



Farming is a profession, and a most polished profession at that. No other profession has such co-workers as his. Every farmer is practically a chemist, making and unmaking, composing and decomposing material things in a laboratory and on a scale that strips the manipulator of crucibles of his honors.

Assisted by the Great Architect, the farmer, on the floor of his laboratory, mother earth, plants the tiniest seed, which through chemical action germinates and sends forth a small bud that by accretions from surrounding matter is formed into the great tree.

Or by changing the elements of the earth through skillful chemical fertilization, he produces in astonishing perfection, all the cereals and fruits needed for man's sustenance.

Another change and the cereals and grasses of the field are changed, through chemical action, into the most luscious of meats and the most nourishing milk to gratify man's appetite. Again, he converts the grain and the grass into wool, or the elements of the earth and air into cotton or flax wherewith to clothe the nakedness of the human family, and protect them from the inclemency of the roughest climate.

Truly, the farmer is the greatest of practical chemists, whose laboratory is never closed and whose great teacher, Nature, stands ever ready to lend a helping hand in all his experiments and practical works, and tho' his pretensions are humble, his accomplishments are great.

As it is with chemistry, so it is with all the natural sciences. No man is more closely and practically allied than the agriculturist with botany, or the study of plants, astronomy, or the study of the atmosphere; the rains and the seasons; political economy, or the study of the laws he is forced to obey; geology, or the study of the earth's surface; in short, all sciences; and no other calling teaches a man the practical use of so many arts, or so thoroughly the philosophy of their application.

Could our farming community but fully understand the rank where nature places them, and the extensive fields she spreads before every tiller of the soil for scientific experiment and research, then indeed would we see this industry at once placed at the head of all the professions, as the most noble, the most attractive, the most useful, and the most humanizing in its influences of all sciences on the earth, and the followers of the plow would rank above many of the idle drones who now fill the chairs of professorships or are unseated in high-priced pulpits and medical colleges subsisting on the workman's labor.

Soil tillage is of all, in practice, 'universal science,' including within its embrace every other, and numbering among its followers nature's grandest nobility, whose destiny it is to give to the world universal liberty and universal justice—then will they be recognized as the professors of all sciences and philanthropy.—National Granger.

Buying Fruit Trees of Peddlers. Certain things, one would suppose, would be generally understood. One would think that no intelligent man would need further caution against buying articles of which he is not a judge, from travelling men of whom he knows nothing, and from whom he can have no redress for frauds. For many years agricultural papers have cautioned farmers against buying fruit trees, vines, etc., from irresponsible peddlers or agents, and yet it seems that thousands continue this practice, and are often seriously imposed upon.

We do not denounce all tree peddlers or travelling agents. Many of them are honest men representing well-established and reputable nurseries, but common business prudence and good common sense suggests that it is unwise and unsafe to buy of men whose character the purchaser knows nothing, and whose word is the only guarantee that the trees delivered are true to name, and that they are as represented in quality. All over the country there are responsible nurserymen, able and anxious to supply trees to those needing them, and generally able to supply those best adapted to the locality, and at reasonable rates. Nothing is gained in patronizing strangers in preference to these nurserymen, and often much is lost. Other things being equal, the nearest nursery is the best place at which to purchase trees.—Western Rural.

The weather for some time past has been unfavorable to the wheat crop.

Fall Pigs. Pigs that come in the fall months, especially the latter ones, are unprofitable stock. In the first place, they are in the way of the fattening hogs, and from their inability to "stand from under," are trampled under foot, have every disadvantage to contend against, and wear a dwarfish appearance from which they never recover. Besides, they generally weigh less than any hogs in the fattening pen. Take early spring pigs, and in addition to their regular allowance, give them the same quantity as that consumed by pigs coming four or five months earlier, and they will make more and better pork, and not be chargeable with one-fourth the trouble of their seniors. Perhaps the most profitable use that could be made of them would be as roasters, or to feed them high through the winter and sell them to the butcher in the spring when pork is scarce. But for the most profit, always take spring pigs, and feed them plenty of milk, meal and clover through the summer time, and if they are a good breed they can be made to weigh at eight months old, or at killing time, from two hundred to two hundred and fifty pounds, and sometimes more, which is as much as the generality of hogs from twelve to fifteen months old weigh.

When well fed spring pigs will gain from one to two and a half pounds a day, and be found much the cheapest pork the farmer can raise. To make them attain their greatest weight, however, at eight months old, they not only require the best of varied food, but plenty of skimmed milk to begin with, but also must be one of the best breeds—no "land pike" need be so fed with the expectation weighing down any such figures. Nor should the mother sow be any thing but thrifty and well kept through the year. The best breeds will deteriorate by neglect or short feeding, and the pigs of a sow that has been half fed during gestation will be puny and slow growing, however plenty the subsequent feed may be.

Keeping Sweet Potatoes. The keeping of the sweet potato is a much more simple thing than many imagine. They must be stored where the temperature is uniform, not less than 45° nor more than 70°, Fahrenheit; care should also be had not to store in too great bulk as that will cause heating, which will destroy the whole in a short time. This is the key to the whole subject, and any method of procedure that will fulfill the above conditions, will prove successful. I cannot go into details for all are not situated alike, and what would be proper and convenient for one to do, would not be so with another differently situated. Persons wishing to prolong the season of sweet potato eating as long as possible, will find the following a good plan: Take sound potatoes and pack in boxes or barrels, packing with some material that will readily fill the interstices, as saw dust, dry sand, road dust, bran or chaff, and set in a warm place where there is a fire, as the living room or kitchen. Sweet potatoes can be thus kept readily past the holidays, and sometimes even until spring.—Cobbler's Rural World.

