

VERMONT FARMER

ROYAL CUMMINGS,
T. H. HOSKINS, EDITOR.

NEWPORT, SATURDAY, DEC. 9, 1870.

VOL. 1, No. 1.
Terms, \$1.00 per Annum.

Vermont Farmer

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY
AT NEWPORT, GREENS COUNTY, VT.

ROYAL CUMMINGS, PROPRIETOR,
T. H. HOSKINS, M. D., EDITOR.

TERMS:—One dollar per annum, payable in advance. All papers discontinued when the time paid for expires.

Advertisements inserted for 50 cents per inch, first insertion; 25 cents per inch, each subsequent insertion. Twelve lines of this size type make an inch.

Vermont Farms.

For the Vermont Farmer

A JAUNT SOUTH FROM MONTPELIER.

IN such a hilly state as Vermont, the roads are generally in the river valleys. So it is from Montpelier to Northfield. Over Berlin bridge, up the hill, on its summit, a farm of two hundred acres has just been purchased by G. C. Chandler for twelve thousand dollars, and appears to be well worth the money. Sixty acres of fields are quite free from stone and appear of such fertile soil that manure when applied will give good results. Thirty cows can be kept. Montpelier gives a good market for milk. Cows can be made more profitable by selling milk than by making butter and cheese. Mr. Chandler has six head of herd book shorthorns, and intends to try that breed for dairy as well as fashion. The sire of the calves is *Earl of Oxford*. A pair of Cheshire pigs from O. S. Bliss, are in one pen, and several nice Chester Whites attract attention in others. A pair of wild geese crop the grass near by, and several promising colts range the pastures, making altogether a good stock to begin with on so good a farm, and we trust Mr. C. will permanently join the ranks of farmers and illustrate the best methods of tillage, breeding and feeding. The next farm is fairly in the valley of Dog River, is owned by Calvin Alexander, and cost \$16,000 three years ago. Here is some good meadow, where all the operations can be most economically carried on. Dairying is the chief source of profit. Some sheep are kept, and fine crops of corn are raised. The end of the corn crib is decorated under the gable jet with thirty traces of corn, each containing about seventy-five ears. This seems a favorite way to store seed corn in this valley, as several other corn houses are decorated in the same way.

The valley in places is quite narrow, yet tucked in on each bank are meadows that are highly prized by the owners. We pass along two miles and come to the farm of Mr. Farnsworth, that cost \$10,000. Here, stretching off to the east, to a steep bluff, are perhaps fifty acres of good smooth land. Westward the land is very broken, steep, and undesirable except for pasture. If a proper discount is made for the poorer quality of the hills the fields must be very valuable, certainly over \$100 per acre.

The next farm is owned by Mr. William Dewey, who has lived here sixty-two years

and witnessed the many changes in the condition of the land and people. In his younger days money was very scarce, and obtained by going to Montreal with produce, or to Boston. The merchants at Montpelier dealt in grain largely, and at a small price would take butter, eggs and poultry. Salt used to be rafted up the Connecticut River to Belknap's, or to White River, and then brought with teams to Montpelier and sold at four dollars per bushel. Mr. Dewey has had faith in farming, and has improved farm, buildings, stocks, team, and farming tools.

His farm is valued at \$10,000 though it contains less than two hundred acres. The tillage land near the river is about thirty-five acres in extent. Most of it is flowed when the water is very high, yet is excellent plow land, and produces great crops of corn, oats and hay. A hundred bushels of ears, a hundred bushels of oats, or three tons of hay have been taken from an acre, and all this meadow land is in so good a state that a good turf has to be turned in when a new piece is selected for cultivation. Corn ground receives a liberal dressing of manure, plowed in and in the hill, followed by oats with grass seed. The sixteen cows that graze the fall feed show plainly the Devon blood. The grades of this breed give satisfaction on account of hardiness, thriftiness and good dairy qualities, that fill the tubs with butter, although the quarts of milk may not be remarkable. Then the good color of the cattle, the cherry red that shows to so good advantage when the plump animals are satisfactory in other respects! A noble span of horses do the farm work.

Still further south in this valley, a Mr. Braman raised corn on one piece fifty-two years in succession with uniform good crops. Still further along, R. W. Strong still tills the acres his father cleared in 1813, and the years following. He has bought land adjoining so that he owns five homesteads and three or four empty houses. The school is quite small in this district, quite different from the good old times when every house was occupied. Mr. S. had five acres of corn this year, and in 1871 will have twenty-five under cultivation. His practice is to manure in the hill for corn and potatoes. He is just changing from an extensive shepherd to a dairyman and stock raiser. Fourteen calves and thirteen yearlings are growing up to be sold at two years of age.

