desired. I looked about for a place a little out of the village, where I could have a piece of land to cultivate, believing that if I could but make a beginning, I could work out to the end. I found a comfortable house with two acres of ground attached, at a moderate rent, and it would have done you good to see the delight of the little ones when we took possession. They had never conceived of such extensive playgrounds, having always been confined to a narrow back yard, and an occasional walk into the crowded city street.

I stipulated with my employer for time enough to work my garden, and made a commencement. It was awkward business I assure you. My neighbors must have laughed at my simple questions; but they were very kind in advising and aiding me; and moreover, having seen a copy of the *Agriculturist* and at once subscribed for it, I soon had the satisfaction of seeing my own vines and eating their fruit, and the probability of some day sitting under my own fig tree became quite inspiring. Being entirely ignorant, I was not afraid to try what I saw recommended, and though I was sometimes laughed at for following the book, as they called it, I learned, in time, that *printed experience* was often as valuable as that learned by word of mouth—in fact, some of my vegetables, raised in what they called "new fashioned ways," were far superior to any that my neighbors could show.

To be sure, I had many failures at first. The bugs would destroy the vines, the hens scratched out some of my finest seeds, and some of my plantings turned out nothing, because of my ignorance, but at the end of the first Summer, I found that by working morning and evening, with an occasional day when the weeds threatened to get the start of me, and with only a little paid out for manuring, plowing, and preparing the ground, I had a full supply of choice vegetables for the family, had sold enough to help pay the store bills, and had learned sufficient to try gardening on a larger scale the next season.

I then ventured to hire two acres additional, in which, besides giving better pasture for my cow, I could plant a patch of potatoes and another of corn. It was a good year with me.

A large strawberry plot which I had set out the previous Spring, according to directions in the *Agriculturist*, yielded finely. The fruit sold at good prices, and brought me nearly \$40. Other products of my garden were even beyond my expectations, and the corn and potatoes would have done honor to any farmer. This was not all. The family were never so healthy, and my two boys were becoming quite expert in the garden, to their advantage and mine also. We worked hard, but we saw the fruits of our labor and were content.

I now felt it safe to invest my little capital of a few hundred dollars in buying a place which I could call my own; and the next Spring received a deed for ten acres of land, a little more distant from the village, but yet near enough to enable me to continue my regular line of business. I did not feel quite ready to give up my trade, at which I could make a comfortable living, though it was becoming more and more irksome, and I longed for the time when I could lay down the saw and the plane, and take hold of the plow and the hoe. This year I hired a young man to assist in working my new land.

It is not necessary to give further details. I am now a farmer, and I have arrived at that dignity one step at a time. My place is not large, only twenty-five acres, but six of those are in fruit, and I count their produce equal to all the rest. The great point I want to make for the benefit of others, is, that a change to farming, to be successful, must be made gradually. There are thousands of discouraged mechanics that can do as I have done, if they will but work patiently, and be content to become farmers by inches. If I had bought twenty-five acres of land the first season, and depended upon cultivating it for a living, I am convinced I should have failed, with the loss of my capital and my courage, and gone grumbling back to the shop. Now, wife and I feel as happy as mortals can ordinarily, and I am prepared to say to my brother mechanics, "go and do likewise."

Fattening Hogs.

The method often practised by large farmers of turning fattening hogs into the fields of standing corn, if properly conducted, has its advantages over that of gathering the corn and feeding it dry to the hogs in the pen.

The earlier in the season the process of fattening is begun the better, after the grain has reached a certain period of maturity, whether it be rye, oats, or corn; because all farm animals, and hogs in particular, will fatten much faster in warm than in cold weather. And the grain between the periods of its doughy state and full maturity, or rather before it becomes dry, is more easily digested and assimilated and converted into flesh and fat than when it has passed into its dry state. It is clear, then, that the sooner the hogs are turned into the field after the grains of corn are fully formed, and while yet in the milk, the more speedily they will fatten; for if the weather be dry the corn hardens very rapidly.