Potatoes for Horses. Nearly every winter, when I have my horses up in stable I feed potatoes to them. I once came near losing a very valuable horse from feeding him dry hay and oats with nothing loosening. I have never believed in dosing a horse with medicine, but something is actually necessary to keep a horse in the right condition. Many use powders but potatoes are better, and safer, and cheaper if fed judiciously. If those who are not in the habit of feeding potatoes to horses will try them, they will be astonished at the result. I have known a horse changed from a lazy, dumpish one to a quick, active, headstrong animal, in a few days, by simply adding two quarts of potatoes to his feed daily. If very much clear corn meal is fed, they do not need so many potatoes. Too many potatoes are weakening, and so are too many apples. When I was a lad, I was away from home at school one winter, and I had the care of one horse, one yoke of oxen and one cow, every one of which I had to card or curry every day. The horse had three pails of water, four quarts of oats, two quarts of corn extra every day he worked, and a stronger and more active horse of his inches I have never yet seen.—Country Gentleman.

Young Stock. All young stock, colts, calves and lambs, should have meal or grain the first winter, for this is the time to lay the foundation for future excellence and profit. For calves and lambs there is no feed that pays better than shorts and bran—we mean the old-fashioned shorts or middlings—with this we may profitably mix shelled corn for calves, and oats for lambs. For colts nothing can take the place of oats.

Improving Common Sheep. A flock of sheep was exhibited by Mr. C. B. Gilman, at the fair of the New England Agricultural Society at Portland, Me., September, 1869, as "Improved Native Sheep," and which the owner stated had been brought to their present state of perfection by a selection and continued course of selection and breeding, not only by himself, but by his father and others at an early period. These sheep were of large size, symmetrical, and apparently very robust and healthy, comparing favorably with any one of the many flocks on the ground. The wool was very white, fine and even, extending well down the legs, around the face and head and covering the belly, and resembling in their features the best type of Merino. It is stated that originally selections were made of the best sheep from different flocks with reference not only to quality of wool, but also size, shape, &c., and subsequent breeding was followed by careful selection of such as exhibited the most marked improvement with least defects, excluding all others.

The first point aimed at was perfecting as far as possible the staple, working out any appearance of hairy coats or coarse spots of wool, covering the whole body with wool of good quality, a labor of years during which time the symmetry of form, size and constitution were not neglected. There was, as a matter of course, a necessity for more than the usual care in selecting and breeding, requiring care and good breeding, guarding against ill effects by division of the flock, selecting the stock from the best of either, and breeding in turn from the best selections of these mingled strains.

The flock exhibited were notably uniform, good size, covered with fleeces which though not so fine as the best Merinos, were of excellent quality, white and clear, free from the "finish" for which many fine wool sheep have heretofore been noted, and a wool every way adapted to the wants of the farmer's household, as well as the American manufacturers. Their uniform size made them nearly, if not quite, as valuable for mutton as the Leicester or Cotswold, their weight falling little if any short of these valuable breeds. They were especially noted and commented at the time as good examples of what may be accomplished in the improvement of common sheep, being a flock of which any shepherd may be proud.—Rural New Yorker.

Working Barren Cows. An experienced Kentucky breeder, Mr. Vaumeter gives the result of his treatment of cows that had been deemed hopelessly barren.—This specific is a remedy for barrenness in work. At the famous New York Mills herd sale he purchased for a song—\$100—the 3d Duchess of Thorndale, then deemed hopelessly barren, as she had not produced a calf for three years. His mode of management is simply to reduce the flesh without producing inflammation. Starving the animal he thinks injurious, and adopts the plan of giving severe exercise with only moderate feeding. In most cases he works the supposed barren cow under the yoke. In the case of the 3d Duchess of Thorndale, he had her led or ridden four times daily, and fed on a limited quantity of hay and fodder. She is now with calf.

In this year, a good deal of corn that is not perfectly matured. The total corn crop of the State of Illinois is estimated for the present year at the enormous amount of 300,000,000 bushels. The value of the surplus of the corn crop of 1875, and which appears in various forms of created wealth, at no less than \$500,000,000.

Good farmers will only winter over a few sows for breeding, with, perhaps some Fall pigs—the latter should be pushed for the Spring markets, and comfortable quarters provided for all. There is a cow in Carrollton, Ill., over twenty years old, which gives six gallons of milk per day, and which has not had a calf for six years.

Take any dozen young apple trees in the sections where the apple-borer is abundant, and allow a portion to be choked with weeds and the remainder well cultivated, and then watch the result. From our own experience, we believe that the chances are nine to one in favor of those cultivated being exempt from the pest.

A Clermont county, Ohio, farmer says: "My experience is that a hog that has been previously highly fed on corn does not do well on clover. Always save the earliest and the best seed for your own use. By so doing for years the quality may be greatly improved."

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We do not like to blow our own trumpet so we have engaged our printer to do it for us. The likeness is strikingly, if not entirely accurate. It will be noticed that he is blowing very hard, so much so that the photographer became alarmed for his personal safety, fearing that the printer might burst audibly and demolish everything within range, but the printer assured him that he could not blow on Tracy & Son's work too hard. They could stand a great deal of wind, and in that he was right. If our work will not bear examination we would not want it talked about.

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Cheap Bibles for Donation to those not able to buy. Call and examine them.

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This hotel is situated on the Louisville, Paducah and Southwestern Railroad, and the day train from Paducah to Louisville stops here for dinner. Ample time is given passengers to eat, and a first-class dinner is furnished for only 50 cents. S. ANSEL GOODMAN, Prop.

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