Across the valley to the southeast, Des. Daniel Chandler practices the part of a successful farmer. The benefits he has received from irrigation should be noticed. East of his house, down the hill, flows quite a brook that formerly was as useless as thousands of other brooks in Vermont, but with a few days works it was turned upon land naturally quite dry, yielding only moderately. By small channels leading from the main one the water was distributed over several acres with great advantage to the grass crop. At pleasure Mr. C. could direct the whole stream down to his buildings, where upon an overshoot wheel, it would propel the churn, grindstone, feed cutter, or corn sheller. Mr. Chandler is satisfied with the result, and de-

clares the brook is of more benefit to him than five hundred dollars at interest. I think he sets the value low enough. I know of but one other experiment in irrigation in Vermont as extensive as this. When I visited this field it was in the dry harvest time. I could not account for the luxuriance of the grass, till my feet splashed the water, and as I stepped in different directions to avoid it it was still the same. The little depressions that guided the stream hardly show to the careless observer.

All along south of Montpelier the farmers value their woodland, and with cord wood at from three to four dollars per cord, bark at seven or eight, ties at thirty cents each, they make a good thing of it; but as they deliver much at the track of the Central Railroad it does not make as much show as at the north of the town, up Worcester Branch, where some farmers declare they could not live by farming alone, but make their winter work, with wood, as valuable as the summer labor upon the farm. In a fine day in winter fifty teams have been met, driving out of Montpelier six miles, all loaded with wood. The down teams never turn out, so two tracks are kept. As I dined with one farmer he told me he had thirty-two solid cords of dry block wood already sold at seven dollars per cord, twenty-five cords of four foot wood worth in market five dollars per cord, fifteen cords of bark worth eight dollars per cord, and three or four hundred logs worth, board measure, at a mill near by, ten dollars a thousand feet.

Such men will live as long as the wood lasts, but some of the farms along here do lack tillage land, and the ledges are too prominent.

Z. E. J.

GET LEATHER BITS.

One of the cruellest things done to dumb beasts is putting hard frozen iron bits into a horse's mouth. It is not only a painful but a dangerous act. For every time living flesh touches a metal much below the freezing point, the latter extracts the heat from the former and freezes it. Thus a horse's mouth becomes frozen by the cold iron several times a day put into it; each time causing these freezings to go deeper, to end at last in extensive ulceration. With such a sore mouth the poor horse refuses to eat and pines away, which calls the horse doctor in. They call it bots, glanders, horse-ail, &c., and go to cramming down poisonous drugs, in doses; and the next you know of the poor abused creature, he is trotted off to be food for fish or the crows. Many a valuable horse has been "mysteriously" lost in just that way. Thinking and humane people avoid this by first warming the bits; but this is much trouble, and sometimes impossible, as in night work like staging and physician's work. Now all this trouble is entirely avoided, as we have found on large trial, by getting the harness-makers to get leather bits for winter use, so made that no metal substance can touch the flesh. They are durable and cost only half a dollar. We wouldn't exchange ours for a gold one, if it couldn't be replaced. Don't fail to try it.—*Rural World*.

LIBERALITY IN FARMING.

In this art, and almost in this art alone, "it is the liberal hand which maketh rich."

Liberality in providing utensils is the saving both of time and labor. The more perfect his instruments, the more profitable are they.

So also it is with his working cattle and his stock. The more perfect in their kinds are ever the most profitable.

Liberality in good barns and warm shelters is the source of health, strength and comfort to animals; causes them to thrive on less food, and secures from damage all sorts of crops.

Liberality also in the provision of food for domestic animals is the source of flesh, muscle and manure.

Liberality to the earth, in seed, culture and compost, is the source of its bounty.

Thus Providence has inseparably connected our duty and our happiness.

In raising animals, the condition of his success is kindness and benevolence to them.

In cultivating the earth, the condition of man's success is his industry upon it.

RULES TO MAKE A FARMER POOR.

1. Not taking a good agricultural paper.
2. Keeping no account of home operations. Paying no attention to the maxim: "A stitch in time saves nine," in regard to the sowing of grain and planting of seed at the proper season.
3. Leaving the reapers, plows, cultivators, &c., uncovered from the rain and heat of the sun. More money is lost in this way than most people are willing to believe.
4. Permitting broken implements to be scattered over the farm until they are irreparable. One of the seven wise men of Greece said only this to prove his sense: "The time to mend the plow is when the plow breaks."
5. Attending auction sales and purchasing all kinds of trumpery, because in the words of the venter, the articles are "very cheap."
6. Allowing fences to remain unrepaired until strange cattle are found grazing in your fields and bruising the fruit trees.
7. Planting fruit trees with the expectation of having fruit, without giving the trees half the attention required to make them produce.

The Bangor *Whig* learns that Mr. Samuel Kimball of Patten, was out in the woods one day last week, when he found an old pine log which he cut into to see if it was sound. He found that it was not sound, but he heard a sound inside, and had hard'y time to get to the end of the log before he saw an old she bear just coming out. He gave her a blow on the head with his axe, and was about pulling her out when he was surprised to see two large cubs just back of their mother. He pulled the old one out, and was dispatching the cubs, when out jumped another old bear which, before Mr. Kimball could finish the cubs, made good his escape. Mr. Kimball gets fifteen dollars bounty besides the skins and meat of the bears.