A very interesting experiment in feeding hogs is detailed by Mr. James Buckingham in the *Prairie Farmer*. On the 6th day of September (in ordinary seasons corn, at this date, is too far advanced to commence feeding to the best advantage), the hogs, 189 in number, were weighed, which footed up in the aggregate 19,600 lbs. A moveable fence was used, confining the hogs to an area sufficient to afford food for two or three days. The entire field thus fed contained forty acres, with an estimated average of forty bushels per acre. The consumption of this corn gave a gain of 10,740 lbs. The hogs, when turned into the corn, cost three cents per lb.,—equal to \$588; worth, when fed, four cents per lb., or \$1,213.60, giving a return for each acre of corn consumed of \$15.64. Adding to this \$1 per acre for the improvement of the land by feeding the corn on the field, making the actual gain per acre \$16.64, equal to forty cents per bushel, standing in the field. The whole cost of corn per acre, exclusive of interest on the land, is set down at \$3.65.

By way of comparing the advantages of ground and cooked food over that which was merely ground, and that which was unground, Mr. B. put up three hogs into separate pens. To one he fed two and a half bushels of corn in the ear, during a period of nine days, feeding all he would eat; this gave a gain of nineteen lbs; another eat in the same time one and three-quarters bushels of corn, ground, and gained also nineteen lbs; and to the third, he fed one bushel of corn, ground and boiled, which gave a gain of twenty-two lbs. By this it will be seen that one and three-quarters bushels of corn when ground will give a gain of flesh equal to two and a half bushels of unground corn, and one bushel when ground and cooked gave a gain of twenty-two lbs.

The comparative results of these three methods of feeding may be thus set down: one bushel of corn when ground and cooked is equal to nearly three bushels when fed dry and unground; and one and three-quarters bushels when ground and uncooked is equal to two and a half bushels when fed whole.

Or it may be stated thus:—One bushel of dry corn in the ear makes 8 1-4 lbs. of pork, at 4 cents per lb. is equal to 33 cents per bushel for the corn; while one bushel of corn, ground and boiled, makes 22 lbs. of pork, at 4 cents per lb., and is equal to 88 cents per bushel for the corn.

Had the hogs been turned into the field when the corn was in the milk, it would have given a result more nearly like that of the hog fed upon ground and cooked food.

The obstacles which seem to be in the way of adopting an improved method of fattening hogs result from the imperfect apparatus used for preparing the food. Sending corn a long distance to mill to be ground, and then to cook the meal in an ordinary kettle, even if it holds a barrel, will prove an expensive operation, as all have found who have tried it. But to realize the full advantages of feeding prepared food, a complete grinding and steaming apparatus must be erected on a large scale, with the view to perform the grinding, cooking, and feeding, with the greatest facility and at the least possible cost. This may be done to advantage by employing steam for grinding, using the same boiler to furnish steam for cooking the meal.—[Valley Farmer.]

The Grape Crop in California.

In all parts of California where the culture of the grape has been introduced, the crop this year has been abundant and generally of an excellent quality, according to reports. In San Bernardino, Los Angeles and other southern counties, grapes are exceedingly plentiful and cheap; in other parts of the State they command higher prices. The *Sacramento Union*, in a late issue says, there was a grape grower in that county, who was sending a ton of grapes daily, to the San Francisco market, for which he was realizing from \$10 to \$12 per hundred pounds.

Breeding Sheep.—A correspondent of the *Michigan Farmer* says in relation to sheep raising, that if wool alone was his object, he would breed the Spanish Merino, but if mutton was his object, he would breed either South Downs, Liecesters, or Cotswolds.

Profits of Sheep Raising.—G. W. Kendall, late of the N. O. *Picayune*, says that for the last four years he has realized a clear annual profit of 75 per cent. of the amount he has invested in sheep raising.